

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Winter Executive Committee Meeting • Orlando Friends Meeting
January 18, 2019 Minutes

Meeting began at 7:00 pm. After silent worship, Nancy Corindia, EC Clerk, read the following:

One of the calming and powerful actions you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul. Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it.

—Clarissa Pinkola Estes

For this most part this EC meeting involved committee clerks or representatives highlighting aspects of their Documents in Advance reports, which will be covered during the general business meeting on Saturday. There were no decisions requiring numbered minutes.

Ministry on Racism Committee Report: Susan Taylor – No new business to present (see DIAs).

Peace and Social Concerns Report: Cecilia Yocum – No committee meeting since FIBM. Willie Hager has resigned as co-clerk. Tampa MM plans to recommend that SEYM and its member bodies endorse the Coalition of Immokalee Workers boycott of Wendy's ciw-online.org/wendys over its refusal to join the Fair Food Program www.fairfoodprogram.org.

Earthcare Committee: Bill Carlie – The committee has drafted a “A Testimony to Earthcare” (DIAs p.4) which it will present to WIBM, seeking approval to distribute to MMs/WGs for comment.

Field Secretaries for Earthcare Report & Florida Council of Churches Report: Beverly Ward (see DIAs).

Youth Committee: Kody Hersh and Cece Yocum – Kody presented his work plan for his first six months in the role of Youth and Young Adult Coordinator ([Attachment 1](#)).

Nominating Committee: Ellie Caldwell – The vacancy list was reviewed, and a full report will be presented Saturday.

Treasurer's Report: Joel Cook ([Attachment 2](#)) – Joel repeated his concern about SEYM's deficit spending over the past few years. We have substantial reserves and should continue to be generous in response to carefully seasoned requests for funds. However, running a negative balance is not good stewardship in the long term.

Administrative Secretary's Report: Vicki Carlie ([Attachment 3](#)) – On advice from the Publications Clerk and Secretary, Friends began to consider transitioning from publishing print pamphlets to publishing SEYM materials online. The 2018 Michener Lecture is not yet in print, we are not selling enough pamphlets to cover publication costs, and we are paying for storage of numerous unsold items.

Friends discussed various technological options: downloadable PDFs (transcripts would still require editing), recorded videos, live streaming videos, etc. As an example, Quaker Earthcare Witness www.quakerearthcare.org/publications only prints a small first run of its pamphlets and then puts them online. This approach gives the added benefit of allowing online updates. Technically

challenged readers can have someone print such documents for them. YM Clerk Bill Carlie reports that he participates in FGC-hosted video conferences with other YM Clerks, and that he is looking for ways to make YM plenary sessions more engaging.

A downside to using online publication is the “last mile problem.” Organizations may publish rich content online, but if people don’t open the email or click the link, that information is not shared. Research in the library world shows that people still need a human being they know and trust to *show* them that the information is online. Each MM/WG needs to do regular communication in person and by phone to support the use of digital sources. Other YMs and associations share this struggle.

Critical action – Before proceeding further, SEYM must consult the Michener family for permission to make such a change. This includes checking the wording of the endowment itself: does it specify *publishing or printing*? Vicki will share this discussion with Phoebe Andersen and ask her to contact the family.

Executive Committee reconvened as Personnel Committee: Evaluations of the administrative secretary and the bookkeeper are near completion. Friends approved an appropriate increase of pay.

Submitted by
Mike Shell, Recording clerk
1/24/2019

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Work Plan

Months 1&2 (Jan and Feb)

Major focus: Set-up tasks; familiarizing myself with existing RE and outreach resources: effectively publicizing the resources and opportunities presented by this new position to MMs and individuals in SEYM; SEYM Gathering planning; WIBM

- Set-up tasks
 - Get email up and running
 - Establish organizational systems, make work plans
 - Help set-up support committee
 - Connect w/co-workers and collaborators (AdminSec; YouthComm clerk and other members; CAPP coordinator; YM treasurer; EarthcareSec)
 - Reach out to counterparts in other Yearly Meetings
 - Develop lists of known youth and YAs in SEYM
 - Set-up a user-friendly communication and appointment system
- Familiarizing myself with existing RE and outreach resources
 - Research curricula recently published by Quaker presses
 - Research curricula published by other progressive faith communities and historic peace churches
 - Review Outreach and RE resources on FGC website
 - Develop an annotated list of helpful resources that can be shared with others
 - Connect with the Quaker RE Collaborative
- Publicizing this position to SEYM MMs and individuals
 - Work with AdminSec on a news piece, website updates, future newsletter collaborations
 - Begin to establish a network of MM contacts who can reliably pass on announcements and resources to their meetings
 - Reach out to individual youth and young adults to let them know that the position has started and invite them to give feedback or utilize resources
- SEYM Gathering planning
 - Work with Youth Committee on program planning, publicity, volunteer recruitment, and logistics for youth programming
 - Plan an event for young adults attending the YM Gathering
 - Reach out to young adults and families to encourage YM Gathering registration
 - Submit a report for YM Gathering DIA by the deadline (Feb 24)
- Winter Interim Business Meeting
 - Attend WIBM with particular attention to connecting with any youth, families, or young adults in attendance
 - Report on job launch
 - Meet with Youth Committee
 - Look for opportunities to engage Friends in conversation about the new position, especially the opportunity to invite YYA coordinator to meetings to lead workshops, retreats, and trainings
 - Support CAPP training

Months 3&4 (March and April)

Treasurer Report for 2019 Winter Interim Business Meeting

Attachment 3

Secretary's Report • Winter Executive Committee Meeting • Jan. 18, 2019

I have one item for consideration and two requests to bring forward to Executive Committee.

Shall SEYM transition from publishing our lectures in printed form to presenting them as audio or video recordings posted on the website?

I spoke at some length with Phoebe Andersen, Publications Clerk, after Orlando Friends asked if we wanted to live-stream this Michener Lecture. Phoebe and I were clear we couldn't say 'yes' on short notice, and that there were a number of questions and details to be worked out and committees to be consulted.

Publications is a ministry, and not expected to be a money-making endeavor. However, it has been costing SEYM a fair amount to produce and publish two pamphlets each year, and sales have been very low. If the ministry is about disseminating these wonderful & profound lectures, posting audio, video, and pdfs on the website would clearly reach the most people; sales of pamphlets reach really only a relative handful of Friends.

We note that the Walton Lectures could not be put into print.

There would be lots of details we would need to work out, such as what notifications speakers would need in advance, understanding what we would need---in addition to skilled volunteers--- for the production of quality video and audio, etc.

Please help us find a new Secretary.

We have had only one inquiry so far. Please announce the Secretary job opening to your Meetings and do some networking in your group. It's a really great job for semi-retirement, a parent wanting to work from home to spend more time with their kids, and anyone wanting to do non-profit administration and serve our Quaker community.

Please promote the SEYM Gathering in your Meetings

Our Gathering attendance was very low last year. Please announce the Gathering in your Meetings and newsletters, telling Friends, especially new Friends, why the Gathering is a not-to-be-missed experience for you---and a tremendous opportunity for renewal, spiritual deepening, and making new friends. Invite and encourage people to go. Tell families how great the Youth Program is. Please see that your Meeting plans ahead to offer scholarship assistance.

Thank you.

—Vicki Carlie

PS: Please send in your Meeting's news.

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
Nancy Corindia, IBM/EC Clerk, Sarasota MM
Mike Shell, IBM/EC Recording Clerk, Jacksonville MM
Jack Bradin, Clerk of Trustees, Palm Beach MM, Treasure Coast WG
Joel Cook, Treasurer, Palm Beach MM
Clara Diaz, Worship and Ministry co-clerk, Miami MM
Nancy Triscritti, Worship and Ministry co-clerk, Tampa MM
Andrea Hoskins, Gathering Committee clerk, Miami MM
Susan Taylor, Ministry on Racism Committee co-clerk, Tallahassee MM
Ellie Caldwell, Nominating Committee clerk, Palm Beach MM
Peter Schmidt, Finance Committee clerk, Naming Committee, Tampa MM
Vicki Carlie, SEYM Admin. Secretary, Orlando MM (ex officio)

Others present were:

Beverly Ward, Field Secretary for Earthcare, Earthcare, Ministry on Racism, Tampa MM
Kody Hersh, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, Orlando MM/Miami MM
Kathy Hersh, Ministry on Racism Committee, Miami MM
Cecilia Yocum, Peace & Social Concerns and Youth Committees, Tampa MM
Warren Hoskins, QUNO Rep., Peace & Social Concerns, Miami MM
Mercedes Soca, Peace & Social Concerns, Miami MM
Stephanie Preston-Hughes, Visitor, Orlando MM