

Southeastern Yearly Meeting *of the Religious Society of Friends*

Summer Executive Committee Meeting
21 Sixth Month 2025

MINUTES

At 9:30 a.m., clerk Bill Carlie invited Friends to silent worship then opened the meeting with the following quote:

How easily we get trapped in that which is not essential – in looking good, winning at competition, gathering power and wealth – when simply being alive is the gift beyond measure. As I die, I rather doubt that I will be reviewing my prizes or my popularity or my bank account. I hope I will be gazing inwardly at that glorious patch of sun gleaming on an old oak floor, a window of light opening into the deep reality of life eternal. Living – just plain living – is the finest thing of all.

Parker J. Palmer, 2001

The clerk called for announcements and introductions.

The yearly meeting secretary reported that 2025-2026 SEYM Directories would be ready soon. Directories will be mailed to Meetings and Worship Groups. Anyone who would like a printed Directory should contact the Administrative Secretary by mail or email (office@seym.org) and provide their mailing address (there is no charge for the directories). Anyone wanting a digital copy of the directory should email office@seym.org and put “2025-2026 SEYM Directory” in the subject line.

Ed Lesnick gave a preliminary report for the Nominating Committee.

Thereafter, attendees broke into groups for committee meetings.

The Meeting / Worship Group Open Forum convened at 11:00 a.m.

Friends discussed actions their meetings are undertaking as witness in response to these challenging times. Several reported new interest and attenders becoming active in Friends Communities and public witness.

The forum closed in silence.

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Meeting opened from the silence at about 1:00 p.m. and the clerk read again the Parker J. Palmer quote, above.

Ad hoc Committee For Addressing Sex Offenders In The Yearly Meeting Report

Cheryl Demers-Holton, SEYM CAPP Coordinator and clerk of the committee, described that the intent of the policy was to allow certain individuals who are involved in our meeting communities, who have a record of a past offense, and who are under the care of a Meeting with a plan of care designed to keep vulnerable individuals safe, may attend Yearly Meeting events under limited conditions consistent with their plan of care. This report was discussed at length. All aspects of our child abuse prevention plan (CAPP) will remain in place whether such an individual attends our events. This policy details strict measures to be taken under these unusual circumstances. The committee’s report and proposed policy are attached.

25SEC01 SEYM Executive Committee approves the policy, as submitted, to address the potential attendance at Southeastern Yearly Meeting events of individuals who are registered sex offenders and who are under the care of a Monthly Meeting consistent with an approved plan of care.

APPROVED.

Report was accepted.

Field Secretary for Earthcare Report

Beverly Ward referred attendees to her report (attached) as published in the Documents In Advance (DIAs).

Report was accepted.

Ad hoc Organizational Documents Report

Ed Lesnick reported that the work of the committee continues. Committee clerks and officers are requested to comment on draft language before Fall Interim Business Meeting. The [Operational Handbook, Procedures & Job Descriptions](#) is published on the SEYM website.

Report was accepted.

Worship & Ministry Committee Report

Jan Dahm and Lisa Erazmus, co-clerks with Richelle Ogle, referred attendees to the report published in the DIAs (attached). They specifically expressed gratitude that the needs of the hearing impaired were being addressed by SEYM and thanked the Gathering Committee for their work on the issue.

Report was accepted.

Youth Committee Report

The report as published in the DIAs (attached) were accepted as amended by comments.

Report was accepted.

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator (YYAC) Report

Rachel Dellinger, YYAC, in addition to her written report (attached) advised that she will attend the Friends General Conference (FGC) Young Adult and Youth (YAY) gathering from July 2 – 6, 2025, in Clarkston, MI, and will provide a report on her experiences in the fall.

Report was accepted.

Representatives to Friends Organizations

FLGBTQ Concerns Representative

Jan Dahm noted concerns and steps being taken to address current oppressive environment, FLGBTQ Concerns is becoming more engaged and supportive as Friends become more active in this area of social Justice.

Report was accepted.

Nominating Committee Report

Ed Lesnick noted some changes to the committee's initial report, correcting some data and typographic errors. The final report is attached.

Report was accepted.

Estate of Georgia Guin Bequest Report

The clerk gave an update on the status of the bequest to SEYM from the Estate of Georgia Guin. He recently signed off on the final accounting of the estate and funds will be distributed soon, with approximately \$150,000 to be received by SEYM. The Finance Committee and Trustees will meet to find unity and recommend allocation of the funds.

Report was accepted

Gathering Committee Report

Vicki Carlie, co-clerk with Brian Olson, reported on a fact-finding meeting with other yearly meetings to discern best practices and equipment to provide hearing assistance in hybrid zoom meetings. A system (Audio Fetch) is used by FGC and is generally recommended because it is free to those using the service and it allows people to use headphones connected to their own devices for hearing assistance.

25SEC02 SEYM Executive Committee recommends that the yearly meeting approve the expenditure of up to \$800 to acquire a hearing assistance system to be used at SEYM events.

APPROVED.

Report was accepted.

Peace and Social Concerns

Warren Hoskins, co-clerk with Kasper Ronning, reported that Peace and Social Concerns met earlier and are working on a number of issues. Most pressing at this time were matters related to inhumane immigration enforcement. The committee requested a donation to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) at this time and are working on other recommendations to bring forward at Fall Interim Business Meeting.

Beverly Ward shared two events that people may want to join or become a host for a rally: Free America, 4 Seventh Month (July) <https://action.womensmarch.com/calendars/free-america-weekend> and Good Trouble Lives On, 17 Seventh Month (July), https://goodtroubleliveson.org/?SQF_SOURCE=50501.

Warren also offered information on the 40-day fast being undertaken by Veterans for Peace and provided the following links for those who want more information: <https://www.fosna.org/2025gazafast>; <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/pressroom/news/2025/05/21/veterans-hold-fast-gaza>; and <https://truthout.org/articles/veterans-launch-40-day-fast-to-protest-israels-starvation-of-gaza/>

25SEC03 SEYM Executive Committee recommends that the yearly meeting approve a donation of \$500 to be made to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, the funds to be drawn from SEYM's contingency fund.

APPROVED.

Report was accepted.

25SEC04 SEYM Executive Committee expresses its appreciation to Tampa Monthly Meeting for their gracious hospitality hosting this meeting.

APPROVED.

The Meeting closed with silent worship at 3:00 p.m..

Participants (online and in person):

Clearwater Monthly Meeting
Phil Stone

DeLand Quakers
Cheryl Demers-Holton

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting

Chris Ruhnke

Gainesville Monthly Meeting

Shawna Doran

Havana Worship Group

Mercedes Soca (Sarasota MM)

Miami Friends

David Landowne

Brian Olson

Quakers of Orlando

Rachel Dellinger

Ed Lesnick

Palm Beach Monthly Meeting

John Palozzi

Saint Augustine Worship Group

Dianna Langan (Saint Petersburg Quakers)

Saint Petersburg Quakers

Bill Carlie

Vicki Carlie

Susan Wade

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting

Neil Andersen

Phoebe Andersen

Warren Hoskins

Tampa Monthly Meeting

Jan Dahm

Lisa Erasmus

Chris Hugues

Dustin Lemke

Beverly Ward

Nil Wilkins

Treasure Coast Worship Group

Joel Cook (Palm Beach MM)

Amy Richards

Ad hoc Committee For Addressing Sex Offenders In The Yearly Meeting Report

2025 Summer Executive Committee Meeting

21 Sixth Month 2025

Two years ago, at annual gathering an *ad hoc* committee was formed to create a policy/ procedure for addressing sex offenders at the yearly meeting. Bill Carlie, Jan Dahm, Rachel Dillinger, Sharon Dwyer, Sara Weatherby and Cheryl Demers-Holton, met weekly for five weeks to create a comprehensive policy that covered how the yearly meeting would address: discovering that a sex offender has been at a meeting, that a registered sex offender wishes to attend a yearly meeting event, and what to do if there is suspicion at a yearly meeting event.

This committee was instructed to create a policy that not only protected children but also attended to the reality that there are vulnerable adults in our midst. Over a year ago Orlando Monthly Meeting worked on a risk management policy for their monthly meeting, a few of the people on Orlando's *ad hoc* committee had been involved in SEYM's committee. With Orlando Monthly Meetings approval, we used their policy as a template for the yearly meeting's policy.

Our *ad hoc* committee offers the attached document for approval by the executive committee, to be included in the SEYM document handbook. The committee also recommends that sections V, VI, and VII, of this document be added as an addendum to SEYM's Child Abuse Protection and Prevention Training Manual.

If this document is approved, we ask that this *ad hoc* committee be laid down.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Demers-Holton

ADDENDUM TO
Ad hoc Committee For Addressing Sex Offenders In The Yearly Meeting Report
2025 Summer Executive Committee Meeting
21 Sixth Month 2025

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting Risk Management Policy and Procedures
Related to Sexual Offenses**

I. Preamble:

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (SEYM) is a diverse, welcoming, nurturing, and inclusive community of people who support each other in spiritual growth. It is our desire both to welcome all seekers interested in following the Quaker way and to be a safe space for all who attend our meeting, with a special concern for the children and vulnerable adults in our care.

II. Recognition and Notice of Risk:

As of February 2024, there are nearly 700,000 registered sex offenders in the United States. Over sixty percent of convicted sex offenders are under some form of community supervision and living within their local communities. SEYM is an open and welcoming Yearly Meeting, so there may be known and unknown sexual offenders attending Annual Gathering, Interim Business Meetings, and other SEYM sponsored events.

It is not the practice of SEYM to do any sort of background check or sexual offender screening of attenders to annual gathering or other events. However, members, attenders, and staff who work with children are subject to the background check procedures outlined in the current Child Abuse Protection and Prevention (CAPP) Manual. **This was approved by _____**. The Yearly Meeting will post the following notice in the Safety section of the SEYM website:

Southeastern Yearly Meeting takes the safety of all our attenders very seriously. If you suspect that anyone attending our meeting might be a victim of abuse, please notify the Florida Abuse Hotline at 800-962-2873. Then notify the Clerk at ymclerk@seymquakers.org.

A copy of our Risk Management Policy and Procedures Related to Sexual Offenses can be found online at SEYM.org or can be obtained from the Clerk.

III. Protection of Children and Youth:

The CAPP Manual contains detailed procedures for the protection of children and youth from sexual and other offenses while they are in the care of the Yearly Meeting. These procedures include, but are not limited to:

A. background checks on all members, attenders, vendors, and staff who are expected to work independently with children and youth during SEYM activities.

B. a formal application and reference process for recruitment and selection of paid childcare staff and volunteers.

C. consistent supervision of children and youth by at least one CAPP registered adult and one other responsible and appropriate adult during scheduled activities.

Additionally, volunteers will be encouraged, and paid staff will be required, to participate in the SEYM Child Abuse Prevention Training. The Youth Committee with the youth and young adult (YYA) coordinator is responsible for implementing these procedures, for regular review of the CAPP Manual, and for obtaining the support and approval of the Yearly Meeting as a whole. All officers, members, and attenders of the Meeting will also be encouraged to participate in training and discussions that increase awareness of the risks and impacts of sexual offenses on individuals throughout their lifespan.

IV. Response to Allegations of Abuse During Meeting Activities:

The Yearly Meeting follows the legal requirements detailed in the Florida Department of Children and Families publication “Reporting Abuse of Children and Vulnerable Adults” available at: Abuse Hotline | Florida DCF (myflfamilies.com). Florida Statute 39.201(1) requires any individual who suspects that a child has been abused by any person to report that to the Florida Abuse Hotline. When an incident of abuse or neglect is alleged to have occurred at a Yearly Meeting function, the appropriate persons will follow the procedures below:

A. The person who suspects abuse will document and report their observations as required by law. After reporting, they will report their observations to the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting.

B. The YYA Coordinator and/or the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting will notify the parent or guardian of the child or vulnerable adult. The Monthly Meeting of the perpetrator will also be notified.

C. The YYA Coordinator and/or the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting will immediately place the person alleged to be the perpetrator of the misconduct on leave from contact with children and vulnerable adults in the Meeting pending an investigation and instruct the person to remain away from the Meeting during the investigation. If the accusation is substantiated, the alleged perpetrator will be treated as a registered sex offender for the purposes of this policy.

D. The YYA Coordinator and/or the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting will make a report to the Florida Abuse Hotline. The Yearly Meeting will fully cooperate with the investigation by the Child Protective Services, Law Enforcement, and other civil authorities.

E. The YYA Coordinator and/or the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting will notify the insurance company about the occurrence and will complete an incident report and immediately forward any documents relating to the allegations to the insurance company.

F. The Clerk of the Yearly Meeting will be the sole spokesperson to speak on behalf of SEYM to the media concerning incidents of alleged abuse or neglect, unless they are alleged to be involved, in which case the designated spokesperson of the Meeting will take on this responsibility. The Clerk of the Yearly Meeting may seek the advice of legal counsel before responding to media inquiries or releasing information to the Meeting as a whole. All other members and attenders of the Meeting will be requested to refrain from speaking to the media.

G. The Clerk of the Yearly Meeting or designee, under the advice of legal counsel when appropriate, will also be the sole spokesperson to speak on behalf of SEYM to law enforcement, insurance representatives, and other legitimately interested parties. This in no way interferes with the responsibility of individual members and attenders to cooperate with law enforcement during the investigation of an alleged crime.

H. The SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee will be available for pastoral visits as requested.

V. Response to the Presence of a Registered Sex Offender:

When a concern arises about an individual attending any SEYM function being a convicted sex offender, anyone holding that concern can check the United States Department of Justice National Sex Offender Public Website (nsopw.gov) for verification. This site contains current nationwide public records for persons who are convicted sex offenders and required to register as such in the communities where they reside.

When the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting or the YYA Coordinator become aware of a sexual offender attending an SEYM event who has not followed the procedures outlined in section VI of this document, the following steps will be taken by the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting, the YYA Coordinator, the CAPP Coordinator and/or appropriate, designated members, attenders, and staff:

A. Verify via an appropriate legal resource that there are no current federal, state, or local laws prohibiting the attendance of this individual at SEYM events where children and vulnerable adults may be present.

B. Alert SEYM members and attenders that a registered sexual offender has attended one or more SEYM activities. This notice will be placed in the next published edition of SEYM eNews and announced at the next scheduled Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The alert will not contain identifying information such as name or address. The alert will provide the Clerk's email for those who would like to request more information. The alert will also provide the wording: "As always, the Worship and Ministry Committee is available to listen to anyone who wishes to have a confidential talk with the committee or a member of the committee in relation to this policy."

C. The SEYM Clerk, accompanied by another member, will instruct the sexual offender to cease attending all meeting activities in person and online until an individual plan of care can be developed.

D. The SEYM Clerk will send the offender back to their monthly meeting to develop a Plan of Care for a Registered Sex Offender. If the Monthly Meeting has not developed their own policy for addressing a registered sex offender that wishes to attend a Monthly Meeting, then the Yearly Meeting suggest they use Orlando's policy as a guide.

Attach Orlando Policy

VI. Plan of Care for the Presence of a Registered Sexual Offender During SEYM Scheduled Online or In-Person Activities:

If a registered sex offender (RSO) wishes to participate in a Yearly Meeting function:

A. They must have a Plan of Care developed at the Monthly Meeting and have followed that plan with integrity for a minimum of one year. The RSO's oversight committee must be in unity that this person should be allowed to attend.

B. The RSO will notify the Clerk, YYA Coordinator or CAPP Coordinator of their desire to attend a Yearly Meeting function two weeks in advance of the opening of registration.

C. The RSO must send a written copy of the Plan of Care to the Clerk and Coordinators for review in advance of the event.

D. The RSO must arrange for two responsible adults, preferably from their oversight committee, to attend the event with them. The responsible adults will work together to assure the RSO is in the company of one or the other 24/7 during the event.

E. The plan of care including the names of the responsible adults will be reviewed by the Clerk, the YYA Coordinator and the CAPP Coordinator to assure that the plan and responsible people are sufficient to assure the safety of all attending the Yearly Meeting event.

F. The Clerk and Coordinators are confident of the safety of the plan, they will meet with the RSO and review any additions to the care plan. At a minimum this review will include:

a. Limit the individual's access to any property hosting SEYM events to times when two or more responsible adults (preferably both from the oversight committee but definitely at least one committee member and one other responsible adult) other than the offender are present.

b. Prohibit access to any room or building that has been set aside for exclusive use for children or vulnerable adults.

c. Follow the existing approved written policies and procedures found in the CAPP Manual for supervision and protection of the children who participate in programs at SEYM.

d. The RSO will be notified that the Assistant Clerk, the Clerk of Worship and Ministry, the youth workers and the parents of all children will be notified that a RSO will be attending the Yearly Meeting and that they have a Safety Care Plan that has been reviewed by the SEYM Clerk and Coordinators. And if any of those people ask for the name of this person or wish to see the written Care Plan, they will be given that information as well. This notification will be made in advance of each Yearly Meeting event the RSO wishes to attend.

VII. Plan of Care for the Presence of a Registered Sexual Offender (RSO) During SEYM Scheduled Online Activities:

An RSO with an established plan of care may attend an SEYM online activity so long as the activity is not explicitly intended for children and the RSO does the following:

- A. registers for the activity as soon as possible after registration opens
- B. provides the organizer with their plan of care upon registration
- C. receives approval from the event organizer and the SEYM clerk
- D. leaves their camera on during the entire activity
- E. uses the chat function only to send messages that are visible to the entire group, not just specific individuals

For recurring online activities such as weekly worship, the RSO must only seek approval the first time they attend. However, they must still notify the organizer via email each subsequent time they plan to be there. Parents of any youth registered will be notified as described for in-person activities above.

If at any time during any SEYM event the RSO does not choose to or is unable to follow their approved Care Plan, they will be asked to leave immediately by the SEYM Clerk, the YYA Coordinator or the event organizer.

The CAPP Coordinator and YYA Coordinator will organize an educational opportunity available to all members and attenders of the Yearly Meeting related to our sexual offender policy and make a list of resources available.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of the Notice of the Southeastern Yearly Meeting Risk Management Policy and Procedures Related to Sexual Offenses:

I acknowledge receipt of this notice and the information it contains.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Witness Signature: _____

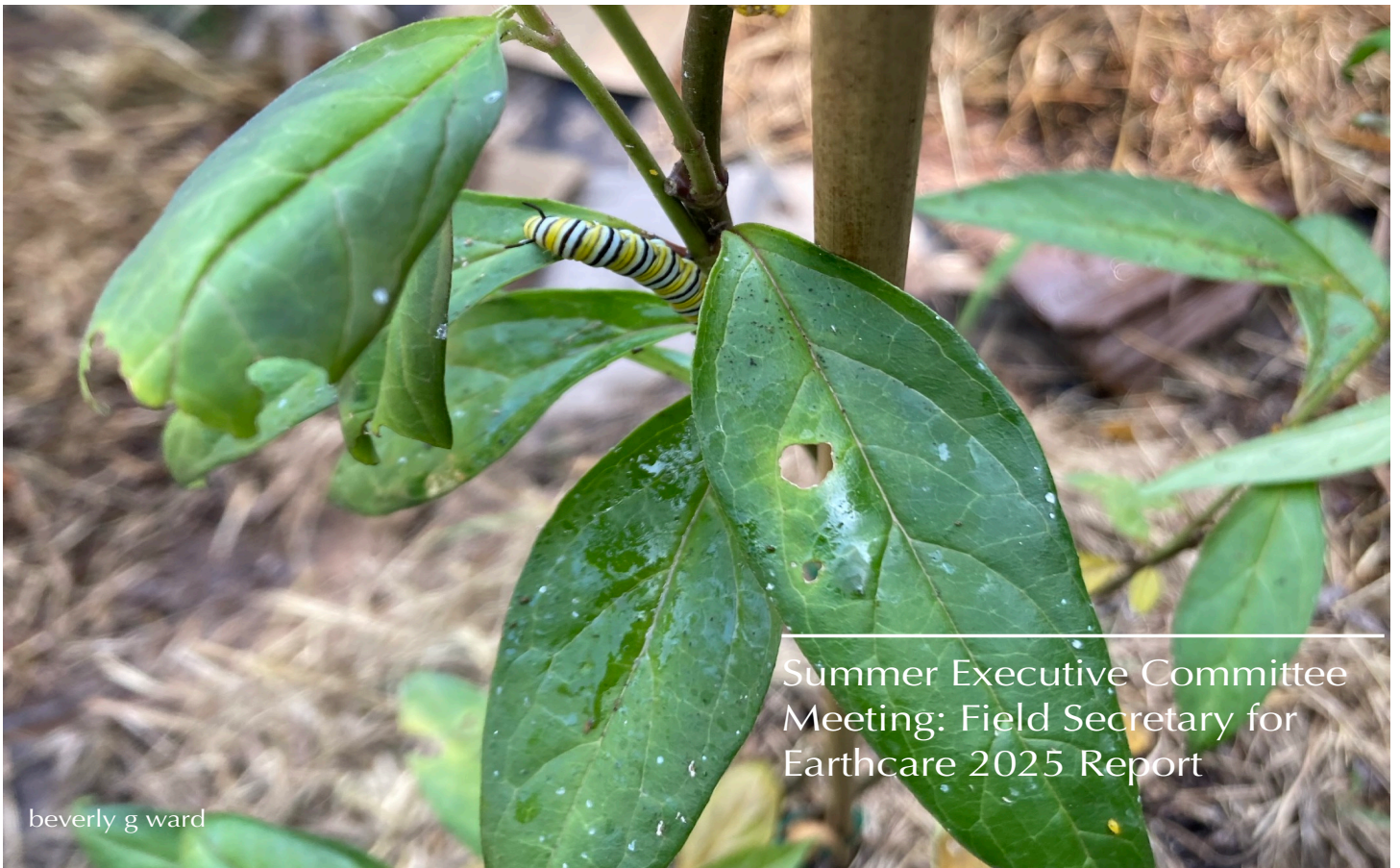
Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____



Pink Oyster Mushroom Kit, 2025.05.12

Overview

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

This reports is a summary of activities undertaken since the 2025 SEYM Annual Gathering. It also includes plans for upcoming activities including in-person, hybrid, and remote visits. These plans will include focus on:

- *Community preparedness as we enter the 2025 hurricane season;*
- *Work with Quaker Earthcare Witness, United Nations Working Group; and*
- *The intersection of the U.S. political environment and Earthcare.*

Communication with the FSE Anchoring Committee

I continue to communicate with the FSE Anchoring Committee members email, telephone, or other remote means. While there have been no in real life (IRL) since Gathering, I anticipate visiting Tallahassee Monthly Meeting prior to Fall Interim Business Meeting to meet with Phoebe and Neil Andersen. This visit will include field secretary activities and instruction on the Yearly Meeting archives. This instruction is related to the research in response the call from the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and the Decolonizing Quakers Working Group. I also anticipate meeting IRL with Bill Carlie, Yearly Meeting Clerk, as plans develop for another Cosmic Mass in the St. Petersburg area.



Sandhill Cranes, Lake County (FL)

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Lake Palm, Lake County (FL)

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.

SEYM Community Preparedness

I continue to address community preparedness concerns. While weather and climate are prioritized at this time of the year, the political environment also give rise to public health concerns in a number of areas—viruses, immigration, migration, the economy...I am putting the suggestions that SEYM Friends suggested last year's hurricane season together with the Grow Permaculture Hurricane Preparedness Guide, <https://growpermaculture.com/hurricane-preparations/>. This compilation will be available as a separate document, emailed to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, and made available on the SEYM website.

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Deland Monthly Meeting, 14 and 22 Sixth Month (June)

On 14 Sixth Month, the City of Deland will observe Juneteenth. I will join the Deland Quaker Meeting in their planned banned book giveaway at the Sanborn Center, Earl Brown Park, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

I will return to Deland on 22 Sixth Month to facilitate a Bystander Intervention Training workshop. As suggested earlier, the social and climatic environments are bringing together a number of concerns. This workshop is intended to help Friends and others identify and practice nonviolent responses to "...public instances of racist, anti-Black, anti-Muslim, anti-Trans, and other forms of oppressive interpersonal violence and harassment while considering the safety of all parties." The workshop will take place after the rise of Meeting on Firstday, 22 Sixth Month.

Planned Visits

Future visits include, but not scheduled as yet,

- AVP workshop(s) in St. Petersburg;
- Quakers of Orlando either/and "Conversations to Explore" and a possible discussion with the Property Committee regarding the grounds;
- An online or hybrid offering of "The Racial Wealth Gap" simulation;
- Visit Tallahassee Monthly Meeting as discussed above;
- Followed by a visit to Gainesville Monthly Meeting to visit the Yearly Meeting archives as University of Florida, and
- As discussed in greater detail below, an online presentation of Power-Mapping Workshop. I will be reaching out to Hope and Larry Ascher, Melbourne Monthly for their help in co-facilitating.

Whenever one person stands up and says, "Wait a minute, this is wrong," it helps other people to do the same.

- Gloria Steinem

From "Faithful Pride: Bystander Intervention Training" with Veronica Laizure

- Other visits are in the making. There have been a few changes in the workshop topics, so please take a look for ideas that may be of interest. Feel free to make suggestions on your Earthcare design the content.

Hope to see you soon!

Bystander Intervention

Do's & Don'ts

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SEYM 2025 Yearly Meeting

Suggested Workshop/Event Topics (In-Person, Virtual, or Hybrid)

- Angelic Troublemaking: Beyond Bystander Training - explores anti-racism/decolonization work with emphasis on local concerns and means of accompaniment;

- Climate Justice in Our Community: identifies specific local social justice and equity concerns;
- Decolonizing Earthcare: explores the intersectionality of gender, race, extraction, and harmful economic systems;
- 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 align these practices with Friends' testimonies;
- Power-Mapping: an interactive, strategic tool for identifying and analyzing where and how power is being held and how to develop change-making strategies. **NEW OFFERING;**
- Quakers and Climate Collapse: shares and builds on a Woodbrooke course led by Jackie Carpenter including review of the latest science, grief, worship sharing, and discernment;
- Quakers and the United Nations: explores Friends' history with the UN and ways to be engaged. **NEW OFFERING;**
- 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
- Waterline Communities: Displacement and Gentrification and Why Quakers Should Care drills down to the county or community level on the impacts of displacement; and
- The Inflation Reduction Act and My Community: explores the contents of the Act and work needed to preserve critical environmental components.

Reach out to me.

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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.

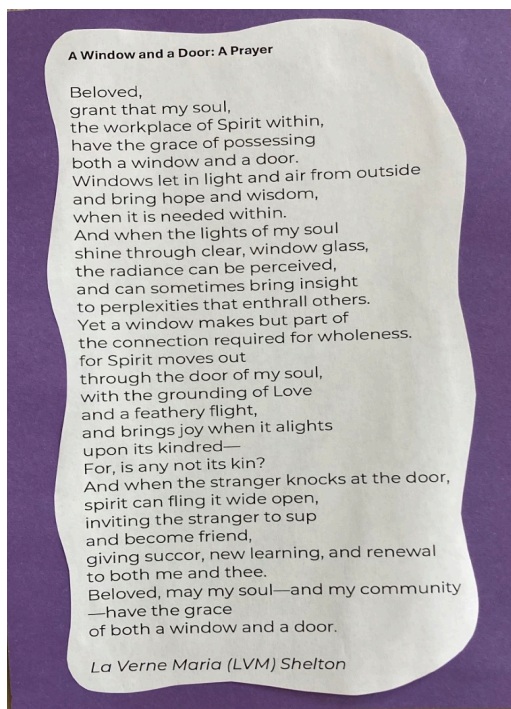
- The Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR): I met with other CMOR committee members to continue to debrief following the Gathering Plenary session. We are considering other activities to support individual Friends, Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, and communities, such as inviting speakers and otherwise sponsoring events, including but not limited to, the “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change – Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples” workshop. This workshop can be provided in person or virtually. (The virtual format was developed by Kody Hersh!);
- Earthcare Committee: I continue to share information with the Committee.
- Half Yearly Meeting (HYM) Committee: Several members of the HYM Committee are planning to meet soon to discuss food options for this year.
- Nominating Committee: We continue to members for various



committees and positions.

- Peace and Social Concerns (P&SC) Committee: I met with members of the committee on 31 Fifth Month. Like CMOR, the P&SC Committee is considering ways to include others in committee meetings.
- Worship and Ministry Committee: One of the joys of Gathering was the opportunity to spend time with members of the Worship and Ministry Committee. Thank you, Friends!

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Shared by SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee

La Verne Maria Shelton (later known by her initials LVM or elviem)
1945.05.23-2025.02.15

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.

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- Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP): as mentioned earlier, planning continues for additional workshops in St. Petersburg and other areas;
- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): AFSC convened its 2025 Annual Corporation Meeting 24-26 Fourth Month (April) in a hybrid format. The theme was "Healing through Justice: Our Collective Journey." Several workshops and plenary sessions are available to stream online. Follow these links:

Plenary Speaker: Fifthday (Thursday), 2025.04.25 (April 24), <https://youtu.be/3nKJA1lw2qs>
susan abulhawa; Award-winning novelist, poet, essayist, scientist, mother, and activist

AFSC Alumni Event: Sixthday (Friday), 2025.04.26 (April 25), <https://youtu.be/VWvFFtXm8oY>
Courage to Resist: Commemorating 50 years Since Vietnam

Workshop: AFSC Corporation, <https://youtu.be/tCrLOvnPFU>
Sowing the Seeds of Justice in New Orleans

Workshop: AFSC Corporation, <https://youtu.be/J2kauEMS14>
NY/NJ Healing Justice: From the Inside Out

- The annual online AFSC Corporation Meeting will be held via Zoom, Seventhday (Saturday), 2025.11.08 (November 8), 11:00am-2:00pm US Eastern Time;
- Decolonizing Quakers Working Group, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>: the working group met once since annual Gathering. An indigenous member, Nia To Go There shared poetry from her latest publication, *matwân cî ...wondering about now and then and everything everywhere*: poems;
- Earth Ethics Institute (EEI), <http://earthethicsinstitute.org/>: EEI held its annual meeting, virtually, on 2025.06.06. As with many in



The AVP Mandala

academia, especially institutions and centers, EEI is experiencing challenges. Asked to do more with fewer resources. To better understand and appreciate the work of EEI, please take a look at its Online Resources webpage, <https://libraryguides.mdc.edu/eei/onlineresources>;

- Fellowship of Friends of African Descent (FOFAD): The work with FOFAD continues as discussed in the 2025 SEYM FSE report.

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Haverford College 2024.07.03

- If you are interested in receiving the Racial Justice Quarterly Newsletter, please visit <https://groups.google.com/g/qcur-newsletter> and click "Ask to join the group."
- The Transatlantic Friends Worship group will resume meeting on the fourth Thirdday of the month starting 2025.06.24. "Transatlantic Friends is a worshipping community of Quakers and seekers dedicated to justice and the spirit-led leadership of people of color. As of June 2025, Transatlantic Friends is under the care of Friends Meeting of Washington, in the District of Columbia."
- Florida Council of Churches (FCC): FCC continues to interact with partners and others following the 6th Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network Assembly. Partnering organizations also are working to bring the Cosmic Mass to St. Petersburg, again, and other communities in Florida.
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): I remain in contact with FCNL through Friends in SEYM and the QEW FCNL Working Group and the Quaker Earthcare Witness.
- Friends General Conference (FGC): During this period, most of my contact with FGC has been through the Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism (QCUR). A reunion of the Quakers Uprooting Racism (QUR) Cohort '21-22 members is planned for 2025.06.25. (I was a member of the first cohort.)
- 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;
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to strengthen links to FWCC through QEW, FGC, and AFSC. For more information, see the QEW update below;
- Lake County Conservation Council (LCCC): The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County (FL) hosted a presentation on restoring African American Cemeteries in Lake County on 2025.05.25. Speakers included Katherine de Jongh,

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the project manager for the Island Pond Cemetery Project, and Ross Barnett, a documentary filmmaker. Similar work is being done throughout Florida with collaboration with the Florida Public Archaeology Network, <https://www.fpan.us/>. To view a trailer of Ross Barnett's film, Roots Below, follow this link, <https://youtu.be/3YCeXmp4huU?si=vo23tbtLvbXk191fX>;

- Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW):
 - QEW General Secretary Keith Runyan is planning to attend the 62nd sessions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany during Sixth Month. The is part of the planning for the Conference of the Parties (COP30) to be held in Belém, Brazil in Eleventh Month 2025.
 - QuakerEarth Action Map! Please share your Meeting's or Worship Group's information. This dynamic tool showcases initiatives addressing climate justice, ecological sustainability, and community resilience. Share your story and inspire others! Be inspired by others. Follow this link, <https://quakerearthcare.org/map/>, by clicking on the "Input Form" link;
 - QEW United Nations Working Group: We will host a virtual side event during this year's UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), 14-23 Seventh Month (July) 2025. While the Sustainable Development Goals under review this year will be Goal 3 – Healthy lives; Goal 5 – Gender equality; Goal 8 – Decent work and economic growth; Goal 14 – Life below water; and, G 17 - Partnerships for the Goals, our side event will focus on SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Save the date: 23 Seventh Month (July) 2025. Keith Runyan will be presenter.
- The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), AFSC: The Quaker United Nations Committee, an advisory group to QUNO, held ahybrid meeting 30 Fourth Month (April) - 3 Fifth Month (May) 2025.

vulnerable to climate change. That letter can be found, here, <https://perma.cc/4AVS-BN53>.)

On 4 Second Month 2025, the Administration issued Executive Order 14199—Withdrawing the United States From and Ending Funding to Certain United Nations Organizations and Reviewing United States Support to All International Organizations.

- QUNO New York staff led a discussion, Introduction to Programme Planning. This included a review its strategic plan and planning process. I was particularly interested in the review of the entry point, United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. As discussed above, this SDG has been central to the work of the QEW UN Working Group. QUNO staff shared a resource that may be of interest to Friends, "Civil Society at the United Nations", https://quno.org/sites/default/files/timeline/files/Civil%20Society%20at%20the%20United%20Nations_0.pdf. The paper discusses the loss of civic space at the UN and "...provides analysis and recommendations for meaningfully including civil society across the UN's policy agenda in New York, based on the existing negotiated resolutions and established best practice.";
 - The committee was unable to complete all the items on the agenda and will reconvene on 2025.06.10.
- Tri-City NAACP Branch: I continue with the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee.
- University of South Florida: This summer I am doing research with the Weather, Climate, and Society, National Science Foundation research experience for undergraduates. While students will select individual topics, much of our research will focus on the impacts of the 2024 hurricane season in Florida.



- In her Director's report, Sarah Clarke, QUNO New York, shared information about the "Changing UN landscape." This year during what is usually a routine vote on the recognition of the International Day of Peaceful Coexistence, the USA was one of only three countries to vote against the resolution. Edward Heartney, a Trump administration representative said, in reference to the reaffirmation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contained in the resolution, that the 2030 agenda and sustainable development goals "advance a program of soft global governance that is inconsistent with US sovereignty and adverse to the rights and interests of Americans." Heartney's letter, dated 2025.03.04, which contain his comments can be found here, <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-the-un-meeting-entitled-58th-plenary-meeting-of-the-general-assembly/>. (The US announced, in another letter of the same date, it was withdrawing from the board of a UN-backed climate damage fund designed to provide financial assistance to nations most

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Social Media, etc.

Contact Information

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

A Google calendar showing FSE activities is shared with the Anchoring Committee.

To see a recap of earlier activities, please follow this link.

2025 Winter Interim Business Report, <https://seymquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/FSE-WIBM-Report-2025.pdf>.

Other reports are available online at "SEYM Archives and Documents", <https://seymquakers.org/resources/archives-documents/#meetingArchives>. Scroll down to "Business Documents" and click on the "Documents in Advance" link.

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Ad hoc Committee on Organizational Documents Report

2025 Summer Executive Committee Meeting

21 Sixth Month 2025

The Committee members are Neil Andersen, Phoebe Andersen, and Ed Lesnick.

The committee is updating the Southeastern Yearly Meeting Operational Handbook, Procedures, and Job Descriptions, which is after Faith & Practice, the vital guide to the operation of the yearly meeting.

The Handbook was last revised in 2007. Over the past 18 years, significant changes have occurred in the roles and responsibilities of clerks, committees, and representatives.

Since January 2024, the SEYM *ad hoc* Committee on Organizational Documents Report Committee has been meeting regularly, primarily once a week, for two-hour sessions. The current Handbook consists of 151 pages, which requires careful consideration and time. We are currently addressing SEYM Financial Operations, which begins on page 127. So, less than 25 pages remain in the process before completing the formatting of the draft.

Our charge is to provide an accurate, clear, and helpful document. We do not consider any structural or policy changes which is the purview of Executive Committee following the adoption of the final report.

We have already requested input from SEYM officers and committee clerks and continue to seek suggestions and guidance.

Ed Lesnick, clerk

Worship and Ministry Committee Report

2025 Summer Executive Committee Meeting

21 Sixth Month 2025

The SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee continues to seek way forward in Spirit to bring needed spiritual nurture to all in the SEYM community and beyond. We are paying special attention in our work to the most vulnerable among us, looking at ways we can support those who are being targeted in our community and in our world. The Yearly Meeting Gathering was an uplifting experience; many participants expressed their appreciation for the daily Worship Sharing as well as the opportunities for spiritual enrichment in workshops led by Worship and Ministry members. Extended Worship was not very well-attended, and we attribute that to the plethora of other opportunities available at the same time. We hope next year to be able to schedule this at a more convenient time. We were also disappointed that there was no space in the schedule for a Memorial Meeting. The committee brought forward some ways to keep in our hearts and minds Friends who have gone before us as well as other milestones being celebrated by our Meetings and Worship Groups.

The online participation in Yearly Meeting Gathering was better this year, with improved technical setup. The online Worship Sharing group grew larger each day and community developed among the participants. Those online expressed their desire for even more opportunities for Friends not in person to be able to participate more fully in Gathering events. A group, led by new Worship and Ministry committee member, Hope Ascher, met to discuss ways that they could support the Gathering Committee in making this a reality with the awareness of not creating extra work for them.

We are happy to announce an upcoming workshop on 19 Seventh Month presented by Dwight Dunstan. His topic will be *The Right Time to Change: Growing Our Hearts to Meet the Moment*. Watch the SEYM website and eNews for details and registration. We invite Friends from all over to join us for this timely and engaging topic for our present circumstances.

The Worship and Ministry Committee recognizes the need for support and encouragement of Meetings and Worship Groups with diminishing numbers. We are providing links on the SEYM website to a document written by Emily Provance on this topic as well as other information that might be useful to any finding themselves in this position. A piece of wisdom that arose from the committee's discernment was to keep Friends from rushing to the conclusion that their Meeting should be laid down. These things often run in cycles and we recognize that "we are what the world is looking for" so we can hold onto that and see what other solutions arise before giving up.

As an extension of the pastoral care provided by Worship and Ministry, we received a request to bring forward to Executive Committee consideration of funding and technical assistance for the acquisition of Bluetooth hearing assistive technology for use at Gathering, EC, and IBM. It would greatly improve the experience for Friends with hearing loss.

Overall, the Worship and Ministry Committee continues to seek ways to help Friends to "be the Light – to go forward in this climate that has so much negativity and violence in action and rhetoric."

In the Spirit of Listening Love,

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

Youth Committee Report

2025 Summer Executive Committee Meeting

21 Sixth Month 2025

Attached is the Youth Committee's proposal for an inclusion of an addendum in the CAPP Manual regarding registered sex offenders at SEYM gatherings.

Draft of addendum to SEYM CAPP Manual:

A registered sex offender, after counseling and with no further indictments or convictions, who wishes to join SEYM gatherings where children are present, must have an established relationship with a monthly meeting within SEYM and must be accompanied 24 hours per day by a designated responsible adult from their meeting. They are not allowed in or near the children's program area or when the children are engaged in indoor activities—such as the talent show—or outdoor activities—such as swimming, canoeing, and playing outdoor games. Registered sex offenders are expected to keep a distance from children in all activities, including intergenerational activities and shared spaces.

The Youth Committee, the Youth and Young Adult Program Coordinator, youth volunteers and staff, parents of children attending the SEYM event, and the Registrar must be informed in advance as soon as registration closes that the offender has registered for the SEYM event. Parents and any youth program workers, having been informed of the required precautions, may then decide whether to attend or not.

Amanda Farrar, Clerk

Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Coordinator Report

2025 Summer Executive Committee Meeting

21 Sixth Month 2025

Annual Gathering

Thirty-four youth and young adults attended the Annual Gathering this year: 6 young Friends, 7 teenagers, and 21 young adults. Young Friends enjoyed playing together, swimming, and listening to Faith and Play stories. Kayaking, swimming, crafting, and climbing ropes were popular with the teens and young adults. Our four high school graduates each received a copy of SEYM's *Faith and Practice* and a personalized card signed by many Friends in attendance. Several young adults reported feeling encouraged and challenged by the Walton lecturer's workshops.

Registered Sexual Offender Policy

The YYA Coordinator and one young adult Friend served on an SEYM *ad hoc* committee to create a policy regarding participation by those legally required to register as sexual offenders (RSOs). The committee reached unity on June 3 and will present the policy to the Summer Executive Committee Meeting on June 21, 2025, with a recommendation to add relevant portions to the CAPP manual.

New Attenders

Orlando Monthly Meeting welcomed three new young families with children who have been attending regularly.

Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Activities

Gavin facilitated a conversation about his experience at the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) conference in March, and Kasper gave a presentation about his School of the Spirit residency program. Asma is on the planning committee for the Friends General Conference YYA Gathering, which several SEYM members will be attending in July. She and other young adults are also active in a Friend's local political campaign. Young adults in Orlando are deeply concerned about the city's housing crisis and have continued to involve themselves in this issue through direct ministry to homeless individuals and through increasing involvement with and outreach to community partners. Gainesville Monthly Meeting's newsletter recently highlighted several young adults who expressed the deep influence of Quakerism on various aspects of their lives, including their artwork and parenting styles. Four teens (Orlando, Melbourne, and Miami) graduated from high school, several attend colleges, and our Youth Committee Clerk, Amanda, continues in law school.

Communication

The Youth and Young Adult Program continued to send a periodic newsletter and other reminders via email and made regular posts for its 235 Instagram followers. In response to requests from several young adults, SEYM YYA now also hosts a Discord server where Friends can chat and stay informed about events online and in their communities.

Challenges

A significant challenge for the YYA program is connecting with youth and young adults at the various monthly meetings. Any facilitation that clerks and youth committee members can offer (for example, sharing names, contact information, or news) would be appreciated.

Rachel Dellinger, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator
June 7, 2025

SEYM Officers, Committees, Representatives, & Appointees

Updated June 21, 2025, at Summer Executive Committee Meeting

OFFICERS

Yearly Meeting (YM) Clerk	Bill Carlie	Saint Petersburg.....	2026
Interim Business Meeting (IBM) and Executive Committee (EC) Clerk.....	Bill Carlie	Saint Petersburg.....	2026
Assistant YM Clerk	Ed Lesnick	Orlando	2027
Recording Clerk, YM.....	Liz Dykes	Gainesville	2028
Recording Clerk, IBM/EC	Liz Dykes	Gainesville	2028
Assistant Recording Clerk, YM Assistant Recording Clerk, IBM/EC			
Treasurer	Joel Cook.....	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast WG.....	2026
Membership Recorder	Ed Lesnick	Orlando	2027

TRUSTEES

Neil Andersen, Clerk.....	Tallahassee.....	2026
Jack Bradin	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast WG	2026
Liz Dykes	Gainesville.....	2026
Mike Flanery.....	Clearwater	2026
Chris Laning.....	Orlando	2028

COMMITTEES

Archives	Phoebe Andersen.....	Tallahassee	2026
	Neil Andersen	Tallahassee	2026
	Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2027
	Bill Rapp	Lake Wales WG	2027
Earthcare	Brian Humphrey, <i>Clerk</i>	Ft Lauderdale	2026
	Brad Stocker	Miami	2028
	Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2028
	Jack Bradin	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast WG	2026
	Mike Flanery.....	Clearwater.....	2026
	Hollyn Green	Savannah	2026
	Howard Brodt	Jacksonville on the Beaches WG.....	2027
	Rachel Dellinger	Orlando.....	2027
Faith & Practice	Phoebe Andersen, <i>Clerk</i>	Tallahassee	2027
Facebook Page	Mike Flanery.....	Clearwater	2027
Finance	Lewis Kirvan, <i>Clerk</i>	Gainesville.....	2027
	Shawna Doran	Gainesville	2027
	Carl Hersh.....	DeLand	2027
	Greg Allan Anderson	Orlando.....	2028
	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	
	Rosiland Kirupavathy, <i>Registrar</i>	Orlando.....	
	Beverly Ward, <i>Food Coordinator</i>	Tampa	
	Asma Roshi.....	Orlando.....	

Ministry on Racism	Kathy Hersh, <i>Clerk</i>	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	DeLand	2027
	Jean Larson.....	Gainesville.....	2027
	Gavin Sherrod	Orlando.....	2028
Peace & Social Concerns	Warren Hoskins, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Tallahassee	2027
	Kasper Ronning, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Orlando.....	2027
	John Heimburg	Orlando.....	2028
	Mercedes Soca	Sarasota/Havana WG.....	2028
	Cece Yocum	Tampa.....	2028
	Phil Stone.....	Clearwater	2026
	Peter Harrell	Gainesville.....	2027
	Shawna Doran	Gainesville.....	2027
Publications	Phoebe Andersen, <i>Clerk</i>	Tallahassee	2027
	John Palozzi.....	Palm Beach	2027
	Vicki Carlie (ex officio).....	Saint Petersburg	
	SEYM Admin Secretary (ex officio).....	Saint Petersburg	
Worship & Ministry	Richelle Ogle, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Orlando/Saint Augustine WG	2028
	Jan Dahm, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Tampa.....	2026
	Lisa Erasmus, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Tampa.....	2026
	Clara Diaz.....	Orlando/Saint Augustine WG	2026
	Eduardo Diaz.....	Orlando/Saint Augustine WG	2026
	Joel Cook	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast WG	2026
	Bill Carlie	Saint Petersburg	2027
	Hope Ascher	Melbourne	2028
	Vicky Carlie.....	Saint Petersburg	2028
	Cheryl Demers-Holton	DeLand	2028
YM Gathering	Vicki Carlie, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Saint Petersburg	2026
	Brian Olson, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Miami.....	2028
	Phil Stone, <i>Registrar</i>	Clearwater	2028
	John Heimburg, <i>Bookstore</i>	Orlando.....	2026
	Cheryl Demers-Holton, <i>Program Coordinator</i>	DeLand	2028
	Kasper Ronning	Orlando.....	2026
	SEYM Admin Secretary, ex-officio		
Youth Committee	Amanda Farrar, <i>Acting Clerk</i>	Saint Augustine WG.....	2026
	Kathy Hersh.....	DeLand	2026
	Mariah Doran	Gainesville.....	2026
	Cecelia Yocum, <i>Gathering Activities</i>	Tampa.....	2026
	Asma Roshi	Orlando.....	2026
	Susan Ascher	Melbourne	2027
	Susan Vaughn.....	DeLand	2027
Quaker Education	Ed Chew	DeLand	2028
	Suzanne Frechette	Fort Myers	2028
	Larry Ascher	Melbourne	2028
	Eileen Zingaro	Clearwater	2028
	Brad Stocker.....	Miami	2028

REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS

American Friends Service Committee Corporation, - AFSC/Philadelphia

Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2027
Lis-Marie Alvarado	Miami	2027
Bill Carlie	Saint Petersburg	2028

Friends Committee on National Legislation – FCNL

Dianna Langan	Saint Petersburg/Saint Augustine WG	2026
Ian McDonald.....	Tallahassee	2026
Eileen Zingaro	Clearwater	2027

Friends General Conference - FGC Central Committee

Cindy Kwalwasser	DeLand	2028
Susan Wade.....	Saint Petersburg	2028
Third Representative - TBD		

Friends World Committee for Consultation – FWCC

Joel Cook	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast WG	2026
Clara Diaz.....	Orlando/Saint Augustine WG	2027
Eduardo Diaz	Orlando/Saint Augustine WG	2027
Gavin Sherrod	Orlando.....	2028

Friends Peace Teams

Cecilia Yocum	Tampa.....	2028
Shawna Doran	Gainesville.....	2028

Florida Council of Churches

Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2027
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FLGBTQ Concerns

Jan Dahm	Tampa.....	2028
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Palmetto Friends Gathering

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

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Brian Olson.....	Miami	2026
Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2026

Quaker House

TBD

Quaker United Nations Office

Richelle Ogle	Orlando/Saint Augustine WG	2028
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APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATIONS

FUM General Board Observer

Eduardo Diaz	Orlando/Saint Augustine WG	2026
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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Brian Olson, Clerk.....	Miami	2027
Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2027
Shawna Doran	Gainesville.....	2026
Ed Lesnick	Orlando.....	2028

Peace & Social Concerns Committee Report

2025 Summer Executive Committee Meeting

21 Sixth Month 2025

SEYM PSSC meeting by Zoom 05/31/2025 – Zoom AI Companion summary for SEYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee Meeting 05/31/2025 with further notes at end.

Meeting clerked by Warren Hoskins with major assistance from Beverly Ward

From: Meeting Summary with AI Companion <no-reply@zoom.us>

Subject: Meeting Summary for SEYM Peace & Social Concerns Cte Mtg **Date:** May 31, 2025, at

12:39:46 PM EDT

To: office@seym.org

Meeting summary for SEYM Peace & Social Concerns Cte Meeting 05/31/2025 Meeting summary for SEYM Peace & Social Concerns Cte Meeting 05/31/2025

Quick recap

The Fort Myers Peace and Social Concerns committee is actively engaged in supporting the immigrant community in Immokalee through various initiatives and partnerships with local organizations. The group discussed multiple social justice efforts across different Quaker meetings in Florida, including immigration support, LGBTQ+ rights, and hurricane preparedness planning. The committee concluded by affirming their support for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and other organizations, while also addressing concerns about public health and healthcare services in Florida.

Next steps

- Beverly to repost hurricane preparation suggestions in next week's e-newsletter and on the website.
- Greg to find and share information about the campaign to support the hairdresser grabbed by immigration and sent to South America.
- Beverly to draft a minute affirming the committee's support for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and recommending a \$500 contribution.
- Warren to work with Susan Wade to schedule the next committee meeting for late June or early July, avoiding the last weekend of June due to Pride events.
- Committee members to consider supporting Cultivate Abundance at the next committee meeting.

Summary

Immigration Advocacy in Immokalee

The Fort Myers Peace and Social Concerns committee is focusing on immigration issues, particularly in Immokalee. They have partnered with local organizations like Cultivate Abundance and attend weekly food distributions to act as witnesses and provide support to immigrants. The group wear "Quaker Witness for Peace" t-shirts, offer water to those waiting in line, and distribute "Know Your Rights" information. They also report any ICE activity to Unidos and the ACLU. While they cannot prevent ICE operations, they hope their presence will deter violence and provide a measure of protection for the immigrant community.

Quaker Immigrant Support Initiatives

The committee discusses various social service initiatives undertaken by different Quaker meetings. Gainesville meeting has been supporting immigrant families through cultural orientation, home setup, and financial assistance,

contributing over \$6,000 to the effort. Gail mentions signing a letter to schools opposing ICE presence. Shawna proposes donating \$20,000- \$25,000 from SEYM's inheritance to AFSC for immigrant community support, which receives general agreement from the committee. Warren suggests implementing a more structured meeting format with timed agendas for future gatherings.

Social Justice Initiatives Discussion

The group discusses various social justice initiatives and trainings, including bystander training for supporting marginalized groups and LGBTQ+ rights. Greg shares Saint Petersburg Meeting's involvement in Pride events and their focus on supporting transgender individuals. Warren suggests circulating information about a campaign to help an immigrant hairdresser who was deported. The group also explores ideas for better sharing information about different meetings' social justice activities, such as creating a bulletin board on the SEYM website or potentially sponsoring an internship for reporting on meeting activities.

Florida Quaker LGBTQ+ Representation Discussion

The group discusses representation from various Quaker meetings across Florida, including Gainesville, Tallahassee, Fort Myers, Saint Petersburg, Orlando, and Palm Beach. They touch on The Land Meeting's involvement in banned books issues and their Juneteenth activities. Amy from Palm Beach Monthly Meeting shares her experiences with LGBTQ+ issues in Saint Cloud, highlighting local opposition and the challenges faced by the Pride celebration. The group also discusses the concept of being a sanctuary meeting for trans people, with Amy emphasizing her meeting's inclusive nature without formal proclamation.

Hurricane Preparedness and Public Health

Warren discussed the upcoming hurricane season and the importance of preparedness. He encourages meetings to develop hurricane plans, including evacuation strategies and post-storm check-ins. Shawna mentions that Gainesville meeting is preparing to be a safe haven during disasters, while Beverly notes that she has been working on individual and community preparedness. Warren provides practical tips for hurricane readiness, including keeping gas tanks half full, having cash on hand, and maintaining charged battery packs for electronic devices. He also raises concerns about public health issues in Florida, including potential funding cuts to healthcare services and the ongoing threat of communicable diseases like COVID-19.

CIW Support and Campaigns

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee affirms their support for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and their participation in campaigns, including the Fair Food Campaign and efforts to urge Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program. The committee recommends a \$500 contribution to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to support their organizing efforts. They also discuss potentially supporting other organizations like Cultivate Abundance in the future and agree to meet again in about a month, avoiding the last weekend of June due to Pride events.

AI-generated content may be inaccurate or misleading. Always check for accuracy.