

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Yearly Business Meeting 2024

27 to 31 Third Month 2024

MINUTES

First Plenary – 27 Third Month 2024, 7:00 p.m.

The clerk welcomed everyone and invited all into silent worship at 7:07 p.m. He then opened the plenary from the silence with the following quote:

If we desire a society in which men are brothers, then we must act towards one another with brotherhood. If we can build such a society, then we would have achieved the ultimate goal of human freedom.

Bayard Rustin

Clerk invited Friends to speak from the silence as led.

Gary Arthur shared about **Gainesville Monthly Meeting**. Three new children, a young couple, and several visitors are coming often. A zoom aspect has been added. Gainesville is meeting in the meetinghouse as well as the surrounding woods. A Quakerism 101 study group is underway. Good things are happening in Gainesville – come visit.

Clerk shared that **Saint Petersburg Quakers** acted on the issues of Reproductive Health Care and the Israel-Palestine conflict. The meeting has received new Light from young attenders. Lively discussion about how to facilitate Adult Sunday School. A new positive energy flows through the meeting . The meeting seems to have recovered from COVID.

Lisa Erasmus report that **Tampa Monthly Meeting** lost a member, Roy Yerrakuda, who passed during the last year. Cece Yocum reported that they were able to mobilize people in Hillsborough County to get police to not put young people in jail, like a young girl lying on the floor of the jail because she was sleeping in a park . Making progress in getting housing, jobs, and funding about the needs of the homeless. Quoted King to suggest people step out of comfort zone and make clear the changes we would like to see happen in our society. She remembered that the Hillsborough County Commission wanted to buy low-income housing in order to kick out the poor people so they could put some in more upscale housing. She asks, “What gifts do we have that we can bring to this issue?”

Phil Stone on behalf of **Clearwater Monthly Meeting** reported that they have lost a few couples. Some who had not been as active before, are now filling in that gap. Have 30-50 people coming together regularly to talk about interfaith activity. No younger people or children. Energy, however, seems to be higher than it has been in past few years.

Hope and Larry Ascher of **Quaker Meeting of Melbourne**, speaking online, are grateful for the Zoom feature of the Gathering. Melbourne has an active book club that meets weekly. They are learning and sharing through that activity. About 7 people attend in person and 3 attend virtually each week. Feel led to continue. Mostly elder members and attenders. They occasionally discuss what happens when we die. Some struggle with hybrid meeting – struggling to make sure it doesn't become two meetings for Worship. There are occasional Meetings in a public park on the river. They are appreciated. They sit around a picnic table, in silence. They use signs to identify themselves, explain the gathering, and state that all are welcome. They are concerned about the direction in which the State of Florida is heading. They want to at least be a witness that some do not agree; that with us, ALL are welcome.

Bob Allenson from **Tallahassee Monthly Meeting** expressed delight to be here with Friends. Susan Taylor reports that Tallahassee has three children in attendance. Four members form a Youth committee. They discerned and wrote an 1/4-page ad on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that ran for 4 days in the Tallahassee Democrat. Some positive feedback, with people coming to the Meeting in response to that ad, making donations. They are active in a Food Network – community garden in underserved part of Tallahassee and contributes fresh vegetables to the community garden and to a food bank. Susan helped with a camp held for children in cooperation with other faith communities in Tallahassee. She started a new book group about Israel. The book helps to understand history and dynamics in way not often found. They have a listening circle once per month, sharing personally how Spirit is moving within us. It builds closeness. They are working with the United Church of Tallahassee on LGBTQ issues. They are also part of a group working for affordable housing and to address increasing gun violence in Tallahassee.

Phoebe Andersen added that Tallahassee gets together once per month for one hour to hold a person or several people in the Light. It is developing a practice of spiritually opening our hearts. It engages everyone in the Light. Out of that comes a closeness and sharing that we love each other. It has begun a spiritually deepening experience.

nova george, visiting from **Friends General Conference (FGC)**, announced that FGC would like to hear what meetings are doing in order that they might offer help. Please let her know how FGC can help, and she will take that information back to them.

Brian Olson from **Miami Monthly Meeting** reported that the Meeting lost quite a few people during the pandemic but recently new people have begun to attend, including 3 children. They are working together with other houses of worship and other Quaker organizations. They have met with a representative from Friends Committee on National Legislation, their Congressional representative, and are active with Quaker Earthcare Witness. They also have created a new website: <https://miamifriends.org/>. Check it out.

Ed Lesnick read a Letter from Alejandro Gonzales, Clerk of **Havanna Unprogrammed Worship Group** (attached).

The Meeting closed with silent worship at 7:58

Second Plenary – 28 Third Month 2024, 4:30 p.m.

Clerk Bill Carlie opened the session from silence at 4:30 p.m. with the following quote:

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

George Fox, 1676

The clerk called for volunteers to write the annual epistle. Ian MacDonald and Amy Richards volunteered. One additional person will be named later.

Treasurer's Report

Joel Cook gave the report (attached). Jean asked whether he had information about the apportionments. Answer no. Report sounded really good. However, he pointed out that the approximately \$16,000 had yet to be paid to DaySpring and that the youth workers had yet to be paid. Joel made an appeal for donations and asked Meetings to send their apportionment payments.

Treasurer requested a transfer of \$700 from the Contingency Fund to the International Worship Group Support Fund. Request is a result of having spent more money from that fund than we had received in donations. Money has already been spent.

24YBM01 Funds in the amount of \$700.00 can be transferred from the Contingency Fund to the International Worship Group Support Fund.
Approved.

Joel next gave the Budget Report (proposed budget attached). The proposed Budget is about \$1500.00 higher than it was for last year.

Volunteers are need on the Finance Committee. Joel would like to propose amendments to the budget but lacks a fully populated Finance Committee to whom he can make the request. Neil advised that people should not be worried that they need certain qualifications for membership on the Finance Committee. There is abundant staff assistance for the bookkeeping, reporting, and planning issues. The Finance Committee is needed only to make policy recommendations to the yearly business meeting.

Joel's request relates to the Havana Unprogrammed Worship Group. The news from the worship group is that those supporting the worship group need financial help. Joel would like to add \$1,000.00 to the budget for the International Worship Group Support Fund thus creating a basis for the fund. That would change the budget from \$117,000.00 to \$118,000.00.

The Treasurer's request will be treated as a request for the yearly meeting as a whole to amend the budget. The Treasurer's request will be brought back for second reading.

Eileen asked if we already had a budget for this purpose. The answer was no – the only budget item was for Havana Unprogrammed Worship Group alone, not for the International Worship Group Support Fund. Individual donations to that fund would require no budget amendment approval from yearly meeting.

Havana Unprogrammed WG needs aid for medications, food, and to help fund individual cell phone service that allows Havana Unprogrammed WG attenders to join SEYM's First Day Online Meeting for Worship. This would be a continuing annual expense.

Phil Stone asked whether there was a more structured way for raising funds? The answer was no, but such help is greatly needed, and would be gratefully received.

The first reading of the annual budget was approved.

Report accepted.

Nominating Committee Report

Ed Lesnick, clerk, referred to the committee's report (attached) in the Documents in Advance. Friends were asked to contact the members of the Nominating Committee: Beverly, Shawna, Brian, and Ed, for questions, applications, nominations, and suggestions. Ed reported that Brian Olson would be nominated to serve as the new Clerk of Nominating Committee.

A question was raised about Ann Jerome's position on Worship & Ministry Committee. Cheryl Demers-Holton answered by saying that Ann was is still active on the SEYM Worship and Ministry committee and continued to maintain her membership at Orlando Monthly Meeting, despite currently living as a Friend in Residence at Pendle Hill, Pennsylvania.

Report accepted.

The Meeting closed with silent worship at 5:14 p.m.

Third Plenary – 29 Third Month 2024, 3:30 p.m.

Clerk opened the plenary at 3:33 p.m. from the silence with the following quote:

Be aware of the Spirit of God at work in the ordinary activities and experience of your daily life. Spiritual learning continues throughout life, and often in unexpected ways. There is inspiration to be found all around us, in the natural world, in the sciences and arts, in our work and friendships, in our sorrows as well as in our joys. Are you open to new light from whatever source it may come? Do you approach new ideas with discernment?

Britain Yearly Meeting, Queries and Advices

The Plenary began with the Roll Call of Meetings and Worship Groups followed by announcements.

24YBM02 The 2023-2024 Executive Committee and Interim Business Meeting Minutes (attached) were approved as published in the Documents in Advance.
Approved.

Youth Committee Report

There was no report presented.

Ad hoc Committee on Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report

Vicki Carlie referred to the committee's report (attached) published in the Documents in Advance and read portions. The committee proposes to hire a 1/4- to 1/3-time YYAC with backup funding from the Trustees, in a separate program, to coordinate youth activities in SEYM and to assist monthly meetings in building active youth and young adult programs.

The clerk described the process involved in the committee's proposal. If Friends approved the concept of hiring a Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, the Trustees will fund the position for up to \$20,000 for three years but additional private donations will also be needed. The Treasurer recommended that SEYM handle it as a separate program. If there is interest and support, the position could be made full time. The Trustees want to know how much REAL interest there is in the program.

There followed a lively and lengthy discussion but there was no sense of unity and the Clerk suggested that the report be set aside until the Fifth Plenary, with the request to the committee to bring back a proposal on which we can unite.

Report accepted.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

Warren Hoskins gave a verbal report asking the yearly meeting to adopt the Statement on Conflict in Israel-Palestine, submitted by Tallahassee Monthly Meeting (attached), and the Minute on Reproductive Rights, submitted by Saint Petersburg Monthly Meeting (attached), and publish the statements as widely as possible.

24YBM03 Yearly Meeting adopts the Statement on Conflict in Israel-Palestine, submitted by Tallahassee Monthly Meeting, and the Minute on Reproductive Rights, submitted by Saint Petersburg Monthly Meeting, and directs that the statements be incorporated in the Minutes, and be published as widely as possible.
Approved.

Worship and Ministry Committee Report

Lisa Erasmus referred to the committee's report (attached) published in the Documents in Advance. There are two major programs coming up: Growing in Spirit Led Action, facilitated by Tim Gee, and Wade In the Water, a 3-part spiritual series facilitated by Ann Pomeroy. Susan Taylor

added an expression of gratitude to the committee and how they are deepening the spiritual connections of our meetings.

Report accepted with gratitude.

Committee for Ministry on Racism Report

Kathy Hersh reported that the committee continues support of establishment of a federal commission to investigate the Native American Boarding School issue. The Carlisle School in Saint Augustine was a place where Native Americans were imprisoned. The committee and the Saint Augustine Worship Group are investigating whether Quakers were involved. The committee is also looking for a Native American speaker for the Walton Lecture. Other topics mentioned: Walking history tour with Marvin Dunn and the Banned Book Giveaway, a very rewarding effort for the DeLand Worship Group (DWG). Lee County Administrator was contacted. He had quit over the School Board's confiscation of 600 books from his library. Kathy has more information on that, upon request.

Susan Taylor presented a report (attached) about a gift to California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program to help return Native American land to the Tribe from which it was wrongfully taken and presented a proposed minute.

24YBM04 Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves a \$500.00 donation to the *California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program (CHIRP)*, the nonprofit raising funds to purchase the Sierra Friends Center in order to return to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, their ancestral land, Yulica. We encourage individual Friends, Meetings, and Worship Groups to donate also as led. We are grateful to the Santa Cruz Friends Meeting for alerting Quakers to this opportunity to help redress inhumane wrongs done to the Tribe by the state and federal governments from which Quakers were among the beneficiaries. We will inform the clerks of Santa Cruz Friends Meeting, Hans Brinker and Nancy Wood, of our donation.

Approved.

Kathy recommended a book "The End of Bias: The Science and Practice of Overcoming Unconscious Bias," by Jessica Nordell and a workbook given out during DWG book giveaways: "Kids Can Help End Racism," an Educational Activities Book.

Cindy Kwalwasser reported briefly on the workshop entitled, "An Affinity Group for White People." Handouts from that workshop were available outside in the hall. They contained 39 questions to ask of white people. Cindy encouraged Friends to have a conversation with someone about those questions..

Report accepted.

Friends waived a second reading of the approved Committee for Ministry on Racism minute.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 5:28 p. m.

Fourth Plenary – 30 Third Month 2024, 10:00 a.m.

The clerk opened the plenary from the silence at 10:10 a.m. with the following quote:

Inner Silence, calming the agitations of our hearts and minds, letting go of all that is stubborn and grasping, is essentially an expression of the love of truth. To be dispassionate, not to let one's own needs or prejudices or emotions color one's actions, is essentially to put truth before everything else. To love truth in this way is to love God, who is Truth. Thus, the practice of inner silence is the same as the love of God.

Dan Seeger

Ad hoc Quaker Call Committee Report

Dan Vaughn reported for the *ad hoc* Quaker Call Committee. He introduced the committee members present, hoping that as Friends reflect on the work of the committee they will contact committee members.

The committee was created at Fall Interim Business Meeting 2023 (FIBM) in order to discern SEYM's work. Dan read the charge given at Winter Interim Business Meeting 2024 (WIBM). Since its creation, the committee has met every two weeks. They have heard from various speakers, including from Friends Council on Education and Lancaster (PA) Friends School. They have researched micro schools and teaching diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI) through nature walks. Unlike the Quaker Call Committee, which has a national focus, this group has a local focus, to respond to local rulings and events that run counter to Quaker testimonies. The committee survived a proposal to be laid down at WIBM when a Friend related an experience his son had in a Florida public school. Friends realized that SEYM must find ways to support all of us who want to live a life into the Friends testimonies, whether quakers or not.

Dan asked all Friends and meetings to hold the committee and its work in the light. The time is now. Dan related the story of Isaiah [Isaiah 6:6-8]. Our lips have also been touched by burning coals. Consider how you can support us. A Friend asked that more information to meetings and Friends to make them more aware of the work and needs of the committee.

Friends accepted the report.

Ad hoc Organizational Documents Committee Report

Dan Vaughn reported for the *ad hoc* Organizational Documents Committee. The committee was created by FIBM 2023 to review the organizational documents to ensure that they are up to date, in agreement with each other, and comply with both Faith and Practice and state law. The committee has met weekly by zoom and made a page-by-page review of the documents. It is now also reviewing the draft personnel policy.

Committee clerks are asked to review the handbook for descriptions of their committees for accuracy. Many descriptions are out of date. Please contact committee members with suggested corrections and additions.

Friends accepted the report.

Recognition of Representatives from other organizations:

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Riley Robinson spoke on behalf of FCNL (annual report attached). Hundreds of thousands of messages are flooding Congress through the FCNL system. Congressional Staff say Friends should keep them coming. They are making a difference. Another focus of FCNL is the Native American Schools project. FCNL is holding space for people to heal and to move together toward a resolution. He expressed thanks to Friends for their continued support.

Riley explained how online messages make a difference: The typical response of the U.S. to conflict overseas is to send in the military. That never works. The State Department is as divided as Congress is over the conflict in Gaza. A huge flood of messages brought about a much earlier change from the militaristic solution. The administration is now investing much more time in diplomacy. They are still throwing weapons at it. But there are now more diplomats doing really effective work.

Mira Tanna pointed out the connection between our need for outreach and the opportunities presented by cooperation with FCNL. Brian Olson also encouraged Friends to volunteer with FCNL - and gave another example of how FCNL can help by providing factual information us with monthly meeting advocacy groups. Amy spoke on behalf of her Jewish family, her Arabic friends, and her Native American heritage ate express a big thank you to FCNL for their work. Richelle added her thanks, having herself noticed how militaristic the response began, and how it has changed, thanks to the efforts of FCNL. Ian MacDonald, SEYM's representative to FCNL, underlined the impressive effort and process FCNL contributed to the debate on reproductive health care. Eileen asked Friends to complete the FCNL priorities questionnaire. The deadline is April 15. Congressional staff is listening closely to FCNL. They have an important impact on the legislative e process. Karen Putney added her thanks to them, and to the Nominating Committee which started her involvement with FCNL 27 years ago. She wanted to correct our language: FCNL is not "THEY"; FCNL is "US".

Friends General Conference (FGC)

No report is given because nova george, FGC representative, is busy with the Youth.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Joel Cook, SEYM's FWCC representative, reports that he plans to attend the World plenary in August. Most of the World's Quakers are in located in Africa. Africa also has the most Christians in the World. The theme is Ubuntu: "A person is a person through other persons. I am because we are." The theme evokes Unity and Interdependence. He thanks the yearly meeting for the opportunity to serve as representative to this organization.

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) –

Cece Yocum reported that FPT has been invited to Cuba for a lead an Alternatives to Violence workshop. FPT is leading workshops all over Central America. Cece made a request for donations to help FPT attend and facilitate those workshops. FPT needs \$300-\$500 for room and board and transportation to facilitate the workshop in Cuba, perhaps more. She plans to get some estimates

of the costs. Clerk asked Cece to provide a specific dollar amount. Clerk suggested that a specific dollar figure and a minute be presented during the 6th Plenary on Sunday morning.

Quaker Volunteer Service (QVS)

Hilary Burgin, Executive Director, reported on behalf of Quaker Volunteer Service. QVs runs programs in Boston, Philadelphia, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Portland, Oregon. Their programs relate to Healthcare, Homelessness, and Faith development, depending upon the local need. Changes are happening. She offered to talk more with Friends individually, about their work.

Quaker House

Wayne Finegar, Executive Director, explained that Quaker House is a 55-year old project based in Fayetteville, North Carolina, designed to help heal the damage done by war, as well as help end wars. Military service makes lifelong changes to people's lives. That is a new facet of the services Quaker House provides. These services are nationwide in scope. The purpose of Quaker House is to share their knowledge and experience with others who are engaged in similar work. He has met, and is thrilled to work with, the new SEYM representative to Quaker House, Seth Moody.

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)

Megan Fair reported that the organization was founded by FWCC in late '60s. Friends then felt a calling to bring Friends together to share God's love. RSWR attempts to build equity in two different ways: first, to hold space for thinking truly and deeply about our own personal choices and how those choices are rippling outward. They have a website to provide information about their work. Second, is to partner with 11 coordinators in many different countries to provide loans to women who work to support themselves and to provide services to others. They are also looking for new leadership for Right Sharing as the current Executive Director is retiring.

Closed with Silence at 11:45 PM

Fifth Plenary – 30 Third Month 2024, 4:00 p.m.

The clerk opened the plenary from the silence at 4:20 p.m. with the following quote:

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 religions 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 Woodman 1746

Ad hoc Committee on Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report (Amended)

Vicki Carlie summarized the revised proposal (attached) to employ a Youth and Young Adult Coordinator. The position will be a half-time position. Funding by the Trustees will remain at the same level by the Trustees as reported during the Third Plenary but includes an increased fund-raising commitment.

24YBM05 Southeastern Yearly Meeting will employ a Youth and Young Adult Coordinator under the terms outlined in the committee’s amended report.
Approved.

Kathy Hersh announced the makeup of a search committee to find a Youth and Young Adult Coordinator: Kathy, Mira Tanna, and Susan Vaughen.
Friends accepted the report.

Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report

Beverly Ward referred all to the FSE report (attached) in the Documents in Advance and emphasized that the report includes her announcement of her intention to retire at the end of FIBM 2025. Kathy Hersh will serve on a search committee for her replacement.
Friends accepted the report.

Publications Committee Report

Phoebe Andersen reported on behalf of the committee: Phoebe, John Palozzi, Steven Riddle, and Vicki Carlie (ex officio). John Palozzi will help catch up the publication of SEYM lectures. Michener Lectures will no longer be published as a pamphlet but will be available as videos or .pdf files. It has become prohibitively expensive and very time-intensive to publish the lectures in hard copy.
Friends accepted the report with gratitude for the committee’s work.

Archives Committee Report

Phoebe reports there have been no changes since committee clerk Bill Rapp’s report was presented at the FIBM 2023. Archives committee plans to return to the University of Florida to continue their work in August when students are gone and the archives are closed to the public.
Friends accepted the report with gratitude for the committee’s work.

The plenary closed with silent worship at 4:45 PM.

Sixth Plenary – 31 Third Month 2024, 9:00 a.m.

The clerk opening the plenary from the silence at 9:08 a.m. with the following poem:

O Brother man!
fold to thy heart thy brother
Where pity dwells,
the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly
is to love each other,
Each smile a hymn,
each kindly deed a prayer.

John Greenleaf Whittier

The clerk read a proposed minute approving a \$1,000.00 donation to the Friends Peace Teams to support AVP training in Cuba. The Treasurer reported there was insufficient funds in the budget. Treasurer asked for direction on whether to overspend the budget or wait for contributions.

24YBM06 To support the efforts of New England Yearly Meeting and Southeastern Yearly Meeting, SEYM approves a donation of \$1,000.00 to Friends Peace Teams, *Peacebuilding en Las Americas* to bring Alternatives to Violence Project training to Friends in Cuba. The funds should be sent immediately, without waiting for supporting contributions.

Approved.

Friends accepted the report.

Nominating Committee Report

Brian Olson presented the final committee report (attached) noting that one member of the Finance Committee is not a member of a constituent monthly meeting.

Friends approved the report.

Finance Committee Report

Joel Cook noted that other than the \$1000.00 transfer to the International Worship Group Support Fund there have been no changes to the proposed budget presented during the first plenary.

Joel Cook estimated, for the benefit of monthly meeting treasurers, that the approved budget will work out to an apportionment of approximately \$220.00 per member and \$110.00 per attender. That will represent a small increase from last year. For a perspective, the total budget increased by about \$3,000 over last year's budget.

Friends approve the 2024-2025 budget including the \$1,000.00 transfer.

Gathering Committee Report

Vickie Carlie reports that the Gathering went smoothly and on time. There were about 97 people in attendance.

The committee needs volunteers to take over the positions of Gathering Committee Clerk, Gathering Registrar, and a paid Logistics Coordinator to manage the logistical issues.

The "Pay-as-Led" system is falling far short of covering the expenses for the Gathering by thousands of dollars. More individual contributions are needed to reduce that deficit. Suzanne Frechette recommended that families in particular consider using nearby campgrounds for inexpensive accommodations. That might enable some Friends to attend without relying upon the Pay-as-Led policy.

Friends accepted the report.

Appreciation was expressed by the online community for the virtual meeting technology and for the work of those who labor hard to support it.

Minutes of Appreciation

- 24YBM07** Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, deeply appreciates the faithful, Spirit-led ministry of Lisa Erasmus and Jan Dahm in crafting the Quotes and Queries for the worship sharing sessions during our Gathering.
- For many of us, the opportunity each morning to gather and share from the Spirit is an elemental part of our yearly meeting gathering experience. The inspirational readings and queries provided by Lisa and Jan help us center in that experience.
- Approved.**
- 24YBM08** SEYM expresses deep gratitude for the 27 years of faithful service given by Karen Putney in her work as our Representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation. Over the years, she brought us pertinent information, engaged young Friends in lobbying, and helped meetings learn how to speak with legislators. Most of all, she consistently modeled a steadfast presence as a Friend in a public witness for peace.
- Approved.**
- 24YBM09** SEYM expresses its deep gratitude to Ed Lesnick for his long, faithful, and diligent service as clerk of the Nominating Committee.
- Approved.**
- 24YBM10** Southeastern Yearly Meeting is grateful for the hospitality and care shown by Dayspring Conference Center during our 2024 gathering. The peaceful outdoor setting was very welcoming, and indoor spaces allowed for enjoyable learning, worship, and fun. The guest services staff were of outstanding help in their technical support. The housekeeping and food staff also contributed greatly to our experience at this Gathering.
- Approved.**
- 24YBM11** Kathy Hersh expressed gratitude to the Yearly Meeting for their attendance and support for the recent wedding of her son, Kody, at Wekiva State Park. Kody is a “son” of this Yearly Meeting.
- Approved.**
- 24YBM12** Southeastern Yearly Meeting appreciates the extra effort given by Susan Wade to ensure so much of what Friends need for our gathering is organized and clearly communicated, especially with the shorter time frame this year. The thoughtfulness she shares so freely is a huge gift.
- Approved.**
- 24YBM13** Southeastern Yearly Meeting is deeply grateful for the work of Vicki Carlie and Liz Dykes, co-clerks, and all the Gathering Committee in preparing our 2024

Gathering. Coordinating all things spiritual, business, and fun, for a variety of ages can be exhausting and daunting, and it is a true blessing to experience what they have created. We also appreciate the work of Andrea Hoskins, our long-time Registrar, who always makes sure everyone has a safe place to land.

Approved

The 2024 SEYM Gathering Epistle (attached) was read by Beverly Ward, with thanks to Amy, and Ian, who did most of the work. Mercedes asked for an additional reference in the epistle to recognize that injuries and injustices in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were suffered on both sides. A sentence was added to that effect. The adopted minutes about reproductive rights and the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict when it is distributed in the usual manner.

Friends approved the Epistle as amended.

The 2024 SEYM Youth Epistle (attached) was prepared by the Gathering Youth and presented by Asma Roshi. The epistle included a slide show that the Youth had prepared.

Friends enthusiastically approved the Epistle as presented.

The plenary closed with silent worship at 10:40 a.m.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Yearly Executive Committee Meeting

22nd Third Month 2024

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 24YEC01** Executive Committee agrees to use the morning session at Summer EC meeting for a workshop and threshing session on the purpose of the yearly meeting gathering and possible changes, including the date, going forward.
APPROVED
- 24YEC02** Executive Committee recommends that SEYM approve the report of the ad hoc Committee for Youth Coordinator and appoint a search committee.
APPROVED
- 24YEC03** Executive Committee appoints Brad Stocker, Phoebe Andersen, Neil Andersen, and Bill Carlie as an *ad hoc* Committee to Review the Draft Personnel Policy and bring a final policy to June Executive Committee.
APPROVED

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Winter Interim Business Meeting

20 First Month 2024

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 24WIBM01** Upon recommendation of the nominating committee, WIBM approves Ed Lesnick as Assistant Clerk for a term to end at the rise of yearly meeting 2027.
APPROVED
- 24WIBM02** Winter Interim Business Meeting of SEYM charges the *ad hoc* Quaker Call Committee to discern whether, and if so, how, SEYM might now be called to encourage and empower SEYM Monthly Meetings to actively, but non-violently, resist political pressures emanating from governmental entities intended to counter the principles and values of the Religious Society of Friends. In their discernment, consideration may be given to the establishment of one or more Quaker Schools, Interfaith Conference Centers, or other multiple-Meeting sponsored educational projects likely to benefit the wider community.
APPROVED
- 24WIBM03** Winter Interim Business Meeting of SEYM delegates to Executive Committee interim decisions that may be required between now and our annual yearly meeting gathering concerning potential SEYM collaboration on multiple Meeting sponsored educational projects. If it becomes necessary, an Executive Committee meeting will be called.
APPROVED
- 24WIBM04** Winter Interim Business Meeting of SEYM accepts with excitement Friends General Conference's invitation to co-host the 2025 virtual Gathering of Friends.
APPROVED
- 24WIBM05** Winter Interim Business Meeting of SEYM thanks Orlando Friends for their generous hospitality and care during our visit for Winter Interim Business Meeting. Every visit is always a respite from the busy secular world.
APPROVED
- 24WIBM06** Winter Interim Business Meeting of SEYM is grateful for the work of Susan Wade that allows our gathering to be shared by Friends in person as well as connecting with Friends online. Her gifts and generosity of spirit strengthens our ability to maintain community and do the work of the Yearly Meeting.
APPROVED

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Winter Executive Committee Meeting

19 First Month 2024

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 24WEC01** Executive Committee accepts the resignation of Cheryl Demers-Holton from the *ad hoc* Organizational Documents Review Committee.
APPROVED
- 24WEC02** Executive Committee appoints Neil Andersen to the *ad hoc* Organizational Documents Review Committee.
APPROVED.
- 24WEC03** Winter Interim Business Meeting for Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Jonathan Vogel-Borne for his excellent work in redesigning and updating SEYM’s website. The web design is fresh, appealing, and easy to navigate. Thank you.
APPROVED
- 24WEC04** Winter Interim Business Meeting for Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is deeply indebted to Vicki Carlie for the long hours she invested in this project, serving as a liaison to translate our ideas for Jonathan, searching out the best photos to illuminate the web pages, finding and writing the content for those pages, troubleshooting, and correcting the glitches among many other items involved in this process. Thank you.
APPROVED
- 24WEC05** Executive Committee approves a disbursement of a \$500 honorarium for Vicki Carlie for her work on the new website from the contingency fund.
APPROVED

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Fall Interim Business Meeting

14 Tenth Month 2023

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 23FIBM01** Upon recommendation of the nominating committee, FIBM approves Liz Dykes as co clerk of the Gathering Committee for 2024.
APPROVED
- 23FIBM02** Upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee, FIBM approves Vicki Carlie as co-clerk of the Gathering Committee for 2024.
APPROVED
- 23FIBM03** Liz Dykes and Dan Vaughen agreed to join Richelle Ogle on the Committee of Care for Jacksonville Quaker Worship Group at the Beaches.
APPROVED
- 23FIBM04** Vicki Carlie, Phil Stone, and Joel Cook agreed to serve on an *ad hoc* committee to draft a proposal for a youth coordinator position.
APPROVED
- 23FIBM05** Friends agree to establish an *ad hoc* Quaker Call Committee. Dan Vaughen agreed to convene the committee, and Eileen Zingaro, Katie Green, Suzanne Frechette, Mercedes Soca, John Palozzi, Barbara Finkelstein, and Amy Richards agreed to serve.
APPROVED
- 23FIBM06** Friends lay down the *ad hoc* Florida Retirement Community Committee with gratitude for its work.
APPROVED
- 23FIBM07** SEYM Friends are showing interest in co-hosting the 2025 Virtual Gathering of Friends, and as a first step will recommend two Friends to the Clerk's Nominating Committee. We will consider further involvement at Winter Interim Business Meeting. Bill Carlie will recommend the two Friends to the FGC Long Range Conference Planning Committee clerks.
APPROVED.
- 23FIBM08** SEYM Executive Committee and Fall Interim Business Meeting are grateful to Sarasota Monthly Meeting for their gracious and bountiful hospitality that sustained our discernment. The lovely setting and delicious lunch are very much appreciated.
APPROVED

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Fall Executive Committee Meeting

13 Tenth Month 2023

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 23FEC01** Executive Committee is recommending that SEYM form a committee of care for Jacksonville Quaker Worship Group at the Beaches. Rochelle Ogle has agreed to serve. Bill Carlie will look for additional Friends throughout the weekend.
APPROVED.
- 23FEC02** Executive Committee approves the formation of an *ad hoc* committee to create a proposal for a youth coordinator, including a job description, budget, and funding sources, to be brought to Winter Interim Business Meeting, if possible, for consideration.
APPROVED.
- 23FEC03** Executive Committee recommends to Interim Business Meeting that an *ad hoc* Organizational Documents Review Committee be formed to review organizational documents (the SEYM Bylaws, the SEYM Articles of Incorporation, and the Operational Handbook) to ensure they are up to date, consistent with each other and SEYM Faith & Practice, and in accordance with current state law. Dan Vaughen, Phoebe Andersen, Ed Lesnick, and Cheryl Demers-Holton, have agreed to serve.
APPROVED

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Summer Executive Committee Meeting

10 Sixth Month 2023

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 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
- 23SEC02** Executive Committee approves the changes to the Child Abuse Prevention Policy (CAPP) Manual.
APPROVED
- 23SEC03** 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
- 23SEC04** 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
- 23SEC05** Executive Committee expresses its gratitude to Orlando Monthly Meeting for its generous contribution to Quaker United Nations Office on behalf of SEYM.
APPROVED
- 23SEC06** Executive Committee expresses its gratitude to Tampa Monthly Meeting for its hospitality in hosting Summer Executive Committee and providing a wonderful lunch.
APPROVED

Treasurer's Report

Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting

27 – 31 Third Month 2024

Report for end of Three Quarters of Fiscal Year 2023-24(June 1, 2023 thru February 29, 2024)

All values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

SEYM Total Cash Flow not including Trustees

The overall cash flow of the Yearly Meeting (excluding the Trustees' accounts) for this period yielded a net income of \$24,864. This resulted from an SEYM total real income of \$132,724 against total expenses of \$107,860.

SEYM General Fund for Administration - Cash Flow and Budget Performance

At the end of this period, the General Fund (the operations fund for which we approved a balanced budget of \$115,640 in our 2023 Yearly Meeting sessions) showed a net income of \$13,488. This resulted from General Fund total income of \$91,106 (79% of budget) against expenses of \$77,619 (67% of budget).

Budget Support Apportionments & Contributions Received

During this period, in response to the annual request for support of the approved General Fund Budget (the Apportionments), contributions received from the Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups totaled \$72,847, or 71% of the year's budgeted request of \$103,175.

Fifteen Monthly Meetings and seven Worship Groups were included in the Apportionment request this fiscal year. So far, six (6) have contributed between 76% and 100% of their entire requested amount, five (5) have contributed between 51% and 75%, one (1) has contributed between 26% and 50%, one (1) has contributed between 1% and 25%, and nine (9) have not yet contributed anything.

The unrestricted individual donations received toward the Budget during this period totaled \$5,248, approximately 131% of the \$4,000 budgeted amount.

Cash Flow Results for Programs

The annual programs for this fiscal year are in progress; cash flow is incomplete.

The Publications program during this period had a net real deficit of \$661, excluding unrealized capital gains of \$928 on investments for the program.

Net Worth

The Net Worth of the combined Yearly Meeting and its Trustees at the end of this period was \$654,413, an increase of \$69,587 including \$40,235 in unrealized capital gains since the beginning of the fiscal year.

Joel D. Cook, Treasurer - SEYM 3/21/2024

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Budget vs. Actual
June 2023 through February 2024

03/21/2024

Cash Basis

	Jun '23 - Feb 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
2000 · Income				
2001 · Donations				
2002 · Indivd.Donations-Classes	5,248.00	4,000.00	1,248.00	131.2%
2003 · Meeting Donations	72,846.86	103,175.00	-30,328.14	70.61%
Total 2001 · Donations	<u>78,094.86</u>	<u>107,175.00</u>	<u>-29,080.14</u>	<u>72.87%</u>
2040 · Restricted Donations				
2060 · Donations - Restricted- FSE	3,345.00			
Total 2040 · Restricted Donations	<u>3,345.00</u>			
2200 · Investment Earnings				
2203 · Savings Account Interest	1.81	5.00	-3.19	36.2%
2302 · Pay Pal fees paid	3.04			
2316 · GuideOne Insurance Dividends	130.40			
Total 2000 · Income	<u>81,575.11</u>	<u>107,180.00</u>	<u>-25,604.89</u>	<u>76.11%</u>
2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes				
2712 · Michener Lect. to GF/insurance	210.00	210.00	0.00	100.0%
2732 · Gath/Walton to GF/insurance	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	100.0%
2752 · HYM to GF/insurance	590.00	590.00	0.00	100.0%
2804 · from Trustee's Funds				
2815 · for BertscheOutreach Travel	2,245.47	1,930.00	315.47	116.35%
2820 · for Staff Salary	5,285.20	4,530.00	755.20	116.67%
Total 2804 · from Trustee's Funds	<u>7,530.67</u>	<u>6,460.00</u>	<u>1,070.67</u>	<u>116.57%</u>
Total 2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes	<u>9,530.67</u>	<u>8,460.00</u>	<u>1,070.67</u>	<u>112.66%</u>
Total Income	<u>91,105.78</u>	<u>115,640.00</u>	<u>-24,534.22</u>	<u>78.78%</u>
Expense				
2999 · Expenses				
3000 · Operating Costs				
3001 · Bank Service Charges	269.55	360.00	-90.45	74.88%
3002 · PayPal service fee	60.84	120.00	-59.16	50.7%
3080 · Duplication	584.68	800.00	-215.32	73.09%
Total 3100 · Insurance	1,985.70	2,000.00	-14.30	99.29%
3107 · Youth Worker CAP Certification	41.55	160.00	-118.45	25.97%
3146 · Non-Profit Corporation Fee	0.00	65.00	-65.00	0.0%
3200 · Office Supplies	428.27	400.00	28.27	107.07%
3270 · Payroll Expenses	52,942.16	70,000.00	-17,057.84	75.63%
3272 · Employer Payroll Taxes	5,330.62	4,550.00	780.62	117.16%
3380 · Postage/Shipping	152.34	400.00	-247.66	38.09%
3381 · Post Office Box rental	293.00	200.00	93.00	146.5%
3400 · Office Equipment	0.00	400.00	-400.00	0.0%
Total 3500 · Professional Fees	420.00	500.00	-80.00	84.0%
Total 3640 · Rent warehouse/office	2,623.68	2,125.00	498.68	123.47%
Total 3700 · Repairs	192.59	250.00	-57.41	77.04%
3816 · Software	1,383.26	2,600.00	-1,216.74	53.2%
3840 · Telephone & Inet access	1,135.21	2,400.00	-1,264.79	47.3%
3860 · Travel Administrative	1,564.60	1,000.00	564.60	156.46%
3900 · Website	401.34	3,900.00	-3,498.66	10.29%
Total 3000 · Operating Costs	<u>69,809.39</u>	<u>92,230.00</u>	<u>-22,420.61</u>	<u>75.69%</u>
4000 · Committees Operating Expenses				
4309 · Archives	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
4329 · EC and IBM	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
4339 · Faith and Practice	0.00	25.00	-25.00	0.0%
4349 · Finance	0.00	25.00	-25.00	0.0%
4359 · Nominating	0.00	25.00	-25.00	0.0%
4369 · Peace and Social Concerns	0.00	450.00	-450.00	0.0%
4389 · Youth Committee	0.00	25.00	-25.00	0.0%
4399 · Worship and Ministry	1,200.00	2,000.00	-800.00	60.0%
4429 · Earthcare	0.00	25.00	-25.00	0.0%
4449 · Publications	0.00	25.00	-25.00	0.0%
4469 · Racism, Ministry on	0.00	25.00	-25.00	0.0%

	<u>Jun '23 - Feb 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
4479 · SEYM Retirement Committee	499.12	500.00	-0.88	99.82%
4489 · Young Adult Quakers	0.00	25.00	-25.00	0.0%
Total 4000 · Committees Operating Expenses	<u>1,699.12</u>	<u>3,350.00</u>	<u>-1,650.88</u>	<u>50.72%</u>
5000 · Donations to Organizations				
5007 · AFSC	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
5018 · Earlham School of Religion	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
5027 · FCNL	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.0%
5028 · QEW (FCUN)	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
5030 · FLGBTQC	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
5037 · FGC	0.00	1,200.00	-1,200.00	0.0%
5038 · FLCoalition for Peace & Justice	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
5047 · Florida Council of Churches	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
5048 · Florida Impact	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.0%
5057 · Friends Journal	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
5061 · Friends Peace Teams	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
5067 · FUM	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
5068 · FWCC	0.00	1,450.00	-1,450.00	0.0%
5077 · Pendle Hill	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
5085 · Quaker House of Fayetteville NC	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
5087 · Quaker Life	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
5089 · QUNO	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
5090 · NNABSHC	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.0%
5097 · Wm Penn House	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
Total 5000 · Donations to Organizations	<u>0.00</u>	<u>7,050.00</u>	<u>-7,050.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
8000 · Travel & Financial Aid				
8160 · Annual Representative	700.00	4,000.00	-3,300.00	17.5%
8360 · Attend SEYM-approved Activities	400.00	1,500.00	-1,100.00	26.67%
8500 · Contingency	500.00	2,000.00	-1,500.00	25.0%
Total 2999 · Expenses	<u>73,108.51</u>	<u>111,130.00</u>	<u>-38,021.49</u>	<u>65.79%</u>
9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes				
9004 · for Youth Programs	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	100.0%
9005 · for Gathering Youth	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	100.0%
9060 · for Quaker Int'l Meeting Travel	10.00	10.00	0.00	100.0%
Total 9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes	<u>4,510.00</u>	<u>4,510.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Expense	<u>77,618.51</u>	<u>115,640.00</u>	<u>-38,021.49</u>	<u>67.12%</u>
Net Income	<u>13,487.27</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>13,487.27</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Income & Expense by Class
June 2023 through February 2024

03/21/2024
Cash Basis

Income	Admin/General Fund	Gathering/Walton Lecture	Half Yearly Meeting (HYM)	Int'l WG Support	Michener Lecture	Programs for Youth	Publications	Quaker Int'l Meeting Travel	Trustee's Funds	TOTAL
2000 · Income										
2001 · Donations										
2002 · Indiv.Donations-Classes	5,248.00	1,144.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,392.00
2003 · Meeting Donations	72,846.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	72,846.86
Total 2001 · Donations	78,094.86	1,144.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	79,238.86
2040 · Restricted Donations										
2050 · Restricted - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	1,476.00	0.00	0.00	160.00	1,661.00
2060 · Donations - Restricted- FSE	3,345.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.00	3,470.00
Total 2040 · Restricted Donations	3,345.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	1,476.00	0.00	0.00	285.00	5,131.00
2200 · Investment Earnings										
2203 · Savings Account Interest	1.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.81
2205 · Dividends FFC Gathering Youth	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,137.46	5,137.46
2210 · Dividends FFC Michener Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,076.37	1,076.37
2215 · Dividends FFC Bertsche OutTravel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,245.47	2,245.47
2220 · Dividends-FFC Staff Salary Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,285.20	5,285.20
2225 · Dividends FFC Unrestricted	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,203.09	4,203.09
2230 · Dividends FFC Walton Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,989.56	1,989.56
2280 · Dividends FFC SEYM Publications	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	667.69	0.00	0.00	667.69
2290 · Investment Capital Gains/Losses										
2206 · Capital Gain(Loss) Gath. Youth	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,893.34	9,893.34
2211 · Capital Gain(Loss) Michener	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,073.28	2,073.28
2216 · Capital Gain(Loss) BertscheOTra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,323.66	4,323.66
2221 · Capital Gain(Loss) Staff Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,177.30	10,177.30
2226 · Capital Gain(Loss) Unrestricted	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,139.42	8,139.42
2231 · Capital Gain(Loss) Walton	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,831.15	3,831.15
2232 · Capital Gain (Loss) Meetinghouse	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	815.02	815.02
2281 · Capital Gain(oss) SEYM Publish	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	982.21	0.00	0.00	982.21
Total 2290 · Investment Capital Gains/Losses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	982.21	0.00	39,253.17	40,235.38
Total 2200 · Investment Earnings	1.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,649.90	0.00	59,190.32	60,842.03
2302 · Pay Pal fees paid	3.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.31
2316 · GuideOne Insurance Dividends	130.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	130.40
2400 · Program Registrations										
2430 · Registration Fee	0.00	18,911.00	3,905.45	0.00	1,855.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,671.45
Total 2400 · Program Registrations	0.00	18,911.00	3,905.45	0.00	1,855.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,671.45
2600 · Publications Donations										
2640 · Other donations	0.00	51.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.06	0.00	0.00	101.04
2680 · Publication Donations	0.00	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	748.42	0.00	0.00	818.42
Total 2600 · Publications Donations	0.00	121.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	797.48	0.00	0.00	919.46
Total 2000 · Income	81,575.11	20,176.98	3,905.45	25.00	1,855.01	1,476.00	2,447.38	0.00	59,480.58	170,942.51
2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes										
2712 · Michener Lect. to GF/Insurance	210.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	210.00
2732 · Gath/Walton to GF/Insurance	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
2752 · HYM to GF/Insurance	590.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	590.00
2784 · from GF for YouthProgramsClass	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
2801 · transfer from General Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	10.00
2802 · from GF for Gathering Youth	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2804 · from Trustee's Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2805 · for Gathering Youth	0.00	5,137.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,137.46
2810 · for Michener Lecture	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,076.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,076.37
2815 · for BertscheOutreach Travel	2,245.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,245.47
2820 · for Staff Salary	5,285.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,285.20

	Admin/General Fund	Gathering/Walton Lecture	Half Yearly Meeting (HYM)	Int'l WG Support	Michener Lecture	Programs for Youth	Publications	Quaker Int'l Meeting Travel	Trustee's Funds	TOTAL
2830 · for Walton Lecture/Gathering	0.00	1,989.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,989.56
Total 2804 · from Trustee's Funds	7,530.67	7,127.02	0.00	0.00	1,076.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,734.06
Total 2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes	9,530.67	9,127.02	0.00	0.00	1,076.37	2,500.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	22,244.06
Total Income	91,105.78	29,304.00	3,905.45	25.00	2,932.38	3,976.00	2,447.38	10.00	59,480.58	193,186.57
Expense										
2999 · Expenses										
3000 · Operating Costs										
3001 · Bank Service Charges	269.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	269.55
3002 · PayPal service fee	60.84	346.15	46.44	0.00	33.94	19.73	2.57	0.00	5.26	514.93
3080 · Duplication	584.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	584.68
3100 · Insurance										
3106 · Liability Insurance	1,985.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,985.70
Total 3100 · Insurance	1,985.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,985.70
3107 · Youth Worker CAP Certification	41.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.55
3200 · Office Supplies	428.27	0.00	61.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	489.56
3270 · Payroll Expenses	52,942.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52,942.16
3272 · Employer Payroll Taxes	5,330.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,330.62
3380 · Postage/Shipping	152.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.26	0.00	0.00	189.60
3381 · Post Office Box rental	293.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	293.00
3500 · Professional Fees										
3526 · Accounting	420.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	420.00
3556 · Web consult/CGI script	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,750.00	0.00	0.00	1,750.00
3596 · Publicatns Editing & Publishing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	233.69	0.00	0.00	233.69
Total 3500 · Professional Fees	420.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,983.69	0.00	0.00	2,403.69
3640 · Rent warehouse/office	630.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	630.00
3642 · Office Rent	1,993.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,993.68
3643 · Storage Unit	2,623.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,623.68
Total 3640 · Rent warehouse/office	4,247.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,247.36
3700 · Repairs										
3740 · Computer Repairs	192.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	192.59
Total 3700 · Repairs	192.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	192.59
3816 · Software	1,383.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,383.26
3840 · Telephone & Inet access	1,135.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,135.21
3860 · Travel Administrative	1,564.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,564.60
3900 · Website	401.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	401.34
Total 3000 · Operating Costs	69,809.39	346.15	107.73	0.00	33.94	19.73	2,023.52	0.00	5.26	72,345.72
4000 · Committees Operating Expenses										
4399 · Worship and Ministry	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
4479 · SEYM Retirement Committee	499.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	499.12
Total 4000 · Committees Operating Expenses	1,699.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,699.12
6000 · Production										
6080 · ISSN Printing, Publications	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	79.00	0.00	0.00	79.00
6380 · ISBN production	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.00	0.00	0.00	24.00
Total 6000 · Production	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	103.00	0.00	0.00	103.00
7000 · Operating Costs Programs										
7030 · Book consignment costs	0.00	351.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	351.50
7086 · Equipment Rental	0.00	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	450.00
7138 · Food purchases	0.00	0.00	292.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	292.90
7200 · Food, snacks	0.00	0.00	234.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	234.90
7500 · Site Fees										
7533 · Site Deposits	0.00	19,328.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,328.20
7500 · Site Fees - Other	0.00	0.00	1,140.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,140.00
Total 7500 · Site Fees	0.00	19,328.20	1,140.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,468.20
7650 · Speaker Honorarium	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
7660 · Speaker travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	426.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	426.35

	Admin/General Fund	Gathering/Walton Lecture	Half Yearly Meeting (HYM)	Int'l WG Support	Michener Lecture	Programs for Youth	Publications	Quaker Int'l Meeting Travel	Trustee's Funds	TOTAL
7800 - Youth Program	0.00									
7804 - Youth Prg. Expenses/Fees/Other	0.00	1,019.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,341.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,361.16
Total 7800 - Youth Program	0.00	1,019.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,341.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,361.16
Total 7000 - Operating Costs Programs	0.00	21,148.90	1,667.80	0.00	926.35	1,341.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,085.01
8000 - Travel & Financial Aid										
8160 - Annual Representative	700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
8360 - Attend SEYM-approved Activities	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
Total 8000 - Travel & Financial Aid	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00
8500 - Contingency										
8510 - Contingency - Int'l Worship Grou	0.00	0.00	0.00	522.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	522.50
8500 - Contingency - Other	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Total 8500 - Contingency	500.00	0.00	0.00	522.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,022.50
Total 2999 - Expenses	73,108.51	21,495.05	1,775.53	522.50	960.29	1,361.69	2,126.52	0.00	5.26	101,365.35
9000 - Transfer OUT TO other classes										
9002 - to GF for insurance	0.00	1,200.00	590.00	0.00	210.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
9004 - for Youth Programs	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
9005 - for Gathering Youth	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,137.46	7,137.46
9060 - for Quaker Int'l Meeting Travel	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
9210 - for Michener Lecture	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,076.37	1,076.37
9215 - for Berische/Outreach/Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,245.47	2,245.47
9220 - for Staff Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,285.20	5,285.20
9230 - for Walton Lecture/Gathering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,989.56	1,989.56
Total 9000 - Transfer OUT TO other classes	4,510.00	1,200.00	590.00	0.00	210.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,734.06	22,244.06
Total Expense	77,618.51	22,695.05	2,365.53	522.50	1,170.29	1,361.69	2,126.52	0.00	15,739.32	123,599.41
Net Income	13,487.27	6,608.95	1,539.92	-497.50	1,762.09	2,614.31	320.86	10.00	43,741.26	69,587.16
Total 2290 - Investment Capital Gains/Losses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	982.21	0.00	39,253.17	40,235.38
Net Unrealized Capital Gains/Losses	13,487.27	6,608.95	1,539.92	-497.50	1,762.09	2,614.31	-661.35	10.00	4,488.09	29,351.78
Net Income Without Capital Gains or Trustees	13,487.27	6,608.95	1,539.92	-497.50	1,762.09	2,614.31	-661.35	10.00	4,488.09	24,863.69
SEYM Real Income	91,105.78	29,304.00	3,905.45	25.00	2,932.38	3,976.00	1,465.17	10.00	132,723.78	132,723.78
SEYM Real Expense	77,618.51	22,695.05	2,365.53	522.50	1,170.29	1,361.69	2,126.52	0.00	107,860.09	107,860.09

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of February 29, 2024

03/21/2024

Cash Basis

	Feb 29, 24	May 31, 23	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
0501 · Checking Account BOA			
511 · Checking - Gen'l Fund - General	38,801.89	3,047.19	35,754.70
560 · Checking-GF-Quaker Int'l Travel	20,597.31	20,587.31	10.00
566 · Checking-GF-Sufferings	170.00	170.00	0.00
610 · Checking-SA-Michener	1,762.09	0.00	1,762.09
630 · Checking-SA-YBM Gathering	6,608.95	0.00	6,608.95
640 · Checking-SA-Programs for Youth	3,581.62	967.31	2,614.31
650 · Checking-SA-HYM	1,539.92	0.00	1,539.92
680 · Checking-SA-Publications	-4,754.68	-4,093.33	-661.35
690 · Checking - 690 Covid Relief	500.00	500.00	0.00
695 · Checking - Int'l WG Support	-271.04	226.46	-497.50
700 · Checking-Trustees			
705 · Checking - Gathering Youth Fund	3,391.74	3,391.74	0.00
710 · Checking - Michener Fund	65.00	15.00	50.00
715 · Checking - Bertsche Travel Fund	15.00	15.00	0.00
720 · Checking - Staff Salary	840.00	615.00	225.00
725 · Checking - Unrestricted Fund	3,800.34	3,790.34	10.00
730 · Checking - Walton Fund	15.00	15.00	0.00
750 · Checking -FGC Meetinghouse Fund	331.09	331.09	0.00
Total 700 · Checking-Trustees	<u>8,458.17</u>	<u>8,173.17</u>	<u>285.00</u>
Total 0501 · Checking Account BOA	<u>76,994.23</u>	<u>29,578.11</u>	<u>47,416.12</u>
830 · Checking - BofA Payroll	2,051.97	4,321.21	-2,269.24
903 · Savings BOA	16,929.60	36,927.79	-19,998.19
Total Checking/Savings	<u>95,975.80</u>	<u>70,827.11</u>	<u>25,148.69</u>
Other Current Assets			
1180 · FFC SOYM1 Publications Investme	17,100.55	16,118.34	982.21
1200 · Trustee Investments			
1205 · FFC SOYMT6 GatheringYouth Fund	131,578.46	121,685.12	9,893.34
1210 · FFC SOYMT3 Michener	27,567.58	25,494.30	2,073.28
1215 · FFC SOYMT2 BertscheTravel Fd	57,510.07	53,186.41	4,323.66
1220 · FFC SOYMT5 Staff Salary Fund	135,362.43	125,185.13	10,177.30
1225 · FFC SOYMT4 Unrestricted	111,000.36	98,657.85	12,342.51
1230 · FFC SOYMT1 Walton Fund	50,955.87	47,124.72	3,831.15
1240 · FFC SOYMT7 Meetinghouse Support	27,362.31	26,547.29	815.02
Total 1200 · Trustee Investments	<u>541,337.08</u>	<u>497,880.82</u>	<u>43,456.26</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>558,437.63</u>	<u>513,999.16</u>	<u>44,438.47</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>654,413.43</u>	<u>584,826.27</u>	<u>69,587.16</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>654,413.43</u>	<u>584,826.27</u>	<u>69,587.16</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Equity			
1400 · Trustees Funds Equity	296,694.99	296,694.99	0.00
1500 · Operational Equity/ Net Assets			
1511 · General Fund Net Assets	29,324.36	29,324.36	0.00
1560 · Quaker Int'l Travel Net Assets	5,349.80	5,349.80	0.00
1580 · Publications Net Assets	14,341.85	14,341.85	0.00
Total 1500 · Operational Equity/ Net Assets	<u>49,016.01</u>	<u>49,016.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>
1700 · Retained Earnings	239,115.27	289,716.03	-50,600.76
Net Income	69,587.16	-50,600.76	120,187.92
Total Equity	<u>654,413.43</u>	<u>584,826.27</u>	<u>69,587.16</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>654,413.43</u>	<u>584,826.27</u>	<u>69,587.16</u>

GIFTS

Each of us has unique and creative contributions to make as we allow the Light to shine through us. A meeting community needs the God-given leadings and spiritual gifts of each of its members.

SEYM Faith and Practice, p. 77

The Blessed Community does not have a hierarchy of leadership. Our monthly meetings and worship groups depend upon the members and attenders to serve the body and share their witness.

SEYM encourages you and Friends at your monthly meeting/worship group to become spiritually enriched by serving in the Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Friends who see gifts - talents, skills, and qualities - in others, please recommend them to the SEYM Nominating Committee.

You, too, may feel "a moving of the Spirit," leading you to become more involved in the wider Quaker community. Committee membership is open to all members and regular attenders. SEYM provides an opportunity to serve in different ways. Currently, there are eleven (11) standing committees. Your interest and skills will be recognized and appreciated.

SEYM has the following immediate need:

Friends are needed to serve on the SEYM Finance Committee. The committee prepares the annual budget and assesses the financial health of the yearly meeting and its ability to meet its goals. The committee works with SEYM officers who are ex-officio members of the committee. The committee meets at the interim and yearly business meetings. Remote meetings are possible, including ZOOM or another platform. A background in developing budgets helps.

If you are newly led to serve, we await you. Contact a Nominating Committee member to explore your interest or recommend a Friend you believe can serve the Yearly Meeting.

SEYM Nominating Committee members: [Brian Olson](#), *Incoming Clerk*, [Beverly Ward](#), [Ed Lesnick](#), and [Shawna Doran](#).

edlesnick

Ed Lesnick, On behalf of the SEYM Nominating Committee

SEYM Officers, Committees, Representatives, & Appointees

Approved 3/31/24

OFFICERS

Yearly Meeting Clerk.....	Bill Carlie	St Petersburg	2026
Interim Business Meeting (IBM) & Executive Committee (EC) Clerk	Bill Carlie	St Petersburg	2026
Assistant Clerk	Ed Lesnick	Orlando	2027
Recording Clerk, YM.....	Dan Vaughen.....	Orlando/DeLand	2025
Recording Clerk, IBM/EC	Liz Dykes.....	Gainesville.....	2025
Assistant Recording Clerks			
IBM and EC	Dan Vaughen.....	Orlando/DeLand	2026
YM.....	Liz Dykes	Gainesville.....	2026
Treasurer	Joel Cook.....	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast.....	2026
Membership Recorder	Ed Lesnick	Orlando	2027

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

Archives	Bill Rapp, <i>Clerk</i>	Lake Wales WG.....	2027
	Neil Andersen	Tallahassee	2026
	Phoebe Andersen	Tallahassee	2026
Earthcare	Brian Humphrey, <i>Clerk</i>	Ft Lauderdale.....	2026
	Brad Stocker.....	Miami	2025
	Beverly Ward	Tampa.....	2025
	Jack Bradin.....	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast ...	2026
	Mike Flanery.....	Clearwater	2026
	Hollyn Green	Savannah	2026
	Howard Brodt	Jacksonville on the Beaches ...	2027
	Rachel Dellinger.....	Orlando.....	2027
Faith & Practice (Committee on sabbatical)	Phoebe Andersen, <i>Clerk</i>	Tallahassee.....	2027
Facebook Page	Mike Flanery.....	Clearwater.....	2027
Finance	Dan Vaughen, <i>Clerk</i>	Orlando/DeLand.....	2027
	Shawna Doran.....	Gainesville	2027
	Amanda Farrar	St Augustine WG.....	2027
	Carl Hersh	Miami/DeLand	2027
	Lewis Kirvan	Gainesville	2027
	Assistant YM Clerk (ex officio)		
	SEYM Treasurer (ex officio)		
	Clerk of Trustees (ex officio)		
	SEYM Business Secretary (ex officio)		

Half-Yearly Meeting	Brian Olson, <i>Clerk</i>	Miami.....	2025
	Rosiland Kirupavathy, <i>Registrar</i>	Orlando	2025
	Kathy Hersh, <i>Co-Food Coordinator</i>	Miami/DeLand	2025
	Beverly Ward, <i>Co-Food Coordinator</i>	Tampa	2025
	Asma Roshi	Orlando	2025
Ministry on Racism	Kathy Hersh, <i>Clerk</i>	Miami/DeLand	2027
	Wendy Clarissa Geiger		2026
	Katie Green.....	Clearwater.....	2026
	Asma Roshi	Orlando	2026
	Minerva Glidden	Orlando	2027
	Brad Stocker.....	Miami.....	2027
	Susan Taylor.....	Tallahassee.....	2027
	Beverly Ward	Tampa.....	2027
	Cindy Kwalwasser.....	Orlando/DeLand.....	2027
Jean Larson.....	Gainesville	2027	
Peace & Social Concerns	Warren Hoskins, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Tallahassee.....	2027
	Kasper Ronning, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Orlando	2027
	John Heimburg	Orlando	2025
	Mercedes Soca.....	Havana WG	2025
	Cece Yocum.....	Tampa.....	2025
	Phil Stone.....	Clearwater.....	2026
	Peter Harrell.....	Gainesville	2027
	Shawna Doran.....	Gainesville	2027
Publications	Phoebe Andersen, <i>Clerk</i>	Tallahassee.....	2027
	Steven Riddle	Orlando	2025
	John Palozzi	Palm Beach	2027
	Vicki Carlie (ex officio)	St Petersburg	
Worship & Ministry	Richelle Ogle, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Orlando/St Augustine	2025
	Jan Dahm, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Tampa.....	2026
	Lisa Erazmus, <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
YM Gathering	Vicki Carlie, <i>Co-Gathering Clerk</i>	St Petersburg.....	2025
	<i>Co-Gathering Clerk</i>	Open	
	<i>Gathering Registrar</i>	Open	
	John Heimberg, <i>Bookstore</i>	Orlando	2026
	Brian Olson, <i>Program Coordinator</i>	Miami.....	2026
	Kasper Ronning.....	Orlando	2025
	SEYM Administrative Secretary, ex-officio		
Youth Committee	Kathy Hersh.....	Miami/DeLand	2025
	Mariah Doran, <i>Gathering Activities</i>	Gainesville	2026
	Lewis Kirvan, <i>Gathering Activities</i>	Gainesville	2026
	Cecelia Yocum, <i>Gathering Activities</i>	Tampa.....	2026
	Asma Roshi	Orlando	2026

Evelyn Schwalb	Orlando	2026
Susan Ascher	Melbourne	2027
Amanda Farrar	St Augustine	2027
Susan Vaughen	Orlando/DeLand	2027

REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS

American Friends Service Committee Corporation, - AFSC/Philadelphia

Bill Carlie	St Petersburg	2025
Beverly Ward	Tampa	2025
Lisa-Marie Alvarado	Miami	2027

Friends Committee on National Legislation - FCNL

Dianne Langan	St Pete/St Augustine	2026
Ian McDonald	Tallahassee	2026
Eileen Zingaro	Clearwater	2027

Friends General Conference - FGC Central Committee

Dan Vaughen	Orlando/DeLand	2025
Susan Wade	St Petersburg	2025

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Joel Cook	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast ...	2026
Clara Diaz	Orlando/St Augustine	2027
Eduardo Diaz	Orlando/St Augustine	2027

Friends Peace Teams

Cecilia Yocum	Tampa	2025
Shawna Doran	Gainesville	2025

Florida Council of Churches

Beverly Ward	Tampa	2027
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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
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Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

Liz Jenkins	Orlando	2025
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APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATIONS

FUM General Board Observer	Eduardo Diaz	Orlando/St Augustine	2026
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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Brian Olson, <i>Clerk</i>	Miami	2025
Beverly Ward	Tampa	2025
Shawna Doran	Gainesville	2026
Ed Lesnick	Orlando	2027

Havana Silent Group Report (Officially called Havana Unprogrammed Worship Group) Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting 27 - 31 Third Month 2024

Dear Friends or Quakers as you as have been called since those times when a group of Men and Women decided to seek their own experiences in the Light, and the manifestation of God's seed in every one, ignoring or leaving aside differences of Class, gender, racial, and even theological.

The Society of Friends has gone through different stages of growth or adaptation to the times we live in with their challenges.

The Silent Havana group has been and continues to be immersed in its own path of search and above all of openness to the Voice of Silence marked by the experience of many Friends who have been and are part of it inside and outside of Cuba.

It is no secret to anyone the World situation with its conflicts and crises in all Social, Political, and Economic aspects, have been aggravated in the so-called Southern Countries and specifically in Cuba. Here we have very complex situations for the majority of the People of which we are a part, but still we continue to trust and seek our own experiences from the Light in its different manifestations.

Hugs and Blessings.

Alejandro Castellanos Gonzalez, Clerk

Ad hoc Committee for Youth Coordinator Report and Proposal

Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting

27 – 31 Third Month 2024

Proposal for an SEYM Youth & Young Adult Coordinator position

SEYM will hire a Youth and Young Adult Coordinator (YYAC) to:

- Work with the Youth Committee to organize and coordinate events for youth, families, and young adults within SEYM, with a focus on building community, modeling and teaching our Quaker faith and values, and deepening the spiritual life of young adults and youth and their families.
- Reach out to families and young adults in SEYM Meetings and Worship Groups.
- Provide religious education resources and support to monthly meetings
- Help meetings conduct more inclusive and effective outreach to youth, young adults, and families

The Position

The YYAC position could be a 1/4- or 1/3-time job, depending on the responsibilities to be included. A 1/4-time job would cover the essential work of general organization and coordinating and being present at events. A 1/3 time job would include the events, plus being a resource person, with some limited time spent on pastoral care where needed. See Job Description (attached).

The YYAC position would offer an annual salary of between \$10,000 - \$16,000, depending on whether it is to be a 1/4-time or 1/3-time job; and based on the experience and skills the applicant brings to the job. As with other SEYM staff, there should be annual reviews, with merit and COLA pay increases.

The position is offered for a 3-year term, with continuation as approved by the Yearly Meeting.

There would be additional expenses besides salary to fully fund the position, such as for travel and expenses associated with in-person events.

A key element to the success of the YYAC would be having a support system within SEYM.

1. The position would be under the care of the Youth Committee and the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee would need to appoint a support committee for the YYAC for mutual accountability, communication, discernment, and encouragement. Committee members might be drawn from:
 - Youth Committee.: two members
 - Executive Committee: two members
 - CAPP Coordinator
2. Volunteers: an enthusiastic Youth Committee to work with, engaged young adults, parents, etc.

Additionally, the YYAC might have their own Anchor Committee related to their personal ministry and discernment.

Qualifications

- A ministry or calling to work with youth and young adults.
- Background and experience in working with youth.
- Grounding in Quaker faith and practice and in the Quaker community.
- Passing background and reference checks.
- Good communication and organizing skills

While SEYM would prefer that the YYAC live within the SEYM region, it is a possibility that they could live beyond SEYM; but in either case, they must be present at our Yearly Meeting Gathering, Half Yearly Meeting, and for two 3-day weekends during the summer for Family and Young Adult Retreats.

Funding the position

The SEYM Trustees have agreed to the following arrangement for support of the YYAC position based on the premise that the future of SEYM does indeed lie with its youth:

1. Trustees will contribute to support of the YYAC position for at least three fiscal years and agrees with including that support and the position's costs into future budgets as an SEYM staff position.
2. Trustees will transfer not more than \$20,000 in each of the relevant fiscal years from the Unrestricted Fund investments under its care to the SEYM General Fund Budget to support the YYAC position, starting with the first year of employment.

Additionally, Trustees request that the Yearly Meeting designate as a priority of its financial program the replenishment of the Unrestricted Fund after the time period of Trustees support of the YYAC position.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT COORDINATOR DRAFT JOB DESCRIPTION

The SEYM Youth and Young Adult Coordinator (YYAC)

- Works with volunteers to organize and coordinate events for youth, families, and young adults within SEYM, with a focus on building community, modeling and teaching our Quaker faith and values, and deepening the spiritual life of young adults and youth and their families.
- Reaches out to families in SEYM Meetings and Worship Groups.
- Offers resources and support to SEYM Meetings and Worship Groups in welcoming families and building intergenerational community.

The YYAC works with the Youth Committee, SEYM staff, and volunteers.

This work could be a 1/4- or 1/3-time job, depending on the responsibilities included as agreed upon (see responsibilities, below). A 1/4-time job would cover the essential work of general organization and coordinating and being present at events. A 1/3-time job would include the events, plus being a resource person, with some limited time spent on pastoral care where needed.

The YYAC would be offered an annual salary of between \$10,000 - \$16,000, depending on whether it is to be a 1/4-time or 1/3-time job and based on the experience and skills the person brings to the job.

There are to be annual reviews, with merit and COLA increases in pay.

The position is under the care of the Youth Committee and the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint a support committee for the YYAC for mutual accountability, communication, discernment, and encouragement. Committee members might be drawn from:

- Youth Committee: at least two members
- Executive Committee: at least two members, including a YM or IBM Clerk
- CAPP Coordinator

An Anchor Committee: the YYAC might have their own Anchor Committee related to their personal ministry and discernment.

General Organization & Communication

Connecting people: “Youth, parents/caregivers, and young adults in SEYM have a deep hunger to connect with their peers in community.”

Build lists of contacts for communications:

- Meeting and Worship Group contacts
- Families
- YAQs

Submit news, upcoming events, and resources to the SEYM Secretary and web clerk for inclusion and promotion on the website and in the SEYM eNews.

Events

YM Gathering Youth Program

- Organize: Youth Committee meetings, planning
- Reaching out to families to encourage their participation, discern needs.
- Be present during the program as an anchor person and leader
- Plan and lead some activities
- See that Youth Program follows CAPP guidelines

Half Yearly Meeting

- Support for Youth & YAQ activities

Family Retreat (in the summer)

- Organize: find & reserve camp; create registration form, plan meals, activities, & coordinate with parents. Promote the event.

YAQ Retreat – Summer

- Coordinate with YAQs about best date & location
- Organize: find a host meeting, plan meals, collect registrations.
- Promote the event on the website and in the eNews

YAQ Zoom events: workshops

- Lead or find leaders.
- Registration
- Zoom hosting tech support

Another opportunity, but not a requirement: WIBM/Michener Lecture weekend

Opportunity for families to attend, and for youth to connect. Lead some activities and encourage participation.

Be a resource person

- Find resources for Meetings, families, and YAQs that may be shared via email, a dedicated webpage, and the SEYM eNews.
- Facilitate workshops with Meetings via Zoom or in person
- Present workshops via Zoom as SEYM events

Pastoral Care

This might include:

- More in person work with Meetings
- Being a listening ear for people
- Doing more outreach

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting
Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting
27 – 31 Third Month 2024

Statement on Conflict in Israel-Palestine

We are heartbroken by the terror, violence, and devastation in Israel and Palestine.

Our Quaker faith reminds us that there is that of God within every person, without exception. And that every person has the capacity to experience and respond to the love and guidance of God.

As a result, we unite with the calls of people across the world for:

1. a permanent ceasefire now,
2. immediate release of the hostages,
3. the provision of urgent humanitarian aid to Gaza,
4. and the creation of an independent sovereign state of Palestine beside the State of Israel.

We unconditionally oppose bigotry against Jews, Palestinians and other Arabs and Muslims that has led to the rise in hateful rhetoric and actions targeting these communities in the United States and worldwide.

The government of the United States has a responsibility — and an opportunity – to think with greater vision rather than contributing to the further militarizing of a tragic situation. We urge the President and Congress to join with other nations to address the roots of war and to work for a lasting solution that provides for security, justice, and dignity for all Palestinians and Israelis.

Our faith challenges us to resist the escalating pressures throughout our human family that attempt to justify atrocities against other human beings, and to remember that we are each capable of evil, even in the name of good. We take up the commitment to turn from our own hostile impulses, from amplifying division within our local communities, and from the cycles of vengeful action in conflicts worldwide, so we can move toward the courageous work of peacebuilding.

Let us seek paths to work for peace with the tools available to us. We are called to act in faith and love, with persistence, patience, and courage, as partners and hands of the divine spirit as we pursue the sacred goal of peace, shalom, salaam.

Tallahassee Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting
Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting
27 – 31 Third Month 2024

Minute on Reproductive Rights

This minute by the St Petersburg Monthly Meeting (SPMM) ad hoc Committee on Reproductive Rights was approved by the SPMM Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on 5/21/23.

The members of the St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends draw on our shared faith and practice in approving this minute as a testimony of our beliefs.

Origin of our Opinion

Through the testimonies and practice of our Quaker belief we respect the individuality of each person's spiritual journey, knowing that decisions can lead to both endings and beginnings, often in unexpected ways. The decision to have, or not have, children and the decision of whom to marry, or not marry, are examples of deeply personal, individual decisions to be made by the person or people involved, in the presence of Spirit.

Sanctity of Life

We acknowledge the sanctity of all life, honor and value the beauty of procreation. We recognize that an embryo's potential to thrive is wholly dependent on the support and nurturing of a biological or chosen family and of society. We seek to value this by addressing injustice, inequity, and coercion in society's present stance on reproductive health.

Privacy of Health Decisions

We affirm life by endorsing laws and policies that provide access to comprehensive reproductive medicine, including access to safe and legal abortion care, for women and families. We hold that the many-faceted impacts of both pregnancy and the termination of that pregnancy, including abortion care, is a profoundly personal health care decision which should be decided by a pregnant person in consultation with their doctor and their partner if they find it appropriate. We affirm life by respecting and protecting the inalienable right every human has to determine their individual role in human reproduction and family planning. We believe that no other rights of any government, group, or individual supersede this right.

Immorality of Forced Pregnancy

We come to this view by acknowledging the historical litany of suffering caused by forced procreation and its kindred injustice, outlawed procreation. These are dual horrors which have been wielded by persons and groups of certain classes, parties, races, sexes, and genders at various times and in various places to enforce their sometimes legal, yet always unequal and morally illegitimate, privileged status among their fellow humans.

Education

The discussion of women's reproductive health must be divorced from biased, politically motivated, misinformation. We call for medically accurate sex education for all ages on the safe practice and choices related to sexual behavior. Information relating to sex, contraception and termination of pregnancy (abortion) care must be easily accessible and delivered in a truthful, non-coercive environment without religious bias of any sort. It is vital to the well-being of our communities that quality and affordable medical care and comprehensive sex education should be available to everyone.

Religious Liberty

We support rights of conscience, freedom of religion, and separation of church and state. We value honest religious liberty which upholds the right of each person to make their own faith-based or conscience-based healthcare decisions. Each person should have opportunity for personal deliberation in accordance with their own moral codes, faith beliefs and consciences, and access to the level of care they believe is right for them. We reject any notion that religious, governing, or political bodies should have any say whatsoever in women's reproductive health decisions. Religious leaders and government officials have no business imposing their personal faith strictures or religious definitions of medical services into the laws of the land or the private lives of women and families. We protest the enshrinement of any faith strictures as public policy and disassociate ourselves from these restrictive voices.

Criminalization

We are opposed to recent federal and state legal actions which threaten the autonomy of pregnant peoples' bodies, and which criminalize their private, personal decisions. We should not be outlawing an individual's right to choose an abortion, which historically has led to many tragic cases of desperation and death. We reject the reasoning that would enable judges and legislatures to ban abortion and promote forced birth. We believe we should work to decriminalize any such decisions, and to preserve an individual's right and ability to carry out their decision.

Parenthood Rights

We believe that every child should be wanted, cared for and educated in a safe, healthy and loving, environment. Our society must share the responsibility of ensuring families and children realize their full potential and aid the termination a pregnancy if desired. In the case of non-consensual conception, sexual abuse, domestic violence, health concerns and even birthing situations where trauma is not present, the health and desire of the person giving birth is paramount.

Future Ramifications

As a religious organization that adheres to the testimony of equality, we believe that rights and equitable access to care must be available to all individuals and provided where their needs can best be met. An acceptance of all the variables in regard to sexuality and gender must be introduced at all levels of society so that the rights of all parents and their children may be respected. The current frenzy of exclusion which is marginalizing and demonizing non-heterosexual parents and their families must be reversed. We are opposed to any restrictions affecting same sex and transgender families.

Societal support

We seek a country with an equitable health care system that does not impose the greatest burdens on those least able to bear them. We must maintain and improve the physical and mental health of our population with affordable, equitable, and accessible healthcare that covers the entire life span, from family planning, contraception access, and prenatal care to end-of-life care.

All families must have equal opportunities to prosper. One of the most significant factors that lead to mental and physical health failure and the termination of pregnancies is poverty. Along with prioritizing public health services and affordable health care with robust federal support, we must target poverty, ensuring that policies regarding family must also include a living wage, paid family leave, affordable housing, affordable childcare, and high-quality public schools.

It is our belief that implementation of such measures will lead to a more affirming and nurturing society.

Saint Petersburg Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Worship and Ministry Committee Report

Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting

27 – 31 Third Month 2024

Greetings Friends,

We are holding the Gathering Committee and the Administrative Secretary in the Light as our Yearly Meeting Gathering nears so quickly following Winter Interim Business Meeting and the Michener Lecture. The work involved is big, and requires time that is never sufficient, but the efforts provide all of us with the gift of space and time for business, worship, and community. We recognize this as a service to SEYM that is a blessing. We are grateful for all the heavy lifting done behind the scenes in preparation and for the constant care throughout our Annual Sessions.

We hope all Friends can find peace within exhaustion, and reach for the still, small voice when that last straw is hovering. Quakers are a people who seek and listen, answering that of God in others. We know how to do the hard things and how to find strength.

We are having a series of meetings of worship and planning, listening to Spirit as Anne Pomeroy, New York Yearly Meeting, discerns way forward in creating spiritually grounded programs for SEYM. She asks deep questions and listens beyond words, and the programs will reflect this level of spiritual care and nurture.

Our work continues to be reliant on Spirit, and we seek to be faithful in our ministry of listening and providing opportunities for Friends to find depth and peace in various encounters, such as the following:

- Extended Meeting for Worship opportunities, once per quarter (next one at Yearly Meeting Gathering)
- Weekly Queries for the Journey; used by individuals and Monthly Meeting and Worship Groups
- Bi-weekly Seekers Book Club (next book-- *Listening to the Light: How to Bring Quaker Simplicity and Integrity into Our Lives*, by Jim Pym)
- Online Programs:
 - Emily Provance, New York Yearly Meeting, is scheduled for 26 Second Month, 2024;
 - Tim Gee, General Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation, will be scheduled later in 2024;
 - Anne Pomeroy, spiritual director, coordinator of Spiritual Nurture programs for NYYM, will share a few programs in 2024;
 - more to come
- Online discussions of basic Quaker concepts are being discerned.
- Pastoral Care—prayer and care for individual Friends as well as holding a concern for Meetings that are dwindling in numbers and energy. A request was made for Friends to join Palm Beach Meeting for Worship, whether in person or via zoom (see link on their website).

Zoom is a good way to gather with other Friends in worship, especially if distance is a hardship.

- Michener Lecture 2024 took place 21 First Month 2024 at Orlando Meetinghouse, and was well attended in-person and online, with Friends joining from all over the country as well as internationally. Ann Jerome (Orlando MM, Deland WG, Pendle Hill Friend in Residence) shared her deeply led thoughts with us in her talk entitled, “Let it Burn: A Call for Attention to the Fires of Our Faith”. She was faithful in her ministry and Friends were well fed.

We again ask Executive Committee, as a matter of integrity, to continue to follow through on recommendations made by the Listening Project that were provided at Summer EC 2023. These requests were made by Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups and reflect a need for connection and transparency. Aspects of these needs continue to rise up and were apparent in discussions at Winter Interim Business Meeting. We are hopeful EC will respond.

We hold all of SEYM in the Light and look forward to sharing that of God with Friends in our next opportunity.

In peace, gratitude, and joy,
Jan Dahm, Lisa Erazmus, and Richelle Ogle
Worship and Ministry Committee Co-Clerks

Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR) Report

Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting

27 – 31 Third Month 2024

Background and Recommended SEYM Minute on Donation to the *California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program (CHIRP)*

The Committee for Ministry on Racism supports SEYM giving a donation to the Tribally-led, California nonprofit **California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program (CHIRP)**, which is raising money to make possible the sale of Sierra Friends Center to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe so that their ancestral land, Yulica, can be returned to them. A donor has offered to match all gifts up to 100,000.00 through March 31, 2024. A sale is needed because of costs Sierra Friends Center must meet. Owning their land may also aid in the Tribe's efforts to once again be recognized by the federal government, which will make it possible for them to have many of their other needs met.

Background summarized by Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) <https://quakerearthcare.org>:

Santa Cruz Friends Meeting is calling all Quaker Meetings in the U.S. to participate spiritually and financially in an historic Quaker moment: **Homeland Return** of the Sierra Friends Center (Woolman) to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe.

The board of the Sierra Friends Center (formally, College Park Friends Educational Association, CPFEA) has entered into a purchase agreement with the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe through the Tribally-led California nonprofit, **California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program (CHIRP)**. The Tribe has not had land since 1964 when the Federal Government illegally terminated the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe and sold their reservation at auction. This is the Tribe's best opportunity to re-establish a tribal homeland and may support their efforts toward Federal re-recognition.

The land that Sierra Friends Center has operated from is the site of an ancestral Nisenan village called Yulica. These 232 acres, as well as the surrounding land known as "Nevada City, California", were taken from Indigenous peoples during the Gold Rush and sold to settlers who were colonizing the area. A group of Quakers purchased the land in the 1960s for educational programs.

The Sierra Friends Center nonprofit, originally under the care of College Park Quarterly Meeting, was created to operate the school programs and manage the property. The Center ran the John Woolman boarding school, which operated from 1963-2001, followed by the Woolman Semester school, which operated from 2004-2016. The Center also operated outdoor education programs as well as a summer camp rooted in Quaker faith and practice.

The Sierra Friends Center board's journey is chronicled in detail on the [Woolman at Sierra Friends Center website](#). The Tribe now has a time-limited opportunity to purchase the property. The agreed-upon price includes the purchase price, government-mandated improvements, and an operating endowment. The overall fundraising goal is \$2.4 million; the first phase of this effort, to raise \$1.5 million, closes on April 4, 2024. CHIRP launched a [GoFundMe campaign](#) at the end of January, which has already reached \$853,662 with over 1300 individual donors, including Quakers.

As Quakers, we believe that supporting this process both spiritually and financially is a living example of our Stewardship testimony and our legacy as activists. It is our faith in action. It creates healing from a moment of loss. It is restorative and it is ethical. It feels important to do all we can to support the Tribe.

Following the Light that revealed the harms done to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe in the above background summarized by Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), and in responding in solidarity to the call from Santa Cruz Friends Meeting to Quakers to donate to the *California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program*, the Committee for Ministry on Racism recommends that Southeastern Yearly Meeting approve the following minute:

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves a 500.00 donation by check to the *California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program (CHIRP)*, the nonprofit raising funds to purchase the Sierra Friends Center in order to return to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, their ancestral land, Yulica. We encourage individual Friends, Meetings, and Worship Groups to donate also as led. We are grateful to the Santa Cruz Friends Meeting for alerting Quakers to this opportunity to help redress inhumane wrongs done to the Tribe by the state and federal governments from which Quakers were among the beneficiaries. We will inform the clerks of Santa Cruz Friends Meeting, Hans Brinker and Nancy Wood, of our donation.

Report to Yearly Meetings

Spring 2024

Dear Friends,

Our Quaker faith and practice call us to bring into being the world we seek. Since 1943, the Friends Committee on National Legislation has carried on this witness of the Spirit through national advocacy. Your engagement, financial contributions, and spiritual support make this work possible.

Pursuing Peace with Justice in an Uncertain World

FCNL seeks peace, justice, and an earth restored by advocating for federal policy change in the areas identified by Friends through our bi-annual priorities setting process. Priorities for the 118th Congress are at <http://fcnl.org/priorities> Updates on these and other issues are at <http://fcnl.org/issues>

Ceasefire Now in Israel and Palestine. FCNL has been advocating for a ceasefire since the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks, condemning both Hamas's violence and Israel's indiscriminate response. Working in concert with more than 80 other organizations, our network has taken more than 500,000 actions to lobby, demonstrate, and minute their concerns. A February 2024 *New York Times* article highlighted FCNL's efforts to counter political spending with "people power" to support a ceasefire, de-escalation, and humanitarian aid in Gaza.

Help Millions of Children Escape Poverty. At the height of the pandemic, Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit, reducing child poverty by more than 40 percent. Since that legislation expired, child poverty in the U.S. has rebounded to high levels. FCNL is integral to lobbying efforts to revive the expanded Child Tax Credit, with the potential to help 16 million children. The Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act (H.R. 7024) passed the House in early 2024 and moves to the Senate, where our advocacy continues.

Heal the Harms of Nuclear Testing. FCNL has partnered with communities most affected by U.S. nuclear testing to advocate for an extended and expanded Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). Congress needs to act before the RECA program expires in 2024.

Support Truth and Healing on Indian Boarding Schools. FCNL is supporting the formation of a formal commission to investigate the horrific past and impact of the 367 federally sponsored, institutions run by religious groups that existed until the 1960s. At our 2024 Spring Lobby Weekend, more than 300 young adults lobbied for passage of the Truth and Healing Act.

Nationwide Advocacy & Radical Hospitality

Our conviction that there is that of God in every person leads us to advance this work through a focus on relationship: among advocates, Friends, and FCNL staff, and with decision-makers. We foster a community that can engage amid conflict, uplift each other, and find creative ways to make change in the face of the many crises in our world.

Our network of knowledgeable, passionate advocates live in all corners of the country. We now have more than 130 **Advocacy Teams** across 47 states. Our 2023 campaign focused on investing in conflict and atrocities prevention programs. The Teams' efforts culminated at November's Quaker Public Policy Institute, where participants logged more than 120 lobby visits in two days. In 2024, Teams are lobbying for reductions in Pentagon spending. See <https://www.fcnl.org/act/join-advocacy-team>

Friends Place on Capitol Hill. This guest house and hospitality center on Capitol Hill hosted 94 groups, totaling 1,758 guests, between July 2022 and June 2023. This total includes more than 400 migrants bussed from the southern border, whom FCNL hosted as a partner of the Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid Network. Friends Place also anchors FCNL's engagement with the D.C. community and offers advocacy programming. More at <http://friendsplacedc.org>

Charting a Course Toward the World We Seek

Creating the world we seek begins with our own transformation. As FCNL builds its influence on national policy, we also focus on the patterns and practices of our own community. Our new **strategic plan** for 2024-2028 focuses in both areas. It calls on FCNL to strengthen its nonpartisan influence as a leading faith advocacy organization, foster beloved community, engage new people in advocacy work, and become better equipped to meet the challenges ahead. More at <http://fcnl.org/strategicplan>

A key part of this plan is the continued **integration of anti-racism, anti-bias, justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion** (AJEDI) into our work. We are building skills and structures for listening, clearness, and restorative practices to embed these principles throughout FCNL. This work allows us to better align the experience of people in our community with the values we hold.

These efforts are, as always, guided by Spirit and by the leadings of you and others who give of their time, resources, and talent. The spiritual depth of this work was evident in the year-long process of developing new policy guidance around reproductive health care and abortion (see <https://www.fcnl.org/ReproductiveHealthPolicy>). Abortion had been named as a "challenge" to Friends that FCNL took no position on. More than 300 Friends meetings, churches, and other groups gave input, representing many perspectives. The revised statement names differences among Quakers, supports individual choice and equitable access for healthcare decisions, recognizes the sanctity of human life, and opposes the criminalization of abortion services.

Thank you, Friends, for all the ways that you participate in this work to build a better world.

In peace,

Michael Fuson
Clerk, FCNL General Committee
Granville Friends Meeting
Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Youth & Young Adult Coordinator Report & Proposal (Amended)

Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting

27 - 31 Third Month 2024

Approved at Yearly Business Meeting 2024

SEYM will hire a Youth and Young Adult Coordinator (YYAC) to:

- Work with the Youth Committee to organize and coordinate events for youth, families, and young adults within SEYM, with a focus on building community, modeling and teaching our Quaker faith and values, and deepening the spiritual life of young adults and youth and their families.
- Reach out to families and young adults in SEYM Meetings and Worship Groups.
- Provide religious education resources and support to monthly meetings
- Help meetings conduct more inclusive and effective outreach to youth, young adults, and families

The Position

The YYAC position is to be a 1/2-time job. (See Job Description below.) The position would pay \$24,000 per 12-month period.

Additional benefits might be found in the form of offers of housing or a car.

As with other SEYM staff, there should be annual reviews, with merit and COLA pay increases.

The position is offered for a 3-year term, with continuation as approved by the Yearly Meeting.

Support

A key element to the success of the YYAC would be having a support system within SEYM.

1. The position would be under the care of the Youth Committee and the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee would need to appoint a support committee for the YYAC for mutual accountability, communication, discernment, and encouragement. Committee members might be drawn from:
 - Youth Committee.: two members
 - Executive Committee: two members
 - CAPP Coordinator
2. Volunteers: a strong Youth Committee to work with, engaged young adults, and enthusiasm in Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to work to provide welcoming spaces for families and young adults.

Additionally, the YYAC might have their own Anchor Committee related to their personal ministry and discernment.

Funding the position

There would be additional expenses besides salary to fully fund the position, such as for payroll taxes, travel, and other expenses associated with in-person events.

The total budget to fund the position would be \$30K per year.

Trustees

The SEYM Trustees have agreed to the following arrangement for support of the YYAC position based on the premise that the future of SEYM does indeed lie with its youth:

1. Trustees will contribute to support of the YYAC position for at least three fiscal years and agrees with including that support and the position's costs into future budgets as an SEYM staff position.
2. Trustees will transfer not more than \$20,000 in each of the relevant fiscal years from the Unrestricted Fund investments under its care to the SEYM General Fund Budget to support the YYAC position, starting with the first year of employment,

Fundraising

SEYM commits to do fundraising to provide the additional \$10 per year needed to fully fund this position.

Search Committee

Upon approving this proposal, SEYM needs to appoint a Search Committee made up of 3 Friends, to begin their work at rise of this Yearly Meeting. Kathy Hersh has agreed to serve.

Qualifications

- A ministry or calling to work with youth and young adults.
- Background and experience in working with youth.
- Grounding in Quaker faith and practice and in the Quaker community.
- Passing background and reference checks.
- Good communication and organizing skills

While SEYM would prefer that the YYAC live within the SEYM region, it is a possibility that they could live beyond SEYM; but in either case, they must be present at our Yearly Meeting Gathering, Half Yearly Meeting, and for two 3-day weekends during the summer for Family and Young Adult Retreats.

YYAC JOB DESCRIPTION

The SEYM Youth and Young Adult Coordinator (YYAC)

- Works with volunteers to organize and coordinate events for youth, families, and young adults within SEYM, with a focus on building community, modeling and teaching our Quaker faith and values, and deepening the spiritual life of young adults and youth and their families.
- Reaches out to families in SEYM Meetings and Worship Groups.
- Offers resources and support to SEYM Meetings and Worship Groups in welcoming families and building intergenerational community.

The position is under the care of the Youth Committee and the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint a support committee for the YYAC for mutual accountability, communication, discernment, and encouragement. Committee members might be drawn from:

- Youth Committee - at least two members
- Executive Committee - at least two members, including a YM or IBM Clerk
- CAPP Coordinator

An Anchor Committee: the YYAC might have their own Anchor Committee related to their personal ministry and discernment.

General Organization & Communication

Connecting people: “Youth, parents/caregivers, and young adults in SEYM have a deep hunger to connect with their peers in community.”

Build lists of contacts for communications:

- Meeting and Worship Group contacts
- Families
- Young Adult Quakers (YAQs)

Submit news, upcoming events, and resources to the SEYM Secretary and web clerk for inclusion and promotion on the website and in the SEYM eNews.

Events

YM Gathering Youth Program

- Organize: Youth Committee meetings, planning
- Reaching out to families to encourage their participation, discern needs.
- Be present during the program as an anchor person and leader
- Plan and lead some activities
- See that Youth Program follows CAPP guidelines

Half Yearly Meeting

- Support for Youth & YAQ activities

Family Retreat (in the summer)

- Organize: find & reserve camp; create registration form, plan meals, activities, & coordinate with parents. Promote the event.

YAQ Retreat – Summer

- Coordinate with YAQs about best date & location
- Organize: find a host meeting, plan meals, collect registrations.
- Promote the event on the website and in the eNews

YAQ Zoom events: workshops

- Lead or find leaders.
- Registration
- Zoom hosting tech support

Another opportunity, but not a requirement: WIBM/Michener Lecture weekend

Opportunity for families to attend, and for youth to connect. Lead some activities and encourage participation.

Be a resource person

- Find resources for Meetings, families, and YAQs that may be shared via email, a dedicated webpage, and the SEYM eNews.
- Facilitate workshops with Meetings via Zoom or in person
- Present workshops via Zoom as SEYM events

Pastoral Care

This might include:

- More in person work with Meetings
- Being a listening ear for people
- Doing more outreach

Field Secretary for Earthcare

SEYM Yearly Business Meeting

27 – 31 Third Month 2024

Overview

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

In this report, I summarize activities undertaken during the year since the 2023 Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. This report also includes plans for the upcoming year and some discussion on retirement and succession planning. It continues to be a joy and blessing to serve as field secretary; retirement from the position does not include an end of environmental work for me.

Communication with the Anchoring Committee

I continue to communicate with the FSE Anchoring Committee members through email, telephone, or other remote means, and, at times, in person. As more in-person meetings took place during the past year, there have been more formal and informal opportunities to work with committee members..

Meeting with Monthly Meetings (MMs), Worship Groups (WGs), and Others

Perform visits to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups within SEYM to help them discern their leadings in care of the Earth, and to provide information and coordination among Meetings.

As a reminder, “Meetings can issue invitations to the [SEYM] administrative secretary, FSE, or the Anchor Committee [for FSE visits]. We will all conference over the invitation and subsequent planning” (Phoebe Andersen, 3 Tenth Month 2016). I continue to create opportunities to work with monthly meetings and others through online and in-person visits.

Contact Information

- Email: fsEarthcare@seymquakers.org.
- Facebook: @fsearthcare
- Twitter: @fsearthcare
- Instagram: @fsearthcare
- Telephone number: 813.928.8823.
- Snailmail: P.O. Box 1614, Umatilla, FL 32784.

A Google calendar showing requests for visitation and FSE has been created and shared with the Anchoring Committee.

SPECIAL REQUEST!

I am moving forward with the plan to develop some suggestions for Meetings, Worship Groups, and other communities on responding to various needs that may come about to due extreme events, economic hardships, and so on. Beginning 18 Fourth Month (April) 2024, I will facilitate an online meeting to begin the process. To be as inclusive as possible, you can drop in as available or participate via email, snail mail, or one-to-one with me. Volunteers are sought from as many Meetings and Worship Groups as interested; however, it will be helpful to have input from persons with social media skills, youths, and

anyone! Meeting information is provided below and will be shared with Meetings, Worship Groups, clerks, and the SEYM newsletter.

SEYM Community Preparedness

Purpose: To develop suggestions for Meetings, Worship Groups, and other communities on responding to various needs that may come about to due extreme events, economic hardships, etc.

Date: 18 Fourth Month (April) 2024

Time: 7:00 P.M. (EDT)

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83059327001?pwd=tVb4sbD5wDUtoZJB49maj5AY-otPAJl.1>

Meeting ID: 830 5932 7001

Passcode: 503729

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Suggested Workshop/Event Topics

- Angelic Troublemaking: Beyond Bystander Training - explores anti-racism/decolonization work with emphasis on local concerns and means of accompaniment;
- Climate Equity/Climate Justice in Our Community: identifies specific local social justice and equity concerns. Participants identify actions to address concerns;
- Decolonizing Earthcare: explores the intersectionality of gender, race, extraction, and harmful economic systems and the adverse impacts to the Earth.
- Discerning Earthcare Leadings: listening and sharing experiences to reach individual and group decisions on Earthcare actions;
- Earthcare audits: baseline assessment of individual or community activities and discernment;
- Equality or Equity? What is Our Testimony?: examines Friends' equality testimony, the concepts of equity and justice, and the relationship of these to Earthcare;
- Permaculture is Not Just Agriculture: introduces permaculture design and domains and ways to bring these practices into Earthcare;
- Project Drawdown, Introduction and more: presents information on actions that "drawdown" carbon emissions and ways to promote drawdown choices as individuals and communities;
- Quakers and Climate Collapse: shares and builds on a Woodbrooke course led by Jackie Carpenter from 2021 Fifth Month (May), including review of the latest science, worship sharing, and discernment.
 - o I also can build on my Pendle Hill presentation to help with local concerns;

- Racial Wealth Gap Simulation: an exercise that helps “...people understand the connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty, and wealth”;
- Transportation, migration, and climate: explores access and mobility issues from the local to global perspective and the impacts of climate change;
- Underwater Homeowners Association: shares local actions that can be undertaken by communities experiencing sea level rise;
- Water: Sea Level Rise, Flooding, and Water Quality explores local, national, and global water issues;
- Waterline Communities: Displacement and Gentrification and Why Quakers Should Care drills down to the county or community level on the impacts of displacement; and
- **What the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs AND Inflation Reduction Acts Mean to Me and My Community?** This workshop looks at how funds from the two acts are being dispersed at the local level and provides suggestions on how to get involved in the decisionmaking process. Special emphasis is given to working with local implementing agencies and collaborating with advocacy groups to address adverse climate and environmental impacts.

Workshops or other Activities since 2023 Yearly Meeting with a Concern for Business

Deland Worship Group and Black Heritage Trail Event, 16 Fourth Month (April) 2023

Earthday Drop In Support, Orlando Monthly Meeting and Tallahassee Monthly Meeting, 22 Fourth Month 2023

Deland Worship Group Events

Caste, Ethnicity, Race, and Civil Reform: A Call for Repair, 18 Seventh Month (July) 2023

Juneteenth 2023, 29 Seventh Month (July) 2023

Climate Action Climate Justice, 1 and 8 Eighth Month (August) 2023

Bystander Training: 101, Quakers of Orlando, 5 Eleventh Month (November) 2023

Various in-person and online visits throughout the year

Interactions or Collaborations between and among other SEYM committees

These interactions between and among SEYM committees help to facilitate communication and collaboration of our regional concerns with national organizations and to be a Quaker Presence at specific events.

- The Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR): In addition to supporting the work of CMOR for annual gatherings, I act as a liaison to committee and the wider Quaker World and other organizations promoting equity. This includes work with, but not limited to, Decolonizing Quakers; Quaker Earthcare Witness; Quakers Up-rooting Racism; and Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples.
- Earthcare Committee: In addition to facilitating a workshop during the 2024 SEYM Annual Gathering, “A Friendly Guide to Perma[nent] Culture”, special efforts are

underway to engage members of the SEYM Earthcare Committee and others to help with the SEYM Community Preparedness planning.

- Florida Council of Churches (FCC): John Heimburg and I participated in the Florida Council of Churches 2024 Advocacy Days during the Florida legislative session. This included training on issues and legislative meetings on 29 First Month (January) at the Florida People's Advocacy Center and an Interfaith Service for Harmony and Healing at First Presbyterian Church later that evening. On 30 First Month, we committee appearances and visited legislative offices. We shared SEYM's 22YBM05 Minute on the Anti-Gay and Anti-Woke Legislation with a number of elected officials and their staff. Below is a photograph of some of the FCC delegation.



Members of the Florida Council of Churches Legislative Delegation

Please continue to hold the Council in your hearts due to the challenges mentioned in the Fall Interim Business meeting report, I am serving as interim secretary to FCC through Fifth Month;

- Half Yearly Meeting (HYM) Committee: As an ex-officio member of the HYM committee, I continue to participate in planning activities. Kathy Hersh and I will work the administrative secretary and the website clerk to make the HYM guide available online. I also consult with the Youth Committee on other events, e.g., annual gathering.
- Peace and Social Concerns (P&SC) Committees: I continue to meet with or otherwise support the Yearly and Monthly Meeting PSC committees. Most recently, I have agreed to provide support to the Yearly Meeting P&SC Committee incoming co-clerks. This will include, but is not limited to, information on the environmental

impacts of militarization and wars and the adverse impacts of rapidly rising ocean temperatures;

- Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), AFSC: Bill Carlie and I now share SEYM appointments to AFSC. I am an AFSC representative on the Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC). I will participate virtually in the upcoming Fourth Month meeting of QUNC;
- Right Sharing of World Resources: I continue to share information through the-QEW United Nations Working Group, AFSC, and Quaker United Nations Committee.
- Youth Committee: I continue to work with the Youth Committee. Special efforts will be made to include youth in the development of the preparedness guidance.

The Wider Quaker World, Interfaith Groups, Other Environmental Organizations

To communicate and collaborate our regional concerns with national organizations including Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Friends General Conference (FGC). To be a Quaker Presence at specific events, including those arranged by others.

I continue to work with the wider Quaker World, interfaith groups, and environmental organizations. These interactions have been virtual and in person during this period.

- Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP): I am working with Kathy Hersh to plan AVP workshops with Volusia County youths who are on parole in the judicial system. Members of Quakers of Orlando also have expressed interest in AVP workshops. The planning is underway.
- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): I continue to serve as a corporate member of AFSC, QUNC and AFSC's Third World Coalition.
- Decolonizing Quakers, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>: The Indigenous and Friends of African descent affinity groups continue discernment on the meaning of "decolonizing". Representation of Friends of African descent is increasing;
- Earth Ethics Institute (EEI), <http://earthethicsinstitute.org/>, Miami Dade College: In addition to the presentation, "Climate Change and Earth Literacy" during the 2023-24 Campus Learning Community Earth Literacy & Changemaking Symposium, the EEI advisory board is planning a meeting in Miami. I am looking forward to "feeding at least two birds with one scone" as Brad Stoker would say by participating in the advisory group meeting and visiting Miami Meeting!;
- Fellowship of Friends of African Descent (FOFAD): the work of Decolonizing Quakers overlaps with the FOFAD activities, the Black Quaker Project, <https://www.theblackquakerproject.org/>, and Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW);
- Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN): Jan Booher continues to work with the Florida Disaster Resilience Initiative, (<https://resiliencesystem.org/dashboards/florida-disaster-resilience-initiative/>) and share health and environmental information, including COVID-19. The Florida Council of Churches is planning to resume convening FL-iCAN assemblies;
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): Brad Stoker and I continue to share a slot as representatives to FCNL for QEW. Through the QEW, I have partici-

pated in discernment of a number of legislative issues, e.g., reproductive rights, armed conflict, etc..

- Friends General Conference (FGC): I continue to work with FGC, particularly with the Fellowship of Friends of Color, FOFAD, and Quakers Uprooting Racism. The proposal that John Heimburg and I submitted for the 2024 Gathering workshop, “Bring Your WholeSelf” has been accepted. We are busy developing course material, promoting, and otherwise preparing for the workshop. Hold us in your hearts!
- Friends Peace Teams (FPT): I continue to work with members of FPT and link FPT to QEW UN Working Group and Towards Right Relationship/Decolonizing Quakers. With the new FPT North America Regional Team, we are in discernment on livable wages and equity;
- Friends United Meeting (FUM): I continue to work with Jim Kessler, Grinnell Friends Church, through Quaker Earthcare Witness;
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to strengthen links to FWCC through QEW, FGC, and AFSC;
- National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Equity in Transportation and the Women’s Issues in Transportation Committees. I continue to work with these committees and to serve on the planning committee for the 2024 Conference on Advancing Transportation Equity which will be convened 15-18 Seventh Month (July) 2024 in Baltimore, MD.
- Nurturing Faithfulness (NF) program, I was invited by Marcelle Martin and Jennifer Hogue to be interviewed about Earthcare work, climate justice, environmental witness, and other ways of helping communities to prepare for the changing times to come. (NF is a collaboration between New England Yearly Meeting, Woolman Hill, Hilary Burgin and Marcelle Martin.) The recording is being prepared for distribution and will be shared with SEYM. Stay tuned!
- QEW:
 - Beginning at the rise of Meeting in Tenth Month 2023, I rotated to co-clerk with Elaine Emmie and Suellen Lowry. At the rise of Meeting, Tenth Month 2024, I will become a mentoring clerk.
 - As part of the speakers bureau, QEW Presents!, I visited with Sandy Spring Friends Meeting (MD), 27-29 Tenth Month 2023.
- Quaker House at Chautauqua (NY), Friend of the Week (Chaplain): I am preparing for the chaplain week 10 through 17 Eighth Month. The themes are “Water: Crisis, Beauty and Necessity – A Week in Partnership with National Geographic” and Interfaith Lecture Theme – A Metaphor for Life. Please continue to hold this work, which is dear to the SEYM P&SC committee, close to your hearts.
- Tri-City NAACP Branch: I continue with the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee. Due to ill health, I was unable to participate in Lake County EcoExpo this year. I will record and make available my planned presentation on the local impacts of climate collapse online.;
- University of South Florida: I continue to work with various colleagues at the University.

Social Media

I share short pieces on activities, with SEYM Monthly Meetings, Working Groups, the wider Quaker world and others. Please send suggestions for topics, research, etc.

In closing, I share this from the FCC Interfaith Service for Harmony and Healing this First Month

A Reading from the United Nations Resolution for World Interfaith Harmony Week, 23 Eleventh Month (November) 2010

Recognizing that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding,

1. Reaffirms that mutual understanding and inter religious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace;
2. Proclaims the first week of February every year the World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs:
3. Encourages all States to support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, based on love of God and love of one's neighbour or on love of the good and love one's neighbour, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions.

This is followed by prayers for peace from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Native American, and Sikh faith groups.

Love and Peace,
Beverly G. Ward

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Quakers in Florida, southeast Georgia & South Carolina

Yearly Gathering
27 - 31 Third Month 2024

Epistle

Dearest Friends,

Ninety-five of us, including nine youth and two wee Friends, gathered at the DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center in Parrish, Florida, while fourteen joined online. This was the 60th gathering of the Southeastern Yearly Meeting.

Over the next four days we worshiped, and workshopped, laughed, and loved and did the Meeting's business. There was some heavy rain at first, but soon the skies cleared and the spring weather turned balmy. The trees were in full leaf, herons and swallowtail kites soared overhead; doves cooed in the mornings; the hospitality of the Conference Center staff was warm and welcoming. Minor challenges were overcome; representatives of Quaker organizations shared their materials; old acquaintances were lovingly renewed; new affinities were discovered, bold initiatives were undertaken—or at least referred for continuing, hopeful discernment. At the end of the gathering, we could all agree that the Southeastern Yearly Meeting will carry on speaking truth and faith through another year in these turbulent times.

The theme of this year was The Friends we are becoming: embracing our longings & leadings. We were joined by representatives from American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends General Conference, Quaker House, Quaker Voluntary Service, and Right Sharing of World Resources. Members and visiting representatives led us through workshops on the spiritual journey, immigrant rights, supporting trans life, living our Quaker faith LOUDLY, individual spiritual discernment, right balance in our use of things, cultural differences and racism, and personal spiritual narratives. Morning worshippers greeted the sunrise in reverent silence. Evening activities combined dancing and talent shows with videos and lectures on Quaker concerns.

The Meeting's plenary sessions received reports and considered weighty topics. Of particular concern was the ongoing wars in Gaza, Israel and Palestine, and Ukraine. Friends expressed concern for all victims of war. We were deeply affected by the violence in Gaza and heard reports from monthly meetings that made public statements calling for a permanent cease fire. Diminished attendance in monthly meetings is an abiding concern and Friends spoke urgently about the need for better coordination of youth programs and outreach to the wider community.

The SEYM Quaker Call Committee addressed pain SEYM Quakers are feeling from the brutal, heartless, and relentless assault upon our core values made by the current governmental administration in Florida and beyond. It is seeking a way of uniting SEYM Quakers behind a project or projects that will actively, but non-violently, respond to that assault by turning its own energy against itself, or by being a "pattern or example" of a better alternative than that which has been

chosen by the State of Florida. We are urged to accept responsibility for getting ourselves into physical, mental, and spiritual shape, in order to engage effectively in what increasingly feels like a direct spiritual conflict; to discern, accept, and fulfill the urgent call of the Spirit to live our spirituality clearly, proudly, and loudly, in order that we can respond to the Spirit in others, and they can respond to the Spirit in us.

The Walton Lecture and Retreats came to us from Hilary Burgin of Quaker Voluntary Service. Hilary gave us the marvelous analogy of Truth as a fractal pattern. In times of trouble, it can be difficult to find the divine, but we can always access something of the truth and find way forward. Focus on process, she encouraged us, not on outcomes. “We create what we are by doing the next thing next.”

Amy Richards captured the spirit of our gathering with a poem:

Battle weary heart despairing
Grief clouds in war worn caring
Yet love remains
In laughter of Friends of old and jesting banter
Popcorn singing dancing mirth
Renew our soul in new spring birth
Another day
Another year
Hope remains amidst the fear
Fear the dance business
Bringing the steps well-known
It feels so good to finally be home.
The work continues while Grace abounds
A soft sweet voice that Joy has found.
It is not lost as once was found
Just in the arms of Friends so dear
Stand fast threshing motions passing
A budget balanced

We depart in loving fellowship, glad in each other and our Quaker faith.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Quakers in Florida, southeast Georgia & South Carolina

Yearly Gathering
27 - 31 Third Month 2024

Youth Epistle

Dear Friends,

We want to share our experiences at the SEYM yearly gathering in 2024. This year's youth and young adult program theme was "The Friends We Are Becoming."

Thursday evening, we attended the talent show and watched several acts. One of our favorites was the kazoo band! Afterward, we made smores at the campfire.

The following day, we began the morning by journaling with Kathy Hersh. She brought a tree branch she found on her walk and asked us to write or draw whatever came to mind. This activity helped us be grounded together. Following this, we began our service project in which we created bags of assorted snacks to give to homeless shelters. We decorated and filled over 90 bags! In the afternoon, we did the high ropes course. During the course, we learned to trust and support each other and work as a team.

Most importantly, we learned our personal limits and to trust in our minds and bodies. We finished the day by participating in the intergenerational dance. This was a fun experience in which we learned to work together and to have patience with one another. We also frequently got yelled at by Gary.

We began Saturday morning by doing more journaling. We followed this with some worship sharing with queries centered around our theme. A visitor from FGC named Nova George joined us during our worship sharing. They were a delight to share space with. Following worship sharing, we had a meeting with attention to business. During which we discussed activities for next year, nominations for clerk positions, and the position of youth coordinator. We are excited to give our input and ideas to the new coordinator. We hope to find someone as inclusive, welcoming, and spiritually nurturing as Kody Hersh.

Later that afternoon, we went canoeing, where many of our youth learned the difficulties of communication and teamwork. This was also a time for them to ground themselves in nature. Afterward, some of our youth took part in intergenerational singing time. We ended Saturday evening with board games.

We ended the gathering by walking through the labyrinth on Easter Sunday and having an egg hunt.

Lastly, we call on the community to support and advocate for the youth program. Your support is crucial in amplifying our voices and ensuring our continued growth and development within the community.