

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Gathering & Annual Sessions

16th to 20th Fourth Month 2025
DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center
8411 25th Street East
Parrish, Florida, 34219

AGENDAS DOCUMENTS IN ADVANCE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 61st Annual Gathering of Southeastern Yearly Meeting!

You are invited to join us in the annual renewal of our ties of fellowship, both within this yearly meeting, and as we welcome visitors from afar and first-time attenders to our blessed gathering community!

This SEYM Annual Gathering will be held in person at the DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center in Parrish, Florida. This Gathering will use a typical in-person schedule with many events held each day and with multiple workshops occurring at the same time. Our plan is to conduct Meetings for Worship with attention to Business in a hybrid manner to allow remote participation and to make some other portions of the program available via video conference. The amount of the program that will be available to remote participants will be limited due to the compressed schedule and the limited availability of technology and volunteers to manage it.

We look forward to this in-person Gathering and feel it will provide opportunities to greet Friends from throughout our Yearly Meeting as well as Friends Organizations around the country and for the deep listening for the guidance of the Spirit in all we are led to undertake together. The good news as of this writing is that registration for this Gathering suggests that people are very interested in being together again!

We are especially pleased to bring you Daquanna Harrison as our Walton Lecturer and facilitator for two retreat sessions. The theme for this Gathering is **Seeking the Wellspring of Audacious Hope, strength & courage for uncertain times**, we will explore how we nurture ourselves spiritually and carry our witness into more challenging times.

The order of business for these sessions will follow the form of our previous In-person Gatherings. My continued intent is to move the usual housekeeping matters along more efficiently to leave more time to share and explore how spirit moves among us in our Meetings and organizations.

Please attend to these and other documents in advance that are likely to be transmitted electronically prior to the gathering. Your attention to these documents will assist the clerk and the community to avoid long presentations on otherwise routine matters.

The success of our Gathering will always depend on your participation.

Plenary 1 will again be an open meeting / worship group forum to share where we are finding strength and renewal in these challenging times? How are we maintaining our witness as a united community? Where do our leadings take us in this time of created division and exclusion?

Again, welcome to our 61st Yearly Meeting Gathering. You are invited to have some fun, learn something new, and be renewed as we love each other in the Spirit.

In Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Carlie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "B" and "C".

Bill Carlie, clerk, SEYM

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Meeting for Worship
with a Concern for Business

Executive Committee Meeting (Online only)
11th Fourth Month 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Plenary Sessions and Walton Lecture
In Person and Online
16th to 20th Fourth Month 2025

. . . We are not for Names, nor Men, nor Titles of Government, nor are we for this Party, nor against the other, because of its Name and Pretense; **but we are for Justice and Mercy, and Truth and Peace, and true Freedom, that these may be exalted in our Nation; and that Goodness, Righteousness, Meekness, Temperance, Peace and Unity with God, and one with another, that these things may abound** . . . such a Government are we seeking and waiting for, wherein *Truth and Righteousness, Mercy and Justice, Unity and Love, and all the Fruits of Holiness* may abound; and the contrary be removed, cast out, and limited.

Edward Burrough, 1659

Edward Burrough died in prison at age 29 for publicly voicing this Truth.

Zoom login information is the same for Executive Committee meeting, Plenary Sessions, and Walton Lecture:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86286152431?pwd=aLQvdGE6BTUGKNtCHV7RGt0dw3WLEd.1>

Meeting ID: 862 8615 2431

Passcode: 468119

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,86286152431#,,,,*468119# US

+16469313860,,86286152431#,,,,*468119# US

Dial by your location

- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)
- +1 507 473 4847 US

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kvZOjrHJV>

Executive Committee Meeting:
11th Fourth Month 2025, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Online only

Agenda

Opening Worship

Nominating Committee Report
YM Secretary’s Report

General reports from committees should be brief at EC and bring forward issues needing an EC minute (as needed). There is no need to go into details that are within the Documents in Advance and will be provided to the body at plenary during YBM sessions, New issues not in the DIAs needing discernment should be brought forward at EC to the extent these matters are prepared. Routine information can be presented to the body at the appropriate YBM plenary.

Treasurer’s Report

Finance Committee Report16

Trustees Report 20

Half Yearly Meeting Committee Report

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Ad hoc Quaker Call Committee Report14

Peace & Social Concerns Committee

Worship & Ministry Committee..... 21

CAPP Program

Clearwater Monthly Meeting Minute Opposing Change in Policy 23

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting Minute in Support of Litigation..... 26

Committee for Ministry on Racism Letter in Support of Litigation..... 27

Earthcare Committee

Gathering Committee Report

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report..... 22

Field Secretary for Earthcare Report

Archives Committee

Representatives to Organizations (if required for a proposed EC action minute)

Minutes, letters, and statements in support of litigation to limit immigration raids in places of worship

- Saint Petersburg Monthly Meeting Minutes of Support of Litigation 24
- Tallahassee Monthly Meeting Minute in Support of Litigation 26
- Committee for Ministry on Racism Letter in Support of Litigation..... 27
- Southeastern Yearly Meeting Letter in Support of Litigation 28
- Tallahassee Monthly Meeting Letter in Support of Litigation..... 29

Review of minutes

Closing Worship

Plenary Sessions and the Walton Lecture
In-person and via zoom
16 – 20 Fourth Month 2025

First Plenary Session – 16th Fourth Month 2025, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET

Open, centering worship
A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, and/or a Friend’s writing
Welcome
Open Forum Meetings and Worship Groups, Where we are finding strength and renewal in these challenging times? How are we maintaining our witness as a united community?
Closing Worship

Second Plenary Session – 17th Fourth Month 2025, 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. ET

Agenda
Centering Worship / Reading of inspirational quote
Announcements
Calling of Epistle Committee
Treasurer’s Report
Finance Committee, first reading of the SEYM budget16
Roll Call of Meetings and Worship Groups
Acceptance of EC and IBM Minutes, (*please refer to documents in advance as clerk intends to call for acceptance of these Minutes as published*) 7-12
Nominating Committee, First Reading of Nominations Report
Trustees Report 20
Review of the Minutes
Closing Worship

Third Plenary Session – 18th Fourth Month 2025, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

Open, centering worship
A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend’s writing
Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced
Announcements
Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report..... 22
Youth Committee Report
Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report
Worship and Ministry Committee Report.....21
Committee for Ministry on Racism Report
Ad hoc Quaker Call Committee Report14
Review of Minutes
Closing Worship

Fourth Plenary Session – 19th Fourth Month 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ET

Opening Worship
A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend’s writing.
Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced.

Announcements

Representatives to Organizations & Visitors from Organizations:

- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
- Friends General Conference (FGC)
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)
- Friends Peace Teams (FPT)
- Florida Council of Churches
- Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC)
- Palmetto Friends Gathering
- Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)
- Quaker House
- Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

Observers to Organizations:

- Friends United Meeting (FUM) General Board Observers

Review of minutes

Closing worship

Fifth Plenary Session – 19th Fourth Month 2025, 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. ET

Open, centering worship.

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend's writing.

Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced.

Announcements

Field Secretary for Earthcare Report

Publications Committee Report

Archives Committee Report

Earthcare Committee Report

Review of Minutes

Closing Worship

Sixth Plenary Session – 20th Fourth Month 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. ET

Open, centering worship.

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend's writing.

Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced

Announcements.

Nominating Committee Report, final reading

Finance Committee Report (budget) final reading

Gathering Committee Report

Reading of the Epistle

Review of Minutes

Closing Worship

Meeting for Worship – 20th Fourth Month 2025, 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. ET

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Specially Called Executive Committee Meeting

17 Fourth Month 2024

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 24SpCEC01** SEYM Executive Committee agrees to engage Nick Harvey of Withers Harvey in Gainesville to represent SEYM and Gainesville Friends Meeting in answering the notice of the suit to dismiss the will of Georgia Guin, of which both SEYM & GFM are beneficiaries.
APPROVED
- 24SpCEC02** Executive Committee appoints Finance Committee with the clerk of SEYM to work with the attorney and GFM on day-to-day parts of the case. For any substantive decisions the clerk will call an EC meeting.
APPROVED
- 24SpCEC03** SEYM agrees to split the ongoing costs of legal counsel with GFM proportional to the residual estate percentages: one third coming from GFM and two thirds coming from SEYM.
APPROVED

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Summer Executive Committee Meeting

22 Sixth Month 2024

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 24SEC01** SEYM Executive Committee requests the clerk of SEYM call a special session of Yearly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business to address the request of DeLand Worship Group in unity with Orlando Monthly Meeting that DeLand Worship Group be established and recognized as a Monthly Meeting affiliated with SEYM in a manner consistent with the clerk's report received on June 22, 2024. The Specially Called Yearly Business Meeting will be held on 31 Eighth Month 2024.
APPROVED.
- 24SEC02** The Clerk is authorized to prepare and deliver to Joel Cook a travel minute in standard form.
APPROVED.
- 24SEC03** The Treasurer requests that \$600.00 be transferred from the Contingency Fund to pay the consultant who is assisting SEYM to properly close its financial books of account dating back several years and related issues, and who will audit any financial entry in excess of \$2,500.00 going forward.
APPROVED.
- 24SEC04** The *ad hoc* Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Search Committee recommends that SEYM employ Rachel Dellinger to fill the position of Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, at the salary previously set for the half-time position by at Yearly Business Meeting minute 24YBM05.
APPROVED.
- 24SEC05** A Support Committee for the Youth and Young Adult Coordinator consisting of William Carlie, YM clerk, Cheryl Demers-Holton, CAPP Coordinator, on behalf of the Executive Committee, and Susan Vaughen and Amanda Farrar, on behalf of the Youth Committee, is appointed.
APPROVED.
- 24SEC06** Having completed its work, the *ad hoc* Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Search Committee is laid down.
APPROVED.
- 24SEC07** The Executive Committee of Southeastern Yearly Meeting thanks Tampa Friends for their warm hospitality during the 22 Sixth Month 2024 meeting.
APPROVED.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Specially Called Yearly Business Meeting

31 Eighth Month 2024

NUMBERED MINUTE

24SpCYM 01 Southeastern Yearly Meeting Friends, in consideration of the number of Seasoned Friends in DeLand Worship Group who contribute their time and leadership skills to the life of our community, and in recognition of the vital work DeLand Worship Group has taken on that Testifies to Quaker values within their community and more broadly, SEYM Friends unite to recognize and warmly welcome Friends worshipping as DeLand Worship Group as a Monthly Meeting affiliated with Southeastern Yearly Meeting.

APPROVED

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Fall Interim Business Meeting

5 Tenth Month 2024

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 24FIBM01** Beverly Ward’s nomination to the Archives Committee is accepted.
APPROVED
- 24FIBM02** Funds set aside for SEYM representative travel to international Quaker gatherings may be used to send a young adult representative to the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, gathering in Arizona in March 2025.
APPROVED.
- 24FIBM03** Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends of Truth responds to the call from the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and the Decolonizing Quakers Working Group as presented by the Committee for Ministry on Racism. We further realize that we have an obligation to this process of investigation and amends regardless of any monetary support we historically may or may not have provided. Beverly Ward, a member of SEYM’s Committee for Ministry on Racism, will coordinate the research and report any pertinent findings.
APPROVED
- 24FIBM04** Friends authorize the creation of a new accounting fund for the purpose of supporting the establishment of an independent Quaker School at Fort Myers, Florida, as described in the Covenant between Fort Myers Monthly Meeting and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Myers. The fund is authorized to receive donations from Southeastern Yearly Meeting, individuals, monthly meetings, and/or outside organizations. Distribution of those funds will be made upon approval of, and direction by, the SEYM Executive Committee, or its designees.
- 24FIBM05** Friends authorize the Trustees to transfer to the new accounting fund the amount of \$15,000 from the unrestricted funds managed by the Trustees.
APPROVED
- 24FIBM06** Southeastern Yearly Meeting and its Executive Committee thank Saint Petersburg Friends for their warm hospitality during the 04-05 Tenth Month, 2024 meetings.
APPROVED

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

Winter Executive Committee Meeting
24 First Month 2025

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 25WEC01** Winter Executive Committee recommends that Winter Interim Business Meeting lay down Minutes 24FIBM04 and 24FIBM0 and any further discernment on the proposed covenant between Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM), Fort Myers Monthly Meeting, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Myers.
APPROVED.
- 25WEC02** Winter Executive Committee recommends that the issues brought forward by the *ad hoc* Quaker Call Committee be forwarded to Yearly Business Meeting.
APPROVED
- 25WEC03** Winter Executive Committee recommends to Winter Interim Business Meeting that if a monthly meeting, worship group, or yearly meeting committee, wishes to draft a public statement on behalf of Southeastern Yearly Meeting, the meeting, group, or committee, should send a well-seasoned draft of the proposed statement to the Yearly Meeting (YM) Clerk. The YM Clerk will then distribute that draft to the Executive Committee (EC) for discussion and discernment, calling a meeting of the EC if necessary, to reach unity on an appropriate statement for publication.
APPROVED

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
Winter Interim Business Meeting
25 First Month 2025

NUMBERED MINUTES

25WIBM01 The Winter Executive Committee minutes were approved as read.
APPROVED

25WIBM02 WIBM grants the request of the Committee for Ministry on Racism that the SEYM yearly meeting in 2025 “become an anti-racist yearly meeting in earnest” and set aside time for an interactive plenary session with all attenders at the yearly meeting encouraged to participate.
APPROVED

25WIBM03 Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends expresses deep gratitude for the hospitality of Orlando Monthly Meeting in hosting the Winter Interim Business Meeting, providing abundant food, a loving welcome, and a warm meetinghouse in which Friends joined in worship and business.
APPROVED.

25WIBM04 Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends expresses heartfelt gratitude to Susan Wade for her hard work for SEYM, and her untiring dedication to the upbuilding of our Quaker Community.
APPROVED

2025 SEYM MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Meeting Name	A	AC	S	F	FC	G	GC	M	MC	N	NC	ND	D	Total	Adjusted	
	Attender	Attender Child	Sojourner	Member other YM	Mem Child other YM	Mem other SEYM/MM	Mem Child other MM	Member	Mem. Child	Non-Res. Member	Non-Res. M.Child	Non-Res. Dual Mem	Dual Member	Attendees	Members	(***)TOTAL
Charleston MM	6							6		1				6	7	13
Clearwater MM	10			5				11						15	11	26
Deland MM	16		1			3**		9						17	9	29
Fort Lauderdale MM	3			2				2						5	2	7
Fort Myers MM	22			4				11		7	1		1	26	20	46
Gainesville MM	13	2						27		18				15	45	60
Halifax UMM*	11													11	0	11
Havana UWG*	9													9	0	9
Jacksonville WG	8			4		1**								12	0	13
Key West WG*	11	1												12	0	12
Lake Wales WG	1					4**								1	0	5
Managua WG	3	1	2											6	0	6
Melbourne, Q M of	2			1				15		3			1	3	19	22
Miami MM	5							27		15			2	5	44	49
Orlando MM	22	13						26		17	1			35	44	79
Palm Beach MM	9							2		15				9	17	26
St. Augustine WG	16			3		6**								19	0	25
St. Petersburg MM	16	1						26		13			2	17	39	56
Sarasota MM	4			5				15						9	17	26
Savannah MM	7							7						7	7	14
Tallahassee MM	13							34		6				13	40	53
Tampa MM	7							14		2				9	16	25
Treasure Coast WG	2			1		3**								3	0	6
Winter Park MM	3							3						3	3	6
2025 TOTALS	219	18	3	25	17	235	97	1	1	6	265	340	340	340	340	340

Total Attendees = all A, AC, F, FC, & S records
Total Members = all D, M, MC, N, NC & ND records

*Previous Year's Totals
 **Not counted in Total Attendees are all G & GC records, which are counted in the N & NC records of the MM where their membership resides.
 The adjusted total includes all persons rostered at a meeting or worship group.

edlebrick

SEYM Membership Recorder

March 12 2025

SEYM *ad hoc* Quaker Call Committee Report

Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting

16 – 20 Fourth Month 2025

The SEYM *ad hoc* Quaker Call Committee meets faithfully and in search of Spirit as it responds to the charge from SEYM which was given to us in October 2023 at Fall Interim Business Meeting. The charge reads as follows:

The SEYM ad hoc Quaker Call Committee is charged with discerning 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 in Florida intended to counter the principles and values of the Religious Society of Friends. In their discernment, consideration may be given to establish one or more Quaker Schools, Interfaith Conference Centers, or other multiple-Meeting sponsored educational projects likely to benefit the wider community.

The Quaker Call Committee has spent much time in discernment and extensive research in response to this charge and especially the leading to bring educational opportunities founded in Quaker principles and values to our communities. During our discernment process, we have kept the Executive Director of the Friend's Council on Education informed of our various activities and remain encouraged by the Quaker support. Way has continually opened for various opportunities to establish a Quaker School or schools in Florida. When presented to Friends and non-Friends, we are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the idea of making available any and all such programs and varying genres possibly available for both children and adult education. We remain excited that many Friends although not on this Committee have a strong desire for continuance as we foresee the creation of one or more Quaker Schools in Florida. This *ad hoc* committee has faithfully pursued this leading to the limit of its power.

Our research and minutes are recorded and can be used readily. We believe this information provides an excellent foundation for continuing the formation of Quaker educational programs.

The Quaker Call Committee, after much time in deep discernment recognizes a special leading of bringing educational opportunities founded in Quaker principles and values to our communities, and the importance, if not absolute necessity, of the establishment of one or more Quaker Schools.

We are in unity that the next step in this path is the formation of a committee, to continue pursuing this leading, and having the necessary authority to respond to contractual and fiduciary obligations that may occur.

This vision is foremost in our hearts as we present to Executive Committee a suggested minute(s) for approval by SEYM.

We are proposing SEYM draft minutes to include:

- SEYM will establish a SEYM standing committee that will be charged to seek thoughtfully plans to establish a Quaker school or schools in Florida, and thereafter, will lay down the *ad hoc* Quaker Call Committee.

- The \$15,000 seed money from unrestricted funds, which was originally directed at FIBM 2024 to be used for specific school funding* will now be directed to support the activity of a standing “School Committee”. (Which will be referred to as such until another name for the committee is determined).
- The School Committee will have the authority to hire professional persons, companies or organizations to help with the establishment of a school(s) in Florida. This Committee will have the ability to assure corporate status for the school(s) and seek legal counsel or other viable consulting sources to comply with all local, state or federal requirements.
- The School Committee will invite the SEYM Youth Coordinator and SEYM Youth Committee to participate in all the meetings and activities of the School Committee.
- There will be no restrictions as to the form of education, student numbers, location, nor format for learning (for example: brick and mortar, virtual, etc.). Neither will there be any prejudice as to applicants, staff and students based on age, religion, sex, citizenship, financial status, ethnic origin, or political persuasion.
- The School Committee will assure that any educational program(s) is based on Quaker values as outlined in a written Mission Statement for that school and that proposed teaching program(s) be reviewed on an ongoing basis to reflect these values.
- Once a school is established there must be a minimum of one Member of the Religious Society of Friends on the Board at all times as recommended by Friend's Council on Education.
- Donations will be accepted to the School Committee from Friends and others, both within SEYM and elsewhere and a line item created for this purpose will be maintained. If the source of any donation appears inconsistent with our values, it will be brought before SEYM Executive Committee.
- Every effort will be made to provide scholarships for students who wish to attend any Quaker school and are not financially able. Seeking donations to help these students may include soliciting in the communities that benefit from the programs offered to children and adults in that area.

**Minute: The Southeastern Yearly Meeting Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 is amended by the addition of a new Line 9000 Expense, “Out To Other Classes,” in the amount of \$15,000, for the purpose of starting an Independent Quaker School in Ft, Myers, Florida. That amount shall be initially funded by the Trustees. It shall be disbursed or increased by donations from monthly meetings, other public and private entities, and individuals, upon the approval, and at the direction, of the Executive Committee, or its designees.”*

We hope that our suggestions offer Members of SEYM a better understanding of the SEYM *ad hoc* Committee's vision for a way forward to establishment a School Committee which can serve the children and adults in our communities who are more in need than ever of having caring Friends provide a non-judgmental safe environment in which than can thrive and be the best they can be.

Finance Committee Report

Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting

16 – 20 Fourth Month 2025

Dear SEYM Friends,

A proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 is attached. Each line compares both the current and the proposed budget. It has previously been provided to monthly meetings and worship groups with a request for all interested parties to review, comment, and suggest changes before the final draft budget is presented for approval at the 2025 Annual Gathering.

The Finance Committee requested specific consideration and comments regarding Category 5000 - Donations to Organizations. One person responded with individual opinions, but not on behalf of their meeting.

The Finance Committee also asked monthly meetings and worship groups, and all SEYM officers and clerks of standing, and ad hoc committees, to share with us their assessment of SEYM's financial health and projections for the future. No one responded.

The Finance Committee asked for “bold, creative, and specific suggestions” for revisions to the budget. The Finance Committee asked specific questions to prompt specific responses. None were received. One person expressed a personal opinion that it was difficult to work with an SEYM Fiscal Year that differs from the more common calendar fiscal year adopted by most Monthly Meetings.

The Finance Committee therefore has no information on which to base specific recommendations to SEYM about its 2025-2026 Annual Budget, or how to improve its process of reporting and adopting the Annual Budget.

We are hoping for a dialog between the SEYM Finance Committee and all interested parties between now and the Annual Gathering, in order that we may address as many issues and ideas as possible before the YBM plenary sessions.

Please contact the Clerk, or any member of the Committee, to participate.

The Committee members are:

Neil Andersen, Clerk of Trustees

Joel Cook, SEYM Treasurer

Shawna Doran, Gainesville MM

Amanda Farrar, St. Augustine WG

Carl Hersh, DeLand Quaker Meeting

Lewis Kirvan, Gainesville MM

Dianna Langan, Bookkeeper, St. Petersburg MM/St. Augustine WG

Daniel Vaughn, Clerk of the Committee, DeLand QM

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Proposed Budget for
Fiscal Year 2025 to 2026
June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026

12/20/2024

Cash Basis

	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
	<u>FY 2024-2025</u>	<u>FY 2025-2026</u>
Income		
2000 · Income		
2001 · Donations		
2002 · Indivd.Donations-Classes	4,000.00	4,000.00
2003 · Meeting Donations - Apportionements	104,150.00	108,052.00
Total 2001 · Donations	108,150.00	112,052.00
2200 · Investment Earnings		
2203 · Savings Account Interest	5.00	3.00
Total 2000 · Income	108,155.00	112,055.00
2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes		
2712 · Michener Lect. to GF/insurance	210.00	210.00
2732 · Gath/Walton to GF/insurance	1,200.00	1,200.00
2752 · HYM to GF/insurance	590.00	590.00
2815 · for Bertsche Outreach Travel	2,500.00	2,500.00
2820 · for Staff Salary	5,500.00	5,500.00
Total 2804 · from Trustee's Funds	8,000.00	8,000.00
Total 2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes	10,000.00	10,000.00
Total Income	118,155.00	122,055.00
Expense		
3000 · Operating Costs		
3001 · Bank Service Charges	360.00	0.00
3002 · PayPal service fee	100.00	75.00
3080 · Duplication	1,500.00	1,000.00
3106 · Liability Insurance	2,000.00	2,000.00
3107 · Youth Worker CAP Certification	200.00	200.00
3146 · Non-Profit Corporation Fee	65.00	65.00
3200 · Office Supplies	800.00	600.00
3270 · Payroll Expenses	73,500.00	75,705.00
3272 · Employer Payroll Taxes	4,800.00	7,500.00
3380 · Postage/Shipping	400.00	300.00
3381 · Post Office Box rental	300.00	350.00
3400 · Office Equipment	400.00	200.00
Total 3500 · Professional Fees	740.00	1,400.00
Total 3640 · Rent warehouse/office	2,480.00	3,140.00
3700 · Repairs		
3740 · Computer Repairs	250.00	200.00
3816 · Software	2,600.00	2,000.00
3840 · Telephone & Inet access	1,600.00	1,600.00
3860 · Travel Administrative	1,000.00	2,000.00
Total 3900 · Website	560.00	700.00
Total 3000 · Operating Costs	93,655.00	99,035.00

4000 · Committees Operating Expenses		
4309 · Archives	100.00	50.00
4329 · EC and IBM	100.00	50.00
4339 · Faith and Practice	25.00	10.00
4349 · Finance	25.00	50.00
4359 · Nominating	25.00	10.00
4369 · Peace and Social Concerns	450.00	50.00
4389 · Youth Committee	25.00	10.00
4399 · Worship and Ministry	2,300.00	2,300.00
4429 · Earthcare	25.00	10.00
4449 · Publications	25.00	10.00
4469 · Racism, Ministry on	25.00	10.00
4479 · SEYM Retirement Committee	0.00	0.00
4489 · Young Adult Quakers	25.00	10.00
Total 4000 · Committees Operating Expenses	<u>3,150.00</u>	<u>2,570.00</u>
5000 · Donations to Organizations		
5007 · AFSC	200.00	200.00
5018 · Earlham School of Religion	100.00	100.00
5027 · FCNL	1,000.00	1,000.00
5028 · QEW (FCUN)	200.00	200.00
5030 · FLGBTQC	100.00	100.00
5037 · FGC	1,200.00	1,200.00
5038 · FLCoalition for Peace & Justice	100.00	100.00
5047 · Florida Council of Churches	200.00	200.00
5048 · Florida Impact	300.00	300.00
5057 · Friends Journal	100.00	100.00
5061 · Friends Peace Teams	500.00	500.00
5067 · FUM	500.00	500.00
5068 · FWCC	1,450.00	1,450.00
5077 · Pendle Hill	100.00	100.00
5085 · Quaker House of Fayetteville NC	200.00	200.00
5087 · Quaker Life	100.00	100.00
5089 · QUNO	100.00	100.00
5090 · NNABSHC	300.00	300.00
5097 · Friends House	100.00	100.00
Total 5000 · Donations to Organizations	<u>6,850.00</u>	<u>6,850.00</u>
8000 · Travel & Financial Aid		
8160 · Annual Representative	4,000.00	3,000.00
8360 · Attend SEYM-approved Activities	1,500.00	2,500.00
8460 · Travel Support to SEYM Business	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total 8000 · Travel & Financial Aid	<u>6,500.00</u>	<u>6,500.00</u>
Total 8500 · Contingency	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total 2999 · Expenses	112,155.00	116,955.00
9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes		
9004 · for Youth Programs	2,500.00	2,500.00
9005 · for Gathering Youth	2,000.00	2,000.00
9060 · for Quaker Int'l Meeting Travel	500.00	100.00
9062 · Intl WG Support	1,000.00	500.00
Total 9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>5,100.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>118,155.00</u>	<u>122,055.00</u>
Net Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

SEYM Apportionments FY2025-2026 Worksheet

Proposed Budget: \$ 122,055.00

Preliminary Apportionments: \$ 108,052.00

Membership Statistics as of 3/1/2024

Meeting Name	Attenders	Members	Units	Meeting
Charleston MM	6	7	10	\$ 2,262.87
Clearwater MM	15	15	23	\$ 5,091.46
Deland WG	9	0	5	\$ 1,018.29
Fort Lauderdale MM	5	2	5	\$ 1,018.29
Fort Myers MM	31	28	44	\$ 9,843.48
Gainesville MM	21	49	60	\$ 13,464.07
Halifax UMM	11	0	0	\$ -
Havana UWG	9	0	0	\$ -
Jacksonville WG	17	0	9	\$ 1,923.44
Key West WG	12	0	0	\$ -
Lake Wales WG	2	0	1	\$ 226.29
Managua WG	6	0	0	\$ -
Melbourne, Q M of	5	18	21	\$ 4,638.88
Miami MM	8	49	53	\$ 11,993.21
Orlando MM	42	54	75	\$ 16,971.52
Palm Beach MM	12	18	24	\$ 5,430.89
St. Augustine WG	27	0	14	\$ 3,054.87
St. Petersburg MM	16	26	34	\$ 7,693.75
Sarasota MM	6	17	20	\$ 4,525.74
Savannah MM	7	7	11	\$ 2,376.01
Tallahassee MM	13	41	48	\$ 10,748.63
Tampa MM	9	17	22	\$ 4,865.17
Treasure Coast WG (Included w/ PBMM)	0	0	0	\$ -
Winter Park MM	4	2	4	\$ 905.15
Totals	275	340	478	\$ 108,052.01

Preliminary Apportionments: \$ 108,052.00

Apportionment Per Unit: \$ 226.29

Trustees' Report

Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting

16 – 20 Fourth Month 2025

The SEYM investment assets are all managed by the Friends Fiduciary Corp. (FFC) headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, and as expected their market value is subject to the prevailing financial winds.

The total investments are divided into individual Investment Funds named within FFC, each with a specific purpose and all but one with restrictions as to their use. The “Unrestricted Fund” with its reinvested semi-annual dividends is available for support of unanticipated initiatives when authorized by the Yearly Meeting.

The Restricted Funds are by policy managed to preserve their principal amounts, while the periodic dividend payouts on these invested funds are used for specific purposes to benefit the Yearly Meeting.

The Treasurer Report shows the Trustees Funds pay dividends that provide useful benefits to the operations and programs of the Yearly Meeting. The FFC recommends a 4% annual dividend payout in order to best preserve each Fund's principal. These dividend payments are made to SEYM in June and December and are credited among the designated SEYM programs according to the individual restriction of each Investment Fund.

Some cash is retained in the Trustees' partitioned section of the SEYM checking bank account. It will be invested appropriately in FFC after the books have been settled for the Fiscal Year, except for an unrestricted amount held for any unanticipated Trustees expenditure which might be authorized.

Neil H. Andersen,
Clerk of Trustees

Worship and Ministry Committee Report

Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting

16 – 20 Fourth Month 2025

The SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee continues to strive toward fulfilling the call to be a spiritual presence and a conduit of Light to all Friends and beyond, especially during these uncertain times. We have held several individual and Monthly Meeting concerns in consideration for Spirit's guidance and loving care for those involved in the struggles.

We had a wonderful Michener Lecturer – Adria Gulizia-DiCapua – who spoke to us on the topic: *As the Good Shepherd: Leading and Being Led as Friends*. The lecture and following workshop were well-attended by Friends face-to-face and online. We are aware of the difficulties faced by online attenders and are working on solutions for future hybrid presentations. The video of Adria's presentation is available on our SEYM website as well as YouTube. Adria's lecture and workshop were spiritually uplifting, bringing hope to all in dark times.

We have a couple new online presentations in the works for this spring/summer. Specifically, Dwight Dunstan, host of Pendle Hill's podcast, *The Seed* is considering topics and dates to share with SEYM. We are also asking John Watts, founder of *QuakerSpeak* and *Thee Quaker* podcast.

Yearly Meeting Gathering, 16-20 Fourth Month, includes sessions sponsored by Worship & Ministry such as Cheryl Demers-Holton's workshop on naming gifts and ministry and knowing when to set these down, an opportunity for Extended Worship, our morning Worship Sharing sessions (quotes and queries discerned by Jan Dahm and Lisa Erasmus), and a Meeting for Remembrance (time and location to be determined as it did not fit into the schedule).

Overall, the Worship and Ministry Committee continues to seek new ways for Spirit to move Friends to bring the Light to all. We hold the spiritual nurture of all SEYM Friends as our concern and hold the leadings of individuals and Monthly Meetings/Worship Groups in our hearts. We ask that all continue to hold each other with a tender hand and listen deeply to where Spirit is leading us.

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

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report

Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting

16 – 20 Fourth Month 2025

Youth were an essential part of the SEYM community in 2025, making up more than half the participants at Half-Yearly Meeting and serving in leadership roles at several monthly meetings.

Gainesville was blessed with new young adults and small children and Orlando with young adults and teenagers. Of Orlando's ten youth, one teenager served as hospitality clerk, two others served on the hospitality committee, and another served on FGC's gathering committee. Young adults served as clerks and members of various other committees and regularly participated in business meetings.

Miami Monthly Meeting welcomed several new young families and currently has a young adult Friend serving as clerk of their meeting.

Meetings with only older members in attendance expressed an eagerness to see young people walk through their doors. Members of the DeLand Quaker Meeting have created a child-friendly space and even a first day school curriculum, adopting what they call an "if we build it, they will come" philosophy. They have also engaged their community by giving away books at public events and actively promoting the SEYM youth Instagram account.

In March, Gavin Sherrod (Orlando) will represent SEYM at the Friends World Committee for Consultation Young Adult Conference in Arizona.

Four SEYM youth will graduate from high school in May: Asma Roshi (Orlando), Daniel Humphrey (Orlando), Sam Courtois (Melbourne), and Aaron Olson (Miami). They will each receive a personalized card and a copy of *SEYM Faith and Practice*. **Please visit the youth and young adult display in the multipurpose room to sign their cards.**

One year has passed since SEYM created a youth and young adult coordinator position and 8 months since the position was filled. During this initial time, the position's focus was on creating structures from which the youth program could operate. Actions included training volunteers, meeting youth and families, updating contact lists, building a social media presence, visiting meetings, starting a mailing list and newsletter, corresponding with Quaker organizations, and seeking community partners. The coordinator also made efforts to educate herself on Quakerism and the state of Quaker youth through books, podcasts, and online classes. More importantly, the coordinator sought the guidance of Spirit and the wisdom and community of Friends. Please hold our youth workers in the light throughout the coming year as we minister to SEYM's youth and young adults and also make ourselves available to others who might seek refuge in our community.

Rachel Dellinger
SEYM Youth and Young Adult Coordinator

Clearwater Monthly Meeting Minute Opposing Change in Policy
Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting
16 – 20 Fourth Month 2025

To: Southeastern Yearly Meeting,
Bill Carley, Clerk
Susan Wade, SEYM Administrator

From: Clearwater Monthly Meeting
Mike Flanery, Clerk
Eileen Zingaro, Co-clerk Ministry and Counsel Committee

cc: Jo Hubbard, Recording Clerk, Clearwater Monthly Meeting

The following Minute was approved by Clearwater Monthly Meeting and being forwarded to you so that it may be considered an agenda item for SEYM consideration.

Minute:

February 2, 2025

The Clearwater Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) opposes the change in policy that allows members of any policing or law enforcement agency to enter a place of worship without notice and approval by the landlords of that site. We fully support the lawsuit initiated by New England, Philadelphia, and Baltimore Yearly Meetings and being litigated by lawyers of the Democracy Forward Foundation to challenge action(s) regarding the federal government conducting immigration-enforcement operations at houses of worship and other protected areas.

The lawsuit, filed in federal district court in Maryland claims that: "The very threat of that [immigration] enforcement deters congregants from attending services, especially members of immigrant communities, and asserts that going to religious services is fundamental to the guarantee of religious liberty.

Saint Petersburg Monthly Meeting Minutes of Support Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting 16 – 20 Fourth Month 2025

Minute of support for Friends General Conference

02.2025 SPM – 07

St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is united in our support for the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, *Mennonite Church USA, et al., v. United States Department of Homeland Security et al.*, as they ask the court to hold unlawful and set aside the Trump Administration’s rescission of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) ‘sensitive locations’ policy that, for over 30 years, had restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from conducting immigration raids, arrests, and other enforcement actions at houses of worship.

We steadfastly oppose the new policy that would allow ICE enforcement actions in Quaker meeting houses or any place of worship. Such actions would violate our Constitutional right to practice our religion free of interference from the federal government — by desecrating the sanctity of our Meetings for Worship, and by preventing us from obeying our sacred calling to provide a safe and welcoming community for any and all persons, regardless of their race, gender, or immigration status.

We also oppose the new policy because it would interfere with the Constitutional right of immigrants, whether documented or undocumented. The First Amendment protects the freedom of religion for all people in the United States, including undocumented immigrants; the Constitution protects people based on their personhood, not their citizenship status.

St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting is a member of Southeastern Yearly Meeting and is affiliated with Friends General Conference, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

Minute of support for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Adelphi Friends Meeting, and Richmond Friends Meeting

02.2025 SPM – 08

St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is united in our support for the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, *Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, et al., v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, et al.*

We offer our gratitude to the plaintiffs, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Adelphi Friends Meeting, and Richmond Friends Meeting, for being faithful and for acting swiftly and courageously to protect religious freedom. We will hold them in the light as they move forward in this lawsuit, which asks the court to set aside the Trump Administration’s rescission of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) ‘sensitive locations’ policy that, for over 30 years, had restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from conducting immigration raids, arrests, and other enforcement actions at houses of worship.

We steadfastly oppose allowing ICE enforcement actions in Quaker meeting houses or any place of worship. Such actions would violate our Constitutional right to practice our religion free of interference from the federal government — by desecrating the sanctity of our Meetings for Worship, and by preventing us from obeying our sacred calling to provide a safe and welcoming community for any and all persons, regardless of their race, gender, or immigration status.

We also oppose this new DHS policy because it would interfere with the Constitutional right of immigrants, whether documented or undocumented. The First Amendment protects the freedom of religion for all people in the United States, including undocumented immigrants; the Constitution protects people based on their personhood, not their citizenship status.

Tallahassee Monthly Minute in Support of Litigation

Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting

16 – 20 Fourth Month 2025

This is the numbered minute regarding the case, *Mennonite Church USA et al. v. United States Department of Homeland Security et al.* as it will appear in the archived in the Minutes of the Tallahassee Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Held in person at the Meetinghouse and remotely via Zoom on February 16, 2025.

02/16/2025-MFB-07 Tallahassee Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

strongly supports the lawsuit filed on February 11, 2025 by the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Prevention (ICAP) of Georgetown Law “on behalf of over two dozen Christian and Jewish religious denominations and associations in response to the Trump Administration’s rescission of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) ‘sensitive locations’ policy that had restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from conducting immigration raids, arrests, and other enforcement actions at houses of worship”, and other places. (Press Call, 2/11/2025) The case, *Mennonite Church USA et al. v. United States Department of Homeland Security et al.* A spiritual calling of all plaintiffs is that they “embrace and serve refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants in their midst without regard to documentation or legal status.” (Press Call, 2/11/2025).

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting is a member of Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM), which is affiliated with Friends General Conference (FGC), one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. We unite with the statement of General Secretary of FGC, Barry Crossno, “Quakers associated with Friends General Conference have long affirmed the dignity and worth of all people.” (Plaintiff testimonial)

A foundational Quaker belief is that the spirit of God lives equally within all people and therefore, Quakers work to be a part of bringing about conditions in which all people are able to live equitably and in harmony on Earth wherever they are, regardless of their place of birth or U.S. citizenship status. ICE’s using enforcement actions in Quaker meetinghouses (places of worship) and other places of worship would violate the right of Quakers and others to practice their religious beliefs and the rights of immigrants to worship where and as they choose and live the life they desire. The entire faith community is harmed when immigrants fear to come because of the threat of ICE action, or when they are removed from the community by that action. Everyone is essential in discerning the direction of the Divine in the life of a faith community and for experiencing the joy of that connection together.

Isaac Pennington, one of the earliest Quakers, summarized well another spiritual foundation of the Religious Society of Friends:

Committee for Ministry on Racism Letter in Support of Litigation
Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting
16 – 20 Fourth Month 2025

**SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR) Letter in Support of
Two Lawsuits Filed against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security**
February 17, 2025

CMOR unconditionally supports two lawsuits recently filed against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for changing an existing policy that prevented Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from carrying out operations in “sensitive locations,” including houses of worship. The first suit was filed jointly by three Yearly Meetings and two Monthly Meetings on January 27, 2025; the second suit was filed by multi-faith religious groups and associations on February 11, 2025. Friends General Conference (FGC) is a plaintiff in the latter. Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) is affiliated with FGC.

As Quakers, freedom to associate for religious exercise is central to our faith and practice. Our form of worship is founded on the profound belief that every individual *without exception* possesses the spirit of God within them and the ability to receive and deliver messages from God. Everyone is a child of God of equal worth regardless of their birthplace or citizenship status in the United States. Any policy which by action or threat deters any worshiper from attending our meetings for worship (worship services) or joining the activities of our or other religious communities harms those who stay away for fear of being arrested and negates the safety and security of the entire religious community. Such actions by ICE would violate immigrants’ ability to worship freely, impede our faith community’s ability to experience the Divine, and invalidate freedom of religion as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

CMOR urges SEYM to send a message strenuously supporting the action of both the Quaker-initiated lawsuits and the multi-faith lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security.

Kathy Hersh for the Committee
Clerk, Committee for Ministry on Racism

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing with one another and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations against one another; but praying for one another and helping one another up with a friendly hand. 1667

*Southeastern Yearly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends
Faith and Practice, 4TH Edition 2013, p.84)*

The Minute has been approved and will be forwarded to Bill Carlie, clerk of SEYM and Susan Wade, administrative secretary.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting's Letter in Support of Litigation
Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting
16 – 20 Fourth Month 2025

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (SEYM)
Letter in Support of Two Lawsuits Filed against
the U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

March 6, 2025

SEYM unconditionally supports the plaintiffs' two lawsuits recently filed against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for changing an existing policy that substantially restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from carrying out operations in "sensitive locations," including houses of worship. The first suit was filed jointly by three Yearly Meetings and two Monthly Meetings on January 27, 2025; the second suit was filed by multi-faith religious groups and associations on February 11, 2025. Friends General Conference (FGC) is a plaintiff in the latter. Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) is affiliated with FGC.

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William Carlie, clerk Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting Letter in Support of Litigation
Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting
16 – 20 Fourth Month 2025

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
February 16, 2025

Letter of Support of

Mennonite Church USA, et al., v. United States Department of Homeland Security, et al.

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends strongly supports the lawsuit filed on February 11, 2025, by the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Prevention (ICAP) of Georgetown Law “on behalf of over two dozen Christian and Jewish religious denominations and associations in response to the Trump Administration’s rescission of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) ‘sensitive locations’ policy that had restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from conducting immigration raids, arrests, and other enforcement actions at houses of worship”, and other places. (Press Call, 2/11/2025) The case name is: *Mennonite Church USA et al. v. United States Department of Homeland Security et al.* A spiritual calling of all plaintiffs is that they “embrace and serve refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants in their midst without regard to documentation or legal status.” (Press Call, 2/11/2025).

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*Southeastern Yearly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends
Faith and Practice, 4TH Edition 2013, p.84*