

Numbered Minutes

2012 SEYM Yearly Business Meeting

12YBM01 The Orlando MM minute on mass prison incarceration in the U.S. is referred to SEYM Peace & Social Concerns.

12YBM02: The Gainesville MM minute on the Occupy Movement is referred to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. This minute is shared with monthly meetings and worship groups for their discernment.

12YBM03 SEYM approves the Budget for FY 2012-2013, as amended.

12YBM04 SEYM will distribute the \$500 listed in FY 2012-2013 budget line item 5067, FUM (restricted to projects), as follows: \$250 to the Ramallah Friends School and \$250 to Kaimosi Hospital.

12YM05 SEYM in sessions in order to more appropriately allow for future travel of our representatives to the Triennials when they occur, adopts the immediate policy – commencing with the present Fiscal Year 2011-2012 – of transferring each year, at the end of the fiscal year, the remaining unspent budgeted amount for that year from the “Annual Representative Travel” line item to augment the Triennial Travel Reserves fund.

12YBM06 In 1986, with concerns over the suffering of Nicaraguan people from the ongoing war and embargo, the Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends supported the formation of ProNica with operations in Managua, Nicaragua and St. Petersburg, Florida. Initially, material aid was collected in Florida and shipped to Nicaragua. When the war and embargo ended, monetary donations were raised to support peace building efforts by Nicaraguan grassroots groups. In 2002, with minute 02YM08, SEYM affirmed ProNica’s decision to establish its own tax exempt status, while remaining under the care of the Yearly Meeting. On the tenth anniversary of that minute, SEYM reaffirms its care of ProNica, including but not limited to the appointment of the majority of its board members, financial support and spiritual guidance.

12YBM07 Southeastern Yearly Meeting, seeking unity in opposition to further development of nuclear energy or building of nuclear power plants. In considering the Testimonies in opposition to nuclear power, we recognize that these Testimonies interweave, effect, and support one another.

The testimony of Integrity calls us to respect and protect all of God's creation, to seek balance as participants in the miracle of life. Integrity also leads us to consideration of the Testimony of Equality in that all people have a need for affordable and clean energy that supports their health and wellbeing.

The testimony of Simplicity challenges our belief that we can live in a world of increasing growth and consumption and offers instead the simple necessity and pleasures of air, land, and water that are clean and protected.

We now consider the Testimony of Community. We acknowledge that nuclear power has demonstrated that accidents can decimate communities and keep the land uninhabitable for human and nonhuman life for long periods of time.

The Peace Testimony asks us to be clear that nuclear energy has been used for non-peaceful purposes, for building weapons, and for creating waste that must be stored many thousands of years. We call ourselves a people of peace. We ask how we can call ourselves a people of peace while supporting, even with our silence, an industry of destruction and death. In the words of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, "To visit death upon current and future generations from radiation is unforgivable."

We face, as Friends, the capacity of nuclear energy for mass destruction of human and nonhuman life. Our commitment to that of God in all life leads us to oppose further development and use of nuclear energy.

12YBM08 SEYM will appoint an ad-hoc committee to establish on-going relations and support to nurture the Havana Worship Group.

12YBM09 SEYM approves the nominating Committee report for YBM 2012.

12YBM10 Friends expressed their appreciation for the faithful service of Ed Lesnick, outgoing recording clerk, who in serving nine years has renewed his term on two occasions, as well as training other Friends as alternate recording clerks.

12YBM11 Friends expressed heartfelt appreciation for outgoing Gathering Committee clerk Ellie Caldwell, who has provided leadership and coordinated the many logistics of our yearly meeting sessions for the past several years with both efficiency and graciousness.

12YBM12 Friends approved the 2012 SEYM epistle, which is attached. The SEYM epistle, youth program epistles, and the epistle of Young Adult Quakers will be posted on the SEYM website and distributed to “Friends Everywhere.”