

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends
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Fall 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, 13 Tenth Month, 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time

and

Fall 2023 Interim Business Meeting

Saturday, 14 Tenth Month 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time

Documents In Advance

We will be gathering via video teleconference on Zoom and in person at
Sarasota Meetinghouse, 3139 57th Street, Sarasota, Florida

Fall Executive Committee Meeting AND Interim Business Meeting
use the same zoom login information

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86708437659?pwd=SzE0Ky9nQmINU2tPTXRPNDhkdnIRdz09>

Meeting ID: 867 0843 7659

Passcode: 219945

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,86708437659#,,,,*219945# US

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Dial by your location

• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 309 205 3325 US

• +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 867 0843 7659

Passcode: 219945

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Ad hoc Committee to Create a Harassment Policy and
Standing Crisis Response Process Report
SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting
14 Tenth Month 2023

When the ad hoc crisis response committee completed its work in fall 2021, it made recommendations that were accepted and committed to by SEYM:

Formation of a second committee tasked with creating an SEYM harassment policy and standing crisis response process.

The plan was for this committee to develop training for all individuals attending an SEYM event, regardless of formal involvement with the youth program. The hope was that all members of the yearly meeting would be able to contribute to an atmosphere that is inclusive and safe for all attendees, and particularly our youth and vulnerable adults.

This committee has not been laid down, but it has stagnated; two members are all that is left.

I am asking Friends who have gifts that will help this committee to step forward and volunteer for this important work. If you are a trained social worker, a survivor who has been through the healing process, someone trained in trauma-informed care or a deep commitment to the safety of others, please consider joining us.

Our goal is to bring the final draft of this policy to annual gathering 2024 for approval.

Peace,
Cheryl Demers-Holton
CAPP Coordinator

Ad hoc Florida Retirement Community Committee Report

SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting

14 Tenth Month 2023

At the Annual Gathering of SEYM in April of this year, the Yearly Meeting approved the following minute:

23YBM03 SEYM approves exploration of the creation of a physical space in Florida in which Friends and others may gather to model The Blessed Community, whether through a retirement community, a K-12 school, an InterFaith Conference Center, or some combination thereof. To that end, SEYM authorizes the *ad hoc* Florida Retirement Community Committee to survey all SEYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups regarding their interest in participating in a joint effort to implement this concept within SEYM. APPROVED”

Communications authorized by that minute were sent from the Yearly Meeting office, and from this Committee to all Monthly Meetings in SEYM. Daniel Vaughen presented “The Quaker Vision for SEYM” to St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting, and to Orlando Monthly Meeting. It was received with interest in both meetings, but neither Monthly Meeting took positive action. No other Monthly Meeting or Worship Group in SEYM expressed an interest in learning more about it.

This Committee, originally resurrected in view of interest expressed by Kendal Corporation (kendal.org) in constructing a retirement community in Florida for the mid-level market, has learned that Kendal has since abandoned any Florida project, in favor of similar projects in California and elsewhere.

This Committee has therefore completed the tasks assigned to it as an *ad hoc* committee of SEYM. It accordingly recommends that it now be laid down by the Yearly Meeting.

The Quaker Vision for SEYM, however, did spark interest at the Annual Gathering of SEYM in April. Friends there sensed a need to respond in some tangible and public way to the frontal attack upon our Testimonies emanating from the political and religious right.

This attempt to unify around an undefined, all-Quaker Vision, seemed to those present at the Annual Gathering to hold some potential for fulfilling George Fox’s call to become “patterns and examples” for the communities in which we live.

We recommend, therefore, that the Quaker Vision for SEYM, itself, NOT be laid down. It should, instead, be further seasoned and re-defined. It could perhaps be assigned to a new *ad hoc* committee. Such a Vision seems to serve two important, and parallel objectives: one, to re-unite and re-energize Quakers, while simultaneously, and non-violently, resisting political pressure upon our core Testimonies.

We note that a similar motive produced the Quaker Call To Action: (<http://www.quakercall.net>.) We recommend that SEYM endorse the Quaker Call To Action and appoint a new *ad hoc* committee to explore whether the Spirit that led to the Quaker Vision for SEYM and the Spirit that led to the Quaker Call for Action, have a common source and, if so, whether SEYM is led by that Spirit to take some specific action within Florida or SEYM. One suggestion for a name for such an *ad hoc* committee is “The Quaker Call Committee.”

Peace,
Daniel R Vaughen, Clerk

Archives Committee Report
SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting
14 Tenth Month 2023

The work organizing and weeding our collection at the University of Florida Library in Gainesville has continued over the past two years during weeks when a room for working in is available and the staff can help us access the records. This recent work has been done solely by Bill Rapp as Phoebe and Neil have been unable to due to her illness.

Our Committee thanks our monthly meetings that have sent in their recent records in electronic form. This helps conserve space and makes them easier to catalog. However, if the records are only on paper, we will gratefully accept them for the collection.

The Committee has decided that we need some younger help. By younger, we mean someone(s) in their sixties who can go up and down stairs.

Bill Rapp
Archives Committee

Committee for Ministry on Racism Report
SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting
14 Tenth Month 2023

The Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR) met regularly during the summer except for August.

We focused on:

- 1) Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition's initiative to establish a Truth and Healing Commission which would hold national hearings on the historic Indian boarding school generational trauma and the missing indigenous presumed buried in unmarked graves near the original schools. Friends everywhere are called on by Friends Committee on National Legislation to write to their Senators and House reps to push for S.1723 Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.
- 2) We have recently learned that Plains Indians were incarcerated in the Castillo de San Marcos fort in St. Augustine as Prisoners Of War during the conquest of the West. We understand that the University of Central Florida has a research team working on disclosing more information. The St. Augustine Worship Group has also been looking into this. As soon as we have more complete information, we will share it with the Yearly Meeting.
- 3) Dr. Marvin Dunn's TEACH THE TRUTH Black history bus tours. On October 8-9, students from Stetson University will take the tour. Dr. Dunn is willing to lead a private, one-day tour from DeLand, which would include Mims and the Harry Moore house and museum and a trip to Ocoee, the site of a massacre of Blacks and burn out of their homes in 1920. He will advise us re the costs.
- 4) We invited Guadalupe de la Cruz, Florida Director for American Friends Service Committee, to join our zoom in June to inform us about the changes in immigration laws affecting Floridians under the DeSantis administration. Many migrants have left the state in fear of being jailed and deported.

CMOR spent most of our September meeting discussing the National Quaker Call to Action and the rise of anti-Semitism in Florida. Minerva Glidden discussed recent events in Orlando. Neo-Nazi groups have made bold public demonstrations using vile language and aggressive behavior towards people in public. Some Friends from the Orlando Worship Group witnessed in solidarity at a local synagogue which has been targeted by these extremist groups.

Kathy Hersh, clerk

Gathering Committee Report

SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting

14 Tenth Month 2023

We will be returning to Dayspring Camp and Conference Center for our 2024 Annual Gathering, March 27-31.

We're excited that Hilary Burgin will be the Walton Lecture and Retreat Leader. Hilary has been director of Quaker Voluntary Service for several years. In addition to her work with young adults, she has co-led workshops on being faithful (with Marcelle Martin) and on renewing our Meetings.

Liz Dykes is now serving as co-clerk of our committee and Shawna Doran is also joining us to assist with registration and other work.

We will have more details to report at FIBM.

Vicki Carlie, co-clerk

Worship and Ministry Committee Report

SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting
14 Tenth Month 2023

Dear Friends of SEYM,

The SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee continues its commitment to provide opportunities for spiritual growth for SEYM Meetings and Worship Groups and the Yearly Meeting as a whole. We are inspired by the words of Jon Martin, Britain Yearly Meeting:

Early Quakers strongly believed that the divine light was within everyone, that all were equal and that every person could know and be transformed by their own, immediate experience of God. From prison reform to equal marriage, conscientious objection to ethical business, Quakers haven't always had the answers but have always tried to live up to the testimonies of peace, equality, simplicity, and truth that arise from our faith. We open ourselves further to the challenge of living as faithful, passionate, and committed Quakers, welcoming anyone who seeks to join us in our work and worship. Because while Quaker meetings are rooted in stillness, Quakerism is made for turbulent times.

Since Yearly Meeting Gathering and Summer EC, we have answered this challenge by:

1. Beginning to organize the 2024 Michener Lecture. The tentative title is: "Let it Burn!" and will be offered by Ann Jerome, who is currently a Friend in Residence at Pendle Hill.
2. Providing Queries for the Journey to the SEYM newsletter and website for use by Meetings and individuals.
3. Providing opportunities for SEYM Friends to participate in Extended Worship experiences via Zoom. The next opportunity for this experience is 4 Eleventh Month.
4. Facilitating the online Seekers Book Club focusing on spiritual texts. The current book is "*Presence: Recognizing the Divine in Your Everyday Life*, by Mary G. Jackson.
5. Offering an online workshop on Forgiveness as Spiritual Practice, with Sue Regen 19-21 Fifth Month.
6. New opportunities for online presentations are forthcoming and will be announced in the SEYM newsletter and website.

Listening Project Update:

The Listening Project began at the request of the SEYM Executive Committee (SEYM/EC) in the June 2022 Interim Business Meeting. In our interviews with Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, we asked how SEYM could be more helpful to them. After nearly a year, SEYM Worship and Ministry laid down this ministry. Since then, the SEYM website has been redesigned, and resources and links added, increasing opportunities for connection among Friends. Thank you to Vicki Carlie and Susan Wade for doing this work. We continue, however, to request that SEYM/EC follow up to see if attention is being given regarding other parts of the report's recommendations as a matter of integrity, because the needs and requests listed are representative of SEYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups and were gathered at Executive Committee's request.

A related matter is a concern that has been raised regarding Meetings and Worship Groups in the position of experiencing shrinking numbers, lack of energy, aging membership, a small few carrying all the work, and Quaker process not necessarily being followed. There is more than one Monthly Meeting/Worship Group in this situation. We ask the SEYM/EC to find way forward to address these serious concerns and consider options for revitalization or movement in another direction for these Friends.

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

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