



# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

## OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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Newsletter, Fourth Month 2006

52 Fenny Bosk Trail  
Venus, Florida 33960

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▪ Potluck luncheons are once a month, the first First Day of the month. All are welcome.

“At its best and truest,  
Worship seems to me to be direct, vital, joyous,  
Personal experience and practice  
Of the presence of God”

*Rufus Jones*

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### QUERIES FOR THE FOURTH MONTH

#### *How do Friends Care for One Another?*

#### Unity Within the Meeting

- Are love and unity maintained among you?
  - Do you manifest a forgiving spirit and a care for the reputation of others?
  - When differences arise are endeavors made to settle them in a spirit of love?
  - Are you patient and considerate towards those whom you find it hard to like or understand?
  - Do you respect that of God in each one, though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or may be difficult to discern.
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**Minutes of the Meeting for Worship for Business  
Held Third Month, Twelfth Day, 2006  
Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

The meeting opened from silent worship with 16 F/friends in attendance.

The clerk read the Third Query on 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?”

A friend noted that the queries seemed to be addressed to Friends who are not here. The proportion of our members that stay for business member is high in our meeting compared to others. A visitor to our meeting today noted that they had returned to our part of Florida because they had been warmly welcomed when they attended before. A member asked how we welcome new attenders. The chair of the Hospitality Committee said that she sends them a note, and talked about the difficulty of writing letters to people she doesn't know to encourage them to return. On the issue of financial support of the meeting one person noted that Quakers are not notably generous with their meetings. A new member noted that he didn't know how we are supposed to contribute to the meeting. Another noted that people are seldom reminded of the need for funds. The treasurer could be introduced at meeting for worship, or a note could be placed in the newsletter regularly.

**Report of the Property Committee:** Allan Ruppert has inspected the roof of Iona House, found that the roof needs immediate repair but not replacement. He said that if properly repaired, the roof should be good for 50 more years. It is worthwhile to maintain the original roof if we can. The seams need to be repaired, and the peak and valleys need special attention, and the whole needs to be painted. The cost will be about \$4,000, and he suggests that some of the work can be done by volunteers. Insurance will be provided by the Nature Center and the agency providing volunteers. He thinks it can be done within a month or so, starting in April. Alan Ruppert says that there has been considerable enthusiasm among fellow workers and that many people from our meeting

will be needed on the ground to provide food, support, and safety observation. Later the plans should include replacement of siding, before the rainy season arrives.

**06MM07 The meeting authorizes spending up to \$4,000 for repair of the roof of Iona House, the funds to be taken from the Iona House account.**

**Report of the Clerk of Ministry and Counsel:** Barb French reported that a party welcoming Priscilla DeOliveira into the meeting was held recently at her home. The meeting was unaware of the time or date, and regrets the failure to celebrate with Priscilla.

A new bulletin board to be used to display the queries from SEYM was constructed by Tom Fennell, and used for the first time this morning.

**Treasurer's report:** Dave French reports that the Finance Committee has met and we have had income of \$4,000 and expenses of only \$1,000 so far this year. He proposed a minute to increase our commitment to SEYM by \$250.

**06MM08: The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting will contribute an extra \$250 to SEYM in response to the problems the Gainesville Meeting will have in meeting their obligation this year, due to their new meeting house.**

The Treasurer distributed copies of a proposed minute to clarify the contributions of restricted and unrestricted gifts to the meeting, along with a form to be filled out by the Treasurer to keep a record of special donations. A member suggested that a CPA should look at it before we adopt it. The proposal was laid over for further consideration.

The treasurer will put an item in the newsletter summarizing our budget for the information of all the potential contributors. A member suggested again that we should have a contribution box clearly available and members should be asked regularly to give. Another member said that she was confused about how to give when she was a new attendee.

The Peace and Social Concerns Clerk asked that the treasurer pay the \$1,200 that we have budgeted for Interfaith Action in support of the Immokolee Workers by a check for \$100 every month, to help them with their reoccurring expenses. The Treasurer agreed to do so.

**The Hospitality Committee Report** was given by Jeannette Botha who says that she needs to have a helper from among the regular attenders of the meeting. The nominating committee is asked to appoint an additional person to join the committee. The job of

writing notes to new attenders welcoming them to the meeting will go back to Ministry and Counsel, which attended to that job in the past.

**The Education Committee Report** was given by Ann deNevers. The adult discussion meetings will discuss the pamphlet “The Testimony of Integrity,” by Wilmer Cooper, during the 1st and 5th week (April 2 and 30) of the fourth month at 9:15. In May, there will be a discussion of another pamphlet.

**Peace and Social Concerns Report:** Marilyn Webber reports that the Wage Peace Program is going forward. May 5 - 7 Peace and Social Concerns will host a workshop on Alternatives to Violence Program, given by Susan Hefty from the St. Petersburg meeting (Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday after meeting.) Participants will be asked to pay \$30/person, and we will need to provide hospitality for the leader. The organizer needs to have 12-15 people commit to attendance to carry it out.

**Other business:** Hank Fay is working on posting the newsletters on our web site. Hank reports that the numbering of the newsletters is confusing, and asks that we clarify the numbering system. Friends agreed that we need to number our newsletters according to the month published, starting with Third Month, the next edition.

Ann deNevers reports that FCNL has asked our meeting to provide priorities of issues, and Peace and Social Concerns will address this at the next meeting.

George Cummings shared postcards that the Coalition for Immokolee Farm Workers is encouraging supporters to send to McDonalds and Subway, to try to get those major corporations to deal fairly with the Immokolee Workers, as Taco Bell has done.

Dave French reminded members that the next Faith and Practice discussion will be held next Sunday at 9:15.

The minutes were read and approved. The meeting closed with silent worship.

Submitted by Recording Clerk Nancy Howell, Third Month 12, 2006.

At the recent Meeting for Business, we agreed to publish a summary of our budget so that all will know what we are doing.

<b>Budget Expenses for 2006</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Newsletter	400
Education	
School of the Spirit	1150
Other	615
Property**	4100
Ministry & Council	
Phone costs	850
Other	1462
Hospitality	100
Finance	300
SEYM	2800
Scholarships to attend SEYM	780
Delegate costs for SEYM	1000
Peace and Social Concerns donations to other organizations	4600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,157</b>

\*\* Note that the property committee budget includes \$4000 for roof repair of the Iona House. The property committee expects further requests in the year for siding and structural repair to the Iona House. This money is coming from the Iona House Account, established by the Meeting a few months ago, for this purpose. Donations may be made specifically for that purpose.

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<b>4/2/06</b>	<b>Meeting for Worship Potluck – All Are Welcome! Faith &amp; Practice Review</b>	<b>10:30 am After rise of Meeting 9:15 am</b>
<b>4/9/06</b>	<b>Meeting for Worship Meeting for Business Education Committee Last Chance Book Club</b>	<b>10:30 am At Rise of Meeting 9:15 am At Rise of Meeting</b>
<b>4/16/06</b>	<b>Meeting for Worship Faith &amp; Practice Review</b>	<b>10:30 am 9:15 am</b>
<b>4/23/06</b>	<b>Peace and Social Concerns Meeting for Worship</b>	<b>9:15 am 10:30 am</b>
<b>4/30/06</b>	<b>Meeting for Worship</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>

*Committees wanting their meetings to be listed in the calendar should provide their schedules to the editor.*

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Note from the Editor:

- Please send articles, favorite passages, items of interest to Friends.
- Please send important dates, news of Friends/friends, etc., as it is not possible for me to attend all Meetings.
- Those wishing to receive the newsletter by email, please contact me.
- Suggestions?

My email address is: [jeannettebotha@earthlink.net](mailto:jeannettebotha@earthlink.net)

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Address Correction Requested

Fourth Month 2006

