

SouthEastern Yearly Meeting *Gathering & Annual Sessions*

April 1-5, 2015

United Methodist Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park, Florida

DOCUMENTS IN ADVANCE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 51st Annual Gathering of Southeastern Yearly Meeting!

You are invited to join with me in the annual renewal of our ties of fellowship within this yearly meeting! Also, let us lovingly extend our blessed gathering community to our visitors from afar and among the first time attenders to our gathering!

The expectations for this gathering include lots of hugs, plenty of smiles, outright laughter and singing from our hearts, as well as opportunities for deep listening for the guidance of the Spirit in all we are led to undertake.

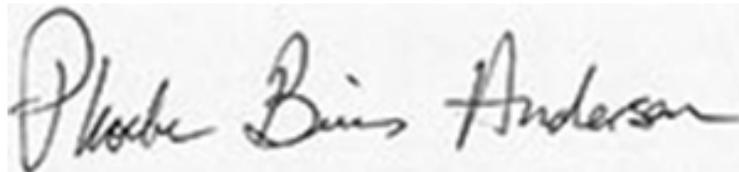
We are continuing our format for yearly meeting business sessions. Please remember that:

- **ALL reports from SEYM Officers, Committee Clerks and Representatives are shared with SEYM Friends in written form.**
- It is my hope that all committee and representative reports, as well as State of the Meeting reports have already been prepared for the 2015 Documents in Advance (DIA).
- **If any of the above reports are missing from the DIA, then please bring 50 copies of each missing report to share with Friends and the clerks table and email the original report to the recording clerks to be attached to the minutes of Yearly Meeting.**

I know that all reports are important to inform SEYM Friends and that our Archive Committee needs written reports for our archived records. The DIA is created for that concern and is then posted on the website and mailed to all the meetings and worship groups of SEYM. **As a result, NO time will be allotted on the yearly business meeting agenda for oral committee and representative reports not already on the agenda.** This change allows time for worship, as well as seasoning, and discernment of any action minutes brought forth to SEYM. Nominating, Treasurer, Finance, Trustees, Worship and Ministry, and ProNica will report briefly. Please hold us in the Light as we continue this process.

We also expect that the Youth Committee will be the catalyst for some fun with the young Friends and in intergenerational activities for everyone. Again, welcome to our 51st Yearly Meeting Gathering. You are invited to have some fun, get some rest (or not), learn something new, and be renewed as we love each other in the Spirit.

In Loving Friendship,



Phoebe Biers Andersen, clerk, SEYM

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions Meeting For Worship With A Concern For Business

AGENDA

APRIL 1-5, 2015

“The life of a religious society consists in something more than the body of principles it professes and the outer garments of organization which it wears. These things have their own importance: they embody the society to the world, and protect it from the chance and change of circumstance; but the springs of life lie deeper, and often escape recognition. They are to be found in the vital union of the members of the society with God and with one another, a union which allows the free flowing through the society of the spiritual life which is its strength.”

William Charles Braithwaite, 1905
Christian Faith and Practice in the Experience of the Society of Friends
London Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, 1960

First Plenary Session • Thursday, April 2, 2015 • 4:15-5:30 pm.

Open, centering worship

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

Welcome

Roll call of Monthly Meetings & Worship Groups, including their milestones (in writing)

Introduction of Visitors & Reading of Letters of Introduction

General announcements: *Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session*

Agenda review with corrections as necessary

Appointment of Ad hoc Committee for SEYM Epistle 2015

Nominating Committee preliminary report, Susan Taylor, clerk 4 - 7

Review of Minutes for approval

Open Worship

Second Plenary Session • Thursday, April 2, 2015 • 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Open, centering worship

General announcements: Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session

Committee for Earthcare Minute, First Reading..... 7 - 9

First Reading of Action Minutes from SEYM Committees & Representatives

Review of Minutes for approval

Open worship

Third Plenary Session • Friday, April 18, 2015 • 10:00-11:45 a.m.

Open, centering worship

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

Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced

General announcements: *Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session*

Review & approval of Executive Committee Minutes – Ann Jerome, EC clerk..... 10

Review & approval of Interim Business Meeting Minutes – Ann Jerome, IBM Clerk..... 10

Treasurer’s report – Neil Andersen, Treasurer

Committee for Earthcare Minute – Second Reading..... 7-9

First Reading of 2015-2015 Budget – Peter Schmidt, Finance Cte.Clerk 11-13

Trustees’ Report, Jack Bradin, Clerk 14-15

Review of Minutes for approval

Open worship

Fourth Plenary Session • Saturday, April 4, 2015 • 10:00-11:45 a.m.

Open, centering worship

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, and/or a Friend’s writing

Welcome of Friends & Visitors not previously introduced

General announcements – *Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session*

Second Reading & Approval of Budget, 2015-2016 – Peter Schmidt, Finance Cte. Clerk 11-13

ProNica Report - Melissa Ajabshir, stateside coordinator, & others 16-18

Worship & Ministry Report -- Nancy Triscritti, Worship & Ministry Cte. Clerk..... 15

Archives Committee, Connie Ray, Clerk..... 18

Review of Minutes for approval

Laughter Yoga

Fifth Plenary Session • Saturday, April 5, 2015 • 1:15-2:30 p.m.

Open, centering worship

General announcements – *Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session*

Second Reading for approval of Action Minutes from SEYM Committees & Representatives

Peace & Social Concerns Report & action minutes

FLGBTQC 19-20

Friends Peace Teams & Peace Building en las Americas, Cece Yocum, Representative..... 20-21

Quaker House Report, Elaine Martin, Representative 22

FGC Report & Epistle, Ed Lesnick, Representative 23-24

Review of Minutes for approval

Open worship

Sixth Plenary Session • Sunday, April 5, 2015 • 9:00-10:45 a.m.

Open, centering worship

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

General announcements – *Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session*

Second Reading for approval of Nominating Committee report – Susan Taylor, clerk 4-7

Gathering Committee report – Peter Crocket & Davida Johns, co-clerks

Epistles – Wee Friends, Young Friends, Teen Friends (when these Friends arrive in the auditorium)

SEYM Epistle – reading and approval

A few words from your clerk

Minutes of appreciation

Review of Minutes for approval

Our Gathering will close with First Day Meeting for Worship at 11:00 a.m.

Additional Reports

Committee for Ministry on Racism..... 24

FCNL Representatives Report..... 25-26

NOMINATING COMMITTEE • *Preliminary Report* Fourth Month 1-5, 2015

“Each person and community has a role to play in humanity’s choice to evolve to a deeper awareness and find sustainable ways to live on this planet—or not. My mystical “opening” under the stars 25 years ago, along with many experiences since then, convince me that great spiritual power is available to help us make a huge leap. “

Marcelle Martin, **Called**, Friends Journal, Vol. 57, No. 9 , October 2, 2011

Greetings Friends,

The Nominating Committee continues in discernment over filling several positions to support the whole functioning of our Yearly Meeting. Many others have been filled, and we are grateful for Friends who have felt the call and are able to serve.

You will notice that we have yet to find an Interim Business Meeting (IBM)/Executive Committee (EC) Clerk, and a clerk or co-clerk of the Gathering Committee. We may well need to find a new recording clerk or co-clerks. We are open to the idea of dividing the work of recording clerk or co-clerks: one for Yearly Meeting session and the other for Executive Committee (EC and Interim Business Meetings (IBM) if doing so would help remove some barriers to serving in that role. Friends will provide support to those who fill positions; we all are always learning together, trusting in the Source.

Following is the list of officers, committee members and clerks, representatives to organizations, contact people and observer who serve within our Yearly Meeting. The names in bold are those who will be brought forward for approval during our meetings for worship with a concern for business. An “*” by someone’s or a committee’s name indicates immediate needs, though all positions are important to fill.

As usual, the Committee will continue our discernment process between when this report is due for Documents In Advance and when our final report is given during the last Yearly Meeting business sessions. We look forward to being with you all and for your help with discernment, grounded in Love, God and the Christ Spirit. Thank you, Friends.

In the Light,

Susan Taylor (Tallahassee), Clerk, Nominating Committee

For the Committee: Cheryl Demers-Holton (Gainesville), Eduardo Diaz (Miami), Andrea Hoskins (Miami)

OFFICERS

** indicates immediate need*

Yearly Meeting Clerk	Phoebe Andersen	Tallahassee.....	2017
Interim Business Meeting (IBM) & Executive Committee (EC) Clerk*	Ann Jerome *	Orlando	*term ends 2015
Yearly Meeting & Interim Business Meeting Assistant Clerk	Joel Cook	Palm Beach	2016
Co-Recording Clerks	Jan Dahm *	Tampa	*term ends 2015
.....	Lisa Erazmus *	Tampa	*term ends 2015
Assistant Recording Clerks	Kody Hersh.....	Miami	2016
.....	Andrew Jason	Miami	2016
Treasurer	Neil Andersen	Tallahassee.....	2016
.....	*Seeking a Friend to train with Neil.....		
Membership Recorder.....	Bill Carlie	Orlando	2017
Trustees Clerk	Jack Bradin	Palm Beach.....	2018
treasurer	Caroline Lanker	Lake Wales, Tampa	2015
.....	Ellie Caldwell	Palm Beach	2016
.....	Jean Larson	Gainesville.....	2016
.....	Mimi McAdoo	Sarasota.....	2017
SEYM Treasurer- (ex officio)	Neil Andersen	Tallahassee.....	2015

COMMITTEES

* *indicates immediate need*

Archives	Clerk	Connie Ray	Gainesville	2017
		Bill Rapp	Lake Wales	2018
		<i>Seeking 2 more computer-skilled Friends*</i>		
Earthcare	Co-clerk	Barbara Letsch	Palm Beach	2017
	Co-clerk	Brad Stocker	Miami	2017
		Serrin Anderson	Palm Beach	2016
		Jocelynn Benton	Tampa	2017
		Jack Bradin	Palm Beach	2017
		Harold Branam	Savannah	2016
		Mike Flanery	Clearwater	2017
		Al Geiger	Jacksonville.....	2018
		Juan Reza	Tallahassee.....	2016
Faith and Practice	<i>on sabbatical until 2015</i>			
	Clerk	Phoebe Andersen	Tallahassee.....	2016
		Cathy Gaskill	Orlando	Member Emeritus
Finance	Clerk	Peter Schmidt	St. Petersburg	2016
		Tor Bejnar	Tallahassee.....	2016
		Shawna Doran	Gainesville.....	2018
		<i>*seeking one more member...</i>		
	<i>Clerk of Trustees (ex officio)</i>	Jack Bradin	Palm Beach	2018
	<i>Asst. YM Clerk (ex officio)</i>	Joel Cook	Palm Beach	2016
	<i>YM Secretary (ex officio)</i>	Vicki Carlie.....	Orlando	
	<i>Treasurer (ex officio)</i>	Neil Andersen	Tallahassee.....	2015
Half-Yearly Meeting	Clerk	Carl Hersh	Miami.....	2018
	Registrar.....	Beeg Camarota	Orlando	2017
Ministry on Racism	Co-clerk.....	Ellie Caldwell	Palm Beach	2017
	Co-clerk.....	Wendy Clarissa Geiger	Jacksonville.....	2017
		Cheryl Demers-Holton.....	Gainesville	2017
Peace & Social Concerns	Clerk	Warren Hoskins	Miami	2016
		Jack Bradin	Palm Beach	2016
		Mike Flanery	Clearwater	2017
		Al Geiger	Jacksonville.....	2016
		Peter Harrell.....	Gainesville.....	2018
		David Hersh	Miami	<i>term ends 2015</i>
		Andrea Hoskins	Miami	2016
		Elaine Martin.....	Jacksonville.....	2018
		Tim Ray	Gainesville.....	2018
		Lin Young	St. Petersburg	2016
		Eileen Zingaro.....	Clearwater.....	2018
Publications	Clerk	Phoebe Andersen	Tallahassee	2018
	<i>New committee as of WIBM 2015; More members sought</i>			

Worship & Ministry

Clerk	Clara Diaz	Miami	2017
.....	Nancy Corindia	Sarasota	2018
.....	Eduardo Diaz	Miami	2017
.....	Nancy Fennell	Ft. Myers	2018
.....	Tom Fennell	Ft. Myers	2018
.....	Carl Hersh	Miami	2017
.....	Nancyrose Logan	Sarasota.....	2016
.....	Mimi McAdoo	Sarasota.....	2016
.....	Nancy Triscritti	Tampa	2018

Yearly Meeting Gathering

Co-Clerk*	Peter Crockett *	St. Petersburg ..	<i>*term ends 2015</i>
Co-Clerk*	David Johns *	St. Petersburg ..	<i>*term ends 2015</i>
Program Coordinator	Richard Frechette	Ft. Myers	2018
Registrar.....	Andrea Hoskins	Miami	2017
.....	Martha Morris	Orlando	2017

Youth Committee

Convener	Dustin Lemke*	Tampa.....	<i>*stepping down 2015</i>
.....	Rolf Hanson	Sarasota.....	2017
.....	Sandy Lyon	Gainesville	2018
.....	Josh Rumschlag	St. Petersburg ..	2017
.....	Kate Sundberg	Sarasota	2018
.....	Mira Tanna	Orlando	2016
.....	Cecilia Yocum	Tampa.....	2016

ProNica Board Appointees	Herb Haigh	St. Petersburg ..	2016
.....	Kathy Hersh	Miami	<i>term ends 2015</i>
.....	William Rogan	Melbourne	2016
.....	Johannes Werner	Sarasota.....	<i>term ends 2015</i>

REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS

American Friends Service Committee Corporation, AFSC/Philadelphia

.....	Harold Branam	Savannah.....	2016
.....	Sandy Branam	Savannah.....	2016

Friends Committee on National Legislation, FCNL/William Penn House

.....	Jack Bradin	Palm Beach	2016
.....	Nancy Corindia	Sarasota.....	2017
.....	Karen Putney	Tampa	2018
.....	Lou Putney	Tampa.....	2017
.....	Eileen Zingaro	Clearwater.....	2017

Friends General Conference, FGC Central Committee

.....	Dustin Lemke	Tampa.....	<i>term ends 2015</i>
.....	Ed Lesnick	Orlando	2018
.....	Kay Lesnick	Orlando	2016

Friends World Committee for Consultation - FWCC

.....	Clara Diaz	Miami	2016
.....	Eduardo Diaz	Miami	2018
.....	Sarah Hernandez	Sarasota.....	<i>term ends 2015</i>
.....	Nancyrose Logan	Sarasota.....	2017

Friends Peace Teams	Cecilia Yocum	Tampa	2018
.....	Shawna Doran	Gainesville	2018

Florida Council of Churches	Dustin Lemke	Tampa.....	<i>term ends 2015</i>
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Florida Impact, Contact Person	Eileen Zingaro	Clearwater.....	2016
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Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns - FLGBTQC	Stephanie Preston	Orlando	2018
Historic Peace Churches: Quaker, Mennonite, and Church of the Brethren	.....	Warren Hoskins	.....	Miami	.....	2016
	.....	Minerva Glidden	.....	Orlando	.....	2016
Palmetto Friends Gathering.....	Phoebe Andersen	.....	Tallahassee.....			2017
	.....	Neil Andersen	.....	Tallahassee.....		2017
	.....	Ellie Caldwell	.....	Palm Beach	.....	2017
Quaker Earthcare Witness.....	Jack Bradin	.....	Palm Beach	.....		2016
	.....	Mary Jo Klingel	.....	Ft. Lauderdale	.....	term ends 2015
Quaker House	.....	Elaine Martin	.....	Jacksonville.....		2017
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)						
Contact Person.....	Tim Ray	.....	Gainesville	.....		2017

APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATIONS

FUM General Board Observer..... Joel Cook Palm Beach **term ends 2015**

From 10YBM05:

“...Having affirmed the intention to remain in loving relationship with Friends United Meeting (FUM), SEYM will appoint and fund, through the Yearly Meeting’s Travel process, an Observer to attend an FUM General Board meeting once a year. That person will report annually to the Yearly Meeting business sessions of SEYM...”

EARTHCARE COMMITTEE REPORT

Process Explanation

The Earthcare Committee of SEYM solicited and received input from individuals and Monthly Meetings on the Proposed Minute for Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE), Dec. 18, 2014. The Committee has considered all comments, written and spoken, and after much discernment, made major revisions to the principle Minute, and added two supporting documents which address specific questions of the role of FSE and funding. We feel confident that we have given each comment appropriate attention and response.

Comments, as specific as a single word, were considered and, for example, “oversight” was changed to “supervision.” In some cases, such as capitalization questions were left untouched as in the case of “Testimonies.” In the former there was substantive connotative difference. In the latter, it was felt to be a question of personal preference and did not impact substance.

Comments that required no direct response such as “... talk to ProNica about how they fund raise...” were recorded and folded into the Financial document in a more general manner. Some of the ideas will be addressed by the Earthcare Committee pending approval of the position and have been addressed generally for now in the additional documents. So, for example, some suggestions for criteria for selection of the individual where set aside until approval and will fall into the supervisory work of the Earthcare Committee.

The Earthcare Committee (EC) has the sense that the overall response to the proposal for Field Secretary for Earthcare has been favorable and that with the additional attachments we are submitting, all current comments, concerns, and questions have been addressed. The Committee also has to acknowledge that some of the work must unfold over time, through implementation, if there is approval of the position. To this end, the Committee requested from the SEYM Finance Committee additional money, contingent upon Minute approval, to support the additional work that will come as a way opens for the role.

Earthcare Committee Report continued

At the Winter Interim Business Meeting, Warren Hoskins, Peace and Social Concerns Committee clerk (Miami MM), gave the report for Peace and Social Concerns and brought forward a minute from their meeting supporting the Earthcare Committee's Minute for Field Secretary for Earthcare:

The Earthcare Committee of SEYM has brought forward a proposed Minute for an SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare, which is being seasoned. SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee sees this as a seasoned minute and supports the SEYM Earthcare Committee process. We request that every SEYM monthly meeting gather in worship and seek unity in moving forward with this proposal. The Earthcare Committee will bring this Minute forward for approval at Yearly Meeting sessions, 4/1-4/15.

The Earthcare Committee senses that Peace and Social Concerns' minute of support encapsulates the place the process is at now.

Attached: Proposed Minute for Field Secretary for Earthcare
 Financial Plan for funding Proposed Field Secretary for Earthcare
 Proposed Duties for Field Secretary for Earthcare

The SEYM Earthcare Committee offers the following Proposed Minute for Field Secretary for Earthcare. We will provide separate proposals for the description of duties for the Field Secretary for Earthcare, supervision for the position, and for funding before Winter Interim Business Meeting. They will be distributed throughout SEYM.

Proposed Minute for Field Secretary for Earthcare December 18, 2014

The region encompassed by the Southeastern Yearly Meeting is one of the most vulnerable and environmentally sensitive areas susceptible to the effects of Climate Change in the United States. As such, we cannot be inactive as Climate Change destroys the viability of our biosphere for us and subsequent generations. Friends know that when our energies are directed by the Spirit, and are an expression of our Testimonies, we can be a part of the life-affirming response to the dangers of Climate Change.

The April 2014 Minute of Southeastern Yearly Meeting affirmed our commitment to take action to reduce the human-made causes of Climate Change. To implement this minute the SEYM Earthcare Committee proposes positive action by the establishment of the position of Field Secretary for Earthcare.

Field Secretary for Earthcare

We recommend that the Earthcare Committee, with the help of SEYM's committees so led, seek an energized individual with the leading to serve as Field Secretary for Earthcare, seasoned in Friends' faith and practice. This person will be able to communicate well with media, be able to bring forth the attributes and abilities of others, and have the ability to encourage Friendly, spirit-led coordination for the caring of Earth. A number of Quaker-based organizations have prepared technical and informational materials on Climate Change. With this support, the Field Secretary can concentrate on coordination, inspiration, and communication.

We recognize that the Field Secretary will be working under the guidance of the Spirit, energized by the person's individual leadings. Duties, responsibilities, and supervision will be provided by the Earthcare Committee, and grounded in the loving interest and care of the Yearly Meeting.

Financial Plan for funding Proposed Field Secretary for Earthcare

1. An anonymous donors have agreed to fund a matching grant on the 1st. \$1000 raised which will equal \$2,000 seed money. We believe there are one or two more anonymous donors willing to up the challenge to \$1,500 will equal \$3,000 potential raise. This is a kick-starter concept to enable the selected FSE and local volunteers to begin the process of facilitating the work of the committee, pending approval at SEYM-YM.
2. The Earthcare Committee is seeking an additional \$500 from YM to administer the work of the FSE, and continue its business between sessions of the YM, pending approval Minute.
3. The FSE and all Committee members to the extent of their commitment will attempt to raise additional funds to supplement the FSE budget. This may be accomplished by carrying a contribution box to all functions and a specific ask during said function.
4. All monies raised will be sent to the YM so they may be recorded and placed in a restricted line item for the committee's use and right ordering for 501(c)3 tax accounting; and benefit tracking to gauge the success of the FSE.
5. We envision the first year as voluntary with reasonable travel, room and board, and incidentals reimbursed. The Earthcare Committee would review and at some juncture bring a minute to make the position a permanent paid staff line item in the annual budget.

This structure would allow the SEYM Earthcare Committee to retain overall control and direction of the Committee's work, and its effectiveness or lack there of as time unfolds.

The actual budget and implementation will be a working document once funds have been agreed and collected.

Proposed Duties for Field Secretary for Earthcare

- Provide focus and coordinate efforts on environmental work in the SEYM region.
- Visits to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to help them discern their earthcare leadings and to provide them with information, and coordination among Meetings
- To be among the Quaker Presence at specific events, including those arranged by others.
- To assist the Youth in their Earthcare projects, to be an inspiration and role model for them; to be a presence and resource for Young Adult Friends.
- 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 serve as SEYM's public presence for Earthcare and serve as a liaison with other like-minded organizations.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE • Numbered Minutes from FIBM & WIBM

15EC01 - Executive Committee recommends that the Publications Committee be reactivated and formed an ad hoc committee to recommend the charge of the Publications Committee: Phoebe Andersen (Tallahassee), clerk; Stephanie Preston (Orlando). Other Friends will be asked to serve.

FALL INTERIM BUSINESS MEETING 2014 • Numbered Minutes

14FIBM01 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting, meeting as Fall Interim Business Meeting, approves the nomination of Bill Carlie (Orlando) for a three-year term as Southeastern Yearly Meeting Membership Recorder. His term will end in 2017.

14FIBM02 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting, meeting as Fall Interim Business Meeting, approves the nomination of Elaine Martin (Jacksonville MM) for a three-year term as Southeastern Yearly Meeting Representative to Quaker House. Her term will end in 2017.

14FIBM03 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting, meeting as Fall Interim Business Meeting, approves the nomination of Andrea Hoskins (Miami MM) for a three-year term as SEYM Yearly Business Meeting Gathering Registrar. Her term will end in 2017.

14FIBM04 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends wishes to express great appreciation to Sarasota Monthly Meeting for their generous hospitality. You have cared for us in many ways.

14FIBM05 - At its Fall Interim Business Meeting, SEYM heard explanation of the One Minute for Peace Campaign of the American Friends Service Committee endorsed by Miami Friends Meeting. SEYM will make information about it available to members and attenders, and asks Monthly Meetings of SEYM to consider endorsement and support for One Minute for Peace, as led. We ask that local and regional websites post and share the link to One Minute for Peace: <http://www.oneminuteforpeace.org>.

WINTER INTERIM BUSINESS MEETING 2015 • Numbered Minutes

15WIBM01 Southeastern Yearly Meeting as Winter Interim Business Meeting reinstates the Publications Committee. Nominating Committee is charged with finding members for the Publications Committee.

15WIBM02 Southeastern Yearly Meeting as Winter Interim Business Meeting greatly appreciates the hard work and joyous spirit that Orlando Monthly Meeting gives to us in hosting Winter Interim Business Meeting and the Michener Lecture each year. Thank you for your gift of service and love to our yearly meeting.

15WIBM03 Southeastern Yearly Meeting as Winter Interim Business Meeting approves and supports the initiation of the Spiritual Formation Program as presented and approved by Worship and Ministry.

15WIBM04 Southeastern Yearly Meeting as Winter Interim Business Meeting approves Florida Impact listing SEYM as a supporter with our logo and a link to the SEYM website, on the Florida Impact website.

15WIBM05 Southeastern Yearly Meeting as Winter Interim Business Meeting instructs the Yearly Meeting secretary to email and postal mail the Earthcare Committee proposed minute for a field secretary for Earthcare to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. Monthly Meetings are requested to worshipfully consider the minute and respond to the Earthcare Committee with feedback by 28 Second Month 2015.

15WIBM06 Southeastern Yearly Meeting as Winter Interim Business Meeting thanks Peter Day for his leadership and organization skills as clerk of SEYM Archives Committee over the past several years.

SEYM General Fund Budget FY 2015-2016

<<PROPOSAL FOR YM SESSIONS DIA>> 3/3/2015

	Rev FYE Rpt Actual \$ FY2012-13	Rev FYE Rpt Actual \$ FY2013-14	Annual Budget \$ FY2013-14	First Half Actual \$ FY2014-15	Annual Budget \$ FY2014-15	Proposed Budget \$ FY2015-16	Change (%) fm Last Yr
Income							
2000 Income							
2001 Donations							
2002 Individual Donations (inclgd #2006- In-Kind)	1,077.00	1,563.01	2,000	345.00	2,200	2,000	-9.1%
2003 Meetings & Worship Groups - Apportionments	70,797.00	74,901.00	76,295	31,382.00	58,748	57,790	-1.6%
2003 Meetings & WGs - Others (#2013ߧ)	100.00	100.00		450.00			
2001 Other Donations -Restricted (#2004ࠌ)	105.00						
Total 2001 Donations	72,079.00	76,564.01	78,295	32,177.00	60,948	59,790	-1.9%
2200 Investment Earnings							
2203 Savings account Interest	18.85	9.03	16	3.12	8	10	25.0%
Total 2200 Investment Earnings	18.85	9.03	16	3.12	8	10	25.0%
2306 Miscellaneous Income							
Total 2000 Income	72,142.84	76,670.67	78,311	32,512.88	60,956	59,800	-1.9%
2700 Transfers in FROM other classes							
2711 Donations to GF through other classes	125.00	134.00	134	0.00	150	150	-
2712 Michener Lecture to GF/Insurance	134.00	935.00	935	0.00	900	900	-
2732 Gath/Walton to GF/Insurance	935.00	152.60	-		-		
2750 Surplus from HYM	0.00	486.00	486	450.00	450	450	-
2752 HYM to GF/Insurance	486.00						
2804 From Trustee's Funds							
2815 for Bertsche Outreach Travel	1,707.30	1,688.74	1,700	881.49	1,670	1,800	7.8%
2820 for Secretary's Salary	3,967.98	3,932.32	4,000	2,055.05	3,900	4,200	7.7%
Total 2804 from Trustee's Funds	5,675.28	5,621.06	5,700	2,936.54	5,570	6,000	7.7%
Total 2700 Transfers in FROM other classes	7,355.28	7,328.66	7,255	3,386.54	7,070	7,500	6.1%
Total Income	79,498.12	83,999.33	85,566	35,899.42	68,026	67,300	-1.1%
Expenses							
2999 Expenses							
3000 Administrative							
3001 Bank Service Charges	0.00	0.00	20	0.00	20	20	-
3002 Credit Card service fees	0.00	0.00	10	0.00	70	10	-85.7%
3006 Contract Labor	48.00	0.00	-	0.00	-	-	
3080 Duplication (& inclgd Acct#6000-GF)	6,004.82	266.00	4,500	1,329.77	4,500	2,000	-66.6%
3106 Liability Insurance	1,375.35	1,753.29	1,700	1,393.55	1,500	1,700	13.3%
3107 Youth Worker CAP Certification Program	0.00	79.50	300	151.05	150	150	-
3146 State Fee for Non-Profit Corporation	61.25	61.25	61	0.00	61	60	-1.6%

SEYM General Fund Budget FY 2015-2016 <<PROPOSAL FOR YM SESSIONS DIA>

	Rev FYE Rpt Actual \$ FY2012-13	Rev FYE Rpt Actual \$ FY2013-14	Annual Budget \$ FY2013-14	First Half Actual \$ FY2014-15	Annual Budget \$ FY2014-15	Proposed Budget \$ FY2015-16	Change (%) frm Last Yr
QBP20141206							
3200 Office Supplies	762.16	624.41	\$ 580	452.47	\$ 600	\$ 900	50.0%
3270 Payroll Expenses - Employee Salary	44,352.37	28,150.84	\$ 40,994	13,075.68	\$ 24,877	\$ 27,600	10.9%
3271 Payroll Expenses - Employee Benefits	4,693.60	0.00	\$ 5,000	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	-
3272 Payroll Expenses - Employer Taxes for Staff		2,077.78	\$ 3,136	1,407.32	\$ 1,903	\$ 2,100	10.3%
3380 Postage & Shipping	616.09	640.29	\$ 800	560.15	\$ 700	\$ 900	28.6%
3381 Post Office Box Rental	77.00	136.00	\$ 80	78.00	\$ 150	\$ 80	-46.7%
3400 Office Equipment	1,623.92	307.94	\$ 250	0.00	\$ 400	\$ 400	-
3500 Professional Svcs	199.00	6,625.00	\$ 150	475.00	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500	-50.0%
3640 Rent, Office & Off-site Storage Unit	1,913.31	1,295.35	\$ 1,850	681.51	\$ 1,320	\$ 1,400	6.1%
3700 Repairs	240.00	75.00	\$ 350	75.00	\$ 350	\$ 100	-71.4%
3816 Software	319.94	1,123.31	\$ 800	469.93	\$ 600	\$ 800	33.3%
3840 Telephone & Internet Service	1,608.35	2,020.31	\$ 2,000	1,065.67	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	-
3860 Travel Administrative (& Includg Acct#9003-GF)	1,270.51	1,547.38	\$ 1,300	498.45	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000	-20.0%
3900 Website & Shared Electronic Data Storage	435.98	300.00	\$ 300	75.00	\$ 800	\$ 800	-
5187 Membership Quakers United in Publishing (QUIP)	75.00	75.00	\$ 75	0.00	\$ 75	\$ 80	6.7%
Total 3000 Administrative	65,676.65	47,158.65	\$ 64,256	21,788.55	\$ 45,576	\$ 44,600	-2.1%
4000 Committees Operating Expenses							
4309 Archives	281.48	180.62	\$ 550	189.79	\$ 550	\$ 550	-
4329 EC & IBM (& Includg Acct#7000-GF)	104.53	0.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	-
4339 Faith & Practice	0.00	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	\$ 50	-
4349 Finance	0.00	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	\$ 50	-
4359 Nominating	0.00	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	\$ 50	-
4369 Peace & Social Concerns	200.00	100.00	\$ 200	0.00	\$ 200	\$ 200	-
4389 Youth Committee	0.00	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	\$ 50	-
4399 Worship & Ministry	0.00	100.00	\$ 150	0.00	\$ 150	\$ 150	-
4429 Earthcare	0.00	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	\$ 50	-
4469 Ministry on Racism	0.00	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	\$ 50	-
4489 Young Adult Quakers	0.00	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	\$ 50	-
Total 4000 Committee Operating Expenses	586.01	380.62	\$ 1,350	189.79	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,350	-
5000 Donations to Organizations							
5007 AFSC	100.00	200.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 200	\$ 200	-
5008 AFSC-SERO	100.00	0.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	-
5018 Earham School of Religion	100.00	100.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	-
5027 FCNL	300.00	300.00	\$ 300	0.00	\$ 300	\$ 300	-
5028 QEW	200.00	200.00	\$ 200	0.00	\$ 200	\$ 200	-
5030 FLGBTQC		50.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	-
5037 FGC	1,200.00	1,200.00	\$ 1,200	0.00	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	-

SEYM General Fund Budget FY 2015-2016

<<PROPOSAL FOR YM SESSIONS DIA>

3/3/2015

	QB20141206	Rev FYE Rpt Actual \$ FY2012-13	Rev FYE Rpt Actual \$ FY2013-14	Annual Budget \$ FY2013-14	First Half Actual \$ FY2014-15	Annual Budget \$ FY2014-15	Proposed Budget \$ FY2015-16	Change (%) f/m Last Yr
5038 Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice	60.00	60.00	\$ 60	0.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	100	-
5047 Florida Council of Churches	200.00	200.00	200	0.00	\$ 200	\$ 200	200	-
5048 Florida Impact	300.00	300.00	300	0.00	\$ 300	\$ 300	300	-
5057 Friends Journal	100.00	100.00	100	0.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	100	-
5058 Friends Peace Teams	250.00	250.00	250	0.00	\$ 250	\$ 250	250	-
5067 FUM (often restricted to specific Project(s))	500.00	500.00	500	0.00	\$ 500	\$ 500	500	100.0%
5068 FWCC	1,450.00	1,450.00	1,450	0.00	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,450	1,450	-
5077 Pendle Hill	100.00	100.00	100	0.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	100	-
5078 ProNica	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000	0.00	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	4,000	-
5085 Quaker House of Fayetteville NC	100.00	100.00	100	0.00	\$ 200	\$ 200	200	-
5087 Quaker Life	100.00	100.00	100	0.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	100	-
5089 Quaker UN Office	100.00	100.00	100	0.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	100	-
5097 William Penn House	100.00	100.00	100	0.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	100	-
Total 5000 Donations to Organizations	9,260.00	9,310.00	9,310	0.00	\$ 9,600	\$ 9,850	9,850	2.6%
8000 Representative Travel								
8160 Annual Representative	1,083.00	3,941.00	3,300	1,065.00	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	4,000	-
8360 Other Travel	350.00	898.00						
Total 8000 Representative Travel	1,433.00	4,839.00	3,300	1,065.00	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	4,000	-
8500 Contingency	0.00	200.00	2,000	0.00	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	2,000	-
2999 Other Expenses		34.19						
Total 2999 Expenses	76,955.66	61,922.46	80,216	23,043.34	\$ 62,526	\$ 61,800	61,800	-1.2%
9000 Transfer out to other classes								
9004 for Youth Programs	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500	2,500.00	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	2,500	-
9005 for Gathering Youth	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	2,000	-
9060 for Triennial Travel Reserves	850.00	850.00	850		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	1,000	-
9061 Excess FYE Rep Annl Trvl to Triennial Trvl Rsrv	2,217.00	0.00			\$ -	\$ -	-	
9210 for Michener Lecture Support	742.60							
9450 for HYM Support	55.26							
Total 9000 Transfer out to other classes	8,364.86	5,350.00	5,350	2,500.00	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	5,500	-
Total Expenses	85,320.52	67,272.46	85,566	25,543.34	\$ 68,026	\$ 67,300	67,300	-1.1%
Net Income	-5,822.40	16,726.87	-	10,356.08	\$ 0	\$ -	-	

TRUSTEES' TREASURER'S REPORT Yearly Business Meeting, 2015

A review of the past year (either fiscal or calendar year) shows that the Trustees funds continue to grow. The growth has been primarily from the increase in value of the invested money. There have been modest increases from individual donations. Both the Annual Gathering and the Michener Lecture enjoyed surpluses in 2004, which have been transferred to the Trustees for investment in the Gathering Youth Fund and the Michener Lecture Fund, respectively.

This report will show a mixture of fiscal year and calendar year numbers, as the Friends Fiduciary Fund and Domini Fund report on a calendar quarter basis, while SEYM's fiscal year runs 6/1 to 5/31.

Table 1, at the end of this report, shows the value of the various Trustees funds on 12/31/13 and 12/31/14.

Most of the Trustees' funds are restricted; that is, the dividends on the invested funds are used for specific purposes to benefit the Yearly Meeting. The following analysis shows that the Trustees Funds provide substantial benefit to the operations of the Yearly Meeting.

Note that different funds are analyzed slightly differently, due to the nature of the areas they benefit. For example, budgetary numbers for the current fiscal year are available for the general fund, which includes the secretary's salary and representative travel expenses, and not for the other funds.

Secretary's Salary Fund

Budget, FY 2014-15:	\$29,280	(including salary, payroll tax and administrative travel for the secretary and bookkeeper)
Trustees' Fund contribution:	\$4,110	
As % of budget:	14.0%	

Outreach Travel Fund

Budget, FY 2014-15:	
Annual travel:	\$4,000
To Triennial travel:	<u>\$1,000</u>
Total travel:	\$5,000
Trustees' Fund contribution:	\$1,763
As % of budget:	35.3%

Annual Gathering

Actual operating expenses, '14:	\$10,215	(total expenses less pass-through lodging & meal costs)
Trustees' Fund contributions:		
Walton Fund:	\$1,496	
Gathering Youth Fund:	<u>\$3,546</u>	
Total contributions:	\$5,043	
As % of expenses:	49.4%	

Michener Lecture

Actual expenses '14:	\$1,416
Trustees' Fund contribution:	\$753
As % of expenses:	51.7%

Table 1. Trustees Investments Account	Sub-account	12/31/2013	12/31/2014
Friends Fiduciary Corp.			
Walton	\$38,755	\$40,030	
Outreach Travel	\$43,740	\$45,179	
Michener	\$19,509	\$20,301	
Secretary's Salary	\$101,974	\$105,327	
Gathering Youth	\$95,407	\$99,923	
Unrestricted	\$50,042	\$53,724	
Total FFC	\$349,427	\$364,482	
Domini Funds			
Internat'l Social Equity	\$15,453	\$14,948	
Social Equity	\$16,607	\$18,926	
Total Domini	\$32,060	\$33,874	
Friends Meetinghouse Fund	\$22,500	\$22,500	
Cash	\$1,152	\$6,444	
Total Trustees' Funds	\$405,139	\$427,300	

Notes:

1. The unrestricted Trustees funds are the Unrestricted Fund in FFC, the Domini Funds investments, and the Friends Meetinghouse Fund for a total amount of \$110,098 on 12/31/2014.
2. The cash amount for 12/31/2014 is not final. Most of the money in cash is for the Gathering Youth Fund and the Michener Lecture Fund. It will be deposited in Friends Fiduciary Funds as soon as the books through 12/31/14 are complete and approved by the SEYM treasurer.

Caroline Lanker, Trustees' Treasurer

WORSHIP & MINISTRY COMMITTEE

We will meet on Thursday, March 2, 2015. The following items are currently on our agenda:

- The Gathering – We will discuss and attend to details of the Gathering that W & M hold responsibility in.
- Inter-visitation Program – We will look at the program and discuss ways that we can make it more appealing and easier to carry through on.
- Michener Lecture 2016
- Michener Lecture 2017

Please know that you are welcome to join us in the committee meeting and that your presence will be appreciated.

*Co-clerks,
Nancy Triscritti and Wendy Clarissa Geiger*



Dear Friends,

In our ministry of solidarity with Nicaraguans, are we present to hear the earthly and spiritual yearnings of our community partners? Do we share our yearnings authentically with them? Are we humble enough to stay the course on an ever elusory journey toward true accompaniment and mutuality? The spiritual care of the Yearly Meeting grounds us in such queries—still—since this concern was first upheld by SEYM Friends some 28 years ago. With gratitude, we pray that as long as the need for this witness continues, it may be so.

Orlando Monthly Meeting hosted the ProNica fall Board meeting. Many local Friends offered their time and gifts toward making it a blessed event. It supported the essential governance function of ProNica as well as the work of our grassroots partners and educational programs in Nicaragua. We offer deep gratitude to Orlando Monthly Meeting.

ProNica Report continued

At the ProNica fall Board meeting, the following minutes were approved:

Minute2014FC6 - The board of ProNica wishes to express our appreciation for the dedicated and spirit-guided service of Laura Hopps as program director in Managua. She brought ProNica through a challenging time with creativity and grace.

Minute2014FC7 - The board of ProNica wishes to express its appreciation to Quaker House in Fayetteville, N.C. for their act of solidarity in displaying ProNica literature during their travels, and for the contacts they have brought to us.

Minute2014FC8 - The Board of ProNica approves without change the Consejo recommendations for 2014-15 grants.

Minute2014FC9 - The board appreciates Herb Haigh's initiative and creativity in mailing the "Chureca Christmas" donation requests to 500 potential donors.

ProNica's current partner organizations made grant requests for 2015 totaling \$74,453. We were able to award them \$41,800, and we are optimistic that with so much love and solidarity in SEYM and across the US, we will be able to fulfill much more of that by the end of 2015.

Our partner, Casa Matera, has become the preeminent model used by the government of Nicaragua for preventing maternal mortality. Recent updates on the Millennium Goals show a 47% decrease in maternal death worldwide since 1990. In Nicaragua, the reported decrease is closer to 74%, largely due to the example of the Casa Materna.

Significantly more men in Managua are taking personal responsibility for family planning by having vasectomies even with machista pressures, decreasing health risks to women; this is in large part due to the compelling workshops and outreach conducted by the Acahualinca Women's Center. The clinic remains one of a small handful places in Nicaragua where LGBT individuals receive treatment with dignity and holistic support.

Two Quinchos graduates from the street children rehabilitation program started college last year with scholarships funded by The College of New Jersey delegation of students facilitated by ProNica.

Single mother farmers in Rio Blanco are seeing greater crop yield due to agronomy support, sponsored in part by ProNica.

More and more women are empowering themselves with unique income generating ventures due to microloans through our partner, the Casa del Nino.

For further details and regular community partner updates, please subscribe to the ProNica newsletter by sending us an email at stateside@pronica.org.

The finance committee has recommended outsourcing ProNica's bookkeeping in order to streamline operations and keep primary focus on the drive to mission.

2015 confirmed and tentative educational delegations include: Rutgers University, Washburn University, Kansas Photographers, The College of New Jersey, Haverford, AmeriLife, Haverford College and Baltimore Yearly Meeting Healers witness.

ProNica is blessed to have a compelling and effective mission that attracts wonderful people. New in-country directors, Ada and Ramon, are transitioning beautifully and bringing valuable talents, gifts and unwavering integrity to the work.

Online donations have increased significantly in 2015 thanks in great part to our brand new website: www.ProNica.org.

We're scheduled to have four appointments to the ProNica Board this spring. SEYM has nominated Carl Hersh, who covered the Nicaraguan revolution for various news agencies as a videographer. One other SEYM nominee is yet to be determined. The non-SEYM nominees include Doug McCown, former ProNica stateside director, and Irene King, director of the Center for Service & Social Justice at Villanova University who has led many student groups to Nicaragua.

As we prepare to welcome four new Board members, we offer a depth of gratitude to those stepping down:

Kathy Hersh (SEYM)

Kathy Hersh embodies our ministry of solidarity and accompaniment in her service to ProNica as both co-clerk and Board member. At every ProNica meeting, workshop or event that Kathy attends or facilitates, she clearly draws from the portion of her heart that remains in Nicaragua from her days covering the Sandinista revolution as a correspondent for ABC News.

In addition to her proactive and conscientious approach to governance as co-clerk of the Fundraising and Outreach Committee and member of the Board, Kathy has served ProNica's mission by organizing an SEYM youth delegation to Nicaragua, designing and hosting fundraisers, facilitating engaging and thought-provoking workshops, writing content for the ProNica newsletter, Friends Journal and the website, hosting staff from Nicaragua in Miami, collaborating with her husband Carl to create promotional videos, co-facilitating a powerful solidarity workshop with ProNica partners in Nicaragua, and much more. We are deeply grateful to Kathy's for her six years of service to ProNica and our community partners in Nicaragua.

Kaye Edwards

On the faculty of Haverford College since 1986, Kaye teaches courses that explore various facets of social justice, including how they are embodied in the health of communities and how they are informed by Quaker faith and practice. It's no wonder that ProNica Program Director emeritus, Lillian Hall, championed Kaye's nomination to the ProNica Board after collaborating with her on student delegations in Nicaragua. Shortly after joining the Board, Kaye inspired the restructuring of ProNica's committees, and has since worked prodigiously to set up and clerk the new and highly active Governance committee.

Kaye has led numerous inspiring delegations to Nicaragua with both Haverford and Bryn Mawr students as part of a recurring course on reproductive health and justice. Kaye has also been instrumental in cementing formal institutional ties between ProNica and Haverford College with a new summer intern program.

From her experience on the Boards of Pendle Hill and the Corporation of Haverford College, Kaye has brought to the ProNica Board wisdom and actions that are at once strong and tender. We can't thank her enough for her caring and thoughtful service to ProNica.

ProNica Report continued

William Rogan (SEYM)

William's leading to serve on ProNica's Board stemmed from a desire to help atone for the United States' illegal intervention in Nicaraguan. Without ever losing sight of that lofty ideal, he managed to break the work down into actionable goals. William consistently emphasized the importance of fundraising, professional governance practices and fiscal responsibility. He served as the liaison for the development of ProNica's brand new website. We thank William Rogan for his admirable service.

Tere Campos

Tere delved into the meaning of solidarity with everything she had. The workshop she facilitated in Nicaragua among ProNica partners, consejo and board illuminated the great beauty and subtle challenges of working in solidarity. With the patience, exuberance and grace of a beloved school teacher, Tere's inspiring words and gentle spirit served as a constant reminder of how essential it is to keep love at the foundation of our work. We thank Tere for sharing her gifts with ProNica.

Ada and Ramon, our new in-country directors will be available in the worship shearing tent with Pam Haigh and for lunch and dinner table-talks throughout the 2015 SEYM Annual Sessions. We invite you to meet them, ask questions, and hear that latest news about our partner organizations and educational programs in Nicaragua.

Melissa Ajabshir, stateside director, stateside@pronica.org

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Report to Yearly Meeting Business Session, April 2015

The Committee has one very important announcement. The archivist at the University of Florida wants all future documents to be sent to her on CD. Each CD should have no more than one year's worth of material. The CD should be labeled: SEYM Collection, your monthly meeting or SEYM documents, year.

If your meeting generates very little in the way of documents, it would be all right to put multiple years on a CD, but what we want to avoid is spill overs. A whole year should be kept together. In SEYM's case there may be more than one CD to take all the documents for one year. Just be sure to start a new CD when you start a new year.

The CDs should be sent to: Archivist, Special Collections
 Smathers Library
 University of Florida
 Gainesville FL32611

A lot of sorting and filing was done by Bill Rapp this spring. There are still boxes of unsorted materials, including old SEYM papers. The Windmere papers are now in a file kept with the Sarasota files. So, the Archive Committee still has lots of work to do, but putting documents on CDs starting with 2016 will be a big help.

Connie Ray, Archives Committee Clerk

SEYM Representative to FLGBTQC 2015 Report

(Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns)

Dear SEYM Friends,

First, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Representative to FLGBTQC. This experience has not only provided me with the opportunity to form meaningful connections with other Friends beyond SEYM, but also enriched my understanding of Quaker process and deepened my own relationship to Spirit. I hope my role and this growth will continue.

FLGBTQC meets twice annually to worship, conduct business, pray, and play. Due to work schedule demands, I was unable to participate in the recent Mid-Winter Gathering (MWG) held over the Presidents Day weekend from 13-16 February 2015 in Burlington, NJ. However, I look forward to joining together with the community at the Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering from 5-11 July 2015 in Cullowhee, NC. I am deeply grateful for the financial support of SEYM to assist with travel expenses.

The past year has been an exciting time for LGBTQ individuals across Florida and the United States with regard to the issue of marriage equality. Since August 2014, FLGBTQC participated as a signatory in five separate amicus briefs including the Florida case of *Brenner v Armstrong/Grimsley v Armstrong* (11th Circuit Court of Appeals) on 19 December 2014. This labor yielded good fruit. It filled my heart with immense joy to be present on the steps of Orlando City Hall on 6 January 2015 as Florida became the 36th state to legally recognize same sex marriage. Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer conducted a moving marriage ceremony uniting many couples who had been together for decades awaiting this day. While progress has been made, our work is not yet done. The stage has been set for a potentially historic ruling when the US Supreme Court hears arguments about whether same-sex couples nationwide have a right to marry under the Constitution. In April 2015 they will review an appellate case that upheld bans on same-sex unions in four states. A final decision is expected by late June 2015. I ask that SEYM hold our justices in the light during this time.

Next, I challenge SEYM and all monthly meetings to ask ourselves how we can live out our Quaker testimonies of community and equality to be more welcoming for LGBTQ individuals, especially queer and transgender young people. I urge us to consider practicing the concept of **radical inclusion** as defined by the FLGBTQC 2011 Midwinter Gathering Epistle. “**Radical inclusion**’ is the willingness to welcome new and different kinds of people into our community even when we had not expected them, recognizing the expansion of our understanding of who we are as a form of continuing revelation.” Let us proclaim that God does not love any of us in spite of who we are, but *because* of who are. Our community is strengthened and made more whole when we recognize and nurture the unique gifts offered by our LGBTQ Friends.

Finally, I ask SEYM and all monthly meetings to hear the call for support from Olympia Monthly Meeting (North Pacific Yearly Meeting) who created the Friends New Underground Railroad project to aid LGBTQ Ugandans who are fleeing their homeland for their lives. In a minute approved on 13 April 2014, Olympia Monthly Meeting noted with deep concern the Ugandan Government’s passage of a law targeting the LGBTQ population. This law has created a climate where the life, health, and freedom of all LGBTQ Ugandans and those who help them are at immediate risk. Many people have already been kicked out of their homes, denied basic rights, abandoned, beaten, imprisoned, killed, or live in constant fear. There is an opportunity to provide real assistance that can save lives as the Friends New Underground Railroad project (<http://friendsnewundergroundrailroad.org>) helps LGBTQ Ugandans escape to safety and freedom. They have partnered with The Safe Passage Fund to provide emergency travel monies to LGBTQ individuals and allies who face immediate threats of arrest, attacks, violence, and severe persecution in countries where harsh laws have fostered a climate of extreme homophobia. Let us worshipfully discern whether SEYM is led to offer a minute of support and/or a financial contribution toward this effort.

FLGBTQ Representative's Report continued

Proposed Minute 1:

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends recognizes the gifts and inherent worth of LGBTQ individuals around the world. We recognize, in particular, how the current climate of extreme homophobia in many African nations puts LGBTQ people and those who help them at risk. We detest all forms of violence, especially those perpetrated against people solely because of their identity. We support the work of the Olympia Monthly Meeting and the Friends New Underground Railroad project to aid LGBTQ Ugandans who are fleeing their homeland for their lives.

Proposed Minute 2:

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends seeks to formally sponsor the work of the Olympia Monthly Meeting and the Friends New Underground Railroad project by committing a contribution from the 2015-2016 budget in the amount of \$200.

Yours in peace, Stephanie Preston

Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA)

As well as being one of the SEYM reps to Friends Peace Teams, Cece Yocum is also clerk of Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA).

Los Sueños de los PAVistas en América Latina (Dreams of the Latin American AVPers)

Translated and compiled by Val Liveoak, Coordinator, Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA)

When we posed the query about the future to our partners in Latin America, some of them replied with explicit plans and dreams for PLA's work with them.

Here is what they sent:

Honduras: PLA has two programs in Honduras. One is with our partner group, Tejedoras de Sueños, a program of the Sisters of Mercy, that works mostly with women in poor neighborhoods in San Pedro Sula (the economic capital of Honduras) and nearby cities. Their program is much bigger than AVP (the Alternatives to Violence Project), and includes a Credit Union, womens' health and spirituality, training in income-generating work, advocacy for justice and fair treatment of women, and other projects. The group has enthusiastically adopted AVP as a way to promote nonviolence in the communities and to help groups work together better. Their Director, Nelly Delcid, wrote, "I hope that PLA will give more support for AVP among young people and enlarge the workshops to include mediation, ecology and nonviolence....We are going to have AVP workshops and also begin doing cultural and ecological work in the nearby communities. We also hope to strengthen educational offerings chiefly with children and young people, and in all of this we look forward to being accompanied by PLA."

Her co-worker, Aida Gonzales adds, "The violence in which young people live has destroyed their hope, put them into a very vulnerable state, and also has made them likely to get involved in crime or gangs. Indeed being young in Honduras is a big challenge. Additionally, since we live in a permanent state of war, with all the death and suffering that implies, we need much more work to heal the pain and losses of loved ones that many people have suffered."

The other program PLA supports in Honduras is through the Peace and Justice Program of the Mennonite Church of Honduras. Currently the program is working in the mens' facility, the National Prison El Porvenir near La Ceiba. They have done a series of AVP workshops with a group of inmates, and

Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA) continued

In March plan to train inmate facilitators in the prison. Additionally, their Coordinator, Ondina Murrillo writes, "We hope to extend the program in schools, and to groups^[2] of young people who are not attending schools (and who may be involved in gang activities). Also we want to see more follow up for the AVP facilitators who have already been trained, and begin working in the communities in the Northern part of the country."

In Guatemala, the AVP program has recently hired a Guatemalan woman, Lorena Escobar, to work as Coordinator, phasing out the international volunteer, Saskia Schuitemaker who has led that program for the last five years. Saskia's vision for AVP Guatemala for the next few years is to develop a sustainable organization, including having legal NGO status within the country. She hopes the group will be able to receive funding from other NGOs active in Guatemala as well as from businesses, all of which could receive AVP workshops and perhaps even begin to develop AVP as a part of their programs of outreach to the community. She hopes to increase the support for AVP-Guatemala from Friends in New Zealand, her home country, raising funding for the coordination of the program as well as for its extension.

Other organizational goals are to have a corps of 20 active Guatemalan facilitators who would be able to lead all the AVP workshops and the Community Based Trauma healing workshops and to have regular meetings and continuing education for the facilitators.

Among the AVP facilitators are leaders who hope to extend AVP in their communities and to other communities to which they have ties. AVP Guatemala is currently working with an alternative Middle School in Chimaltenango in a poor neighborhood, where the director of the school dreams of extending AVP into all the schools in her department/state.

Another facilitator is closely connected to the community of Nebaj, in northern Guatemala, one of the communities that suffered greatly during the Civil War in the '80s and '90s. Several others are connected to Guatemala Village Health, a group that works in communities on the east coast, and has adopted AVP as part of their community development program. Quakers in the south-east part of Guatemala are also very interested in developing AVP, and have had several workshops there. One facilitator from there was trained last week.

Salvadoran and Colombian AVPers most of them are very active in their churches, or in the case of the Salvadoran Coordinator, Salomon Medina, in the yearly meeting which met in January. In conversations, I have learned that AVP-El Salvador hopes to continue to focus on young people in communities in various parts of the country including those in the juvenile detention center^[3] El Espino. They have received several invitations to do workshops with students and teachers at Quaker schools and where AVP participants are teachers.

Our Colombian coordinators have suffered serious diseases including the severe form of Dengue fever, Chikunguña.^[4] Conversations with them have revealed that the work and support they hoped to offer a displaced community outside of Barranquilla have been delayed due to death threats made on community leaders. Work in the other four programs in Colombia has been delayed because of illness and frequent lack of availability of facilitators, who must pursue other income generating activities.

Also I'd like to add a few thoughts about the future of PLA's work. As I move toward retirement, I have actively been working toward delegating more of the work, especially in the administrative area. We need help with this, as our Working Group is small. If you know of people interested in Latin America, please send them our way. I also think that my leading to focus on AVP work has limited the possible activities of our partners. Compared to the other FPT Initiatives, PLA is limited in the activities it supports. We need new leadership to help us, and our partners, widen our horizons. All of the program expansion detailed above will also require more funds and more fundraising, as well as your prayers. Thank you for all that you have done and given to the work already.

Submitted by Cecelia Yocum Please contact Cece at ceceyocum@aol.com for more information.

QUAKER HOUSE *“A Place of Peace in a Military City”* **Report to SEYM Yearly Business Meeting 2015**

Quaker House, a manifestation of the Friends' Peace Testimony, is based in Fayetteville, NC, home of Fort Bragg, one of the largest United States military bases. Founded in 1969 to support those in protest of the Vietnam War, Quaker House has for over 45 years provided counseling and support to service members who are questioning their role in the military; to educate them, their families and the public about military issues and advocates for a more peaceful world. Today, under Directors Steve and Lynn Newsom, the Quaker House mission continues to grow.

The Quaker House 2014 year end report:

Counseling Soldiers and Veterans: We worked with many soldiers, veterans and their families in need of help. One soldier became a regular attendee of Fayetteville Friends Meeting and our Mindfulness Classes. Our GI Rights Hotline Counselors, Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger, counseled 2,589 services members during the year.

Alternatives to Violence Project Training: We conducted four trainings with a total of 26 different participants in one or more of the workshops. Participants were military, VA, civilian social workers, counselors, a military chaplain, Quakers, and teachers. We established the first AVP program in North Carolina and aided in the start of the program in South Carolina! The NC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of NC provide contact hour credits for these.

Connecting with the Military: We belong to five organizations that bring together military mental health professionals and civilians to help our service members and veterans. Because of these connections, we are invited on base for and give various programs: domestic violence, traumatic brain injury, sexual assault, moral injury and chaplains' meetings.

Quaker House Domestic Violence in the Military Program: Joanna, our Domestic Violence coordinator, provided domestic violence and sexual assault therapy to 26 victims, family of victims, and perpetrators. She gave presentations on the subject to many organizations. Referrals to Joanne come frequently from Victim's Advocates at Ft. Bragg. Lynn Serves on the Board of the CARE Center for Domestic Violence.

Moral Injury: A service member can suffer moral injury if he or she must participate in, or witness, a morally unconscionable situation, i.e. war. It is a wound to the soul, leading to shame and grief. The recognition of moral injury opens conversations with the military and chaplains about the morality of war and need for Conscientious Objection. We gave presentations in North Carolina and Florida as well as at conferences and retreats we attended throughout the country this year. Military and VA chaplains and mental health professionals attended these programs. After each presentation, we often comfort veterans the their families who know that they suffer from moral injury.

Torture: We continue to work the North Carolina Stop Torture Now to educate the public about the United States' role in the use of torture.

In October, Lynn and Steve traveled to St. Petersburg to set up a Quaker House table for Circus McGurkis. As they traveled through Florida, they gave presentations on Moral Injury in Jacksonville, Tampa, St. Petersburg and Miami. A second presentation on Moral Injury is scheduled for March 25th, 2015 in Jacksonville.

Submitted by Elaine Martin, Jacksonville

Friends General Conference (FGC) *Report of SEYM Representatives*

The Central Committee (CC) of FGC convenes annually in October. The Executive Committee (EC) meets three times a year. All Central Committee members also serve on working committees for specific areas of the FGC programs and administration.

In the past year, Ed Lesnick, Kay Lesnick and Dustin Lemke attended the annual Central Committee meeting, held in Maryland. In January, Ed represented SEYM at the Executive Committee meetings in San Antonio, Texas. He is also on the Publications and Distribution Committee. Kay is a member of the Committee for Nurturing Ministries. Dustin serves on the FGC Development Committee. Led by the Spirit, all are grateful to represent SEYM by participating in the larger Quaker community.

The Central Committee Epistle to All Friends (October, 2014) follows this report.

Executive Committee meets three times a year: The 2015 winter EC meeting was held at the San Antonio, Texas Quaker meetinghouse in January. Frank Bartch, FGC presiding clerk wrote, "When Friends gather, it is my experience that we are being called to listen deeply to Spirit, the Inward Teacher. ... All believe we must listen lovingly to each other, but accept that we are corporately seeking Divine guidance in finding unity about FGC's best future."

Topics considered at the winter EC meeting included: 1) Financial report and fundraising, 2) QuakerBooks and the FGC bookstore, 3) Nurturing Ministries and (4) other committee reports.

FGC total expenses have been almost flat from FY09-14. Programs have not been contracted. Total assets have declined by \$1.1 million (25%) during the past 7 years without including an additional \$1 million that would have been needed to offset that period's 14% inflation and maintain the assets' value.

The decline has been less than the \$600K average annual unrestricted shortfall because it was offset by \$2.5 million of extraordinary investment gains from FY10-14 that we can't expect to continue. Ways and means of ensuring FGC's financial vitality are being addressed. A feasibility study for the next fundraising campaign is underway.

There is an ongoing concern regarding the status of QuakerBooks and the FGC Bookstore. The size of QuakerBooks target market is the same it was in 2007. However, Friends are using the service far less—67% less, in fact. If the primary mission of QuakerBooks is to make sure Quaker materials are available to Friends and seekers, this mission, whether we like it or not, is increasingly being fulfilled by Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Benchmarks (expectations) have been set for FY2015 sales. The benchmarks will be reviewed at the close of this fiscal year (October). Central Committee will then be asked for a decision on continuance, restructuring or the laying down of the program. As information technology continues to develop, we must be open to new leadings in the ways of sharing Friends' message. Barry Crossno, FGC General Secretary, spoke extensively on this issue. Friends underwent a deep discernment in setting the benchmarks.

A report from the Committee for Nurturing Ministries (CNM) is encouraging. Very exciting is the FGC Spiritual Deepening program for seekers, members and meetings. A pilot will begin soon. Yearly Meetings will be invited to participate.

Through the New Meetings Project, the CNM has been in contact with more than 80 Individuals or groups who were discerning whether to start a new meeting or worship group. QuakerQuest (the Inreach-Outreach program) is in the process of designing a new "Grow Your Meeting" workshop based on QuakerQuest learnings. A pilot of the workshop was held in March. Traveling Ministries continued to work with meetings seeking guidance as well as with volunteer traveling ministers. CNM is seeking major funding for the Spiritual Deepening Project. The well-received children's "Faith and Play" program was recently used in Quaker sponsored workshops in Cuba.

Submitted by Ed Lesnick

Epistle from the 2014 Annual Meeting of Central Committee, FGC

To Friends Everywhere,

We send you greetings from the Friends General Conference Central Committee, meeting Tenth Month 16-19, 2014 at Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown, Maryland. We have felt blessed in our work and worship together, as we sought to be faithful to where the Spirit is leading us. During this weekend we wrestled with our call to challenge structural racism, we affirmed the value of long-standing FGC ministries, and we opened our minds and hearts to new possibilities. Our plenary sessions and committee meetings were seasoned with periods of deeply settled worship, where we could experience what it means to be a people knitted together in God.

During this past year, amazing amounts of good work have been done by the volunteers and staff serving FGC. The ministries of FGC have touched thousands of people, from those who attended the 2014 Gathering in California, Pennsylvania, to the dozens of monthly Meetings actively using the Quaker Cloud, to those who have participated in Quaker Quest workshops, or in gatherings for Friends of Color, or in the consultation on Spiritual Deepening held last March, to those we meet through the World Council of Churches and other ecumenical outreach.

In our time together this weekend, we focused on three areas in particular: spiritual deepening, preparing for a possible fundraising campaign, and discerning and piloting ways forward for QuakerBooks of FGC. We came to clearness to take the next steps with developing modules for a Spiritual Deepening program to “make the full depth, joy, and fire of Quaker faith and practice highly available, teachable, and experiential for all those who are or will become part of our faith communities.” We hope this will bear fruit in years to come by helping Meetings deepen and strengthen their own worship communities, and answer the question: “What do we have to offer?” to seekers, to our communities, and to the wider world. We also came to clearness to move forward with a feasibility study to lay the groundwork for a major fundraising campaign. The feasibility study would involve interviews with many potential donors, and would help to answer the questions: Are these the right programs? Is this the right time?

We are delighted to announce that our new QuakerBooks.org website is working beautifully. We encourage Friends to make use of this new website to download e-books, order printed books, and read interviews with Quaker authors. Our Quaker e-books collection has been greatly expanded, to include most of the in-print titles. We have heard that the ministry of QuakerBooks, especially the book tables, is greatly valued by Friends, especially in far-flung meetings that may not have ready access to the other Quaker resources. During the coming year, we will be looking closely at how we can have a sustainable QuakerBooks operation.

Friends General Conference is in a time of major transition, a time of great challenges and great opportunities. We know that God is with us, and we cherish each other. We look forward with joy to the journey ahead.

Committee for Ministry on Racism:

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” ---Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Committee for Ministry on Racism offers these ongoing suggestions for Friends in SEYM:

- To examine our lives and hearts for the roots of racism in our past and present experiences;
- To increase our awareness of the endemic racism in our communities;
- To stay informed about ways to engage our meetings in community actions on racism;
- To engage with others whenever possible around the subject of racism.

The SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism introduces in 2015 an annual SEYM-wide “read-in” that we hope will stimulate discussion and worship-sharing in monthly meetings and worship groups.

We propose the following action minute:

During 2015, Southeastern Yearly Meeting commits to read the pamphlet *Living our Testimony of Equality—A White Friend’s Experience* by Patience A. Schenck.

Available for \$7.00 from Pendle Hill or FGC Bookstore (1-800-966-4556).

“There can be no great disappointment where there is no great love,” ---- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Clarissa Geiger & Ellie Caldwell, co-clerks, SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

“LIVING OUR FAITH THROUGH ACTION” Policy Institute & Annual Meeting Report
November 20-23, 2014

SEYM Representatives, Eileen Zingaro (Clearwater), Nancy Corindia (Sarasota), Karen Putney and Lou Putney (Tampa) attended the FCNL Annual Meeting in November of 2014. Representative Jack Bradin (Palm Beach) was unable to attend and was missed. In addition, Friend Elaine Petrella (Miami) and William Lefler (Pittsburgh/Orlando) were able to attend and join in the Florida lobby effort. Representing Friends in Florida, we met with Legislative Aides in the offices of Senator Bill Nelson and Senator Marco Rubio as well as paying individual visits to the offices of Rep. Kathy Castor, Rep. Vern Buchanan and Rep. David Jolly with our request as detailed below. Every action we took, skill we learned and message we heard focused on the ongoing theme for this annual gathering of over 200 Friends from around the country ~ “Living Our **Faith Through Action**”. We appreciate the opportunity to serve SEYM and thank Friends for your spiritual and financial support for this work. We welcome opportunities to share more about our work and witness and Karen Putney offers several workshops for Monthly Meetings who would like a deeper understanding of our witness in Washington.

As a newly appointed SEYM Representative attending her first FCNL Annual Meeting, Nancy Corindia shares her reflection on our work:

Spirit Led Action

After attending the Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), I returned with a renewed enthusiasm for the power that each of us has to effect the direction and change in our government; and, affirmation of FCNL’s tireless efforts toward Spirit led legislative action, so well recognized on Capitol Hill. It is my goal to share what I’ve learned and the inspiration I feel, over the next year.

This year Friends asked legislators to make open statements on the floor, by email lists, or social media to keep open a space for diplomacy and negotiations with Iran on the development of its’ nuclear program. Since last year, after Iran accepted the Vienna Treaty that curbed growth of its nuclear program and allowed verification of its nuclear plants. Iran has been compliant. The terms of the Vienna Treaty established an exchange that meant a decrease in some sanctions imposed on Iran for its compliance. Now it is time to renegotiate the terms of the treaty.

The Policy Institute began with an information-building day on the situation in Iran and some of the physics of nuclear power for the use of domestic energy versus nuclear weapons. Speakers included:

- **Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson was Chief of Staff under Colin Powell:** He calls Iran the most stable country in the Middle East right now and not to have them at the negotiating table would be a catastrophic mistake.
- **Joe Cirencione is a member of John Kerry’s International Security Advisory Board and the Council of Foreign Relations:** He is the CEO of the Ploughshares Fund; a public grant making foundation focused on nuclear weapons policy and conflict resolution.
- **Senator Chris Murphy (CT)** was presented the Edward F. Snyder Award for National Legislative Leadership in Advancing Disarmament and Building Peace. He is a leader in the Senate supporting diplomacy with Iran, working on climate change, and reducing gun violence. (Many are looking for him to earn his way to the presidency.)
- **Representative Rush Holt Jr. (NJ)** is 1 of 2 physicists in Congress and the only Quaker in Congress. He served on the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Natural Resources, where he served as the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources helping to develop a long-term strategy to decrease our nation's dependence on fossil fuels in order to protect our environment for future generations. He’s retired from the House, accepting the position of president of The Academy of the Advancement of Sciences.

FCNL Representatives' Report continued

In the afternoon, sessions began on the “how to” and etiquette of lobbying—a whirlwind experience. One piece of motivating information came from a senior staffer from a congressional office who said that her office has regular meetings of staffers who review the letters and emails that they receive from constituents. (I was so glad to hear that those emails were really read and considered.) Last year after FCNL’s lobby day, the White House asked if FCNL would send them the summary sheets of the lobby visits. This year 11 Congressional offices asked FCNL for language to use in statements encouraging diplomacy in Iran. Eighteen legislators made statements in favor of diplomacy, after the lobby day.

We hear about lobbying as part of our democratic process, but until last month when I was lobbying at conference tables in congressional offices, I never appreciated how much closer this brings Americans to representatives of the government. It sent home to me in a way that hadn’t before, that “We the people “ are truly responsible for what our government does. We cannot be excused from the responsibility.

The keynote speaker, Parker Palmer, did as much or more to give me patience and optimism with our democratic government as any part of the weekend. He talks about opening our hearts to hold the tension that is inherent in a democracy. A heart that is broken open is able to hold the tension and continue to make progress, where a heart that is broken apart precludes progress. He encourages us to make an effort to meet people who do not share our beliefs and listen, learn, and talk with compassion.

It was cold in Washington D.C., the schedule was punishing, and I felt like I had a full graduate level course in nuclear physics and foreign politics in 3 days. But, lobbying on the same day with 200 Quakers and like-minded citizen activists, from 43 states is very empowering. I met Friends from New England Yearly Meeting, new Friends from all over the country and sought out and met the FCNL staffer for Climate Change Legislation, as climate change is SMM’s current, whole Meeting, initiative.

This time at FCNL gave me more positivism in our government than I’ve had since before I was old enough to vote and start to recognize the ways of the world—about 6th grade. It was a privilege and a pleasure for me to represent SMM and Southeastern Yearly Meeting at FCNL’s Policy Institute and Annual Meeting this year. I truly appreciate the confidence you had in me, as well as, the financial and Spiritual support that you gave me as your representative.

Nancy Corindia (Sarasota MM), SEYM Representative, FCNL General Committee