

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
Summer Executive Committee Meeting • June 18, 2016

## Minutes

The meeting began at about 9:00 AM, after a period of silent worship. Assistant Clerk Nancy Triscritti read a quote from *Daily readings from Quaker writings ancient & modern*, ed. by Linda Hill Renfer (1989).

"I find that I have little to say about techniques of ministry; instead, I am led to speak, as I often have before, about the ground out of which all ministry flows. It is good to remember that all ministry is one, and should flow from the same source. This is true of what we call ministry in a meeting for worship just as it should be true of *everything* which happens in a meeting—for worship—for business, for in that meeting we are ministering through our decisions either to ourselves or to the world beyond us....

"So can we, on our comfortable padded benches, stay in that centered place, knowing that the more of us who can stay faithfully grounded in God, the easier it will be for others to find it—and to stay in it also. In this state we can spend hours in a business meeting without tiring or losing our patience, resting in this sea of divine Light and love which washes through all people present....

"Sometimes we are led to speak, to minister out of this ground we have been describing. And let us remember that in Quaker theory—and I hope in Quaker practice—all speaking in a business meeting arises out of this ground, and can therefore be called ministry. We know that the true inward motion to speak often lies far beneath our first instinct to respond to an issue. So it is well to wait, to go deeper.

"Yet Truth is quick, and the longer we have been experienced in waiting, the more quickly we can learn to recognize the true motion even in an instant, so that we can respond to the Spirit's timing and not our own."—William Taber, 1988 (p. 158)

**Announcements:** Clerk Lisa Stewart asked EC to hold Steve Angell in the Light as he recovers from a serious heart attack. She similarly lifted up Susan Hefte, who had a recent fall. Friends signed cards for Steve and for Susan. Lisa shared Phoebe Andersen's thanks for prayers during her recovery from surgery.

**Archives Committee:** Bill Rapp submitted a report in writing (see [Appendix](#)). He did work on our archives at University of Florida in late March. He reminds Friends to create CDs of recent Meeting papers and to send them to the UF library.

**Nominating Committee:** Kathy Hersh reported. Stacey and Chris Lazurek, new members of Savannah Meeting, will be the new AFSC Representatives for Yearly Meeting. Andrea Hoskins will join Stephanie Preston as co-clerk of the 2017 Gathering. Elaine Martin has joined CeCe Yocum as co-clerk of Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Nominating Committee is now seeking a Yearly Meeting Clerk to succeed Phoebe Andersen in 2017.

**Secretary's Report:** Vicki Carlie gave the report (see [Appendix](#)). She expressed thanks to Friends who have shared many photos of the 2016 Gathering, and she described a number of website-related tasks planned for the summer. Since there are many unsold copies of old Michener and Walton Lectures, Publications Committee will send a free set of 15 pamphlets to each monthly meeting.

**Faith and Practice Committee:** Phoebe asked EC to extend the Committee's sabbatical for another year. Friends approved the following minute:

**16SEC01.** SEYM Executive Committee approves extending the sabbatical of the Faith & Practice Committee for another year.

**Publications Committee:** Phoebe reported that the backlog of Walton and Michener Lectures has been published, including a multilingual version of *Vision de Hermanos: The Work of Kinship*, the 2015 Michener Lecture by Benigno Sanchez-Eppler. The Committee will arrange translation of additional lectures into Spanish. Lyn Cope reported that digital versions of the pamphlets will be converted to ePub format for the SEYM website, starting with the most popular. In response to a question, Nancy said that is unlikely there are audio recordings of the lectures.

**Pulse Orlando mass shootings:** The Clerk shared letters regarding the June 12th shootings (see [Appendix](#)). Friends centered into the silence. Some voiced their grief. Others spoke of how people in Sarasota, St. Petersburg, and other cities are also being affected—as friends and family members of the victims, of the LGBTQ community, and of SEYM Friends who are giving counseling and other support. Three Friends agreed to compose two minutes which were approved during the afternoon session (see 16SEC04 and 16SEC05 below).

Discussion turned to those who wish to donate money through SEYM to help the Orlando community. Friends agreed to hold such funds until Orlando Monthly Meeting discerns how to use such donations. Treasurer Neil Andersen proposed that SEYM establish a separate fund to hold memorial donations for this or other purposes. Friends approved the following minute:

**16SEC02.** SEYM Executive Committee recommends that Yearly Meeting approve creating an asset account for memorial donations received.

**SEYM Operational Handbook:** For the update, Phoebe asked that all Yearly Meeting officers and Committees and Representatives give her their job descriptions by Fall Interim Business Meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Neil gave the report. Since, at the time of this EC meeting, the fiscal year of the Yearly Meeting had just ended three weeks earlier, the books were still under review by the Treasurer, Treasurer-in-Training and Bookkeeper. As of 5/31/16, net income for each program is approximately zero, except for Publications Committee, which is slightly in the red. SEYM has received over 95% of the requested apportionments, as well as more than was budgeted for individual donations, including \$400 donated from one worship group that was not apportioned. Expenses were less than budgeted and the budget and overall income are good.

**Membership Recorder:** Bill Carlie reported that the *SEYM 2016-2017 Directory* has been published, and he gave a copy to each person present.

**Finance Committee:** Peter Schmidt reported that the request for current FY apportionments has been emailed to the monthly meetings and worship groups. Lisa recommended that they also be courtesy copied to monthly meeting clerks, and Neil asked that the Treasurer and Bookkeeper receive copies of the apportionment numbers.

Some Friends expressed concern that Finance Committee used the monthly meeting statistics given it by the Membership Recorder on 6/3/16, rather than the statistics of 1/3/16 presented to Yearly Business Meeting (see the *SEYM Operational Handbook*, Annual Financial Cycle, After Winter IBM and before the YBM Gathering, p. 53). Also, three of the six worship groups were not to have been given apportionments, according to a ten-year-old Yearly Meeting decision.

EC referred these concerns back to Finance Committee, the Treasurer and the Membership Recorder for resolution.

**Field Secretary for Earthcare Search Committee:** Kathy Hersh reported (see [Appendix](#)). Some Friends expressed concern that the money raised so far for the FSE position is not sufficient to provide a living wage.

Neil reported that we have funds for a \$15/hour 20 hour/week position for the first year, as well as for taxes, travel and office expenses. In addition, \$15,000 has been pledged so far for the next employment year. He says about half the monthly meetings and worship groups have sent FSE donations. However, he must keep those donations anonymous, so EC cannot know which meetings/groups may still be discerning what to contribute. He recommended sending a follow-up letter to all meetings and groups.

Lisa reported that the Earthcare Committee is not in unity about who holds responsibility for fund raising for the FSE position. Several Friends asked that the Committee sort through this issue at its next business meeting. Fundraising for the position is not the responsibility of the FSE him/herself.

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee:** CeCe Yocum gave the report. The Committee plans a "Sustainable Life" retreat (date to be determined), led by Douglas Gwyn and based on his 2014 book, *A Sustainable Life: Quaker Faith and Practice in the Renewal of Creation*.

Jacksonville Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) has trained five facilitators and has local partnerships with Pax Christi, ICARE and Jacksonville Monthly Meeting. Some Friends recommended that AVP training could be an important offering to Orlando, especially its LGBTQ community, as a way of redirecting grief and fear into constructive action.

**Youth Committee:** CeCe and Jennifer Mendoza reported on Committee activities, including a scheduled 6/29/16 conference call, planning of programs for next year, and the potential development of a youth program flyer. They asked whether SEYM has any funds to help youth with travel to events like Friends General Conference Gathering. Neil reminded the Youth Committee that they have full control over the funds (currently in excess of \$5,000) assigned to their program, and can use them to benefit the SEYM Youth Committee programs in any reasonable way that they discern.

**Scholarship for Lyn Cope:** As a related topic, Neil reported that SEYM also lacks a scholarship program for adult travel. He advised Friends that Lyn Cope of Quaker

Meeting of Melbourne Monthly Meeting has requested support for her travel to FGC this year. Friends approved the following minute:

**16SEC03.** SEYM Executive Committee approves a scholarship of \$400 out of the contingency account to enable Lyn Cope to accompany Jerry Knutson to Friends General Conference Gathering as an elder.

**Worship and Ministry Committee:** Clara Diaz reported. The topic for the 2018 Michener Lecture will be "Convergence." The Committee wants feedback from those who have participated in Philip Gulley's "Spiritual Foundation Program." Friends set locations for the informal Intervisitation program on fifth First Day in July, October and January.

**FCNL:** Warren Hoskins reported. SEYM is seeking more FCNL representatives from monthly meetings. Later in June, Maiya Zwerling will speak to Miami Friends and the Church of the Brethren about launching FCNL Advocacy Teams to work with Congress and the media. Kathy mentioned FCNL's successful work to get bi-partisan sponsorship for Rep. Gibson's House Resolution 424 on climate change science and the need for urgent action. Willie Hager described the fruitful new collaboration between Veterans for Peace and FCNL. Several Friends spoke to the value to other groups of the visible presence of Quakers as represented by FCNL and similar works.

**Checks to designated funds:** Neil advised that when Friends write such checks they need to specify on the Note line which fund is intended.

**2016/17 Administrative Calendar:** Friends accepted the proposed calendar with the following additions: Intervisitations will take place on 7/31/16, 10/30/16, 1/29/17 and 4/30/17. Fall Interim Business Meeting will be at Palm Beach Monthly Meeting, and Winter Interim Business Meeting will be at Orlando Monthly Meeting.

**Orlando Pulse minutes:** Friends submitted drafts of two minutes in response to the Orlando shootings. The following minutes were approved:

**16SEC04.** SEYM mourns with the families, loved ones, and friends the victims of the June 12th, 2016 mass shooting at the 'Pulse' LGBTQ nightclub in Orlando. We pray for the swift and complete recovery of the wounded. We are heartbroken by this act of violence against the LGBTQ community. But we are also heartened by the outpouring of love and support we have seen from around the world.

**16SEC05.** Executive Committee was reminded of the plight of at-risk LGBTQ persons, particularly the problem of youth not being accepted by family. We are moved to request that all SEYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups open their communities and worship spaces as safe places for the LGBTQ community, especially youth. Friends are to be a beacon of light in the darkness, and the instruments of God's infinite, unconditional love.

Friends approved the following two minutes:

**16SEC06.** SEYM Executive Committee expresses gratitude to Tampa Monthly Meeting for their warm hospitality and refreshments in hosting the June 2016 EC meeting.

**The following Friends were present for all or part of the meeting.**

**EC members present were:**

Phoebe Andersen, SEYM Clerk, Tallahassee MM  
Lisa Stewart, EC Clerk, Palm Beach MM  
Nancy Triscritti, Assistant Clerk, Tampa MM  
Mike Shell, EC Recording Clerk, Jacksonville MM  
Neil Andersen, SEYM Treasurer, Tallahassee MM  
Joel Cook, Treasurer-in-Training, Palm Beach MM  
Dianne Langan, SEYM Bookkeeper, St. Petersburg MM  
Bill Carlie, Membership Recorder, Orlando MM  
Bill Rapp, Archives Committee Clerk, Lake Wales MM  
Peter Schmidt, Finance Committee Clerk, St. Petersburg MM  
Andrea Hoskins, YM Gathering Registrar, Earthcare Committee, Miami MM  
Carl Hersh, Half-Yearly Meeting Clerk, Miami MM  
Kathy Hersh, Nominating Committee Clerk, Miami MM  
Elaine Martin, Peace and Social Concerns Co-clerk, Jacksonville MM  
CeCe Yocum, Peace and Social Concerns Co-clerk, Tampa MM  
Clara Diaz, Worship and Ministry Clerk, Miami MM  
Vicki Carlie, SEYM Administrative Secretary, Orlando MM

**Others present were:**

Warren Hoskins, QUNO and Historic Peace Churches Representative, Miami MM  
Shawna Doran, Finance Committee, Gainesville MM  
Roy Yerrakadu, Tampa MM  
Rose Yerrakadu, Tampa MM  
Willie Hager, Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Jacksonville MM  
Jean Larson, Trustee, Gainesville MM  
Bonnie Zimmer, Gainesville MM

# Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Summer Executive Committee Meeting • June 18, 2016

## Numbered Minutes

- 16SEC01.** SEYM Executive Committee approves extending the sabbatical of Peace and Social Concerns Committee for another year.
- 16SEC02.** SEYM Executive Committee recommends that Yearly Meeting approve creating an asset account for memorial donations received.
- 16SEC03.** SEYM Executive Committee approves a scholarship of \$400 out of the contingency account to enable Lyn Cope to accompany Jerry Knutson to Friends General Conference Gathering as an elder.
- 16SEC04.** SEYM mourns with the families, loved ones, and friends the victims of the June 12th, 2016 mass shooting at the 'Pulse' LGBTQ nightclub in Orlando. We pray for the swift and complete recovery of the wounded. We are heartbroken by this act of violence against the LGBTQ community. But we are also heartened by the outpouring of love and support we have seen from around the world.
- 16SEC05.** Executive Committee was reminded of the plight of at-risk LGBTQ persons, particularly the problem of youth not being accepted by family. We are moved to request that all SEYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups open their communities and worship spaces as safe places for the LGBTQ community, especially youth. Friends are to be a beacon of light in the darkness, and the instruments of God's infinite, unconditional love.
- 16SEC06.** SEYM Executive Committee expresses gratitude to Tampa Monthly Meeting for their warm hospitality and refreshments in hosting the June 2016 EC meeting.

## Archives Committee Report • June Executive Committee • June 18, 2016

I went to work in Gainesville in late March on our archives collection at Univ. of Florida. I sorted some boxes, including ones of Jacksonville Monthly Meeting. Weeded duplicate copies from them and photocopied newspaper clippings onto acid-free paper. I happened to see a letter from 1940 from a woman who had recently moved to Jacksonville. She addressed it to Clarence Pickett at AFSC and asked if there was a Friend in the area. Someone else from the organization replied with the name and address of a person living there at the time. Friends were few and far between then! It's important that we preserve records of our past. Please keep those CDs of your recent papers and send them to University of Florida. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [achena@yahoo.com](mailto:achena@yahoo.com) or call me at (863) 605-8426.

Bill Rapp, clerk  
Archives Committee

## Secretary's Report to Summer Executive Committee • June 18, 2016

There's not much to report this June EC. Please review the proposed 2016/17 Administrative Calendar. If you have any changes or additions, please let me know ASAP. The Calendar will be posted to the website after June EC.

### **Highlights of the last 2½ months:**

I'm so pleased that so many photos of the Gathering were sent in to the office this year! This allowed me to create a large photo gallery on the website, and will help in promoting the Gathering in the future.

Information for next year's Gathering was posted on the Yearly Meeting webpage.

A new web consultant firm has been engaged to do site updates and fix problems.

Migration of websites & webmail from the old host will be complete by the end of June.

Assistance to Committees

### **Plans for the summer, after June EC:**

Finish St. Petersburg MM webpage by end of June

Develop more productive ways to gather news for the website from Monthly Meetings.

Work on the Youth and Worship & Ministry Resources pages

Send packages of SEYM pamphlets to Meetings and Worship Groups to promote Publications.

Investigate better eNews platforms

Assist as needed with the Handbook

Re-organize SEYM storage, files, and office space

Resolve more website problems

Develop more content for the Organization page to introduce the newcomers to the Quaker Meeting for Business (working with Phoebe)

I am especially interested in becoming more proficient with Wordpress, learning new skills in my spare time.

If you have any questions, ideas, or news to report, please contact me!

With thanks,  
Vicki Carlie 6/10/16

## Letters to SEYM regarding the Orlando mass shooting

### Letter/Questions from Bridge City Meeting

Greetings, Friends—

At its 6/19 Meeting for Business, Bridge City Friends plans to look at how to express our concern for LGBTQ and Muslim communities in Florida (and everywhere!) in the wake of the 6/12 tragedy. This may well result in a decision to send a financial gift to SEYM, with the request that you redistribute it as best you see fit, with your knowledge of local needs and initiatives.

I see that your Executive Committee is meeting 6/18, so I thought it might be timely to give you a heads-up that we are considering this action. I'm not requesting any response from you, but if you have one—please let me know. I won't actually be at Meeting for Business (it conflicts with Pride!) but will pass along any message from you.

blessings,  
 Jessica Bucciarelli  
 incoming clerk,  
 Bridge City Friends Meeting (North Pacific Yearly Meeting), Portland, Oregon  
 503.887.9341, [bridgecitymeeting.org](http://bridgecitymeeting.org)

### Letter from Charleston Meeting

Our hearts are heavy in Chas. We are so sorry about tragedy. It's been almost a year since the tragedy at Mother Emanuel here—we are still heartsick about it. We stand with Orlando & SEYM.

In peace---Carol – Chas. Friends

### Letter from FCNL

Dear Phoebe Andersen,

I write you today to let you know that the Friends Committee on National Legislation stands with you and Friends in Florida during this time of responding to the violence in the Orlando nightclub. We recognize that Friends who are proximate are sometimes asked to offer a presence—for truth, for righting injustice and for non-violence. We are with you in Spirit and we will continue to advocate for the world we seek, in partnership with Friends in Southeast Yearly Meeting and with all those around the globe who hunger for peace and justice.

Sincerely,  
 Eric Ginsburg, Clerk, Friends Committee on National Legislation

See also FCNL Action Alert

[http://fcnl.org/resources/pubs/enews/this\\_week\\_in\\_the\\_world\\_june\\_18/](http://fcnl.org/resources/pubs/enews/this_week_in_the_world_june_18/)



## SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare Search Committee Report to Executive Committee • June 18, 2016

The job ad for the Field Secretary for Earthcare is out in hard copy in Friends Journal and Western Friend for a three month period that started May 1. The ad is running online in the following venues: FGC Facebook page, BeFriending Creation (QEW's newsletter), and the Quaker Careers Center Bulletin at Quakerinfo.org.

The electronic mechanism is in place for job applicants and for interviews.

The process is ongoing for bringing forward a candidate for the Field Secretary for Earthcare.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Letsch, clerk  
SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare Search Committee