

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Summer Executive Committee Meeting

19 Sixth Month 2021
Via video teleconference

Minutes

Twenty Friends gathered via video teleconference.

Friends gathered in the morning for worship before breaking out into committees.

Following a break for lunch, the meeting of the whole resumed worship.

Phoebe Andersen, clerk of EC/IBM welcomed Friends to the Summer Executive Committee Meeting of SEYM.

The clerk read from an epistle from London Yearly Meeting in 1936:

It has been the experience of this (London) 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 by a sense of our own unworthiness.

SEYM Faith & Practice, 4th ed., p. 232

Friends returned to worship.

Phoebe explained that in the past week she has had major challenges. She apologized for the delays in sending the agenda and Documents in Advance. Her email has been hacked and she is not receiving email. Please email Neil to communicate with Phoebe until the issue is resolved.

The clerk asked for milestones and announcements. Susan said that Jay Ortega Rand of St. Petersburg was in the hospital and was expected to pass on soon. Friends held him in the Light.

The agenda was reviewed. Bill Carlie asked for time for Earthcare Committee. Vicki Carlie asked to give an update for Gathering Committee. The agenda was accepted with additions.

Susan Wade reported as the SEYM Administrative Secretary. She has just returned from a relaxing and refreshing vacation. She will be working on the SEYM Directory this summer.

Vicki Carlie reported on the redesign of the website. The redesign is being done by a web designer in St. Petersburg who will start working on the website this month at the non-profit rate. Vicki hopes that it will be ready by Fall. The website needs to be simplified and made more appealing to younger people. One goal is to offer digital materials directly for sale from the website. Phoebe explained that Publication Committee wants to move forward with ending printing of booklets

and go entirely to digital content. This requires some changes to the website. Questions were asked about the budget for the redesign. Initially there was \$3,000 budgeted and we will have to see how far that will go. Publications is also going to try to eliminate much of the inventory of printed pamphlets and send them to the monthly meetings and worship groups, while at the same time converting the pamphlets to digital form.

Friends accepted the Secretary's report, the Web Redesign report, and the Publications report.

Joel Cook presented the Treasurer's report. The fiscal year ended less than three weeks ago and so there is no financial report yet. Joel apologized—he has not gotten back to the Youth Committee; when he finished the PPP application, there was an announcement that the money had run out. He has not yet arranged the CPA review, but it is on his calendar. Friends suggested the PPP application be submitted as there may still be money.

Friends accepted the report.

Bill Carlie presented the report of the *ad hoc* Crisis Response Committee (attached, p 6). Kody Hersh is the clerk of the *ad hoc* committee; Bill is the recording clerk. The *ad hoc* committee will continue until Fall Interim Business Meeting, hoping to present a final report then, and asking the committee be laid down. The *ad hoc* committee will also make recommendations about child safety and crisis response going forward.

Friends accepted the report with gratitude to the *ad hoc* committee.

Jack Bradin reported about the Havana Unprogrammed Group. Jack has communicated with European and British Friends. There is interest in regularly connecting with Cubans. We have figured out how to connect with the Cubans electronically. There are five "family" groups who want to connect in silent worship. There is a cost of \$5/hour for each connection, or about \$1500 a year for one hour weekly meetings. Europeans have already committed \$700-800 for the project; SEYM Friends are asked to raise the balance from individuals. Jack further recommends that SEYM apply to the State Department to allow Friends to visit with Cuban Friends.

Friends accepted the report.

21SEC01 Friends direct the Treasurer to set up a fund for restricted donations for support and for internet access for international worship groups associated with SEYM.

APPROVED

Friends discussed if SEYM was prepared to make a monetary donation right away. Friends were prepared to send individual donations to back up an SEYM donation.

21SEC02 Executive Committee recommends to Fall Interim Business Meeting that SEYM make an immediate donation of \$500 to the restricted fund set up in minute 21SEC01, support for international worship groups.

APPROVED

21SEC03 Executive Committee recommends that SEYM reapply to the State Department for a license to travel to Cuba with aid and ministry.

APPROVED

Jack agreed to write a report for the website, and Vicki & Susan will create a page to solicit donations on the website. Friends thanked Jack Bradin and Mercedes Soca for their work on this project.

After a break, we recentered with worship.

Phoebe presented a report on SEYM Apportionment Concerns (attached, p 8). The goal is to codify the apportionments process and have it written down. Friends had a lot of conversation about unaffiliated meetings, what “attender” means, who is included in directory listings, and timing for apportionment requests. Monthly Meetings have the responsibility to follow up with members who move away. Worship groups are generally assessed with the monthly meeting with which they are affiliated. Peter Schmidt will make a summary of the minutes about apportionment. Phoebe will touch base with the unaffiliated meetings and worship groups to see what their thoughts are. She will also send the document on apportionment to all meeting clerks and worship group contacts for their input. We will then discuss this further at WIBM.

- 21SEC04** Executive Committee accepts the report prepared by Phoebe Andersen about the history of the apportionment process. EC recommends that the report be sent to all monthly meeting clerks/treasurers/finance clerks as well as worship group contacts with a request for feedback not later than Winter Interim Business Meeting. EC asks Peter Schmidt to summarize the history and minutes to date. An *ad hoc* committee will then consolidate the feedback and history and suggest a codified, transparent, fair system for funding the yearly meeting.
APPROVED

Susan Taylor is currently attending the sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting as their FGC visitor. Her report for the Committee on Ministry on Racism is attached. Friends accepted the report.

Cecilia Yocum reported for the Youth Committee (attached, p 12). There is a youth and families retreat scheduled on July 25 in North FL. Kody Hersh is back at work. He is planning activities at Half-Yearly Meeting as well as Interim Business Meetings. There is a concern about funding for the committee. An appeal needs to be made to raise funds specifically for the salary for the Youth and Young Adult Coordinator as well as program expenses. A Friend suggested that perhaps Trustees COVID funds could be used for some of this expense. Friends accepted the report.

Cecilia Yocum reported for Friends Peace Teams (attached, p 13). She asked Friends to take the report to their meetings. Friends accepted the report.

Bill Carlie reported for the Earthcare Committee (attached, p 17).

- 21SEC05** Executive Committee concurs with the Earthcare Committee in its response to the urgency of the Climate Crisis. The committee unites to establish a challenge grant to raise funds for the Field Secretary for Earthcare position with an initial fundraising goal of \$10,000.
APPROVED

Friends accepted the Earthcare Committee report.

Vicki Carlie reported for Gathering Committee. The committee is concerned about having an

adequate number of approved youth workers in the absence of a CAPP Coordinator. The committee is working on a theme, and looking for ways to encourage families to attend. Friends accepted the report.

- 21SEC06** In order that applications for SEYM Youth Workers may be processed in the absence of a CAPP Coordinator, until a new Coordinator is appointed:
- a. The registrations of SEYM Youth Workers that are expiring in 2022 shall be extended until the end of the 2022 YM Gathering.
 - b. The Youth Committee Clerk (or a Youth Committee member) and the Youth & Young Adult Coordinator may schedule and oversee training sessions for new and returning applicants. Training sessions may be conducted online.
 - c. The Administrative Secretary may solicit, accept and process applications in advance of scheduled trainings.

APPROVED

Warren Hoskins reported for Peace & Social Concerns Committee (attached, p 18). The committee wants to let Friends know about the Friends Peace Teams Peace Library. He also reported on the Extinction Walk.

Friends accepted the report.

Fall Executive Committee and Fall Interim Business (FIBM) meeting will be Tenth Month 1 & 2, via video teleconference.

- 21SEC07** Executive Committee mourns the death of Jacksonville Friend Al Gieger. While saddened, Friends expressed appreciation for all the gifts Al shared with SEYM through the years.

APPROVED.

Friends accepted all the numbered, approved minutes.

The meeting closed with worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Dykes
Recording clerk

Phoebe B. Andersen
Clerk, EC/IBM Meeting

Participants:

Clearwater Monthly Meeting

Caroline Kaufman

Fort Lauderdale Monthly Meeting

Brian Humphrey

Gainesville Monthly Meeting

Shawna Doran

Liz Dykes

Miami Monthly Meeting

Andrea Hoskins

Warren Hoskins

Orlando Monthly Meeting

Chris Laning

Ed Lesnick

Other Friends

Peter Schmidt

St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting

Bill Carlie

Vicki Carlie

Susan Wade

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting

Robert (Bob) Allenson

Neil Andersen

Phoebe Andersen

Tampa Monthly Meeting

Nancy Triscritti

Beverly Ward

Treasure Coast Worship Group

Jack Bradin (Palm Beach MM)

Joel Cook (Palm Beach MM)

Ad hoc Crisis Response Committee

Interim Progress Report

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting
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The *ad hoc* Crisis Response Committee (committee) was created by SEYM Executive Committee and approved by Minute at SEYM 2021 annual sessions in response to the arrest of Javier Del Sol upon receipt of news of his arrest in 2021 for sexual abuse of a minor that occurred in 2005 or 2006. Javier Del Sol had been a volunteer with SEYM youth programs at about the time of this incident. Members of the committee have been Kody Hersh, Bill Carlie, Nancy Triscritti, Susan Taylor, and Cecilia Yocum.

The committee met during Yearly Meeting sessions and drafted a response plan and public statement which were approved by Minute prior to the rise of SEYM 2021 annual sessions. This interim report summarizes the steps taken under the plan and the results to date.

The committee has been active, meeting at first weekly as the plan was implemented and more recently every 2 weeks for status updates. Steps taken include:

- Publication of the public statement on the SEYM website and direct distribution of the statement to Meeting clerks and correspondents for Worship Groups.
- Direct personal contact with youth participants and youth coordinators from the period of concern.
- Setting up the listeners named in the response plan with private google based phone numbers and email addresses that are dedicated to this effort.
- Creation of shared documents where responses from these efforts could be recorded and shared by the committee.
- Review of records to determine if the contact information is as complete as possible.

Submittal of committee notes for publication on the SEYM website. Some notable results have been recorded:

- No incident of abuse related to Javier Del Sol, or at an SEYM event has been reported to a committee member or named listener at this time.
- The committee received messages of appreciation for the individual outreach and transparency of this process.
- Listeners were available to Friends who were distressed by the news of this event and while the need for this support was limited, Friends appreciated the availability of this support.

Future steps intended by the committee:

- The committee and response plan will remain in place to continue as a resource should members or participants need to report incidents or seek support through to Fall Interim Business Meeting. Under current circumstances, a final report will be submitted to FIBM with anticipation that the committee could be laid down at that time with recommendations to be taken under the care of EC. This may change depending on the information received prior to FIBM.
- The committee will discern how lessons learned in this process may improve on-going revisions to the CAPP Manual.
- The committee will work to discern recommendations for a Crisis Response process that may be adopted to allow a prompt response to any future incident.
- The committee may discern other recommendations related to child safety and organizational culture.

Bill Carlie, recording for the *ad hoc* Crisis Response Committee

Clerk's Report on SEYM Apportionment Process

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting
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The general financial needs of SEYM are met primarily by contributions from the constituent monthly meetings which make up SEYM. The apportionments are a way of dividing up the cost of running the Yearly Meeting in a way that takes into account the relative sizes of the monthly meetings. Each meeting or worship group's apportionment is based on its population statistics, as shown in the latest SEYM directory. For apportionment purposes, each member adult or member child in a meeting is counted as one unit and each attender adult or attender child is counted as one-half unit. The total number of units in a meeting is divided by the total number of units in the Yearly Meeting to determine each meeting's percentage of the whole, which is then multiplied by the Meeting Donation line from the Yearly Meeting General Fund budget to determine the apportionment of the meeting.

As always, the apportionments are intended as guidelines. Each meeting is asked to consider, in the Light, their contribution to the financial support of SEYM.

Nil Wilkins, Clerk Finance Committee
May 2012 to Monthly Meetings & Worship Groups

SUPPORTING MINUTES

2002

Annie McPherson [Committee Clerk] presented the Finance Committee Report. The Committee proposed two minutes, which were discussed. The first of them was approved, as follows:

02YM10: Monthly Meetings carry membership for the Worship Groups under their care. Therefore the YM costs of services for a Monthly Meeting include their members attending Worship Groups under their care, as well as the attenders of the Worship Groups under their care. When Worship Groups send money directly to the Yearly Meeting, credit will be given to the overseeing Monthly Meeting. Documentation will show the Worship Group's contribution.

The second minute concerned cost of services, a new name for apportionment, which had been raised and discussed previously at the First Month Representative Meeting (WIBM). The minute clarified the process of calculating the cost of Yearly Meeting services. The Committee was trying to produce an equitable division of the costs of YM throughout the Monthly Meetings. Annie read the several-part proposed minute and the parts were considered one at a time. The following minute outlining the process of allocating cost of services was approved.

02YBM11: The process for calculating the cost of Yearly Meeting services by the SEYM Finance Committee is as follows:

1. Requests for updates to meeting membership information will be sent out after Fall Representative Meeting (FIBM), due back to the SEYM office by Jan. 1.
2. Meetings will send in the membership information for all members, including their members attending Worship Groups under their care. In addition,

Meetings may send in records for attenders the Meetings want to include in their statistics, all of whom will be listed in the YM directory and receive SEYM mailings.

3. The cost of services report will be sent out to Meeting clerks and treasurers in March for the following fiscal year.
4. If a meeting or worship group does not send in any update by Jan. 1, the previous year's statistics will be used.

2007

07SEC09

[Executive Committee] requests the Finance Committee and the membership recorder to propose a process to revise the SEYM apportionment process with the input of the monthly meetings. The intent is to separate the meeting apportionment calculations from the YM directory listings and to make the apportionment process more equitable in estimating the relative ability of the meetings to contribute to the YM.

2008

08YBM10

YBM approves establishing an ad-hoc committee to consider the SEYM apportionment process. The committee is to be appointed by the Executive Committee. It should endeavor to seek input from the constituent meetings of SEYM. The meetings are requested to suggest members to serve on the committee.

2009

09SEC01

The YM clerk will contact Key West and Golden Isle worship groups regarding their interest to continue affiliation with SEYM. For the 2009-2010 FYBudget, Key West WG and Golden Isle WG will not be included in calculating apportionments.

2012

2012 - Fall EC and IBM:

- I. Executive Committee Clerks' Reports:
 3. Clerk reported on the FIBM EC meeting of 09-05-12 including:
 - a. A minute regarding the apportionment designations:

12FEC01

Executive Committee recommends that SEYM request Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to submit their additions, deletions, and changes to their SEYM directory information by January 31 of each year. The SEYM Finance Committee is directed to prepare the apportionments for the following fiscal year based on the directory information provided as of January 31. The SEYM Finance Committee is to present the apportionment percentages along with the proposed SEYM budget at the Yearly Business Meeting. The publication of the SEYM directory will proceed on its own schedule and may not always agree with the information used to compute apportionments.

The minute was **approved** by Friends.

K. Finance Committee report FY 2011-2012

1. Nil Wilkins gave the Finance Committee report and presented a minute regarding the timeline for monthly meeting statistics for the calculation of apportionment percentages:

12FIBM02 Finance Committee requests the SEYM membership recorder provide the monthly meeting statistics (as received by January 31) to Finance Committee clerk no later than the end of February. This minute was accepted (**Approved**) by Friends.

2013

Funding the Yearly Meeting

The yearly meeting derives its operating funds from the contributions of its constituent meetings and individual members and such other monies as may be obtained from other sources such as the trustees funds and publication sales. Each meeting's share of the operating budget is determined by the number of members and attenders in the meeting as a percentage of the number of members and attenders in the whole yearly meeting. Individual members are also asked to contribute as they feel led.

SEYM Faith & Practice (2013) p 239

13YBM01 All of the minutes recorded during the 2012-2013 Executive Committee and Interim Business Meeting Gatherings were brought before the Yearly Meeting body and were accepted by SEYM.

2014

14YBM03 SEYM of the Religious Society of Friends approves distribution of a draft of apportionments. The final apportionments will be sent to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups during Fifth Month.

CONCERNS:

- What is the minute number for the definitions of Apportionment "Members" & of "Attenders" which are used in the Footnote to the Directory Statistics Table?
- Which of the WGs, if any, should be included in the Apportionment calculations?
- Should the "Unaffiliated Meetings" (Halifax, Havana [Cuba] & Hilton Head) be apportioned?
- Why do the Statistics in the published Directory not match the numbers used in the apportionment calculations?
- It is often hard for the meetings to budget the SEYM apportionment because they budget in Dec. for January 1st and the apportionments are not finalized until after Yearly Meeting?

DO YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL MEETING CONCERNS - About the Apportionment Process?

Committee for Ministry on Racism Report

SEYM Executive Committee Meeting
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Greetings, Friends!

We celebrate with all Friends that Juneteenth is now a federal holiday (May 20th was Florida's Emancipation Day) and support all SEYM Meetings and Friends in their efforts to challenge and dismantle White supremacy.

1. We are researching how to get copies of the excellent guide book below. We've talked about how useful it would be if each meeting had a copy.. It is also downloadable from the website. Native American Heritage Trail - Division of Historical Resources - Florida Department of State <https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/heritage-trails/native-american-heritage-trail>

"The 36-page Florida Native American Heritage Trail guidebook honors Florida's Native American cultures, both past and present, by providing in-depth information for residents and visitors. The Florida Native American Heritage Trail describes in text and images over 100 heritage tourist destinations throughout the state where ancient Florida Native Americans left evidence of their cultures and where contemporary Native Americans thrive and exhibit their cultures. Features include a synopsis of the 12,000-plus years of Native American presence and significance in Florida, side bars of special interest topics, and biographies of individuals important to Florida's Native American heritage written by archaeologists and living descendents of Native Americans."

2. We are in communication with **Floridians Against the Death Penalty** regarding the virtual Zoom workshop they will be presenting to SEYM, hosted by CMOR and Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The date will be either Friday evening Sept. 10 or 17. Stay tuned!

3. We are grateful to Vicki Carlie for hosting the May 14 showing via SEYM Zoom of the excellent film, **Just Mercy**, the story of acclaimed civil rights lawyer Bryan Stevenson and the Equal Justice Initiative, which he founded..The small group of Friends in attendance enjoyed being together for this inspiring event.

We hold you in the Light as you meet.

Trusting in the Spirit, with love,
Committee for Ministry on Racism
Susan Taylor, Co-clerk for the Committee

SEYM Youth Committee Report

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting

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SEYM Youth Committee Meeting June 6, 2021
Revised June 19, 2021

Meeting opened with Worship

June Family Gathering: This has been canceled due to lack of registrants

July Family Gathering: This is a go! July Family Gathering: Registration is in great shape, six families signed up so far, with more expressing interest. Estimate about 20-30 attendees. Mira will assist with continued outreach. July 25 at Anastasia Par, St Augustine, Fl. A day long retreat for families

Kody will be starting his new salaried year in June and going for one year as SEYM Youth Coordinator.

More upcoming events: In the next year, Kody hopes to offer an in-person retreat for young adults, as well as youth programs at HYM, IBMs, and YM Gathering. Hopefully we will be able to have a full, in person, weekend youth and families retreat next summer.

Supervision: Mira will resume supervising the YYAC position on behalf of Youth Committee.

Other: Any follow up needed from Emily Provance's spiritual gifts workshop?

FPT new peace library resource. See Friendspeacetteams.org

Reconvene CAPP manual revision committee to check in and assess process moving forward.

We are looking for more members of the Youth Committee! Please let Cece know if you are interested in sitting in and learning more. Also please talk with the Nominating Committee.

We plan to start working again on our SEYM CAPP manual which needs a revision committee to check in and assess the process moving forward.

Any follow up needed from Emily Provance's spiritual gifts workshop?

Budget for upcoming Budget year 2021-2022. We are interested in our budget for this coming fiscal year and any plans for fundraising.

Plans for upcoming year 2021-2022 : FPT new peace library resource

We want to continue planning but have not made concrete plans yet.

Meeting closed with worship

Friends Peace Teams Report

Peacebuilding in the Americas Columbia Proposal

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting
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Cali, June 18, 2021

Peacebuilding in the Americas (PLA) working group Colombia Proposal 2021 report and proposal

Special Appeal for Colombia Emergency Appeal

Why Now?

Colombia at a critical historical crossroads

The risks to democracy in Latin America became glaringly evident this month as increasingly authoritarian regimes struggled unsuccessfully to respond to Covid, with the accompanying crises in economic and public health systems.

Despite prohibitions on protests, the peoples' power flared up in Colombia with thousands of fed-up citizens flooding the streets starting on April 28 in order to denounce President Duque's initiatives to privatize health services and raise taxes on food, utilities and income.

The military repression of the civil resistance was swift and merciless, with Amnesty International reporting 26 protestors assassinated, 56 disappeared, 9 sexually assaulted, 142 mistreated, and 761 arbitrarily detained in the first 5 days of civil resistance. The fragility unveiled in political and socio-economic structures highlights the urgent need for the grass-roots work of Peacebuilding in Las Américas (PLA) to continue in order to strengthen the social fabric by training citizens in nonviolence and conflict transformation.

"The right to protest is denied daily by the militarized forces that are well-equipped with U.S. funding. They shoot from helicopters, motorcycles, as well as massacres, forced disappearances, sexual violence, and real and constant fear.

While the state and paramilitary focus their brutality with unprecedented intensity against the people, the protesters focus their demands on an alternative agenda that builds popular power. This agenda emerges out of the most poor sectors, and out of Indigenous and Afro-Colombia whose resistance is over 500 years old." - Witness to peace

Colombia is in crisis, facing major civil unrest with widespread protests met with fierce repression by Government forces. (See UCC Global Ministries article I sent, quoted below.)

"What started as a rejection of tax reform (then) evolved into a wide protest for quality in public education, a comprehensive implementation of the 2016 Peace Accords, eliminating flexible labor, guaranteeing basic income, and respecting pensions for the elderly.

Indigenous communities, social organizations, activists for peace, and ordinary citizens are also marching in the streets because of suffering violence, forced displacement, and racism with their communities.”

“Repression from the Colombian Government has been excessively disproportionate to the exercise of citizens’ rights. NGOs reported 3,155 cases of violence by the Public Forces (excluding disappearances*) between April 28 and May 24, 2021.”

These cases include:

“955 victims of physical violence
43 homicides
1,388 arbitrary arrests against protesters
595 violent interventions in in the framework of the peaceful protests
46 victims of eye attacks
165 firearm shooting cases
22 victims of sexual violence
5 victims of gender-based violence.”

What we are doing/ Why we need funds:

As the regional crises of hunger, unemployment, domestic violence, democratic collapse, militarization and rising Covid infections continue, Peacebuilding en Las Américas (PLA) counterparts remain highly motivated. The unarguable successes of online Alternatives to Violence Project workshops have boosted personal well-being of hundreds and strengthened the collective capacity for nonviolent transformation of civil conflicts.

In Colombia, Isaí Romero remains highly motivated given the enthusiastic reception of virtual AVP by persons in Buenaventura and Cali, in the heart of the ongoing violent conflict and increasing militarization. From February through May, Isaí co-facilitated two Basic Workshops and one Advanced with 45 participants from the two cities. Buenaventura is the largest Colombian port, on Pacific coast, where communities are marginalized economically, facing entrenched historical racism, and violent armed conflicts due its geographical location as major hub of narco-trafficking

From Patricia Duque, working with children and youth in Antioquía: “I am 100% convinced that the AVP workshops are having an impact (in Colombia). Transforming Power is alive and active . . . reaching people’s hearts”

Direct Actions / Asks

- Peace Libraries for children to build skills in peacebuilding. Also there are plans for mobile Peace Libraries for AVP Colombia to travel throughout the country) (For more information, look at the Friends Peace Teams website for more information about these peace libraries)
- Online AVP workshops for youth and adults in Cali and Buenaventura (at heart of national conflict)

- In-person AVP workshops

So far this year in 2021 PLA has held:

1 Advanced for Cali/Buenaventura residents (45 participants total)

3 Basics

1 Advanced for Franciscanas/Antioquia (61 participants total)

AVP work in Colombia is now more important than ever. Please consider making a donation at this critical time in order to support local training in peacebuilding and the nonviolent transformation of conflict.

Current AVP Background:

Our colleagues in Colombia are calling for more AVP workshops in this time of unrest. Below is a proposal that has been developed by our colleagues in PLA. Please share this with your meeting or those you think might be interested or supportive:

Proposal: PAV West Colombian Coordinator, Jesse Romero Castro:

This is the budget for the AVP (PAV) workshops that we plan to carry out in western Colombia.

The facilitators are: Julián Castro, Juanita Carrero, Néstor Venegas and Isaí Romero Castro.

* In the city of Buenaventura, on the Pacific coast, we plan 2 basic workshops and one advanced, between the months of July to October. The focus is on 2 localities plagued by violence, drug trafficking and, in recent months, domestic violence.

*One basic and one advanced workshop for the youth group: Youth for Christ

* 2 basic workshops and 1 advanced, in Cali.

The budget for this is as follows:

-Cost of the Zoom App service, per month..... US \$14.99; at the change of day
 -Offer facilitators. (Three facilitators) US \$300.00
 -Offer for the report US \$40.00
 -Bank expenses by credit card (monthly handling)..... US \$5.00 (15,300 Colombian pesos)
 This is the cost per workshop US \$359.99

Total basic workshops: Five (5)
 Total advanced workshops: Three (3)
 Total cost of all 8 (eight) workshops – US \$2,880.00

The request we make is for the first three months, when we will have the following schedule:

1 Basic PAV Workshop: June 21 to July 26, 2021

The others to be scheduled

In summary, what is requested for the second semester of 2021, eight (8) workshops is the sum of US \$2,880.00.

Trusting in the blessing of the Lord and the availability of the people we will have these workshops this semester.

For your attention, thank you very much.

Sincerely:

Jesse Romero Castro

PAV West Colombian Coordinator

Donations can be made to

Friends Peace Teams

1001 Park Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63104-3720 USA

+1 (314) 588-1122

A 501(c)3 U.S. Non-profit

Or you can make a donation online.

Please mark your donation for PLA; West Colombia

Earthcare Committee

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting

19 Sixth Month 2021

Attending: Beverly Ward, Brian Humphrey, Bob Allenson, Bill Carlie, Jack Bradin

Meeting opened from the silence.

Friends discussed the urgency of fund raising to support Yearly Meeting staff and activities to include the FSE, YYAC as well as YM employees. It is our hope that fundraising will improve as our meetings resume normal in-person meetings and activities as Friends see way clear to do so.

1. In response to the urgency of the Climate Crisis, Earthcare Committee unites to establish a challenge grant to raise funds for the Field Secretary for Earthcare position with an initial fund raising goal of \$10,000.

Friends continued to discuss the need for a lobbying presence in Tallahassee to address our concerns with environmental and environmental justice issues.

Meeting closed in silence.

Bill Carlie, Recording Clerk

SEYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting

19 Sixth Month 2021

The SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee had a Zoom breakout room set up from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. 19 Sixth Month 2021 for any committee members or interested persons attending the SEYM Summer Executive Committee

Present: Cecilia Yocum (Tampa Friends) and Warren Hoskins (Miami Friends)

9:43 AM

Cece proposed Agenda items, Warren agreed to take notes and type up minutes, and then to give an oral report to the Executive Committee (EC). He will also provide this report in writing to the EC. See the **bold highlighted blocks** below for contents of the oral report.

9:51 AM

A) The U.S. House of Representatives recently voted to repeal the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force. This was the war powers measure passed in 2002 to give President George W. Bush the ability to invade Iraq. FCNL has lobbied for years for the end to this AUMF. There are others still in effect, and effort is now under way to repeal those as well. We can look to FCNL for guidance on lobbying to repeal them.

B) Friends Peace Libraries - a project of Friends Peace Teams through the Friendly Book Collaborative. Read more at

<https://friendspeaceteams.org/category/peace-libraries-2/>

Cece explained about the work Friends Peace Teams is engaged in, through the Friendly Book Collaborative, focusing on the Friends Peace Libraries. From the website:

Friends Peace Library is a curated catalog of books, vetted by seasoned Quaker educators. With the Sparklers and other Quaker educators and librarians, we:

- **Recommend an English-language collection.**
- **Collect books and funding** to provide books to village libraries.
- **Connect storybooks with peace and literacy training.**
- **Create environments** for reading and training in Power of Goodness, mediation, and other community events.

Many librarians have never experienced a leveled reading collection. Friends Peace Library offers an example and experience to guide selection of books in the respective languages of librarians, parents, and teachers. Gaps in books available at specific reading levels in their own languages become apparent. This can guide writers and illustrators on needs for specific books within their own languages. Without such a collection of books, readers struggle with books they do not have the skill to read, which strains comprehension across their lifetime.

The Friends Peace Library collection is selected under the leadership and skill of the Sparklers, a group of Quaker librarians, teachers, and volunteers, working with the librarians, teachers, counselors, interns, and volunteers in Friends Peace Libraries around the world. We are a group of people who yearn for deeper learning, but not all of us have the background, experience, English proficiency, or time to easily find and choose books.

We commit to English-language learning as an international currency for communication and connection but use the collection to help us understand how to develop a strong library collection for all developmental reading levels, children through adults, in our own native languages. We understand that children need to read and learn in their native language. We dream that local writers and publishers will find guidance from this collection to understand better how to collect and produce books in their local languages that support the development of comprehension through reading. The Sparklers have joined with Friends Peace Teams to identify a collection that is also consistent with Quaker work for peace and justice in the world.

We agreed that we would tell the EC about the Friends Peace Libraries as part of this Peace and Social Concerns Committee's report, and ask the EC to include Friends Peace Libraries in reports of this meeting, and to further report on the Friends Peace Libraries in the SEYM newsletter.

Cece also said that Caroline Kaufmann had done excellent facilitation of a very informative program with FGC Bookstore staff who recommended books for First Day School programs. Cece will reach out to Caroline for her thoughts on that experience.

C) At one point in our discussion we noted that many meetings have been involved in Black Lives Matter programs and activities. We expect that for the EC this will be addressed by CMOR members (CMOR is the SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism).

We aspire to have an interim SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee meeting at some point, to be addressed by a representative from CMOR as well as to continue with our own agenda.

D) We talked briefly about a previous Peace and Social Concerns Committee project of learning what monthly meetings share in their newsletters about their Peace and Social Concerns. Warren is familiar with newsletters from Miami and Tallahassee and Cece sees the Tampa emails. This can be an ongoing project.

10:10 AM

E) Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice and the Teaching Farm near Gainesville: Cece has been in touch with their Board, especially Shawna Doran and Peter Ackerman. Cece plans to visit the Teaching Farm tomorrow and take some pictures. She is interested in how suitable it may be for SEYM Youth activities.

F) **Extinction Rebellion for America: Walk with Nick <https://xramerica.org/walk-with-nick/> is in progress. Nick Vazquez is in the middle of walking from Miami Beach to Tallahassee by way of all the major cities, about 800 miles in total. He started on April 22, 2021, and has already walked through Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, across to Fort Myers and up to the Tampa area. He will be in Orlando the last few days of June. The motivation for Nick to make the walk is simple, if hard for older Friends to hear: Nick believes our governments and agencies have failed to address climate change as the urgent crisis it has become. He is a young adult, and he asks, "Are we the last generation?" He answers himself: "We are the last, so we won't take it lying down. Rise up with love and rage!" He hopes to build the walk as he goes, and especially lead a march across Florida to confront Governor DeSantis.** On the website, Nick posts:

Dear People of the Earth,

My name is Nick Vazquez, I'm 23 years old, and I'm mad as hell!

I'm done waiting around. Planetary climate collapse is now underway and we are the last generation to be able to stop what may be the complete destruction of human civilization and the Earths' ecology. . . .

I urge all good people to rise up with me to form powerful, multi-generational communities of loving, nonviolent resistance. . . .

Some Friends are already supportive and working to increase support and outreach. We agree to share information as we gather it so that Friends may join in as the walk and March progress. This is what we have for some of the schedule:

Tuesday, June 29

9:00am

Arrive in Orlando

Thursday, July 1

10:00pm

Leave Orlando

Saturday, July 10

9:00am

Arrive in Daytona Beach

Monday, July 12

10:00pm

Leave Daytona Beach

Tuesday, July 27

10:00pm

Arrive in Gainesville

Friday, July 30

10:00pm

Leave Gainesville

Monday, August 9

9:00am

Arrive in Jacksonville

Tuesday, August 10

9:00am

Begin the Treason March

Monday, September 6

9:00am

Arrive in Tallahassee

I have left out the court dates, above - Nick has been arrested for going onto some public school grounds to address students directly, since no one is telling them how their future is being foreclosed by failures to act meaningfully.

Nick will be driven by his support person, Donald Zepeda, to court, and then returned to where he is in his walk in order to arrive on schedule at the cities. When they are in Orlando we know that Florida Rising will sponsor a local march and rally. When they are in Gainesville area, they will stay at the Teaching Farm.

Overall coordination and outreach is being done by David Gibson of Philadelphia, known to Warren and communicated with by Cece:

David Gibson, Organizing Director
Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW
Associate of National Peace Action
610-220-0223

peacehome.campaigns@gmail.com

Help us build political power.

JOIN: <https://peacejusticeflorida.wixsite.com/website/join>

10:23 AM

We discussed two community organizations, HOPE in Tampa and PACT in Miami, that have the same model of organizing congregations to address issues with elected officials (county commissioners and mayors) over agreed-on key actions. We are interested in what other monthly meetings have in their communities that may act like these, and hold what are called Nehemiah Actions annually. Cece reported that the Clubhouse model of a special location for persons with psychological needs like mental illness or drug addiction to have a safe place to meet, be mentored, learn skills, be helped with nutrition and health needs, and have an enjoyable community of their own.

Warren discussed reaching out to Fort Myers Friends to see how it is with them now. They were so strong with Peace and Social Concerns last year.

Our meeting ended at about 10:50 AM.

This report was prepared by Warren Hoskins then sent to Cece Yocum for her review before submission of the final version to the EC. Warren gave the oral report of the committee.

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