

SEYM Executive Committee

June 8, 2019

Tampa Friends Meetinghouse

MINUTES

The meeting opened at 9 am with a time of worship.

YM Clerk Bill Carlie read from the SEYM Faith & Practice, page 92, "Maintaining Unity:"

"[It is] our concern that Friends should work with one another in a humble and loving spirit, each giving to others credit for purity of motive, notwithstanding differences of opinion, and being ready to accept the decision of the meeting even when it might not accord with his own judgement. The mutual forbearance and understanding which are produced under the power and control of Christ do much to prevent jealousies, misunderstandings, or any breach of love."

---London Yearly Meeting, 1931

Before business began, the Clerk asked for two minutes to designate an acting EC Clerk and an acting Recording Clerk for this session.

SEC2019.01 In absence of an Executive Committee Clerk, Friends approve designating Bill Carlie, YM Clerk, as acting clerk for this meeting.

SEC2019.02 In the absence of Liz Dykes, EC/IBM Recording Clerk, Friends approve designating Vicki Carlie as acting recording clerk for this meeting.

Review of Agenda: The Clerk made minor changes to the agenda.

Signatories on bank accounts: Friends accepted two banking minutes that were approved electronically by EC members in May.

SEC2019.03 Signatories on existing bank accounts

The SEYM Executive Committee agrees that the SEYM Treasurer, Treasurer of Trustees, Yearly Meeting Clerk, and Administrative Secretary shall be signatories on the Southeastern Yearly Meeting checking and savings accounts at Bank of America.

To this end:

For the checking account,

- **Victoria Carlie shall be removed as signatory.**
- **Susan Wade and William Carlie will be added as signatories.**
- **Joel Cook and Neil Andersen will remain signatories.**

For the savings account,

- **Lyn Cope-Robinson, Caroline Lanker, and Daniel Vaughen shall be removed as signatories.**
- **Joel Cook, William Carlie, and Susan Wade shall be added as signatories.**
- **Neil Andersen will remain a signatory.**

SEC2019.04 New bank account for payroll

Executive Committee of Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the opening of a second checking account at Bank of America to be used exclusively for payroll.

Signatories on this account shall be:

- **SEYM Treasurer: Joel Cook**
- **SEYM Treasurer of Trustees: Neil Andersen**
- **SEYM Clerk: William Carlie**

Yearly Meeting Clerk's report:

Bill Carlie presented a Letter from Jacksonville Meeting's Clerk Mike Shell and Sue Watson, which described the lengthy discernment process they have been going through to consider the possibility of laying down Jacksonville Meeting, and the details involved.

We heard that they considered the possibility of becoming a worship group, but even that would need regular attenders to anchor the group. Nancy Triscritti, W&M Co-clerk, reports that Mike had asked Worship & Ministry for support.

Regarding the three questions posed in the letter, Friends noted we have nothing in our own Faith & Practice regarding laying down Meetings. It was suggested that guidance might be found in the Philadelphia YM Faith & Practice.

A Friend noted that it has been our practice in SEYM that to lay down a Meeting, all that is needed is to write a letter to SEYM.

Friends offered additional recommendations:

- Send a letter to all members asking them whether they want to retain their membership.
- Try to find a Monthly Meeting to take them under their care as a WG.
- Find a Monthly Meeting who would receive transfers of membership.

SEC2019.05 We are sad to hear that Jacksonville Friends are considering laying down their Meeting. Friends recall how much Jacksonville Monthly Meeting has contributed to the life of SEYM over the decades.

We agree to place the concern for support of Jacksonville Meeting in the hands of the Worship & Ministry Committee.

Secretary's report: Vicki Carlie, outgoing Secretary, and Susan Wade, incoming Secretary, reported that the transition began in May with moving the contents of the SEYM storage unit to St. Petersburg, and

that, since June 1, they have had a few days of working together. Appreciation was again expressed for Vicki's work, and Vicki expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to work for SEYM.

SEC2019.06 Friends accepted the Secretary's report, presented by Vicki Carlie (outgoing Secretary) & Susan Wade (incoming Secretary)

Nominating Committee report Friends reviewed the Nominating Committee Report sent by their clerk, Ed Lesnick. (attached)

SEC2019.07 The Executive Committee accepts the resignations of Nancy Corindia (Sarasota) as EC/IBM Clerk, and of Nancy Howell (Fort Myers) as YM and IBM Assistant Clerk.

We thank them for their valuable service to SEYM.

SEC2019.08 EC approves the nominations of Vicki Carlie (Orlando) as a member of the Gathering Committee, effective June 1; and of Jim Koopman (Ft. Myers) as a member of the SEYM Earthcare Committee.

Peter Schmidt reported that he and Stephanie Preston, as Naming Cte are working on finding more members of the Nominating Cte, which is currently staffed by Ed L, Bev Ward, and Shawna Doran.

Treasurer's report: Joel Cook gave a brief verbal summary of the finances, noting that the fiscal year had just ended, and it will take some time to prepare a full report.

SEC2019.09 Friends accepted the Treasurer's report.

Finance Committee report: Peter Schmidt reported that a CPA is working with the Treasurer on the financial review of procedures and operations. Dianne Langan, SEYM bookkeeper, pointed out that our procedures have completely changed; they have evolved from what we had 6 years ago.

Other concerns: With additional time left before committee meetings, Clerk called for other business or concerns.

A Friend shared his concern for outreach, noting the dropping attendance at Executive Committee and in our Meetings. Churches are shrinking. The Religious Society of Friends has what people are looking for today----we have a message that the world is looking for, yet we do very little about it. He shared his view that we need to say with conviction that we have a message for the world and share it; or start planning to lay down our Society.

Friends considered what was said. The question arose as to whether SEYM should have an Outreach committee; but it was noted we have trouble filling critical vacancies as it is. Are there Friends in our Meetings who interested and talented at doing outreach? The possibility of having a resource person or coordinator was suggested.

Friends shared some of their Meeting's experiences doing outreach. Several spoke to how outreach needs to not be proselytizing; that we need to respect and nurture the sense of connection new attenders feel, not 'get in their face.' Another Friend spoke to how we need to use a prophetic voice, which springs from how we are being led, moved, and faithful.

We agree to we want to create more space to continue this discussion. The Clerk expressed support for having more forums where Meetings and Friends could share 'what's working.' Nancy Triscritti, Worship & Ministry co-clerk, said that she would be willing to lead a workshop on "What's Working in Your Meeting."

Meeting broke out for committee meetings, fellowship and lunch provided by Tampa Friends. We reconvened around 1 pm.

Personnel Committee: The Clerk called for a brief meeting of the Executive Committee as Personnel Committee. Friends who are not on EC were excused for this confidential discussion.

The regular Executive Committee business meeting then continued.

Gathering Committee Report: Friends received a written report (attached) from Andrea Hoskins, Gathering Committee Clerk, who could not be present today. Vicki Carlie filled in additional details. Friends encouraged the committee to continue their work with LEC on issues of food, accommodations, and security; but to also continue to gather information on alternative sites.

Publications committee: Clerk presented a letter from Wendy Geiger expressing how frustrated and disturbed she is about certain issues regarding SEYM's publication of her book. Phoebe Andersen, Publications Clerk, provided information and background on the issues involved, and described steps the Publications committee had taken.

SEYM Publications and Wendy Geiger signed a contract regarding the book in April 2018; this contract is still in effect. However, now Wendy has changed her mind about this agreement, and has stated new demands.

Phoebe reports that the Publications Committee plans to fulfill the conditions of the 2018 contract; and that doing the corrections and re-publishing of Wendy's book is in the Publications queue. She will be stopping in Oberlin, Ohio to pick up a flash drive with the book's file from Lyn Cope, as attempts to send the it electronically had not been successful. Phoebe will then be able to open the file and make the necessary corrections to the book. It then will be submitted to the publisher.

Friends spoke to the difficulty of dealing with this situation; the conflict between Wendy and SEYM Publications is taking a heavy emotional toll on Friends involved. Friends expressed their love and concern.

After long discernment, Friends agreed to the following:

SEC2019.10 The SEYM Executive committee is in unity with honoring, and not renegotiating at all, the contract, signed in 2018, between SEYM and Wendy Geiger regarding SEYM's publication of her book. We support the Publications Committee Clerk's plans for completing this project and fulfilling our obligations under the contract.

We ask Bill Carlie, as acting clerk of EC, to write a letter to Wendy to relate the Sense of the Meeting.

Worship & Ministry: Nancy Triscritti reports that Worship & Ministry is deeply concerned about Monthly Meetings that are struggling. They are working on ways they can successfully and consistently support these Friends.

Field Secretary for Earthcare report: Beverly Ward is continuing intervisitation with a Worship Group that is forming in Deland. She is continuing to work with Unitarian Universalists. After attending the FGC Gathering as a featured speaker, she will be working with QEW as it presents its third UN high level forum.

Reports from Representatives to Quaker organizations: Cece Yocum reports that she went to a Friends Peace Team meeting in Philadelphia in May. She will give a full report soon.

Banking: Concern had been raised that SEYM find a bank, perhaps a credit union, whose practices are more in keeping with our testimonies. Joel, as Treasurer, reported he had looked into alternatives. Friends discussed the relative merits of national banks and credit unions, in light of the needs of SEYM.

SEC2019.11 We ask the Treasurer and Trustees to further investigate whether there are other banks or other financial institutions that are more in keeping with our testimonies than those of our current bank, while also meeting the criteria and needs of SEYM financial operations.

Care for each other and our testimony of Community: Concern was expressed that we care and support our individual members who carry a lot of burden for SEYM.

SEC2019.12 We wholeheartedly thank Tampa Friends for providing us a beautiful place to meet, and some very delicious food.

Meeting closed in silent worship, the following Friends having been present for all or part of the meeting:

Neil Andersen, Treasurer of Trustees (Tallahassee)
Phoebe Andersen, Publications Clerk (Tallahassee)
Jack Bradin, Clerk of Trustees (Palm Beach)
Ellie Caldwell (Palm Beach)
Bill Carlie, YM Clerk (Orlando)
Vicki Carlie (Orlando)
Joel Cook, Treasurer (Treasure Coast)
Jan Dahm (Tampa)
Shawna Doran, Nominating (Gainesville)
Lisa Erazmus (Tampa)
Gary Evans (Orlando)
Caroline Kaufmann, Gathering Committee, Peace & Social Concerns (Clearwater)
Chris Laning, Trustees (Orlando)
Dianne Langan, SEYM Bookkeeper (St. Petersburg)
Peter Schmidt, Finance Committee Clerk (Tampa)
Nancy Triscritti, Worship & Ministry co-clerk (Tampa)
Susan Wade, SEYM Secretary (St. Petersburg)
Beverly Ward, Field Secretary for Earthcare, Nominating, Ministry on Racism (Tampa)
Cecelia Yocum, Peace & Social Concerns Clerk (Tampa)

Jacksonville Meeting • Letter to Executive Committee June 2019

Sue Watson, Jacksonville Meeting's treasurer, and I met on May 3rd to discern our shared responsibilities with regard to Jacksonville Monthly Meeting. It is clear to us that we must lay the Meeting down as of December 31, 2019—unless several seasoned local Quakers come forward to take on the hosting of regular meetings for worship and the management of monthly meeting business.

As you may know from earlier conversations, except for Wendy Geiger, Sue and I are the sole Jacksonville Friends recorded in the SEYM Directory who are still attending meeting for worship. In addition, since June of 2018, Sue and I have also been the only members or attenders at monthly meetings for business. After September and November meetings with such attendance last year, we discontinued scheduling monthly meetings.

On January 4th, I mailed a letter by USPS to each of the recorded Jacksonville Friends, laying out for them the situation I have described again here and asking for their input. I received only two replies, one from a member, one from an attender, neither of whom has attending since 2010, and both of whom supported laying the Meeting down. This past week I lunched with one other long-time member, also no longer attending, who supports this action.

Here are the steps Sue Watson and I agreed we will need to do by the end of the year:

- Close the Meeting's bank account and disperse the funds appropriately. (There is about \$590 in AVP funds in our account which will need to be returned to SEYM for use by other meetings and worship groups.)
- Advise Florida Christian Center that we will not renew our lease for 2020.
- Allow our liability insurance to lapse at the end of 2019.
- Discontinue the Meeting's subscription to Friends Journal and its inclusion in FJ's bi-monthly listing of Quaker meetings.
- Advise Friends General Conference Quaker Finder www.fgcquaker.org/connect/quaker-finder of our change of status.
- Change our website home page www.jacksonvillefriends.org to indicate this change and, eventually, remove the site from public access.
- Compile and organize our archives and deliver digital copies to University of Florida.

What else needs to be done in the process of laying down a monthly meeting? What happens with the status of the eight recorded members (plus 2 Friends of Meeting and 10 Attenders)? What should I do with physical property of the Meeting (mostly books and papers)?

It is uncomfortable to me having to accept silence as consent. This is why I have spent an entire year seeking participation and feedback from Jacksonville Friends. I will therefore call a meeting for business in September to ask Friends once more if any of them wish to take on responsibility for the Meeting.

We in Jacksonville must proceed in good order with carrying out of our local business.

Please hold us in the light.

Blessings,

Mike Shell, Meeting Clerk, Jacksonville MM
2798 Forbes St., Jacksonville, FL 32205
bright_crow@mindspring.com
904-673-2496

Nominating Committee Report for Executive Committee Agenda

June 8, 2019

The Committee accepts the resignations of:

- Nancy Corindia (Sarasota) as IBM Clerk and EC Clerk.
- Nancy Howell (Fort Myers) as YM and IBM Assistant Clerk.

We thank them for their brief, but valuable service to SEYM in their respective roles.

The Committee recommends EC approve in the interim:

- Vicki Carlie (Orlando) as a member of the Gathering Committee, effective June 1;
- Jim Koopman (Ft. Myers) as a member of the SEYM Earthcare Committee.

We are currently in need of and seeking direction in the appointment of the:

- Interim Business Meeting (IBM) and Executive Committee (EC) Clerk
- Assistant Yearly and Interim Business Meeting Clerk
- Coordinator and Trainer(s) - Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP)
- Gathering Program Coordinator
- Member (1) of SEYM Trustees
- Members (2) of the SEYM Nominating Committee.

Ed Lesnick, Clerk

On Behalf of the Nominating Committee

Gathering Committee Report for Executive Committee

June 8, 2019

Members of this committee currently are:

Andrea Hoskins Clerk
Caroline Kaufmann Bookstore
Vicki Carlie

Former members to be replaced are:

Deborah Breeden Program coordinator
Susan Wade Register

There were several concerns with the Annual Gathering this year. We are hoping to address these concerns with the new management as soon as possible. We have decided to stay at this location for our next gathering and believe that most of the concerns can be remedied through meaningful dialog. I am requesting an ad hoc committee be formed to search alternative locations if needed for the future.

I spoke with LEC regarding the condition of many of the rooms, chemical smells in the old carpets, and cleaning supplies, and mold and bugs in the rooms. LEC will address these issues over time but they do not have the money to refurbish the rooms in time for SEYM 2020 Gathering. year. This will be done as donations come in for that purpose.

Meals were a major issue this year. In past years the food was of high quality and selections were healthy and well prepared. This was not the case this year! Many of our attenders did not like the lack of choices of entrees. There were not enough vegetarian choices at each meal. The food was often cold. The salad bar had fewer choices than previous years and some of the food tasted salty and like they may not have been covered in the refrigerator. Their steamer was broken, among many other things. I will have a discussion about the food choices with LEC in the near future.

There were several concerns over safety and security. One Friend reported a problem with her key not working, but this was not passed on to the LEC staff. We also heard of an unidentified person in the Pavilion and the possible theft of food and personal property. SEYM may want to look into the need for a security team to check for locked doors and other issues. Note that the contract with LEC warns of potential security issues due to the rural and open nature of the campus.

The Gathering Committee will have a ZOOM committee meeting in the near future.

Thank you,

Andrea Hoskins, Clerk of gathering Committee

Gathering Committee Clerk
305 609-9704