

FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

September 17 , 2017

Attending: Alice Partain, Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, Luz Gloria Almeyda, Carol Redfield, Janet Southwood, Joni Mize, Sara Ramey, Stephen Shearer, Peggy Dial, Marian Carter, Mimi Moore, Pam Spurgeon, James Mize, Ken Southwood, Bill Wilkinson, Jim Spickard, Gretchen Haynes, Co-Clerk.

God is at work in this moment. God's power is urgent and present tense, "is", not "was" ...Quakers are called upon to live in the modern age, in the great confusing here and now...we are a dynamic people relentlessly called by the Eternal Spirit to live fully in the world as it is and bring peace and relief. Benjamin Lloyd

Meeting began in silence at 12:00pm

1. Minutes from July Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business and two Called Meetings – **July Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business minutes approved with one correction to the date of the next Business Meeting. July 30, 2017 Called Meeting minutes approved. September 3, 2017 Called Meeting minutes approved.**

2. **Clerk's Report** – Gretchen Haynes reporting.

Clerk's Report

The Concert for Peace has coalesced in the past week to a truly Interfaith effort with musicians and poets from Celebration Circle, First Unitarian-Universalist Church, Friends Meeting of San Antonio, Mennonite Church, Raindrop Ensemble of the Islamic Institute. The Co-sponsors are Esperanza Peace and Justice Center & The peaceCENTER. Joni Mize has worked with Rudi Harst on the arrangements. We encourage Friends to attend, Sept 20 from 6:30 p.m.

Gretchen expresses great gratitude to Meeting for the work given freely when requests were made . **Accepted.**

3. Treasurer's report—Bill Wilkinson reporting

Treasurer's Report

August 2017

Balance Sheet

- ✓ The balance improved significantly attributable primarily to growth of \$16,253.80 in the Meeting's investment holdings at Friends Fiduciary Corporation in July, and is healthy.

Statement of Activities

Income:

- ✓ Income continues to track well against the budget and operational expenses.

Expense:

- ✓ Grounds Maintenance includes \$1,460 to Etter Tree Care for trimming and tree removal.
- ✓ Utility costs are higher as is typical in the summer. Electric seems particularly high—possible related to HVAC problems?
- ✓ No other unusual expense activity to report.

Faithfully submitted,

Bill Wilkinson, Treasurer

Report is accepted with thanks. Treasurer will send out August Balance Sheet and Statement of Activities in advance of next Business Meeting since copies were not available at this meeting.

4. Property Committee – Bill Sweet reporting.

Property Committee Report 17 September 2017

1. A small amount of dirt possibly indicating an insect infestation was found on the Meetinghouse floor on 30 July. An inspector from Terminex pest control found on 02 August that this was most likely due to an ant species that does not damage wood or cause other problems. No remedy beyond sweeping up the detritus is needed. No indication of termite damage or infestation was found, but a routine termite prevention program was suggested. There was no cost for this inspection service.
2. Etter Tree Care performed the contracted services, tree removal and trimming, on 09 August.
3. The air conditioning in Phase 1 was reported to be inadequate on 21 July: the library and children's rooms were warm, about 82°F, whereas the toilets felt cold. A/C Technical Services found the compressor had failed on one of the two units. The compressor in this unit was replaced in May 2016 and is under warranty. Before the compressor was replaced, system completely failed because a leak developed in the Freon line. Repair of the leak and replacing the Freon was considered uneconomic given the age of the system, specifically, up to five years longer than the expected equipment lifetime. Bids for replacement were solicited from A/C Technical Services, Tex-Perts Cooling and Heating, and a third provider who failed to submit a proposal despite repeated reminders. The proposal from A/C Technical was recommended to and accepted at a Called Meeting for Business on 03 September. Acceptance was sent to A/C Technical. However, the selected option did not pass certification for the advertised efficiency rating, nor did it meet CPS Energy's standards for rebate. Both companies also offered as alternatives identical systems, but Tex-Perts

proposal was about \$1100 less. Consultation with the Co-Clerks, Treasurer, and others concluded that as the cost was less and the enunciated stewardship principles were substantially met, additional approval from Meeting for Business was not required. Text-Perts installed the replacement system on Thursday, 14 September, for \$10,813. A rebate from CPS Energy, based on the efficiency difference between the old and new systems, is expected to be several hundred dollars.

4. Vandalism to the men's toilet door was discovered on 03 September. The substantial damage expected was not found upon repair by the Property Committee later that week: the door is again functional. Several options for increasing vandal-resistance are being investigated.
5. The Lake Flato architect inspected the rotted roof decking on the Meetinghouse on 18 July. He had no conclusions or suggestions beyond what was already known or surmised. Four contractors did a site visit. Two contractors declined to submit a proposal, saying they already had too much work. The other two submitted proposals of roughly \$8000 and \$38,000. The high bid was rather breathtaking. The scope of work of the low bid seemed to be far less than the work required. Three of the four Property Committee members met with that low bidder, who is to submit, but has not yet submitted, a revised proposal. The demands on building materials and construction labor resulting from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma may delay finding an available contractor and increase materials cost, beyond that caused by this summer's hail storms and tornados.
6. We are satisfied with the landscaping and cleaning services. Some grounds maintenance has been done by the Property Committee with the assistance of others.

James Goslin, James Mize, Stephen Shearer, Bill Sweet

Report accepted with many, many thanks.

5. Joni Mize asks to speak following the Property Committee report and reads the following.

9-17-2017

This ground where we meet is good ground. Someone with vision turned this corner property into what some might call sacred ground. It is a welcome refuge or safe haven to almost everyone who finds their way here.

Hard working committees and caregivers tend to the immediate and long term needs of our meeting house property. Hours of deliberation and back breaking labor are necessary for its maintenance. This place is well used and sometimes abused. Some of the people who find it place seek only safety, others seem bent on harm.

This little corner of the world is set apart in our hearts and minds; but as you leave today, take a moment in the parking lot up near the street to look back toward the front of our meeting house. At the street, from the sidewalk, you see plants, a wall, and maybe a roof. Not much to

go on. The lay of the land protects the structures from line of sight which also prevents detection of activity at times. It is a unique circumstance and a dilemma.

I feel led to offer two ideas about this special place we share. The first idea is a possible immediate short term solution to the vandalism. The second is bigger. I will offer these ideas at the October Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

I ask that you hold each other in the Light until then. I ask that you hold this place in the Light until then.

6. Peace & Social Concerns – Jim Spickard reporting.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee Meeting September 2017

Peace and Social Concerns Committee met on Thursday, September 14th. Present: Val Liveoak, Margaret Engel, Jim Spickard

Agenda:

1. Margaret reported on the IWC meeting that morning.
 - We have fewer refugees coming through, though about 500 refugees are still held in the Karnes facility with 1600 at Dilly.
 - An estimated 70% have no legal representation at the time of their interviews/hearings.
 - There is a steady stream of about 20-25 families released each day arriving at the bus station. They are provided with backpacks for the kids, including coloring materials, school supplies.
 - The IWC is seeking volunteer Advocates for unaccompanied minors, to meet with them weekly when they are living with relatives or foster families.
2. We raised the question of whether the RAICES Bond Fund is still active, as fewer refugees are needing bonds. If it is not, then perhaps we need to direct our contribution to another place.
 - Val checked with John Blatz, who said that the fund is not very active now.
 - **COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM: We need to investigate, to see whether to redirect our aid to immigrants to another program.**
3. We talked about what to do with the H.E.B. cards that were purchased to help local homeless people. They are not being used, and they must be renewed each year.

- **MEETING ACTION ITEM: We propose transferring whatever cards are left to the Catholic Worker, which can use them before they expire**
 - **COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM: We need to investigate to see if there are other cards (e.g., Subway) that do not expire so quickly.**
4. We talked about possible spending on hurricane relief.

- We lean toward supporting Friends' efforts to rebuild in the Caribbean, perhaps aid to Cuban Friends.
- **COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM: We need to find out what possible channels there are for such aid as they emerge.**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FUTURE MEETING ACTION ITEM: Decide what/whether to contribute and which funds |
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5. We considered a recommendation from a Friend that we support Ann Arbor Meeting's request that Friends Fiduciary Corporation to expand its Quaker Values Screening Criteria to exclude from its investments any company that provides products or services that increase violence or maintain the military occupation and settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. *[See the letter reprinted on the back of this page.]*
 - We have scheduled a forum on this topic for October 8th. Judith Norman, who is active on peace issues for Israel & Palestine, will give us background on the issues and lead our discussion

Respectfully submitted by Jim Spickard

Meeting Action Item approved.

MINUTE 2017.09.01: FMSA authorizes donating whatever H.E.B. cards are left to the Catholic Worker.

New England Yearly Meeting has close connections to Friends in Cuba. P & SC Committee will investigate connections for contributing funds for hurricane relief and decide which funds might be appropriate. Next week's forum will address how Meeting spends funds.

A forum is scheduled for October 8th regarding Israeli and Palestinian issues. Meeting has received a letter from Ann Arbor Friends (please find in appendix) regarding financial divestment of businesses that play a role in that conflict. Peace and Social Concerns Committee will follow up with MFB after forum in held.

Report accepted.

7. **Ministry & Oversight** – Jim Spickard gave oral report.

M&O will present a forum next week and will hold a meeting next week.

8. **Other Concerns**

No other concerns raised.

There being no further business to come before Meeting, it closed with silent worship at 12:47pm to reconvene on October 15, 2017.

Gretchen Haynes, Co-Clerk

Alice Partain, Recording Clerk

Appendix

FMSA Balance Sheet

August 2017

| | <u>31-Aug-17</u> | <u>31-Jul-17</u> | <u>Difference</u> =/- |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Checking/Savings | | | |
| 10000 · Frost Bank - Checking | \$ | \$ | |
| 10010 - Cash Flow Reserve | 6,000.16 | 6,000.16 | |
| 10020 - Operating Cash | 6,327.27 | 8,105.76 | |
| 10030 - Relief Fund | 1,195.00 | 1,195.00 | |
| 10040 - Sinking Fund | 20,837.47 | 20,637.47 | |
| 10050 - Immigrant Aid | 2,426.41 | 2,426.41 | |
| 10060 - RAICES Bond Fund | 718.98 | 718.98 | |
| 10070 - General Maintenance | 2,018.48 | 2,018.48 | |
| Total 10000 · Frost Bank - Checking | 39,523.77 | 41,102.26 | (1,578.49) |
| 11000 · Frost Bank - Savings | 27,003.66 | 27,000.22 | 3.44 |
| Total Checking/Savings | 66,527.43 | 68,102.48 | (1,575.05) |
| Other Current Assets | | | |
| 18000 · Friends Fiduciary Corporation | \$ | \$ | |
| 18100 · FFC Consolidated Fund | 466,557.26 | 466,557.26 | |
| 18200 · FFC Short-Term Investment Fund | 102,083.33 | 102,083.33 | |
| Total 18000 · Friends Fiduciary Corporation | 568,640.59 | 568,640.59 | - |
| Total Other Current Assets | 568,640.59 | 568,640.59 | |
| Total Current Assets | 635,168.02 | 636,743.07 | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>\$</u> <u>635,168.02</u> | <u>\$</u> <u>636,743.07</u> | \$ (1,575.05) |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | | |
| Equity | | | |
| 30000 · Opening Balance Equity | \$ 607,761.95 | \$ 607,761.95 | |
| 32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets | \$ (11,913.64) | \$ (11,913.64) | \$ - |
| 45500 · Investment Inc/Dec | \$ 33,812.60 | \$ 33,812.60 | \$ - |
| Net Income | \$ 5,118.79 | \$ 7,082.16 | \$ (1,963.37) |
| Total Equity | <u>\$</u> <u>634,779.70</u> | <u>\$</u> <u>636,743.07</u> | \$ (1,963.37) |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | <u>\$</u> <u>634,779.70</u> | <u>\$</u> <u>636,743.07</u> | \$ (1,963.37) |

FMSA Statement of Activities

August 2017

| | <u>August 2017</u> | <u>2017 YTD</u> | <u>2017 Budget</u> |
|---|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | |
| Income | | | |
| 43400 · Contributions | | | |
| 43410 · General Contributions | \$ 870.00 | \$ 14,865.76 | \$ 24,000.00 |
| 43440 · Designated Contributions | | | |
| 43441 · General Maintenance | \$ - | \$ 2,018.48 | \$ - |
| 43442 · Immigrant Aid | \$ - | \$ 250.00 | \$ - |
| 43443 · Meetinghouse | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 43444 · RAICES Bond Fund | \$ - | \$ 3,593.30 | \$ - |
| 43445 · Miscellaneous | \$ - | \$ 25.00 | \$ - |
| Total 43440 · Designated Contributions | \$ - | \$ 5,886.78 | \$ - |
| Total 43400 · Contributions | \$ 870.00 | \$ 20,752.54 | \$ 24,000.00 |
| 45000 · Bank Interest | \$ 3.44 | \$ 14.32 | \$ 25.00 |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 46400 · Other Income | | | |
| 46431 · Facilities Use | \$ 240.00 | \$ 3,305.00 | \$ 4,500.00 |
| 46432 · Yard/Online Sales | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 500.00 |
| 46433 · Miscellaneous | \$ - | \$ 138.53 | \$ - |
| Total 46400 · Other Income | \$ 240.00 | \$ 3,443.53 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Total Income | \$ 1,113.44 | \$ 24,210.39 | \$ 29,025.00 |
| Expense | | | |
| 62100 · Ministry & Oversight | | | |
| 62110 · FJ/QL Subscriptions | \$ - | \$ 127.00 | \$ 100.00 |
| 62140 · Relief Fund | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 |
| 62150 · Travel Fund | \$ - | \$ 100.00 | \$ 450.00 |
| Total 62100 · Ministry & Oversight | \$ - | \$ 227.00 | \$ 650.00 |
| 62500 · Religious Education | | | |
| 62510 · Childcare | \$ - | \$ 1,954.12 | \$ 3,200.00 |
| 62520 · Library | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 |
| 62530 · Supplies & Misc | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 300.00 |
| Total 62500 · Religious Education | \$ - | \$ 1,954.12 | \$ 3,600.00 |
| 62800 · Building & Grounds | | | |
| 62810 · Cleaning Services | | | |
| 68811 · Supplies | \$ - | \$ 45.81 | \$ 200.00 |
| 62810 · Cleaning Services | \$ 280.00 | \$ 2,240.00 | \$ 3,400.00 |
| Total 62810 · Cleaning Services | \$ 280.00 | \$ 2,285.81 | \$ 3,600.00 |
| 62830 · Grounds Maintenance | \$ 1,760.00 | \$ 3,715.37 | \$ 3,600.00 |
| 62840 · Major Repairs | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 62870 · Minor Repairs & Maintenance | \$ - | \$ 733.90 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| 62890 · Utilities | | | |
| 62891 · Electric & Gas | \$ 501.37 | \$ 2,197.68 | \$ 3,000.00 |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 62892 · Phone | \$ 22.87 | \$ 171.93 | \$ 450.00 |
| 62893 · Water & Sewer | \$ 99.25 | \$ 1,152.40 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Total 62890 · Utilities | \$ 623.49 | \$ 3,522.01 | \$ 5,450.00 |
| Total 62800 · Building & Grounds | \$ 2,663.49 | \$ 10,257.09 | \$ 14,650.00 |
| 63000 · Contributions to Others | | | |
| 63100 · Emerging Issues | \$ - | \$ 100.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| 63200 · Designated Gifts (Unbudgeted) | \$ - | \$ 25.00 | \$ - |
| 63300 · Local Organizations | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,200.00 |
| 63400 · Quaker Organizations | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 700.00 |
| 63500 · RAICES | \$ - | \$ 2,750.00 | \$ - |
| Total 63000 · Contributions to Others | \$ - | \$ 2,875.00 | \$ 2,400.00 |
| 65000 · Outreach | | | |
| 65010 · FJ/QL Advertisement | \$ - | \$ 140.00 | \$ 150.00 |
| 65020 · Website/New Media | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 |
| 65030 · Publications, Printing, Copying | \$ - | \$ 178.07 | \$ 350.00 |
| 65040 · Supplies | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 125.00 |
| 65050 · Refreshments | \$ - | \$ 150.00 | \$ 250.00 |
| Total 65000 · Outreach | \$ - | \$ 468.07 | \$ 975.00 |
| 65100 · Other Types of Expenses | | | |
| 65120 · Property/Liability Insurance | \$ - | \$ 2,697.00 | \$ 3,000.00 |
| 65140 · Bank Charges | \$ - | \$ 40.00 | \$ - |
| 65160 · Miscellaneous | \$ 25.00 | \$ 185.00 | \$ 750.00 |
| Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses | \$ 25.00 | \$ 2,922.00 | \$ 3,750.00 |
| 66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 68300 · Yearly & Quarterly Meeting | | | |
| 68310 · Cielo Grande Quarter | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 500.00 |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 68320 · South Central YM | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Total 68300 · Yearly & Quarterly Meeting | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Total Expense | \$ 2,688.49 | \$ 18,703.28 | \$ 29,025.00 |
| Net Ordinary Income | \$ (1,575.05) | \$ 5,507.11 | \$ - |
| Net Income | \$ (1,575.05) | \$ 5,507.11 | \$ - |

Date: Tue, 8 Aug 2017 15:50:39 -0400

From: Helen Fox <hfox@umich.edu>

Dear F/friend,

Warm greetings from the Palestine Israel Action Group (PIAG) of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting! We're contacting you because you signed the Open Letter to Hillary Clinton last year asking her to open her heart and mind to the Palestinian people:

http://quakerpiag.blogspot.com/2016/05/an-open-letter-to-hillary-clinton_23.html

Whether or not the letter touched Ms. Clinton personally, we don't know. But we do know that circulating the letter sparked many important conversations about Israel's military occupation among F/friends nationally and internationally. We gathered over 350 signatures and were moved by the outpouring of support for a just peace in the region. Yet our Quaker faith tells us that we must do more. So we have embarked on a new effort to gather Quaker support for divestment from companies that promote militarism, violence, and injustice in Israel-Palestine.

We ask you to join us in our effort by sharing this message with your Meeting and asking for a Minute of support for our effort, which we explain below. A sample Minute can be found at the end of this letter.

Here is what we're doing: Ann Arbor Meeting is asking Friends Fiduciary Corporation to expand its Quaker Values Screening Criteria to exclude from its investments any company that provides products or services that contribute to:

- violent acts that target either Israeli or Palestinian civilians
- the maintenance of the Israeli military occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem
- the maintenance and expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories
- the maintenance and construction of the Separation Wall

Here's a little background: As you may know, Friends Fiduciary Corporation is the investment company that manages the assets of about 360 U.S. Quaker institutions including Yearly, Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, trusts, schools, and retirement communities. According to its mission, FFC is guided by Quaker principles, values, and testimonies, and aims to "align its investments with mission through proactive Quaker-Values Screening." It evaluates companies across multiple dimensions including human rights and other socially responsible measures. It has zero tolerance for investments in companies that produce weapons or parts of weapons, or that enable weapons. Currently, however, it does not exclude companies that contribute in other ways to Israel's Occupation.

In 2012, responding to a request of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, Friends Fiduciary removed 3 companies that support or enable Israel's Occupation from its socially responsible investment screen, Caterpillar, Hewlett Packard, and Veolia Environment, on the grounds that they violate existing Quaker values criteria, specifically, military and environmental concerns.

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting now requests that Friends Fiduciary take the next step. We are seeking Minutes on this issue from Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings in order to demonstrate to Friends Fiduciary a broad base of constituent support. We are delighted that Lake Erie Yearly Meeting has just approved such a Minute of support at their July 28, 2017 Meeting for Business! Here is LEYM's Minute:

Lake Erie Yearly meeting requests that Friends Fiduciary Corporation expand its Quaker Values Screening Criteria to exclude investments in companies that support or are complicit with Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands, its economic exploitation and control of the Palestinian population, and/or its violations of international human rights law.

Please let us know if and when your Meeting (or a Committee within your Meeting) approves a similar Minute and send us the wording your group has adopted. We plan to contact Friends Fiduciary with our request and the Minutes of support at the end of September. Meanwhile, I will be happy to answer any questions by email: hfox@umich.edu

Thanks very much, and have a glorious rest of the summer,

Helen Fox, Convener, Palestine Israel Action Group of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting (PIAG)

www.quakerpiag.blogspot.com