

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Gathering & Annual Sessions

5th to 9th Fourth Month 2023
DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center
8411 25th Street East
Parrish, Florida, 34219

DOCUMENTS IN ADVANCE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 59th Annual Gathering of Southeastern Yearly Meeting!

You are invited to join us in the annual renewal of our ties of fellowship, both within this yearly meeting, and as we welcome visitors from afar and first-time attenders to our blessed gathering community!

This SEYM Annual Gathering will be held in person at the DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center in Parrish, Florida. This Gathering will use a typical in-person schedule with many events held each day and with multiple workshops occurring at the same time. Our plan is to conduct Meetings for Worship with attention to Business in a hybrid manner to allow remote participation and to make some other portions of the program available via video conference. The amount of the program that will be available to remote participants will be limited due to the compressed schedule and the limited availability of technology and volunteers to manage it.

We look forward to this in-person Gathering and feel it will provide opportunities to greet Friends from throughout our Yearly Meeting as well as Friends Organizations around the country and for the deep listening for the guidance of the Spirit in all we are led to undertake together. The good news as of this writing is that registration for this Gathering suggests that people are very interested in being together again!

We are especially pleased to bring you Christopher Sammond as our Walton Lecturer and facilitator for two retreat sessions. The theme for this Gathering is *Deepening at the Root: Tending the Source of Our Worship & Witness* where we will explore how we nurture ourselves spiritually and carry our witness into a more and more complex world.

The order of business for these sessions will follow the form of our previous In-person Gatherings. My continued intent is to move the usual housekeeping matters along more efficiently to leave more time to share and explore how spirit moves among us in our Meetings and organizations.

Please attend to these and other documents in advance that are likely to be transmitted electronically prior to the gathering. Your attention to these documents will assist the clerk and the community to avoid long presentations on otherwise routine matters.

The success of our Gathering will always depend on your participation.

Plenary 1 will again be an open meeting / worship group forum to discuss how spirit moves among us as we finish with recovery from pandemic isolation and begin to move forward with witness as a united community. Where do our leadings take us in this time of created division and exclusion?

Again, welcome to our 59th Yearly Meeting Gathering. You are invited to have some fun, learn something new, and be renewed as we love each other in the Spirit.

In Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Carlie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "B" and "C".

Bill Carlie, clerk, SEYM

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

5th to 9th Fourth Month 2023

Agenda

From the beginning, it was the witness of changed and liberated lives that shook the foundations of the established social, economic, and religious order of England. The Religious Society of Friends—the Friends Church—is about nothing if it's not about transformation. Helping each other open to the Living Christ among us, allowing ourselves to be searched by the Light at work within us, humbling ourselves to be taught by the Inward Teacher, trusting that surrendering to the Refiner's Fire, we can be given new hearts. It is and always has been through these new hearts that we are made channels for the Motion of Universal Love.

Noah Baker Merrill 2012

Executive Committee:

Third Month 31, 2023, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Conducted virtually via zoom:

Yearly Meeting Executive Committee Meeting
Mar 31, 2023, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89854387452?pwd=UHZGM0g4SVRROUM3bDJxazNybHpGQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 5438 7452

Passcode: 904206

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,89854387452#,,,,*904206# US

+16468769923,,89854387452#,,,,*904206# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 898 5438 7452

Passcode: 904206

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbt740v3GN>

Plenary Sessions and the Walton Lecture are in-person and via zoom:

Yearly Meeting Plenary Sessions and Walton Lecture

Apr 5 to Apr 9, 2023, all times are Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Apr 5	First Plenary:	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Apr 6	Second Plenary:	3:30 PM to 5:00 PM
Apr 7	Third Plenary:	3:30 PM to 5:00 PM
Apr 8	Fourth Plenary:	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
	Fifth Plenary:	4:15 PM to 5:15 PM
	Walton Lecture:	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Apr 9	Sixth Plenary:	9:00 AM to 10:15 AM
	Reading of Epistle:	10:15 AM to 10:30 AM
	Meeting for Worship:	10:45 AM to 11:45 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84175866776?pwd=ck9xTEFqWko3Vm84VFJyd3RLRjlSdz09>

Meeting ID: 841 7586 6776

Passcode: 824499

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,84175866776#,,,,*824499# US

+16469313860,,84175866776#,,,,*824499# US

Dial by your location

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 841 7586 6776

Passcode: 824499

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kOdW1SWv4>

First Plenary Session • 5th Fourth Month 2023, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Eastern

Open, centering worship
A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, and/or a Friend's writing
Welcome
Open Forum Meetings and Worship Groups, our recovery, traditions and changes
Closing Worship

Second Plenary Session • 6th Fourth Month 2023, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Agenda
Centering Worship / Reading of inspirational quote
Announcements
Calling of Epistle Committee
Treasurer's Report 12 - 19
Finance Committee, first reading of the SEYM budget
Roll Call of Meetings and Worship Groups
Acceptance of EC and IBM Minutes, (*please refer to documents in advance as clerk intends to call for acceptance of these Minutes as published*)..... 8 - 11
Nominating Committee, First Reading of Nominations Report 20 - 23
Trustees Report
Review of the Minutes
Closing Worship

Third Plenary Session • 7th Fourth Month 2023, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Open, centering worship
A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend's writing
Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced
Announcements
Youth Committee Report
Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report
Worship and Ministry Committee Reports 24 - 28
Committee for Ministry on Racism Report 29 - 32
Review of Minutes
Closing Worship

Fourth Plenary Session • 8th Fourth Month 2023, 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Opening Worship
A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend's writing.
Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced.
Announcements

Representatives to Organizations & Visitors from Organizations:
• American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
• Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
 Letter of Introduction for Bobby Trice, Annual Report..... 33 - 35
• Friends General Conference (FGC)

- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)
- Friends Peace Teams (FPT)
- Florida Council of Churches
- Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC)
- Palmetto Friends Gathering
- Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)
- Quaker House
- Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

Observers to Organizations:

- Friends United Meeting (FUM) General Board Observers

Reading back the minutes

Closing worship

Fifth Plenary Session • 8th Fourth Month 2023, 4:15 pm to 5:15 pm

Open, centering worship.

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend's writing.

Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced.

Announcements

Field Secretary for Earthcare Report.....36 - 41

Publications Committee Report

Archives Committee Report

Earthcare Committee Report 42

Review of Minutes

Closing Worship

Sixth Plenary Session • 9th Fourth Month 2023, 9:00 am to 10:30 am

Open, centering worship.

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend's writing.

Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced

Announcements.

Nominating Committee Report, final reading

Finance Committee Report (budget) final reading

Gathering Committee Report

Reading of the Epistle

Review of Minutes

Closing Worship

Meeting for Worship • 9th Fourth Month 2023, 10:45 am to 11:45 am

Specially Called Executive Committee Meeting 2022

26 Second Month 2022

NUMBERED MINUTES

22SpCEC01: Friends approved Bill Carlie acting as Executive Committee clerk.

APPROVED

22SpCEC02: Executive Committee approves holding the 2022 sessions of the annual gathering in person at the Warren Willis Center (formerly The Life Enrichment Center) April 13-17, 2022. Friends who register for the in person gathering will assume responsibility for any risks related to health.

APPROVED

22SpCEC03: Executive Committee requests that arrangements be made for Friends unable to attend to participate in Meetings for Business as well the Walton Lecture, workshops, and committee meetings, as possible and practicable. This request is for adult events and is dependent on the availability and willingness of Friends outside of the Gathering Committee to do the work and to be available for technical support. Bill Carlie, Joel Cook, Brian Humphries, and Liz Dykes volunteered to help with remote participation.

APPROVED

Second Specially Called Executive Committee Meeting 2022

3 Ninth Month 2022

NUMBERED MINUTES

22-2SpCEC01 Executive Committee approves holding our 2023 Yearly Meeting Gathering at Dayspring Camp and Conference Center, April 5 through 9, and to authorize Bill Carlie, Yearly Meeting Clerk; Vicki Carlie, Gathering Clerk; or Susan Wade, Administrative Secretary, to sign a contract and make deposits as necessary to reserve the camp.

APPROVED

22-2SpCEC02 Executive Committee, Trustees, and Finance Committee will consider what funds are available to support the 2023 Gathering and especially enable families and young adults to attend, should there be a shortfall in revenue with a pay as led system.

APPROVED

Fall Interim Business Meeting

4 Eleventh Month 2022

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 22FIBM01** SEYM joins with the Florida Council of Churches in its statement regarding the antisemitism signage displayed in Jacksonville on October 29, 2022.
APPROVED
- 22FIBM02** SEYM approves a contribution of \$750 from the contingency fund for Quaker Earthcare Witness, seeking additional contributions from anyone or any meetings for as much as they are led to donate to add to the QEW donation.
APPROVED
- 22FIBM03** SEYM expresses its gratitude to St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting for its warm and gracious hospitality in hosting the Fall Interim Business Meeting.
APPROVED

Winter Executive Committee Meeting

13 First Month 2023

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 23WEC01** Executive Committee recognizes that COVID protocols are constantly changing. Gathering Committee is given the responsibility and authority of discerning the vaccine requirements for the 2023 Gathering based on conditions at the time.
APPROVED
- 23WEC02** Executive Committee approves the Executive Committee/Interim Business Meeting Clerk and the Assistant Clerk approve distribution of the funds from the International Worship Group Fund, consistent with the minuted purposes of the fund.
APPROVED

Winter Interim Business Meeting

14 First Month 2023

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 23WIBM01** Winter Interim Business Meeting approves the appointments of Mariah Doran and Lewis Kirvan to the SEYM Youth Committee, service to begin this month and conclude at annual sessions in 2025.
APPROVED
- 23WIBM02** Winter Interim Business Meeting accepts Earthcare Committee's request to make the Field Secretary for Earthcare a staff position, thereby making the Field Secretary for Earthcare part of SEYM's payroll and general budget. Winter Interim Business Meeting thanks all who have shepherded this program and brought it to this point. This minute will be brought to Yearly Meeting for final approval.
APPROVED
- 23WIBM03** Winter Interim Business Meeting of SEYM thanks Orlando Friends for their graciousness and hospitality during our visit for WIBM. The use of the cottage was an additional gift.
APPROVED
- 23WIBM04** Winter Interim Business Meeting of SEYM appreciates the work of Susan Wade for coordinating so much of the technology which enabled Friends from a distance to participate easily in breakout committee meetings as well as our meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Her efforts created a welcoming space for all Friends.
APPROVED

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends

Treasurer Report for 2023 Yearly Meeting

Report for end of First Three Quarters of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (June 1, 2022 thru Feb. 28, 2023)

All values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

SEYM Total Cash Flow not including Trustees

The overall cash flow of the Yearly Meeting (excluding the funds in the Trustees' care) for this period yielded a net loss of \$1,055 (excluding unrealized capital loss of \$1,175 on investments for the Publications program, and including \$12,931 restricted donations for the Field Secretary for Earthcare program). This resulted from an SEYM total real income of \$107,110 against total expenses of \$108,165.

SEYM General Fund for Administration - Cash Flow and Budget Performance

At the end of this period, the General Fund (the operations fund for which we approved a balanced budget of \$93,540 in our 2022 Yearly Meeting sessions) showed a net gain of \$1,008. This resulted from General Fund total income of \$63,397 (68% of budget) against expenses of \$62,388 (67% of budget).

NOTE: The Income & Expense Report and the Budget vs Actual Report have different income and expense totals because the Yearly Meeting collected for and disbursed to QEW \$1,325. These figures show on the Income & Expense Report, but not the Budget vs Actual Report.

Budget Support Apportionments & Contributions Received

During this period, in response to the annual request for support of the approved General Fund Budget (the Apportionments), contributions received from the Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups totaled \$49,462, or 63% of the year's budgeted request of \$78,685.

Sixteen Monthly Meetings and Ten Worship Groups were included in the Apportionment request this fiscal year. As of 2/28/2023, Nine (9) have contributed between three-quarters and their entire requested amount, one (1) has contributed one-half to three quarters, and sixteen (16) have not contributed anything.

The unrestricted individual donations received toward the Budget during this period totaled \$4,909 approximately 245% of the \$2,000 budgeted amount.

Cash Flow Results for Programs

The annual programs for this fiscal year are in progress; cash flow is incomplete.

The Publications program during this period had a net gain of \$652, excluding unrealized capital losses of \$1,175 on investments for the program.

The SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare program during this period received \$12,931 in donations and had expenses of \$17,957, yielding a net loss of \$5,025.

Net Worth

The Net Worth of the combined Yearly Meeting and its Trustees at the end of this period was \$598,764 a decrease of \$33,622 including \$29,708 in unrealized capital losses since the beginning of the fiscal year.

Joel D. Cook, Treasurer - SEYM 4/4/2023

Southeastern Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of
Budget vs. Actuals
 June 2022 - May 2023

	Actual	Budget	Total over Budget	% of Budget
2000 Income				0.00
2001 Donations				0.00
2002 Indivd.Donations-Classes	4,908.97	2,000.00	2,908.97	245%
2003 Meeting Donations	49,462.00	83,160.00	-33,698.00	59%
Total 2001 Donations	\$ 54,370.97	\$ 85,160.00	-\$ 30,789.03	64%
2200 Investment Earnings				0.00
2203 Savings Account Interest	2.73	20.00	-17.27	14%
Total 2200 Investment Earnings	\$ 2.73	\$ 20.00	-\$ 17.27	14%
Total 2000 Income	\$ 54,373.70	\$ 85,180.00	-\$ 30,806.30	64%
2700 Transfer in FROM other classes				0.00
2712 Michener Lect. to GF/insurance		190.00	-190.00	0%
2732 Gath/Walton to GF/insurance	900.00	1,140.00	-240.00	79%
2752 HYM to GF/insurance	450.00	570.00	-120.00	79%
2804 from Trustee's Funds				0.00
2815 for BertscheOutreach Travel	2,180.52	1,930.00	250.52	113%
2820 for Staff Salary	5,132.32	4,530.00	602.32	113%
Total 2804 from Trustee's Funds	\$ 7,312.84	\$ 6,460.00	\$ 852.84	113%
Total 2700 Transfer in FROM other classes	\$ 8,662.84	\$ 8,360.00	\$ 302.84	104%
Total Income	\$ 63,036.54	\$ 93,540.00	-\$ 30,503.46	67%
Gross Profit	\$ 63,036.54	\$ 93,540.00	-\$ 30,503.46	67%
Expenditures				
2999 Expenses				0.00
3000 Operating Costs				0.00
3001 Bank Service Charges	247.87	200.00	47.87	124%
3002 PayPal service fee	43.20	15.00	28.20	288%
3080 Duplication	611.97	500.00	111.97	122%
3100 Insurance				0.00
3106 Liability Insurance	1,960.69	1,900.00	60.69	103%
Total 3100 Insurance	\$ 1,960.69	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 60.69	103%
3107 Youth Worker CAP Certification	114.30	160.00	-45.70	71%
3146 Non-Profit Corporation Fee		65.00	-65.00	0%
3200 Office Supplies	3,150.71	400.00	2,750.71	788%
3270 Payroll Expenses	42,579.23	50,000.00	-7,420.77	85%
3272 Employer Payroll Taxes	1,755.34	3,750.00	-1,994.66	47%
3380 Postage/Shipping	355.36	400.00	-44.64	89%
3381 Post Office Box rental		200.00	-200.00	0%
3400 Office Equipment	950.08	400.00	550.08	238%
3500 Professional Fees		500.00	-500.00	0%
3640 Rent warehouse/office	1,822.00	2,000.00	-178.00	91%
3700 Repairs	213.99	250.00	-36.01	86%
3816 Software	1,215.92	3,000.00	-1,784.08	41%
3840 Telephone & Inet access	792.32	1,500.00	-707.68	53%
3860 Travel Administrative	422.86	1,000.00	-577.14	42%
3900 Website	312.65	3,900.00	-3,587.35	8%
Total 3000 Operating Costs	\$ 56,548.49	\$ 70,140.00	-\$ 13,591.51	81%

4000 Committees Operating Expenses				0.00	
4309 Archives		100.00		-100.00	0%
4329 EC and IBM		1,000.00		-1,000.00	0%
4339 Faith and Practice		25.00		-25.00	0%
4349 Finance		25.00		-25.00	0%
4359 Nominating		25.00		-25.00	0%
4369 Peace and Social Concerns	90.00	450.00		-360.00	20%
4389 Youth Committee		25.00		-25.00	0%
4399 Worship and Ministry	0.00	2,000.00		-2,000.00	0%
4429 Earthcare		25.00		-25.00	0%
4449 Publications		25.00		-25.00	0%
4469 Racism, Ministry on		25.00		-25.00	0%
4489 Young Adult Quakers		25.00		-25.00	0%
Total 4000 Committees Operating Expenses		\$ 90.00	\$ 3,750.00	-\$ 3,660.00	2%
5000 Donations to Organizations				0.00	
5007 AFSC		200.00		-200.00	0%
5018 Earlham School of Religion		100.00		-100.00	0%
5027 FCNL		300.00		-300.00	0%
5028 QEW (FCUN)	0.00	200.00		-200.00	0%
5030 FLGBTQC		100.00		-100.00	0%
5037 FGC		1,200.00		-1,200.00	0%
5038 FLCoalition for Peace & Justice		100.00		-100.00	0%
5047 Florida Council of Churches		200.00		-200.00	0%
5048 Florida Impact		300.00		-300.00	0%
5057 Friends Journal		100.00		-100.00	0%
5061 Friends Peace Teams		500.00		-500.00	0%
5067 FUM		500.00		-500.00	0%
5068 FWCC		1,450.00		-1,450.00	0%
5077 Pendle Hill		100.00		-100.00	0%
5085 Quaker House of Fayetteville NC		200.00		-200.00	0%
5087 Quaker Life		100.00		-100.00	0%
5089 QUNO		100.00		-100.00	0%
5090 NNABSHC		300.00		-300.00	0%
5097 Wm Penn House		100.00		-100.00	0%
Total 5000 Donations to Organizations		\$ 0.00	\$ 6,150.00	-\$ 6,150.00	0%
8000 Travel & Financial Aid				0.00	
8160 Annual Representative		4,000.00		-4,000.00	0%
8360 Attend SEYM-approved Activities		1,500.00		-1,500.00	0%
8460 Travel Support to SEYM Business		1,000.00		-1,000.00	0%
Total 8000 Travel & Financial Aid		\$ 0.00	\$ 6,500.00	-\$ 6,500.00	0%
8500 Contingency		750.00	2,000.00	-1,250.00	38%
Total 2999 Expenses		\$ 57,388.49	\$ 88,540.00	-\$ 31,151.51	65%
9000 Transfer OUT TO other classes				0.00	
9004 for Youth Programs	2,500.00	2,500.00		0.00	100%
9005 for Gathering Youth	2,000.00	2,000.00		0.00	100%
9060 for Triennial Travel	500.00	500.00		0.00	100%
Total 9000 Transfer OUT TO other classes		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 0.00	100%
Total Expenditures		\$ 62,388.49	\$ 93,540.00	-\$ 31,151.51	67%
Net Operating Income		\$ 648.05	\$ 0.00	\$ 648.05	
Net Income		\$ 648.05	\$ 0.00	\$ 648.05	

Southeastern Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Income and Expense

June 2022 - February 2023

	Gathering/ Walton Lecture	Half Yearly Meeting (HYM)	Int'l WG Support	Michener Lecture	Programs for Youth	Publications	Secretary - Earthcare Travel	Trustee's Funds	TOTAL
Income									
2000 Income									0.00
2001 Donations									0.00
2002 Individ.Donations-Classes	4,908.97				20.00				4,928.97
2003 Meeting Donations	49,462.00								49,462.00
2125 Unrestricted, to Trustees								25.00	25.00
Total 2001 Donations	54,370.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54,415.97
2040 Restricted Donations									0.00
2050 Restricted - Other	1,325.00				2,127.00				3,452.00
2060 Donations - Restricted- FSE					100.00		12,931.42		13,031.42
Total 2040 Restricted Donations	1,325.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,227.00	0.00	12,931.42	0.00	16,483.42
2200 Investment Earnings									0.00
2203 Savings Account Interest	2.73								2.73
2205 Dividends FFC Gathering Youth								4,988.86	4,988.86
2210 Dividends FFC Michener Fund								1,045.24	1,045.24
2215 Dividends FFC Bertsche OuTravel								2,180.52	2,180.52
2220 Dividends-FFC Staff Salary Fund								5,132.32	5,132.32
2225 Dividends FFC Unrestricted								1,908.42	1,908.42
2230 Dividends FFC Walton Fund								1,932.01	1,932.01
2250 Interest FGC Meetinghouse Fund								331.09	331.09
2280 Dividends FFC SEYM Publications						317.29			317.29
2290 Investment Capital Gains/Losses									0.00
2206 Capital Gain(Loss) Gath. Youth								-9,043.63	-9,043.63
2211 Capital Gain(Loss) Michener								-1,894.77	-1,894.77
2216 Capital Gain(Loss) BertscheOTra								-3,952.77	-3,952.77
2221 Capital Gain(Loss) Staff Salary								-9,303.71	-9,303.71
2226 Capital Gain(Loss) Unrestricted								-4,979.79	-4,979.79
2231 Capital Gain(Loss) Walton								-320.63	-320.63
2232 Capital Gain (Loss) Meetinghouse								-246.95	-246.95
2281 Capital Gain(Loss) SEYM Publish								-1,175.35	-1,175.35
Total 2290 Investment Capital Gains/Losses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,742.25
Total 2200 Investment Earnings	2.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,917.60
2306 Miscellaneous Income	57.10								57.10
2400 Program Registrations									0.00
2430 Registration Fee	9,330.00	2,330.00		1,460.21	360.00				13,480.21
Total 2400 Program Registrations	0.00	9,330.00	2,330.00	0.00	1,460.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,480.21
Total 2600 Publication Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	749.68	0.00	0.00	749.68
Total 2000 Income	55,755.80	9,330.00	2,330.00	0.00	1,460.21	2,607.00	12,931.42	0.00	72,107.26

2700 Transfer in FROM other classes										0.00
2732 Gath/Walton to GF/insurance	900.00									900.00
2752 HYM to GF/insurance	450.00									450.00
2784 from GF for YouthProgramsClass				2,500.00						2,500.00
2801 transfer from General Fund									500.00	500.00
2802 from GF for Gathering Youth										2,000.00
2804 from Trustee's Funds										0.00
2805 for Gathering Youth		2,000.00								4,988.86
2810 for Michener Lecture										1,045.24
2815 for BertischeOutreach Travel	2,180.52									2,180.52
2820 for Staff Salary	5,132.32									5,132.32
2830 for Walton Lecture/Gathering		1,932.01								1,932.01
Total 2804 from Trustee's Funds	7,312.84	6,920.87	0.00	1,045.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,278.95
Total 2700 Transfer in FROM other classes	8,662.84	8,920.87	0.00	1,045.24	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	21,628.95
Total Income	64,418.64	18,250.87	2,330.00	0.00	2,505.45	5,107.00	-	108.38	12,931.42	93,736.21
Expenses										
2999 Expenses										0.00
3000 Operating Costs										
3001 Bank Service Charges	247.87									247.87
3002 PayPal service fee	43.20	176.07	30.12	24.82	71.28			55.74		401.23
3080 Duplication	611.97									611.97
3100 Insurance	1,960.69									1,960.69
3107 Youth Worker CAP Certification	114.30									114.30
3200 Office Supplies	3,150.71			36.60						3,187.31
3270 Payroll Expenses	42,579.23							17,031.11		59,610.34
Wages (deleted)	0.00							0.00		0.00
Total 3270 Payroll Expenses	42,579.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,031.11	0.00	59,610.34
3272 Employer Payroll Taxes	1,755.34							869.76		2,625.10
Taxes (deleted)	0.00							0.00		0.00
Total 3272 Employer Payroll Taxes	1,755.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	869.76	0.00	2,625.10
3300 Postage/Shipping										
3380 Postage/Shipping	355.36									489.29
3400 Office Equipment	950.08			45.11				98.82		950.08
3640 Rent warehouse/office										0.00
3642 Office Rent	190.00									190.00
3643 Storage Unit	1,632.00									1,632.00
Total 3640 Rent warehouse/office	1,822.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,822.00
3700 Repairs										0.00
3740 Computer Repairs	213.99									213.99
Total 3700 Repairs	213.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	213.99
3816 Software	1,215.92									1,215.92
3840 Telephone & Inet access	792.32			228.69						1,021.01
3860 Travel Administrative	422.86									422.86
3900 Website	312.65									312.65
Total 3000 Operating Costs	56,548.49	176.07	30.12	228.69	61.42	116.39		98.82	17,956.61	75,216.61

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of February 28, 2023**

	Total		Change
	As of Feb 28, 2023	As of May 31, 2022 (PP)	
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
0501 Checking Account BOA	0.00	0.00	0.00
511 Checking - Gen'l Fund - General	-12,965.08	2,806.10	-15,771.18
560 Checking-GF-Triennial Travel	21,087.31	20,587.31	500.00
561 Peace Team Travel Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
566 Checking-GF-Sufferings	170.00	170.00	0.00
610 Checking-SA-Michener	1,515.69	0.00	1,515.69
630 Checking-SA-YBM Gathering	135.73	-218.97	354.70
640 Checking-SA-Programs for Youth	39.10	-779.39	818.49
650 Checking-SA-HYM	1,849.88	0.00	1,849.88
670 Checking - SA - Earthcare	16,048.21	11,428.72	4,619.49
680 Checking-SA-Publications	-5,662.41	-6,314.70	652.29
690 Checking - 690 Covid Relief	500.00	500.00	0.00
695 Checking - Int'l WG Support	133.77	452.00	-318.23
700 Checking-Trustees	0.00	0.00	0.00
705 Checking - 6 Gathering Youth Fund	5,663.26	5,663.26	0.00
710 Checking - 3 Michener Fund	1.66	1.66	0.00
715 Checking - 2 Bertsche Travel Fund	1,007.83	1,007.83	0.00
720 Checking - 5 Staff Salary	1,565.09	2,951.85	-1,386.76
725 Checking - 4 Unrestricted Fund	10,790.34	10,765.34	25.00
730 Checking - 1 Walton Fund	1,384.05	1,384.05	0.00
740 Checking - 7 Meetinghouse Support	634.58	303.49	331.09
750 Checking -FGC Meetinghouse Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
759 Checking - Other Trustee Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
773 Miami Mtg/Bartram House Loan	0.00	0.00	0.00
776 Matching Funds, GYouthE Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 700 Checking-Trustees	\$ 21,046.81	\$ 22,077.48	-\$ 1,030.67
803 Clearing Account	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 0501 Checking Account BOA	\$ 43,899.01	\$ 50,708.55	-\$ 6,809.54
830 Checking - BofA Payroll	17,942.85	15,777.58	2,165.27
903 Savings BOA	36,926.87	36,924.14	2.73
999 Pay Pal	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 98,768.73	\$ 103,410.27	-\$ 4,641.54
Accounts Receivable			
1100 Accounts Receivable	-17.52	-17.52	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	-\$ 17.52	-\$ 17.52	\$ 0.00
Other Current Assets			
1101 Mtg Donation FY rec'd next FY	0.00	0.00	0.00
1120 Inventory Asset	0.01	0.01	0.00
1130 Pre-paid expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
1133 Site deposits-next Fiscal Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 1130 Pre-paid expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
1180 FFC SOYM1 Publications Investme	15,395.47	16,570.82	-1,175.35
1183 Pre-paid Meeting Donations next	0.00	0.00	0.00
1184 Pre-paid Youth Donation next	0.00	0.00	0.00
1185 Pre-paid YAQ Donation next	0.00	0.00	0.00
1199 Undeposited Funds	-400.00	-400.00	0.00

1200 Trustee Investments				0.00
1205 FFC SOYMT6 GatheringYouth Fund	118,458.83	127,502.46		-9,043.63
1210 FFC SOYMT3 Michener	24,818.82	26,713.59		-1,894.77
1215 FFC SOYMT2 BertscheTravel Fd	51,775.77	55,728.54		-3,952.77
1220 FFC SOYMT5 Staff Salary Fund	121,865.50	131,169.21		-9,303.71
1225 FFC SOYMT4 Unrestricted	96,042.64	99,114.01		-3,071.37
1230 FFC SOYMT1 Walton Fund	45,875.08	46,195.71		-320.63
1240 FFC SOYMT7 Meetinghouse Support	26,152.25	26,399.20		-246.95
1250 FFC Meetinghouse Fund	0.00	0.00		0.00
1255 Domini Fund	0.00	0.00		0.00
1257 Domini International Equity	0.00	0.00		0.00
1259 Domini Social Equity Fund	0.00	0.00		0.00
Total 1255 Domini Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$	0.00
Total 1200 Trustee Investments	\$ 484,988.89	\$ 512,822.72	-\$	27,833.83
Payroll Corrections	28.72			28.72
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 500,013.09	\$ 528,993.55	-\$	28,980.46
Total Current Assets	\$ 598,764.30	\$ 632,386.30	-\$	33,622.00
Other Assets				
1270 Loans	0.00	0.00		0.00
1276 SEYM Bank Error	0.00	0.00		0.00
Total 1270 Loans	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$	0.00
Total Other Assets	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 598,764.30	\$ 632,386.30	-\$	33,622.00
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
1300 Expected/prepaid expenses	0.00	0.00		0.00
1336 Last FY Expenses not paid	0.00	0.00		0.00
1383 Prepaid Mtg. Donations	0.00	0.00		0.00
1384 Youth Donation FY next	0.00	0.00		0.00
1385 YAQ Donation FY next	0.00	0.00		0.00
Total 1300 Expected/prepaid expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$	0.00
1370 Payroll Liabilities	114.06	114.06		0.00
1371 Federal Taxes (941/943/944)	257.24			257.24
1372 SEYM Payroll Liability	0.00	0.00		0.00
Total 1370 Payroll Liabilities	\$ 371.30	\$ 114.06	\$	257.24
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00			0.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 371.30	\$ 114.06	\$	257.24
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 371.30	\$ 114.06	\$	257.24
Total Liabilities	\$ 371.30	\$ 114.06	\$	257.24
Equity				
1400 Trustees Funds Equity	296,694.99	296,694.99		0.00
1500 Operational Equity/ Net Assets				0.00
1511 General Fund Net Assets	29,324.36	29,324.36		0.00
1560 Triennial Travel Net Assets	5,349.80	5,349.80		0.00
1561 FPT Donations Net Assets	0.00	0.00		0.00
1580 Publications Net Assets	14,341.85	14,341.85		0.00
Total 1500 Operational Equity/ Net Assets	\$ 49,016.01	\$ 49,016.01	\$	0.00
1700 Retained Earnings	286,561.24	286,561.24		0.00
1800 Opening Bal Net Assets	-4,171.59	0.00		-4,171.59
Net Revenue	-29,707.65			-29,707.65
Total Equity	\$ 598,393.00	\$ 632,272.24	-\$	33,879.24
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 598,764.30	\$ 632,386.30	-\$	33,622.00

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT, FIRST READING

THE SEYM Nominating Committee members are Ed Lesnick (Clerk), Beverly Ward, Shawna Doran, and Brian Olson. *Directed by the Spirit, we encourage Friends who see their gifts and gifts in others to share their leadings with the Nominating Committee.*

Please encourage Friends at your monthly meeting or worship group to become active and spiritually enriched by serving others in Southeastern Yearly Meeting.

The Yearly Meeting needs Friends to share their gift of service in the following roles:

Assistant Yearly Meeting & IBM Clerk "The Assistant Clerk has such duties as may be delegated by the YM/IBM and takes over the duties of the Clerk in the absence of the Clerk." The Assistant Clerk is a member of the Executive Committee (EC). Collectively, the EC is responsible for giving leadership to the Yearly Meeting. "It is the responsibility of the Assistant Clerk of Southeastern Yearly Meeting to work with our appointed representatives to Quaker organizations, and in consultation with these representatives, to allocate the money for travel, and to report these budgeted allocations...."

Gathering Committee Clerk and Assistant Clerk Annual Gathering Clerk and Assistant Clerk. Our Quaker community, SEYM, needs a new Gathering Clerk for 2024. We also need an Assistant to the Gathering Clerk. We need Friends on board now if there is to be an in-person Yearly Meeting for 2024. The work for next year begins immediately after this year's Gathering. The job requires people/communication skills and organizational and computer skills. Former clerk Vicki Carlie said she "can be available to share all I know."

Youth Committee Member(s). The purpose of the Youth Committee is to plan, supervise, and facilitate youth activities in Southeastern Yearly Meeting: A description of the committee appears in the Operational Handbook, pages 79 to 81.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Positions are open. Representatives actively participate in the work of FCNL through the annual meeting of the FCNL General Committee held in November. They update SEYM on FCNL plans, programs, and campaigns. Karen Putney is SEYM's lead representative.

Quaker House Contact. Listed with SEYM representatives, this is a "contact" person who would keep SEYM in touch with Quaker House and report to the membership on Quaker House activities. "Quaker House is a manifestation of the Friends' Peace Testimony. Based in Fayetteville, NC, home of Ft. Bragg, Quaker House provides counseling and support to service members. Quakerhouse.org

On behalf of the SEYM Nominating Committee,



Ed Lesnick, Nominating Committee Clerk

SEYM Officers, Committees, Representatives, & Appointees

OFFICERS

Yearly Meeting IBM/EC Clerk.....	Bill Carlie	St. Petersburg	2026
YM & IBM Assistant Clerk.....			
YM Recording Clerk.....	Dan Vaughn.....	Orlando/DeLand	2025
Recording Clerk, IBM/EC.....	Liz Dykes.....	Gainesville	2025
Assistant Recording Clerk(s)	Susan Wade	St. Petersburg	2024
Treasurer	Joel Cook	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast	2026
Membership Recorder	Ed Lesnick.....	Orlando.....	2024

TRUSTEES

Neil Andersen, Clerk	Tallahassee	2026
Jack Bradin	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast ...	2026
Liz Dykes.....	Gainesville	2026
Mike Flanery	Clearwater	2026
Chris Laning.	Orlando.....	2025

COMMITTEES

Archives	Bill Rapp, Clerk.....	Lake Wales WG	2024
	Phoebe Andersen.....	Tallahassee	2026
	Neil Andersen.....	Tallahassee	2024
Earthcare	Brian Humphrey, Clerk.....	Ft. Lauderdale.....	2026
	Jim Koopman	Ft. Myers.....	2025
	Beverly Ward.....	Tampa	2025
	Brad Stocker	Miami	2025
	Jack Bradin	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast ...	2026
	Mike Flanery	Clearwater	2026
	Hollyn Green.....	Savannah.....	2026
Faith & Practice (Committee on sabbatical)	Phoebe Andersen, Clerk.....	Tallahassee	2024
Facebook Page	Mike Flanery	Clearwater	2024
Finance	Peter Schmidt, Clerk		2024
	Steve Donachie.....	Miami	2024
	Shawna Doran.....	Gainesville	2024
	Carl Hersh.....	Miami/DeLand	2024
	Asst. YM Clerk (ex officio)		
	SEYM Treasurer (ex officio)		
	Clerk of Trustees (ex officio)		
SEYM Administrative Secretary (ex officio)			
Half-Yearly Meeting	Brian Olson, Clerk	Miami	2024
	Rosiland Kirupavathy, Registrar.....	Orlando.....	2024
	Kathy Hersh, Co-Food Coordinator	Miami/DeLand	2025
	Beverly Ward, Co-Food Coordinator	Tampa	2025
	Asma Roshi, Youth Member	Orlando.....	2025

Ministry on Racism	Kathy Hersh, <i>Clerk</i>	Miami/DeLand	2024
	Wendy Geiger		2026
	Katie Green	Clearwater	2024
	Susan Taylor.....	Tallahassee	2024
	Minerva Glidden	Orlando.....	2024
	Brad Stocker	Miami	2024
	Beverly Ward.....	Tampa	2024
	Jane Westberg	Miami	2024
	Jean Larson	Gainesville	2025
	Cindy Kwalwasser	Orlando/DeLand	2025
Peace & Social Concerns	Helen Fox.....	Ft. Myers	2024
	Peter Harrell.....	Gainesville	2024
	Karen Putney	Tampa	2024
	John Heimbürg.....	Orlando.....	2025
	Warren Hoskins	Tallahassee	2025
	Mercedes Soca.....	Havana WG.....	2025
	Cece Yocum	Tampa	2025
	Phil Stone.....	Clearwater	2026
Publications	Phoebe Andersen.....	Tallahassee	2024
	Vicki Carlie (ex officio).....	St. Petersburg.....	2025
	Steven Riddle.....	Orlando.....	2025
Worship & Ministry	Jan Dahm, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Tampa	2026
	Lisa Erazmus, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Tampa	2026
	Richelle Ogle, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Orlando/St. Augustine.....	2025
	Bill Carlie.....	St. Petersburg.....	2025
	Joel Cook	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast ...	2025
	Cheryl Demers-Holton	Gainesville/DeLand	2025
	Nancyrose Logan.....	Sarasota.....	2025
	Clara Diaz.....	Orlando/St. Augustine.....	2026
	Eduardo Diaz	Orlando/St. Augustine.....	2026
Ann Jerome	Orlando/DeLand	2026	
YM Gathering	<i>Gathering Clerk</i>		
	<i>Assistant Clerk</i>		
	Andrea Hoskins, <i>Registrar</i>	Tallahassee	2025
	John Heimbürg, <i>Bookstore Coordinator</i>	Orlando.....	2026
	Brian Olson, <i>Program Coordinator</i>	Miami	2026
	Kasper Ronning.....	Orlando.....	2025
	SEYM Administrative Secretary, ex-officio.....		
Youth Committee	Jennifer Mendoza	Sarasota.....	2024
	Kathy Hersh	Miami/DeLand	2025
	Mariah Doran, <i>Gathering Activities</i>	Gainesville	2025
	Lewis Kirvan, <i>Gathering Activities</i>	Gainesville	2025
	Cecelia Yocum.....	Tampa	2026

REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS

American Friends Service Committee Corporation, - AFSC/Philadelphia

Bill CarlieSt. Petersburg..... 2025
Beverly Ward.....Tampa 2025

Friends Committee on National Legislation – FCNL

Karen PutneyTampa 2024
Eileen Zingaro.....Clearwater 2024

Friends General Conference - FGC Central Committee

Susan Wade.....St. Petersburg..... 2025
Dan VaughnOrlando/DeLand 2025

Friends World Committee for Consultation – FWCC

Clara DiazOrlando/St. Augustine..... 2024
Eduardo DiazOrlando/St. Augustine..... 2024
Joel CookPalm Beach/Treasure Coast ... 2006
Nancyrose Logan.....Sarasota..... 2026

Friends Peace Teams

Shawna Doran.....Gainesville 2025
Cecilia Yocum.....Tampa 2025

Florida Council of Churches

Beverly Ward.....Tampa 2024

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns – FLGBTQ

Open

Palmetto Friends Gathering

Neil Andersen.....Tallahassee 2026
Phoebe Andersen.....Tallahassee 2026

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Brad StockerMiami 2025

Quaker House (Fayetteville)

Open

Quaker United Nations Office - QUNO

Liz JenkinsOrlando..... 2025

APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATIONS

FUM General Board Observer

Eduardo Diaz.....Orlando/St. Augustine..... 2026
Ellie Caldwell, *Alternate*Palm Beach..... 2024

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ed Lesnick, *Clerk*Orlando..... 2024
Beverly Ward.....Tampa 2025
Shawna Doran.....Gainesville 2026
Brian Olson.....Miami 2026

Worship & Ministry Committee Report

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

2023 Gathering, 5th to 9th Fourth Month

The SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee continues to live out its commitment to listening to the spiritual needs of our SEYM Meetings and Worship Groups and the Yearly Meeting as a whole. We have met monthly as schedules and time permits. Outside of committee meetings, we have moved forward projects that engender our commitment to nurturing the way of Friends. A piece of wisdom that continues to encourage us in this work is:

Our way of worship evokes from deep within us at once an affirmation and a celebration, an affirmation of the reality of that Light which illumines the spiritual longing of humanity, and a celebration of the continual resurrection within us of the springs of hope and love; a sense that each of us is, if we will, a channel for a power that is both within and beyond us.

~ SEYM Faith & Practice, by Lorna M. Marsden

This year, we have sought to answer this spiritual longing by engaging with the following:

1. Organizing the Michener Lecture. This year's Michener Lecture, entitled *Welcome As You Are: Seekers, Finders, Sharing the Journey*, was offered by Joel Cook, who followed with a workshop on deepening our worship experience by sharing our spiritual journeys with each other.
2. Offering workshops at the Annual Gathering, including a two-part session on prayer, called *The Divine Conversation*. In addition to this two-part workshop offered through W&M, Committee members are facilitating other workshops, including one on finding inner peace, called *Finding Our Way Back to Our Peaceful Self*, and several sessions of *Friendly Bible Study*.
3. Planning and implementing various online opportunities for spiritual growth outside of the Yearly Meeting Gathering and the Michener Lecture, including
 - Providing Queries for the Journey to the SEYM newsletter and website for use by Meetings and individuals.
 - Providing opportunities for SEYM Friends to participate in Extended Worship experiences via Zoom. At the Yearly Meeting Gathering, we are again offering Extended Meeting for Worship.
 - Facilitating the online Seekers Book Club focusing on spiritual texts. The current book is "Practicing Peace: A Devotional Walk Through the Quaker Tradition," by Catherine Whitmire.
 - Offering online workshops on Quaker Chants, with Paulette Meier; and on Forgiveness as Spiritual Practice, with Sue Regen (upcoming in May).
4. The Listening Project: fostering listening and conversation around the spiritual nurture of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups through listening sessions and follow-up. The Listening Project began at the request of the SEYM Executive Committee in the June 2022 Interim Business Meeting. In our interviews with Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, we asked how SEYM could be more helpful to them. The responses come down to the following:
 - Website: A more intuitively organized website would be helpful. The website is difficult to navigate, making it unclear what resources, either spiritual or infrastructure-wise, are

available to Meetings.

- Clearinghouse: SEYM could serve as a clearinghouse for information about any number of topics, including
 - spiritual formation programs and other Quaker programs that Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups could take up;
 - a list of speakers/workshops that meetings might consider hosting; and
 - infrastructure issues.

Examples: if a Meeting is struggling with how they can do a better job of including people online in Meetings for Worship, ideally, they could contact SEYM, and SEYM could put them in touch with someone at another Meeting that has dealt with that problem to help talk them through how best to address the issue. Or if a Meeting is struggling with how to accomplish something covered in Faith & Practice, but they aren't getting the help that SEYM's Faith & Practice has promised they could get through a committee, that Meeting could contact SEYM and ask, " Who can help me with this?" Ideally, SEYM would connect that person with someone at another Meeting who has dealt with that issue previously. Several meetings mentioned how useful it would be to connect with other Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups who are experiencing the same issues or trying to accomplish similar tasks.

- Serving as a convener: A key way SEYM could help Meetings and Worship Groups would be to share information about what Meetings are doing in terms of activism or spirituality or education, so that other Meetings or Worship Groups that would like to pick up that idea would know who is doing what and could consult with them potentially. Could SEYM share information, in an accessible way, on Meeting and Worship Group activities so that other Meetings could consider something similar?

In general, SEYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups operate as if we're each in our own orbit and not connected; we don't act as if we are one organization with a central body connecting us. To address this, SEYM could provide a thoughtfully organized website, and a central, salaried staff person whose job it would be to gather information from Meetings and Worship Groups about their activities, and post the information online in highly accessible way. (See, attached Listening Project report.)

We continue to hold in the Light the hearts and concerns of all Friends. SEYM Worship and Ministry.

Committee co-clerks,
Jan Dahm, Lisa Erasmus, and Richelle Ogle

Worship & Ministry Committee Listening Project Report

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

2023 Gathering, 5th to 9th Fourth Month

The SEYM Worship & Ministry committee was asked by Executive Committee to create a Listening Project in part to create connection with monthly meetings and worship groups on behalf of SEYM, and to listen to what Friends wanted to share about experiences, needs, community, growth, and more. The Project continues, and this is the sense of the visiting so far, written in a composite form.

Some groups responded to queries, others spoke from the waiting silence, all groups shared about technology, outreach, activism, connection with other monthly meetings or worship groups, communication, community, and needs that might be addressed by SEYM. Not every group talked about a sense of Spirit within their meeting.

Technology

Zoom provided a combination of joys and sorrows from the start of the lockdown to the present time as Friends addressed the needs of their Meeting or Worship Group, and struggled with limitations, resistance, and lack of resources. Online access increased the connection for so many unable to attend in person and saw the return of some who been absent. It allowed for greater involvement in the wider Quaker world, other spiritual opportunities, and the ability to visit other monthly meetings/worship groups when before travel was prohibitive. Many mentioned that participation in community meetings such as multi-faith groups and various social justice meetings became more available through online access. Some expressed concern over the ability to feel Spirit, or connection to others. Others feel the Presence whether over Zoom or in person.

It was noted that the pandemic is not over, and with age and circumstance, various health issues including long Covid, Zoom experience is unavoidable, and should be continually improved. Some wondered if online Friends would be able to engage with Meeting, and some thought a new definition and broader understanding of participation helped to be more inviting and welcoming of all Friends.

There was a sense of growth due to online participation according to some Friends. Most meetings went to great lengths to reach and connect with Friends during the lockdown, and in the manner of trying as many ways as possible to create opportunities for worship and gathering that were safe and respectful of needs.

Some Friends considered that we are all still recovering from the Covid related period of isolation, illness, and death and this will be a process of healing—rushing into ‘normal’ is often heard, but that seems like avoiding truth.

Many worked hard to figure out making online worship available and adapted over time. Not all meetings had the same experience with the use of technology, and most Friends expressed a desire for connection in ways that knowledge might be shared throughout the Yearly Meeting. Some were frustrated at having to maintain Zoom as an option, or to increase opportunities for Friends via online connection.

Not everyone sees online availability as an accessibility issue, like providing ramps or wider doorways. Could technology be used to improve the sound, as there has been increased difficulty in hearing clearly when people are speaking while wearing masks.

Some Friends do not like to worship online. Some are not comfortable with worship in either setting. Some find the use of Zoom for hybrid meetings is a burden, as it doesn't allow for the facilitator to worship. This is especially problematic when one person is responsible. Other meetings found methods of sharing responsibilities through rotation or creating a different system through technology. Some Friends are uncomfortable with the idea that online access may be removed, as it is the only way due to health or circumstance that they can be among Friends. More than one Friend considered this connection a lifeline.

Outreach and Growth

Many Friends are concerned about outreach and growth. Some would like ideas and possibly assistance from SEYM, and possibly connection among other MMs/WGs to share ideas and experiences. Increasing the number of younger people in Meeting was frequently mentioned as a desire, but with few ideas of how that could happen. Many Friends are tired and feel like they are carrying too much for their Meeting, and growth could help spread out the work.

Other Friends want to increase our message to the outside world, and having more members helps with having more actions. Friends seemed clear that Quakers have much of what people are seeking, but they can't find us.

Some MMs/WGs have clear and easy-to-navigate websites that make a difference as the initial point of greeting seekers. Some Meetings are concerned about finances and loss of membership, and some Meetings/WGs feel they are thriving and growing. Some are very strong at following up with new attenders or those who show interest.

Many Friends expressed a desire to gather for fun within their Meeting and among other Meetings. Some groups create opportunities for Friends to gather in various ways and do invite others but thought that having a central way to communicate this would be helpful. Some Friends seek connection with other Friends, but aren't sure what kind, how to find it, or how it could be done. Some ask how more of these kinds of connections can be made using a hybrid model and wonder why this can't be part of the same conversation.

Activism

Many Friends spoke of engagement with local community, particularly multifaith organizations and social justice groups. Friends shared many concerns in common—homelessness, hunger, peace actions, LGBTQ support, racism, voting, gun access, being visible or involved at other events that represented our testimonies and values—executions, prisons, school boards, legislature, letter writing, making calls. Some Friends weren't sure small actions mattered, but most Friends recognize any witness as being core to our foundation, faith, and practice. Friends thought a Quaker presence was important in most actions because of our approach to non-violence, and some Friends thought it was important to have a spiritual grounding before and while taking action.

Friends spoke of balance, and wondered how to rest, heal, worship, and act. Some Friends wanted a way to connect with other Friends to have a stronger voice, and to know what other Meetings are planning. Many Friends came originally to Quakers because of activism, but some aren't sure we are doing that work today. Some actions arise organically outside of regular process due to timing, with one or two Friends showing up and other Friends joining in.

Some Friends are frustrated when a minute is sent to SEYM with an expectation that it will be shared widely, and it is not always clear that or how this happens. How do Friends know if material or information is sent to their clerk or meeting contact, but is not passed on to the Meeting? Other Friends

have watched responses to time-sensitive justice concerns lose relevance because, instead of action, a minute was approved and the statement was simply a good start without follow-through.

What is needed from SEYM

Many are worried about SEYM because it seems too stretched, with the same people on many committees, and some committees not functioning at all. There is concern that the interim and annual business meetings are too focused on efficiency, and many of the SEYM decisions are addressed in a secular manner. Even some committee meetings don't include worship. Technology assistance was often mentioned, whether as a direct action by SEYM, or SEYM connecting MMs/WGs to each other to share knowledge. A coordination of which Meetings have what knowledge or success in various technology solutions would benefit everyone. This may take a very strong committee or an additional staff person to address all the potential ways in which technology use or setup could be improved so that MMs/WGs could truly make use of creative and assistive methods of connection within their group, and among others in SEYM. Friends would like to see more of the annual gathering programs as hybrid offerings.

Despite the newsletter and updated website, Friends shared that they still miss out on opportunities, or are unaware of what's going on. Is there a way to connect MMs/WGs in matters besides technology, such as handling some financial matters, how to write a grant, what common programs they might be doing, actions taking place, fun things they are doing, basically a way to share ideas and resources that is coordinated and accessible.

Many Friends liked the increase in spiritual deepening opportunities from Worship & Ministry committee; want more and for it to continue. Some Friends also expressed a desire for more intervisitation, and for it to be more visible as something that happens.

Friends were clear that SEYM Peace and Social Concerns committee needs to function. So many opportunities have been missed to raise a unified Quaker voice or response. Could the website have a section that shares what individual MMs/WGs are doing so others could join actions and shows a history of prior activism and witness over the years. AVP should be more visible within SEYM. Youth Committee and programs need more support.

Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR) Report

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

2023 Gathering, 5th to 9th Fourth Month

The Committee for Ministry on Racism has had an especially active year in response to the racist climate fostered by the Florida government, which has made our state a national stage in the ongoing struggle for social justice. SEYM's unequivocal minute at the close of last year's annual sessions has grounded our spirit-led work.

Our Main Mission

CMOR's main mission continues to be working collaboratively towards the elimination of systemic racism and unconscious bias within our Yearly Meeting. We are committed to facilitating a workshop each year which helps us learn about ourselves and which fosters deep inclusion and unconditional love in a community of equals.

2023YM Annual Workshop: Toward a Non-Racist Future

We have collaborated with Asma Roshi, a teen leader from Orlando MM, and Aurelio Anderson, a young adult leader from Tallahassee MM, in creating an interactive workshop for this year's annual sessions: Toward A Non-Racist Future, based on shared experiences, deep listening, and collaborative strategies for a future free of racism. Another CMOR endorsed workshop by committee member Beverly Ward focuses on the Racial Wealth Gap.

Rosewood 100th Commemoration

CMOR clerk Kathy Hersh attended the 100th anniversary commemoration of the 1923 Rosewood Massacre in Levy County, Florida and shared her experience with the committee. Her connection with Dr. Marvin Dunn, a Florida Black historian and justice activist, inspired the committee to raise funds to finance Dr. Dunn's Teach the Truth bus tours, which take students, parents, and educators to sites around Florida where atrocities were committed against Blacks (Mims, Newberry, Rosewood, Ocoee.) CMOR raised \$600 to pay for seats on the bus for financially disadvantaged folks. The committee will continue to network within SEYM and Quakers nationally to raise funds for future bus tours, which highlight Florida's history of racist atrocities and counteract the state government's attempt to diminish the teaching of Black history in public schools.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Teach the Truth bus tours and/or support the creation of a permanent park in Rosewood for healing and peace. the creation of a memorial park in Rosewood may do so by clicking on <miamicenterforracialjustice.com>.

Minute re Change of Date for WIBM/Michener

CMOR is bringing a minute to annual sessions urging a change of date for Winter Interim Business Meeting/Michener Lecture weekend from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday commemoration weekend to another weekend so Friends are free to celebrate Dr. King's birthday and participate in community service projects and ongoing civil rights actions.

SEYM's Committee for Ministry on Racism proposes the following minute:

Southeastern Yearly Meeting minutes its intention, beginning in 2024, to change the dates of the annual Michener Lecture and the Winter Interim Business Meeting so they do not conflict with the weekend celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the weekend proceeding the third Monday in January.

Background

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is the only Person of Color to be honored with a federally recognized holiday. Our Black communities celebrate this holiday with parades, teach-ins, and other community events, and see this weekend as an opportunity to showcase Black pride. When we hold our WIBM and Michener Lecture on this same weekend, we deprive ourselves from joining, supporting, and celebrating with and within our communities, with F/friends and others who have long been marginalized.

At our meeting on February 6, we agreed to urge SEYM to join in recognizing that nothing else needs to be scheduled on MLK weekend, except the life and work of Dr King and the communities he helped to uplift and empower.

Amicus Brief

CMOR is introducing a minute suggesting the creation of an amicus brief from SEYM to support the lawsuit of Florida educators against the STOP WOKE Act of the Florida legislature. We are also recommending the establishment of a relief fund to assist educators who may lose their jobs or be incarcerated for refusing to comply with this law and subsequent regulations.

Book Banning and Possible Action

CMOR is having ongoing discussions regarding the censorship of Black history materials and the banning of books related to racism and gender identity. There is wide-ranging concern among Friends regarding teachers having to remove books from their classroom libraries that have not been approved by the Florida Department of Education. At the time of this writing, there is talk of creating “underground libraries” and the teaching of forbidden subjects by religious organizations which cannot be penalized due to the Constitutional separation of church and state. CMOR member Beverly Ward, in her capacity as SEYM liaison to the Florida Council of Churches, is working with FCC Executive Director Russell Myer on an interfaith response to the Florida government’s infringement on the development of a social consciousness in young people.

National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and Model Minute

CMOR continues to track the work of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and its goal to create a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which will hold hearings on the traumatic legacy of Indian boarding schools. We acknowledge that Quakers established and ran many such schools and we will continue to explore ways and means of taking responsibility for creating such ongoing pain. We will be helping publicize the work of Paula Palmer and Towards Right Relationship with Native Peoples, now affiliated with Quaker Peace Teams.

CMOR requests that SEYM consider adopting a minute concerning our YM’s responsibility to support the ongoing work of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. Beverly Ward, Susan Taylor, and Jane Westberg will be researching any possible involvement in the past on the part of SEYM or any member meetings in endorsing or donating to the boarding schools, which were still in operation in the 1970s.

On Responsibility for Support of Boarding Schools for Indigenous Children

On May 11, 2022, the United States Department of Interior released Volume 1 of an investigative report as part of its ongoing Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. The report outlines the forced assimilation techniques employed to erase the names, languages, religion, customs, and cultural identity of Native American children. Thousands of Native children were forced away from their families and communities and subjected to military-style discipline, forced labor, and institutionalized living in 408

federal Indian boarding schools. The report also identified burial sites where children who died at the schools were interred; the Initiative will press forward to identify all such sites. [Press Release](#).

The initial investigation showed that approximately 50 percent of Federal Indian boarding schools may have received support or involvement from a religious institution or organization, including funding, infrastructure, and personnel. The U.S. Senate has recognized that federal funds from the 1819 Indian Civilization Fund “were apportioned among those societies and individuals—usually missionary organizations—that had been prominent in the effort to ‘civilize’ the Indians.” “Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report,” (May 2022), p. 11.

Quakers, both individually and as Yearly and Monthly Meetings, were directly involved in the founding, financial support, and administration of Indian boarding schools under the federal government’s effort to eradicate Indian culture by eliminating all traces of Indian identity from upcoming generations.

In 2015, the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS), called upon the religious denominations to investigate their involvement in the operation of Indian boarding schools and to make amends for their complicity in this genocidal enterprise. Friend Paula Palmer was motivated by this call to do preliminary research on Quaker involvement. (See her reports at <https://vimeo.com/192219802/376f2f1ddb> and <https://www.friendsjournal.org/quaker-indian-boarding-schools/>)

However, given our local and regional organizational structure, no comprehensive denominational response has yet been made by the Religious Society of Friends, nor have Yearly Meetings yet responded to the call to investigate their own records and take appropriate reparative action.

Both NABS and the Department of the Interior report call for support of pending legislation that would establish “The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the U.S. Act” (H.R.5444 and S.2907). Friends Committee on National Legislation has called on Quaker organizations to voice support for this legislation, and several monthly and yearly meetings have done so. (See <https://www.fcnl.org/issues/native-americans>)

In the next phase of its work, the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative will take further steps to investigate the degree to which federal funds, including monies held in Tribal trust accounts, were paid to religious organizations and institutions to operate Indian boarding schools. It will also continue to investigate where Native children have been buried.

(Note: The following is a model minute drafted and approved by [Decolonizing Quakers](#), 2.18.22):

THEREFORE

We resolve that it is our responsibility as [insert name] Meeting to undertake a thorough and comprehensive review of our own records to determine what financial support our institution received from the federal government to operate Quaker Indigenous boarding schools;

We resolve to determine the amount of financial and material support our institution contributed for the operation of the Quaker Indigenous schools;

We resolve that it is also our responsibility to identify any graveyards where Native children may have been buried in conjunction with the operation of any Indigenous

boarding schools we ran or supported and to report our findings to NABS and the Department of the Interior;

We resolve to publish a report of our internal investigation;

We resolve to determine the value in current dollars of the money received from the federal government, and of the funds and materiel our institution contributed, for the operation of Indian boarding schools.

We resolve to apologize to the tribes and nations affected by our actions, and in consultation with them, to make reparations in a form and manner acceptable to them.

We resolve to encourage individual Friends and corporate bodies to urge their U.S. senators and representatives to cosponsor and support passage of the "Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the U.S. Act" (H.R. 5444 and S.2907).

The Ongoing WOKE Journey

CMOR encourages resource sharing from anyone in SEYM who has read or watched inspiring, insightful, and provocative articles, books, blogs, or programs on anti-racism.

CMOR members participated in the Tallahassee Racial Justice and Healing Series of workshops, an exceptional compilation of materials, video resources, and challenging exercises. We highly recommend this Zoom workshop series to SEYM individuals and monthly meetings as it's made available by Tallahassee MM. What a difference one Monthly Meeting can make.

Our committee members are grateful for the opportunity to serve our Yearly Meeting as we all travel along this challenging journey towards making the Quaker testimonies manifest in our daily lives.

CMOR members for 2023/24 are:

Wendy Geiger (Jacksonville WG)
Minerva Glidden (Orlando MM)
Katie Green (Clearwater MM)
Kathy Hersh (DeLand WG)
Cindy Kwalwasser (DeLand WG)
Jean Larson (Gainesville MM)
Brad Stocker (Miami MM)
Susan Taylor (Tallahassee MM)
Beverly Ward (Tampa MM)
Jane Westberg (Miami MM and Boulder MM).

Thank you to Cheryl Demers (DeLand WG) and Mainus Sultan (Savannah MM) for their service on the committee. Their terms will end with the rise of YM.

Others are welcome to join this effort.

Kathy Hersh, clerk
Committee for Ministry on Racism
February 2023



Friends Committee
on National Legislation
Lobbying with Quakers

March 2023

To our Friends of Southeastern Yearly Meeting,

Please welcome Bobby Trice as he visits the 2023 Southeastern Yearly Meeting sessions. We are excited that he will have ample opportunities to hear your concerns and leadings while sharing in worship, holding your meeting in the Light, and leading FCNL workshops. He is grateful to be in faith and community with you.

As the Quaker Engagement Program Manager, [Bobby](#) cultivates relationships with Friends and coordinates FCNL staff and volunteer engagement with Quaker communities across the country. Bobby also visits Friends himself to offer messages and workshops on Quaker lobbying. He is passionate about deepening and supporting Quakers' spirit-led advocacy on Capitol Hill and around the nation, communicating across political divides, practicing seeing that of God in people he disagrees with, and building relationships to make change within and beyond Congress.

We at FCNL seek to strengthen our connection to Friends meetings and churches around the country and find areas where FCNL can offer opportunities for action on issues concerning Friends. We are supporting this travel in the tradition of Friends' intervisitation with hope to stir our spirits and open opportunities for understanding one another's experiences of how the Spirit is working in the world toward peace and justice.

We send you greetings, hold you in our prayers, and trust that God will bless your time together in loving community.

In peace,

Mary Lou Hatcher
Clerk, FCNL General Committee
Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

2023 Report to Yearly Meetings

Dear Friends,

FCNL continues to carry the witness of the Spirit through nonpartisan national advocacy. I would like to share with you highlights of our work in 2023, made possible by your dedicated engagement, financial contributions, and spiritual support.

Faithfully Persisting for the World We Seek

FCNL's advocacy focuses on **peace**: creating conditions in which violence is less likely and injustice can be nonviolently repaired; **justice**: for all our neighbors; and an **earth restored**: building a just and sustainable low-carbon society that leaves no communities behind.

In the past year, FCNL has played critical roles in these areas:

Bringing congressional attention to U.S. complicity in the Saudi-led war in Yemen. Led by the more than 2,000 Advocacy Team members across the country, FCNL helped drive efforts to end support for the Saudi-led coalition responsible for a massive humanitarian crisis in Yemen. Bipartisan resolutions in both the House and Senate called for an end to unauthorized U.S. support of the war. Although U.S. support for the Saudis continues, momentum continues to build in opposition.

Addressing the legacy of Indian boarding schools. Quakers were among those who collaborated with the U.S. government in the 19th and 20th centuries to run schools intended to “assimilate” Native children into white society. Now, FCNL is focusing on building congressional support for bipartisan legislation to establish a Truth and Healing Commission to uncover what took place. This legislation has been the focus of the young organizers in the 2022–23 Advocacy Corps.

Advancing environmental justice and addressing climate change. FCNL was part of nearly two years of advocacy resulting in far-reaching climate legislation becoming law. The Inflation Reduction Act (P. L. 117-169) puts the United States on the path to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40% in the next eight years. This bill, along with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P. L. 117-58), increases investment in supporting communities most impacted by pollution.

Compensating for Nuclear Testing Exposure. A program to compensate people exposed to radiation through U.S. nuclear tests, so-called “downwinders,” was set to expire in July 2022. FCNL worked to secure passage of legislation to extend the program for two years and to broaden the eligibility to include additional states affected by the more than 200 above-ground nuclear tests the United States conducted in the 1940s.

We also continue to advocate for diplomacy and peacebuilding to bring about a just solution to the **war in Ukraine**. See fctl.org/issues for additional advocacy updates.



▲ FCNL's Clarence Edwards, Amelia Kegan, and Bridget Moix gather at the White House to celebrate the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Discerning FCNL Priorities and Policy Directions

More than 250 meetings, churches, and individuals took part in setting FCNL's **legislative priorities for the 118th Congress** (2023-24). See fcnl.org/priorities for the approved statement.

This year, FCNL's Policy Committee is requesting **input around how FCNL's policy statement should address issues of reproductive health care, including abortion**. Friends are encouraged to gather in discernment and share how their community is led. See the link to "Discernment on Reproductive Health Care and Abortion" at fcnl.org/governance for more information and resources. Send responses to policycommittee@fcnl.org.

Shifting the Narrative for Peace

Through the **Dismantling Racism and Militarism in U.S. Foreign Policy** project, FCNL's Diana Ohlbaum and Salih Booker from the Center for International Policy took apart the "racism-militarism paradigm" that sees the world in a rigid racial hierarchy and embraces militarism as the most effective way to maintain social order. Through expert consultations and community discussion, FCNL is advancing efforts to dismantle these systems. Read the report and find out more at fcnl.org/drm.

This systemic focus extends throughout the organization. FCNL's **recommitment to anti-racism, anti-bias, justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion** in all aspects of our work is reflected in our statement, available at fcnl.org/lajedi. It guides our internal systems and practices as well as our lobbying and other activities.

Strengthening Our Democracy

FCNL is working to reduce partisanship, transform relationships, and promote substantive policy change

to strengthen our democracy and address the root causes of division and partisanship in our country. Political polarization and entrenched systems of oppression threaten U.S. democracy, as well as FCNL's advocacy and effective government equipped to respond to the challenges of our country and world.

FCNL brings its 80 years of experience in nonpartisan, relationship-based advocacy. It is uniquely placed to **strengthen cooperative, nonpartisan civic engagement and build bridges across political divisions to advance policy solutions**.

We are deepening bipartisan relationships with Congress by drawing on the skills of our grassroots advocates in deep listening. We are also building new partnerships with networks such as Braver Angels, Faiths United to Save Democracy, and the TRUST Network.

Principled Hospitality on Capitol Hill

In February 2023, **Friends Place on Capitol Hill**, formerly known as William Penn House, marked its first anniversary of welcoming overnight guests. The Quaker learning center and guesthouse has hosted 90 groups and more than 1,600 guests. As part of the local migrant solidarity mutual aid network, Friends Place has also hosted more than 600 migrants bussed from the southern border. More at friendsplacedc.org.

FCNL's work in the year ahead will be full of challenges and opportunities. We are grateful to have a strong foundation on which to build. Thank you for your prayers, participation, and support, and—above all—for your faithfulness.

In peace,



Mary Lou Hatcher

Clerk, FCNL General Committee
Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

2023 Gathering, 5th – 9th Fourth Month

Overview

Provide focus and coordinate efforts on environmental work in the Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) region.

I am pleased to provide a recap of the activities undertaken to carry out the work as field secretary for Earthcare since last year's Gathering. This report also is an update on work activities since the report submitted for Winter Interim Business Meeting 2023. The report includes plans for the upcoming year. I am deeply grateful for your support in this work.

Communication with the Anchoring Committee

I continue to communicate with the FSE Anchoring Committee members through email, telephone, or other remote means, including in person! During the upcoming year, I plan to reach out more to the Committee with the goal of engaging members in creating online content. It may be of interest to Friends to learn of the members' thoughts, concerns, and leadings on Earthcare.

Meeting with Monthly Meetings (MMs), Worship Groups (WGs), and Others

Perform visits to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups within SEYM to help them discern their leadings in care of the Earth, and to provide information and coordination among Meetings.

As a reminder, "Meetings can issue invitations to the [SEYM] administrative secretary, FSE, or the Anchor Committee [for FSE visits]. We will all conference over the invitation and subsequent planning" (Phoebe Andersen, 3 Tenth Month 2016). I continue e-visits via Zoom or other online platforms and where possible, in person.

Contact Information

- Email: fsEarthcare@seymquakers.org.
- Facebook: @fsearthcare
- Twitter: @fsearthcare
- Instagram: fsearthcare
- Skype: phdant
- Telephone number: 813.928.8823.
- Snailmail: P.O. Box 1614, Umatilla, FL 32784.

A Google calendar showing requests for visitation and FSE has been created and shared with the Anchoring Committee.

Suggested Workshop/Event Topics

- Angelic Troublemaking: Beyond Bystander Training - explores anti-racism/decolonization work with emphasis on local concerns and means of accompaniment;
- Climate Equity/Climate Justice in Our Community: identifies specific local social justice and equity concerns. Participants identify actions to address concerns;
- ***New*** Decolonizing Earthcare: explores the intersectionality of gender, race, extraction, and harmful economic systems and the adverse impacts to the Earth.
- Discerning Earthcare Leadings: listening and sharing experiences to reach individual and group decisions on Earthcare actions;
- Earthcare audits: baseline assessment of individual or community activities and discernment;

- Equality or Equity? What is Our Testimony?: examines Friends' equality testimony, the concepts of equity and justice, and the relationship of these to Earthcare;
- Permaculture is Not Just Agriculture: introduces permaculture design and domains and ways to bring these practices into Earthcare;
- Project Drawdown, Introduction and more: presents information on actions that “drawdown” carbon emissions and ways to promote drawdown choices as individuals and communities;
- Quakers and Climate Collapse: shares and builds on a Woodbrooke course led by Jackie Carpenter from 2021 Fifth Month (May), including review of the latest science, worship sharing, and discernment.
 - o I also can build on my Pendle Hill presentation to help with local concerns;
- Racial Wealth Gap Simulation: an exercise that helps “...people understand the connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty, and wealth”;
- Transportation, migration, and climate: explores access and mobility issues from the local to global perspective and the impacts of climate change;
- Underwater Homeowners Association: shares local actions that can be undertaken by communities experiencing sea level rise;
- Water: Sea Level Rise, Flooding, and Water Quality explores local, national, and global water issues;
- Waterline Communities: Displacement and Gentrification and Why Quakers Should Care drills down to the county or community level on the impacts of displacement; and
- **What the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs AND Inflation Reduction Acts Mean to Me and My Community?** This workshop looks at how funds from the two acts are being dispersed at the local level and provides suggestions on how to get involved in the decision-making process. Special emphasis is given to working with local implementing agencies and collaborating with advocacy groups to address adverse climate and environmental impacts.

Recap of Meetings with Monthly Meetings (MMs), Worship Groups (WGs), and Others

Since the 2022 Annual Gathering, I have made more than four virtual visits with Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, and others. This includes workshops related to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, peace and social concerns and Earthcare discernment, and climate justice. These visits were distinct invitations to address issues identified by the Meetings or Worship Groups. Additional virtual visits were made as a means of keeping in contact and to participate in activities organized by Meetings or Worship Groups. One example is participation in the five-week Racial Justice and Healing Series hosted by the Tallahassee Friends Meeting during Fall 2022. By participating in these activities, I support the work of the Meetings and share resources. I find it to be a useful way to see and show how our concerns are linked and how we can be collaborative in our work.

Meetings since Winter Interim Business Meeting and Planned Meetings:

George Lakey, Lessons for Today from a Lifetime of Nonviolent Activism, 10 First Month (January) 2022

George Lakey provided a second virtual talk, “Meeting Our Challenges Together, with Courage”, with more than 65 registrants. Again, this was an effort among Friends across the State that made the event possible. George Lakey talked for about 30 minutes and, again, spent an hour responding to questions and comments. A link to the recording will be available on the SEYM website.

Deland Worship Group to be scheduled

The discussions with Deland WG attendees continue. There is overlap between this work and that of the Committee for the Ministry on Racism as I am a member of the committee and the clerk of the committee, Kathy Hersh, and I are known for getting into “necessary trouble.” Kathy

Hersh and I met in person on 1 Second Month to discuss work with Deland Worship group and the community. It is anticipated that these activities may be a model for other Meetings and Worship Groups and that there may be opportunities for Yearly Meeting-wide initiatives. Some potential activities include:

- Collecting African-American books and other books related to “banned” subjects for churches or local organizations to distribute;
- Creating Little Free Libraries, <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>. Little Free Libraries has a “Read in Color” Program that “...distributes books that provide perspectives on racism and social justice; celebrate BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized voices; and incorporate experiences from all identities for all readers.” See the Read in Color page, <https://littlefreelibrary.org/programs/read-in-color/>. There also is an Indigenous Library Program, <https://littlefreelibrary.org/programs/indigenous-library-program/>.
- Developing or supporting local “Stay Woke” actions: this could include supporting rallies, speaking at public meetings, writing letters to newspapers, etc.
- Supporting Dr. Marvin Dunn’s “Teach the Truth” tours, <https://miamicenterforracialjustice.org/teach-the-truth-tour-january-2023/>.
 - To learn more about Dr. Dunn, see his webpage, <https://dunnhistory.com/>. Carl and Kathy Hersh have produced a number of films related to Dr. Dunn’s work, [https://dunnhistory.com/films/#descendants](https://dunnhistory.com/films/#descendants;);
 - Connecting Dr. Dunn’s work with the Florida Council of Churches; and
- Collaborating with the two local chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the local direct action and research training (DART) organization known as Fighting Against Injustice Toward Harmony (FAITH).

Earthday Drop In

On 22 Fourth Month (April) 2023, I will host a virtual celebration of Earthday from 1:00 - 3:00 PM EDT. To register, follow this link,

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUscuyqrzkjEtD5GjTleZ8BktmNRZBOdRLS>.

Interactions or Collaborations between and among other SEYM committees

These interactions between and among SEYM committees help to facilitate communication and collaboration of our regional concerns with national organizations and to be a Quaker Presence at specific events.

Recap of Interactions or Collaborations

Throughout the SEYM year, there were opportunities to interact or otherwise work with other Yearly Meeting committees. This includes, but is not limited to, the Youth Committee, Peace and Social Concerns, and CMOR. As suggested above, the Earthcare work is in support of all the work of the Yearly Meeting.

- **The Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR):** CMOR will meet 6 Third Month. As mentioned above a number of actions for the committee have been discussed that overlap with the work the Deland Worship Group. Chief among these is the support of Dr. Dunn’s tours and his lead of the “woke mob.” The Committee’s report has additional information on support of Dr. Dunn’s work in Florida and actions to work with indigenous people. As part of the 2023 SEYM Gathering, I will facilitate simulation workshop on the racial wealth gap to support CMOR’s workshop;
- **Earthcare Committee:** I continue work with the Committee on an individual and small group bases. During the 2023 Annual Gathering, I will facilitate a workshop, Preparedness 101: Zombie Apocalypse. Because, “If you’re prepared for a zombie apocalypse, you’re prepared for any emergency.”;

- **Florida Council of Churches (FCC):** The Florida Council of Churches has begun its work for the 2023 legislative session. Dr. Russell Meyer, FCC Executive Director, is also a board member of the Florida People's Advocacy Center, <https://www.floridapac.org/>.

The Florida People's Advocacy Center (Florida PAC) increases social and economic justice throughout Florida by facilitating and providing training in civic engagement at the state capitol. Our motto is "Get involved. The world is run by those who show up!";

- o On 14 and 15 Second Month (February), I participated in faith leader advocacy days in Tallahassee. The afternoon of the 14th advocacy training was offered on forthcoming legislation. The 14th also was the fifth-year commemoration of the Parkland shooting. A memorial prayer service was hosted that evening by FCC where the Litany in the Wake of a Mass Shooting, https://bishopsagainstgunviolence.org/liturgical_resource/litany-in-the-wake-of-a-mass-shooting/. On February 15, I participated in the march and rally, Rally to Save Our [Black] History. Following the rally, there was a viewing of "Loudmouth", the documentary about Reverend Al Sharpton and a broadcast of "The Reidout", Joy Reid's MSNBC program from the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Tallahassee.
- Peace and Social Concerns (PSC) Committees: I met with the SEYM PSC Committee on 25 Second Month to update the committee on work with the Florida Council of Churches as the committee sat in discernment with its work. I plan to continue to meet with the committee;
- Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), AFSC: Bill Carlie and I now share SEYM appointments to AFSC. I am an AFSC representative on the Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC);
- Right Sharing of World Resources: I continue to share information through the QEW United Nations Working Group, AFSC, and Quaker United Nations Committee.
- Youth Committee: I continue to work with the Youth Committee. I hope to have strong youth participation in the Preparedness 101 workshop at annual gathering. The youth have the knowledge!!!

The Wider Quaker World, Interfaith Groups, Other Environmental Organizations

To communicate and collaborate our regional concerns with national organizations including Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Friends General Conference (FGC). To be a Quaker Presence at specific events, including those arranged by others.

I continue to work with the wider Quaker World, interfaith groups, and environmental organizations. These interactions have been virtual during this period. While there were many of these throughout the year most were virtual. Slowly, as noted elsewhere, in-person and hybrid visits are beginning to increase.

- Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP): I remain in contact with AVP facilitators in Florida and beyond. There seems to be interest in restarting in-person workshops. More on this soon, hopefully;
- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): I continue to serve as a corporate member of AFSC, QUNC and AFSC's Third World Coalition. I participated virtually in QUNC's Second Month 2023 Meeting. This purpose of this meeting was to focus on the governance role of QUNC and to help staff and committee members better understand the callings. This was important as both the New York and Geneva offices of QUNO have undergone staff changes and implementation of a new strategic plan within the last 18 months.
- Decolonizing Quakers, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>: The Indigenous and Friends of African descent affinity groups continue discernment on the meaning of "decolonizing."

- o I met with the Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples (TRR) Advisory Group on 30 First Month. One of the asks of the group is that we help to promote the offerings of Toward Right Relationship. I encourage friends to visit the website, Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, <https://friendspeaceteams.org/trr/>.
 - Please note that in addition to other resources, TRR offers in-person and online presentations at the request of faith communities, schools, universities, and civic organizations throughout the United States. To request these presentations or to learn how you can host them online, contact Paula Palmer, paularpalmer@gmail.com.
- o I also welcome any questions about the work of TRR or Decolonizing Quakers;
- Earth Ethics Institute (EEI), <http://earthethicsinstitute.org/>, Miami Dade College: I met virtually with the board on 15 Second Month. has only convened one virtual meeting since I was accepted. We are in the process of planning an annual meeting for late Spring 2023.
- Fellowship of Friends of African Descent (FOFAD): the work of Decolonizing Quakers overlaps with the FOFAD activities and the Black Quaker Project, <https://www.theblackquakerproject.org/>.
 - o The 2023 Black Quaker Lives Matter Film Festival, Forum Screening and Discussion is underway through 8 Fourth Month (April) 2023, <https://www.theblackquakerproject.org/2023-film-festival-forum>.
- Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN): Jan Booher continues to work with the Florida Disaster Resilience Initiative, (<https://resiliencesystem.org/dashboards/florida-disaster-resilience-initiative/>) and share health and environmental information, including COVID-19.
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): Brad Stocker and I continue to share a slot as representatives to FCNL for QEW.
 - o Friends may be interested in “Inside the Greenhouse”, a monthly update on FCNL’s environmental advocacy and the emerging climate issues. See, <https://www.fcnl.org/email/greenhouse>.
- Friends General Conference: I continue to work with FGC, particularly with the Fellowship of Friends of Color, FOFAD, and Quakers Uprooting Racism.
- Friends Peace Teams (FPT): I continue to work with members of FPT linking FPT to QEW UN Working Group and Towards Right Relationship/Decolonizing Quakers;
- Friends United Meeting (FUM): I continue to work with Jim Kessler, Grinnell Friends Church, through Quaker Earthcare Witness;
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to strengthen links to FWCC through QEW, FGC, and AFSC;
- National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Equity in Transportation and the Women’s Issues in Transportation Committees. I continue to work with these committees and to serve on the planning committee for the 2024 Conference on Advancing Transportation Equity.
- Northern Yearly Meeting: I have begun working with Northern Yearly Meeting on session(s) for their annual Gathering, 26-28 Fifth Month (May) 2023.
- Pendle Hill, “The Battered Earth: Injury, Loss, and Healing,” online First Monday Lecture 6 Second Month (February) 2023. Thank you for your support of this event! The recording is available, click here, <https://youtu.be/SuyrAFK0lcA>.
- QEW: continue to co-clerk with Brad Stocker on 21 First Month.
- Tri-City NAACP Branch: I continue with the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee. We are preparing an online survey of residents of Lake County to help the committee set our agenda for the near future.

- o A second 2023 Conservation Symposium or EcoExpo, co-sponsored by the NAACP will be held on Seventh Day (Saturday), 4 Third Month (March) 2023. The EcoExpo will take place in the Science-Math Building at Lake-Sumter State College in Leesburg. In addition to various activities and exhibits, there will be workshops. I will co-present with Peggy Keller who serves on the Washington, D.C. Mayor's Commission for Climate Change and Resilience.
- University of South Florida: I continue to work with various colleagues at the University. "Exploring the Role of Social Networks in Hurricane Preparedness Planning: A Study of Public Housing Residents" is now available in the book *Hurricane Risk in a Changing Climate*.

Social Media

I share short pieces on activities, with SEYM Monthly Meetings, Working Groups, the wider Quaker world and others. Please send suggestions for topics, research, etc. As mentioned above, I am looking forward to vlogging or creating some audiovisual content and will be looking for participants, ideas, suggestions, etc.

Planning for the Upcoming Year

After the 2023 Gathering, if not before, I plan to begin to create more online content. This will include more use of social media to share articles, news, and other resources along with conducting a series of interviews rather listening sessions with individuals or groups of Friends around local issues and beyond. The purpose of the listening sessions is to share information about ourselves with the hope of discerning future actions. I will contact each Meeting or Worship Group to identify persons who might be interested. If you are so moved, please feel free to contact me. This activity is in addition to planned and future virtual, hybrid, and in-person meetings. There is urgent work to be done and necessary trouble to get into. Thank you, Friends!

May we all be safe.

May we all be healthy.

May we all know joy.

May we all know happiness.

May we all live lives of wellbeing.

Love and Peace,
Beverly G. Ward

Earthcare (FSE) Committee Report

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

2023 Gathering, 5th – 9th Fourth Month

1

Collaborative prospects:

One recent focus has been developing collaborative relationships with like-minded organizations. The Broward County League of Women Voters is focusing on environmental issues, and initial conversations have been promising.

2

Earthcare in Challenged Communities

It has been reported that that people who are active in the environmental movement are mostly middle-class, with few working-class or poor people.

As Covid becomes better controlled, the prospect of “taking Earthcare ideas to challenged communities,” can be revisited.

Infrastructure is one issue. In one financially challenged community, most buildings were low-rise apartment buildings; except for one community center. The neighborhood is cut off from the main part of the city by a major street.

Next steps are to visit the community center and contact the city to learn how that community is represented and served by local government.

3

Landfill Issues

Government landfills, for example, Broward County’s Landfills, are nearing capacity, and new solutions are being sought.

Organizations like Global Citizen indicate that this is a national problem, and that the bulk of the 2,000 active landfills in the U.S. are “filling up.”

China now refuses to accept low-grade, difficult-to-recycle plastics, adding to the problem.

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