

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends WIBM Executive Committee Meeting • January 12, 2018 Minutes

The meeting began at 7:00 PM, after a period of silent worship. In lieu of a reading, Acting IBM/EC Clerk Phoebe Andersen voiced her deep love and appreciation for all of those present.

18WIBM01. SEYM Executive Committee approves extending the Faith and Practice Committee sabbatical until the 2019 Yearly Meeting sessions.

Pastoral Care Request: The clerk asked that Friends hold in the Light the family of Steve Jordan (Winter Park MM), who died on December 25, 2017.

Nominating Committee: Elaine Martin's report was accepted by EC. She shared a slate of nominees that will be acted on during 2018 Gathering. The most crucial vacancies to be filled are co-clerk and program coordinator for the 2019 Gathering. Youth Committee is also seeking additional members.

Kody Hersh, FUM General Board Observer since YM 2015, reported to the Nominating committee ([Attachment 1](#)) that, except for having joined the board's 2016 trip to Cuba, he has not received notice of any general board meetings, despite repeated requests. He queries: Does SEYM continue to have a leading to be in relationship with FUM? If so, is sending an observer the best way, and how could SEYM support that observer? Kody will not be able to serve another term in this role.

Joel Cook (Kody's predecessor as observer) shared similar experiences of failed communication. Friends agreed that the Clerk should call the general board president to seek clarity and collaborative effort from FUM. The board's October meeting is the most important for an observer to attend.

Kody has also reported the Young Adult Friends are divided over whether or not to be listed as a separate entity in the Directory. The committee awaits their decision. Finally, the Naming Committee is seeking one or two more nominees for the Nominating Committee.

Secretary's Report: Vicki Carlie's report was accepted by EC ([Attachment 2](#)). Print pamphlets of past Michener and Walton lectures are available for sale during WIBM. Vicki advised that she plans to retire after the 2019 Gathering. The clerk asked Friends to begin now searching their MMs and WGs for likely successors as Secretary.

Worship and Ministry Report: Clara Diaz's report was accepted by EC. The committee has arranged for Eden Grace of Friends United Meeting to present the 2019 Michener Lecture and Seminars. Clara asked Friends to hold Nancy and Tom Fennell in the Light, as both are facing health challenges.

Treasurer's Report: Joel Cook's report was accepted by EC (to be attached to WIBM minutes).

Trustees: Speaking as Trustees Treasurer, Neil Andersen advised that quarterly dividends have been paid to the trustees in June and December of 2017 and relevant transfers have or will be made by the end of the fiscal year.

Half Yearly Meeting: Carl Hersh's report is in WIBM DIAs (seymquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/WIBM2018DIAs.pdf, p.3) and was accepted by EC. Mike Shell called attention to the remembrance ceremony/workshop on the Doctrine of Discovery, the 1493 Papal Bull of Pope Alexander VI, used to justify the Spanish conquest of the New World and the

American policy of taking Native American lands for European settlement. Friends who attended that event spoke to its eye-opening power, and they also mentioned the film *Doctrine of Discovery*, shown during the October 2017 Indigenous Peoples Day event in St. Petersburg, FL.

Gathering Committee: Stephanie Preston's report was accepted by EC. The title for the Young Friends Gathering is "Encouraging Courage." Kody Hersh will work with teen Friends and Elizabeth Croce with young Friends. The committee seeks someone for the juniors.

Re Kody's "Proposal for SEYM Youth Worker," Youth Committee Clerk Mira Tanna is drafting a proposal and job description using the Field Secretary for Earthcare documents as models. Worship and Ministry Clerk Clara Diaz advised that Kody needs to seek seasoning for his proposal through a clearness committee in his home meeting.

Earthcare Committee: Bill Carlie's report was accepted by EC. He reminded Friends to seek MM/WG responses to the "Draft SEYM Statement on Climate Change and Environmental Protection" (seymquakers.org/blog/2017/05/09/draft-seym-statement-climate-change-environmental-protection). Bill also said the committee believes SEYM needs to create a broader faith statement about earthcare.

Field Secretary for Earthcare: Beverly Ward's report was accepted by EC (DIA, pp. 7-12). AFSC has asked her to join the AFSC Corporation Board as a Member at Large. Young Friends continue to work on the Earthcare "pocket guide."

Ministry on Racism Committee Report: Susan Taylor's report was accepted by EC. The committee is drafting an introduction to the YM minute "End Slavery for All" SEYM minute (17YM08, seymquakers.org/blog/2016/10/05/end-slavery-for-all), so that the minute can be distributed to all Yearly Meetings.

Archives: Phoebe described work with the SEYM archives at the University Florida Smathers Library, organizing documents and identifying missing items, focusing on all YM actions, historical documents, etc. MM/WG archives will be next. The library archivist asks that MMs and WGs send their respective archives on CDs with accompanying print indexes of the contents.

Publications Committee Report: Phoebe's report was accepted by EC. Pamphlet publication is up to date except for the 2017 Walton Lecture, which is awaiting a transcription from Peterson Toscano. The committee has one or so more books to finish and will then lay down book publication, limiting its work to pamphlets. Lyn Cope asked to retire from her publications work. The committee will seek new designer/editor and publisher.

Until now the committee and various authors have suffered from the lack of detailed formal SEYM publishing guidelines and author contracts that conform to the common procedures of commercial publishers. In addition, communications among the various parties have not been sufficiently regular, clear and transparent. Ellie Caldwell spoke to her own challenges with publication of several books and affirmed the need for these changes. Solutions are now being developed.

Phoebe gave an update on the publication of Wendy Clarissa Geiger's book, *My Life is a Quilt: A Book of Quaker Messages*, an example of the difficulties described above. The committee had agreed to withdraw the current book in order to correct errors on the back page blurbs and elsewhere. At SEYM's request, the printers agreed not to make more copies. However, because they are a subsidiary of Amazon, they are still printing on-demand copies for Amazon.

Mike Shell asked for silent worship and the spoke as clerk of Jacksonville MM about the need for SEYM Friends to hold, Wendy, himself and Jacksonville Friends in the Light as they continue to care

for each other during the publishing process.

Handbook Revision Report: Phoebe's report was accepted by EC. The goal is to have a revised draft ready for the June EC session.

CAPP Training Discussion: Several Friends revisited an unresolved concern from the January 2017 EC session. Some MMs need CAPP training for local people in order to meet the requirements of their own liability insurers. However, the EC concern a year ago was that SEYM-trained CAPP trainers acting outside of SEYM's five insured yearly events may incur uncovered liability for SEYM, their MMs, and themselves. This issue will be addressed during the Saturday WIBM session.

The session ended with silent worship.

Submitted by Mike Shell, IBM/EC Recording Clerk
1/17/2018

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

EC members present were:

Bill Carlie, YM Clerk, Earthcare Co-clerk, Orlando MM
Phoebe Andersen, Acting IBM/EC Clerk, Faith & Practice Clerk, Publications Clerk, Tallahassee MM
Nancy Corindia, YM/IBM Assistant Clerk, Sarasota MM
Mike Shell, IBM/EC Recording Clerk, Jacksonville MM
Joel Cook, Treasurer, Palm Beach MM
Susan Taylor, Ministry on Racism Co-clerk, Tallahassee MM
Cecilia Yocum, Peace & Social Concerns Co-clerk, Tampa MM
Elaine Martin, Peace & Social Concerns Co-clerk, Nominating, Jacksonville MM
Clara Diaz, Worship and Ministry Clerk, Miami MM
Stephanie Preston, Gathering Co-clerk, Orlando MM
Andrea Hoskins, Gathering Co-clerk, Miami MM
Vicki Carlie, SEYM Admin. Secretary, Orlando MM (ex officio)

Others present were:

Neil Andersen, Trustees, Tallahassee MM
Jean Larson, Trustees, Gainesville MM
Beverly Ward, Field Secretary for Earthcare, Nominating, Tampa
Dianne Langan, Bookkeeper, St. Petersburg MM
Ellie Caldwell, Nominating, Palm Beach MM
Shawna Doran, Finance, Gainesville MM
Peter Harrell, Peace & Social Concerns, Gainesville MM
Gerry O'Sullivan, FGC, Bookstore, Miami MM
Nancy Triscritti, Worship and Ministry, Tampa MM
Bonnie Zimmer, Earthcare, Gainesville MM
John Heimburg, Visitor

Attachment 1 – Friends United Meeting (FUM) General Board Observer Report

At SEYM Annual Gathering 2015, I accepted a nomination to serve the yearly meeting as our appointed observer of Friends United Meeting's General Board meetings. I was excited to begin this service, as our yearly meeting's relationship with Friends United Meeting has been deeply important to me. I hoped to attend one or more board meetings a year, hold the body in prayer, build personal relationships with board members, listen carefully, learn more about FUM's work, and share news about that work with Friends in SEYM.

From the beginning, it was difficult to obtain information about General Board meetings. When I first accepted the role, I had a friend from another yearly meeting who was serving on the General Board—she sent me information about meeting dates. I was unable to attend any for the first year due to scheduling conflicts.

Finally, a year after accepting the observer position, and with financial support from SEYM, I was able to join the Board for a trip to Cuba. We stayed at the Quaker hospitality center in Gibara, visited monthly meetings around the region, and the Board conducted its business. It was a great pleasure and a tremendous gift to get to know Friends of Cuba Yearly Meeting. Our group included FUM's General Secretary, the Global Ministries Director (Eden Grace, who had urged me to take the trip and provided logistical and personal support that made it possible for me), other FUM staff members, the Board clerk, and General Board members from yearly meetings in the U.S., Jamaica, and Kenya.

I hoped that making more direct connections during the Cuba trip would help me get in the loop of General Board information, including meeting dates. When that didn't happen naturally, I followed up by email to request that I be added to the General Board contact list.

Despite multiple attempts over the following months and years, confirmation that my emails were received, and reassurances that I would begin to receive information about meetings, I never did. The friend who had previously sent me information directly had rotated off the Board. **Since the Cuba trip, I have been unable to secure reliable information about General Board meeting dates and locations.**

I do not believe that there has been any intention to exclude me, or SEYM, from FUM events. My impression is, rather, that FUM simply does not have a lot of organizational capacity to expend on a tenuous, complicated relationship with a small yearly meeting that has never been a robust source of connection or support.

I have let SEYM Nominating Committee know that I am not able to serve another term in the observer position due to other commitments in my life. As I rotate out, I feel I need to raise the following questions:

Does SEYM continue to have a leading to be in relationship with Friends United Meeting?

If SEYM continues to have a leading to relationship with Friends United Meeting, is sending an observer to the Board the best way to care for and strengthen that relationship?

If we appoint a General Board observer, how can we support that person, logistically and personally, in obtaining the information necessary to be faithful to their role?

I have other questions and concerns about FUM based on my experiences. To their credit, FUM leadership have identified, and speak openly about, the racial dynamics and colonial legacy that they must wrestle with as a North American-based organization with a large international membership arising from a complicated missionary history. **Other than the work of a few**

dedicated and deeply thoughtful people, however, there seems to be a lack of clear organizational vision and real commitment in terms of how to transform the pervasive and deeply troubling dynamics of white paternalism that pervade the organization.

I apologize for neglecting to submit reports during my time as FUM board observer. The complexity of my feelings about this issue and experience became a stumbling block. I regret being silent instead of asking for help with that.

Submitted 11th day, 1st month, 2018,
Kody Hersh
Miami Monthly Meeting

Attachment 2 – Secretary’s Report (WIBM 2018)

Things have been relatively quiet in the office since we last met in the Fall. The usual tasks are getting done; nothing stands out as significant to report.

I would like to take this time to let EC know I hope to retire in June of 2019, when I turn 65. I’m letting you know now so that before you start a Search Committee, or open the search, there may be some months of letting this percolate and season---time for leadings and new light to bubble up for prospective candidates. I know I sat with the question of whether to even apply for quite a while before I was clear.

We will also need time to review and revise the Secretary job descriptions—for Administrative Secretary and for Web Secretary. I have done some updating of the sections in the Handbook.

I’m still truly enjoying my work. I do, however, have a couple of reasons to want to retire. Foremost on my mind is that my father, who lives in North Carolina, is turning 90. I expect I will need to spend more time up there visiting and caring for him as time goes on—and that eventually it will make doing my job impossible. I will be caring for him January 22 – February 5 as he recovers from hip replacement surgery. Also, I simply want to have time to pursue my many other interests and visit grandchildren.

With gratitude,
Vicki Carlie