

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Minutes of Winter Interim Business Meeting, 01/14/2012

Winter Interim Business Meeting (WIBM) for 2012 was held in the Orlando Friends Meetinghouse, Orlando, FL. Committee meetings were held in the morning. These minutes record the Interim Business Meeting held in the afternoon.

The meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business began with silent worship.

Seated at the clerk's table were Joel Cook, YM assistant clerk and acting clerk for this business session; Ed Lesnick, recording clerk, and Phoebe Andersen, clerk of the Yearly Meeting. Ann Jerome, IBM clerk, was not in attendance due to her father's passing. Lyn Cope, Administrative secretary, was unable to attend due to illness.

The roll call of monthly meetings and worship groups followed. [Attachment: Participants] Several meetings shared with Friends their monthly meeting milestones.

Joel Cook reported on his experience at the Pendel Hill clerking workshop he attended. Much was learned, ideas were shared, and there are recommendations for the manner in which SEYM conducts its meetings for worship with attention to business. YM clerk, Phoebe Andersen, was also at the workshop, and she spoke about the recommendations.

Momentous minutes, those which usually mean review, discernment and seasoning before considered by the entire body, need to be more deeply considered and be given the appropriate time to do so.

Meeting time spent on committee, representatives, and summary reports should be curtailed and replaced by action minutes. An opportunity for brief updates will be given. But, regular reports should be submitted by the appropriate date and published for Friends' consideration in the *Documents In Advance* (DIA), these proposals are made as a "worshipful community in proper discernment" and to "make more space for the spirit in our midst."

It is advised that committee clerks make membership aware of the action minutes they wish to bring forth. Friends should be encouraged to give consideration to the DIA in preparation for an SEYM business meeting. At Yearly Business Meeting, minutes would be presented at the Friday session, honed at committee meetings, and presented for final consideration during the Saturday session(s). No business would be conducted at the Sunday morning final session.

Committee reports of record appear in the *Documents In Advance*, pages 6-20. The ProNica report is on pages 21-24.

Nancy Triscritti of the Ministry and Worship Committee presented a Minute of Appreciation thanking Orlando and Winter Park meetings for their hospitality in hosting WIBM.

Joel Cook summarized the Executive Committee meeting proceedings. [Executive Committee Minutes, 01/13/2012

Following discussion of contributions made on behalf of Young Friends, the following minute of recognition was approved.

12IBM01 SEYM is grateful to the youth committee for their gifts of hard work, initiative, and faithfulness to their charge. The successes of the Youth Committee programs are a blessing to SEYM.

Faith & Practice clerk Phoebe Andersen announced the final editing of SEYM's *Faith & Practice* has been completed. The pagination process for printing will occur following the Yearly Gathering.

Treasurer Neil Andersen reported that through December 31, 2011, monthly meeting contributions to SEYM - that is, the approved "apportionments" - were lagging about 25%. Several of the largest monthly meetings have not made any contribution.

While SEYM continues to scrutinize the budget and considers the current economic conditions, there are bills to be paid and there are exciting programs that require funding.

Apportionments are requests, and some meetings have contributed beyond a budgeted annual assessment. Yet, the apportionments are promises made by us in approving the annual budget.

Nil Wilkins, Finance committee clerk, spoke of the process and time lines in developing the budget for FY2012-2013. Member input and proper discernment is necessary in this process. The committee will consider all line items. As is customary, the final budget approval is made at YBM. The Finance committee report appears in the Winter IBM DIA. The proposed budget for members' consideration will appear in the YBM DIA.

Ellie Caldwell, clerk of the Gathering Committee, explained plans for the 2012 Gathering to be held April 4-8. Davida Johns and Peter Crockett will be co-clerks of the 2013 Gathering.

The committee's priority and commitment is to provide the Gathering experience free of cost for under-18 participants. Registration fees and deadlines were announced and monthly meetings were encouraged to find ways to engage more Friends to attend. Tampa MM paid for its first time attendees in 2011.

Youth Committee clerk Dustin Lemke reported that the Youth Committee is continuing to meet its assigned responsibilities. Dustin encouraged WIBM attendees to "get the word out" to families with children of the events for young people at the annual gathering. Inter-generational activities are on the program, including the enjoyable games of 2011.

Mary Jo Klingel spoke on behalf of Barbara Letsch, group facilitator, and the Earthcare working Group. As earth care begins with our nearest environments, Mary Jo brought to Friends'

attention the Miami Monthly Meeting QEW grant for the improved sustainability of the meetinghouse property.

Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC) Committee clerk noted the committee's report in the DIA. At the morning committee sessions, P&SC, Earthcare and Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) met together.

The clerk encouraged the yearly meeting to consider inviting Matt Southworth to speak. Mr. Southworth has been to Iraq and is an active member of the FCNL. He was described as a powerful witness against war.

Among other topics of concern, water quality, wage theft, and Funding for Friends Peace Teams, and communication between P&SC and monthly meetings were discussed.

Melissa Ajabshir, ProNica's stateside coordinator, encouraged Friends to become involved, travel to Nicaragua, and engage in the ProNica efforts, which she described as a "transformational experience." [See the DIA, pages 21-24]

The full ProNica report appears in the WIBM DIA.

Karen Putney, SEYM representative to FCNL, summarized the work of FCNL, internships, and FCNL meetings and goal setting. On the behalf of President Obama, a welcoming was given by a former FCNL, now intern at the White House.

"Priority Packets" have been sent to each monthly meeting. Local Friends' input is used by the FCNL in for program development.

Announcement included the need of financial support for Friends Peace Teams, Neil and Phoebe Anderson attendance at the Palmetto Friends YM, and the now annual meeting of the historic peace churches: Quakers, Moravians, and Brethren.

Arising from the Interest Group meetings held at FIBM, Nancy Triscritti spoke to the concern regarding "care and community" and the need to support members who seek help in trying times.

A "friendly presence" for those who seek support could be a stand alone committee or a function of SEYM Worship & Ministry. No recommendation is ready to be made, but "compassionate listening" is a desired outcome as SEYM supports and comforts its members in need.

Susan Taylor, clerk of Nominating Committee, reported. [See the Attachment: Nominating Committee Report.] The report was accepted.

The WIBM meeting concluded in silent worship.

Participants – 2012 Winter Interim Business Meeting

Melissa Ajabshir
Neil Andersen
Phoebe Andersen
Ellie Caldwell
Bill Carlie
Joel Cook
Peter Crockett
Eduardo Diaz
Barbara Dundero
Shuana Duran
Nancy Fennel
Tom Fennell
Mke Flannery
Kody Hersh
Warren Hoskins
Davida Johns
Ann Kelly
Mary Jo Klingel
Jerry Knutston
Caroline Lanker
Dustin Lemke
Ed Lesnick
Kay Lesnick
Rene Martin
Mimi McAdoo
Martha Morris
Karen Putney
Bill Rapp
Susan Taylor
Nancy Triscritti
Andrea Walsh
Alan Weisel
Margorie Weisel
Nil Wilkins
Cece Yokum

Please notify the Recording Clerk if there are any changes to this list.

SEYM Nominating Committee Report WIBM, January 14, 2012

The Nominating Committee Report is in Documents in Advance.

This report will include updates to that.

The Nominating Committee met with joy the afternoon of Friday, January 13 and remained faithful to our intent to seek in the Spirit Friends whose gifts will match positions in our Yearly Meeting needing to be filled. We are grateful to those with whom we have met in discerning what involvement in the Yearly Meeting is possible for them at this time. We seek to strengthen our beloved community and join with Friends in listening deeply to find where God is leading us individually and as a community. Please see members of the Nominating Committee if you, or someone you know, has the gifts needed to serve our Yearly Meeting in the various opportunities available. Friends listed below who are being nominated, will serve SEYM at the rise of YM sessions in April, pending approval by Friends during those sessions.

The Committee is grateful that Davida Johns and Peter Crockett, both of St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting, have answered the call for someone to be mentored by Ellie Caldwell, outgoing clerk of the Gathering Committee in preparation for their nomination as Co-clerks of the Gathering Committee beginning after this year's Gathering and continuing through the Gathering of 2015.

We are grateful to nominate Nancy Fennel as a new member of the Worship and Ministry Committee

The Committee is in the process of finding someone to assume Ann Jerome's position on the Gathering Committee of Program Coordinator for the Gathering. We hold Ann and her family in the Light upon the recent death of her father.

We are confident that there is someone within our Yearly Meeting who would like to share her or his gifts in filling the position of Recording Clerk, held faithfully by Ed Lesnick for three terms.

The Committee is grateful to Gail Rogers, Space Coast Monthly Meeting, for being led to be nominated for the new position: Fingerprint Data Manager and would be working with the clerk of the Youth Committee in that capacity. This position was created as part of SEYM's Child Abuse and Prevention Policy.

The Committee is further grateful to Eduardo Diaz, Miami Monthly Meeting and Lyn Cope, Space Coast Monthly Meeting, who have each expressed a leading to represent SEYM for Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). Eduardo, to be nominated for a 3 year term and Lyn Cope for a 1 year term. Friend Eduardo would be able to attend the FWCC World Conference in Kenya after our YM Gathering in the spring. Friend Lyn would like to keep open the possibility of her attending the World Conference. Because of time sensitivity in attending the World Conference, the Nominating Committee recommends the following minute for approval by Winter Interim Business Meeting:

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Winter Interim Business Meeting approves the appointment of Eduardo Diaz, Miami Monthly Meeting, to a three- year term as representative of SEYM to FWCC and Lyn Cope, Space Coast Monthly Meeting, to a one year term as representative of SEYM to FWCC beginning in April, 2012 after SEYM Yearly Meeting Gathering.

FWCC has openings for 4 representatives from SEYM.

The Committee asks all Friends to hold the nominating process, those who have been called to serve the Yearly Meeting, and the Yearly Meeting as a whole, in prayer that we may all be faithful to God's guidance in lovingly living together as a community engaged in the wider world, bringing Friends' faith and practice forward visibly.

In the Light,
Susan Taylor
Clerk, SEYM Nominating Committee