

# Southeastern Yearly Meeting Gathering & Annual Sessions

April 12-16, 2017

United Methodist Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park, Florida

## DOCUMENTS IN ADVANCE

Dear Friends,

### ***Welcome to our 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gathering of Southeastern Yearly Meeting!***

You are invited to join us in the annual renewal of our ties of fellowship, both within this yearly meeting, and as we welcome visitors from afar and first time attenders to our blessed gathering community!

SEYM Annual Gatherings include lots of hugs, plenty of smiles, laughter and singing from our hearts, and opportunities for deep listening for the guidance of the Spirit in all we are led to undertake together.

We are especially pleased to bring you Peterson Toscano and his Walton Lecture and retreat on Climate Justice and Beverly Ward, SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare in workshops and report.

Again, welcome to our 53rd 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

### **TO SEYM's CLERKS, OFFICERS, AND REPRESENTATIVES:**

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

- **ALL reports from SEYM Officers, Committee Clerks and Representatives need to be shared with SEYM Friends in written form.**
- **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 so it can be attached to the minutes of Yearly Meeting.**

Written reports are important, to inform SEYM Friends, to include in our minutes, and for our archived records. The DIA is created for that concern and is then posted on the website and emailed 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 allows time for worship, as well as seasoning and discernment of any action minutes brought to SEYM. Please hold us in the Light as we continue this process.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting  
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

## AGENDA

April 12-16, 2017

*“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 13, 2017 • 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 2016

Nominating Committee preliminary report, Kathy Hersh, clerk. ....pp 5-8

Review of Minutes for approval

Open Worship

### Second Plenary Session • Thursday, April 13, 2017 • 7:00-8:15 pm

Open, centering worship.

General announcements (*Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.*)

Review & approval of SEYM Executive Committee Minutes, *Lisa Stewart, EC Clerk*..... 9

Review & approval of SEYM Interim Business Meeting Minutes, *Lisa Stewart, IBM Clerk*..... 10

First Reading of Action Minutes from SEYM Committees & Representatives

Ministry on Racism Committee Report..... 11-13

Review of Minutes for approval

Open worship

### Third Plenary Session • Friday, April 14, 2017 • 10:00-11:45 am

- 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.)*
- Treasurer's report, *Neil Andersen, Treasurer*
- Trustees Report, *Jack Bradin, clerk of Trustees*
- First Reading of 2017-2018 Budget, *Peter Schmidt, Finance Committee clerk*
- Worship and Ministry Report, *Clara Diaz, clerk*
- Havana Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship Report, *Mercedes Soca, representative.*
- FWCC Report, *Clara and Eduardo Diaz, FWCC representatives*
- Review of Minutes for approval
- Open worship

### Fourth Plenary Session • Saturday, April 15, 2017 • 10:00-11:45 am

- Open, centering worship
- A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/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, 2017-2018, *Peter Schmidt, Finance Committee clerk*
- Second Reading for Approval of Action Minutes from SEYM committees and representatives.
- Peace and Social Concerns Report, *Cece Yocum & Elaine Martin, co-clerks*
- ProNica Report, *Stateside Coordinator & others*
- FGC Report and Epistle, *Ed Lesnick, representative* ..... 20-21
- FLGBTQC Report, *Stephanie Preston, representative*
- Friends Peace Teams & Peace Building en las Americas, *Cece Yocum, representative*
- Quaker House Report, *Elaine Martin, representative* ..... 22-23
- Review of Minutes for approval
- Open Worship

## **Fifth Plenary Session • Saturday, April 15, 2017 • 1:15-2:30 pm**

Open, centering worship

Welcome of Friends & Visitors not previously introduced

Field Secretary for Earthcare & Anchor Committee, *Beverly Ward, FSE & others* ..... 14-18  
Teens and YAQs are invited

Committee for Earthcare Report – Update SEYM on other projects and process of fundraising efforts for the FSE, *Bill Carlie & Brad Stocker, Co-Clerks*

Young Friends – Report of Young Friends concerns & minutes to Yearly Meeting

Young Adult Quakers – Report of YAQ activities and concerns

Laughter Yoga (5 mins.)

Review of Minutes for approval

Open worship

## **Sixth Plenary Session • Sunday, April 16, 2017 • 9:00-10:45 am**

Open, centering worship

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, and/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, *Kathy Hersh, clerk*

Gathering Committee report, *Stephanie Preston & Andrea Hoskins, co-clerks*

Epistles – Wee Friends, Young Friends, & Teen Friends (*This will occur whenever these Friends arrive in the auditorium.*)

SEYM Epistle – reading & 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 am**

# Nominating Committee Report Yearly Meeting 2017

Proposed slate of Officers, Committees, Representatives, & Appointees

*Positions in bold are for approval at Yearly Meeting*

## OFFICERS

Yearly Meeting Clerk .....	<b>Bill Carlie</b> .....	<b>Orlando</b> .....	<b>2020</b>
Interim Business Meeting (IBM) & Executive Committee (EC) Clerk .....	Lisa Stewart.....	Palm Beach.....	2018
<b>Yearly Meeting &amp; Interim Business Meeting Assistant Clerk</b> .....			<b>2019</b>
Co-Recording Clerks, Yearly Meeting .....	Jan Dahm .....	Tampa.....	2018
.....	Lisa Erazmus .....	Tampa.....	2018
Recording Clerk, IBM .....	Michael Shell.....	Jacksonville.....	2019
Assistant Recording Clerks .....			
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	<b>Joel Cook</b> .....	<b>Palm Beach</b> .....	<b>2020</b>
<b>Membership Recorder</b> .....			<b>2020</b>
Young Adult Quakers Clerk .....			
Young Friends Clerk .....			
Young Friends Recording Clerk.....			

## TRUSTEES

Clerk .....	Jack Bradin .....	Palm Beach.....	2018
.....	<b>Neil Anderson</b> .....	<b>Tallahassee</b> .....	<b>2020</b>
.....	Jean Larson.....	Gainesville .....	2019
.....	Mimi McAdoo .....	Sarasota.....	2017
.....	<b>Eileen Zingaro</b> .....	<b>Clearwater</b> .....	<b>2019</b>
.....	<b>Mike Flanery</b> .....	<b>Clearwater</b> .....	<b>2020</b>
YM Treasurer(ex officio)....	Joel Cook .....	Treasure Coast .....	2020

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM (CAPP)

<b>Coordinator</b> .....	<b>Vicki Mariner</b> .....	<b>Tallahassee</b> .....	<b>2019</b>
<b>Trainer</b> .....	<b>Vicki Mariner</b> .....	<b>Tallahassee</b> .....	<b>2019</b>
Trainer .....	Sandy Lyon.....	Gainesville .....	2018
Trainer .....	Ellie Caldwell.....	Palm Beach.....	2019

## COMMITTEES

Archives	Clerk .....	Bill Rapp.....	Lake Wales .....	2018
	.....	Connie Ray.....	Gainesville .....	2017
	.....	April Merleaux .....	Miami.....	2018
	.....	Derek Merleaux.....	Miami.....	2018
Earthcare	<b>Co-clerk</b> .....	<b>Brad Stocker</b> .....	<b>Miami</b> .....	<b>2020</b>
	Co-clerk.....	Bill Carlie .....	Orlando.....	2018
	.....	<b>Jocelynn Benton?</b> .....	<b>Tampa</b> .....	<b>2017</b>
	.....	<b>Jack Bradin</b> .....	<b>Palm Beach</b> .....	<b>2020</b>
	.....	Mike Flanery .....	Clearwater .....	2017
	.....	Al Geiger .....	Jacksonville.....	2018
	.....	Harold Branam.....	Savannah.....	2019
	.....	Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2019
	.....	Catherine Price .....	Lake Wales .....	2019
.....	Bonnie Zimmer .....	Gainesville .....	2019	

Faith & Practice	<i>on sabbatical until 2018</i> ..... Clerk ..... Phoebe Andersen..... Tallahassee..... 2017 ..... Cathy Gaskill ..... Orlando..... Emeritus
Finance	Clerk ..... Peter Schmidt ..... St. Petersburg..... 2019 ..... Shawna Doran ..... Gainesville ..... 2018 ..... Tom Corindia ..... Sarasota..... 2018 ..... Steve Donachie ..... Miami..... 2018 Clerk of Trustees (ex officio) .....  Asst. YM Clerk (ex officio) ..... YM Secretary (ex officio).... Vicki Carlie..... Orlando <b>Treasurer (ex officio) ..... Joel Cook..... Treasure Coast..... 2020</b>
Half-Yearly Meeting	Clerk ..... Carl Hersh ..... Miami..... 2017 <b>Clerk in training ..... Jerry Knutson ..... Orlando .....                  Registrar ..... Beeg Camarota ..... Orlando..... 2017                  Registrar in training ..... April Merleaux ..... Miami .....  </b>
Ministry on Racism	Co-clerk..... Ellie Caldwell ..... Palm Beach..... 2017 Co-clerk..... Wendy Clarissa Geiger ..... Jacksonville..... 2017 ..... Minerva Glidden..... Orlando..... 2018 ..... <b>Cheryl Demers-Holton..... Gainesville ..... 2020</b> ..... <b>Lisa Stewart ..... Palm Beach..... 2019</b> ..... <b>Susan Taylor..... Tallahassee..... 2019</b>
Peace & Social Concerns	<b>Co-Clerk ..... Elaine Martin ..... Jacksonville..... 2019</b> Co-Clerk..... Cece Yocum..... Tampa..... 2019 ..... Warren Hoskins ..... Miami..... 2019 ..... Willie Hager ..... Jacksonville..... 2019 ..... Mercedes Soca ..... Miami..... 2019 ..... <b>Mike Flanery ..... Clearwater ..... 2020</b> ..... Peter Harrell ..... Gainesville ..... 2018 ..... Tim Fogarty ..... Gainesville ..... 2018 ..... Eileen Zingaro..... Clearwater ..... 2018 ..... <b>Phil Stone ..... Clearwater ..... 2020</b> ..... <b>Caroline Kaufman ..... Clearwater ..... 2020</b>
Publications	Clerk ..... Phoebe Andersen..... Tallahassee..... 2018 ..... Sandy Branam..... Savannah..... 2018 ..... Stephanie Preston ..... Orlando..... 2018 ..... Mercedes Soca ..... Tampa..... 2018 <b>Seeking bilingual person w/ writing, editing, translating skills .....  </b>
Worship & Ministry	Clerk ..... <b>Clara Diaz..... Miami ..... 2020</b> ..... Nancy Corindia ..... Sarasota..... 2018 ..... <b>Eduardo Diaz ..... Miami ..... 2020</b> ..... Nancy Fennell ..... Ft. Myers ..... 2018 ..... Tom Fennell ..... Ft. Myers ..... 2018 ..... Nancyrose Logan..... Sarasota..... 2019 ..... Mimi McAdoo ..... Sarasota..... 2019

YM Gathering	Co-Clerk .....	Stephanie Preston .....	Orlando .....	2018
	<b>Co-Clerk</b> .....	<b>Andrea Hoskins</b> .....	<b>Miami</b> .....	
	Program Coordinator.....	Richard Frechette .....	Ft. Myers.....	2018
	Registrar .....	Andrea Hoskins .....	Miami .....	2017
	.....	Floyd Daniels .....	Miami .....	2018
.....	Ellie Caldwell .....	Palm Beach .....	2018	
Youth Committee	Clerk.....	Mira Tanna .....	Orlando .....	2019
	.....	Vicki Mariner.....	Tallahassee .....	2018
	.....	Aurelio Anderson.....	Tallahassee .....	2018
	.....	<b>Caroline Chen</b> .....	<b>Palm Beach</b> .....	<b>2020</b>
	.....	Jennifer Mendoza.....	Sarasota .....	2018
	.....	Kate Sundberg .....	Sarasota .....	2018
	.....	Cecelia Yocum .....	Tampa .....	2019

**APPOINTEES**

ProNica Board	.....	Joshua Paolino .....	Miami .....	2019
	.....	Vicki Mariner .....	Tallahassee .....	2019
	.....	.....	.....	.....

**REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS**

American Friends Service Committee Corporation, AFSC/Philadelphia				
.....	<b>Chris Lazurek</b> .....	<b>Savannah</b> .....		<b>2019</b>
.....	<b>Stacey Lazurek</b> .....	<b>Savannah</b> .....		<b>2019</b>
Friends Committee on National Legislation, FCNL/William Penn House				
.....	<b>Nancy Corindia</b> .....	<b>Sarasota</b> .....		<b>2020</b>
.....	Karen Putney .....	Tampa .....		2018
.....	<b>Lou Putney</b> .....	<b>Tampa</b> .....		<b>2020</b>
Friends General Conference, FGC Central Committee				
.....	Ed Lesnick .....	Orlando .....		2018
.....	Kay Lesnick .....	Orlando .....		2018
.....	Gerry O'Sullivan.....	Miami .....		2019
Friends World Committee for Consultation - FWCC				
.....	Clara Diaz .....	Miami .....		2019
.....	Eduardo Diaz .....	Miami .....		2018
.....	Sarah Hernandez .....	Sarasota .....		2018
Friends Peace Teams	Cecilia Yocum .....	Tampa.....		2018
	.....	Shawna Doran .....	Gainesville.....	2018
Florida Council of Churches.....	Beverly Ward .....	Tampa .....		2019
Florida Impact, Contact Person .....	Phil Anderson.....	Tallahassee .....		2019
Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns - FLGBTQC				
.....	Stephanie Preston .....	Orlando .....		2018
Historic Peace Churches: Quaker, Mennonite, and Church of the Brethren				
South Florida .....	Warren Hoskins .....	Miami .....		2019
North Florida.....	.....	.....		.....

*Nominating Committee Report cont'd.*

<b>Palmetto Friends Gathering</b> .....	<b>Phoebe Andersen</b> .....	<b>Tallahassee</b> .....	<b>2020</b>
.....	<b>Neil Andersen</b> .....	<b>Tallahassee</b> .....	<b>2020</b>
.....	Ellie Caldwell .....	Palm Beach .....	2017
Quaker Earthcare Witness .....	Jack Bradin .....	Palm Beach .....	2019
.....	Brad Stocker .....	Miami .....	2019
<b>Quaker House</b> .....	<b>Elaine Martin</b> .....	<b>Jacksonville</b> .....	<b>2020</b>
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) .....	Warren Hoskins .....	Miami .....	2019

**APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATIONS**

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FUM General Board Observer .....	Kody Hersh .....	Miami .....	2018
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---submitted by Nominating Committee

clerk.....	Kathy Hersh.....	Miami .....	2018
.....	Beverly Ward .....	Tampa .....	2019
.....	Elaine Martin .....	Jacksonville .....	2018



# Executive Committee Numbered Minutes

## Summer Executive Committee Meeting • June 18, 2016

- 16SEC01. SEYM Executive Committee approves extending the sabbatical of the Faith and Practice 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.

## Fall Executive Committee Meeting • September 30, 2016

- 16FEC01. SEYM Executive Committee as Personnel Committee accepts the report of the SEYM FSE Search Committee.
- 16FEC02. It is with joy and a sense of Spirit that the SEYM Executive Committee as Personnel Committee hires Beverly G. Ward for the position of Field Secretary for Earthcare. Beverly brings a rich and relevant background and depth of understanding to the environmental issues facing SEYM. This is a \$15/hour, 20 hour/week salaried position, as per the job description.
- 16FEC03. SEYM Executive Committee as Personnel Committee with deep gratitude lays down the SEYM FSE Search Committee.
- 16FEC04. SEYM Executive Committee as Personnel Committee is very happy to name the following people to serve on the FSE Anchor Committee for two years: Bill Carlie, Bonnie Zimmer, Phoebe Anderson and Nancy Triscritti.
- 16FEC05. SEYM Executive Committee as Personnel Committee acknowledges the report that the Administrative Secretary position, based on history, requires compensation for two-thirds time, and therefore approves this increase in compensated time effective June 1, 2016.

## Winter Executive Committee Meeting • January 13, 2017

*No Numbered Minutes were recorded*

# Fall Interim Business Meeting Numbered Minutes

## Fall Interim Business Meeting October 1, 2016

16FIBM01. Southeastern Yearly Meeting stands in unity with Miami Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and other monthly meetings of the Religious Society of Friends in support of the Standing Rock Protest as follows:

"The Dakota Access pipeline, which is being built by the Dallas-based company Energy transfer Partners, endangers culturally significant land and also puts the Missouri River in danger of pollution. We, the Miami Friends Meeting (SEYM), are called to support the voices and actions of the Standing Rock Sioux and the others who have joined them in peaceful protest and protection of the water of the Missouri River. We also stand in solidarity with New Your Yearly Meeting, Dallas Friends Meeting, Quaker Earthcare Witness and others who oppose the pipeline project and the violence toward peaceful protestors by security forces."

16FIBM02. It is with joy and a sense of Spirit that the SEYM Executive Committee as Personnel Committee hires Beverly G. Ward for the position of Field Secretary for Earthcare effective October 1, 2016. Beverly brings a rich and relevant background and depth of understanding to the environmental issues facing SEYM. This is a \$15/hour, 20 hour/week salaried position, as per the job description.

16FIBM03. SEYM will provide and maintain a computer for our bookkeeper.

## Winter Interim Business Meeting January 14, 2017

17WIBM01. The Sabal Trail Pipeline and Florida South Connection, which are being built by Florida Power and Light, Next Era, and Duke & Spectra Energy, endanger culturally significant land and also put several Florida waterways, human populations and wildlife in danger. We, Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), meeting at WIBM, are called to support the voices and peaceful actions of those who are protesting this pipeline.

# Ministry on Racism Committee

## 'End Slavery for All'

The Committee for Ministry on Racism asks Monthly Meetings to comment on, and/or approve, their draft of a minute entitled "End Slavery for All," which is attached below. Please send your comments to Susan Taylor at susantaylor410@gmail.com, or Ellie Caldwell at caldwellellie@hotmail.com. The Committee will incorporate, and/or respond to, Monthly Meeting comments to prepare a final draft for Yearly Business Meeting.

### **END SLAVERY FOR ALL Second Draft**

The SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism asks Worship Groups, Monthly and Yearly Meetings to affirm, and publicize the need for:

1. The removal of the exception clause of the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution which otherwise abolishes slavery. Exception clause has been put in bold below.
2. Knowledge that the purpose of prisons should be to protect members of society and to prepare those imprisoned to return as productive members of their community through provision of comprehensive education and training.
3. Persons formerly in prison to have full restoration of constitutional rights, including access to housing and jobs.

§§§

The 13th Amendment reads:

Section 1. Neither slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

§§§

We seek this in the light of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) testimony on equality and our history of seeking to honor that of God in everyone through justice that restores. Currently, persons in prisons are coerced into working in what amounts to slavery. They leave prison with severely restrictive conditions of freedom that shackle their efforts for normalcy, often for the rest of their lives.

## **Proposed FGC Institutional Assessment on structural racism**

Winter Interim Business Meeting took up the **proposed FGC Institutional Assessment on structural racism**.

**Both the SEYM FLGBTQ Representative (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer Concerns) and the SEYM Committee For Ministry On Racism recommend that SEYM approve contributing funds for the proposed Institutional Assessment of Structural Racism of Friends General Conference. Please consider whether your Meeting approves, and empower your SEYM**

**representatives and members to speak to this issue in April.** Please see the reports below for background information: a segment from our FGC Representatives' report to WIBM, and a segment from the November Vital Friends FGC e-Newsletter that refers to this commitment and provides a summary for Friends. **Also see the FGC Representative's Report in these Documents In Advance.**

### From FGC Representatives Report to WIBM 2017

#### ***Institutional Assessment Proposal***

Quakers strive to put Spirit at the center of our lives. However, we are also cultural beings, socialized into the dominant culture. Structural oppression, for example, has played a profound role in the life and ministry of the Religious Society of Friends for over 350 years. Structural oppression doesn't diminish the presence of the Spirit in us or the vision of a "great people to be gathered." We wish to live our testimonies of equality and integrity.

The FGC Diversity Committee proposed, and the Central Committee approved an "Institutional Audit." With the help of outside consultants, an assessment would examine the structure, processes, and resources of the organization to help us see where we now regard structural racism, and develop steps to move us toward a greater understanding of and better structural form to overcome the racism inherent because of white privilege. This process involves the entire FGC organization including Central Committee members. Outside consultants will not make the assessment but will be hired to help FGC gain the skills and knowledge to undertake the assessment. The focus will be specifically on Friends General Conference as an organization (committee and staff structure). Our hope is that our experience with the assessment and the resulting work within FGC will be both informative and inspirational for yearly and monthly meetings, providing a model and specific ideas for change among FGC Friends.

The calling arose from several factors, among them:

1. Discriminatory actions by the college security services employees at the 2016 Gathering;
2. Need to promote concrete and meaningful change that opens a window into other areas of exclusion in our organization (Age, Youth, Income levels, etc.);
3. Acknowledgment that several of FGC's member yearly meetings, plus a few congregations, have sent formal communications endorsing the request for an institutional assessment;
4. Recognition that many FGC Friends are responding to the concerns of the Black Lives Matter movement

Two of the goals of an institutional assessment on racism:

1. Build institutional capacity around seeing and overcoming structural racism. FGC wants to acquire the skills to continue this work without the help of outside consultants. This would involve training FGC teams.
2. Name the barriers to full participation in FGC at all of its levels. FGC wants to be thorough in examining all levels and aspects of the institution.

**Financial support is necessary.** As of November 1, meetings have contributed. It will be accomplished through Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meetings, your individual donations, and grants. The approximate cost for the assessment is \$60,000 over a two year period.

**The SEYM Representatives to Central Committee ask the SEYM's Ministry on Racism to consider this project for discussion at WIBM.**

From Vital Friends Newsletter, November

**Institutional Assessment  
Friends General Conference (FGC)**

Central Committee united around the need to undertake institutional assessment to uncover structural racism within our organization – and to prepare plans for dismantling such structures. We heard from many yearly and monthly meetings about the importance of taking this step. As part of our commitment to collaborate with our affiliated yearly and monthly meetings, we will be sharing our learnings from this assessment with Friends across the USA and Canada.

Although structural oppression doesn't diminish the presence of the Spirit in us or the vision of a “great people to be gathered,” it does create barriers that are stumbling blocks to full participation by many in our faith community. In dismantling these stumbling blocks, we must tap into the power of the Spirit while acknowledging the truth that structural oppression and systemic racism does spiritual violence to us all. To be faithful in this time we must do more than admit that such oppression and attitudes of privilege exist. We must act to eliminate them if we wish to be fully inclusive in ways that are more than mere words.

After getting bids from anti-racism consulting firms and building a draft budget, it's become clear that this assessment may cost as much as \$60,000. We will need financial support from meetings and individual Friends on top of their regular support for the FGC's ongoing programs and services. We do have some pledges in hand for this work, but we need many more.

---From Vital Friends, FGC E-Newsletter,  
Barry Crossno, FGC General Secretary and FGC Staff. November 2016

# SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report

Yearly Business Meeting 2017

## Overview

This is a snapshot of the activities I've undertaken as the SEYM Field Secretary from 1 Tenth Month 2016 through 28 Second Month 2017. It also includes a number of planned activities. There have been a number of events that have moved what I felt to be urgent, our care for the Earth, to the immediate. I continue to be encouraged by the many collaborative activities, coalitions, and other actions taking place around the State, the country, and globally, including the support I have received from this Yearly Meeting. Individual Friends have reached out sharing their thoughts, photos, and other support. Your suggestions, thoughts, concerns, and support are always welcome.

**Communication with the FSE Anchoring Committee:** Communication with the Anchoring Committee has included email contact, efforts to schedule a telephone conference call, and individual contacts with Bill Carlie and Nancy Triscritti. Nancy Triscritti is the clerk for the committee. Support from other Friends has been provided in scheduling Monthly Meeting visits, information sharing, and otherwise holding the work in the Light.

**Developing a Schedule for Meeting with Monthly Meetings (MMs), Worship Groups (WGs), and Others:** The suggested visitation request process: "Meetings can issue invitations to the [SEYM] administrative secretary, FSE, or the Anchor Committee. We will all conference over the invitation and subsequent planning" (P. Andersen, 3 Tenth Month).

A Google calendar showing requests for visitation and FSE has been created and shared with the Anchoring Committee and the Co-Clerks of the Earthcare Committee. Upcoming visits are shown below. Several members of MMs and WGs have expressed interest in visits. To aid in scheduling, I will follow up with the MM/WG clerks and clerks of Peace and Social Concerns Committees of the MMs and WGs suggesting possible dates.

**Half Yearly Meeting, 2016:** I attended and participated Half Yearly Meeting, including a giving a talk on my vision as FSE and an excerpt from the SEYM vulnerability and risk white paper I am developing. This excerpt focused on the Sabal Trail Transmission pipeline, which is currently under construction. I also participated in the No-Talent Show with the Faith and No Practice Chorus.

**Miami Monthly Meeting, Firstday, 4 Twelfth Month 2016:** The first Monthly Meeting visit took place with Miami Monthly Meeting. This included visiting with Friends and a baby shower for Efe Yeboah and Luca Marazzi. The discussion included water issues, Standing Rock, Sabal Trail/Florida Southeast Connection pipelines and other current issues. Miami Friends found me to be "...a hugger of trees, people, and [an embracer of] all of that spiritual leading that carries the heart through rough times."

**Unitarian-Universalists of Clearwater Open Issues Forum, Scheduled 11 Twelfth Month 2016:** This event was attended by a group of more than 40 church and community members. The talk included a slide presentation on vulnerable populations and the potential impacts anthropogenic and/or climate hazards in Pinellas County. Requests to follow up with additional discussions have been received.

**Miami Monthly Meeting, Firstday, 4 Twelfth Month 2016:** As I recounted in an oral report at WIBM, Miami MM hosted the first FSE visit. Carl and Kathy Hersh provided hospitality, which included a baby shower for Efe Yeboah and Luca Marazzi. Miami MM began a series of Firstday

Meetings for Learning in early 2016 focusing on Earthcare and climate change. During this meeting, I introduced myself and shared my vision for the FSE position and work with other groups both faith and secular. We discussed the many facets of water issues in Florida, Standing Rock and the Dakota Access pipeline, Sabal Trail and Florida Southeast Connection pipeline. Brad Stocker, SEYM Earthcare Committee Co-Clerk provided anchor support. The visit also included Meeting for Worship and, of course, a wonderful potluck!

**Unitarian-Universalists (UUs) of Clearwater Open Issues Forum, 11 Twelfth Month 2016:**

The UUs Clearwater Open Issues Forum was attended by more than 40 participants, which included members of the congregation and the public. The visit included a slideshow on the potential impacts of climate change and anthropogenic projects on vulnerable population groups followed by a question and answer session. The forum organizers have requested that a return visit within six-to-12 months.

**Clearwater Monthly Meeting, 29 First Month 2017:** The visit to Clearwater MM included Meeting for Worship and a talk where I combined information shared at Miami MM and the Open Issues Forum, without the slideshow. During the discussion, Friends expressed concerns regarding where to place their efforts, e.g. direct actions, lobbying, specific issues, etc. Mike Flanery, SEYM Earthcare Committee member, provided anchor support and helped participants understand the FSE role. I shared information on the work of Friends Committee on Legislation, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and local groups, such as the Tampa Bay Sierra Club. We ended with working to identify other opportunities to continue this work and, as mentioned in elsewhere, another wonderful potluck!

**Gainesville Friends Meeting, Scheduled 5 Second Month 2017:** Gainesville Friends coordinated to have a shared presentation with Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Florida Sierra Club Organizer. We were joined by a Water Protector, Laurie Sans, who has been working with the sites seeking to protect communities from the potential impacts of the Sabal Trail Transmission and Florida Southeast Connection pipelines that may impact 15 counties in Florida.

**Orlando Friends Meeting, Scheduled 26 Second Month 2017:** This visit originally was planned to coincide with the Third Annual Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network (FL-ICAN) Assembly, which was postponed until 28-29 Fourth Month 2017. Orlando Friends worked with me to keep the original commitment. For more than an hour, we discussed a number of environmental issues including the natural gas pipelines, water quality, air quality, and Friends testimonies.

**Tampa Monthly Meeting, Scheduled 19 Third Month 2017:** I plan to lead an Adult First Dayschool on "Earthcare and Friends Testimonies."

**Sarasota Monthly Meeting, Scheduled 26 Third Month 2017:** Building on Earthcare work underway in Sarasota MM, I will continue the discussion with Friends to help discern individual and Meeting activities to further Earthcare.

**Yearly Meeting Planning:** I have proposed a workshop based on the Pendle Hill Powerful Faith-Based Organizing for Climate Justice conference convened Spring 2016 and will share information collected to date by the SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) regarding vulnerable populations and climate change risks in the SEYM counties or county equivalents. The workshop will explore opportunities for collaboration with faith-based and other organizations; strategies to minimize adverse impacts; and, potential actions toward transition. Workshop participants are encouraged to bring local Earthcare concerns.

*FSE Report cont'd.*

I will table at YM providing information from Quaker Earthcare Witness and coordinate with Peterson Toscano

### **Contact Information**

- The SEYM Administrative Secretary established an email account: fsEarthcare@seymquaker.org.
- A free conference calling number has been established, 1-712-770-8055. The conference code is 662814.
- I Skype as phdant.
- I Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/7545638812>.
- My telephone number is 813.928.8823.
- Snailmail: 13705 Lazy Oak Drive, Tampa, FL, 33613.4923.

### **Interactions or Collaborations between and among other SEYM committees**

- **The Ministry on Racism:** met with committee members during WIBM;
- **Earthcare:** meet with committee members during WIBM and continue to maintain telephone and email contact with the co-clerks and other committee members;
- **FCC:** continue to work with the Board (See also Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network below);
- **Peace and Social Concerns:** participated in the SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee retreat prior to WIBM;
- **ProNica:** no report to date;
- **Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW):** working with Jack Braden on the United Nations Working Group (UNWG) on the International Decade for People of African Descent. (More details below.);
- **Quaker United Nations Office:** working with Warren Hoskins to build links.
- **Right Sharing of World Resources:** working with Nilufer Wilkins to build links, including QEW UNWG;
- **Youth Committee:** working to develop activities at Yearly Meeting Gathering.

### **The Wider Quaker World, Interfaith Groups, Other Environmental Organizations**

In the wider Quaker World, interfaith groups, and other environmental organizations, I have listed existing memberships, partnerships, or collaborations that may be part of an outreach effort. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), Tampa Bay:** The planning for a Gainesville workshop has been postponed. Will participate in Basic workshop in Jacksonville, 3 through 5 Third Month 2017.
- **The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI):** No report to date;
- **The Bridge of Tampa:** Panelist in a community exploration, "The Heart of Activism", 28 First Month 2017. More than 60 local activists attended the event. Tampa MM was a co-sponsor;
- **Clark Atlanta University, Department of Political Science:** teamed faculty and others on an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Small grant, see below;
- **The Fellowship of Friends of African Descent:** No report to date;
- **Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), Center for Environmental Equity and Justice (CEEJ):** No report to date;
- **Florida Climate Institute:** No report to date;



- **Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network (FL-ICAN):** continue to work with the 2017 Assembly Design Team. Working to populate the online platform, Qiqochat, <http://seymquakers.qiqochat.com/> as another communications and information-sharing resource;
- **Friends Committee on National Legislation, Energy and Environment:** continue email and other contacts with several FCNL staff. Visited the FCNL office 10 First Month 2017 and spent more than three hours with several FCNL staff members discussing the FSE position and ways to collaborate;
- **Friends General Conference:** working with Gerry O'Sullivan;
- **Friends Peace Teams (FPT):** Face-to-face and email contact with members of FPT. Working to link FPT to QEW UN Working Group, see below;
- **Friends United Meeting:** No report to date. Will seek to link FUM to QEW UN Working Group;
- **Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC):** No report to date. Will seek to link FWCC to QEW UN Working Group;
- **The Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR):** Working with ICAR through the Florida Council of Churches;
- **Living Mirror Playback Theatre, Tampa:** working to develop Bystander Training to offer to local groups;
- **National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Environmental Justice Issues in Transportation (The FSE is the Research Coordinator for this committee.):** Provided a presentation on the Tampa Bay Express (TBX) and environmental justice issues at the annual meeting of the committee. This presentation will be the basis for a "blog" during 2017;
- **Organize NOW/F.I.R.E., Climate Justice Committee:** Continue to assist the committee in planning climate justice survey;
- **The Pachamama Alliance:** meet with several local members of the Alliance on 28 First Month;
- **People Against D.O.T. Discrimination (P.A.D.D.), Tampa:** continue to work with group on identifying potentially adverse impacts and finding ways to avoid, mitigate, or minimize the same. P.A.D.D. members submitted an application to EPA through the Tampa Heights Junior Civic Association for small grant funding to train community members for outreach, education and environmental data collection. I am included in the grant as a trainer;
- **QEW United Nations Working Group (UNWG) member – International Decade for People of African Descent:** Continue to assist in planning for 2017 activities, including bi-monthly telephone conference calls. Linking the Working Group with wider Quaker Community and other groups. Added to the QEW Steering Committee as a Member-at-Large and plan to participate in the 20-23 Fourth Month 2017 meeting;
- **Sierra Club, Tampa Bay:** Remain in contact via email, snailmail, etc. Added to the Sierra Club Speakers' Bureau. Made a presentation at Hillsborough County Community College, Undergraduate Science Seminar, 31 First Month 2017. Dustin Lemke provided anchor support;
- **Society for Applied Anthropology, Risk and Disasters Topical Interest Group (TIG):** No report to date. Seeking to link TIG to QEW UN Working Group;
- **Sunshine Citizens, Tampa:** part of the outreach effort with P.A.D.D.;
- **Sunshine State Interfaith Power and Light:** working with this group through FL-CAN;
- **University of South Florida, Institute on Black Life (IBL), Advisory Committee:** Continue to participate in activities for 30th Anniversary, 9 Second Month 2017. Abstract submitted on food sovereignty and people of African Descent in Florida. The paper will build on the framework proposed by QEW UNWG regarding the 2017 focus for UN activities.

*FSE Report cont'd.*

- **University of South Florida, Patel College of Global Sustainability (PCGS):** The proposed lecture “Urban Displacement in Major Public Works Projects”, has been rescheduled for 6 Fourth Month 2017. Continue to have contact with PCGS staff.

## **Social Media**

I blog, fsEarthcare Processing, on the SEYM website, see <http://seymquakers.org/faith-in-action/field-secretary-for-earthcare/>. Currently, the page contains the blog, the job description, and other links. I am in contact with the secretary on how best to populate this page, e.g., calendars, social media, etc. I tweet @fsesecretary; FB, fb.me/FsEarthcare. These links are included the signature of my emails.

## **Qiqochat**

The Qiqochat subcircle for SEYM can be found at <http://seymquakers.qiqochat.com/>. In addition to a communication platform, this site also can be a repository of documents, e.g., white papers, presentations, etc. I am in the process of populating the circle.

## **Other Issues**

I will have the white paper on vulnerable populations and the potential impacts of climate change for the counties and other areas of the Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, etc., of SEYM, including Managua and Havana, where data is available at YM. The focus has been intensified with consideration of the impacts of the Sabal Trail Pipeline Transmission. In addition to the Sabal Trail Pipeline, the potential impacts of the Florida Southeast Connection Pipeline, <http://www.floridasoutheastconnection.com/>, has been added.

Ongoing contact regarding the pipelines and related concerns has been maintained with Peter Ackerman, Lake Worth Monthly Meeting, Panagioti Tsolkas who co-led sessions at the 2016 Yearly Meeting, and others. Both Pete and Panagioti have been actively in actions regarding the Sabal Trail Pipeline.

## **Summary**

Thank you for prayers, thoughts, and other support. The activities over the past five months have included outreach and visits to several MMs and others. A synergy is developing that generates opportunities to carry out the work effort. During this period, some members of the Anchoring Committee expressed concerns regarding the level of support. I shared, then, and repeat, I feel well anchored! The work that has taken place could not have been possible with the care and support of the FSE-AC and other Friends along the way. Thank you and continue to hold us in the Light! Please, please continue to share your ideas, concerns, contacts, etc. But, most of all, continue to hold me in the Light!

Beverly Ward

## Florida Council of Churches Yearly Business Meeting Report 2017

The Florida Council of Churches (FCC), <http://www.floridachurches.org>, convened a board meeting 1 Eleventh Month 2016 as part of the Faith Symposium at the Wyndham Orlando Resort. Marilyn Williams, a Hillsborough County activist, and I led a workshop at the Faith Symposium titled, “Violence Prevention through Community Conflict Management: What Quakers Have Shared” on 3 Eleventh Month 2016.

FCC and the NAACP are two non-state agencies serving on an inter-agency commission created by the Florida Legislature in 2016 to develop a proposal for an Arthur G. Dozier School memorial and resting place for any unidentified remains and to provide burial funds for those children whose remains are identified.

Expanding healthcare options remains an agenda item for FCC. FCC will convene the Third Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network Assembly, 23-25 Second Month 2017, First United Methodist Church, 142 E Jackson Street, Orlando, FL. Updates on registration, lodging, and the agenda can be found at <http://interfaithflorida.com/>. I am assisting with the Assembly planning as a member of the Design Team.

FCC received funding to provide a series of statewide half-training sessions, Faith Reforming Justice in Florida. (See <https://floridachurches.org/reform/>.) The training focuses on five areas:

- The Death Penalty
- Direct File
- Civil Citations
- Mandatory Minimums
- Rights Restoration

For more information on the Reform Justice Campaign, see Readings for the Reform Justice Campaign, <https://floridachurches.org/readings-reform-justice-campaign/>. Reform advocacy actions are scheduled 6 through 7 Second Month 2017 in Tallahassee.

I continue to participate on the Organize Now | F.I.R.E Climate Justice Committee as part of the FCC and Field Secretary for Earthcare Work. In addition to local—Hillsborough County—work on climate justice survey, the Committee is sharing information and other resources on the Sabal Trail Transmission and Florida Southeast Connector pipelines. Organize Now hosted a talk by Ivan Penn, a former Tampa Bay Times Staff Writer, on 5 First Month 2017, in Tampa. Ivan Penn spoke on “Florida’s Energy Future.” The video was streamed live on Facebook, [Ivan Penn, Florida's Energy Future](#).

Submitted by Beverly Ward  
SEYM Representative to Florida Council of Churches

## FGC Representative's Report

Friends General Conference provides services and resources for individual Friends, meetings, and people interested in the Quaker way. FGC is an association of regional Quaker communities in the U.S. and Canada working together to nurture a vital Quaker faith.

Ed Lesnick (Orlando) is SEYM's representative to Executive Committee and a member of FGC Communications Committee. Kay Lesnick (Orlando) is a member of the FGC Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee. Gerry O'Sullivan (Miami) is the third representative. Susan Taylor (Tallahassee) has been coopted by Central Committee to serve on the FGC Nominations Committee.

FGC Central Committee October 27-30, 2016 at the Pearlstone Center, Reisterstown, Maryland. Our three designated representatives participated in the six plenary sessions and two committee meetings at Central Committee. Susan Taylor met with the FGC Nominations Committee and attended the general sessions.

The pressing issue of institutional and systemic racism was at the heart of Central Committee deliberations. In response to this concern, the FGC Diversity Committee proposed, and the Central Committee approved an "Institutional Assessment" of race and status within the organization. Funds to pay for the project are being raised through monthly meetings, yearly meetings, and individual contributions.

SEYM's initial response was brought forward at WIBM. Please refer to the published minutes as to what transpired at WIBM on January 14. Hopefully, your meeting has had the opportunity to address the concern. Please be prepared as a representative at YM to act on the Proposed FGC Institutional Assessment on Structural Racism (*see the Ministry on Racism Committee Report in these DIAs.*)

The following is a summary report of the FGC General Secretary as it appeared in the Central Committee minutes, October 20, 2016.

**FGC General Secretary's Report.** At Central Committee, Barry Crossno reported as General Secretary of FGC. He expressed gratitude for the prayers Friends have offered this evening, which demonstrates the enormous love Friends feel for FGC, its work, and the Religious Society of Friends over all. He spoke of his own Central Committee service and the dedication of the volunteers who serve FGC through its programs and committees. The last eighteen months have been difficult for FGC as an organization, and for all of us who believe in its work. The desire to honor each other as Friends doing Spirit-led work has made staff and program cuts deeply painful for all of us.

Barry shared the words of a Friend who reminded him that faithfulness is not walking the road that leads to your dreams, but living into the current reality and working with what you have and the gifts present all around you. This guidance helped him to see and lift up the work being done during this difficult time.

Issues raised at the Gathering this summer shed light on the work that must be done before we can say we truly recognize and lift up that of God in everyone. A conversation with an African-American friend who is not a Quaker gave Barry new clarity about his work as General Secretary, which includes ensuring that FGC makes changes that affect the lived reality of Friends and seekers of color, who do not always feel welcome in our meetings. An institutional assessment may be the path for this, but if it is not, we must take some other action.

Barry shared that he has heard from Friends that although FGC is in a very hard place, we are committed to remaining in a relationship with each other and to finding a way forward. Both

*FGC Representative's Report cont'd.*

expenses and income of FGC have dipped in the last few years, and Barry hopes that we can now look at building the organization back up, through fundraising and programming.

**2017 Gathering:** Registration opened April 3 for this summer's annual gathering to be held at Niagara University, New York, July 2-8. If you have not received notice, registration and the complete program can be easily found on the FGC website: <https://fgcquaker.org>

Report submitted by Ed Lesnick,  
Documents In Advance (DIAs) for Yearly Meeting 4th month 2017

## Friends General Conference Central Committee Epistle

To Friends Everywhere—

Greetings from the 115 Friends gathered at Pearlstone Conference Center, Reisterstown, Maryland for the Central Committee meeting of Friends General Conference, Tenth Month 27- 30, 2016.

In this beautiful pastoral setting of gardens and woodland, chickens, sheep and goats, our hearts have been heavy as we remember the suffering in the world, and especially the emotional pain and fear experienced by Friends of Color at the 2016 Gathering. We ask forgiveness for being part of a domination culture that permits such cruelty. We ask forgiveness for our own insensitivity in failing to notice the suffering in our midst. We pray for the wisdom, compassion, and faithfulness needed to make FGC a beloved community in which all of God's children are embraced.

We have committed to undertaking an institutional assessment around issues of white privilege and white supremacy, as requested in the petition circulated at the Gathering and beyond. Several yearly meetings and monthly meetings have already offered financial support for such an assessment, reflecting their deep commitment to the work of racial healing. We have heard that Long Range Conference Planning Committee Site Selection Subcommittee now has a majority of Friends of Color, and is hard at work looking for a safe and welcoming site for our 2018 Gathering. We look forward to real transformational changes in our beloved FGC.

We are also considering proposed changes to the governance structure of FGC, and beginning a reconsideration of our vision statement. In both of these we hope to be more responsive to the needs and leadings of our member yearly and monthly meetings. With great joy we celebrated the launch of the first phase of our new Spiritual Deepening program, which is now available online, offering resources suitable to Friends of all ages. Much additional content will be added in the coming months and years. We envision these tools being used by Friends from all our yearly meetings and beyond, as they gather in small groups to engage in deep, experiential exploration of Quaker faith and practice.

We are moving forward in hope and faith. We invite your participation and your prayers.

In the Spirit,

Frank Barch, Presiding Clerk

Approved October 30, 2016 at the Annual Meeting of Friends General Conference's Central Committee

## Quaker House Military Counseling Center Report 2016-2017

“A Place of Peace in a Military City”

The Quaker House GI Rights Hotline answers thousands of calls from active duty military, veterans, and their families. The number of calls to the hotline continues to increase. This year our Hotline counselors answered an average of 246 calls per month for a total of 2,948 calls. The counselors most rewarding yet most time consuming work is helping service members obtain conscientious objector status, guiding and providing moral support as they move through regulations, delays and at times deliberate roadblocks of the command structure. They also have been busier than ever helping service members who are being threatened with other-than-honorable discharges. They are being accused of “misconduct” or “personality disorder” when they actually suffer from PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, Moral Injury, and/or Military Sexual Trauma. We help them prove their medical condition so that they can receive an honorable discharge and their medical benefits. We have helped bring national attention to this problem.

Quaker House also continues the important work of providing free and confidential counseling and support for the victims of military domestic violence, sexual assault, and moral injury. Our therapist, Joanna, is a valuable support for our GI Rights Hotline counselors. They have been able to refer several suicidal service members to her and know that they will be in good care. The reputation of the program has grown both in the community and on base at Fort Bragg. The service is often the last resort for those in need of help. Funding for the program is tenuous and any and all contributions are appreciated.

We continue to travel to reach out to new audiences providing education and information on moral injury. We presented for a military chaplain’s retreat for the officers in the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade and for the annual Baptist Peace Fellowship conference.

Quaker House facilitates Alternatives to Violence Project training and provides Truth in Recruiting literature and information. In addition, Quaker House provides a warm and welcoming place for people in the community to meet. Mindfulness classes and an AA group meet weekly and musicians perform house concerts frequently.

We help conduct, in partnership with NOW, the Human Relations Commission, the public library, and the Cumberland County Association of Educators, regular public discussions on race relations called “Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity” and “Mirrors of Privilege.” One of these series brings together students from Fayetteville State University, a traditionally African-American university and Methodist, a traditionally white university. We advocate for teaching Conflict Resolution in the public schools. We spoke to the Cumberland County Schools social workers about the importance of conflict resolution and also recommended the use of the Cracking the Code series. Viewing the Cracking the Code DVD is now required for all school principals.

We continue to witness and work against the use of torture and militarized drones. We host educational forums on many subjects that relate to peace and justice issues.

Our relationship with personnel at Fort Bragg continues to grow. Through work with the military chaplains and mental health care professionals, a closer association developed which allows Quaker House to provide information and services on base and personnel at Fort Bragg make referrals to our programs. In addition, we continue to attend and present at the Bragg Region Behavioral Healthcare Collaborative, Community Blueprint (we are now on their Advisory Committee), the Behavioral Health Professionals Association, Greater Fayetteville United, and serve on the board of CARE Domestic Violence Center.

*Quaker House report cont'd.*

Quaker House took up the issue of the poor mental health care provided for the more than 250,000 incarcerated service members and veterans. This issue was brought to our attention by the tragic case of a service member in Fayetteville who was sentenced to 10-18 years in prison for an offense that was brought on by his severe PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury. We are working with his family and lawyer to help him, and we organized a petition and a vigil calling for “Adequate and Compassionate Mental Health Care for Service Members and Veterans” nationally. The Military Chaplains Association of North America published the petition on their electronic newsletter. Our Op Ed was published in the Raleigh News and Observer and the Fayetteville Observer. In April, the vigil, in front of the Airborne and Special Operations Museum, brought veterans, VA and DoD employees, members of the Cumberland County Human Relations Commission, and Quakers together. We are continuing to work with VA and veterans’ groups to advocate for “Veterans’ Dorms” in prison, a program which is being utilized in several States. We also provide support for Bowe Bergdahl when he comes to Ft. Bragg for his hearings. His family is very appreciative of our support.

We published two books this year. *Help for Moral Injury: Strategies and Interventions* was written by Cecilia Yocum, Ph.D. She volunteered to write the book after hearing our moral injury presentation. It is selling nationwide and even as far as England. Curt Torell, our board treasurer, wrote *Conscientious Objection: Is This for You? Discerning a Claim and Documenting It with Selective Service*. It, too, is reaching a wide and appreciative audience.

Quaker House was featured in two QuakerSpeak videos this year. One was an interview with our GI Rights Hotline counselors, Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger, about their work. In the other, Curt Torell discussed “How to Become a Conscientious Objector.” Both videos brought attention to the work of Quaker House.

We led the November PFF/PFYM retreat, “Quaker House: Helping our Victims of War at Home,” featuring our GI Rights Hotline Counselor and our domestic violence, sexual assault and moral injury counselor. The team shared personal stories of the service members and veterans that Quaker House helped over the years.

Wilmington, NC, Friends School invited us to do a presentation on the ‘History and Mission of Quaker House.’ The kids had many questions for us!

This has been a year of awards for us! In February, we were given an award for our work to help service members and veterans from Mountaire Farms. The Fayetteville/ Cumberland Human Relations Commission presented us an award for “our activities and programs which provide positive human relations and for being actively involved in the problems of the community.” NC Peace Action gave Quaker House their 2016 Peacemaker Award.

We are working now to hire the new directors of Quaker House, who will begin in September 2017. We have many very good applicants so we are optimistic about the future of Quaker House. All our applicants seem dedicated to helping the victims of war at home - our service members and veterans - and working to help our world understand that “war is not the answer.”

Lynn and Steve Newsom, Directors  
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