

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Yearly Business Meeting 2023

5 to 9 Fourth Month 2023

In-person and via video teleconference

MINUTES

First Plenary - 5 Fourth Month 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Called to order by William Carlie, Clerk, at 7:01 p.m. A Zoom component was provided by an Owl Projector and a big screen featuring about 9 attenders present online.

Friends were asked to gather in silence. Out of the silence, the Clerk read a quote from Ben Pink Dandelion:

“...our testimonies are not a pre-packaged set of values. Our spiritual experience, our openness to being led and to living a guided life, leads us to a life we have little choice over. Testimony is the outflowing life we cannot help but lead.”

Ben Pink Dandelion, 2014

The Clerk welcomed Friends and explained the purpose of the First Plenary to be an open forum for Meetings and Worship Groups.

Friends reported on the state of their meetings. We heard of the reopening meeting houses, hybrid meetings, loss of Friends, building and re-building community, maintaining property, blessings of zoom for Friends at a distance and others, attrition. Friends also commented on how virtual and hybrid meetings for business have worked.

Bill Carlie spoke on behalf of St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting, reporting that they had largely recovered from the damage caused by the pandemic. St. Pete Friends are concerned about the hostile legislation proposed and passed in the Florida legislature and the housing affordability crisis. Some groups have been working through the political process. A very big challenge but some commissioners are willing to listen. The community is coalescing around the LGBTQ+ legislation issues. Peter Crockett added that after two years of vacancy there were many small maintenance issues.

Susan Taylor spoke on behalf of Tallahassee Monthly Meeting. About 18-24 people are now attending in person and are feeling a rekindling of the Spirit among them. They have re-started their potluck dinners, participated in the Fifth Racial and Justice hearing, and work in a community garden along with other local churches and includes Black and White participants. They are collecting food as well as sharing what is harvested from the Meeting's own community garden. They plan an open house on Earth Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. where they will give away seedlings. They participated in the SEYM Listening project via Zoom. Wendy Oliver, from Canterbury Meeting in England, was introduced.

Eduardo Diaz spoke for the St. Augustine Worship Group. The group meet on Wednesday nights from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the United Church of Christ (UCC). The UCC provided a sign on U.S. 1 advertising that Quakers worship there. They have had 15-20 people attend in person. The UCCs are socially active folks, and the worship group engages in joint activities with them and the broader community, e.g., a

tour of Civil Rights activities in St. Augustine during which they learned a great deal of Florida's racial history. Richelle Ogle, their clerk, has been doing wonderful work.

Larry Ascher from the Quaker Meeting of Melbourne expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet via Zoom and appreciates the kindness of those making them feel welcome. The meeting is struggling with hybrid meetings and is unsure how to resolve the divide between those who want nothing to do with technology and those who cannot attend in person. In-person attendance is now 5 members. Other members have discovered a wider world of online Friends and meetings, e.g., Pendle Hill's online offerings. The Meeting

Cheryl Demers from DeLand Worship Group expressed excitement about what is happening in DeLand. Everything is in person; nothing is hybrid, including Meetings for Business and potlucks. They are also active on the housing challenges and one Friend is buying all the banned books she can find to create an underground library. They are "doing a good job of supporting each other."

Liz Jenkins, Orlando Monthly Meeting reported that Webster Cottage has been extensively renovated and work has been done inside the meeting house. The current OMM clerk is shifting back to Treasurer and Mira Tanna, Rising Clerk, will be the Clerk by May. OMM is a thoroughly hybrid meeting and have been happy to support that and deal with the challenges. We had a spontaneous demonstration of support and provided a peaceful presence for a Jewish Community that had been a victim of harassment. The congregation responded warmly to the effort. Peace and Social Concerns committee has come together and are moving to be a greater presence in the community. Hospitality is being taken care of by the teenagers and young people in the Meeting. OMM is coming together with great tenderness, discernment, and speaking openly and honestly. I'm here to say "Yay, Orlando." Very happy to see the growth and activity of St. Augustine and DeLand worship groups.

John Palozzi, Clerk of Palm Beach Monthly Meeting reported that they are definitely challenged regarding attendance and that they are fully hybrid. Palm Beach welcomes anyone not belonging to a meeting to join their meetings for worship. They sent a letter to the Governor and protested that the legislation coming out was not consistent with their testimonies. They have joined in litigation on the abortion issue. They have a website, a weekly newsletter, a blog. Every Sunday they have a potluck, regardless of how many are in attendance at the meeting.

Before closing, the clerk expressed gratitude at the number of Friends present and was looking forward to seeing those who are on their way. Requested that Friends be considerate for those who are wearing masks.

The meeting closed with silence at 7:52 p.m.

Second Plenary - 6 Fourth Month 2023, 3:30 p.m.

Clerk, Bill Carlie opened the plenary from the silence with the following quote:

Central to Quaker process is the understanding that our task is not so much to figure out what to do as to understand what the Spirit is asking of us as a corporate body. When we come to business meeting, committee meetings, or smaller meetings of individuals with this perspective, the focus shifts away from outcomes and towards community. Our task is to seek together, the same way we seek in meeting for worship, the experience of God in our midst.

Clerk noted changes in the agenda and gave the following announcements:

- Request for volunteers for the talent show.
- Place announcements for new interest groups on the bulletin board.
- Procedures for meals.
- Sign “Missing You” card for those not attending.
- W&M members are available for pastoral care during the YM.
- Request for donations.

The call for volunteers for the Epistle Committee was answered by Beverly Ward and Joel Cook.

Bill began the roll call of Meetings and Worship Groups present in person and on Zoom:

Clearwater Monthly Meeting included Katie Green, Phil Stone, Eileen Zingaro, Barbara Finkelstein, Laura McCollough, Rob Hayes.

DeLand Worship Group included Carl and Kathy Hersh, Ann Jerome, Cheryl Demers-Holton, Beverly Ward, John Heimburg, and Dan and Susan Vaughen

Fort Lauderdale Monthly Meeting included Brian Humphrey

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting included Suzanne and Richard Frechette who reported that their Meeting lost member Tom Jacobs in the past year.

Gainesville, Monthly Meeting included Liz Dykes, Gary Arthur, Jean Larson, Peter Harrell, Jen Ambrose

Quaker Meeting of Melbourne included Larry and Hope Asher

Miami Monthly Meeting included Aaron Olson, Brian Olson, and his son

Orlando Monthly Meeting included Jerry Knutson, Minerva Glidden, Ed Lesnick, Carl Hersh, Dan Vaughen, Liz Jenkins, Ray Jenkins,

Palm Beach Monthly Meeting included Joel Cook, Amy Richards. Member Sarah Anderson recently passed.

Saint Augustine Worship Group included Richelle Ogle, Seth Moody, Amanda Farrar, Eduardo and Clara Diaz

Saint Petersburg Monthly Meeting included Bill Carlie, Vicki Carlie, Peter Crockett, Davida Johns, Susan Wade

Sarasota Monthly Meeting included Dave Hilsheimer, Nancy Triscritti. Fern Mayo passed on Feb 9, 2023.

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting included Susan Taylor, Phoebe Andersen, Neil Andersen, Sharon Kant-Rauch, Wendy Oliver, Andrea Hoskins, Warren Hoskins, Vicky Woodward, and John Woodward. Gay Howard passed on April 3, 2023.

Tampa Monthly Meeting included Karen Putney, Beverly Ward, Jan Dahm, Lisa Erasmus, and Dika Boire.

Treasure Coast Worship Group included Joel Cook and Amy Richards.

The clerk called for the acceptance of the numbered minutes from the Summer, Fall, and Winter Executive Committee Meetings, and the Fall and Winter Interim Business Meetings as published in the Documents in Advance. Special attention was given to the following minute approved during the Winter Interim Business Meeting:

- 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* (emphasis added).

- 23YBM01** Yearly Business Meeting approves the minutes from Summer, Fall, and Winter Executive Committee Meetings, and Fall and Winter Interim Business Meeting as published in the Documents in Advance, giving special attention to approval of numbered minute 23WIBM02.
Approved.

Treasurer's Report

Joel Cook gave the first reading of the 2023-2024 budget (attached). There appears to be a sizable increase from earlier budgets, but that is because the salary for Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) is now included in the general expenses rather than a special line item that receives designated donations. Generally, the amounts are pretty much the same.

Neil Andersen suggested that donated funds for FSE be transferred to this the general funds account to lessen the impact on the budget.

Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice has requested that SEYM increase its donation from \$100.00 to \$1,000.00.

Apportionment per meeting member was about \$150 in the past and will increase to \$195; for attenders it will increase from \$75 to \$100. Joel reminded the meeting that apportionments are not invoices. SEYM expects a deficit in contributions. A large portion of the FSE contributions have been from monthly meetings.

Ed Lesnick asked for the number of Meetings and Worship Groups for apportionment purposes and asked whether that number included Gulf Coast, Hilton Head, and Halifax, which should not be on there. [Gulf Coast and Hilton Head Worship Groups have been laid down and Halifax was never officially a worship group or monthly meeting.]

The Treasurer's Report for first three Quarters of the current fiscal year. Cash Flow shows a net loss of \$1,055, not including unrealized capital gains.

The report will be available for review at the back table. He explained what may appear to be discrepancies in some of the numbers. Net worth has decreased, but largely because of unrealized capital losses.

The proposed budget was accepted on First Reading, subject to further review upon Final Reading, **Report accepted.**

Nominating Committee

Ed Lesnick presented the first report of the nominating committee (attached). There are no changes from what has been published in Documents in Advance. He raised a concern: Jack Braden has completed his term as Assistant Clerk and SEYM needs a volunteer to replace him. Vicki Carlie should be recognized and is concluding her term as Gathering Clerk with this YBM. Planning for next year starts with the conclusion of this meeting. Youth Committee also needs additional members. SEYM needs more Representatives for Friends Committee on National Legislation. Please consider all these vacant positions and take it back to your Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups.

Cece Yocum asked to be removed from the Youth Committee. Jerry Knutson reminded Friends that Faith & Practice advises new clerks to find a replacement for themselves when they start their terms. That would help Nominating in the future.

Report accepted.

Trustees' Report

Neil Andersen reported that our investments are still secure in Friends Fiduciary because it is not mixed with general public trading. He requested that additional contributions be made to the Trustees Fund.

Report accepted.

Clerk closed the plenary with silence at 4:28 p.m.

Third Plenary - 7 Fourth Month 2023, 7:00 p.m.

The clerk opened from the silence at 3:41 p.m. with the following quote

The Quaker meeting is meant to be a blessed community – a living testimony to a social order that embodies God’s peace, justice, love, compassion, and joy, and is an example and invitation to a better way of life. Like our other testimonies, community can be a prophetic call to the rest of society.

SEYM Faith & Practice, p 76

Welcome and introduction to representatives from other organizations. Megan Fair, Associate Secretary of Advancement, Right Sharing of World Resources; Guadalupe de la Cruz, American Friends Service Committee; Ken Stockbridge, Friends General Conference; and Bobbi Trice, Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Announcements:

- Joel Cook spoke announced that the School of the Spirit has a new session starting soon and invited all to apply. Our speaker, Christopher Sammond, will be among the facilitators.
- There are greeting cards for those unable to attend in person in the bookstore..
- American Friends Service Committee announced that from April 26th to the 29th there will be a moral march from Havana, Florida, to Tallahassee with Florida Poor People’s Campaign with a mass assembly in Tallahassee on April 29. Everyone is Invited to participate. Find more information on the AFSC website.

Youth Committee Report

No one was available to give the report as all were busy with the youth. They are having a good time.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Phil Stone, Clearwater Friends, clerk of the committee reported that the committee has proposed that P&SC should be re-named “Florida Friends Committee on Legislation” and repurposed to lobby the Florida State Legislature. In support of the proposal, he read some of the email conversation comments. He offered the larger body the opportunity to weigh in on the organizational and missional issues.

After comments and questions, no action was taken on the proposal. Clerk expressed gratitude to Phil Stone for his work on behalf of the P&SC.

Report accepted.

Worship & Ministry Committee

Jan Dahm, co-clerk long with Lisa Erasmus and Richelle Ogle, of Worship & Ministry committee, referred to the committee's report (attached) then gave some highlights. She then requested that the Executive Committee and Monthly Meetings review the report for issues it might address.

Susan Taylor expressed gratitude to Worship & Ministry committee for the opportunities for extended worship online, for the listening process, and for the excellent Queries provided for Worship Sharing at this year's Gathering.

Report accepted.

Committee for Ministry on Racism

Kathy Hersh, Miami Monthly Meeting and DeLand Worship Group, reported (report attached) that CMOR continues to work collaboratively toward the elimination of systemic racism and unconscious bias within our yearly meeting. A workshop, "Toward a Non-Racist Future", is planned tomorrow at 1:15. The workshop will include the Youth, who will be given priority to their sharing, as well as adults and will focus on the present and the future.

CMOR is working with Dr. Marvin Dunn, a historian and author. His book, [A History of Florida Through Black Eyes](#), is for sale in the bookstore. A video of Dr. Dunn's "Teach the Truth" Bus Tours for high school students will be shown in the bookstor. CMOR has raised \$700 for these bus tours.

CMOR proposed a minute to change the date of the Michener Lecture from the First Day before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day to another date that doesn't conflict with the local and national events surrounding this single federal holiday commemorating a Black American. After much discussion and many suggestions, the following minute was proposed:

23YBM02 SEYM minutes its intention, beginning in 2024, to change the date of the Winter Interim Business Meeting and the Michener Lecture so they do not occur on the same date as the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Weekend, thereby freeing Friends to celebrate that Memorial Weekend in their own communities. Executive Committee will work with Orlando Monthly Meeting on re-scheduling those two events.

Approved.

CMOR proposed a second minute regarding the creation of an amicus brief from SEYM to support the lawsuit of Florida educators against the Florida Stop Woke Act and recommended establishing a relief fund to assist educators who may lose their jobs or be incarcerated for refusing to comply with this law and subsequent regulations. The minute was not not approved.

Beverly Ward, SEYM Representative to the Florida Council of Churches, reports that they also oppose the Whitewashing of Black History.

DeLand Worship Group is working on how to atone for the whitewashing of Black history.

Ad hoc Florida Retirement Committee

Dan Vaughn reported on the history and recent activity on creating a Quaker retirement community in Florida. [See attached report.] The committee was exploring the possibility of the Kendal corporation coming into Florida, however, they decided to move forward elsewhere.

Now, we are living in a changed world. Coming out of the COVID19 pandemic, we are surrounded by fear, darkness, hate. Change must occur. We are carrying a query to SEYM's constituent meeting this

query, “Is the Light leading your Meeting to continue to re-invest your accumulated wealth, or is it leading you to join with other Meetings to build a Blessed Community in Florida?”

There are other questions of how we might move forward that would allow SEYM Friends and others to confront the biases coming from Florida’s government. Florida needs our Light.

We are asking SEYM to adopt the following minutes:

SEYM approves the exploration of the concept of creating a physical space in Florida in which Friends and others may gather to model The Blessed Community, whether through a retirement community, a K-12 school, an InterFaith Conference Center, or some combination thereof. To that end, SEYM authorizes the Florida Retirement Community Committee to survey all SEYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups regarding their interest in participating in a joint effort to implement this concept within SEYM.

SEYM encourages its constituent Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to invite one or more of the members of SEYM’s Florida Retirement Community Committee, to meet with them, either in person, or via Zoom, to envision such a physical space, and to discern what role they might play, or what resources they might bring, to the implementation of such a vision.

Finally, SEYM hereby refers this action to its Finance Committee for their consideration of the establishment of a separate budget line item of up to \$500.00 for the reimbursement of individual members of the Florida Retirement Community Committee for any clerk-approved travel expenses they may incur in accepting such invitations.

After several questions, the Clerk carried any action on this report over to the next Plenary session.

This Plenary Session closed with silent worship at 5:22 p.m.

Fourth Plenary - 8 Fourth Month 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Bill Carlie opened the meeting from the silence at 10:08 a.m. with this quote:

All Friends, mind that which is eternal, which gathers your hearts together up to the Lord,
and lets you see that we are written in one another’s heart.

George Fox, 1657

Friends who are present for the first time introduced themselves.

Announcements:

- Bill announced that keys must be returned to the registration desk so Andrea can check them off as returned.
- Worship & Ministry is offering a workshop on Forgiveness as a Spiritual Practice, facilitated by Sue Regen, from May 19th to the 21st. See information on the SEYM website.
- Friends are reminded that we need members on the Youth Committee.
- SEYM needs volunteers for planning the annual gathering. Vicki Carlie has been managing parts of the Gathering for many years and needs to retire from the work.
- We need an assistant clerk, as well. If one is called to these opportunities for service, please contact the nominating committee.

Ad hoc Florida Retirement Community

Dan Vaughn (Deland Worship Group) recapped the discussion about ideas to work on as a yearly meeting to create a place to model our blessed community and share with other faith groups.

Now is the time for a Quaker K-12 school. Florida is offering vouchers to religious private schools; why not a Friends school?

Friends have long desired a conference center for our gatherings as well as other events from like minded groups.

Friends have enthusiasm for the opportunity to retire to a place with Quaker values, where we could live out our retirement with Friends and people of faith.

The biggest challenge is funding. Are we hearing the call to do something that is visible?

23YBM03 SEYM approves exploration of the creation of a physical space in Florida in which Friends and others may gather to model The Blessed Community, whether through a retirement community, a K-12 school, an InterFaith Conference Center, or some combination thereof. To that end, SEYM authorizes the *ad hoc* Florida Retirement Community Committee to survey all SEYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups regarding their interest in participating in a joint effort to implement this concept within SEYM.
Approved

23YBM04 SEYM encourages its constituent Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to invite one or more of the members of SEYM's *ad hoc* Florida Retirement Community Committee, to meet with them, either in person, or via Zoom, to envision such a physical space, and to discern what role they might play, or what resources they might bring, to the implementation of such a vision.
Approved

23YBM05 SEYM asks its Finance Committee to establish a separate budget line item of up to \$500.00 for the reimbursement of individual members of the *ad hoc* Florida Retirement Community Committee for any SEYM clerk-approved travel expenses they may incur in accepting such invitations.
Approved

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Eduardo Diaz reports on behalf of the AFSC. The AFSC representative was present yesterday and referred to the moral march from Havana, Florida, to Tallahassee with Florida Poor People's Campaign. Bill Carlie and Beverly Ward are also representatives to AFSC. Beverly refers to her Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) report (attached). Bill reports that their reorganization efforts and the good works of the committee are continuing. Minerva Glidden adds that AFSC has nominated an Orlando Monthly Meeting member for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Report accepted.

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Bobbi Trice provided a report (attached, Letter of Introduction attached) from FCNL. A brief report appears in the Documents In Advance [also attached to these minutes] but reviewed some highlights regarding: Yemen, Native American Boarding Schools, Environmental justice and climate change, the

Inflation reduction Act; legislation extended by two years to address those injured by US Nuclear Testing, Action on the war in Ukraine, Health care and reproductive rights, Efforts on Anti-racism, Healing Democracy and overcoming division - working with Braver Angels, Friends House (f/k/a William Penn House), education, and looking for additional Representatives from SEYM to their board.

Eileen Zingaro expressed appreciation to FCNL, and congratulations to them on their growth. Spring Lobby weekend is excellent and worthwhile.

Joel Cook recommended that people go to the FCNL website to send letters to representatives. It is easy and quick.

Bryan Olsen asked for additional members for the FCNL Advocacy team in Florida.

FCNL is not working in Tallahassee because it is concerned with national legislation. The Clerk said there was a group working on becoming a presence in Tallahassee. Referred people to the website.

Report accepted with gratitude

Friends General Conference

Liz Dykes spoke as representative to FGC and as Interim Conference Director for FGC. She described the upcoming gathering in Monmouth, Oregon. Indigenous Friends will talk about lessons from the Earth. Additional workshops and conferences. She and Kody Hersh will answer questions about the conference and about FGC for those interested. She also spoke about the Gathering Together campaign to raise funds to fund new initiatives and to assist people in attending the Gathering. SEYM also has money for that purpose. Joel confirmed that availability. Friends should apply for that funding through the committee that is most closely related to the reason you wish to attend the Gathering. This Gathering is in person. Future gatherings will alternate between virtual and in person gatherings. The SEYM Reps were introduced by Susan Taylor, who is a co-opted member of FGC Central Committee.

Report approved.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Eduardo Diaz, Clara Diaz, and Joel Cook, SEYM representatives to FWCC, attended the last section meeting. Wonderful and amazing experience to be with Friends from all over the Americas. Diverse methods of worship. Described an Evangelical member who is moving his family to Burundi so his wife can provide medical services there. Eduardo mentioned an opportunity to donate to provide food for those in danger of starvation.

SEYM has funds available to send a Friend to the Triennial meeting in South Africa.

Nancyrose Logan described FWCC as a place for people to meet and to learn to love one another. It provides an opportunity for discussion of controversial issues after first becoming acquainted

Eduardo directed everyone to the FWCC where “you can learn so much more about FWCC.” The World conferences are for Quakers literally all around the World to get together. He is recommending that SEYM send Joel Cook.

Liz Dykes recommended sending a younger friend to the Triennial meeting in South Africa.

Report approved.

Friends Peace Teams

No report.

Florida Council of Churches (FCC)

Beverly Ward referred to her report (attached, see FSE report). Russell Meyer, Executive Director of FCC., asked that he be held our hearts and in the Light during his sitting with the Legislature. Beverly asked that we end him an email to let him know. She read portions of a letter from him which she will give to the clerk (attached). Beverly reports that there is a lot of activity going on with regard to racism, including national coverage of a recent rally in Tallahassee. Please send email, letters, phone calls, anything you can think of to the legislators. Minerva confirmed the effectiveness of FCC's work.

Report accepted.

LBGTQ+ Committee

No report.

Palmetto Friends Gathering

No report.

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Beverly Ward reports that they are continuing to provide hybrid meetings. Visit [QuakerEarthcare.org](https://www.QuakerEarthcare.org) for more information and to learn speakers are available for your meeting or worship group. QEW needs to fill vacancies for Director (communications) and General Secretary (co-direct staff). More information is available online.

Report accepted.

Quaker United Nations Office

Liz Jenkins read portions of her report (attached) describing current activities. QUNO Geneva has been involved in detailed work on areas which include business responsibility in relation to the international arms trade, efforts to end plastic pollution, ending lethal disregard for people on the move by working through the UN for migration justice, and making multiple contributions to the final language of the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC.) FWCC is the model for QUNO. They are almost one. They also work with FCNL.

Liz Jenkins also mentioned the ripple effect of all this activity. Her children, though not members of a Quaker meeting, are now making donations to FCNL. People need not be members to support the work that Quakers are quietly doing.

Report accepted.

Friends United Meeting

Eduardo Diaz is an observer of FUM. He has read their newsletter but has no report.

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)

Megan Fair reported on behalf of Right Sharing of World Resources works in Kenya, Sierra Leone, and Guatemala. They hold space for Friends to consider their relationship to materialism. Keep an eye on their website. She has left copies of their quarterly newsletter and urges us to sign up for newsletter online.

Susan Taylor thanked RSWR for sending Megan and endorsed the organization and its efforts. She encouraged friends to sign up for their newsletter.

Report accepted.

Phoebe asked for recognition for Deborah Fisch who was present online. She has been a Michener Lecturer. She lives in Des Moines, Iowa. She has emailed a minute of travel to the SEYM office. Susan Wade acknowledged receipt of the travel minute. Susan Taylor added that Deborah Fisch was an SEYM traveling visitor in the past who has brought a great spirit to our Yearly Meetings.

The numbered minutes were read and approved. There were no questions or comments.

Meeting closed in silence at 11:44 a.m.

Fifth Plenary - 8 Fourth Month 2023, 4:15 p.m.

The clerk opened the plenary from silent worship at 4:25 p.m. with the following quote:

O brother man!
fold to thy heart thy brother;
Where pity dwells,
the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly is to love each other,
Each smile a hymn,
each kindly deed a prayer.

John Greenleaf Whittier

Announcements

- Havana Friends joined us via Zoom. Their clerk spoke to us through Alejandro, who interpreted. They were looking forward to an opportunity to visit with us in person in Havana, soon.
- Field Secretary Beverly Ward recognized that Pope Francis had recently revoked the "Doctrine of Discovery." Reparative work is still underway from this 600-year-old doctrine. A detailed report is attached.

Publications Committee

Phoebe reports that there has not been much activity. Nothing ready to print yet. Working on new printing, and on more reprints to be available online.

Report accepted.

Archives Committee

Phoebe reports there had been limited activity due to COVID restrictions. From May 16th through the 20th, they are planning to digitize the archives and put them online from Gainesville. The committee requests all information available about the Monthly Meetings, e.g., minutes, newsletters, and anything that might be of interest, to complete the archives. There is a lot of interesting information in the archives.

Report accepted.

Earthcare Committee

Brian Olsen reports that the Earthcare Committee is working with the Broward League of Women Voters on regulations regarding real estate development. Also of local concern in Broward County is that the landfill site is soon to reach capacity.

Report accepted.

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Brad Stocker reiterated QEW's need replacement staff in the positions of communications director and general secretary. Steering Committee will give a full report. Working on Environmental Justice, how to make the organization a safer place.

Report accepted.

Half Yearly Meeting

Brian Olson reported Half Yearly Meeting 2022 was well received despite that the date was moved to December. HYM 2023 will be held from November 23rd to 26th as per tradition. He highly recommends that Friends attend and advised that we should watch for announcements in the SEYM Newsletter. Clerk expressed appreciation to the Half Yearly Meeting committee.

Report accepted.

The plenary closed with silent worship at 5:15.

Sixth Plenary - 9 Fourth Month 2023, 9:00 a.m.

The clerk opened the plenary from silent worship at 9:13 a.m. with the following quote:

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

Finance Committee

Joel Cook gave the Final Finance Committee report (attached). He confirmed that the Field Secretary for Earthcare will change to a full-time position 1 Sixth Month 2023. Any excess funds in the donations for Field Secretary for Earthcare will be added to the General Fund. Moving Earthcare salary and taxes to the general fund explains the \$20,000 increase in the annual budget.

The current fiscal year (2022-2023) will show a short fall because SEYM gave long-overdue raises to its employees.

What do the asterisks mean? One means the numbers are based on a previous year. The other was to clarify that Halifax is not a part of the YM. It is included in the directory as a courtesy.

The 2023-2024 Final Budget, was APPROVED.

Report accepted.

Memorial Minute from Tallahassee Monthly Meeting for Gay Howard (attached) was read by the Clerk.
Approved.

Memorial Minute for Caroline Lanker from Tampa Friends Meeting and Friends Peace Teams (attached) was read by Cece Yocum.

Approved.

Minutes of Appreciation (prepared by Worship and Ministry):

23YBM 06 SEYM thanks Susan Wade for her continual care of Friends in her role as Administrative Secretary. Susan not only gets all the things done, but provides support when Friends invariably ask for more.

Approved.

23YBM07 SEYM thanks DaySpring staff for their hospitality and for providing access to the many beautiful areas on the site. We are grateful for the opportunity to remember the importance of time.

Approved.

23YBM08 SEYM expresses deep appreciation for the dedication and hard work of the Gathering Committee to make our Annual Gathering a reality again, particularly while shifting to a new space. The care and attention shown to ensure so many details came together was extraordinary and a blessing for all. Friends are especially grateful to Vicki Carlie who has carried this ministry for so many years. Thee has been faithful.

Approved.

Nominating Committee

Brian Olson presented several changes:

- Liz Dykes added as assistant YM Recording Clerk.
- Dan Vaughen added as assistant IBM/EC recording clerk.
- Asma Roshi is added to Half Yearly Committee and Youth Committee.
- Amanda Ferrar is added to the Youth Committee.

Discussion about need of additional help for Youth Committee, Gathering Committee and Assistant Clerk. A final report is attached.

Report approved, with gratitude.

Gathering Committee

Vicki Carlie reported that there were more families this year.

Report accepted.

SEYM Gathering Epistle read by Joel Cook (attached).

Approved.

Youth Epistle read by Asma Roshi.

Approved.

The plenary closed with silent worship at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting for Worship followed from 10:50 a.m. - to 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel R Vaughen, recording clerk

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 Indiv.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

	Admin/General Fund	Gathering/ Walton Lecture	Half Yearly Meeting (HYM)	Int'l WG Support	Michener Lecture	Programs for Youth	Publications	Secretary - Earthcare	Triennial Travel	Trustee's Funds	TOTAL
Income											
2000 Income											0.00
2001 Donations											0.00
2002 Indivd.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	0.00	20.00	0.00	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								12,931.42			13,031.42
Total 2040 Restricted Donations	1,325.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,227.00	0.00	0.00	12,931.42	0.00	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	1,175.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,742.25
2300 Investment Earnings	2.73	0.00	0.00	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	360.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,480.21
Total 2600 Publication Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	749.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	749.68
Total 2000 Income	55,755.50	9,330.00	2,330.00	0.00	1,460.21	2,607.00	108.38	12,931.42	0.00	-12,198.79	72,107.26

4000 Committees Operating Expenses																			0.00	
4369 Peace and Social Concerns																			90.00	
Total 4000 Committees Operating Expenses	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.00	
5000 Donations to Organizations																			0.00	
5028 QEW (FCUN)																			1,325.00	
Total 5000 Donations to Organizations	1,325.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,325.00	
6000 Production																			0.00	
6080 ISSN Printing, Publications																			104.00	
6380 ISBN production																			223.86	
Total 6000 Production	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	327.86	
7000 Operating Costs Programs																			0.00	
7030 Book consignment costs																			46.76	
7138 Food purchases																			248.24	
7500 Site Fees																			522.00	
7533 Site Deposits																			18,280.04	
Total 7500 Site Fees	16,773.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,802.04	
7650 Speaker Honorarium																			500.00	
7660 Speaker travel																			274.74	
7800 Youth Program																			0.00	
7804 Youth Prg. Expenses/Fees/Other																			2,219.70	
7805 Youth Program Leader/childcare																			2,013.96	
Total 7800 Youth Program	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,233.66	
Total 7000 Operating Costs Programs	0.00	16,820.10	0.00	89.54	933.44	6,262.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,105.44	
8500 Contingency																			750.00	
Total 2999 Expenses	58,725.49	16,996.17	30.12	318.23	994.86	6,378.75	414.68	17,956.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	101,814.91	
3270 Expenses																			0.00	
Payroll Expenses (deleted)																			0.00	
Total 3270 Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
9000 Transfer OUT TO other classes																			0.00	
9002 to GF for insurance																			1,350.00	
9004 for Youth Programs																			2,500.00	
9005 for Gathering Youth																			6,988.86	
9060 for Triennial Travel																			500.00	
9210 for Michener Lecture																			1,045.24	
9215 for BertscheOutreachTravel																			2,180.52	
9220 for Staff Salary																			5,132.32	
9230 for Walton Lecture/Gathering																			1,932.01	
Total 9000 Transfer OUT TO other classes	5,000.00	900.00	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,278.95	
Total Expenses	63,725.49	17,896.17	480.12	318.23	994.86	6,378.75	414.68	17,956.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	123,443.86	
Net Income																				
Total 2290 Investment Capital Gains/Losses	693.15	\$ 354.70	\$ 1,849.88	\$ 318.23	\$ 1,510.59	\$ 1,271.75	\$ 523.06	\$ 5,025.19	\$ 500.00	\$ 27,477.74	\$ 29,707.65	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 30,917.60	
Net Income w/o Unrealized Capital Gains/losses	693.15	\$ 354.70	\$ 1,849.88	\$ (316.23)	\$ (1,271.75)	\$ (1,510.59)	\$ (1,175.35)	\$ 652.29	\$ (5,025.19)	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,264.51	\$ 1,209.95	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,209.95	

**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, <i>Clerk</i>	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, <i>Clerk</i>	Lake Wales WG	2024
	Phoebe Andersen	Tallahassee	2026
	Neil Andersen.....	Tallahassee	2024
Earthcare	Brian Humphrey, <i>Clerk</i>	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, <i>Clerk</i>	Tallahassee	2024
Facebook Page	Mike Flanery	Clearwater	2024
Finance	Peter Schmidt, <i>Clerk</i>		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, <i>Clerk</i>	Miami	2024
	Rosiland Kirupavathy, <i>Registrar</i>	Orlando.....	2024
	Kathy Hersh, <i>Co-Food Coordinator</i>	Miami/DeLand	2025
	Beverly Ward, <i>Co-Food Coordinator</i>	Tampa	2025
	Asma Roshi, <i>Youth Member</i>	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 Heimborg.....	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 Heimborg, <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 VaughenOrlando/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
5th to 9th Fourth Month 2023

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

Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR) Report

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
5th to 9th Fourth Month 2023

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 Martin Luther King's birthday commemoration weekend to another weekend so Friends are free to celebrate MLK'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 Martin Luther King on the weekend proceeding the third Monday in January.

Background

Dr. Martin Luther King 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.

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).

(Note: This model minute was drafted and approved by [Decolonizing Quakers](#), 2.18.22)

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), and 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

Ad hoc Florida Retirement Committee Report

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
5th to 9th Fourth Month 2023

30 plus years ago, SEYM established a committee to explore the feasibility of creating a Quaker Retirement Community in Florida, including a Quaker K-12 school, and a Yearly Meeting Conference Center.

That committee worked for several years, gathering information and visiting potential sites. One offer to donate land was considered, but not accepted. Then, because of a lack of financial support, that committee's work was either suspended or laid down.

According to Lyn Cope, who was then SEYM Executive Secretary, it was later picked up again. She said the committee was close to purchasing some land, when the principal donor died. Shortly thereafter, the committee was again laid down for lack of financial support.

Why, you might ask, is such a committee back before you? Because about a year ago, I learned from Lyn Cope that Kendal, in one of whose communities she now lives, was planning to market to middle income retirees. We set up a committee to work with Kendal to construct a middle-income Kendal Retirement Community in Florida.

Ultimately, that effort bore no fruit. Kendal chose to focus instead on one or two facilities in California and in the Northeast. That left our committee again with no financial support.

What is different now, however, is that the political climate in Florida has changed.

As we emerge from a COVID Pandemic that took millions of lives, we are threatened anew with a Pandemic of Hate. Our families, our friends, our educational institutions, our values, and even our Democracy, are under attack. We are demoralized, defeated, and in despair. We are paralyzed by fear.

You may recognize these words, which I believe are timely for today's Quakers:

...Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

Marianne Williamson.

George Lakey tells us that it is in dark times like these that change occurs. The people will rise up and demand it.

In a recent issue, the Senior Editor of the Friends Journal introduced that publication by describing the process by which his Meeting, Green Street Meeting, in Philadelphia, came to unity to give \$500,000 of its accumulated wealth for Reparations; \$50,000 per year for ten years. He described that process as being the most profound religious experience of his life.

Several of our constituent Meetings are now holding large sums of money accumulated over many years, given to further the work of the Religious Society of Friends. If invited, our committee proposes to carry this Query, in person, or via Zoom, to our constituent meetings: “Is the Light leading your Meeting to continue to re-invest your accumulated wealth, or is it leading you to join with other Meetings to build a Blessed Community in Florida?”

The Florida Legislature has authorized state-funded vouchers for parents who wish to send their children to a private school. The Florida legislature wishes to ban books; to limit the teaching of any “negative” or “uncomfortable” history; to discourage “uncomfortable” questions about sexuality or gender.

Should Quakers provide a K-12 private school that would accept those state-funded vouchers, but instead to teach the truth about these topics; to teach children about Quaker values?

The Florida legislature wishes to impose their religious values and beliefs upon others; to discriminate against trans-gender and LGBTQ+ persons, and against those of different races, cultures and ethnicities.

Should Quakers build a Conference Center not only for their own Annual Gathering, but also for use as an Inter-Faith Conference Center, in which persons of all faiths, religions, ethnicities, and genders can gather, learn, and work together to educate, and to resist such discrimination, while demonstrating Quaker values of Connectedness, Inclusion and Love.

We believe Florida Quakers now have an opportunity to hold our Light up high. We believe Florida has never needed our Light more.

We are accordingly asking SEYM to adopt the following minutes:

SEYM approves the concept of creating a physical space in Florida in which Friends and others may gather to model The Blessed Community, whether through a retirement community, a K-12 school, an Interfaith Conference Center, or some combination thereof. To that end, SEYM authorizes the *ad hoc* Florida Retirement Community Committee to survey all SEYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups regarding their interest in participating in a joint effort to implement this concept within SEYM.

SEYM encourages its constituent Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to invite one or more of the members of SEYM’s *ad hoc* Florida Retirement Community Committee, to meet with them, either in person, or via Zoom, to envision such a physical space, and to discern what role they might play, or what resources they might bring, to the implementation of such a vision.

Finally, SEYM hereby refers this action to its Finance Committee for their consideration of the establishment of a separate budget line item of up to \$500.00 for the reimbursement of individual members of the *ad hoc* Florida Retirement Community Committee for any clerk-approved travel expenses they may incur in accepting such invitations.

If such a minute is approved, we will report the results of our survey at our next Annual Gathering.

Dan Vaughn, clerk
Ad hoc Florida Retirement Community

Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
5th to 9th Fourth Month 2023

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 evisits 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 decisionmaking 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!";

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



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

245 2ND STREET NE » WASHINGTON, DC 20002 » FCNL.ORG » PHONE: (800) 630-1330 » FAX: (202) 547-6019

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 fcnl.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/ajedi. 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

Quaker United Nations Office Report

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
5th to 9th Fourth Month 2023

This year, 2023, marks 75 years since the Quakers United Nations Office (QUNO) was founded in 1948. QUNO represents Quakers at the United Nations (UN) and related multilateral institutions, such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The work of the Quaker United Nations Office, which is located in both Geneva and New York, is rooted in the practices, insights and concerns of the global community of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). QUNO works alongside multiple partners ranging from the American Bar Association to War Resisters International.

In 2022 and early 2023, the efforts of QUNO have been centered around these areas of work:

- Peace & Disarmament
- Peacebuilding & Prevention of Violent Conflict
- Human Impacts of Climate Change
- Human Rights & Refugees
- Sustainable & Just Economic Systems

Since First Month 2023, QUNO Geneva has been involved in detailed work on areas which include business responsibility in relation to the international arms trade, efforts to end plastic pollution, ending lethal disregard for people on the move by working through the UN for migration justice, and making multiple contributions to the final language of the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

During the same time period, the work of QUNO New York has focused on youth inclusion, inclusion of local perspectives, and providing guidance for the UN Proposal for an Emergency Platform to respond to future complex global shocks.

QUNO's 75th Anniversary Celebration will be held in New York on Friday, June 9, 2023. The event will be in person and streaming with the program beginning at 7:00 p.m. Now is a great time for Friends individually and collectively to consider a donation toward the quiet, patient, persistent peace and justice work which the Quaker United Nations Office will continue to do behind the scenes at the UN.

Liz Jenkins
SEYM Representative to QUNO

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

6th to 9th Fourth Month 2023

Memorial Minute for Gay Howard

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting remembers with tenderness and full hearts our deeply beloved f/Friend Gay Howard, who died peacefully in her sleep on April 3, 2023.

Gay led from Spirit the rejuvenation of Tallahassee Friends Meeting in the 1980's and '90's until her move to California several years ago. She was instrumental in the transition of Tallahassee Preparative Meeting under the care of Gainesville Monthly Meeting to Tallahassee Monthly Meeting. When she served as clerk, and at other times, she was a natural mentor to many of us with her spiritual grounding, openness, love, knowledge, experience, clarity, laughter, and eyes shining with delight. Her stillness, as she sat in worship with her basket of Quaker information at her feet, was centering. Her "dirt" (Oreo cookie crumbles) over ice cream with gummy worms in flowerpots were the hit at our annual children's' celebration.

Gay was faithful in her service in many ways, including having served Southeastern Yearly Meeting as Clerk and also as Clerk of the **Faith and Practice** Committee. In California, she was Clerk of Friends Peace Teams.

Gay had an amazing mind, memory, curiosity, and a keen interest in living a Quaker way of life and building the beloved community. She was full of stories, was a good friend to many and brought people into friendship with her. Riding with her to yearly meeting events was "a blast," to quote one Friend-events that were very important to her. Her interest in the lives of each of us was genuine. Her love for her four children was also very deep.

We are grateful to her and will miss her. We hold her family lovingly in the Light.

Tampa Friends Meeting
Southeastern Yearly Meeting
5th to 9th Fourth Month 2023

Memorial Minute for Caroline Lanker

Caroline Thorne Lanker, of Frostproof, Florida, passed away December 12, 2022.

From the cold climes of Downers Grove, Illinois, she moved to the southwest and earned her masters' degree in mathematics from New Mexico State University. After earning a bachelor's degree from Arizona State University, she began her career as a computer scientist with IBM, where she worked for over 30 years until her retirement. She had the opportunity to work on many interesting contracts, including with NASA on the Apollo project at the dawn of spaceflight along with her first husband, Martin Sheridan.

A graduate of Westtown School in Pennsylvania, she was deeply committed to her Quaker faith, peace-building and human rights causes. For a number of years, she was a member of the Tampa Monthly Meeting.

In 2003, she and her husband, Gary, moved to Frostproof, Florida, to build a new home. She soon joined the nearby Lake Wales Worship Group. For many years, she served as Correspondent for the group and was occasionally called upon to speak about Quakerism to local groups. She held several positions with the Southeastern Yearly Meeting including Treasurer and assisted with the SEYM Archives collection. For a number of years, Caroline was the Editor for the Friends' Peace Teams Newsletter.

Outside of work, she was deeply involved in folk dancing where she built lifelong friendships and met her second husband, Gary Lanker, to whom she was married for over 25 years until his passing in 2014. They enjoyed both folk and square dancing together, first in Houston and later, Florida, and well beyond. She was also a dedicated and expert birder, involved in Florida Audubon, and the eBird project of the Cornell Ornithology Lab.

She is survived by her brother, Alfred James Dupree, her sister Martha Wolfsen, her children Peggy Jackson, Joe Sheridan and Nancy Williams, her stepchildren Alan Lanker and Linda Porter, their spouses and six grandchildren.

Friends Peace Teams was happy when Caroline volunteered to be the editor for the newsletter for Friends Peace Teams. Not only was she the editor, but she also nudged us all to write stories for the newsletter, which helped us reach out to people all over the world. This was a time when we were finally pulling together, and the newsletter helped others understand what we were all about.

Caroline was always straightforward with her thoughts, which helped Friends Peace Teams members clarify our programs in a way that spoke to people. She also opened her home to us when the team going to Colombia for trauma healing work visited the Lake Wales worship group.

And Caroline was frequently sending pictures of birds she saw just outside her window at the lake. Beautiful for us all.

The last time I saw Caroline was at the Yearly meeting in 2022 and she was so excited to be turning 80! She was walking around the outdoors telling everyone "I'm eighty, I'm eighty!" Pure happiness!

We will miss her honesty and forthrightness, her energy and humor. She lived a full life and I hope we all can carry the joy she shared with all her interests.

Cecilia Yocum
Tampa Friends Meeting

SEYM Officers, Committees, Representatives, & Appointees – April 10, 2023

OFFICERS

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

TRUSTEES

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

COMMITTEES

Archives	Bill Rapp, <i>Clerk</i>	Lake Wales WG	2024
	Neil Andersen	Tallahassee.....	2024
	Phoebe Andersen	Tallahassee.....	2026
Earthcare	Brian Humphrey, <i>Clerk</i>	Ft. Lauderdale	2026
	Jim Koopman	Ft. Myers	2025
	Brad Stocker.....	Miami	2025
	Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2025
	Jack Bradin.....	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast	2026
	Mike Flanery	Clearwater.....	2026
	Hollyn Green.....	Savannah	2026
Faith & Practice (Committee on sabbatical)	Phoebe Andersen, <i>Clerk</i>	Tallahassee.....	2024
Facebook Page	Mike Flanery	Clearwater.....	2024
Finance	Peter Schmidt, <i>Clerk</i>		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, <i>Clerk</i>	Miami	2024
	Rosiland Kirupavathy, <i>Registrar</i>	Orlando	2024
	Kathy Hersh, <i>Co-Food Coordinator</i>	Miami/DeLand	2025
	Beverly Ward, <i>Co-Food Coordinator</i>	St. Petersburg	2025
	Asma Roshi	Orlando	2025

Ministry on Racism	Kathy Hersh, <i>Clerk</i>	Miami/DeLand	2024
	Minerva Glidden.....	Orlando	2024
	Brad Stocker.....	Miami	2024
	Susan Taylor	Tallahassee.....	2024
	Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2024
	Jane Westberg.....	Miami	2024
	Cindy Kwalwasser.....	Orlando/DeLand	2025
	Jean Larson	Gainesville	2025
	Wendy Clarissa Geiger		2026
	Katie Green.....	Clearwater.....	2026
	Asma Roshi	Orlando	2026
Peace & Social Concerns	Karen Putney.....	Tampa.....	2024
	Helen Fox	Ft. Myers	2024
	Peter Harrell.....	Gainesville.....	2024
	John Heimburg.....	Orlando	2025
	Warren Hoskins	Tallahassee.....	2025
	Mercedes Soca.....	Havana WG	2025
	Cece Yocum	Tampa.....	2025
	Phil Stone.....	Clearwater.....	2026
Publications	Phoebe Andersen	Tallahassee.....	2024
	Steven Riddle.....	Orlando	2025
	Vicki Carlie (ex officio).....	St. Petersburg	
Worship & Ministry	Richelle Ogle, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Orlando/St. Augustine	2025
	Jan Dahm, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Tampa.....	2026
	Lisa Erazmus, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Tampa.....	2026
	Bill Carlie.....	St. Petersburg	2025
	Cheryl Demers-Holton	Gainesville/DeLand.....	2025
	Nancyrose Logan	Sarasota.....	2025
	Clara Diaz.....	Orlando/St. Augustine	2026
	Eduardo Diaz.....	Orlando/St. Augustine	2026
	Joel Cook	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast	2026
	Ann Jerome.....	Orlando	2026
YM Gathering	Vicki Carlie, <i>Gathering Clerk</i>	St. Petersburg	10 th Month 2023
	Andrea Hoskins, <i>Registrar</i>	Tallahassee.....	2025
	John Heimburg, <i>Bookstore</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	2025
	Mariah Doran, <i>Gathering Activities</i>	Gainesville	2026
	Lewis Kirvan, <i>Gathering Activities</i>	Gainesville	2026
	Cecelia Yocum, <i>Gathering Activities</i>	Tampa.....	2026
	Asma Roshi	Orlando	2026
	Evelyn Schwalb.....	Orlando	2026

REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS

American Friends Service Committee Corporation, - AFSC/Philadelphia

Bill Carlie.....	St. Petersburg	2025
Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2025

Friends Committee on National Legislation - FCNL

Karen Putney.....	Tampa.....	2024
Eileen Zingaro.....	Clearwater.....	2024
Dianne Langan.....	St. Pete/St. Augustine.....	2026
Ian McDonald.....	Tallahassee.....	2026

Friends General Conference - FGC Central Committee

Dan Vaughn.....	Orlando	2025
Susan Wade.....	St. Petersburg	2025

Friends World Committee for Consultation - FWCC

Clara Diaz.....	Orlando	2024
Eduardo Diaz	Orlando	2024
Nancyrose Logan	Sarasota.....	2026
Joel Cook	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast	2026

Friends Peace Teams

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

Florida Council of Churches

Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2024
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Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns – FLGBTQ

Under Discernment

Palmetto Friends Gathering

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

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Brad Stocker.....	Miami	2025
Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2026

Quaker House (Fayetteville)

Seth Moody.....	St. Augustine WG.....	2026
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Quaker United Nations Office – QUNO

Liz Jenkins.....	Orlando	2025
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APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATIONS

FUM General Board Observer

Eduardo Diaz	Orlando/St. Augustine	2026
Ellie Caldwell, <i>Alternate</i>	Palm Beach	2024

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ed Lesnick, <i>Clerk</i>	Orlando	2024
Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2025
Shawna Doran	Gainesville	2026
Brian Olson.....	Miami	2026

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Quakers in Florida, southeast Georgia & coastal South Carolina

Loving Greetings to Friends Everywhere,

Southeastern Yearly Meeting gathered for its 59th sessions from Forth Month 5th through 9th Days. The meeting sessions were hybrid, allowing Friends at a distance to join with those in person to conduct Yearly Meeting business. In-person, we met at the Dayspring Conference Center at Parrish, FL. This was a new location and facility for us. Our in-person gathering was full of joy and laughter.

145 Friends gathered for our sessions: 108 in-person (88 adults and 20 youth) and 37 on-line. We were also joined, on-line, by Friends from the Havana (Cuba) Unprogrammed Worship Group. The short virtual visit by Friends from Cuba, with a message from Alejandro Castellanos, the Clerk of the Worship Group, was a source of great joy. Alejandro expressed hope for the day when we can meet together in-person at Havana. We look forward to this day, also.

We welcomed Friends from other Yearly Meetings and Friends organizations, including FGC, FCNL, Right Sharing of World Resources, AFSC. It is a joy to meet with Friends beyond the borders of our own Yearly Meeting.

Our theme this year was “Deepening at the Root: Tending the Source of Our Worship & Witness.” Christopher Sammond brought us the Walton Lecture and two (2) retreat sessions. The retreat sessions gave us the opportunity to experience deep listening to each other and the Spirit, to share deeply with each other, gaining skill in tending to the Source. Opportunities for worship, fellowship, and workshops offered us further ways to deepen our spiritual lives together.

Our Yearly Meeting committed to maintaining our Field Secretary for Earthcare position by changing from a program supported by separate donations to part of the general administrative budget.

Togetherness
Unity
Boldness
Flowing
Like the murmuration of starlings
Love
Rabbits and raccoons at worship
Snakes sunning
Spirit moving
Sometimes one despairs that one has lost their way
We are not alone
We have not bowed to Baal
We are all the beloved

We are all the wounded and the healed
The lost and found
The betrayer and the Savior
The persecutor and the persecuted
Children of the Light we are still here
Our hearts are of one accord
Our steps move as one
Yet each has its own rhythm
Our dance in the river of Life

Blessings and Peace to You All in Light,
Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Fourth Month 2023

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Quakers in Florida, southeast Georgia & coastal South Carolina

Youth Epistle

Dear Friends,

We want to share our experiences at the SEYM yearly gathering of 2023. This year, the theme for the youth and young adult program was the natural world that we live in.

On Thursday, we started out with an inter-generational zombie apocalypse workshop, where attendees could express and share ideas on what they would do in the case of an apocalypse or natural disaster.

Friday morning, we took part in an activity that focused on how the five senses can be emphasized and heightened in nature. We also spoke about the importance of acknowledging all senses, instead of focusing on just 2 or 3.

We then went on a canopy walk while using this knowledge to be increasingly aware about what we see, feel, touch, taste, and hear. Once we were back at the youth center, we had a lot of fun constructing seed balls that would be beneficial to all gardens.

Later on, many of us enjoyed a high ropes course that challenged us mentally and physically. We practiced understanding the differences between the danger your body thinks you're in, and the danger you're actually in. One of the instructors, Erica, also urged us to look at how we want to be supported by others, and to remember the importance of asking friends the same question to best suit their preferences.

During the high ropes course, everyone also practiced learning their limitations of how far they can go before hitting a healthy place to stop. We learned how much challenges are based off of mental strength as opposed to physical strength.

After reconvening, a member of our youth group hosted a talent show available to anyone who wanted to participate and share their gifts with the community. There were many interactive acts, including laughing yoga and hand-held dancing/singing as a group to feel connected.

After the talent show, there was a welcoming campfire that many gathered around and enjoyed. Meanwhile, young adults and youth clerks met and discussed if a Quaker stance on abortion should be taken by the FCNL, and why.

In the early Saturday morning, youth group members partook in a healthy worship meeting that prompted thought about many topics surrounding nature. We then began our business discussion, where we formed committee groups that nominated next year's clerks, wrote the epistle, and discussed potential activities for future meetings.

We ended by having a youth centered discussion with a representative from FCNL in regards to the Quaker community's stance on Abortion. Soon after, those who wanted to go canoeing had lots of fun in the cove, practicing communication and teamwork.

We then gathered to play a friendly but intense game of capture the flag, after which we ate and played board games. Lastly, there was an LGBTQIA+ affinity group for anyone who wanted to join.

On Easter Sunday, we reflected on our time together, and wrapped up with a fun and engaging Easter egg hunt!

Blessings and Peace to You All in Light,
The Youth of Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Fourth Month 2023