



1710-1840
Friends Meeting Center

FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Third Month, 2005

2755 Providence Street
Fort Myers, Florida 33916

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- Potluck luncheons are once a month, the first First Day of the month.
- Deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is Third Month 16, 2005
- If you want to save postage and get your newsletter by email, please email: ericalyne@earthlink.net

QUERIES FOR THE THIRD MONTH

What is the state of your Meetings for Worship and Business?

Participation in Meetings

- Do your resident members attend meetings regularly and punctually?
- To what extent are your meetings for worship attended by persons not in membership and are they welcomed and encouraged to continue attendance?
- Are your meetings for business held in the spirit of love, understanding and forbearance? Do you seek the right course of action in a patient search for unity?
- Do you take your share in them?
- Do you maintain your respect for others as persons however strongly you may differ in opinion?
- Do you help in the financial support of the meeting?

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Second Month 13, 2005

The Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, attended by 20, opened with silence and reading of the queries on care of the meeting. Friends spoke about needing the Light to help us with problems and about looking at "difficult" people as our teachers, leading us to learn something from the situation. Our efforts in education were mentioned. A question was raised about our need to do some long-term planning regarding education of our children. We try to keep in touch with all our members and attenders.

Ann DeNevers, serving as clerk in the absence of Larry Butler, read a letter of resignation from Nancy Howell, who is resigning as Treasurer. Accepting the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, the following minutes were approved by Friends:

05MM05. The Meeting sadly accepts the resignation of its Treasurer, Nancy Howell, and the Meeting thanks her for her efforts on behalf of the Meeting.

06MM05. The shareholders and officers of the Fort Myers Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc. appoint Dave French as Treasurer, to succeed Nancy Howell, and we authorize him to access our safety deposit box and to sign checks on our account at Fifth Third Bank.

07MM05. The officers and shareholders of the Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc., designate the following officers and shareholders to control and to access the checking account(s) and safety deposit box maintained at Fifth Third Bank, its successors and assignees:

Dave French, Treasurer

Albert Webber, past Treasurer

Larry Butler, Clerk of the Meeting

Thomas Fennell, Clerk of Ministry & Counsel Committee.

This minute replaces minute **02MM05**, dated First Month 10, 2005.

Ministry and Council reported that they had discussed Nancy Webster's request to lay down the Naples Worship Group. The committee recommended that the request be accepted.

08MM05. Friends agreed to lay down the Naples Worship Group, as requested by Nancy Webster and as discerned by Ministry and Council Committee. The Naples Worship Group has no official standing, henceforth, and is no longer under the care of Ft. Myers Monthly Meeting.

The manner in which we conduct our business meetings is under review by Ministry & Counsel Committee. The recommendation that we meet in a circle, as we do for Meeting for Worship, was instituted today. Further recommendations will be brought forward in the future. Ministry & Counsel also announced changes in the oversight committee for Nancy Fennell, a committee required by the School of the Spirit. The previously appointed committee is laid down and the following Friends are requested to serve: Barbara French, Trudy Ellyson, and Nancy Howell.

The Treasurer's report was given and accepted.

Finance Committee reported that the detailed annual review of last year's expenditures has been completed and is available to anyone interested. The Committee has discussed and accepted its role as fund-raiser for the Meeting, but will not actively be involved in raising funds until, and unless, the Meeting decides it is time to do so. We were advised that the Friends' Meetinghouse Fund is no longer receiving investment funds; hence decisions made regarding investments at First Month business meeting will be altered accordingly.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee has become "inactive." No one has come forward to serve as clerk and until someone is let to provide leadership, the committee is in hiatus.

The Education Committee asked that we please make suggestions as to topics of interest for our adult discussion group.

Property Committee advised us that the Calusa Nature Center has lost almost all of its administrative personnel, at the present time. A review of our obligation of hours to the nature center, which is applied toward our rental of Iona House, led to the conclusion that we need more people to volunteer service. It was suggested that an announcement about volunteering be made at rise of Meeting for Worship over the next few weeks, and periodically thereafter.

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Fennell, Recording Clerk

Friends General Conference

What is Friends General Conference?

Friends General Conference, or FGC, is a Quaker organization that serves affiliated yearly and monthly meetings of unprogrammed Friends. In addition to sponsoring the Annual Gathering, FGC has programs of religious education, outreach, traveling ministries, and publishing. It has no authority and no policy-making powers, but rather is a voluntary association of unprogrammed Quakers. Our yearly meeting (SEYM) is a member of FGC.

Friends General Conference arose from the cooperative efforts of Hicksite Friends in 1900. (Hicksite Friends emphasize the authority of the Inner Light and continuing revelation and generally practice silent unprogrammed worship.) The Joint Committee on Indian Affairs, the First Day School Association, Friends Union for Philanthropic Labor, Friends Religious Conference, and Young Friends Association all decided that it was in the best interests of Friends to all meet at the same time and the same place on an annual basis in 1900.

At first, it was a move to simplify the work of preparing for the conferences. However, a unique mission evolved from the conference in its early years; a movement of Quakers away from the inner, sequestered life and toward a more public role in addressing social and scientific problems of the 20th century.

Today, FGC has expanded dramatically in its services to Friends. The longstanding concern for spiritual revitalization and the nurture of meetings is now addressed through the Traveling Ministries Program. This program supports travel by volunteer, seasoned Friends to scores of meetings and worship groups. Today FGC owns its own publishing business and now distributes ten times the Quaker literature it did in 1980. The FGC bookstore (www.quakerbooks.org) is an excellent source for Quaker literature. The Annual Gathering fosters our Quaker community by bringing together 1500 to 2000 Friends each year. You can learn more about FGC on their website: www.fgcquaker.org

2005 Gathering of Friends: Weaving the Blessed Tapestry

The 2005 Annual Gathering will be held this year on July 2-9 on the campus of Virginia Tech located in Blacksburg Virginia. Worship is an integral part of the Gathering and there are morning, evening and other meetings for worship throughout the days of the conference. Weaving the Blessed Tapestry is the theme for the 2005 Gathering of Friends General Conference.

The Gathering will include an array of workshops on everything from anger to dance to peacemaking to quilting to yoga and singing. There are also special programs for children, high school students and adult young Friends.

Featured presenters will include Bishop Spong (New Christianity for a New World), Jonathan Vogel-Borne of New England YM, Native American Jean Bosserman, and musical duo Trout Fishing in America.

Financial assistance is available at www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/financial-aid or Friends are welcome to contact Helen Davison at the FGC office, 215-561-1700 or by email at gathering@fgcquaker.org

You can learn more about the 2005 Gathering of Friends at the FGC website: www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/index.html or contact someone from Ministry and Counsel.

Reminder: The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting is a member of the Southeastern Yearly Meeting, a community for unprogrammed monthly meetings, primarily in Florida. The annual “yearly meeting” is held from Wednesday through Sunday of Easter weekend. All Quaker Friends and attenders are invited to attend. Our meeting does offer financial aid for members or attenders wishing to attend who need financial assistance in order to do so. Please contact someone from Ministry and Counsel.

Address Correction Requested

Third Month 2005

3/2/05	Naples Midweek Meeting for Worship	7:00 pm
3/6/05	Adult Education Class	9:15 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Potluck	After rise of Meeting
3/9/05	Naples Midweek Meeting for Worship	7:00 pm
3/13/05	Adult Education Class	9:15 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Meeting for Business	After rise of Meeting
	Last Chance Book Club	After rise of Meeting
3/16/05	Naples Midweek Meeting for Worship	7:00 pm
3/20/05	Adult Education Class	9:15 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
3/23/05	Naples Midweek Meeting for Worship	7:00 pm
3/27/05	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
3/30/05	Naples Midweek Meeting for Worship	7:00 pm

Friends Meeting of Fort Myers
Religious Society of Friends
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