

# Southeastern Yearly Meeting

*of the Religious Society of Friends*

## Summer Executive Committee Meeting

10 Sixth Month 2023

### MINUTES

The meeting began with worship at 9:05 am

Clerk Bill Carlie read from John Woolman:

There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath had different names. It is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion nor excluded from any, where the heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes root and grows, of what nation soever, they become brethren.

John Woolman, 1746

Friends introduced themselves at Tampa Meeting House and on Zoom.

#### **SEYM Secretary's Report**

Susan Wade reported as the Yearly Meeting Secretary. Her home burned about a month ago, and this has put some things a little behind, principally the directory. She is getting settled at a friend's home where she will live until her home is rebuilt. She is fully connected and available.

**Friends accepted the report.**

#### **Nominating Committee Report**

Ed Lesnick presented the report of the Nominating Committee (attached). There have been no changes to the published report presented at Yearly Meeting. We are in need of Gathering co-clerks as well as an assistant clerk. We have added people to the Youth Committee and recommend Hope Ascher be approved as a member of the Youth Committee. John Palozzi offered to be on the Publications Committee.

**23SEC01** Summer Executive Committee approves the appointment of Hope Ascher, Quakers of Melbourne Monthly Meeting, to the Youth Committee for a term to begin immediately and conclude with Yearly Meeting sessions in 2026.

**APPROVED**

**Friends accepted the report.**

The plenary broke for committees to meet at 9:40 AM.

We reconvened in worship with the query: How does the Spirit fare with Thee? Friends shared about what is happening in their meetings.

We broke for lunch at 11:45 AM EDT.

We reconvened at 1 PM with worship.

Bill Carlie read from George Fox:

And do not strive about outward things, but dwell in in the love of God, for that will unite you together, and make you kind and gentle towards another, and to seek one another's good and welfare, and to be helpful one to another, and see that nothing be lacking among you, then all will be well.

George Fox, 1676

Clerk Bill Carlie reviewed the agenda. We will not have a roll call of meetings and worship groups, but will ask Friends who were not with us earlier to introduce themselves. There are two minutes from the Nominating Committee to add to the agenda.

Friends introduced themselves.

Wendy Clarissa Geiger reminded Friends about Bill Rapp, who years ago suggested we have hybrid business meetings via Skype, and here we finally are.

Cece Yocum, Tampa Meeting, reported that there is now a memorial minute for Caroline Lanker. We've also lost Roy Yerrakuda a weeks ago.

### **CAPP Coordinator's Report**

Cheryl Demers-Holton reported on the revisions to the CAPP [Child Abuse Prevention Procedures] Manual. She thanked Kody Hersh and Vicki Carlie for their work on the manual (Vicki's suggested revisions attached). The manual is comprehensive. Friends who work with youth, both at the monthly meeting and yearly meeting levels are encouraged to review this manual with attention to loving care for our young people. Friends asked for clarification about impromptu youth activities during the annual Gathering, or events that happen outside of printed program time. Friends stated that parents/guardians are expected to sign a form saying that any times that are not part of the program printed in advance, parents/guardians are expected to be responsible for their children. A training will be provided in August.

**SEYM SEC-02** Executive Committee approves the changes to the Child Abuse Prevention Policy (CAPP) Manual. **APPROVED**

**Re Friends accepted the report.**

### **Nominating Committee Second Report**

Ed Lesnick made two additions to the Nominating Committee report (revised report attached):

**SEYM SEC-03** Summer Executive Committee Meeting approves Shawna Doran, Gainesville Monthly Meeting, to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee for a term of June 2023 to Yearly Meeting 2026. **APPROVED**

**SEYM SEC-04** Summer Executive Committee Meeting approves John Palozzi, Palm Beach Monthly Meeting, to the Publications Committee for a term of June 2023 to Yearly Meeting 2026. **APPROVED**

**Friends accepted the report.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Joel Cook gave the Treasurer's report. Regarding Quickbooks: after much angst, SEYM has returned to the desktop version and moved payroll services to ADP. Final fiscal year (FY 2022-2023) accounting will be given at Fall Interim Business Meeting.

**Friends accepted the report.**

There was no report from Peace & Social Concerns Committee.

#### ***ad hoc* Committee on Women's Reproductive Health and Justice Report**

Lynn Carol Henderson presented a report from the *ad hoc* Committee on Women's Reproductive Health and Justice (attached). They have been getting information from monthly meetings and other organizations that are coordinating the petitions to get reproductive rights as a Florida Constitutional Amendment on the November 2024 ballot.

**Friends accepted the report.**

#### **Worship & Ministry Committee Report**

Jan Dahm presented the report from the Worship & Ministry Committee (attached). The committee requests that Executive Committee follow up on the recommendations from the Listening Project.

**Friends accepted the report.**

#### **Committee for Ministry on Racism Report**

Brad Stoker reported for the Committee for Ministry on Racism. The committee has been discussing book bans, support for teachers, and other current concerns. There is an interest in a Friends Committee for State Legislation or a Friends Committee for Florida Legislation. Friends shared ideas, and experience of other work on the state level. Friends discussed what structure might be needed.

**Friends accepted the report.**

#### **Half-Yearly Meeting Committee Report**

Susan Wade reported that she has reserved Wekiva Youth Camp for Thanksgiving 2023 for Half Yearly Meeting.

**Friends accepted the report.**

#### **Yearly Meeting Gathering Report**

Vicki Carlie gave a report on the work of the Yearly Meeting Gathering Planning Committee. SEYM has reserved the Dayspring Camp and Conference Center for the 2024 Gathering. We are busy trying to engage a speaker. The committee has compiled the results from the post Gathering survey.

**Friends accepted the report.**

#### **Field Secretary for Earthcare Report**

Beverly Ward gave her report as the Field Secretary for Earthcare and will provide a written report at a later date. She is doing both in-person and hybrid events. She reminded Friends that we are closely tied to the Florida Council of Churches, and the executive director spends much of the legislative session in Tallahassee. Beverly mentioned other connections throughout the Florida faith communities that are working with lawmakers.

**Friends accepted the report.**

#### **Earthcare Committee Report**

Brian Humphrey gave the report for the Earthcare Committee (attached). Many counties are facing a recycling crisis with recycling waste exceeding processing capacity. Exploring ways to bring Earthcare ideas to challenged communities is still under consideration.

**Friends accepted the report.**

#### **Publications Committee**

Phoebe Andersen reported for the Publications Committee. The committee is very happy that John Palozzi is willing to join the committee. Steven Riddle is copy editing some recent lectures, and John will be laying them out and getting them printed. There will be new publications in the coming year. The new website will

have a section for publications and the ability to download electronic versions of previous pamphlets. Phoebe is interested in receiving copies of Michener and Walton lectures from before 2000. Vickie Carlie reported that Jonathan Vogel Borne is working on SEYM's new, improved website for a reasonable fee. The goal is to have it up and running in the next six months.

Wendy Clarissa Geiger asked that the SEYM office promote her book *My Life as a Quilt* more aggressively.  
**Friends accepted the report.**

#### **ad hoc Quaker Retirement Community Committee Report**

Dan Vaughn reported on the progress of the *ad hoc* Quaker Retirement Community Committee (attached). We have begun the process of speaking in meetings about the idea of doing something to address the urgent needs we have in Florida for education as well as care for seniors, coupled with the partisan conflict throughout the state and nation.

Regarding information in SEYM's eNews, Susan Wade clarified that when a committee, meeting, or worship group wants to place an item in eNews, the request needs to include event information, date, time, location, information a committee wants to gather from SEYM members along with contact information on how and where Friends can reach the committee or person asking for the information. Friends commented that repeated announcements are often overlooked.

**Friends accepted the report.**

#### **Quaker Earthcare Witness Report**

Brad Stoker reported for Quaker Earthcare Witness (attached). He will be finishing his term as co-clerk with Beverly Ward this year. Co clerking was so successful it will continue. Haley Hathaway has stepped down, and Shelley Tannenbaum will retire at the end of the year.

**Friends accepted the report.**

#### **Quaker United Nations Office Report**

Liz Jenkins reported for the Quaker United Nations Office (attached). Friends attended the 75th anniversary event for QUNO.

**Friends accepted the report with gratitude to Orlando Monthly Meeting.**

**SEYM-SEC-05** Executive Committee expresses its gratitude to Orlando Monthly Meeting for its generous contribution to Quaker United Nations Office on behalf of SEYM.

**APPROVED**

Bill Carlie presented a minute of thanks to Tampa Monthly Meeting:

**SEYM SEC-06** Executive Committee expresses its gratitude to Tampa Monthly Meeting for its hospitality in hosting Summer Executive Committee and providing a wonderful lunch.

**APPROVED**

Liz Dykes read back the numbered, approved minutes

Friends closed with worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Dykes  
Recording Clerk

**Participants:**

**Clearwater Monthly Meeting**

Phil Stone

**DeLand Worship Group**

Cheryl Demers-Holton (Tampa MM)

Dan Vaughn (Orlando MM)

Beverly Ward (Tampa MM)

**Fort Lauderdale Monthly Meeting**

Brian Humphrey

**Gainesville Monthly Meeting**

Shawna Doran

Liz Dykes

**Miami Monthly Meeting**

Brad Stocker

**Orlando Monthly Meeting**

Liz Jenkins

Christine Laning

Ed Lesnick

**Palm Beach Monthly Meeting**

John Palozzi

**Saint Augustine Worship Group**

Dianne Langan (Saint Petersburg MM)

**Saint Petersburg Monthly Meeting**

Bill Carlie

Vicki Carlie

Lynn Carol Henderson

Susan Wade

**Tallahassee Monthly Meeting**

Neil Andersen

Phoebe Andersen

Andrea Hoskins

Warren Hoskins

Ian MacDonald

**Tampa Monthly Meeting**

Jan Dahm

Lisa Erasmus

Karen Putney

Nil Wilkins

Cece Yocum

**Treasurer Coast Worship Group**

Joel Cook (Palm Beach Monthly Meeting)

Amy Richards

# SEYM Officers, Committees, Representatives, & Appointees

As of June Executive Committee Meeting 2023

## **OFFICERS**

Yearly Meeting Clerk .....	Bill Carlie.....	St. Petersburg.....	2026
Interim Business Meeting (IBM) & Executive Committee (EC) Clerk .....	Bill Carlie .....	St. Petersburg.....	2026
Assistant Yearly Meeting Clerk .....			
Recording Clerk, YM.....	Dan Vaughn .....	Orlando/DeLand .....	2025
Recording Clerk, IBM/EC.....	Liz Dykes .....	Gainesville.....	2025
Assistant Recording Clerks:			
IBM and EC .....	Dan Vaughn .....	Orlando/DeLand .....	2026
YM .....	Liz Dykes .....	Gainesville.....	2026
Treasurer .....	Joel Cook .....	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast .....	2026
Membership Recorder .....	Ed Lesnick.....	Orlando.....	2024

## **TRUSTEES**

Neil Andersen, <i>Clerk</i> .....	Tallahassee .....	2026
Chris Laning .....	Orlando .....	2025
Jack Bradin .....	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast....	2026
Liz Dykes .....	Gainesville .....	2026
Mike Flanery .....	Clearwater .....	2026

## **COMMITTEES**

<b>Archives</b>	Bill Rapp, <i>Clerk</i> .....	Lake Wales WG .....	2024
	Neil Andersen.....	Tallahassee .....	2024
	Phoebe Andersen .....	Tallahassee .....	2026
<b>Earthcare</b>	Brian Humphrey, <i>Clerk</i> .....	Ft. Lauderdale .....	2026
	Jim Koopman .....	Ft. Myers .....	2025
	Brad Stocker .....	Miami .....	2025
	Beverly Ward .....	Tampa.....	2025
	Jack Bradin .....	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast....	2026
	Mike Flanery .....	Clearwater .....	2026
	Hollyn Green.....	Savannah.....	2026
<b>Faith &amp; Practice</b> (Committee on sabbatical)	Phoebe Andersen, <i>Clerk</i> .....	Tallahassee .....	2024
<b>Facebook Page</b>	Mike Flanery .....	Clearwater .....	2024
<b>Finance</b>	Peter Schmidt, <i>Clerk</i> .....		2024
	Steve Donachie .....	Miami .....	2024
	Shawna Doran .....	Gainesville .....	2024
	Carl Hersh.....	Miami/DeLand .....	2024
	Asst. YM Clerk (ex officio)		
	SEYM Treasurer (ex officio)		
	Clerk of Trustees (ex officio)		
	SEYM Administrative Secretary (ex officio)		
<b>Half-Yearly Meeting</b>	Brian Olson, <i>Clerk</i> .....	Miami .....	2024
	Rosiland Kirupavathy, <i>Registrar</i> .....	Orlando .....	2024
	Kathy Hersh, <i>Co-Food Coordinator</i> .....	Miami/DeLand .....	2025
	Beverly Ward, <i>Co-Food Coordinator</i> .....	St. Petersburg .....	2025
	Asma Roshi.....	Orlando .....	2025

<b>Ministry on Racism</b>	Kathy Hersh, <i>Clerk</i> .....	Miami/DeLand .....	2024
	Minerva Glidden .....	Orlando .....	2024
	Brad Stocker .....	Miami .....	2024
	Susan Taylor .....	Tallahassee .....	2024
	Beverly Ward .....	Tampa .....	2024
	Jane Westberg .....	Miami .....	2024
	Cindy Kwalwasser.....	Orlando/DeLand .....	2025
	Jean Larson .....	Gainesville .....	2025
	Wendy Clarissa Geiger .....	.....	2026
	Katie Green.....	Clearwater .....	2026
	Asma Roshi.....	Orlando .....	2026
<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns</b>	Karen Putney .....	Tampa .....	2024
	Helen Fox .....	Ft. Myers .....	2024
	Peter Harrell .....	Gainesville .....	2024
	John Heimburg.....	Orlando .....	2025
	Warren Hoskins.....	Tallahassee .....	2025
	Mercedes Soca .....	Havana WG.....	2025
	Cece Yocum .....	Tampa .....	2025
	Shawna Doran .....	Gainesville .....	2026
	Phil Stone .....	Clearwater .....	2026
<b>Publications</b>	Phoebe Andersen .....	Tallahassee .....	2024
	Steven Riddle.....	Orlando .....	2025
	John Palozzi .....	Palm Beach .....	2026
	Vicki Carlie (ex officio) .....	St. Petersburg	
<b>Worship &amp; Ministry</b>	Richelle Ogle, <i>Co-Clerk</i> .....	Orlando/St. Augustine.....	2025
	Jan Dahm, <i>Co-Clerk</i> .....	Tampa .....	2026
	Lisa Erasmus, <i>Co-Clerk</i> .....	Tampa .....	2026
	Bill Carlie .....	St. Petersburg .....	2025
	Cheryl Demers-Holton.....	Gainesville/DeLand .....	2025
	Nancyrose Logan.....	Sarasota .....	2025
	Clara Diaz .....	Orlando/St. Augustine.....	2026
	Eduardo Diaz .....	Orlando/St. Augustine.....	2026
	Joel Cook.....	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast ...	2026
Ann Jerome .....	Orlando .....	2026	
<b>YM Gathering</b>	Vicki Carlie, Gathering Clerk .....	St. Petersburg .....	10 <sup>TH</sup> MONTH 2023
	Andrea Hoskins, <i>Registrar</i> .....	Tallahassee .....	2025
	John Heimburg, <i>Bookstore</i> .....	Orlando .....	2026
	Brian Olson, <i>Program Coordinator</i> .....	Miami .....	2026
	Kasper Ronning .....	Orlando .....	2025
	SEYM Administrative Secretary, ex-officio.....	.....	.....
<b>Youth Committee</b>	Jennifer Mendoza .....	Sarasota .....	2024
	Kathy Hersh .....	Miami .....	2025
	Hope Ascher .....	Melbourne.....	2026
	Mariah Doran, <i>Gathering Activities</i> .....	Gainesville .....	2026
	Lewis Kirvan, <i>Gathering Activities</i> .....	Gainesville .....	2026
	Cecelia Yocum, <i>Gathering Activities</i> .....	Tampa .....	2026
	Amanda Farrar .....	St. Augustine .....	2026
	Asma Roshi.....	Orlando .....	2026
	Evelyn Schwalb .....	Orlando .....	2026

## REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS

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### American Friends Service Committee Corporation, - AFSC/Philadelphia

Bill Carlie ..... St. Petersburg ..... 2025  
Beverly Ward ..... Tampa ..... 2025

### Friends Committee on National Legislation – FCNL

Karen Putney ..... Tampa ..... 2024  
Eileen Zingaro ..... Clearwater ..... 2024  
Dianne Langan ..... St. Pete/St. Augustine ..... 2026  
Ian MacDonald ..... Tallahassee ..... 2026

### Friends General Conference - FGC Central Committee

Dan Vaughn ..... Orlando ..... 2025  
Susan Wade ..... St. Petersburg ..... 2025

### Friends World Committee for Consultation – FWCC

Clara Diaz ..... Orlando ..... 2024  
Eduardo Diaz ..... Orlando ..... 2024  
Nancyrose Logan ..... Sarasota ..... 2026  
Joel Cook ..... Palm Beach/Treasure Coast... 2026

### Friends Peace Teams

Cecilia Yocum ..... Tampa ..... 2025  
Shawna Doran ..... Gainesville ..... 2025

### Florida Council of Churches

Beverly Ward ..... Tampa ..... 2024

### Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns – FLGBTQ

Under Discernment

### Palmetto Friends Gathering

Phoebe Andersen ..... Tallahassee ..... 2026  
Neil Andersen ..... Tallahassee ..... 2026

### Quaker Earthcare Witness

Brad Stocker ..... Miami ..... 2025  
Beverly Ward ..... Tampa ..... 2026

### Quaker House (Fayetteville)

Seth Moody ..... St. Augustine WG ..... 2026

### Quaker United Nations Office - QUNO

Liz Jenkins ..... Orlando ..... 2025

## APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATIONS

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### FUM General Board Observer

Eduardo Diaz ..... Orlando/St. Augustine ..... 2026  
Ellie Caldwell, *Alternate* ..... Palm Beach ..... 2024

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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Ed Lesnick, *Clerk* ..... Orlando ..... 2024  
Beverly Ward ..... Tampa ..... 2025  
Shawna Doran ..... Gainesville ..... 2026  
Brian Olson ..... Miami ..... 2026

# CAPP Manual 2023 revisions

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting  
10 Sixth Month 2023

Input from Vicki Carlie, June 2023. Blue indicates suggested language.

## (under Job Descriptions)

CAP Coordinator: Coordinates and supervises the recruitment, application review, and training of SEYM Registered Youth Workers. Sees that SEYM Youth programs and events follow the best practices and requirements outlined in this Manual.

SEYM Review Committee: ~~subset of~~ 2-3 persons selected from the SEYM Personnel Committee, and including the CAP Coordinator and Administrative Secretary (ex-officio), who review completed application files and who approve applicants to be Registered SEYM Youth Program Workers. The Review Committee is required to keep all application information strictly confidential, within the committee only.

Event Registrar(s): SEYM member nominated and approved at YBM (or FIBM or WIBM) for specific a SEYM event such as the Yearly Meeting Gathering, Half Yearly Meeting, or other events that are under the care of SEYM. The Registrar receives ~~and keeps on file~~ the Parent Consent and Release form, Youth Medical forms, Special Event forms at the time of Registration, and Volunteer Driver & Automobile information as needed. These forms are given to the Secretary to keep on file for a period of at least 7 years.

## (under Event Descriptions)

Yearly Meeting Gathering: includes Yearly Business Meeting (YBM) plenaries along with programmed activities (workshops, etc.) for youth and adults, intergenerational activities, and unprogrammed free time.

The Yearly Meeting Gathering includes:

- Gathering Youth Program: the programmed Youth activities that are planned by the Youth Committee and under the care of Designated Youth Workers.
- Parent-supervised activities: may include Parent Co-op child care, attendance at intergenerational games, workshops and evening events, or family free time.
- Junior Yearly Meeting: takes place during the planned morning program and is under the care of Designated Youth Workers.
- During adult evening programs, as announced in the printed programs, youth care may be under the care of SEYM Child Care Workers or Friendly Adult Presences OR in some instances, may be a continuation of the morning program under the care of the Designated Youth Program Workers.

HYM (Half Yearly Meeting): the informal social gathering that takes place Thanksgiving weekend, usually in a state park. Activities include intergenerational activities: cooking together, hiking, canoeing, talent show, environmental lecture, volunteer-presented group activities, games, etc.

Other Events that have been approved as an official SEYM event or an official SEYM Youth Program event, with scheduled Youth activities under the care of Designated Youth Workers.

Family Events: other events, such as Family Retreats, which are parent-supervised, and are not under the care of SEYM or Designated Youth Workers, whether or not they have been organized by SEYM personnel.

**(under Application Process)**

Notice to Applicants: All information in, and pertaining to, your application will be kept strictly confidential by the SEYM CAP Review Committee, and kept on file in a locked safe.

**STEP 5:**

SEYM Review Committee reviews the completed application. The Review Committee either approves an applicant as a Registered SEYM Youth Worker, or notifies an applicant if her or his background check was problematic. The Review Committee is required to keep all application information strictly confidential, within the committee only. A list of approved Registered Youth Workers and their contact information is kept by the Secretary, who shares it only with the Youth Committee and/or Youth event planners.

**RENEWAL:**

~~Designated SEYM Staff~~ The CAP Coordinator and SEYM Administrative Secretary shall work with the Review Committee to obtain and review new background checks for Registered Youth Workers every 4 years. The workers registration expires at the end of annual that occurs after the 4 year mark. (For example; If Cam is registered on September 2021 and Pat is registered in January of 2022, both registrations expire at the end of 2026 annual gathering.)

## *ad hoc* Committee on Women's Reproductive Health and Justice Report

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting

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Although this committee is open to all, the SEYM *ad hoc* Committee on Women's Reproductive Health and Justice are in the process of gathering action-oriented Friends as contacts in every SEYM Monthly Meeting and Worship Group to engage in discussion and ultimately action on women's reproductive health and abortion rights. We recognize that these individuals may be acting on their own or as individuals or as members of *ad hoc* groups and not authorized by Meetings of the whole as Minerva and I have been.

At present we are communicating by email and are setting a date for our first Zoom gathering. At that meeting we intend to share our Meetings' responses to the FCNL request for discernment on the abortion issue and put in place a plan for joining the statewide efforts to gather signatures on the constitutional amendment petitions for the 2024 ballot.

Submitted by

Minerva Glidden, Co-clerk, Orlando Monthly Meeting

Lynn Carol Henderson, Co-clerk, St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting

## Worship & Ministry Committee Report

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting  
10 Sixth Month 2023

The Worship & Ministry Committee of Southeastern Yearly Meeting is committed to listening to and addressing the spiritual needs of our SEYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups and the Yearly Meeting as a whole. Meeting monthly, we have moved forward projects that nurture the way of Friends. We are encouraged by this wisdom from SEYM member and 2022 Michener Lecturer Nancy Fennell:

Presence is always revealing itself to us. In silence, by listening, waiting, paying singular attention, and allowing time and space for God in our lives, we may seek and find the Presence within. In our hearts and minds, we hear, see, and feel what Love teaches us. Spirit is all around us and we are in wonder that we did not notice before.

### Addressing Spiritual Needs of SEYM Members

This past year, the Worship & Ministry Committee committed itself to providing opportunities for SEYM members to deepen our experience of Spirit, either individually or as Meetings/Worship Groups. We did this in the following ways:

1. Offering workshops at the Annual Gathering in April, including a W&M-sponsored, two-part session on prayer, called The Divine Conversation. W&M Committee members also facilitated other workshops, including “Finding Our Way Back to Our Peaceful Self” on finding inner peace, and several sessions of Friendly Bible Study. W&M also offered an opportunity for Extended Meeting for Worship; and W&M members clerked several of the early morning worship sharing sessions. Finally, the W&M Committee was instrumental in identifying keynote speaker, Christopher Sammond, for the 2023 Annual Gathering. Christopher’s message meshed well with other workshop and worship sharing topics.
2. Organizing the Michener Lecture. After discernment, the Worship & Ministry Committee asked Ann Jerome, of Deland Worship Group, to be the 2024 Michener Lecturer. Friends believe the message Ann brings and her method of bringing it are critical to SEYM.

The 2023 Michener Lecture, entitled “Welcome As You Are: Seekers, Finders, Sharing the Journey,” was offered by Joel Cook. Following his message, Joel facilitated a workshop on deepening our worship experience by sharing our spiritual journeys with each other.

Planning and implementing online opportunities for spiritual growth outside of the Yearly Meeting Gathering and the Michener Lecture:

- Posing “Queries for the Journey” for use by Meetings and individuals through the SEYM newsletter and website.
- Clerking Extended Worship experiences for SEYM Friends via Zoom on a quarterly basis. Another Extended Meeting for Worship is scheduled for 5 Eighth Month 2023.
- Facilitating the online Seekers Book Club focusing on spiritual texts. Much of this year was devoted to discussing the book “Practicing Peace: A Devotional Walk Through the Quaker Tradition,” by Catherine Whitmire. On 6 Seventh Month 2023, the group will begin a new book, “Presence: Recognizing the Divine in Your Everyday Life,” by Mary Jackson.

- Organizing several well-received online workshops
  - Quaker Chants, with Paulette Meier, on 25 Third Month 2023; and
  - Forgiveness as Spiritual Practice, with Sue Regen, held over three days, 19-21 Fifth Month 2023.

## The Listening Project

A year ago, during SEYM's 2022 Summer Executive Committee Meeting, Executive Committee asked the Worship & Ministry Committee to foster listening and conversation around the spiritual nurture of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups through listening sessions and follow-up, and to determine how SEYM can help. W&M contacted all SEYM MMs and WGs with requests to meet to discuss these matters. MMs and WGs responded with interest. W&M members met with four MMs/WGs for prayerful discussion and had several one-on-one conversations with individual members of other Meetings. Concerning how SEYM can help, these overriding themes emerged:

- Website: A more intuitively organized website would be helpful. The website is difficult to navigate, making it unclear what resources, either spiritual or infrastructure-wise, are available to Meetings.
- Clearinghouse: SEYM could serve as a clearinghouse for information about any number of topics, including spiritual formation programs and other Quaker programs that MMs and WGs could take up; a list of speakers/workshops that MMs/WGs might consider hosting; and infrastructure issues. For example, if a Meeting is struggling with how they can do a better job of including people online in Meetings for Worship, ideally, they could contact SEYM, and SEYM could put them in touch with someone at another Meeting that has dealt with that problem to help talk them through how best to address the issue. Or if a Meeting is struggling with how to accomplish something covered in SEYM's Faith & Practice, but they aren't getting the help that Faith & Practice has promised they could get through a committee, that Meeting could contact SEYM to ask, "Who can help me with this?" Ideally, SEYM would connect that person with someone at another Meeting who has previously been through that issue. Several Meetings mentioned how useful it would be to connect with other MMs/WGs who are experiencing similar issues or trying to accomplish similar tasks.
- Serving as a convener: SEYM can help MMs and WGs by sharing information about what MMs are doing in terms of activism or spirituality or education, so that other MMs/WGs who would like to adopt that idea would know who is doing what and could consult them. Could SEYM share information, in an accessible way, on MM/WG activities so that other Meetings could consider something similar?

In general, SEYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups do not operate as if we are one organization with a central body connecting us. To address this, SEYM could provide a thoughtfully organized, easily navigable website; and an additional salaried staff person whose job it would be to gather information from MMs/WGs about their activities and post the information online in an organized, timely, highly accessible manner.

**The Worship & Ministry Committee requests that the SEYM Executive Committee take up these concerns and suggestions expressed by SEYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups and decide how to address them, with full transparency.**

We continue to hold in the Light the hearts and concerns of all Friends.

SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee co-clerks,  
Jan Dahm, Lisa Erasmus, and Richelle Ogle

# Earthcare Committee Report

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting  
10 Sixth Month 2023

## 1 Collaborative prospects:

Information is being shared with the Broward County League of Women Voters, and Brian is has begun receiving invitations to attend their online Environmental issues meetings. Initial conversations have been met with enthusiasm..

## 2 Recycling Crisis and Landfill Issues

It has come to attention that many counties are facing a recycling crisis. Because landfills are filling up and the amount of recycling waste exceeds processing capacity. For example, some Broward County cities have stopped traditional recycling, and the county is under pressure to mitigate this issue.

## 3 Earthcare in Challenged Communities

Exploring alternatives to bring earth care ideas to challenged communities is still under consideration. It has been reported that that people who are active in the environmental movement are mostly middle-class, with few working-class or poor people.

With the pandemic under better control, plans for “taking earth-care ideas to challenged communities,” can now be revisited.

SEYM Earthcare  
Brian Humphrey, clerk

## *ad hoc* Retirement Community Committee Report

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting  
10 Sixth Month 2023

Our Quaker Vision for SEYM has been informally discussed within two Monthly Meetings: Orlando and St. Petersburg. St. Petersburg MM asked our committee for a presentation to its Adult First Day School class, to which Susan and I responded on 5/28. There has been no invitation from OMM, or from any other group within OMM, to our committee to make a presentation. I have been told that some informal conversations about our Quaker Vision have taken place among some members of Orlando MM. However, no requests for a presentation have yet been received from Orlando MM, or from any other SEYM Monthly Meetings or Worship Groups.

Seeds have been planted. There are signs of life from those seeds in two Monthly Meetings. We are now waiting to see if any of the seeds have fallen into fertile ground.

Please place a reminder in each email to be sent from SEYM to the Monthly Meetings for the next six months, asking Clerks and Conveners to discuss and respond to the Quaker Vision for SEYM, providing a link to the document for convenient access. Reiterate the Committee's offer to provide a speaker to travel to any Monthly Meeting or Worship Group desiring an in-person visit, at no cost, upon invitation. Please also offer the option of a Zoom meeting, if that would be preferable.

St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting gave me a \$50 honorarium check for coming to their Adult First Day School in response to their invitation. I will accept that check in lieu of any request for reimbursement of our personal expenses for that trip.

Peace,  
Dan Vaughn

# Quaker Earthcare Witness Report

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Much has happened within Quaker Earthcare Witness within this year so far.

Hayley Hathaway, the communications director, resigned to move on in her studies and Quaker Earthcare Witness has hired a new person, Miche McCall (they/them) who has already begun work. QEW will miss Hayley very much, but she will still be around us in SEYM through personal connections.

The General Secretary, Shelley Tanenbaum, will also be leaving at the end of this calendar year. The search for her replacement will begin soon. You will get the notification when it does begin.

Brad Stocker's co-clerking will end in the fall of this year, but Beverly G. Ward's co-clerking role will continue for another year, and she will be joined by two other co-clerks, Suellen Lowry, and Elaine Emmi, who will continue past her. The co-clerking model, that Brad and Beverly instituted, has been very successful.

In our recent bi-annual meeting, Quaker Earthcare Witness considered the FCNL request for discernment on reproductive health. After much work and spiritual labor our organization found unity on the following recommendations and language suggestions.

FCNL's Policy Statement could read:

III.2.6: Health Care. Universal access to affordable, effective, comprehensive health care is a right and is necessary to allow all people to fulfill their potential. Comprehensive health care includes primary, acute, and long-term care, including prescription drugs, as well as mental health and substance abuse treatment. To ensure access, health services should be provided where an individual's needs can best be met. Our country can only maintain and improve the physical and mental health of its population with affordable health care that covers the entire life span, including reproductive, prenatal, pediatric, adult, geriatric, and end-of-life care. Public health services, which protect us all, require robust federal support.

[Ed. the essential suggested change in the above statement is the addition of "reproductive" in the penultimate sentence.]

We recommend that the following (current) FCNL statement be eliminated:

III.2.7. NOTE: Members of the Society of Friends are not in unity on abortion issues. Therefore, FCNL takes no position and does not act either for or against abortion legislation. On occasion, FCNL may appeal to lawmakers not to use the abortion debate to paralyze action on other legislation.

The following statement could be added [Ed. as replacement for the above one]:

III.2.7. Note: Members of the Society of Friends have long struggled with issues that surround abortion. In discerned acknowledgement that abortion has long been a part and will continue to be a part of our history as humans, that restrictive abortion laws are not necessarily associated with lower rates of abortion, and that we have

learned that access to safe abortion is critical to a person's health, FCNL will support legislation that protects people's rights to choose a legal, safe abortion.

Last year's fund raising for Mini-grants was so successful that the organization was for this year able to construct and offer some larger grants and it is especially focusing on African Friends. The details for these temporary (as dependent on funds) grants are at the Quaker Earthcare Witness [Mini-grants webpage](#). Understand, that these funds were raised for the specific target of the grants program and thus, did not help the overall operating budget of Quaker Earthcare Witness.

The speaker at the last biannual meeting was Elson Bankoff. Elson is currently a high school senior at Sidwell Friends School. She is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of [Ecosystemic Magazine](#), a youth-run environmental action journal. She also has organized multiple climate strikes with Fridays For Future. This summer Elson spearheaded the production of a play on climate themes called [If the Bells Would Ring](#). The play, written and directed by Elson, went on to sell out all three of its shows at The Tank during New York City Climate Week. Elson also runs Sidwell's environmental action club.

I highly recommend that the youth group within SEYM consider connecting with her and seeing how they might work together. She is very open to working with others and helps them start their own groups within their schools.

A comprehensive recounting of what Quaker Earthcare Witness has done this past year is available and is highly recommended reading. It would not serve to put it all into this report.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in Quaker Earthcare Witness monthly worship sharing meetings. Quaker Earthcare Witness also has multiple speakers and workshops available. We have tried to forward the information on these through posts, newsletters, and email. We hope more Friends and others will participate in these offerings and share the information about them with others.

We urge everyone to sign up for the Quaker Earthcare Witness newsletter, BeFriending Creation, which is available in hardcopy and electronic mailings.

The fall bi-annual meeting will be at Pendle Hill. It will attempt to be hybrid.

As always, Quaker Earthcare Witness is asking everyone to consider making a donation. We particularly appreciate monthly contributions, no matter how small, as they help Quaker Earthcare Witness budget well. Quaker Earthcare Witness is trying to catch up salaries and benefits with other comparable Friends organizations and this requires better funding. We could not fill one of the three part-time positions because of funding and the need for more money. We are now back to two people. So, please consider increasing your corporate and individual contributions to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Submitted by  
Brad Stocker, Co-Clerk QEW

# Quaker United Nations Office Report

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Dear Friends,

This brief report is an update to the report sent to Southeastern Yearly Meeting Gathering in Fourth Month/April 2023.

As previously reported, QUNO's 75th Anniversary Celebration will be held in New York at Scandinavia House on Friday, June 9, 2023. The event will be in person and streaming with the program beginning at 7:00 p.m. More information can be found here: [QUNO 75th Anniversary Celebration | American Friends Service Committee \(afsc.org\)](#)

At the Fourth Month/April 2023 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on 4/16/2023, Orlando Monthly Meeting Friends discussed the possibility of being a supporter/sponsor of this event at the Mary Robinson supporter level. OMM Friends united in the following minute:

2023.4-05 - Friends authorized sponsorship of the AFSC QUNO 75th Anniversary event at the Mary Robinson supporter level (\$1000). Further, they authorized Liz Jenkins to coordinate the gift to AFSC QUNO and also select friends who will attend the event representing OMM.

The gift has been sent to QUNO and received. The sponsorship will be listed on the event materials as follows:

"Quakers of Orlando on behalf of Southeastern Yearly Meeting."

In addition, a congratulatory half-page message will appear in digital celebratory materials reading:

"Our thanks to QUNO for 75 years of Quaker peace and justice work at the UN

Cheering your way forward!

Quakers of Orlando on behalf of Southeastern Yearly Meeting"

Kiran Nakwanma and Andrea A. Elukovich have committed to travel to New York to participate as guests at the celebration on behalf of OMM and SEYM. The reception and seated program will include special guest speaker, Ambassador Olof Skoog, Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations, and musical performances by students from Brooklyn Friends School.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Jenkins, SEYM Representative to QUNO.

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