

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Winter Interim Business Meeting Executive Committee Meeting • January 13, 2017 Minutes

The meeting began at 7:00 PM, after a period of silent worship. Acting Assistant Clerk Cecilia Yocum read a John Punshon passage quoted in Douglas Gwyn's book *A Sustainable Life: Quaker Faith and Practice in the Renewal of Creation* (2014, p.42):

"Inwardly, [the testimonies] are our guide to the nature of our Creator, the source of our inspiration, the medium of our understanding, the particular mystical path of Quakerism, our way to God. Externally, they are our guide to life, a sign of divine love for creation, the means of our prophetic witness. They therefore take their meaning from the highest reality we know." – John Punshon, *Testimony and tradition: some aspects of Quaker spirituality* (1990, p.94)

Secretary's Report: Vicki Carlie reported. VerticalResponse, SEYM's emailing service, reports that our e-newsletter is opened by about one-third of its 750 recipients, a very good response rate in the world of mass mailing. Even so, meetings should make a point of sharing newsletter content with their participants and encouraging people (including new attenders and visitors) to subscribe to and read it. This is particularly important now that we are promoting the 2017 Annual Gathering.

Meetings are also encouraged to send their own news stories to Vicki at office@seym.org.

Nominating Committee: Elaine Martin reported. Bill Carlie is the committee's nominee for Clerk of Yearly Meeting. Bill spoke about his clearness committee process through Orlando MM. Both he and Vicki Carlie explained how they intend to avoid conflicts of interest, since she is a SEYM employee. She does not take part in SEYM decision-making, and he will stand aside from Personnel Committee dealings with her. In response to a question, Bill agreed to continue as co-clerk of Earthcare Committee through the end of his term.

Lisa Stewart reminded Friends that St. Petersburg MM is hosting Arthur Larrabee for a clerking workshop on February 10-11 (see events calendar at <http://seymquakers.org/news-events/events-calendar/>). This is a workshop for all Friends, not only clerks, since all meeting participants have a role in the clerking process.

CAPP: Nancy Fennell reported. CAPP currently has three trainers. Friends are reminded that trainees are not certified but only registered as having attended the training.

Nancy raised a concern about child abuse liability coverage, given that some MMs have asked the trainers to bring the training to them. SEYM's insurer presently covers only the five annual SEYM events (for an extra premium). SEYM-trained CAPP trainers acting outside of these five events may be incurring uncovered liability for SEYM, their MMs, and themselves. An ad hoc committee composed of Nancy Fennell, Cecilia Yocum, and Neal Andersen will seek clarification of the matter with the insurer and revisit SEYM procedures.

Peace & Social Concerns: Elaine Martin reported. The committee had a retreat during the day on the 13th using Douglas Gwyn's *A Sustainable Life* as a resource. They shared individual and MM experiences with P&SC activism and considered different models for the committee's role with SEYM.

The committee brought a concern to EC regarding insufficient responsiveness by some MMs to committee calls for discernment on various issues. This led to a broader discussion

about both the logistics of SEYM email communications and the responsibilities of clerks and SEYM representatives to make certain yearly meeting information is shared effectively.

Some MM clerks and contact people may experience "in-box overload" and may be inconsistent in carrying YM requests for discernment to their MMs. In addition, some reps to SEYM may not understand that their participation in YM events should lead to active follow-through back in their MMs. It is also the case that many local MM participants are activists in their own right, and that the MMs themselves may be less likely to take on projects. Finally, some MM Friends are less interested in SEYM matters, regardless of how much information is shared with them.

Several Friends proposed that the 2017 Gathering include an interest group for SEYM reps which would help participants to embrace not only attendance at events but also follow-up activities in their local MMs. It was also noted that this concern resonates with that of Earthcare Committee and the FSE, who are working on ways to improve collaboration among MMs.

Treasurer Report: Neal Andersen distributed copies of the printed report in preparation for Saturday's WIBM session.

Earthcare Committee (EC): Bill Carlie reported. The committee is doing active discernment on several issues and may have minutes to bring to WIBM. Brad spoke about involving Young Friends in the Sabal Trail pipeline actions, and Bill reported that the committee has several workshops planned for the 2017 Gathering.

Submitted by
Mike Shell, EC Recording Clerk
1/14/2017

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
CeCe Yocum, Acting Assistant EC Clerk, Peace and Social Concerns Co-clerk, Tampa MM
Mike Shell, EC Recording Clerk, Jacksonville MM
Neil Andersen, SEYM Treasurer, Finance Committee, Tallahassee MM
Joel Cook, Treasurer-in-Training, Palm Beach MM
Bill Carlie, Membership Recorder, Earthcare Committee Co-clerk, Orlando MM
Peter Schmidt, Finance Committee Clerk, St. Petersburg MM
Andrea Hoskins, YM Gathering Registrar, Gathering Committee Co-clerk, Miami MM
Elaine Martin, Peace and Social Concerns Co-clerk, Nominating Committee, Jacksonville MM
Clara Diaz, Worship and Ministry Clerk, Miami MM
Vicki Carlie, SEYM Administrative Secretary, Orlando MM

Others present were:

Shawna Doran, Finance Committee, Gainesville MM
Nancy Fennell, Fort Myers MM
Tony Fennell, Fort Myers MM
Tim Fogarty, Peace & Social Concerns Representative, Gainesville MM
Peter Harrell, Peace & Social Concerns Representative, Gainesville MM
Warren Hoskins, Peace & Social Concerns Committee, Rep. to QUNO & HPC, Miami MM
Stephanie Preston, Gathering Committee Co-Clerk, Rep. to FLGBTQC, Orlando MM
Brad Stocker, Earthcare Co-Clerk, ProNica Board, Quaker Earthcare Witness, Miami MM
Susan Taylor, Ministry on Racism Committee, Tallahassee MM