

# Southeastern Yearly Meeting

*of the Religious Society of Friends*

## Summer Executive Committee Meeting 2020

8th Month 8<sup>th</sup> Day 2020

### MINUTES

32 Friends gathered via videoconference and settled into worshipful, attentive silence to begin the 2020 Summer Executive Committee meeting.

Seated at the Clerk's virtual table were Phoebe Andersen, (Tallahassee MM), EC/IBM clerk; Jack Bradin (Palm Beach MM) assistant EC/IBM clerk; and Liz Dykes, (Gainesville MM), recording clerk.

The meeting began with worship at 1 pm.

Phoebe read from Chapter 13 of *SEYM Faith and Practice*:

The thing is this: that if you had (once a year) a Yearly Meeting . . . for Friends to see one another, and know how the affairs of truth prosper, and how Friends do grow in the truth of God, to the comfort and joy of one another in it . . . all things (by the truth and power of God) may be kept in peace and love, all dwelling in the wisdom of God.

George Fox, 1681

To follow the highest purpose always involves the setting aside of many things which in themselves are good, whether by the individuals or by the Yearly Meeting as a whole. To find the purpose of God in a gathering such as this involves bringing together of every one of our differing points of view to that place where they may be united in the power of God. If in our hearts as individuals we maintain barriers between ourselves and other Friends, we cannot be finders; and if we maintain such barriers between ourselves and our fellow men we shall not find our part in working out God's will in the world.

It has been the experience of this Yearly Meeting in the past to know that Friends have met in division and uncertainty, and that then guidance has come, and the light has been given to us, and we have become finders of God's purpose. This gives us ground for confidence. We shall not be held back by the magnitude of the questions which are to come before us, nor be a sense of our unworthiness.

London Yearly Meeting, 1936

Friends introduced themselves by monthly meeting and/or worship group.

The agenda was reviewed and a few additions made.

Phoebe read the following invitation from Wendy Clarissa Geiger about the Committee for Ministry on Racism:

“The members of the Committee for Ministry on Racism are available and willing to discuss racism with Friends: who are curious about racism and are ashamed of our ignorance; who are petrified of being found out to be more racist than we want anyone to know we are and have no idea - and would like to explore - what to do with our racism; or, who want to share stories of our shame, shenanigans, successes, blessings & woes, and what we are learning in this exciting time to be alive, to die, and to carry on as best we know or imagine as Quaker revolutionaries - at least revolutionaries of the heart, if not the street or work/living space.”

Jerry Knutson reported for Half Yearly Meeting Committee (attached). This year, HYM will be a virtual gathering. The report was accepted.

Susan Wade made the report of the YM Administrative Secretary. She has at times felt she wasn't completely filling her responsibilities, becoming overwhelmed with the weight of isolation. She is seeking input on printing the directory. Friends offered their thoughts. Clerk's suggestion to form a support group for the Administrative Secretary was accepted by Susan. Susan, Phoebe, and Vicki Carlie will discuss the publication of the directory next week. We accepted the report with thanks.

Joel Cook presented the Treasurer's report. The end of year financials will be ready for Fall EC/IBM. He has been working on getting materials for the financial procedures review which has begun. The report was accepted.

Neil Andersen presented the report of the Trustees. He reminded Friends of the new support fund for needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, there have been no requests. Requests should come as a minute from a monthly meeting, or from a worship group through its monthly meeting of care. The report was accepted.

Susan Taylor submitted a report for the Committee for Ministry on Racism, and a supplemental report as well (both attached). Jean Larson read the supplemental report. The report and supplemental was accepted.

Phil Schmidt reported for the Finance Committee. He thanked Joel for the work on the financial review. Finance Committee is responsible for developing the budget, which was presented at YM sessions in May.

Ed Lesnick reported for the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee recommends two minutes to the Executive Committee.

**20SEC01** Upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the Executive Committee records the resignations of Friends Nancy Fennell (Ft. Myers) from Worship and Ministry Committee; Richard Frechette (Ft. Myers) as YM Recording Clerk; and Stephanie Preston-Hughes (Orlando) from the YM Gathering Committee. We thank them for giving their time and effort to SEYM. **APPROVED**

**20SEC02** Upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the Executive Committee appoints Peter Ackerman, Gainesville, as a SEYM Representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) for a term beginning August 8, 2020 to Yearly Meeting, 2023. **APPROVED**

The Nominating Committee seeks Friends with gifts to serve:

- YM Recording Clerk
- Worship and Ministry Committee member
- Yearly Meeting Gathering Committee member
- Representative to Friends LGBTQ
- Representative to Quaker House in Fayetteville NC
- Representative to FGC Central Committee

Friends accepted the report of the Nominating Committee.

Beverly Ward has a report on her work as Earthcare Coordinator that is not yet complete. She reported on some highlights. Friends accepted the report.

Bill Carlie reported for the Earthcare Committee. At Winter IBM a letter was approved to the Suwannee River Water Management Board. He updated Friends on the outcomes. A hearing will be held this week by the SRWM Board.

Clara Diaz reported that Petra Doan will be the speaker for the Michener lecture in 2021; the event may be virtual and Petra is okay with this.

Mike Flannery announced that Clearwater Meeting has “Black Lives Matter” bracelets to distribute. It is much more economical to send them in bulk. Contact Mike or Eileen Zingaro.

After a brief silence, Executive Committee took a break and resumed at 3 pm.

Kody Hersh presented his request to suspend his service as Youth and Young Adult Coordinator for four months beginning September 1, 2020 (attached). Friends raised concerns for Kody and for the SEYM programs for youth.

**20SEC03** The Executive Committee approves the request of Kody Hersh, the Youth & Young Adult Coordinator, to suspend his service from September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, or longer if the public health situation dictates, an extension to be determined by a called meeting of Executive Committee on December 12, 2020. **APPROVED.**

Dan Vaughn presented a concern for exploring the establishment of a Quaker retirement community in Florida (attached). Friends raised questions, presented ideas, and expressed concerns. It was not felt that the concern was ready for Executive Committee, but we may try to have a related threshing session or workshop at Fall IBM. In the meantime, Dan will continue to collect information. All meetings and worship groups are asked to thresh out their thoughts on retiring to a Quaker community, and then report your meeting’s thoughts to the SEYM office.

Peter Ackerman and Shawna Doran presented a report on the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice. They are seeking assistance for the Board, the advisory board, and ideas for revitalizing the program. Resource information can be found at their website: <https://fcj-slc.org/>.

Phil Stone reminded Friends that each monthly meeting has been asked to appoint a contact as a liaison for Peace & Social Concerns.

The numbered minutes were read back and affirmed.

The meeting closed with worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Dykes, recording clerk

Regrets that they could not attend: Susan Taylor, Wendy Clarissa Geiger

Attendees:

**Clearwater Monthly Meeting:**

Mike Flanery  
Phil Stone  
Elizabeth Woodward

**Fort Lauderdale Monthly Meeting:**

Brian Humphrey

**Fort Myers Monthly Meeting:**

Richard Frechette

**Gainesville Monthly Meeting:**

Peter Ackerman  
Shawna Doran  
Liz Dykes  
Jean Larson

**Miami Monthly Meeting:**

Andrea Hoskins  
Warren Hoskins  
Brian Olson  
Brad Stocker

**Orlando Monthly Meeting:**

Kody Hersh  
Jerry Knutson  
Christine Laning  
Ed Lesnick  
Daniel Vaughen

**Other Friends:**

Peter Schmidt

**Palm Beach Monthly Meeting:**

Jack Bradin

**Saint Augustine Worship Group:**

Clara Diaz (Miami MM)

**Saint Petersburg Monthly Meeting:**

Bill Carlie  
Vicki Carlie  
Susan Wade

**Tallahassee Monthly Meeting:**

Neil Andersen  
Phoebe Andersen  
Angela Prather

**Tampa Monthly Meeting:**

Karen Putney  
Nancy Triscritti  
Beverly Ward  
Cece Yocum

**Treasure Coast Worship Group:**

Joel Cook (Palm Beach MM)

# Half-Yearly Meeting Report

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting  
8 Eighth Month 2020

On 7/19/20, our Half Yearly Meeting (HYM) committee met – Brian Olson as registrar, Caroline Kaufmann as food coordinator, and myself Jerry as Clerk.

We united that an in person gathering is not safe or practical during Covid. Our concerns were: 1) many of our participants are elderly 2) attendance may be very sparse, and 3) social distancing may not be possible when working in the kitchen, serving food, eating meals, sleeping and general socializing.

**Please put on your calendar.** We are proposing the following HYM Zoom get togethers:

**Thursday, Nov. 26, 7:00pm - 7:30pm**

Introductions, announcements and each participant briefly says why they are thankful.  
facilitated by Jerry

**Friday, Nov. 27, 7:00pm - 8:00pm**

Environmental presentation facilitated by Brian

**Saturday, Nov. 26, 7:00pm - 8:15pm**

Talent show and closing facilitated by Caroline – watch for request for acts after Halloween

Half Yearly Meeting has always had two days (Friday and Saturday mornings and afternoons) of unprogrammed gatherings where anyone could propose a workshop, worship sharing, dream group, hike etc. as led. We will continue this almost unique tradition in Quakerdom. Watch for proposal requests for these activities after Halloween.

We are all looking forward to an in person gathering at Wekiwa Springs State Park near Orlando on November 25 - 28, 2021, so we can resume the cooking, camping, nature, hiking, swimming, socializing, sunsets, families, etc., that we have enjoyed for so many years.

Love n Light,

Jerry Knutson, Clerk HYM committee

# Committee for Ministry on Racism Report

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting  
8 Eighth Month 2020

*"The most important lesson I have learned in the fifty years I have spent working toward the building of a better world is that the true work of social transformation starts within. It begins inside your own heart and mind, because the battleground of human transformation is really, more than any other thing, the struggle within the human consciousness to believe and accept what is true. Thus, to truly revolutionize our society, we must first revolutionize ourselves. We must be the change we seek if we are to effectively demand transformation from others."*

- John Lewis, in his book,

***Across That Bridge, A Vision for Change and the Future of America*** (2017)

*"You can turn your back now and you can keep your club in your hand, but you cannot beat down justice. And we will register to vote because as citizens of these United States we have the right to do it," Vivian declared, wagging his index finger at Sheriff Jim Clark as the cameras rolled."*

***New York Times***, July 17, 2020

Greetings, Friends:

The Committee for Ministry on Racism deeply honors, and is grateful for, the profoundly courageous lives, immersed in God's love, of the late U.S. Congressman John Lewis and the Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian. Their core visionary leadership and making "good trouble" (John Lewis quote) during the Civil Rights Movement and up until the time of their deaths were transformational in undoing some of the systemic racism in the United States. Throughout their lives they provided nonviolent, persistent, steady action for social justice in addressing the barriers to equality and equity in living for Black, Brown, other People of Color and therefore, everyone. Black Lives Matter. One of our committee members, Kathy Hersh, recommends John Lewis's book, in the lead quote above, as a gift for graduates and anyone seeking inspiration.

The Committee has immensely valued hearing from a variety of SEYM Friends on both the actions they are taking to address racism and the many resources they have sent us.

Some Friends are attending the AFSC series on "**Radical Acting in Faith for White People.**"

Committee members and SEYM Friends have recommended the Krista Tippett "**On Being**" interview with Robin DiAngelo (author of **White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People To Talk About Racism**) and Resmaa Menakem (Minneapolis trauma therapist and author of **My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending our Hearts and Bodies**): <https://onbeing.org/programs/robin-diangelo-and-resmaa-menakem-in-conversation/>.

Some Clearwater Friends have watched, and recommended to the rest of their Meeting, viewing on You Tube the clear examples of U.S. systemic racism in, **The Segregation Myth: Richard Rothstein** [author of **The Color of Law**] **Debunks an American Lie | Now This.** <https://youtu.be/2roWLzrqOjQ>.

A Clearwater Friend designed and created colorful wristbands with attractive supportive graphics to support the message: “**Black Lives Matter to Me.**”

Kody Hersh, SEYM Youth and Young Adult Friends Coordinator recently led a popular intergenerational Zoom evening on the film, **The Hate U Give.**

Beverly Ward, a Committee member, recommended the hour and a half Post Carbon Institute YouTube video: **Decolonization: Digging deeper to get at the roots of systemic injustice and unsustainability.** <https://youtu.be/mxVRvgrUTpl>.

She also shared with us and other Friends the Florida Council of Churches executive committee statement on civic engagement and voting. **#FreedomSummer is Now.** <https://floridachurches.org/now-what-freedomsummer>. Friends who are so led may sign it as an individual or as a Meeting.

In addition, we will be placing on the CMOR website valuable resources Beverly shared with us from the “How White Supremacy Built Wall Street” webinar, sponsored by the Stop the Money Pipeline Coalition. <https://stopthemoneypipeline.com/>.

We celebrated that the Dakota Access pipeline must be shut down through court order by August 5 and is “a momentous win for American Indian tribes that have opposed the energy transfer LP project for years.” (Bloomberg Law online, July 6, 2020). It was an historic day for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the many people who supported them in stopping the pipeline.

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition’s ([www.boardingschoolhealing.org](http://www.boardingschoolhealing.org)) 2020 webinar series is about to begin. “**Truth in History: Examining Indian Boarding Schools in California.**” Past webinar series are available, including “how tribal nations are healing from the ongoing legacies of the Boarding School Era.” We are grateful to Jane Westberg, Committee member, for keeping us current with the Healing Coalition’s activities.

Our Committee is available to provide support to Friends regarding racism. Susan Taylor was gladly able to accept an invitation from Clearwater Friends who invited the Co-clerks of our Committee “to help open a discussion on the topic of racism and social justice” during their August 16<sup>th</sup> Zoom Meeting for Learning. For SEYM, we eagerly accepted the SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee’s invitation to provide **Quotes and Queries on Racism** (attached) for SEYM Worship Sharing Zoom sessions on July 11 and August 8. Feedback we received indicated that Friends were hungry to share deeply and experientially on the topic of racism. We, as a committee, had stretching conversations about race during the development of the queries, and are grateful to the Worship and Ministry Committee for their invitation.

Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Co-clerk, adds:

The members of the Committee for Ministry on Racism are available and willing to discuss racism with Friends: who are curious about racism and are ashamed of our ignorance; who are petrified of being found out to be more racist than we want anyone to know we are and have no idea - and would like to explore - what to do with our racism; or, who want to share stories of our shame, shenanigans, successes, blessings & woes, and what we are learning in this exciting time to be

alive, to die, and to carry on as best we know or imagine as Quaker revolutionaries - at least revolutionaries of the heart, if not the street or work/living space.

Thank you, Friends, for all the conversations we're having about race and for the actions we're led to take, in the Spirit, to dismantle systemic racism. We will take them to our next Zoom meeting, which we are beginning to plan.

With loving blessings, in tenderness and wholeness,

Wendy Clarissa Geiger, (Jacksonville) and Susan Taylor (Tallahassee), Co-Clerks

For the Committee:

Minerva Glidden (Orlando), Katie Green (Clearwater), Beverly Ward (Tampa), Jean Larson (Gainesville), Jane Westberg (Miami), Kathy Hersh (DeLand WG, Miami), Cheryl Demers (Gainesville)

# Committee for Ministry on Racism Report Supplemental to Report in DIAs

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting  
8 Eighth Month 2020

Greetings, Friends,

*I'm giving you a new commandment...to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*

John 13:34, **New International Version**

This report supplements the CMOR report in the Documents in Advance for this meeting.

The Committee was grateful to recently hear through Vicki Carlie of the ongoing discussion St. Petersburg Meeting has been having on Black Lives Matter. St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting will write their own statement on issues of systemic racism if SEYM does not draft one. Katie Green, CMOR member, reported that New England Yearly Meeting suggested that their monthly meetings write their own statements in order to support wider engagement among Friends with this crucial concern. Tallahassee Meeting has about completed their statement, which will be published in the newspaper, the Tallahassee Democrat.

The focus of our committee right now will be on the recently emerged concern reported by Kody Hersh of the need to care for young People of Color within Southeastern Yearly Meeting. One of our young adult Friends has lifted up their painful experience of the reality of inherent racism in our mostly white meetings and Yearly Meeting, with the intent that youth of color “can experience a faith community without the violence of white supremacy.” CMOR has agreed to join a Zoom meeting with the Youth Committee to learn more and to address this vital concern. We are grateful to the young adult Friend for lovingly lifting this concern up for resolution and healing.

Jane Westberg, CMOR member, recently shared with us the following excerpt from the UK Medical Journal, **Lancet**: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31682-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31682-2/fulltext)

*Colonisation is a fundamental determinant of Indigenous peoples' health. Indigenous is a term defined by dislocation, and the effects of that displacement are felt by Indigenous peoples around the world. **Aug 9, International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**, is a chance to look at the continuing effects of territorial removal, the destruction of people, culture, and languages, and the lack of self-determination (the right to determine one's own social, cultural, and economic development), and their impact on Indigenous peoples' health. Any attempt to address the health inequities of Indigenous peoples will require governments to finally grapple with these foundational factors and enact and enforce the rights of Indigenous peoples to self-determination and territorial sovereignty.*

We hold all of what is included in this report in prayer, seeking guidance for continued way forward.

Trusting in the Spirit,  
Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR)  
Susan Taylor, Co-clerk

# Proposal to Temporarily Suspend SEYM Youth and Young Adult Coordinator's Service

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting  
8 Eighth Month 2020

- I. Reasons for request
- II. Consultation process
- III. Proposal
- IV. Options for the suspension period
- V. Next steps

## I. Reasons for request

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Southeastern Yearly Meeting has not held an in-person event since January 2020. Our yearly meeting gathering, a late spring young adult retreat, the youth and families retreat, fall interim business meeting, and Half Yearly Meeting have all been cancelled or moved online. Youth participation in online events has been low, a pattern that is consistent with trends in other Quaker communities (including other yearly meetings and Friends General Conference).

The SEYM Youth and Young Adult Coordinator position was created in response to a leading I received, which was then taken up by SEYM as a whole, to nurture SEYM's youth and young adults and the yearly meeting as a whole through youth and young adult ministry. The YYAC is charged with planning youth and young-adult focused events, strengthening programs for youth and young adults at existing intergenerational events, visiting meetings to offer workshops and consultation, and sharing resources.

All of the above functions are limited by the inability to meet in person. In addition, finding ways to continue this work, under difficult circumstances, without the boost of energy and connection afforded by in-person gatherings, has been draining.

The YYAC position was approved for a period of three years. By August, six months of those three years will have happened under pandemic restrictions.

The present circumstances prevent me from doing much of the work to which I feel led. With no specific end to the pandemic in sight, I feel grief at the prospect of running out any more of my three-year term doing work that, while not unimportant, is not the work to which I have felt, and continue to feel, led.

For those reasons, I am proposing a suspension of the YYAC position which would pause the three-year term I have agreed to serve, and resume it when it becomes safe to hold in-person events again (or at the discretion of the YYAC, EC, and Youth Committee).

## II. Consultation process

The following groups and individuals have been consulted on this proposal prior to its presentation to EC:

1. YYAC support committee
2. YYAC direct supervisor
3. Youth Committee
4. Presiding and committee clerks of Orlando Monthly Meeting (OMM) re: YYAC housing agreement

The YYAC support committee, YYAC supervisor, and SEYM Youth Committee are all in support of the proposal to temporarily suspend the YYAC position. OMM clerks are considering what the meeting's capacity is to extend housing beyond the original agreement, but a decision is unlikely before monthly meeting worship with attention to business on August 10.

## III. Proposal

I propose that SEYM EC suspend the YYAC position from September 1, 2020, until January 1, 2021. If any party (YYAC, Youth Committee, or EC) is uncomfortable with restarting on January 1 given the public health situation at that point, the leave can be reviewed and extended by EC at WIBM in mid-January, and if needed, at subsequent EC meetings. During this leave, the YYAC stipend would not be paid, and no work on behalf of the yearly meeting would be expected.

## IV. Options for the suspension period

Pastoral care and support needs of youth, young adults, and families in SEYM continue, and in some ways are magnified by, the current situation. The lessening of supportive contact with families and young adults is a significant potential downside to the suspension of the YYAC position, but may also be an opportunity to more intentionally engage SEYM's volunteer resources in this work. Below are YYAC-initiated projects that I think could potentially be continued by volunteers while the position is suspended. I could help with identifying volunteers, training them in hosting SEYM events on Zoom, answering questions, and sharing tips and information that I have used to run these events previously.

1. Movie nights  
An Orlando Monthly Meeting activity that the meeting agreed to open up to the rest of SEYM when it moved online. Planned through August, needs meeting approval to be extended beyond that (or could be adopted by SEYM).
2. Young adult discussion nights  
These have been well-attended, and are simple to run.

Workshops for monthly meetings on topics like outreach in pandemic and pastoral care for families could be planned and led by the YYAC (before leave period begins) or others

(during leave), and conversations initiated with varied staff and committees about what they are doing for youth, young adults, and families.

Youth Committee is discussing the possibility of continuing to offer some online programs for youth and families during the leave period.

V. Next steps

I am preparing this proposal for consideration at the August 8th Executive Committee meeting, with September 1 as a tentative start date for a suspension/leave. This timeline would allow three weeks for putting support systems in place for the interim period. It also ensures YYAC availability through the summer, with leave beginning only after the school year has started in most or all districts.

I am asking EC to approve this leave on August 8th even though OMM will likely not yet have made a determination about housing availability. I have a back-up housing option if needed during my leave time, and trust that we could find a solution together if OMM housing is not available after the end of the current agreement (which extends to the end of 2021).

EC members can email [yyacoordinator@seymquakers.org](mailto:yyacoordinator@seymquakers.org), or call or text 407-850-8457, with any questions about this proposal or its expected implementation. The YYAC and at least one Youth Committee co-clerk also plan to be at the EC meeting to discuss the proposal.

# A Quaker Retirement Community in Florida

Presentation by Daniel and Susan Vaughen  
SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting  
8 Eighth Month 2020

## The History

More than forty years ago, SEYM established a committee to explore the construction of a Quaker Community in Florida. The vision was for a retirement community, a potential site for Yearly Meeting Gatherings, a retreat center, and an educational center. The concept was to begin with a retirement community, and potentially also with a YM Gathering site, then the two most pressing needs.

Monthly Meetings and individuals donated money towards a fund to be used for a feasibility study, and other expenses. The committee had no paid staff. All members of the committee volunteered their time and paid their own expenses.

Two representatives from Kendall offered to partner with SEYM to build a retirement community, provided enough financial support could be raised for a required local match. Kendall was flexible regarding management of the completed facility.

On June 12, 2020, Lyn Cope, SEYM Executive Secretary during the history given above, provided this additional historical information:

“Forty years ago the effort got off the ground and retirement center existed for a short period of time. During my tenure as SEYM Secretary, we had land willing to be donated miles north of New College. We needed to raise 2M quickly and unfortunately the two parties interested died unexpectedly. That would have been 20 years ago.”

## The Present

I believe the members and meetings of SEYM continue to hold the vision of building a Quaker residential community in Florida.

Susan and I are now living in a retirement community called “The Cloisters,” in DeLand, Florida. (<https://thecloistersretirement.org>). The physical facilities are attractive, well-designed, unique in DeLand, and rare, elsewhere. Yet this facility is poorly maintained and managed. Occupancy is well below capacity, staffing is inadequate, poorly-trained, and under-paid. Employee turnover is high. Morale, both among residents and staff, is low.

The Cloisters is owned and managed by Retirement Housing Foundation, Inc., a tax-exempt, non-profit, California corporation, managed, according to their Federally-required 990 disclosures, by highly paid executives.

Founded by clergy of the United Church of Christ, RHF owns and manages 197 communities in 29 States. For our facility, however, they are an absentee landlord, enforcing tight financial control, while authorizing little local discretion. Nationwide employee reviews for this corporation with respect to facility management, are generally poor.

## The Future

Drawing from the vision from which Foulkeways was conceived and built by Gwynedd Monthly Meeting, Gwynedd, PA., Susan and I are looking for “a place where aging, retired people could live productive lives in comfort and security, in the midst of beauty and peace, finding persons of common interest and comparable age with whom to share the mature friendship and mutual support that only the rich experiences of a lifetime make possible.” (paraphrasing quotes from two of its founding members)

## The Ask

Spurred by the shortcomings of our present retirement community, Susan and I accepted our responsibility to bring about the changes we seek. In doing so, we turned first to our Meeting, for clearness. At its Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, Orlando Monthly Meeting approved the following minute:

**2020.06-04** Orlando Monthly endorses the leading of Daniel and Susan Vaughen, to seek the appointment of a new SEYM committee for the purpose of assessing the support and commitment of SEYM Friends and Meetings to construct or acquire, or to recruit partners who would construct or acquire, an affordable retirement community in Central Florida, intended to be operated according to the principles, practices, and values of the Religious Society of Friends.

Lyn Cope, a current resident of a Kendall community, suggested that we approach Kendal again. She reported they had assumed management of an existing facility in San Francisco, formerly run by an order of monks.

She also reported that Kendall’s new director, located in Philadelphia, was very helpful.

If the Executive Committee senses its support for the creation of a new SEYM committee to explore bringing a Quaker retirement community to Central Florida, we are asking for a Minute to that effect. Such a minute might be expressed in the following manner:

“The Executive Committee approves the immediate appointment by the YM Clerk of a new SEYM committee to begin work as soon as possible to assess the support and commitment of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups within SEYM, to construct or acquire, or to recruit partners who would construct or acquire, an affordable retirement community in Central Florida. The new committee may designate its name, identify its Clerk, and initiate communication with Meetings, Worship Groups, potential retirement community partners, and other interested parties. The committee may solicit contributions designated for its expenses, from SEYM constituent Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, or from any other persons or entities. All members of the committee shall be uncompensated volunteers, who shall pay for their own expenses. The committee may expend any donated funds for its other reasonable and necessary expenses. It shall report its progress, contributions and expenses to the Executive Committee at its next regular meeting.

Peace,  
Daniel and Susan Vaughen