

Report to Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) on Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Activities 1 through 31 Eighth Month 2017

Prepared for the FSE Anchor Committee (FSE-AC) and Earthcare Committee
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20171003

Overview

This report is a summary of activities undertaken during Eighth Month 2017. The work activities this month included follow up from the Quaker Earthcare Witness United Nations Working Group (QEW UNWG) Side Event, QEW Outreach Committee work, planning for a joint project with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Climate Change Working Group, and planning visits to SEYM Monthly Meetings. Outreach and communication through “blogs” and other pieces for the SEYM website, social media, telephone and email contact continues. I continue contacts with interfaith groups and other environmental organizations, including the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), Montgomery, Alabama.

Communication with the Anchoring Committee

Communication with the FSE Anchoring Committee via email, telephone, and face-to-face contacts continues. Bonnie Zimmer and I are planning follow-up Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Basic Workshop completion course.

Developing a Schedule for Meeting with Monthly Meetings (MMs), Worship Groups (WGs), and Others

Work to schedule Monthly Meeting visits continues.

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting to be rescheduled

This visit will be rescheduled due to Hurricane Irma.

Clearwater Monthly Meeting, 29 Tenth Month (October) 2017

I will participate in the Monthly Meeting’s annual retreat at Anderson to speak on Earthcare and climate change and to help the Meeting and individuals discern what can be done.

Palm Beach Monthly Meeting, 16-18 Second Month (February) 2018

I have been invited by the Meeting to lead their annual retreat on the subject of Earthcare. The working title is “Unity with Nature: How am I Called to Care for the Earth?” We will work on the details as the date gets closer.

Interactions or Collaborations between and among other SEYM committees

- The Ministry on Racism: I continue to communicate with the committee and am planning to meet with the Committee at Fall Interim Business Meeting (FIBM). I have will provide a report to the Committee and FIBM attendees on work with the Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network on Indigenous Peoples Day, 9 Tenth Month 2017;
- Earthcare: The committee continues to provide invaluable report. I work closely with Jack Bradin, Bill Carlie, and Brad Stocker;
- FCC: I continue to work with the Board of FCC. As mentioned above, I am part of the planning team for an Indigenous Peoples Day to be held at Sacred Lands, St. Petersburg, on 9 Tenth Month 2017;
- Peace and Social Concerns: I continue to work with this committee, particularly through AVP workshops;
- ProNica: no report to date other than work through the SEYM Nominating Committee;
- Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW): working with Jack Braden on the United Nations Working Group (UNWG) on the International Decade for People of African Descent, and Brad Stocker. (More details below.) I also have been very involved with the QEW Outreach Committee in the design, administration, and analysis of a survey of QEW Yearly Meeting representatives. The results of the survey will be presented at the QEW Steering Committee Meeting that will be held Tenth Month 2017 at Pendle Hill;
- 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: I continue to work with the youth representatives and am hoping to make progress on the proposed booklet at FIBM and SEYM Half Yearly Meeting (HYM).

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:
 - Scheduled follow-up session(s) to complete the Basic AVP workshop begun Sixth Month 2017 in Sarasota. The dates are 23 Ninth Month and 28 Tenth Month 2017
 - Scheduled follow-up session(s) to complete the Basic AVP workshop begun Fourth Month 2017 in Gainesville. The proposed dates are 18 and 19 Eleventh Month 2017;

- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): Am awaiting consideration of nomination for an at-large position with AFSC. The decision is expected in early 2018.
- The Bridge of Tampa:
 - I participated in a panel discussion following the showing of “I Am Not Your Negro” with Bernice Powell Jackson, First United Church of Tampa; Donna Davis, Black Lives Matter, Rev. Dr. Russell Meyer, Florida Council of Churches; and, Liz Prisley, Community Tampa Bay. The discussion lasted for nearly two hours. The Bridge is looking for opportunities to further discussion.
 - The Living Mirror Playback Theatre (LMPT) troupe (I am a member) will provide Bystander Training 14 Tenth Month 2017 sponsored by the Bridge. Provided practice training during Adult Firstday School at Tampa Monthly Meeting, 17 and 24 Ninth Month 2017 with Cecilia Yocum and other LMPT troupe members;
- Equal Justice Initiative (EJI): In conjunction with travel to see the solar eclipse, I was able to arrange a visit to the offices of EJI with John Heimbürg.

“The Equal Justice Initiative is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society.”

The purpose of the visit was to introduce myself to staff and discuss potential partnerships regarding Earthcare, QEW work, and the Ministry on Racism. We were well received and look forward to opportunities to collaborate.

- Clark Atlanta University, Department of Political Science: I continue to work on social justice issues, particularly in regard to transportation projects. The Florida Department of Transportation has been directed to reconsider its proposed toll lane project with particular concern to social impacts. Dr. Kurt Young, my contact with Clark Atlanta University, is a member People Against D.O.T. Discrimination (P.A.D.D.);
- The Fellowship of Friends of African Descent (FFAD): continue to work to link with the QEW UNWG, particularly in regard to the International Decade for People of African Descent;
- Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network (FL-ICAN): I continue to work to populate the online platform, Qiqochat, <http://seymquakers.qiqochat.com/> as another communications and information-sharing resource. As mentioned earlier, am working with FL-ICAN to convene an event on 9 Tenth Month 2017;
- Friends Committee on National Legislation, Energy and Environment: continue email and other contacts with several FCNL staff. I had a meeting with a local staff person, Shauna Johnson, from Senator Marco Rubio’s office. I introduced myself as resource to the Senator’s office on faith-based concerns for Earthcare. Shauna Johnson offered her assistance to put connect me with Senator Bill Nelson’s office;

- Friends General Conference (FGC): I continue to communicate with contacts with FGC staff and others from the Gathering;
- Friends Peace Teams (FPT): Face-to-face and email contact with members of FPT;
- Friends United Meeting: Continue to make contact through QEW and Kody Hersh. I plan to have an extended “visit” with Kody during HYM;
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): As mentioned above, waiting to hear of decision on nomination;
- The Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR): Continue to work with ICAR through the Florida Council of Churches, Jan Booher, board member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton (UUFBR), and University of South Florida contacts;
- Living Mirror Playback Theatre (LMPT), Tampa: Bystander Training event is in the planning stage, as mentioned above. Will be working with Ann Kinnebrew, Ignite Applied Theatre, and True Story Playback Theatre to provide train in the Gainesville area during Second Month 2018. This will be coordinated with Gainesville MM;
- National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Environmental Justice Issues in Transportation and the Women’s Issues in Transportation Committees. I continue to participate as “Friend” of the Women’s Committee. Completed reviews of papers for the 2018 TRB Annual Meeting to be held in Washington, DC, 7-11 First Month;
- Organize NOW/F.I.R.E., Climate Justice Committee: Met with the transit riders committee and provided input on a proposed survey of users regarding proposed cuts to transit routes in Hillsborough County;
- The Pachamama Alliance: I continue to have contact with members through the FL-ICAN network. The local Pachamama Alliance is one of the groups developing the Indigenous Peoples Day;
- People Against D.O.T. Discrimination (P.A.D.D.), Tampa: I continue to work with group as discussed above. The groups members are still waiting to hear about the status of the 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;
- QEW: As a steering committee member of QEW, I am expected to work on two committees or working groups. I am a member of United Nations Working Group (UNWG) – International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD). The article I wrote for QEW’s BeFriending Creation about the event is available, http://www.quakerearthcare.org/sites/quakerearthcare.org/files/bfc/bfc3004_for_web.pdf.
 - I have begun work as co-clerk the Water Circle in preparation for next year’s IDPAD event. The Water Circle will focus on water access and quality and sea level rise. My focus will be on Florida as a case example.
 - As mentioned above work with the Outreach Committee includes a survey of Yearly Meeting representatives;

- Sierra Club, Tampa Bay: Remain in contact via email, snailmail, etc. Am a member of the local Sierra Club Speakers' Bureau;
- Society for Applied Anthropology, Risk and Disasters Topical Interest Group (TIG): Linking 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;
- Unitarian Universalist (UU) Justice Florida's Climate Resilience Ministry has developed UU Justice Florida Climate Resilience Network. Janice (Jan) Booher, Rising Together Project Director, www.ReACTToolKit.net, John Scott, NIH-National Library of Medicine Community Health Mapping Initiative/Center for Public Service Communication, Kurt Menke, NIH-NLM Community Health Mapping Initiative/Birds Eye View GIS), and Zelalem Adefris, Catalyst Miami, are interested in collaborating with Quakers to conduct a mapping project during the upcoming King Tides. The goal of this initiative is to train members of affected communities to collect data, share information, and develop strategies to address the impacts of King Tides. Jan Booher is a board member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton (UUFBR), where she chairs the Climate Change Working Group. She also is a design team member of the FL-ICAN.
 - We are planning to collect data on the King Tides 18-20 Ninth Month 2017 in Miami.
- University of South Florida, Institute on Black Life (IBL), Advisory Committee: Continue work the Institute. The paper I submitted for publication with the director of the Department of Africana Studies and chair of the Institute, Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez on African Americans in Tampa has been accepted with revisions.
- University of South Florida, Patel College of Global Sustainability (PCGS): I continue to work with the college. In addition to Dr. Joseph Dorsey, I will be working with Dr. Christian Wells on a local project.

Reporting

As can be seen from the date of this report, I'm still struggling with timely submission. Events over the last month were contributing factors; however, I do use other media to keep the FSE Anchoring Committee and others informed.

Social Media

I continue to blog on my activities. It is available through the FSE webpage, <http://seymquakers.org/faith-in-action/field-secretary-for-earthcare/>.

Qiqochat

The Qiqochat subcircle for SEYM, <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 continue to work on populating the circle.

Summary

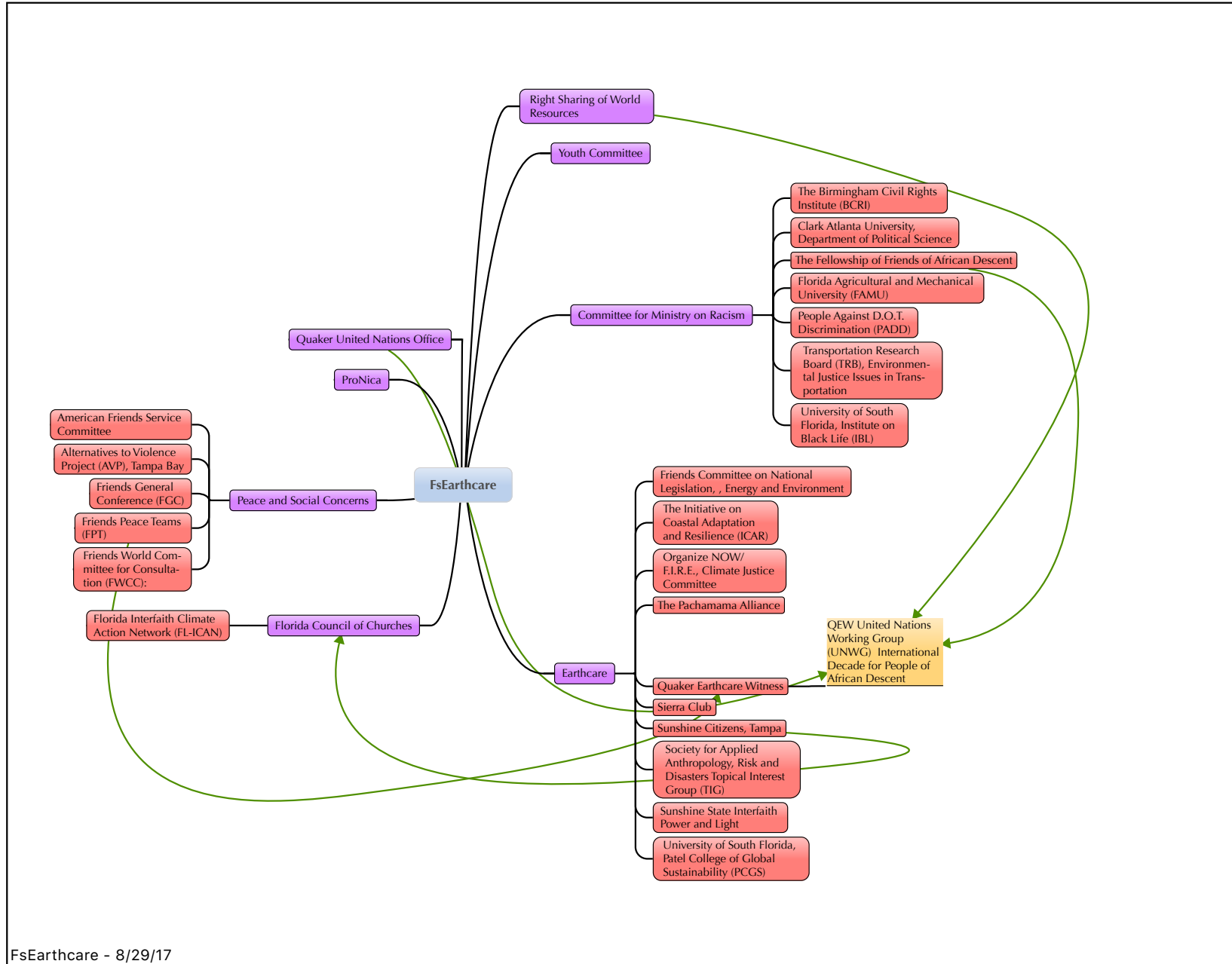
Eighth Month was focused on a number of local and not so local meetings and planning activities. Although the work continues to focus on the wider Quaker World and other collaborations, I continue to make and maintain contacts with Friends throughout SEYM. Your continued support, anchoring, prayers, and love keeps me faithful in this practice!

Love and Peace, b

Timeline

Activity/Period	9 th Month 2017				10 th Month 2017				11 th Month 2017			
Develop Meeting Schedule												
Visitations								*				
Half Yearly Meeting												*
Social Media												
Wider Quaker World and Other Outreach												
SEYM Water Paper								*				
Qiqochat												
Anchoring Committee Contacts		*		*		*		*		*		*
AVP Basic Continued (Gainesville and Sarasota)			*									*
Bystander Training						*						

* Milestones



FsEarthcare - 8/29/17

Figure 1. FSE Mindmap Connectivity