

Tampa Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Minutes

8 Fifth Month 2022

Meeting was held at the meetinghouse and online via Zoom.

Meeting Clerk began the gathering with silent worship and reflections on queries for the Fifth Month: Education.

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. – Deuteronomy 4:9

“For as I see the Society of Friends, teaching and learning are a way of life, and reverence and duty (read “faith and practice”) are the complimentary movements of that life.” – Parker J. Palmer

“...the meeting for learning will be a place where people can adventure toward truth without any preconceptions of what it might be – and without any expectation that it will “do” anything for them except be true!” – Parker J. Palmer

Clerks

Nil Wilkins Meeting Clerk

Minutes recorded by Nil Wilkins

Meetinghouse attendees

Chris Hugues, Dustin Lemke, Robin Jay Passmore

Online attendees

Nil Wilkins, Vincent Cobb, Miki Epperson, Cynde Mercer, Nancy Triscritti, Rose Yerrakadu, Roy Yerrakadu

Take action

Second reading of Naming committee report – Friends approve Nancy Triscritti for Nominating committee

Second reading of 2022-2023 budget – Chris pointed out that he had increased the Major expenditures line item by \$3,000 to cover lawn maintenance and for replacing the kitchen floor which sustained water damage after the recent power outage. Friends approve the budget.

Draft minute on Florida discriminatory laws – Friends approve with no second reading as this minute builds on the two minutes meeting has previously approved.

Minute One, Fifth Month 2022

As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) we are committed to reach out to that of God in everyone. We endeavor to live out our testimonies in all the circumstances of daily life, living in love and learning from one another.

We believe that Florida's recently enacted "Don't Say Gay" bill [2022 HB 1557], the "Transgender Youth Medical Care Ban" [2022 HB 211], the "License to Discriminate in Health Care Bill" [2022 HB 747], and the proposed "Stop Woke Act" [2022 HB 7] codify and mandate discrimination against already vulnerable people and puts those who seek to support them at risk of prosecution.

Tampa Quakers urge all to be bold in expressing peaceful opposition to this and all legislation that will deny gender-questioning youth their human rights, including access to compassionate counseling and medical care. We also oppose legislation that prohibits educators from teaching anything about America's past or present which causes discomfort to any student.

Compliance with these laws will seriously inhibit the possibility of love, truth, and reconciliation which are prerequisites to attaining a just society of equals. For this reason, we call Friends and all Floridians to resist these laws through writing letters to the editor, the governor, and state legislators; engaging in peaceful protests; and supporting the organizations, teachers, and physicians who choose to act in opposition to these laws.

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NOTES

Don't Say Gay bill = 2022 HB 1557

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/1557/BillText/Filed/PDF>

"A school district may not encourage classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in primary grade levels..."

"the transgender youth medical care ban" = 2022 HB 211

"...providing criminal penalties for health care practitioners who perform or cause to be performed specified practices on a minor under certain conditions..."

"license to discriminate in health care bill" = 2022 HB 747

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/747/BillText/Filed/PDF>

"... providing that health care providers and health care payers have the right to not participate in or pay for any health care services that violate their consciences," with immunity from liability.

"Stop Woke Act" = 2022 HB 7

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/7/BillText/Filed/PDF>

"...providing that subjecting any student or employee to training or instruction that espouses, promotes, advances, inculcates, or compels such individual to believe specified concepts constitutes discrimination based on race, color, sex, or national origin..."

Events

See TampaFriends.org/events for dates and details.

Each Saturday beginning at noon, online only, *Art and Mindfulness*, led by Mike Epperson. Email Miki for the link.

13 May – Pyramid art show, 5:30pm

15 May CommUNITY picnic at 5 pm (rain date 22 May)

Reports/Meeting Minutes

Ministry and Counsel – Dustin Lemke, clerk - no report

Committee of the Whole -Chris Hugues, clerk. Chris reported the committee had a first reading of the draft minute on Florida discriminatory laws with second reading scheduled for next Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. He reformatted the *Umbrella Responsibilities* to be easier for Friends to view and named the clerks/contact persons for each. See attached.

Learning Umbrella – Nancy Triscritti, contact person. The next AFDP date TBD later this month.

Project Umbrella – Chris Hugues, contact person. Chris updated Friends on the workday tasks that had been completed, including laying more pavers in the back, removing more dead brush; and organizing the First Day supplies in the Fellowship building closet.

Arrangements have been made for tree work (trimming and removal) and removal of brush on May 11, in preparation for the CommUnity Picnic. The Fellowship building and wall have also been painted.

Chris informed Friends that another banner, *Love is Love*, had been taken from the meetinghouse fence. Friends approve placement of the *Black Lives Matter* and *Equality* banners on the fence and for Chris to purchase another Progress Pride banner; this could be smaller depending on cost. Chris will also investigate metal attachments for the banners, to make it more difficult for them to be removed. Friends discussed whether to add "Love will win" to the meetinghouse sign, but as we cannot be sure the banners were taken because of their message, meeting will wait on this.

Chris presented the Treasurer's report. Chris reported that while we had good donations for the month, including \$500 in memory of David Nicholson, they are not keeping up with expenses and what we would like to do. Friends accept the Treasurer's report.

Activism Umbrella – Robin Jay Passmore and Cece Yocum contact persons. No report.

Community Umbrella – Cece Yocum and Nil Wilkins contact persons. Robin will put together her notes from her FCNL trip for a presentation to the meeting – date TBD. Work continues on the meeting flyers.

Minutes of 10 Fourth Month were approved as submitted.

Closing worship