



Ant plays the flute during the Miccosukee-led Prayer Gathering 2025.19.07

#### **Overview**

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

This report recaps activities that took place since the 2025 SEYM Executive Committee Meeting. Also included are plans for future meetings and other efforts. These may include:

- Continued community preparedness;
- Work with the SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee and other SEYM committees;
- Planning with the Half Yearly Meeting Committee;
- Convening workshops and
- Producing and sharing videos and other online content.

## Communication with the FSE Anchoring Committee

Communication with the Anchoring Committee continues via email and other remote means. Thank you to the Anchoring Committee for your support as I work through how to accompany the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida and others regarding the environment, immigration, and the political trials that we are facing.

While events overtook plans for a Tallahassee visit with Phoebe and Neil Anderson prior to this report, that visit is still planned. In-person meeting with other members of the Anchoring Committee is anticipated to occur at Fall Interim Business Meeting.



Attendee at the Miccosukee-led Prayer Gathering 2025.19.07



## 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**

The websites for a number of preparedness resources that were shared earlier have moved. Listed below are the updated links and some additional sites:

Are You Ready? An In-Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness P-2064 | September 2020, click here

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Emergency Preparedness and Response resource page, <u>click here</u>
CDC Emergency Kit Checklist: Kids and Families, <u>click here</u>
Grow Permaculture Hurricane Preparedness Guide, <u>click here</u>
Ready Emergency Supply List, <u>click here</u>
SEYM Zombie Apocalypse, <u>click here for YouTube video</u>

Other resources within SEYM include, but are not limited to:

- Gainesville Friends Meeting will make the meetinghouse available to SEYM Friends for short-term use in the event of a climate emergency. Shawna Doran is the contact person.
- Other Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups and individuals have offered shelter in the past.
- Friends are encouraged to consider their household needs.
  - Do you have an emergency plan?
  - Will you shelter in place?
  - Can you shelter with someone else?
  - If you must evacuate, do you have a contact person in your meeting or worship group?



Adapted from the CDC All-Hazards Approach

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

The Bystander Intervention Training workshop was well attended by Friends from Deland MM and some community members. The workshop was structured 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." In addition to a prepared presentation, participants used roleplaying to work through several scenarios. The prepared materials are being converted to a video to share on the SEYM website and Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. Please contact me if you are interested in an "in real life (IRL)" workshop.

#### **Planned Visits**

Future visits include, but yet scheduled:

- 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;
- Followed by a visit to Gainesville Monthly Meeting to visit the Yearly Meeting archives as University of Florida, and
- 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.
- 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.



Deland Quakers, Family, and Community Members 2025.06.14



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

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

- Bystander/Upstander Training: introduces strategies for accompaniment, documenting harmful behavior, bigotry, obliviousness
- 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 Earthcare 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

Please let me know of any topic or suggestion you would like that is not listed here.

# Interactions or Collaborations between and among other SEYM committees

The 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.

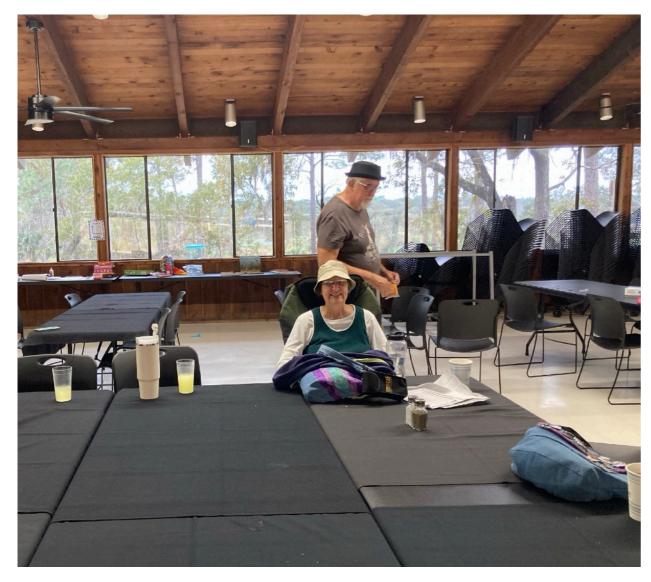
- Archives Committee: I have been in communication with Bill Rapp who is writing up information on how to access the archives at the University of Florida;
- The Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR): CMOR met several times since the last FSE report. The committee has begun to consider what its contribution(s) will be for the 2026 annual gathering. In addition, Gavin Sherrod, a member of the committee is planning to visit monthly meetings and worship groups to engage in discussions about microaggressions and related harms. I have offered to accompany Gavin as cofacilitator or other support, as scheduling permits.
- Earthcare Committee: I continue to share information with the Committee.
- Half Yearly Meeting (HYM) Committee: The HYM Committee is planning to gather at Wekiwa Springs State Park, 2025.11.27-30. This year we will be responsible for our meals. Please note:



Mt. Dora, FL 2025.08.21

New regulations instituted at Wekiwa Springs State Park mean that we can't use the on-site kitchen for any purpose, including food preparation and washing dishes. Instead, we will be providing our own meals — cooking outdoors and bringing some food in.

## PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH MEALS ON THE REGISTRATION FORM!



Half Yearly Meeting 2024

Thanksgiving Dinner: Half-Yearly Meeting kicks off with Thanksgiving dinner at 6 p.m. on Thursday. Turkey and dressing will be provided; please bring a prepared side dish or dessert.

NEW REQUIREMENT: All attendees must bring their own plates, cups, silverware, and napkins.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Beverly Ward, <a href="mailto:fsearthcare@seymquakers.org">fsearthcare@seymquakers.org</a>.

- Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee met over the summer. Please do not avoid us when you see one of us coming towards you. We are looking for a Gathering Clerk, and there are other ways to serve.
- Peace and Social Concerns (P&SC) Committee: I continue to meet with the P&SC Committee. The Committee's concerns have some overlap with those of CMOR. There have been several appeals to the Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meetings, and Worship Groups, including consideration of the AFSC statement, "A different future is possible: Quaker organizations share a vision for peace in Palestine and Israel."

The Committee also shared through the SEYM newsletter an appeal to Friends to help purchase bike light kits in support of farmer workers. Fort Myers Friends and others have been working with Mission Peniel who installs the kits.

Mission Peniel P.O. Box 1204 Immokalee, FL 34143

You can also order directly from the Amazon Gift Registry: <a href="https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/">https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/</a>
<a href="mailto:2LEN1QXFAM1EF?ref">2LEN1QXFAM1EF?ref</a> = cm sw r cp ud ggr-subnav-share VDTTWZ9ATMQQYBW7WP46 6

Worship and Ministry Committee: Thank you, Friends!

## 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.

- Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP): planning continues for additional workshops in St. Petersburg and other areas;
- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): Here are several news items from the most recent enewsletter.
  - U.S. government shut down at midnight on Thirday
     (Tuesday) evening. At stake in this congressional standoff is the
     health care of millions of people who rely on the expanded
     Affordable Care Act premium tax credits which are set to
     expire at the end of this year. In this article, AFSC's Brett Heinz
     explains what you need to know about the shutdown. <u>Click</u>
     here to read.
  - West Region News
     The West Region News for Tenth Month (October)
     2025 features AFSC's work along the US-Mexico border in support of immigrant rights and democracy. <u>Click here to read</u>.
  - Action Hour for Palestine
     Join others each Friday at noon ET/ 9am PT for a jam-packed hour of news, action, inspiration, and community. At a time when so many are feeling alone, overwhelmed, scared, and defeated, join AFSC's Action Hour community to take action for justice together. Find more information and register here.
  - 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, <a href="https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/">https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/</a>: the working group continued to meet over the summer. We are continuing to work on updating the website. Other concerns include how we are working on decolonization on person level and within our communities;

- Earth Ethics Institute (EEI), http://earthethicsinstitute.org/: The EEI advisory committee met virtually on 2025.10.01. The academic year is underway with constraints on academic speech;
- Fellowship of Friends of African Descent (FOFAD): The Fellowship is currently on hiatus. However, I do keep in contact with the convenor, Rashid Darden, as discussed below.
  - If you are interested in receiving the Racial Justice Quarterly Newsletter, please visit <a href="https://groups.google.com/g/qcur-newsletter">https://groups.google.com/g/qcur-newsletter</a> and click "Ask to join the group."
  - The Transatlantic Friends Worship group has resumed meeting on the fourth Thirday. "Transatlantic Friends is a worshiping community of Quakers and seekers dedicated to justice and the spirit-led leadership of people of color." Transatlantic Friends is under the care of Friends Meeting of Washington, in the District of Columbia.
- Florida Council of Churches (FCC): The FCC board members met on 2025.09.23, virtually. As part of the agenda, board participants provided updates on the concerns in their congregations. Detention, economic hardship, and work to prepare for the upcoming state legislative session were the topics that were most pressing. Upcoming events include:
  - A regional Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network for the Lee County area is being planned. More information will be sent as it is available.
  - Sowing the Harvest Advocacy Days, 2026.01.14-15
    The 2026 Florida Faith Advocacy Days are First Month
    (January) 14-25 during the first week of the Florida
    Legislature. The 2026 theme is "Sowing the Harvest!" which
    explores how the ministries we do in our communities
    translate into good public policy. Registration, which
    includes training, is open. <u>Click here</u>.
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): The most recent FCNL Call to Conscience Call was held on 2025.09.12. The discussion focused on trying to save key environmental pieces of the Inflation Reduction Act. Key legislators include Senator Rick Scott.



Miccosukee-led Prayer Vigil 2025.06.19

FCNL has created a one-page aid, FCNL Legislative Ask One-Pager to help when talking to elected officials and others. To access the one-pager, <u>click here</u>.

- Inside the Greenhouse is a monthly update on FCNL's environmental advocacy and the climate crisis. To sign up, <u>click here</u>.
- Friends General Conference (FGC): During this period, most of my contact with FGC has been through the Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism (QCUR). The reunion of the Quakers Uprooting Racism (QUR) Cohort '21-22 members was held on 2025.06.25. Each of us discussed efforts within our meetings on furthering the work of uprooting racism and the current environment.



Umatilla, FL 2025.03.20

- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to strengthen links to FWCC through QEW, FGC, and AFSC. Mark your calendar, World Quaker Day is 2025.10.05. (It's a weeklong event.). The theme is "Love Your Neighbor." To see how you can participate, <u>click here</u>;
  - To see the edited text of FWCC General Secretary Tim Gee BBC Daily Service on the theme "Love Your Neighbor", click here.
- Interfaith Vigil, Big Cypress/Everglades Detention Facility: John Heimburg and I will join faith leaders and others of conscience outside the facility to witness the inhumane and unconstitutional treatment on 2025.10.05.
- Lake County Conservation Council (LCCC): I will assist the LCCC with tabling at the Fall Gardening Celebration on 2025.10.11-12 at Discovery Gardens in Tavares, FL;

- Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW):
  - 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;
  - The QEW virtual side event scheduled to be held during this year's United Nations (UN) High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), 14-23 Seventh Month (July) 2025 was cancelled.
  - More information about UN activities is included under Quaker United Nations Office.
- The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), AFSC: I participated in the Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC) meeting when it reconvened on 2025.06.10 to complete outstanding agenda items.
  - Prior to the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, QUNO NY hosted a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 Community Gathering. SD Goal is know as the "peace goal." There are several linked items related to this gathering. To see these, <u>click here</u>.
    - Amid shrinking opportunities for civil society to engage meaningfully with UN processes, creating spaces for honest dialogue and strategic collaboration is more critical than ever.
  - QUNO also made a submission to the UN Special Rapporteur's Report on Intersectionality from a Racial Justice Perspective. Details and related documents are available. <u>Click here</u>.
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- Tri-City NAACP Branch: I continue with the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee.
- University of South Florida: I taught and conducted research with the Weather, Climate, and Society, National Science Foundation research experience for undergraduates. Our team looked at the impacts of heat and health risks among outdoor workers in Hillsborough, Orange, and Palm Beach Counties.
- Woodbrooke (<a href="https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/">https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/</a>) "...is an international Quaker learning and research organisation based in Britain. [They] provide opportunities for learning, connection and worship which are rooted in the Quaker tradition and open to all. [The] mission is to foster the 'vital ministry' of Quakers today and [the] learning programme allows participants to: deepen their understanding of the Quaker way, explore spirituality, support their communities and be inspired to bring about wider change the in world."

Richard Allen, the Partnership Development Manager at Woodbrooke College, Birmingham, UK. Reached out to some members in SEYM inviting us to join with them in a potential collaboration. I met virtually with Richard Allen and Simon Best, Woodbrooke's Head of Programmes and Partnerships on 2025.09.09. We discussed some possibilities for partnership, including worshiping, course and research participation, and perhaps more. We will meet again during Tenth Month. I will provide updates. In the interim, here are some links, in alpha order, to explore on your own.

Climate Crisis: <a href="https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/climate-crisis/">https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/climate-crisis/</a>;

Climate Crisis Eco Church Network: <a href="https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/climate-crisis/#ecochurch">https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/climate-crisis/#ecochurch</a>;

Courses: <a href="https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses/">https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses/</a>;

Financial Support: <a href="https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/financial-support/">https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/financial-support/</a>;

Learning for Communities: <a href="https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/learning-for-communities/">https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/learning-for-communities/</a>:

Research: <a href="https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/research/">https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/research/</a>.

There is also a regular newsletter available with free subscription log-in, <u>click here</u>.

Thank you, Friends, for holding me and this work in your hearts.

### **Communication**

#### **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, <a href="https://seymquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/FSE-WIBM-Report-2025.pdf">https://seymquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/FSE-WIBM-Report-2025.pdf</a>.

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