Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Gathering & Annual Sessions
April 17 - 21, 2019
United Methodist Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park, Florida

DOCUMENTS IN ADVANCE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 55th Annual Gathering of Southeastern Yearly Meeting!

You are invited to join us in the annual renewal of our ties of fellowship, both within this yearly meeting, and as we welcome visitors from afar and first time attenders to our blessed gathering community!

SEYM Annual Gatherings include lots of hugs, plenty of smiles, laughter and singing from our hearts, and opportunities for deep listening for the guidance of the Spirit in all we are led to undertake together.

We are especially pleased to bring you Lucy Duncan and Noah White presenting the Walton Lecture and two retreat sessions; Beverly Ward, SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare giving a workshop and report; and Kody Gabriel Hersh reporting on the plans for his work as our Youth and Young Adult Coordinator.

I am making a few changes to our order of business for these sessions. My intent is to move the routine administrative matters along more efficiently, in order to leave more time to share and explore how spirit is moving among us in our Meetings and Worship Groups.

Part of this effort will require your assistance in paying closer attention to these Documents in Advance so that acceptance of the Minutes from EC and IBM will not require re-reading to the body. Other routine matters will hopefully rely heavily on these documents with committee clerks only speaking to any changes from the written materials or particular areas in need of deeper discernment.

The final part of this effort will require your participation. After discussions with other YM clerks, I am introducing a Meeting and Worship Group forum to the agenda. I encourage you to come prepared to speak to how the Spirit moves among your Meetings and gatherings. Where are we growing and celebrating success?

Again, welcome to our 55th Yearly Meeting Gathering. You are invited to have some fun, get some rest (or not), learn something new, and be renewed as we love each other in the Spirit.

In Friendship,

Bill Carlie, clerk, SEYM
Please remember that:

- **ALL reports from SEYM Officers, Committee Clerks and Representatives need to be shared with SEYM Friends in written form.**

- **If any of the above reports are missing from the DIA, then please bring 50 copies of each missing report to share with Friends and the clerks table, and email the original report to the recording clerks so it can be attached to the minutes of Yearly Meeting.**

Written reports are important, to inform SEYM Friends, to include in our minutes, and for our archived records. The DIA is created for that concern and is then posted on the website and emailed to all the meetings and worship groups of SEYM. This allows time for worship, as well as seasoning and discernment of any action minutes brought to SEYM. Please hold us in the Light as we continue this process.
“The life of a religious society consists in something more than the body of principles it professes and the outer garments of organization it wears. These things have their own importance: they embody the society to the world, and protect it from the chance and change of circumstance; but the springs of life lie deeper and often escape recognition. They are to be found in the vital union of the members with God and one another, a union which allows the free flowing through the society of the spiritual life which is its strength. Such words as ‘discipleship’, ‘fellowship’, ‘brotherhood’, describe these central springs of religious life...”

William Charles Braithwaite, 1905


Executive Committee Meeting • Wednesday, April 17 • 2:30 – 5:30 pm • Room 2

Committee Meetings • Thursday, April 18 • 12:50– 2:30 pm

See Bulletin Board for locations

First Plenary Session • Thursday, April 18 • 4:15-5:30 pm

Open, centering worship
A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend’s writing
Welcome
Roll call of Monthly Meetings & Worship Groups, including their milestones (in writing)
Introduction of Visitors & Reading of Letters of Introduction
General announcements (Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.)
Agenda review with corrections as necessary.
Appointment of Ad hoc Committee for SEYM Epistle 2016
Nominating Committee preliminary report, Ellie Caldwell, clerk .................................................................pp. 7-9
Review of Minutes for approval
Open Worship
Second Plenary Session • Thursday, April 18, 2019 • 7:00-8:15 pm

Open, centering worship.

General announcements *(Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.)*

Review & approval of Executive Committee Minutes, Nancy Corindia, EC Clerk

Review & approval of Interim Business Meeting Minutes, Nancy Corindia, IBM Clerk ......................... p. 10

Trustees Report, Jack Bradin, Clerk

Treasurer’s report, Joel Cook, Treasurer ..........................................................

First Reading of 2018-2019 Budget, Peter Schmidt, Finance Committee clerk................................. 18-19

Review of Minutes for approval

Open worship

Third Plenary Session • Friday, April 19, 2019 • 10:00-11:45 am

Open, centering worship.

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend’s writing.

Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced.

General announcements *(Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.)*

First Reading: Action Minutes from SEYM Committees & Representatives

provide copies to the Clerk’s table

Earthcare Committee: A Testimony for Earthcare......................................................... 11-12

Peace & Social Concerns: Letter of Endorsement of Wendy’s Boycott .................................... 13-14

Worship and Ministry Report, Clara Diaz, clerk

Ministry on Racism Report .................................................................................... 15-17

Peace and Social Concerns Report, Cece Yocum, clerk

Friends Peace Teams & Peace Building en las Americas, Cece Yocum, representative............... 29-33

FLGBTQC Report, Sara Humphrey, representative

Committee for Earthcare Report

Field Secretary for Earthcare & Anchor Committee, Beverly Ward, FSE & others .......................... 21-26

Teens and YAQs are invited

Review of Minutes for approval

Open worship
Fourth Plenary Session • Friday, April 19, 2019 • 1:15 – 2:30 pm

Open, centering worship
A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend’s writing
Welcome of Friends & Visitors not previously introduced
General announcements (Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.)
Youth Committee Report
Youth & Young Adult Friends Coordinator Report, Kody Hersh ........................................p. 20
FCNL report, with presentation by FCNL visitor Katie Breslin ................................................. 28
FWCC Report, Clara and Eduardo Diaz, FWCC representatives
FGC Report & Epistle
FUM Observer report
Florida Council of Churches report ................................................................. 27
AFSC Report
QEW report
QUNO report

Review of Minutes for approval
Open Worship

Fifth Plenary Session • Saturday, April 20, 2019 • 1:15-2:30 pm

Open, centering worship
Welcome of Friends & Visitors not previously introduced
Young Friends – Report of Young Friends concerns & minutes to Yearly Meeting
Young Adult Quakers – Report of YAQ activities and concerns
Meeting and Worship Group Forum

Where are we growing and celebrating success?
Review of Minutes for approval
Open worship
Sixth Plenary Session • Sunday, April 21, 2019 • 9:00-10:45 am

Open, centering worship

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, and/or a Friend’s writing.

General announcements – (Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.)

Reading for Approval of Action Minutes from SEYM committees and representatives.

(for minutes under revision from second plenary)

Second Reading for approval of Nominating Committee report, Ellie Caldwell, clerk.......................... pp. 7-8

Second Reading & Approval of Budget, 2017-2018, Peter Schmidt, Finance clerk.................................pp. 18-19

Gathering Committee report, Andrea Hoskins, Clerk

Epistles – Wee Friends, Young Friends, & Teen Friends (This will occur whenever these Friends arrive in the auditorium.)

SEYM Epistle – reading & approval

Minutes of appreciation

Review of Minutes for approval

Our Gathering will close with First Day Meeting for Worship at 11:00 am
Nominating Committee Report • YBM 2019 Documents In Advance

Slate of Officers, Committees, Representatives, & Appointees

► = New Recommendations to Yearly Meeting

OFFICERS

Yearly Meeting Clerk ............................................. Bill Carlie ............................................. Orlando ............................................. 2020

► Interim Business Meeting (IBM) & Executive Committee (EC) Clerk

............................................. Nancy Corindia ............................................. Sarasota ............................................. 2022

► YM & IBM Assistant Clerk ............................................. Nancy Howell ............................................. Ft Myers ............................................. 2022

YM Recording Clerk ............................................. Richard Frechette ............................................. Ft. Myers ............................................. 2021

SEEKING MEMBER Recording Clerk, IBM

SEEKING MEMBER Assistant Recording Clerk .............................................

Treasurer ............................................. Joel Cook ............................................. Palm Beach ............................................. 2020

Membership Recorder ............................................. Ed Lesnick ............................................. Orlando ............................................. 2020

Young Adult Quakers Clerk .............................................

Young Friends Clerk .............................................

Young Friends Recording Clerk .............................................

TRUSTEES

............................................. Jack Bradin ............................................. Palm Beach ............................................. 2021

............................................. Neil Anderson ............................................. Tallahassee ............................................. 2020

............................................. Mike Flanery ............................................. Clearwater ............................................. 2020

SEEKING MEMBER

SEEKING MEMBER

YM Treasurer (ex officio) .... Joel Cook ............................................. Treasure Coast ............................................. 2020

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM (CAPP)

Trainer ............................................. Ellie Caldwell ............................................. Palm Beach ............................................. 2022

SEARCHING Coordinator .............................................

COMMITTEES

Archives

Bill Rapp, Clerk ............................................. Lake Wales ............................................. 2021

Phoebe Andersen ............................................. Tallahassee ............................................. 2020

Neil Andersen ............................................. Tallahassee ............................................. 2021

Earthcare

Brad Stocker, Co-clerk ............................................. Miami ............................................. 2020

Bill Carlie Co-clerk ............................................. Orlando ............................................. 2021

Jack Brad,in ............................................. Palm Beach ............................................. 2020

Mike Flanery ............................................. Clearwater ............................................. 2020

Beverly Ward ............................................. Tampa ............................................. 2022

Catherine Price ............................................. Lake Wales ............................................. 2022

Bonnie Zimmer ............................................. Gainesville ............................................. 2022

Faith & Practice on sabbatical

Phoebe Andersen, Clerk ............................................. Tallahassee ............................................. 2022

Facebook page

Mike Flanery ............................................. Clearwater ............................................. 2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finance</th>
<th>Peter Schmidt, Clerk ..................................................</th>
<th>Tampa ..........................................................</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shawna Doran ............................................................</td>
<td>Gainesville ....................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Steve Donachie ...........................................................</td>
<td>Miami .............................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carl Hersh ........................................................................</td>
<td>Miami .............................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jack Bradin Clerk, Trustees (ex officio) .........................</td>
<td>Palm Beach .......................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nancy Howell Asst. YM Clerk (ex officio) .........................</td>
<td>Sarasota ..........................................................</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vicki Carlie YM Secretary (ex officio) ..........................</td>
<td>Orlando ...........................................................</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joel Cook Treasurer (ex officio) ....................................</td>
<td>Treasure Coast ..................................................</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half-Yearly Meeting</td>
<td>Jerry Knutson, Clerk ...................................................</td>
<td>Orlando ...........................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brian Olson Registrar ..................................................</td>
<td>Miami .............................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry on Racism</td>
<td>Susan Taylor, Co-clerk ..................................................</td>
<td>Tallahassee ......................................................</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Co-clerk ....................................</td>
<td>Jacksonville ......................................................</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minerva Glidden ..........................................................</td>
<td>Orlando ...........................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cheryl Demers-Holton ..................................................</td>
<td>Gainesville ......................................................</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beverly Ward ....................................................................</td>
<td>Tampa .............................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kathy Hersh .....................................................................</td>
<td>Miami .............................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jane Westberg ..................................................................</td>
<td>Miami .............................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace &amp; Social Concerns</td>
<td>Cece Yocum, Clerk .........................................................</td>
<td>Tampa .............................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Willie Hager ....................................................................</td>
<td>Jacksonville ......................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warren Hoskins ..............................................................</td>
<td>Miami .............................................................</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mercedes Soca ..................................................................</td>
<td>Miami .............................................................</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mike Flanery ....................................................................</td>
<td>Clearwater .........................................................</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peter Harrell ..................................................................</td>
<td>Gainesville .......................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eileen Zingaro ..................................................................</td>
<td>Clearwater .........................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phil Stone .......................................................................</td>
<td>Clearwater .........................................................</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caroline Kauffman .........................................................</td>
<td>Clearwater .........................................................</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peter Ackerman ..................................................................</td>
<td>Palm Beach .......................................................</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>Phoebe Andersen, Clerk ....................................................</td>
<td>Tallahassee ......................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mercedes Soca ..................................................................</td>
<td>Miami .............................................................</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship &amp; Ministry</td>
<td>Clara Diaz, Co-Clerk ......................................................</td>
<td>Miami .............................................................</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nancy Triscritti, Co-Clerk ............................................</td>
<td>Tampa .............................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eduardo Diaz ....................................................................</td>
<td>Miami .............................................................</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nancy Fennell .....................................................................</td>
<td>Ft. Myers .........................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nancyrose Logan ..................................................................</td>
<td>Sarasota ..........................................................</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SEEKING MEMBER ..................................................................</td>
<td>.................................................................</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SEEKING MEMBER ..................................................................</td>
<td>.................................................................</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YM Gathering</td>
<td>Andrea Hoskins, Clerk .....................................................</td>
<td>Miami .............................................................</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deborah Breeden, Program Coordinator ................................</td>
<td>Tampa .............................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ Susan Wade, Registrar ..................................................</td>
<td>St. Petersburg ..................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ Carolyn Kauffman, Bookstore .......................................</td>
<td>Clearwater .........................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joshua Killingsworth .....................................................</td>
<td>Gainesville .......................................................</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SEEKING MEMBER ..................................................................</td>
<td>.................................................................</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Youth Committee**
Mira Tanna, Clerk ................................................................. Orlando ......................... 2022
Aurelio Anderson ............................................................... Tallahassee ...................... 2021
Jennifer Mendoza .............................................................. Sarasota ......................... 2021
Cecelia Yocum ................................................................. Tampa ......................... 2021
Ambrose ........... ......................................................... Gainesville ......................... 2021
Kody Hersh .............................................................. Miami ..............................

**REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS**

**American Friends Service Committee Corporation, AFSC/Philadelphia**
SEEKING NEW REPRESENTATIVE .................................................................
SEEKING NEW REPRESENTATIVE .................................................................

**Friends Committee on National Legislation, FCNL/William Penn House**
Nancy Corinida ................................................................. Sarasota ......................... 2020
Lou Putney .............................................................. Tampa ......................... 2020
Aurelio Anderson ............................................................... Tallahassee ...................... 2020
Sandra Schwartz .............................................................. Clearwater ......................... 2020
Catharine Price .............................................................. Lake Wales ......................... 2020
Karen Putney .............................................................. Tampa ......................... 2021

**Friends General Conference, FGC Central Committee**
Minerva Glidden ................................................................. Orlando ......................... 2021
Susan Taylor .............................................................. Tallahassee ...................... 2022
SEEKING A NEW REPRESENTATIVE .................................................................
SEEKING A NEW REPRESENTATIVE .................................................................

**Friends World Committee for Consultation - FWCC**
................................................................. Clara Diaz ......................... Miami ......................... 2019
................................................................. Eduardo Diaz ......................... Miami ......................... 2021
................................................................. Sarah Hernandez ..................... Sarasota ......................... 2019
................................................................. Nancyrose Logan .................... Sarasota ......................... 2020

**Friends Peace Teams**
................................................................. Cecilia Yocum ..................... Tampa ......................... 2021

**Florida Council of Churches**
................................................................. Beverly Ward ..................... Tampa ......................... 2021

**Florida Impact, Contact Person**

**Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns - FLGBTQC**
................................................................. Sara Humphrey .................... Orlando ......................... 2020

**Palmetto Friends Gathering**
................................................................. Phoebe Andersen .................... Tallahassee ...................... 2020
................................................................. Neil Andersen .................... Tallahassee ...................... 2020

**Quaker Earthcare Witness**
................................................................. Jack Bradin ................ Palm Beach ......................... 2022
................................................................. Brad Stocker ................ Miami ......................... 2022

**Quaker House**
................................................................. Elaine Martin ................ Jacksonville ......................... 2020

**Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)**
................................................................. Warren Hoskins ................ Miami ......................... 2022

**APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATIONS**

**FUM General Board Observer**
................................................................. Eduardo Diaz ..................... Miami ......................... 2021
................................................................. Ellie Caldwell alternate ................ Palm Beach ......................... 2021

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** (New members recommended by Naming Committee)
Ellie Caldwell, Clerk ..................... Palm Beach ......................... 2020
Bevery Ward ..................... Tampa ......................... 2021
Ed Lesnick ..................... Orlando ......................... 2021
Shawna Doran ..................... Gainesville ......................... 2022
SEEKING MEMBER .................................................................
SEEKING MEMBER .................................................................

SEEYM Yearly Business Meeting 2019  Documents In Advance | 9
Fall Interim Business Meeting Numbered Minutes

18FIBM01. Fall Interim Business Meeting approves Susan Wade as YM Gathering Registrar.

18FIBM02. Fall Interim Business Meeting request that Finance Committee discern way forward to initiate a development effort in SEYM, either a part of Finance Committee or as a separate Development Committee, and to present its recommendations at the 2019 YM Gathering.

18FIBM03. Fall Interim Business Meeting approves that Finance Committee shall survey other yearly meetings to review other manners of apportionment and development, and to make recommendations on way forward at the 2019 YM Gathering.

18FIBM04. Fall Interim Business Meeting expresses great thanks to St. Petersburg Quakers for the rich meals and hospitality they have provided us.

Winter Interim Business Meeting Numbered Minutes

19WIBM01. Winter Interim Business Meeting of Southeastern Yearly Meeting approves distribution of “A Testimony to Earthcare,” as included in the 2019 WIBM Documents in Advance, to the monthly meetings and worship groups for consideration and comments in response.

19WIBM02. Winter Interim Business Meeting of Southeastern Yearly Meeting sends our love, light, and support with Beverly Ward, our Field Secretary for Earthcare, as she speaks to the Monday plenary session of Friends General Conference Gathering on July 1, 2019, at Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA.

19WIBM03. Winter Interim Business Meeting of Southeastern Yearly Meeting approves the nominations as listed.

19WIBM04. Winter Interim Business Meeting of Southeastern Yearly Meeting thanks Orlando Monthly Meeting for yet another gracious round of hospitality for WIBM and the 2019 Michener Lecture.
Earthcare Committee

The following cover letter & 'A Testimony for Earthcare' was sent out to Meetings and Worship Groups on 2/9/19

To Clerks of SEYM Meetings and Worship Groups

Greetings Friends,

The SEYM Earthcare committee seeks your Meeting’s comments, discernment, or approval for this draft “Testimony to Earthcare,” which is meant to be a faith statement that reflects our spiritual experience and deeper convictions as well as concerns for the Earth.

It is our intent to present a final draft of this statement, seasoned by your input and discernment, to SEYM’s Annual Sessions for discernment or approval.

Please submit your comments to the Committee by March 25th. The committee will remain open to working with Friends who may have concerns at any point prior to final approval.

Please send comments directly to me at williamcarlie@embarqmail.com.

Sincerely,

Bill Carlie, Co-Clerk
SEYM Earthcare Committee

Background:

The SEYM Earthcare Committee held a retreat session at last Annual Gathering with the intent of discernment toward preparing a “Testimony to Earthcare” as a faith statement that reflects our concerns for this time and our deeper convictions for any time. The draft “A Testimony to Earth Care” was drafted by a small sub-committee of Friends from the retreat session notes and then approved by the full Earthcare Committee for wider distribution and discernment. The draft was included in the Winter Interim Business Meeting with a request for approval to formally distribute the draft to Monthly Meetings for discernment, comment, or approval as Friends may be led.

WIBM approved the following minute:

19WIBM01. Winter Interim Business Meeting of Southeastern Yearly Meeting approves distribution of “A Testimony to Earthcare,” as included in the 2019 WIBM Documents in Advance, to the monthly meetings and worship groups for consideration and comments in response.
A Testimony to Earthcare (2nd draft)

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.
Peace & Social Concerns

The following cover letter & Wendy’s Boycott Endorsement letter were sent out to Meetings & Worship Groups on 2/17/19

Greetings SEYM Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, & Friends,

The SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee is asking Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to consider signing a letter endorsing the Wendy’s boycott, a key campaign and current focus of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) ciw-online.org/wendys. This boycott of the Wendy’s fast food chain is designed to raise public awareness of the abuses and conditions that farmworkers endure, and put pressure on the Wendy’s corporation to join the Fair Food Program, www.fairfoodprogram.org, which secures better wages and safe working conditions for farmworkers.

Several meetings have already endorsed the boycott and signed letters. The attached letter of endorsement, written and signed by Tampa Meeting, can be used as it is, or as a sample letter for Meetings who wish to write their own.

The Peace and Social concerns committee will also be bringing this letter to SEYM Annual Sessions in April, asking Friends to consider whether SEYM can also endorse the Wendy’s boycott.

The boycott highlights the need for the Fair Food Program, in which corporations agree to a humanitarian code of conduct for employers of farm workers, including the reporting and stopping of physical and sexual abuse and the provision of healthcare. CIW is not presently boycotting Publix, because Publix stores are often the only local groceries for many farmworkers. Instead, Friends are encouraged to write Publix corporate management in support of the Fair Food Program. Friends are also asked to watch and share the TED Talk by Gerardo Reyes-Chavez, “Making Corporations Pay,” youtu.be/N6fly-p3hu0.

Please discuss this boycott in your Meeting and discern if you are led to support this campaign and send a letter of endorsement. If you use the Tampa letter, you should change the second page for your meeting.

Please email your letter to Alex Schelle, National Co-Coordinator of the Alliance for Fair Food, alex@allianceforfairfood.org, and to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee clerk, Cece Yocum, and bring a copy to Yearly Meeting for further discussion regarding consideration of the signing on of Yearly Meeting as well.
Wendy's has refused to join the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Fair Food Program (FFP) and do its part to protect the human rights of farmworkers in its supply chain.

The FFP guarantees never-before-seen rights for tens of thousands of farmworkers in fields along the East Coast, including rights to shade and rest breaks from their grueling work, the right to speak up about abuse without fear of retribution, and zero tolerance for sexual assault and modern slavery. Since 2011, participating buyers have paid Fair Food wages that have provided more than $20 million in bonuses to farmworkers, constituting the first real pay increase for workers in over 30 years.

Of the five largest fast food companies, Wendy's is the only one not participating in the FFP. Rather, Wendy's has opted to profit from farmworker poverty and abuse while propping up an alternative market outside the FFP with less reputable growers. Wendy's ran away from their responsibility by switching their tomato purchasing from Florida to Mexico, abandoning the Florida tomato growers who are doing the right thing. When the CIW and consumer allies began to demand that Wendy's stop doing business with the abuse-ridden Mexican agricultural industry, Wendy's again shifted its purchases, this time purchasing from greenhouses in the U.S. and Canada. However, consumers know that greenhouses do not equal better working conditions for farmworkers and that the best way to end abuse in Wendy's supply chain is to join the Fair Food Program.

Wendy's latest corporate code of conduct for its suppliers, which took effect in January 2016, is a perfect example of the failed, corporate-controlled approach to social responsibility. From its vague “expectations” for ethical behavior from its suppliers to its toothless approach to consequences for suppliers who fail to meet those expectations, Wendy's response simply does not measure up to the Fair Food Program.

In the face of Wendy's failure to do the right thing, we, Tampa Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), pledge to boycott Wendy's until the world's third largest hamburger chain commits to protect the human rights of the farmworkers who make their profits possible by joining the Fair Food Program.

Organization Name:

Organization Address:

Organization Contact Person:

Email:
Phone:
Ministry on Racism Committee Report  
Southeastern Yearly Meeting Gathering, April 17 – 21, 2019

“I feel that there is a lot of energy in our country right now around making space to have deep conversations we’ve never had before in our country’s history… it’s powerful… I want to encourage people to be rooted in love, that doesn’t mean don’t be angry or shed a tear… the conversations are painful, they’re charged and bring up stuff we’ve never had to work through as humans before in our country… but to know that we’re all in it together.”


Greetings Dear Friends,

The SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism welcomes you to the SEYM Gathering and joyfully invites you to attend our interactive workshop, “Where are you REALLY From? Microaggressions in Everyday Life,” to be held Thursday, April 18. Committee members Minerva Glidden (Orlando), Beverly Ward (Tampa) and Kathy Hersh (Miami) are looking forward to facilitating the session. Please check the schedule for time and location. To preview what microaggressions are, click on this link for a brief panel discussion led by Dr. Phil, on YouTube: How You May Be Using Microaggressions Without Being Aware of It.

Our Yearly Meeting Gathering theme, “Taking off the Masks: Undoing White Supremacy as Spiritual Practice” invites us to have the deep conversations, rooted in love, that Sterling Duns mentions above, and to take other action. Our retreat leaders and Walton Lecturers, Lucy Duncan and Noah White will share their own personal stories related to the theme, just as the rest of us will have the opportunity to throughout our time together. Please see their March 1, 2017 Friends Journal article, Stumbling Forward toward Racial Justice among Friends. https://www.friendsjournal.org/undoing-racism

We also invite you to our Committee meeting on Thursday from 12:50 to 2:30 PM. The place for the meeting will be decided and posted on site. As we draft our agenda, we are mindful of the words of Vanessa Julye (Coordinator of FGC’s Ministry on Racism program) in her keynote address, Uprooting Racism, to Northern Pacific Yearly Meeting on July 26, 2018.

“I want White Friends to have the vision to see things differently, to listen in new ways, and to understand things outside of the context of White culture...

We need to build a Religious Society of Friends where everyone feels welcome for who they are, a Society that does not cause people to leave their cultural identities outside the door. Let’s begin to identify and abandon those aspects of Quakerism that are not related to the core of our beliefs. Let us discard the non-essential Eurocentric practices that have become attached to the way we practice our faith. Once those are removed, we can – people of Color and of European descent together – rebuild Quakerism and the world into an equal and peaceful home.” (Printed with permission from Western Friend, on the Friends General Conference website, www.fgcquaker.org)

We will be considering the January 19 Friends Journal issue themed “A Racially Diverse Society of Friends.” Included is the article, “An Interview with the Co-clerks of Institutional Assessment on Racism Task Force” of Friends General Conference (FGC) Central Committee (the governing body of FGC).
The theme for Yearly Meeting gathering regards tending to the racism in our midst. This makes some Friends roll our eyes in frustration and annoyance and think, “Are we still discussing this matter? I do not want the whole Yearly Meeting gathering time focused on racism. Can’t we get away from racism and just enjoy our time together? Why do they shove it in our faces? I just don’t think I’ll attend this year. They’ll just blame me and shame me. Why do they think every white person is racist and hates people of color? Can’t we just move on? This is ridiculous. Bringing up racism just makes it
worse. Ignore it and it'll go away. I'm not racist. And, besides, I'm American and can think whatever I want to think."

If any of the sentences, above, rings true for you, then definitely (re)consider and attend Yearly Meeting gathering and experience the joys - the life! - of the Quaker ways of "speaking truth to power" - power within and power without...speaking truth with power...listening for/from/to truth...and finding how truth and power change - and change you - in the process.

Forty-something years ago, at age seven, I began attending Yearly Meeting gatherings. As a child and teen (actually, up until my forties), I thought I'd die if I missed a Yearly Meeting gathering. In the last five years, in my fifties, I've missed a few. And, I've lived. My mother, Julia of blessed memory, spoke of attending Yearly Meeting gatherings as "drinking at the well." Local Meeting life gave us something. Yet, Yearly Meeting gatherings gave us the annual re-charge in a major, all-encompassing way.

In the last ten years, I ask myself the following questions: Do I really want to be challenged and grow and love and be loved that much? Listen and be heard that deeply? Dance or watch the dancing - especially, the Julia O. Geiger Memorial Chicken Dance - with that much fun? Figure out how to institutionalize kindness, and practice kindness with that much Divine determination? Discover and discern which path leads to that outcome I'm looking for in living, dying, and carrying on?

Attend Yearly Meeting gathering to actively grow Peace, Love, and Joy in your Garden of Life. Attend Yearly Meeting gathering, and you may find racism permeates your entire life. You may have already known that that was a possibility. It's just, facing racism is terrifying. Now, reading this letter, feel the encouragements to reach out to others beside you, and they will guide you...and Southeastern Yearly Meeting, your meeting or worship group, your life, will be enriched by your attending Yearly Meeting gathering this Easter time to "drink at the well." The SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism welcomes questions and comments, blessings and woes, and offers SEYM Friends our Friendly ears and heart-minds.

Gentle blessings,

Wendy Clarissa Geiger, co-clerk of the Committee
# Finance Committee Report • Proposed FY2019-2020 Budget

## Budget FY 2019-2020 - 1st DRAFT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Annual Budget $</th>
<th>Actual $</th>
<th>Annual Budget $</th>
<th>Actual $</th>
<th>Annual Budget $</th>
<th>Actual Jun</th>
<th>Proposed Budget $</th>
<th>Change from 2018-19 budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001 Donations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002 Individual Donations &amp; In-Kind: GF Accts#2000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>2,536.00</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>1,381.50</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>540.00</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003 Meetings &amp; Worship Groups - Apportionments</td>
<td>$60,880</td>
<td>54,630.00</td>
<td>$61,870</td>
<td>58,450.00</td>
<td>$69,715</td>
<td>29,511.35</td>
<td>73,900</td>
<td>4,185.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003 Meetings &amp; WGs - Others (GF Accts #2013, 2023)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>503.00</td>
<td>503.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Donations - Restricted</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001 Other Donations -Restricted (GF Accts#2004, 2060)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2001 Donations</td>
<td>$62,880.00</td>
<td>57,291.00</td>
<td>$63,870.00</td>
<td>62,343.50</td>
<td>$71,175.00</td>
<td>30,051.35</td>
<td>75,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2200 Investment Earnings</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>23.61</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>11.22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2200 Investment Earnings</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2306 Miscellaneous Income &amp; (GF Accts#2316, 2380)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2316 GuideOne Insurance Dividend</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>209.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2000 Income</td>
<td>$62,890.00</td>
<td>57,311.00</td>
<td>$63,880.00</td>
<td>62,576.21</td>
<td>$71,375.00</td>
<td>30,062.57</td>
<td>75,920</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2700 Transfers in FROM other classes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2711 Donations to GF through other classes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2712 Michener Lecture to GF/insurance</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2732 Gath/Walton to GF/insurance</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>900.00</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>900.00</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2750 Surplus from HYM</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2752 HYM to GF/insurance</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2804 From Trustee’s Funds</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2815 for Bertsche Outreach Travel</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>1,828.00</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
<td>1,753.70</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
<td>890.77</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2820 for Secretary’s Salary</td>
<td>$3,600</td>
<td>4,261.00</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>4,089.47</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>2,080.66</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2804 from Trustee’s Funds</td>
<td>$5,100</td>
<td>6,089.00</td>
<td>$6,300</td>
<td>5,842.17</td>
<td>$6,300</td>
<td>2,971.43</td>
<td>6,300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2700 Transfers in FROM other classes</td>
<td>$6,600</td>
<td>7,598.00</td>
<td>$7,600</td>
<td>7,192.17</td>
<td>$7,800</td>
<td>3,271.43</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$69,490.00</td>
<td>64,900.00</td>
<td>$71,680.00</td>
<td>67,768.36</td>
<td>$79,535.00</td>
<td>33,034.00</td>
<td>83,720</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses

#### 2999 Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Description</th>
<th>Annual Budget $</th>
<th>Actual $</th>
<th>Annual Budget $</th>
<th>Actual $</th>
<th>Annual Budget $</th>
<th>Actual $</th>
<th>Proposed Budget $</th>
<th>Change from 2018-19 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3000 Administrative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3001 Bank Service Charges</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3002 Credit Card Service Fees</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3080 Duplication &amp; (GF Accts#6000)</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>1,076.00</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>1,885.00</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>347.99</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3100 Insurance</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3200 Office Supplies</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>518.00</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>769.64</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>80.26</td>
<td>800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3270 Payroll Expenses - Employee Salary</td>
<td>$29,200</td>
<td>36,095.00</td>
<td>$30,400</td>
<td>38,004.72</td>
<td>$41,000</td>
<td>19,856.19</td>
<td>46,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3276 Payroll Expenses - Employee Benefits</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3277 Payroll Expenses - Employer Taxes for Staff</td>
<td>$2,200</td>
<td>2,763.00</td>
<td>$2,390</td>
<td>2,907.35</td>
<td>$2,755</td>
<td>1,519.15</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3380 Postage &amp; Shipping</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>384.00</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>352.56</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>278.05</td>
<td>400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3381 Post Office Box Rental</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>152.00</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>168.00</td>
<td>$180</td>
<td>92.00</td>
<td>180</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3400 Office Equipment</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>1,417.00</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>235.33</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>220.42</td>
<td>400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3500 Professional Svc s &amp; (GF Accts#3536,3556,5187)</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
<td>1,325.00</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
<td>1,250.00</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3640 Rent, Office &amp; Off-site Storage Unit</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
<td>1,591.00</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
<td>1,848.00</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
<td>960.00</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3700 Repairs</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>102.00</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>203.11</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3816 Software</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
<td>1,230.00</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>1,363.35</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>921.32</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3840 Telephone &amp; Internet Service</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>1,598.00</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>1,580.32</td>
<td>$1,700</td>
<td>743.92</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3860 Travel Administrative &amp; (GF Accts#9003)</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>1,394.00</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>351.36</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3900 Website Fees &amp; (Off-site E-Data Storage)</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>910.00</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>881.86</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>420.00</td>
<td>900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 3000 Administrative</td>
<td>$45,040.00</td>
<td>$52,211.00</td>
<td>$46,230.00</td>
<td>$52,747.60</td>
<td>$58,045.00</td>
<td>$27,850.75</td>
<td>$63,270.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Operating Expenses</td>
<td>Amount (USD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4000 Archives</td>
<td>$550.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4329 EC &amp; IBM (GF Acct#7000)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4339 Faith &amp; Practice</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4348 Finance</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4348 Nominating</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4369 Peace &amp; Social Concerns</td>
<td>$450.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4389 Youth Committee</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4379 Publications</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4399 Worship &amp; Ministry</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4429 Earthcare</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4469 Ministry on Racial</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4488 Young Adult Quakers</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Committee Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,100.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donations to Organizations</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5007 AFSC</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5018 Earhart School of Religion</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5027 FCNL</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5028 GEW</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5030 FLGBTQC</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5037 FGC</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5038 Florida Coalition for Peace &amp; Justice</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5047 Florida Council of Churches</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5048 Florida Impact</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5057 Friends Journal</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5058 Friends Peace Teams</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5067 FUM (often restricted to specific Project(s))</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5068 FWGC</td>
<td>$1,450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5077 Pendle Hill</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5078 ProNica</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5085 Quaker House of Fayetteville NC</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5087 Quaker Life</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5089 Quaker UN Office</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5091 William Penn House</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Donations to Organizations</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,850.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Representative Travel</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8000 Representative Travel</td>
<td>$536.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8000 Travel &amp; Financial Aid - Other</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8100 Annual Representatives</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8300 Attend SEYM-approved Activities</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8460 Travel Support to SEYM Business</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8500 Attendance at SEYM-approved Activities</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Representative Travel</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contingency</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8500 Contingency</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Contingency</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Expenses</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2999 Other Expenses</td>
<td>$63,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9000 Transfer out to other classes</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9005 for Gathering Youth</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9060 for Triennial Travel Reserves</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9061 Excess FYE Rep Annl Trvl to Triennial Trvl Rrv</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9210 for Michener Lecture Support</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>64,900.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Expenses</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>69,900.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Income/Deficit</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income/Deficit</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,574.25</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Add $700 restricted donation back in:**

- **$700.00**
- **$4,641.51**
- **$4,574.25**

**Actual net loss on 11-30-18 financials:**

- **$4,574.25**

**Difference:**

- **$67.26**

SEYM Yearly Business Meeting 2019  Documents In Advance  19
Youth & Young Adult Coordinator Report

At the time of this writing (late February), I am approaching two months in the role of Youth and Young Adult Coordinator for SEYM. Hooray! Thanks to the many Friends who have supported and encouraged me in the work so far, especially Orlando Friends Meeting, who have welcomed me warmly and are providing my housing, the SEYM Youth Committee, and members of my support committee.

The Youth and Young Adult Coordinator role has a number of interlocking components.

1. **Event planning.** The Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Coordinator works with the Youth Committee, Gathering Committee, and Admin Secretary on the youth program for SEYM Gathering. The YYA Coordinator also plans additional events during the year for youth, young adults, and families.

2. **Religious education.** The YYA Coordinator supports meetings through workshops, resource sharing, and consultation to provide meaningful religious education opportunities.

3. **Outreach and welcome.** The YYA Coordinator helps to provide meetings with skills and resources to effectively invite youth, young adults, and families to worship, welcome them warmly, and support them as they find a place in the meeting community.

**Main focus of the first few months:**

Since starting in early January, the primary focus points of my work have been establishing organizational, communications, and work flow systems, supporting SEYM Gathering youth programs planning, and beginning the planning process for two weekend retreats to be held this coming summer—one for young adults, and one for families with kids. If you haven’t already seen details about these events and shared that info with your meeting by the time you arrive at SEYM Gathering, please look for information there!

My attention to this initial set of tasks feels enriched by connections with Friends both within and outside of SEYM. I am working on reaching out to families and connecting with Young Adults in SEYM (Facebook has been invaluable for this, and I also recognize that I need to expand my facility with different social media platforms). In addition, I am staying in touch with my excellent former youth work colleagues in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, working on building connections with Friends doing youth and young adult work for other yearly meetings, and serving on the Friends General Conference “Welcoming Friend Working Group” with Quakers from across the continent.

I have two requests to make of Friends reading or hearing this report. First, **please consider inviting me to your meeting to lead a workshop or retreat, or simply to visit with Friends.** A list of possible workshop topics is available on the SEYM website, and includes religious education, outreach, spiritual deepening, Quaker process, and more. I’m also happy to figure out a topic in conversation with your meeting.

Second, **please help me reach the people in your meeting who might benefit from yearly meeting resources.** Share event invitations, pass on religious education, outreach, spiritual deepening, Quaker process, and more. I’m also happy to figure out a topic in conversation with your meeting.

With much gratitude, and hopefully faithfulness,

Kody Hersh, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator
YYACoord@SEYMQuakers.org ; (407) 850-8457 (text & phone)
Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report  Yearly Meeting 2019

Overview

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

This is the second report on field secretary activities to the Yearly Meeting since the start of the position. I continue to be grateful to f/Friends for the love and support that makes this work possible. The efforts to coordinate environmental work in the SEYM region have taken place in the State of Florida; however, I continue to seek opportunities to reach out to other areas of the region. Also included in this report are activities undertaken with the wider Quaker world; faith-based, local, and other environmental groups; and, individuals. The work continues to be rich in its breadth and range, including identifying and working with new organizations, individuals, and initiatives and nurturing existing relationships. Below, I recap the work since the 2018 SEYM Gathering and list upcoming activities planned to date.

Communication with the Anchoring Committee

I continue to share concerns, activities, and general communication with the Anchoring Committee through email contact, face-to-face meetings, and other means. Many of these interactions take place at Executive Committee, Interim Business, or Yearly Meeting; however, the Anchoring Committee has created opportunities for visits to their respective Monthly Meetings for retreats and other gatherings.

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.

As a reminder, “Meetings can issue invitations to the [SEYM] administrative secretary, FSE, or the Anchor Committee [for FSE visits]. We will all conference over the invitation and subsequent planning” (Phoebe Andersen, 3 Tenth Month 2016).

Contact Information

- Email: fsEarthcare@seymquaker.org.
- Facebook: @fsearthcare
- A free conference calling number has been established, 1-712-770-8055. The conference code is 662814.
- Twitter: @fsearthcare.
- Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/7545638812.
- Skype: phdant.
- 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 and the Co-Clerks of the Earthcare Committee. All prior and upcoming visits are shown below. MMs and WGs continue to request visits, particularly in conjunction with retreats and AVP workshops.

St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting, 19 Fifth Month 2018

I facilitated a discussion on “Sea Level Rise in the Time of Climate Change” at the Meetinghouse. After the viewing two short films, Major Sea Level Rise & the Near Future, a TED talk by Jason Briner; and Life in a Sea-level Hotspot, a newscast of interviews with local Miami residents where participants speak of
their experiences with flooding and other impacts of climate disruption. One emerging theme is the need for meaningful public participation in regard to how local governments invest funds in mitigating impacts. That is, finding a balance between infrastructure investments, e.g., pumps, rebuilding roadways, etc., and investments in people, e.g., purchasing housing in floodplains, building alternative, affordable housing, etc.

Among the participants was a representative from Rethinking Energy Florida (www.rethinkenergyflorida.org), Alexis Howard, Political Advocacy Coordinator, Tampa Bay Region. Rethink Energy Florida has received grant funding to hold Sea Level Rise Candidate, Tidal Town forums in various cities around the State of Florida and Alexis has asked for assistance from Friends in getting the word out, etc. A link to their website on Tidal Town Halls (http://tidaltownhalls.org/) has been posted on the SEYM and FSE Facebook pages and shared with others for their newsletters, etc.

Gainesville Monthly Meeting, 20 Fifth Month and 18 Sixth Month 2018

At the request of the Gainesville MM Earthcare Committee, I helped to facilitate a meeting to discern what Earthcare action the Committee or Meeting could take on. One potential project that emerged was a partnership with a local charter school in the historical African-American community of Lincoln Estates. Susan Cary, Tallahassee Meeting and Gainesville Meeting attender, is a volunteer with the school and detailed the plans of some school staff to have a vegetable garden, pollinators garden, compost area, and recycling program. A summary of the meeting was provided to the Committee for presentation to the Monthly Meeting. (A copy of the summary is attached; see Appendix A.) After receiving support for the project from the Monthly Meeting, a meeting with representatives of the charter school was held at the school on 18 Sixth Month. During this meeting, the participants identified ways that Friends could partner with the community with initial steps including providing plants, seeds, and soil to support the gardens. Other actions have included additional meetings and support during the 2018-2019 school year. Collaboration with other resource persons within the Monthly Meeting, Yearly Meeting, and beyond, e.g. Grow Permaculture, Crone’s Cradle, etc., continue to be explored.

Tampa Monthly Meeting, 24 Sixth Month 2018

At the request of the Meeting, I provided an overview of FSE activities and a led a discussion on how Friends’ testimonies can inform our care for the Earth. During Third Month 2017, I facilitated Adult Firstday School with Tampa Meeting. Since that time, Friends expressed an interest in learning more about how the position had evolved and the desire to better support the work. As part of the discussion, I provided a PowerPoint presentation including a mindmap to illustrate connections. (A copy of the mindmap is attached.)

Miami Monthly Meeting, 29 Ninth Month 2018

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 and the displacement of people. (Attendees at the training included Paul Mondesir, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Paul has worked in South Florida for more than 10 years on issues affecting the people of Haiti.)

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting, 3-4 Eleventh Month 2018

On the 3 Eleventh Month, 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 listen to Friends concerns. A more structured meeting on the 4th 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 on seymquakers.org). Fort Myers Meeting now has an Environmental and Ecological Action group (EEAG). I look forward to a return visit to learn more about this group!

Tampa Monthly Meeting, 26 First Month 2019

I facilitated the Meeting’s retreat on 26 First Month. And, while care for the Earth did not dominate the work of the retreat, we did express our concerns and hopes in a number of ways including a 1,000 to 2,000 year plan! We continue to discern our thoughts, which may include mapping the skills and knowledge of members and attenders.

Sarasota Earthcare Fair, 27 First Month 2019

The visit to Sarasota Monthly Meeting was planned to provide an opportunity for Friends to share their Earthcare activities. While it was not as interactive as anticipated, I shared with Friends the work that I am doing. Note: one of the blessings of this work is sharing what the various Meetings and Worship Groups are doing. I’ve shared Sarasota’s carbon footprint surveys and related work with Friends’ groups and beyond. I have innovative and wonderful examples throughout SEYM. Please continue to share what your care for the Earth with me and with each other.

Orlando, to be scheduled

Jacksonville, to be scheduled

Lake Wales, to be scheduled

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.

- The Ministry on Racism: I participated in two committee meetings via Zoom and in person at Winter Interim Business. We continue to look to information gained from the Truth and Healing Conference on right relations with Indigenous people and have begun sharing the history of the land where we worship as part of the climate justice work of Earthcare. I will participate in the Ministry on Racism

- Earthcare: I continue to work with the committee as a member and through Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW). (More details are provided below.;)

- Florida Council of Churches (FCC): The FCC convened the fifth assembly of the Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network, 1 through 2 Second Month. I also participated in other FCC events during the year. Please see the Florida Council of Churches report;

- Peace and Social Concerns: I continue to remain in contact with members of SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee. (Some Monthly Meetings bring Earthcare issues to their Peace and Social Concerns Committees.)

- Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO): I continue to work 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 share resources and information with individual Meetings and am looking forward to working with Kody Hersh, Youth Coordinator!!

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.

In the wider Quaker World, interfaith groups, and other environmental organizations, I have listed existing memberships, partnerships, or collaborations that have been a part of the outreach effort. These include, but are not limited to:

• Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), I participated as a facilitator, along with Katie Green, Clearwater Monthly Meeting, and Sean Beal from the Orlando area, in advanced workshop in Gainesville, 15 – 17 Sixth Month 2018. The theme of the workshop was “The Power of Truth”, the same as the Friends General Conference 2018 Gathering theme. There were 11 participants.

We also convened a second advanced workshop in Gainesville, 16-18 Eleventh Month, themed, “Justice.” Again, Katie Green, Sean Beal, and I facilitated. There are several participants who are interested in becoming AVP facilitators. I will be working with others in Florida and the Southeast to arrange this training. Sean Bell has begun proving basic AVP workshop in the Orlando area. John Heimburg and I were able to lend some support during Winter Interim Business Meeting 2019;

• American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): I participated in a Zoom meeting AFSC’s Third World Coalition and will continue to work to link AFSC work with QEW. The 2019 Corporation Meeting conflicts with the QEW Steering Committee Meeting.

• The Bridge of Tampa: I continue to work with the Bridge through Tampa Monthly Meeting and other affiliations in the bay area, including AVP Tampa Bay and FCC;

• First Unity, Saint Petersburg (FL): I continue to work with First Unity through the Interfaith Climate Action Network and other activities;

• Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN): the Fifth FL-iCAN Assembly was convened 1 – 2 Second Month at the J.B. Callahan Neighborhood Center, 101 North Parramore Avenue, Orlando FL 32801. Photos are available at https://flican.org/past-interfaith-climate-action-network-assemblies/. See also the SEYM website for a recap of some of the presentations, https://seymquakers.org/blog/2019/03/08/5th-florida-interfaith-climate-actionsassembly-fl-ican/. We will return to the Callahan Center in Parramore, Orlando, for the sixth assembly, so save the dates 7 and 8 Second Month 2020. Special thanks to Glenn Plyler, Sarasota Monthly Meeting who traveled from Atlanta to participate in this year’s Assembly!

• Friends Committee on National Legislation, Energy and Environment: I continue to maintain contact with FCNL staff and am sharing QEW representation with Brad Stocker. Recent work has included a visit to FCNL offices during First Month 2019 and telephone and email contact with Emily Wirzba regarding the Climate Solutions and Caucus and more;

• Friends General Conference: I am preparing for a plenary talk on 1 Seventhday during the 2019 Gathering, 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;
• I also plan to do a presentation in the QEW Center and performing two one-act plays in collaboration with the Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts and the QEW Center;

• Friends Peace Teams (FPT): I continue to work with members of FPT, including linking FPT to QEW UN Working Group, see below;

• Friends United Meeting: I continue to work with Geeta and Bob McGahey through the QEW Outreach Committee. I will be reaching out to Eden Grace to identify how the QEW UN Working Group can be involved with Friends in Africa and the African Diaspora;

• Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to link to FWCC through QEW. This includes seeking opportunities to collaborate with Susanna Mattingly, Sustainability Communications Officer. Susanna has developed a video on Quakers and Earthcare. I took part in the development and will provide a link when it goes public;

• The Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR): I with ICAR through the Florida Council of Churches and Jan Booher, board member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton (UUFBR);

• National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Environmental Justice Issues in Transportation and the Women’s Issues in Transportation Committees: I am working with the EJ Committee to update is research problem statements;

• Organize NOW/F.I.R.E., Climate Justice Committee: I continue to assist the local committee in planning climate justice survey and related issues;

• The Pachamama Alliance: I continue to have contact with members through the FL-iCAN network;

• QEW: I continue focus on the International Decade for People of African Descent and co-clerking the Water Circle. A report on the 2018 side event on 11 Seventh Month 2018, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission in New York is attached. The QEW UN Working Group will convene three side events this Seventh Month during the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. One of the side events will be on water issues, which I will clerk. Again, my focus will be on Florida issues, specifically information shared at this year’s SEYM Gathering;

• Unitarian Universalist Fellowship: I continue to work with Jan Booher, Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida (UUJF) through FL-iCAN;

• University of South Florida, Institute on Black Life (IBL), Advisory Committee and the Patel College of Global Sustainability (PCGS): I continue to work with the University, primarily through these two units, however a student and a professor with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering have been working with me on the Quaker Earthcare Witness UN Working Group. Climate Change Theatre Action (CCTA), http://www.climatechangetheatreaction.com/. During the last year, John Heimburg and I performed two plays from the Climate Change Theatre Action in several venues. Between 15 Ninth Month (September) and 20 Twelfth Month (December) 2019, CCTA will be back with a new collection of one-act plays from all over the world. Plan on hosting your event between 15 Ninth Month and 20 Twelfth Month, 2019. Contact me for more information about this experience!

**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-inaction/ field-secretary-for-earthcare/. Currently, the page contains the blog, the job description, and other links. I share “Field Notes”, short pieces on activities, with SEYM Monthly Meetings, Working Groups, the wider Quaker world and others. I am in contact with the secretary on how best to populate this page, e.g., calendars, social media, etc., signature of my emails.
Summary
This past year has been busy and a blessing. Again, I am grateful to you to share this work. Some of you know that I am working with many people around the world in a community of practice; this includes many Quakers and our belief that Way will open. As we say in that practice

May we all be safe.
May we all be healthy.
May we all know joy.
May we all know happiness.
May we all live lives of wellbeing.

---- Beverly Ward

- Appendix B: Mindmap of FSE Activities and Associations
- Appendix C: Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Water Circle 2018 Side Event Report: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NlbQdAPFJGvLFQJaUSOocMJ4c10m_a9n/view?pli=1
Florida Council of Churches Report  Yearly Meeting Report 2019

Since the 2018 SEYM Gathering, the Florida Council of Churches has convened several board meetings and other gatherings.

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 30th. 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.

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

Of particular note was the 29 through 30 Eleventh Month (November) 2018 Gathering, “Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?”, which took place at the Mt. Olive AME Church in Clearwater. The Gathering began with a rousing ecumenical worship service on the 29th with a message from Bishop Frank Madison Reid, III, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Third District. David Anderson Hooker, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, and long-term member of JustPeace Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation (UMC) was the workshop leader. Dr. Hooker discussed the the church’s unique, multidimensional position for determining society’s underlying narrative and challenged us to craft a new and preferred narrative for Florida that could incorporate biblical justice, compassion, and redemption. Closing Worship featured a message from Rev. Joyce Lieberman, Synod of South Atlantic.

The Florida Council of Churches (FCC) convened its fifth climate action assembly at the Dr. J. B. Callahan Neighborhood Center in Orlando, 1 through 2 Second Month (February) 2019. The focus of the fifth assembly will be environmental equity led by environmental activists from around Florida. For more information from the Assembly, see the FSE postings on the SEYM website, https://seymquakers.org/blog/2019/03/08/5th-florida-interfaith-climate-actions-assembly-fl-ican/.

FCC will be active during this year’s State legislative session. Updates will be provided during this year’s SEYM Gathering.

Submitted by Beverly Ward
SEYM Representative to Florida Council of Churches
Friends Committee on National Legislation Representatives
PROPHETIC. PERSISTENT. POWERFUL. FCNL ANNUAL MEETING 2018

We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.
We seek a society with equity and justice for all.
We seek a community where every person’s potential may be fulfilled.
We seek an earth restored.

SEYM was represented at the FCNL Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. November 28 - December 2, 2018 by our representatives appointed to the FCNL General Committee, Sandra Schwartz (ClearwaterMM) and Karen Putney (Tampa MM). The long weekend began early Thursday morning with the SEYM Representatives participating in QPPI (Quaker Public Policy Institute) along with Florida F/friends Eileen Zingaro, George Lord, Kevin McCullough, Katie Thurson, Jennifer Mendoza, Shawna Doran, Chad Martin, and Aurelio Anderson. The focus of QPPI this year was to lobby Senators and House Representatives on the upcoming Farm Bill. Specifically, working for the passage of a farm bill that would keep food on the table of struggling families and pushing back against a House version of the farm bill that would eliminate or reduce food assistance for more than 2 million people (SNAP). The QPPI work and witness included 193 lobby visits, representing 45 states and face to face meetings with 39 Members of Congress. Visits by our Florida delegation were made to the offices of Senator Rubio, Senator Nelson, Rep. Michael Bilirakis and Rep. Kathy Castor. We also toured Florida House which is the only state 'embassy' on capitol hill. Negotiations between the House and Senate resulted in the passage of a Senate version of the farm bill which preserved the SNAP provisions Friends were seeking to protect. A most welcome beginning to our gathering.

The FCNL Annual Meeting of the General Committee convened early Saturday morning with 8:00am Worship Sharing and going into the late evening with a the plenary and reception focused on this, the FCNL 75th Anniversary. A conversation between previous Executive Secretary Joe Volk and current Executive Secretary Diane Randall covered much ground in looking back and in reflecting on our work going forward. This conversation can be viewed online at https://www.fcnl.org/updates/prophetic-persistent-powerful-annualmeeting-2018-1756 There are several videos on this page that are well worth viewing and sharing.

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business is the process by which the General Committee, representing Yearly Meetings and Quaker organizations from around the country and the breadth of Quakerism, fulfilled their governance responsibilities in reviewing and approving the budget, reviewing, finalizing and approving the Legislative Priorities for the 116th Congress, and accepting reports from staff and Committees.

The sessions were rounded out by a variety of opportunities and workshops that offered insight and skill building to help us grow in our work and witness. A training was held as a meeting of the whole to begin work on our intentional commitment to build a more diverse, inclusive and equitable space together. Meeting and working with Friends from across the country and the wider Quaker world was a gift of renewal. Reality was confronted in deep conversations, and Quaker determination was manifest. It was heartening to work with FCNL staff, such gifted people, who are incredibly dedicated to helping guide us as we persist in our commitment to the world we seek. Looking around the room during Sunday worship, it was clear that we have the will and resources to be a powerful voice for “values-driven public policy that puts people before profits, peacebuilding and diplomacy before war and militarism, civil dialogue over spiteful rhetoric and love over hate”.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Putney, SEYM Representative to the FCNL General Committee
Friends Peace Teams & Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA)

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2018
Mónica Maher, Initiative Coordinator

The end of 2018 brought with it a flurry of activities pointing to the vitality of PLA programs. This included a deeply emotional national gathering in Colombia, new healing edge work in the prison in El Salvador, the first workshop with women in prison in Honduras, on-site exchange with peace programs in Quiche, Guatemala, and PLA reconnection with AVP Nicaragua in Managua. Traveling to PLA counterparts to witness their work firsthand was deeply inspirational as always, making obvious the fierce commitment to peace of our counterparts within extremely challenging contexts. As new life appeared in many forms, so too did questions about how to make the current programs organizationally sustainable and how to build a firm financial foundation for future growth.

I. COLOMBIA

Gladys Cedeño, Colombia Coordinator, organized a National AVP Gathering in Marinilla, Antioquia on Nov 27-28 with 20 attendees from Antioquia, Barranquilla, the Occident region and the Franciscan community. Facilitators refined skills and reinforced connection in the face of a rift in AVP Colombia. All arrived early for a pre-Gathering Trauma Healing Workshop for facilitators on Nov 24-26, which was an experience of profound bounding. According to Gladys, the week overall was really strong, a time of great intensity with much strengthening, support and decision-making.

Tired yet happy with all that has been accomplished in the past three years, Gladys announced she will step down as Coordinator effective February 1, 2019. We are most grateful for her service in systematizing finances, reconnecting regions and serving the most marginalized. Gladys developed an ambitious program plan for 2019 to reach indigenous and Afro-descendent communities in former Red Zones of conflict who have been greatly affected by the armed violence. José Yesid Campo also relinquished his coordination of the Occident Region, effective December 31, 2018; Isai Romero was chosen to take over. There is interest in further strengthening the work of each regional coordination yet no clear plan on the future of the national coordination.

AVP workshops have continued in the different regions of Colombia. In Cali, José Yesid and Isai Romero co-facilitated an AVP Basic Workshop on October 14-15 with 11 school teachers and an Advanced on October 25-27 with 16 teachers and students. They also offered a Facilitator Training in Palmira on October 22-24 with 11 participants from Cali, Palmira and Cauca. In Antioquia, Bibiana and Patricia Duque co-facilitated a Basic Workshop on Oct 19-20 in Libano Tolima with 27 high school students, on November 2-4 in Marinilla with 20 university students, and on November 7-14 in Marinilla with 14 high school students. Feedback on the workshops included:

• AVP has helped me turn into a man who does not let himself be driven easily by anger, but rather looks for solutions through dialogue and forgiveness.
• It is very interesting how workshops like this can change our way of thinking so much in just two days and nourish our minds.
II. HONDURAS

Internal facilitators of El Porvenir Prison in La Ceiba have done an excellent job in preparing and promoting AVP. Due to their example of personal change, there are long lists of male residents, many former gang members, who would like to take the Advanced and the Trauma Healing workshops. Given the demand, Judith Aguilar, of the Honduran Mennonite Church, and 3 internal facilitators offered an Advanced Workshop on October 7, 9, 10 for 13 men living in prison; participants, Bucky and Alfredo, shared:

- I feel grateful for this workshop; I did things that I never thought I would do, like asking for forgiveness and hugging another man. This workshop changed my life and now I have positive things to talk about with my fellows.
- I feel better after this second workshop. I feel that my self-esteem improved, and I feel like a little bird when they open its cage. It has made me reflect and I no longer am afraid to speak with my fellows. Since my self-esteem has improved, I feel liberated and motivated.

All received a surprise when a group of prison authorities arrived to the workshop site, under order of the prison director, in search of one of the internal facilitators, Santos Funez. They came to ask him to take a position at the top of the prison hierarchy. He responded, I cannot accept since my principles as an AVPer do not allow it. He was offered the post due to his good behavior and leadership as the prison Coordinator of AVP. Penitentiary officials at both the local and national levels have recognized AVP and now support it whole-heartedly.

Ondina Murillo, of the Honduran Mennonite Church, and four male internal facilitators offered the first AVP Basic Workshop on December 10-12 with women living in prison at el Porvenir. The women had heard that the men were changing with AVP, so they asked Santos Funez if he could bring them the workshops. Due to limitations of space, only 13 were able to participate. Male facilitators were very respectful of the women, all of whom want to take the Advanced in January.

One woman asserted:
- This workshop has helped me so now I can help other people. It is necessary to give these workshops to youth and children so they never come to these centers and there are fewer people here.

Mercy Dream Weaver of San Pedro Sula sponsored an AVP Trauma Healing Workshop for women human rights defenders in El Progreso on October 29-31 with seven members of the Women’s Network of El Progreso (REMUPRO). The women have received death threats for defending their territories, so the Office of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights in Honduras is following the situation. Fearing for her life, one woman joined the Caravan to the US, which left Honduras just before the workshop began. For those who have remained, AVP has had a big impact according to Facilitator, Nelly Delcid. One participant related to me privately while I was in Progreso how she had been captured by the military, taken into the mountains at night to be killed and how she prayed, spoke without fear to a military officer, touched his heart and narrowly escaped assassination. In workshop evaluations, other participants expressed:

- In our country, we live with a male chauvinist patriarchy and without hope, with great violence and material and spiritual poverty. It is necessary to give hope for what we can and are capable of doing. I want other people to live this beautiful experience of freedom, of letting go, of learning how to laugh when you thought that you could not.
- People think that there are no ways out of their lives, that there is no solution. I learned that we can repair our lives.
• I learned that I have much more potential than I thought, that I have strengths that I did not see. I want to let go and leave behind negativity, victimization, drama, re-embrace life as a marvelous opportunity for change.
• We all, men and women, deserve to be free and happy, masters of ourselves. Only connecting to ourselves and to love can we live in community and liberty.
• The past is only a memory. Today I have to live in the present with new expectations and approach the future based on the fact that I am free.

III. EL SALVADOR

Salomón Medina, AVP El Salvador Coordinator, is very proud to report that AVP Workshops were offered for the first time with men living in prison in El Salvador. Prison authorities of the very overcrowded Apanteos Prison in Santa Ana opened the workshops to those men identified as the most emotionally volatile. A series of three Basic Workshops were held on October 24-25, October 31-November 1, and December 12-13. A collective graduation of all three groups of 163 participants took place on December 29. Photos of the event are available at: https://pavelsalvador.blogspot.com/2018/12/el-inicio-de-un-sueno.html

Some participants articulated the impact of the workshops:

• I would like to ask you to visit us more often…. AVP for me has been a great help in my life so as not to return to this prison or any other detention center and to be a new person useful for society and family.
• This workshop has taught me how important it is to live in harmony among ourselves in order to help make our country better. For me, it has been marvelous, turned my life totally around, which I need to put into practice everyday in order to live in a better environment here and with my family. All the things I have learned in these days will serve me for all of life.

Salomón also started work with the Women’s Convergence of Suchitoto, a connection of Val Liveoak, co-facilitating an AVP Basic Workshop for 13 leaders of the group on November 22 and December 5. Photos and testimonies are available at:

An AVP Basic with adolescents in the 7th grade at the Olof Palme School in San Martin, San Salvador was held in a series of sessions throughout October. Given the positive changes in student conduct, the school is now very receptive to incorporating AVP into the classroom setting.

Finally, Salomón and Mario Gonzalez co-facilitated an AVP Basic Workshop with 6 participants on November 9-11 and a Trauma Healing Workshop with 13 participants on November 16-18 in Zacamil, a gang-controlled neighborhood of San Salvador. Photos and testimonies available at:

IV. GUATEMALA

National Coordinator, Lorena Escobar, reports an opening of contacts for new alliances in Guatemala. These include the Barbara Ford Peace Center in Santa Cruz, Quiché, a site of intense violence during the national armed conflict, where Lorena and I stayed from 12-14 November at the generous invitation of the Center’s Director Virginia Searing, Sister of Charity of New York. We also visited the Director of El Rosario High School in Santa Cruz, Dominican Sister Esperanza Sanchez. Finally, Dominican Sister Geraldina Céspedes in Guatemala City expressed interest in introducing AVP to El Limón, notorious as one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the City, controlled by the transnational Gang 18.
Here the Sisters have been working for years out of a Formation House for young women; I stayed with them and toured the barrio on November 15-16. In one family’s dirt-floor shelter, a 20-year daughter was lying incapacitated on a bed after being shot by gang members who had riddled the makeshift home with bullets.

While connecting to new opportunities to expand, AVP Guatemala continued its ongoing work in and around Guatemala City. Lorena co-facilitated a Basic Workshop on October 15-18 for 10 maintenance staff of the San Juan de Dios General Hospital in Guatemala City. She introduced the Department of Internal Medicine to AVP with Mini-Workshops on November 20 for 20 staff and November 26 with 15 staff. In addition, on October 24 and November 21, she co-facilitated an AVP Basic Workshop in Guatemala City with 24 members of the National Civil Police, including 9 women.

Finally, Lorena co-facilitated an AVP Mini-Workshop on October 10 and an AVP Basic on November 6-8 with 10 women of San Jorge Amatitlán, a community with a high level of gang violence. After the Mini-Workshop, Smiling Sonia and Elegant Elsa said:

- I learned many ways to look for non-violent solutions, very important in our community where there is so much violence. We must be women of change.
- I am a woman that does not like to talk. This is what my mother taught me, to be quiet. My life from childhood was not pretty since I had to work from the age of 12 to help my mother. When I was 17, I left with my boyfriend and had 4 children and never had women friends. A woman friend here from my community invited me to come and you know... I laughed like never before when we played. When it was time to talk about what I liked about myself, nothing occurred to me, only ugly things occurred to me. But I thought and spoke of a few things that I like about myself. This Mini-Workshop taught me that I am worth a lot and that I have a right to decide what I think without fear.

Another participant, after finishing the Basic Workshop, exclaimed:

- Our community is a red zone, marginalized. Not often do people come to teach because it is really dangerous. I feel very happy that AVP has come to San Jorge. The change that happened in me was that I learned to value myself because I have never talked about the positive things that I have as a woman....I know these workshops will help thereto be less violence in my community; yes, it begins with me!

V. ECUADOR

The Regional Foundation of Consultation on Human Rights (INREDH) offered an AVP Advanced Workshop on November 23-34 with 15 women from 8 villages, all members of Jambi Mascari, a Kichwa indigenous women’s group in Cotacachi, a town in the Andean Highlands. The bilingual Kichwa-Spanish women are motivated to become facilitators since they find the AVP tools very useful; their dream is to bring the workshops to their villages in order to address domestic violence and community conflict. They are already involved with the municipal government in violence prevention strategies for the biggest indigenous celebration of the year, Inti Raymi, Festival of the Sun, in which men from different villages fight for control of the central plaza in Cotacachi. For the first time ever, no deaths occurred during Inti Raymi in 2018.

VI. NICARAGUA

On December 13, I visited with members of AVP Nicaragua at the office of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Managua. Participants expressed the desire to remain in ongoing contact with
PLA counterparts in the region and to receive training in trauma healing. Recent tragic events have made them realize that they are not immune from the violence of their neighbors - Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador - known as the Triangle of Death. In Nicaragua, from April to June 2018, more than an estimated 500 people were killed, and hundreds more injured or disappeared, after massive political protests provoked militarized repression.

VII. REGIONAL COORDINATION


Anne Dusseau and Renee Bove will facilitate a Transformational Mediation Workshop January 23-25 for Gathering attendees as well as for AVP facilitators of Ceiba, Progreso and San Pedro Sula. Shirley Way and Allie Prescott will stay for an extra week to co-facilitate trauma healing workshops in La Ceiba for the AVP community and for men living in prison.

The Gathering emerged from a collective visioning and is becoming a reality through a great cycle of generosity. We look forward to the deepening of direct friendships and ongoing solidarity for just peace.

*******************************************************************************