

## Winter Interim Business Meeting

Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### Documents In Advance

#### **Greetings Friends,**

It's a new year, a time many consider their personal resolutions or goals for the coming year. My guess for those Friends in SEYM, our resolutions are to renew efforts toward living our Quaker testimonies. This is probably going to be the major part of my list of resolutions every January--for the rest of my life. All other goals are less demanding, by far.

My one goal for this year is to get our household closer to zero waste. (I guess that will be very demanding, too.) In the words of one of my favorite philosophers, Kermit the Frog, "It's not easy being green." The advices on Witness, in our SEYM Faith and Practice: (pg. 106.), will be my go-to daily reminder to help stay focused. They may work for you, as well.

- Strive to keep true to the testimonies of integrity and simplicity.
- Try to keep before us the essential truths, and test our life by them.
- Endeavor to make our lives consistent with the high principles we profess. This involves the often-difficult discernment, not only between good and evil, but also between the better and the best.
- Live adventurously. Let not failure discourage us.
- Witness so that others can perceive the presence of God within us.
- Be as good as people think you are.

In Peace and Light,

---Nancy Corindia, YM Assistant Clerk, Acting EC & IBM Clerk

**Hosted by Orlando Friends Meeting** • 316 E. Marks St., Orlando, Florida 32803



#### **Directions to Meetinghouse:**

**From I-4:** Exit onto SR50, go east two blocks to Magnolia; turn left, go north four blocks to light; turn right on Marks St., go east to Meetinghouse at 316 E. Marks St; turn right into driveway or onto Broadway.

**Parking:** in the lot behind the Meetinghouse & Webster Cottage, and on Broadway Avenue.

**Hospitality:** for overnight hospitality in a Friend's home contact Ray Jenkins: [rayjenkins65@yahoo.com](mailto:rayjenkins65@yahoo.com) or phone (9am-5pm only) 407-803-2109.

#### **Hotels:**

- **Courtyard by Marriott**, 730 N. Magnolia, Orlando 32803. To get our group rate, call the hotel direct at 407-996-1000, **BY DEC. 28th**, and ask for the QUAKERS MICHENER LECTURE group rate; or register online at their [Quaker Michener Lecture](#) page. Double rooms (any beds, 1-2 people) are \$139 + tax per night, which includes parking. After Dec. 28th, standard rates apply.
- **Best Western**, 2014 W Colonial Dr, Orlando, FL 32804. \$112/night dbl. room. [bestwestern.com](http://bestwestern.com)

**RV Camping:** There are several campgrounds in the Orlando area. We can recommend Stage Stop, [stagestopcampground.com](http://stagestopcampground.com)

# SCHEDULE

## Friday, January 12th: Executive Committee Meeting

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7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting, *all are welcome!*

## Saturday, January 13th: Interim Business Meeting

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8:00 am Coffee & snacks  
9:00 am Opening Worship  
Nominating Committee preliminary report  
Announcements  
9:30 am Committee meetings: *All are welcome to attend.*  
12 noon Lunch served by Orlando Friends  
**1:00 pm Meeting for Business**  
Opening Worship  
Spiritual/Inspirational Reading  
Agenda Review and Correction  
Roll call of Meetings and Worship Groups  
Welcome of Visitors  
Announcements  
Executive Committee Report  
Worship & Ministry Committee Report  
Ministry on Racism Committee Report ..... 5-7  
Peace & Social Concerns Committee ..... 8-9  
Earthcare Committee Report ..... 4  
Field Secretary for Earthcare Report ..... 10-14  
Youth Committee Report ..... 3  
Check in on Youth Coordinators first days:  
Nominating Committee Report  
Half Yearly Meeting Report  
Gathering Committee Report  
Secretary's Job Search Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Finance Committee Report  
Archives Committee ..... 3  
Representatives to Other Organizations  
    FCNL  
    AFSC  
    QUNO  
    Quakers Earthcare Witness (QEW) ..... 15-16  
    Florida Council of Churches ..... 14  
Reading back the minutes  
4:30 Closing Worship  
5:00 Fellowship, then Dinner at a local restaurant

## Sunday, January 14th: Michener Lecture & Seminars

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***“Good News to the Oppressed: Friends’ Witness in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”***

presented by Eden Grace

**See all Michener Lecture and WIBM details on our website**

Michener Lecture page: <http://seymquakers.org/news-events/michener-lecture/>

Business Meeting page: <http://seymquakers.org/business-meeting/>

## Archives Committee Report Winter Interim Business Meeting 2019

Archives Committee thanks St. Petersburg Meeting for giving us some of their papers. The Andersens went through them during our stay in Gainesville while working at the University of Florida Library for a few days this past summer.

I continued to discard duplicate pages from our collection there. When we are finished organizing the collection, there should not be much time or effort needed to maintain and add to it.

Our thanks also to the Miami Meeting for giving us some of their papers.

---Bill Rapp, Clerk

## Youth Committee Report

As we plan for having a new Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, Youth Committee requests each meeting and worship group to complete the following survey about youth in their meeting. Even if there are no youth attending your meeting, it would be very helpful to have information.

[SEYM Survey of First Day Schools](#)

# Earthcare Committee

The Earthcare Committee is proposing to send the draft “A Testimony to Earthcare,” below, out to Monthly Meetings for review and comment, with the goal of presenting a final draft at Yearly Meeting.

## **A Testimony to Earthcare**

Friends experience a deep spiritual connection to the natural world. Our connection arises from and integrates with our Testimonies to Simplicity, Integrity, Community, and Equality and centers on living in Peace as part of the environment.

Friends arrive at this sense of deep connection, as with all things, by many paths. Some Friends find this to arise from a sense of responsibility and stewardship, “that we must take care of the gift on loan to us”. Other Friends express this connection as an understanding that “nature itself is an expression of the Divine”. Some find joy and reverence in the simple experience of the natural world. Others among us study nature and find inspiration in the complexity of interrelatedness, in how each element of nature depends on another. Many of us share in all or most of these paths and we unite in seeking a greater sense of communion with the natural world.

Friends deeply lament the damage already done to the natural world and the continuing process of environmental degradation that is often the result of our search for material gain and individual satiation regardless of cost. Our Testimony to Simplicity expresses itself in this regard in a manner that often unites with the words of George Fox who cautions us to “not waste the creation upon our lusts”. We understand and acknowledge that living in a natural, clean, and safe environment has a far greater value than all the material things that arise from destroying it can ever provide.

Our Testimony to Integrity compels us to live lives that are honest, fair, and just. We find that practices that export the impacts of our excessive consumption to our neighbors in other communities, states, and nations lack this integrity.

Historically, our Testimony to Equality has caused us to object to exploitation with the strength and resilience of Truth. We find the conditions that allow for the exploitation of natural resources and of our human communities 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. 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.

Daily, we become more aware of the suffering of the planet and its people. We find an increasing demand to do justice, to “let our lives speak” individually and corporately. Living in Blessed Community with each other and the natural world takes more than words, it requires action. We encourage Friends to worship together with deep attention to how they may act to bring forward a sense of peace in our experience of community with each other and in communion with nature.

# SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism Report

Winter Interim Business Meeting (WIBM), January 19, 2019

Interconnection is a central core of First Nations, Inuit and Metis worldviews and ways of knowing. Some First Nations sum this up with the phrase 'all my relations.' This mindset reflects people who are aware that everything in the universe is connected. It also reinforces that everyone and everything has a purpose, is worthy of respect and caring, and has a place in the grand scheme of life. (First Nations Pedagogy, firstnationspedagogy.com)

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as quoted on the title page of the Executive Summary of the Institutional Assessment on Systemic Racism within Friends General Conference.)



## *Loving Greetings, Friends,*

The Committee for Ministry on Racism looks forward to connecting with all of you at WIBM and invites you to join with us when we meet at 9:30 AM on January 18. We will have had our second spirit-led, effective Zoom teleconference by then, including the first one for us under SEYM's account. Thank you, SEYM! We have also been enjoying sharing ideas and resources informally by e-mail.

We have received the report, Institutional Assessment on Systemic Racism within Friends General Conference, which was given to the Central Committee (FGC governing body) during its October 25-28 annual meeting. Committee members Susan Taylor, co-clerk, and Minerva Glidden attended. Please click the following links to access the full report and the Executive Summary with recommendations, along with other comments: a full report and summary with recommendations. These links are also available on our Committee's SEYM webpage. The Committee will review the report to see ways in which we in SEYM might benefit from it. We ask for input and feedback about the report from the rest of you.

The two minutes FGC Central Committee approved for moving forward with the recommendations of the report are:

I. Central Committee approves the establishment of a group to implement the work of the Institutional Assessment on Systemic Racism within Friends General Conference. Its charge shall be to guide the transformation of Friends General Conference into an anti-racist organization.

Consistent with the decision of Central Committee in 2017 to prioritize the work of anti-racism, FGC commits to work to eliminate white supremacy within the Religious Society of Friends and to model anti-racism as we support the work of this implementation group.

Central Committee authorizes the Institutional Assessment Working Group (IAWG) to serve as a naming committee to bring forward the names of eight Friends to serve on this implementation group. The names for the implementation group shall be brought forward for approval to Executive Committee at its winter 2019 meeting. The individuals to be recommended shall constitute at least 50 percent Friends of Color and consideration shall be given to include Young Adult Friends and broad geographic representation.

The implementation Group will use the information and recommendations from the Institutional Assessment on Systemic Racism within Friends General Conference 2018 report to begin their work and its work shall not be limited to the scope of the report and its recommendations. The implementation group shall be accountable to Central Committee and will report its progress to each Executive Committee Meeting and annually to Central

Committee. Central Committee authorizes the IAWG to propose an appropriate budget to support the work of the implementation group and authorizes the Executive Committee to approve that budget at its winter 2019 meeting.

II. Central Committee resolves that in all FGC decision-making processes beginning now with the FY 19 budget, each body shall answer the following query with respect to each decision, "How does this decision support FGC in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?"



Another gift received by the Committee for Ministry on Racism at the Central Committee meeting, was Susan Taylor's meeting David Etheridge, clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Working Group on Racism. Our relationship with BYM will offer additional rich resources for our work.

As we anticipate our 2019 SEYM Annual Gathering, we have begun planning for our workshop there on **Microaggressions** (e.g. the intent to affirm a person of color by saying, "You're so articulate," or assuming that someone of Puerto Rican descent does not live in the U.S. by asking, "Where are you from?") The workshop will be led by Kathy Hersh, Beverly Ward and Minerva Glidden.

We brought forward to our Fall Interim Business Meeting, a list of some of our favorite resources for addressing racism. Those articles are now on our SEYM webpage. The book *New York Yearly Meeting read in 2017, Deep Denial, The Persistence of White Supremacy in United States History and Life*, by white southerner David Billings, is one of the resources listed. The author, who has been an anti-racist trainer and organizer for over thirty-five years, makes accessible and visible in great detail our country's willful construction of systemic racism through his own personal storytelling, knowledge of history, and experiences with a wide mix of people. Most members and attendees within the monthly meetings and worship groups of SEYM identify as white, and this book is addressed, compassionately and honestly, to white people. He writes, "Internalized Racial Superiority has impacted white people regardless of our individual politics or opinions and regardless of our sense of morality or sense of justice. The images over centuries of white people [in myriad roles] have been internalized and accepted as normal...[The] ability to deny that racism even exists is because the totality of white dominance is so pervasive as to make it invisible." (p. 70)

Our Committee has recently shared new resources among ourselves and recommend them to other Friends:

***Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack of Settler Privilege*** by Dina Gilio-Whitaker. "Racism is certainly not limited to African Americans; American Indian people have for centuries been targeted in countless ways that are fundamentally genocidal in nature...The single, irreducible element of the racism American Indians have been subject to is the acquisition of our lands, and this is what makes racism against American Indians different than all other forms of racism and discrimination. This is the core of a system we call settler colonialism... "an invisible knapsack with colonialism as its starting point for recognizing how everybody not of American Indian heritage benefits" (Beacon Broadside, [beaconbroadside.com](http://beaconbroadside.com)). We will ask Vicki Carlie to add this to our SEYM webpage. Our committee will be doing work on the Doctrine of Discovery.

***Why the ICWA [Indian Child Welfare Act] is Critical to the Health of Native Children and Tribal Communities*** by Sherry Treppa in Native News Online ([nativenewsonline.net](http://nativenewsonline.net)),

Oct. 28, 2018. "A Texas judge's recent decision to strike down the ICWA sets a dangerous precedent that unravels federal policy carefully designed to correct centuries of tragic injustices against Indian people. It not only threatens the wellbeing of Native children and their families, but also tribal sovereignty. Further, the ruling could undo many of the collaborative relationships our tribes have forged with local governments and states that already acknowledge the benefits of preserving Native families."

**The Newest Jim Crow** by Michelle Alexander. Opinion, New York Times. November 8, 2018. "Recent criminal justice reforms contain the seeds of a frightening system of 'e-carceration.'"

"The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. warned that 'when machines, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered.' We failed to heed his warning back then. Will we make a different choice today?"

**U.S. Law Enforcement Failed to See the Threat of White Nationalism. Now They Don't Know How to Stop It** by Janet Reitman. New York Times Magazine, November 3, 2018. "For two decades, American counterterrorism strategy has ignored the rising danger of far-right extremism. In the atmosphere of willful indifference, a virulent movement has grown and metastasized."

**I'll never forget I was rich, I had shoes** by TexMex, Daily Kos. November 26, 2018.

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/11/26/1815424/-I-ll-never-forget-I-was-rich-I-had-shoes>. Addresses racist U.S. policies that produce poverty. The explanation of "occupied territory" - given that "the West" of the U.S. was/is Mexican territory - is explained with: We did not cross borders. Borders crossed us.



Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Committee for Ministry on Racism co-clerk writes:

**Dear Friends of Southeastern Yearly Meeting,**

"I have an image of turnips (as in the root vegetable) present at SEYM functions. They are to remind us to "turn up to turn off racism." When FGC Ministry on Racism staff member, Vanessa Julye, and her co-author of Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship - Quakers, African Americans and the Myth of Racial Justice, Donna McDaniel, turned up at SEYM annual sessions as the retreat leaders and Walton Lecturers years ago, Friends' enthusiasm to address racism was palpable. Is addressing racism among Friends so fraught with anxiety and avoidance and fear of swallowing us into racism oblivion that we dare not contemplate it unless confronted with the need of putting on a concerned or happy face when the opportunity arises? If so, just know we've got Friends in SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism who are ready to "turn up to turn off racism" when we do not know what to do or where to turn otherwise. We may find some answers to our questions at the [seymquakers.org](http://seymquakers.org) webpage of Ministry on Racism. This is a ministry for a lifetime!

I ask us: What continues to enthuse us in addressing racism, now? And, what holds us back from addressing racism? Or, has held us back? And, how do we sustain our life-long journey in addressing our racism and that of others? Do we feel obliged to address racism in our lives and others' lives? Or, is such action so emotionally overwhelming to contemplate long-term, we'd rather avoid it if at all possible - or, only in small doses? How do we understand ourselves as life-long learners when it comes to addressing racism instead of unchangeable, unforgivable, unlovable monsters who do not know what to do with our racism nor how to face those aspects of our history and our present reeking of racism? If we proclaim to not have a racist bone in our bodies, how did we eliminate racism? Do tell."



Wendy Clarissa Geiger (Jacksonville) co-clerk; Susan Taylor (Tallahassee) co-clerk. Other Committee members: Cheryl Demers (Gainesville), Minerva Glidden (Orlando), Kathy Hersh (Miami), Beverly Ward (Tampa), Jane Westberg (Miami)

# Peace & Social Concerns Committee

Minutes from Saturday, October 6, 2018 • Winter Interim Business Meeting  
St Petersburg Friends Meetinghouse

The P&SC committee of SEYM met at St Petersburg Friends Meetinghouse. The following were present: Cece Yocum (Convenor/Tampa Mtg), Stan Abramson (TampaMtg), Mike Flanery (Clearwater Mtg) Jay Ortega Rand (St Petersburg Mtg), Katie Green (Recorder/Clearwater Mtg), Phil Stone (Clearwater Mtg), Greg Stone (St Petersburg Mtg), Nancy Corindia (Sarasota Mtg), Warren Hoskins (Miami Mtg). Regrets were received from Willie Hager and Pete Ackerman

Minutes from the Zoom Meeting of P&SC on 8/30/2018 were reviewed. Willie will create a Doodle Poll to schedule the next on-line meeting. Although the Zoom meeting began a little slow due to a learning curve, it was believed to be a good way to meet.

Peter received a \$450 grant from P&SC committee of SEYM for the 40 Days of Action .He created a large puppet that was used during the action/s. There were no Friends on the Poor People's steering committee.

Phil Stone reported on the survey that was emailed to Monthly Meetings' Clerks and P&SC committees by Vicki Carlie. The goal of this survey was to sense a sense of what Monthly Meetings (MMs) are actively involved with, and also to learn what their main concerns are. Corporate work among SEYM meetings is encouraged, as it is believed to be an effective way to bring change. There are 23 MMs in SEYM, and 10 MMs responded. The group discussed the low response rate and decided to ask Vicki to resend the questionnaire to MMs that did not respond. Friends suggested that we obtain an up-to-date list of P&SC Clerks of the MMs.

The surveys that were received indicated that the three main concerns that were reported were

- 1) Climate Change;
- 2) Racism, economic inequality, immigration, and
- 3) Mass Incarceration/school to prison pipeline.

The group was surprised that gun violence and militarism appeared to be a lower priority. We took a moment to celebrate the past successes of SEYM with our involvement with pressuring PNC Bank to cease their support of mountain-top removal, and the success in supporting the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

We are happy to have Beverly Ward as the SEYM Earthcare Witness staff person.

FCNL also continues to be an active part of every MM, bringing legislative matters to us through the meetings' FCNL representatives.

If our role is to support MM or to suggest corporate action, it was felt that we need both education and probably some new members.

About 40 minutes before lunch, our visitors from the Coalition of Immokolee Workers and the Fair Food Interfaith Council arrived. Geraldo Reyes-Chavez, his mother, Theresa Chavez, Carmen (whose last name we unfortunately didn't get), and Alex Schelle from the Alliance for Fair Food were welcomed and made comfortable. Alex quietly and efficiently translated for Maria and Carmen.

Ronaldo emphasized our human connections and stressed that farm workers are more than simply field workers. He explained the imbalance of power in the economics of agriculture by naming problems of violence, wage theft, and slavery. The power of purchasing places the workers on the bottom as growers cut costs and corporations increase profits. Ronaldo encouraged us to consider the point of view of each person involved in the tomato industry: the worker, the grower, the buyer, the consumer. He reminded Friends of the success of the Taco Bell boycott and encouraged us to support the boycott of Wendy's. There are 35 thousand workers in the tomatoe industry in Florida, and now workers in 6 other states are organizing. SEYM young Friends visited the Immokolee Workers a number of years ago, and another visit could be timely. Friends eagerly listened to Ronaldo's talk and appreciated hearing Carmen's personal story.

After lunch, some of the P&SC committee members continued meeting in the Peace Room. Shawna Doran (Gainesville Mtg), Eileen Zingarro (Clearwater Friends Mtg), Gregg Stemm (St Petersburg Mtg) joined the group.

Gregg and Phil agreed to write a draft of the responses of the survey that was sent out to MMs' P&SC committees. Gregg and Phil will review the responses to the survey question "What can SEYM do to help support P&SC activities of your MM?"

Shawna expressed a desire to have Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops in high schools.

The Miami Meeting is providing sanctuary to a woman and her son from El Salvador. Contributions to help with their expenses are appreciated. A Friend shared that Kathy and Carl Hersh made a documentary film about churches providing sanctuary that is available for viewing.

Beverly Ward and Cece facilitated a By-Stander Training in Miami the weekend of September 29 in Miami at their meeting to support immigrants.

The Committee on Racism is considering how sexism and racism intersect. Friends are encouraged to formulate possible queries and send them to Nancyrose Logan. Also, our committee might have an interest group on writing queries at Yearly Meeting and we would use this topic for our query writing.

The Friends Peace Team in Honduras reports that rebels are returning to the area in Colombia. There have been multiple Trauma Healing Workshops in almost all the countries where FPT works. Thanks to SEYM for their support.

SEYM Annual Sessions will be in April, and Friends are encouraged to think about what workshops they'd like to have offered. Suggestions should be sent to Deborah Breedon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Green, Clearwater Friends Meeting

Update: We have not had any meetings by zoom since FIBM.

# SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report

Winter Interim Business Meeting 2019

**Overview** *Provide focus and coordinate efforts on environmental work in the Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) region.*

This report summarizes activities to provide focus and coordinate environmental work in the SEYM region and beyond since the 2018 Fall Interim Business Meeting. Also included are efforts undertaken within the wider Quaker world; faith-based, local, and other environmental groups; and, individuals. Planned activities beyond the Winter Interim Business Meeting also listed.

## Communication with the Anchoring Committee

Continued communication with Anchoring Committee members took place throughout this period. As discussed below, included face-to-face meetings, collaborations, and other contacts with committee members. Monthly and Interim Business Meeting visits, Alternative Violence Project (AVP) workshops, and other activities provided additional opportunities for contact with committee members.

## Meeting with Monthly Meetings (MMs), Worship Groups (WGs), and Others

*Perform visits to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups within SEYM to help them discern their leadings in care of the Earth, and to provide information and coordination among Meetings.*

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" (Phoebe Andersen, 3 Tenth Month 2016).

## Contact Information

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

A Google calendar showing requests for visitation and FSE has been created and shared with the Anchoring Committee, the Co-Clerks of the Earthcare Committee, and the SEYM office. All prior and upcoming visits are shown below. MMs and WGs continue to request visits, particularly in conjunction with retreats, AVP workshops, and Bystander Training.

**Miami Monthly Meeting, 29 Ninth Month:** Cecilia Yocum and I provide Bystander Training as part of Friends' Miami Friends Retreat on Sanctuary, Accompaniment, and Witnessing. The Bystander Training offered combined information from Playback Theatre on addressing verbal attacks, everyday bigotry, and obliviousness and the American Friends Service Committee Bystander Intervention, <https://www.afsc.org/bystanderintervention>. A key connection between bystander work and Earthcare is the impact of climate degradation on displacement of people.

**Fort Myers Monthly Meeting, 3 and 4 Eleventh Month:** On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, I participated in an informal discussion at the home of Nancy Howell with about a dozen members and attenders of the Meeting. The purpose of this discussion was to introduce myself, the FSE work, and Friends concerns. A more structured meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> included the Roots and Fruits of Earthcare exercise, actions underway within the Meeting, and some discernment of other actions within the community and beyond. Friends shared their concerns and the potential for accompaniment and collaboration with others. The work underway in the Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network which includes the Dunbar community in Fort Myers was discussed. (See also Earthcare Workshop Held at Fort Myers Meeting, <http://seymquakers.org/blog/2018/11/12/earthcare-workshop-held-fort-myers-meeting/>.)

**Half Yearly Meeting, 22-25 Eleventh Month:** As part of our environmental program at Wekiwa Springs State Park, I provided the following resources:

- A table containing Quaker Earthcare Witness pamphlets, Florida garden materials, information on Farmworkers, FCNL materials, and more;
- Aaron Carapella's tribal nation maps, <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2014/06/24/323665644/the-map-of-native-american-tribes-youve-never-seen-before> and <http://www.tribalnationsmaps.com/>;
- Two informal discussions on the Pendle Hill Truth and Healing workshop, the Doctrine of Discovery, Friends and "Indian" Boarding Schools, and recognizing the Indigenous lands where Friends meet and live;
- Participation in postcard wiring in support of Senate bill 2628 - Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act. (Thank you, Pete Ackerman.); and
- Participation in the Lack of Talent Show: performance of the one-act play, Homo Sapiens by Chantal Bilodeau, Climate Change Theatre Action, <http://www.climatechangetheatreaction.com/> and leading the SEYM Earthcare Anthem. (Thank you, John Heimburg and the Faith and No Practice Chorus.)

**Tampa Monthly Meeting, 26 First Month 2019:** I am in the process of planning the Meeting's retreat. While the Earthcare will not dominate the retreat, we are in agreement that the work will include care for the Earth.

**Sarasota Earthcare Fair, 27 First Month 2019:** This visit to Sarasota is planned to provide an opportunity for Friends to share their Earthcare activities and is proposed to be an interactive learning experience.

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

*These interactions between and among SEYM committees help to facilitate communication and collaboration of our regional concerns with national organizations and to be a Quaker Presence at specific events.*

- John Heimburg and I provided an Earthcare/SEYM tent or two at **Circus McGurkis**, <http://seymquakers.org/blog/2018/10/29/circus-mcgurkis-2018-ride-peace-wave/>;
- **The Ministry on Racism:** I continue to work with the Committee particularly in the capacity of sharing resources and speaking on the connection between Earthcare and the impacts of racism.
- **Earthcare:** with the committee is interwoven with that of Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW). (More details are provided below.);
- **Florida Council of Churches (FCC):** I continue to work with FCC on follow-up activities from the fourth assembly of the Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network, 29 through 30 Sixth Month. I

also participated in FCC's Clergy Convening and the second gathering during Eleventh Month this year. (See the FCC report.);

- **Peace and Social Concerns:** I continue to remain in contact with members of SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee. As mentioned above, Cece Yocum and I provided participated in Miami Monthly Meetings Sanctuary Workshop. Orlando Meeting is interested in providing Bystander Training during 2019.
- **Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO):** In addition to working with Warren Hoskins to build links, I also am working with QUNO through QEW and the American Friends Service Committee;
- **Right Sharing of World Resources:** I continue to share information with Nilufer Wilkins to build links, including QEW United Nations Working Group, particularly the Earthcare Coalition (See below.).
- **Youth Committee:** I continue to work with the committee and included materials for youths during the Half Yearly Meeting Gathering. I am in the process of applying for a mini-grant from QEW to print more pocket guides to share with other Yearly Meetings through QEW. I continue to share resources and information with individual Meetings, such as Earthcare for Children, <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/earthcare-children> and Finding the Light in You, <https://quakerbooks.org/products/finding-the-light-in-you>.

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

*To communicate and collaborate our regional concerns with national organizations including Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Friends General Conference (FGC). To be a Quaker Presence at specific events, including those arranged by others.*

Below I have listed existing memberships, partnerships, or collaborations that have been a part of this outreach effort. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP),** Tampa Bay provided two advanced workshops in Gainesville (15-17 Sixth and 16-18 Eleventh Months) with Katie Green, Clearwater Meeting, Sean Bell, and I as facilitators. An AVP Basic Workshop is planned for 18-20 First Month, Orlando;
- **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC):** I have been accepted as an at-large member of the AFSC Corporation and will attend the 2018 Annual Meeting the AFSC Corporation 13-14 Fourth 2018 Month. I will be working with the AFSC Third World Coalition which informs the SEYM Ministry on Racism work and vice versa. I also have been asked to consider work with AFSC's United Nations work. This will link with the QEW work discussed below;
- **The Bridge of Tampa:** I continue to work with the Bridge on various efforts;
- **The Fellowship of Friends of African Descent (FFAD):** I continue to work with FFAD and am working to strengthen linkages with QEW UN Working Group. I look forward to working with FFAD during the 2019 Friends General Conference Gathering;
- **Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network (FL-iCAN):** I continue to work with FL-iCAN planning for the 2019 Assembly. Save the dates, 1-2 Second Month 2019 Fifth FL-iCAN Assembly, Dr. J. B. Callahan Neighborhood Center, 101 North Parramore Avenue, Orlando, <https://fl-ican.org/-events>;
- **Friends Committee on National Legislation, Energy and Environment:** I continue to maintain contact with several FCNL staff.
- **Friends General Conference:** I have been asked to participate as one of the evening plenary speakers during the 2019 Gathering; the topic, How I Get Over: My Journey towards Peace and Justice in Care for the Earth, <https://www.fgcquaker.org/events/beverly-ward>. I also plan to take part in informal discussions at the People of Color Center/FFAD and assisted in the Quaker Arts Center and the QEW Center;

- **Friends Peace Teams (FPT):** Face-to-face and email contact with members of FPT continues along with work to link FPT to the QEW UN Working Group, see below;
- **Friends United Meeting:** I continue to work with FUM through QEW Steering Committee Meeting contacts, notably Geeta McGahey and Bob McGahey;
- **Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC):** I continue to work to link FWCC to QEW UN Working Group. Susanna Mattingly, FWCC Sustainability and Communications Manager have ongoing contact;
- **The Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR):** I work with ICAR through the Florida Council of Churches and Jan Booher, board member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton (UUFBR);
- **Living Mirror Playback Theatre (LMPT), Tampa:** I continue to link theater work, particularly Bystander Training, as mentioned above.
- **National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Environmental Justice Issues in Transportation and the Women's Issues in Transportation Committees:** I am a "friend" of the Women's committee and the research coordinator for the Environmental Justice Committee;
- **Organize NOW/F.I.R.E., Climate Justice Committee:** I continue to assist the local committee in planning climate justice survey and have built a link with the Orlando office;
- **The Pachamama Alliance:** I continue to have contact with members through the FL-ICAN network;
- **QEW:** I participated in the biannual Steering Committee meeting of QEW in Federal Way, WA. The program included committee and working group meetings and presentations on Local Activism and Earthcare with Lynn Fitz-Hugh; Indigenous Communities and Earthcare with Jeff Smith and Jonathan Bezt-Zall; and Spiritual Unification discussion/worship sharing led by Eric Maya Joy. I continue focus on the International Decade for People of African Descent and co-clerking the Water Circle of the Earthcare Coalition. I am the co-clerk of the QEW UN Working Group, which is a lead partner of the Earthcare Coalition. I also continue to work with the Outreach Committee;
- **Sierra Club, Tampa Bay:** I remain in contact via email, snailmail, etc.;
- **Sunshine State Interfaith Power and Light:** I continue to work with this group through FL-ICAN;
- **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship:** I continue to work with Jan Booher, board member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton (UUFBR) and Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida, <http://www.uujusticefl.org/>, through FL-ICAN; Unitarian Universalist Fellowship;
- **University of South Florida, Institute on Black Life (IBL), Advisory Committee and the Patel College of Global Sustainability (PCGS).**

### **Social Media**

I continue to blog, "fsEarthcare Processing", for the SEYM website. The SEYM Administrative Secretary also has created a webpage, <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 and others are included the signature of my emails. I also have been sending out shorter pieces to the Monthly Meeting, Worship Groups, FWCC, and others on activities to use in newsletters, tweets, etc.

### **United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD), Earthcare Coalition**

As mentioned earlier, I am co-clerking the Water Circle for the United Nations High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development side events. In 2019, food issues will be the focus of the Earthcare side event. The IDPAD is the focus of the QEW UN Working Group through 2024. (See

QEW, <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/united-nations-international-decade-people-african-descent> and the Earthcare Coalition site, [https://undecadeforpeopleofafricandescent.wordpress.com/.](https://undecadeforpeopleofafricandescent.wordpress.com/))

This work converged with that of AFSC and FGC with a recent Zoom interview of Vedisia “Dee Dee” Green, Area Program Director, AFSC and Peace by Piece New Orleans, Website, <http://www.afsc.org/office/new-orleans-la>, and Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/peacebypiecenola>. This recording will be posted on YouTube, Earthcare Coalition - QEW UN Decade for People of African Descent, [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_FPKV2XR4CMGUdqkDEJUVA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_FPKV2XR4CMGUdqkDEJUVA). A piece will be provided to the SEYM newsletter when available.

### **Summary**

The work has been busy since the 2018 Fall Interim Business Meeting. Thank you for your love, prayers, and other support!

---Beverly Ward

## **Florida Council of Churches Report Winter Interim Business Meeting 2019**

The Florida Council of Churches (FCC), continues to build on the fourth assembly at the Dr. J. B. Callahan Neighborhood Center in Orlando. This includes planning to reconvene in a fifth assembly at the Callahan Center 1-2 Second Month 2019. The focus of the fifth assembly will be environmental equity led by environmental activists from around Florida.

FCC, FL-iCAN Steering Committee and others convened a 2018 Indigenous Wisdom Gathering on 8 Tenth Month 2018.

Following the Eighth Month Florida Primary Election, FCC convened a statewide Clergy Convening, “Clergy Impacting Equal Justice in Florida: What should just legislative reform look like?”, for the evening 30 Ninth Month and all day, 1 Tenth Month in Orlando. An ecumenical worship service and reception was held at Mt. Olive AME Church on the 30<sup>th</sup>. In addition to workshops on Criminal Justice Reform, Common Sense Gun Safety Reform, Public Education Reform, and Economic Justice Reform, Florida Attorney General candidate Sean Shaw spoke on the 1 Tenth Month.

29 and 30 Eleventh Month, the FCC convened a Gathering “Wilt Thou Be Made Whole” at Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church in Clearwater to be held New Bethel AME, Lakeland. The Gathering began with a rousing ecumenical worship service on the 29<sup>th</sup> with a message from Bishop Frank Madison Reid, III. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Dr. David A. Hooker (UCC) led a workshop on the theme, “Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?” Hooker’s presentation will be made available to attendees and I will share with Friends. Closing Worship featured a message from Rev. Joyce Lieberman, Synod of South Atlantic.

The FCC board is planning a meeting early in 2019; the dates will be shared with Friends. Save the dates for the fifth climate action assembly at the Callahan Center, Orlando, 1-2 Second Month 2019.

---Submitted by Beverly Ward. SEYM Representative to Florida Council of Churches

# SEYM Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative

Brad Stocker • Nov. 25, 2018

Quaker Earthcare Witness went through a year-long process of envisioning its direction for the future with special attention to the core values and the urgency of Climate Change. Quaker Earthcare Witness recognizes that these most recent reports demonstrate unequivocally the urgency of acting on diminishing the human caused impact on Climate and Earth.

- WWF and Zoological Society of London: [http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge\\_hub/all\\_publications/living\\_planet\\_report\\_2018/](http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/all_publications/living_planet_report_2018/)
- US Government Report: <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: <http://ipcc.ch/>

The vision document was thrashed in all Quaker Earthcare Witness committees and was approved at the October Steering Committee Meeting in Dumas, Seattle.

The following is some of what Quaker Earthcare Witness is asking from representatives, Friends, Meetings:

- Promote the newsletter and help Friends and others sign up for the email version of **BeFriending Creation**. <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/befriending-creation>
- Promote and help Friends and Meetings to apply for a Minigrant. <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/quaker-earthcare-witness-mini-grants>
- Make your youth groups aware of our support of other youth earthcare activities. For example, Quaker Earthcare Witness supports the Our Children's Trust suits both on the national level <https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/us/federal-lawsuit/> and the one in Florida. <https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/florida>
- Urge Friends to write about earthcare for their meetings newsletters, Friends Journal, Western Friends, and any other publications. Quaker Earthcare Witness is aware of its limited resources and numbers and so asks all Friends to write.
- Urge Friends to raise awareness of Climate Change, earthcare concerns, and actions wherever and whenever possible
- Set up a table with this material <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/earthcare-witness-toolkit-meetings>
- Request or download pamphlets and share and distribute at your Meeting and at your functions. <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/publications>
- Earthcare for Friends is a curriculum for Friends to use for earthcare study groups. It will be soon posted on the Quaker Earthcare Witness website as a free download.
- Use this link to download for free Earthcare for Children to use with First Day School or other youth work. <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/earthcare-children>
- FCNL has an earthcare lobbying effort. Support it.
- Write to politicians, to weather reporters on your local and national channels.
- Write to your newspapers, op. ed., and letters to the editor.
- Participate in a local earthcare group. Start one if not there.

- At a minimum, send donations to:
  - Quaker Earthcare Witness  
<https://secure.quakerearthcare.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=5>
  - SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare <http://seymquakers.org/donations/>
  - FCNL Climate Solutions <https://www.fcnl.org/about/policy/issues/environment-energy>
  - Make an individual donation and urge your Meetings to donate to the above list. It is very helpful if it is a regular line item donation. Even “token amounts” help the forward the work and raise awareness.

Quaker Earthcare Witness will be making increased concerted, focused effort to reach out to all Friends through direct contact and direct mailing.

We recognize that there are many very important social concerns and at the same time, we must recognize that changes in the environment have direct impact on all of our concerns. We recognize that the container for all of us and all our concerns is Earth. So, as Earth’s health is diminished, exacerbating these social concerns, we must acknowledge a simple reality: if we succeed in killing the planet, we will cease to have these concerns, as we will cease to exist.