

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting**  
*of the Religious Society of Friends*

**Yearly Business Meeting 2019**

**NUMBERED MINUTES**

**4th Month, 17th Day to 4th Month 21st Day, 2019**

- ❖ **19YM01:** Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the Numbered Minutes of the Executive Committee for Summer 2018, Fall 2018, and Spring 2019.
- ❖ **19YM02:** Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends accepts the Numbered Minutes of the Interim Business Meeting for Fall 2017 and Winter 2019.
- ❖ **19YM03:** Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends accepts the Treasurer's Report as provided and explained in the report.
- ❖ **19YM04:** Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the following:

**Testimony To Earthcare**

We, as Quakers, are called to live in Blessed Community, in peace with each other and the natural world. Friends deeply lament the injury already done to the Earth and its inhabitants, and are alarmed at the continuation of environmental degradation and its dire implications for future generations.

Friends experience a deep spiritual connection to the natural world, arising from our experience of communion with the Divine. This sense of connection integrates with our Quaker Testimonies of Simplicity, Integrity, Peace, and Equality, and centers on living in peace as part of the environment. We arrive at this sense of deep connection, as with all things, by many paths. Many of us share in all or most of these paths, and we all unite in seeking a greater sense of communion with the natural world.

Our Testimony of Simplicity calls us, to live so that there is room for Spirit in our lives. Our search for material gain and individual satiation regardless of cost violates this commitment to Simplicity. As Quakers, we understand and acknowledge that living in Blessed Community with each other and the natural world fosters a natural, clean, and safe environment. This has far greater value than all the material gains that arise from its destruction.

Our Testimony of Integrity compels us to live lives that are honest, fair, and just. We find that lives lived at the expense of others lack integrity. Such ways of life have far reaching and devastating impacts on Earth's life-sustaining systems in our communities, states, nations, and the world.

Our Testimony of Peace calls us to overcome evil with good. The Commons, including air, water, and soil, are integral to Earth's life-sustaining systems, and benefit all. Unwise usage and unmitigated pollution of our common resources harm individuals and communities, disrupt or destroy infrastructure, leading to civil unrest and war. As we strive to take away the causes of war, we must also strive to live simple, sustainable lives, promote sustainable economic systems, and responsible sharing of common resources.

Historically, our Testimony of Equality has caused us to object to exploitation of human communities with the strength and resilience of Truth. We find our responses to the conditions that allow for the exploitation of natural resources to be cut from the same spiritual fabric. We are called to break our silence and refuse to consent when environmental injustice is visited upon those whose voices are consistently ignored.

Daily, we become more aware of the suffering of the planet and its people. We find an increasing call to do justice, to "let our lives speak", individually and corporately. We are led, as Friends have been at other daunting moments in history, to overcome our own despair, to relieve suffering, and to unite with Spirit in ways never before imagined to bring new possibilities to Life. Living in Blessed Community in peace with each other and the natural world takes more than words, it requires action.

- ❖ **19YM05: As Quakers, we recognize the rights of children to live in a safe environment with loving families.**

**Therefore, Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends unites in support of the American Friends Service Committee's campaign to end child detention and to shut down the for-profit Homestead Detention Center.**

**We intend to share this statement of support with the Florida Congressional members, and with appropriate U.S. Government administrative personnel. We will also send this statement to all Yearly Meetings across the country, and include it on our website and newsletters, and other publications as led.**

- ❖ **19YM06: Guided by our Quaker principles of fairness and equality, Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), has supported the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) for many years. Over the years we have been gratified to see the progress that CIW and its Fair Food Program have made in bringing together farmers, farm workers, and retail food companies to ensure humane wages and working conditions for tens of thousands of US farm workers. McDonald, Walmart, Taco Bell, KFC, Whole Foods Market, Fresh Market and Pizza Hut are some of the companies that now recognize the benefits of buying from growers that agree to fair labor standards.**

**We are concerned, however, that, of the five largest fast food companies, Wendy's is the only one that has declined to participate in CIW's Fair Food program. In order to convince Wendy's to join in this human rights effort, Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends endorses and**

supports the CIW sponsored boycott of Wendy's Company.

Friends approve sharing this statement with Wendy's Company and with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. We will also send this statement to all Yearly Meetings across the country, and include it on our website and newsletters, and other publications as led.

- ❖ 19YM07: Friends approve a contribution of \$300 to The National Native American Boarding School Healing Association, and request the Committee for Ministry on Racism to further explore our relationship with that organization and to report back at Winter Interim Business Meeting.
- ❖ 19YM08: Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the hiring of Susan Wade as Yearly Meeting Administrative Secretary, term of service to begin June 1, 2019.
- ❖ 19YM09: Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the continued appointment of our current Administrative Secretary Vicki Carlie for a reasonable period beyond June 1 to facilitate transition.
- ❖ 19YM10: Friends approve the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for services in our next year as presented and as appended to these minutes.
- ❖ 19YM11: We approve the 2019 -2020 budget as presented and as appended to these minutes.
- ❖ 19YM12: Friends approved with deep appreciation the 2019 SEYM epistle, which captured the Spirit of our Gathering. It is will be posted on the SEYM website and distributed widely among Friends.
- ❖ 19YM013: Southeastern Yearly Meeting expresses its deepest gratitude to Vicki Carlie for her six years of dedicated service to SEYM as its Administrative Secretary. Her attention to detail and gentle but persistent approach has kept Yearly Meeting well organized. Her accomplishments include creation of the new SEYM website and regular publication of e-news to keep Friends of SEYM well connected. We deeply appreciate her years of service.
- ❖ 19YM014: Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends offers its appreciation to the Life Enrichment Center and Warren Willis United Methodist Camp for their cheerful hospitality and their dedicated and gracious service in hosting us in their facilities.