

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Post Office Box 1062, St. Petersburg FL 33731-1062

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Winter 2026 Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, 23 First Month (Jan.) 2026, 6:30 pm, Eastern Time

and

Winter 2026 Interim Business Meeting

Saturday, 24 First Month (Jan.) 2026, 8:30 am, Eastern Time

Documents In Advance

We will be gathering via Zoom and in person at
Orlando Monthly Meeting, 316 E Marks Street, Orlando, Florida

WEC, WIBM, and Michener Lecture, *use the same zoom login information*

Topic: 2026 WEC, WIBM, and Michener Lecture

Time: WEC: Jan 23, 2026, 6:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

WIBM: Jan 24, 2026, 8:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87468592403?pwd=Xs2sZNYTPFHiP13kZlczHPwoK3702v.1>

Meeting ID: 874 6859 2403

Passcode: 453985

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,87468592403#,,,,*453985# US

+13126266799,,87468592403#,,,,*453985# US (Chicago)

Join instructions

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/87468592403/invitations?signature=RKr6t4O8NqMqbok6txGxZm28j_pOSx16Mzltgo7tnzY

Schedule, Agenda, and Reports

Friday, 23 First Month 2026

WINTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

6:30 pm	Fellowship	
7:00 pm	Executive Committee meeting, all are welcome	
	Opening Worship	
	Announcements	
	Review of Agenda	
	Nominating Committee Report	
	Treasurer's Report	7
	Proposed Budget with Apportionments FY 2026-2027	19
	Finance Committee Report	
	Ad hoc Committee on Organizational Documents	20
	YM Secretary's Report	
	Gathering Committee Report	21
	FLGBTQC Report	22
	Field Secretary for Earthcare Report	24
	Quakers' Concerns Regarding the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport Detention Center	30
	Trustees Report	
	Half Yearly Meeting Committee Report	
	Peace & Social Concerns Committee Report	41
	Worship & Ministry Committee Report	46
	Youth Committee Report	47
	Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report	48
	Committee on Ministry for Racism Report	
	Earthcare Committee Report	
	Representatives to Organizations (if required for a proposed EC action minute)	
	Reading back the minutes	
	Closing Worship	

Saturday, 24 First Month 2026

WINTER INTERIM BUSINESS MEETING

8:30 am	Fellowship, coffee and snacks, all are welcome	
9:00 am	Opening Worship	
	Nominating Committee preliminary report	
	Announcements	
9:30 am	Committee meetings: All are welcome to attend (breakout rooms)	
11:00 am	Meeting Open Forum: How does Spirit fare with Thee?	
12 noon	Lunch served by Orlando Friends	

1:00 pm	<p>Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business</p> <p>AGENDA:</p> <p>Opening Worship</p> <p>Spiritual/Inspirational Reading</p> <p>Agenda Review and Correction</p> <p>Roll call of Meetings and Worship Groups</p> <p>Welcome of Visitors</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Fall Executive Committee Numbered Minutes..... 4</p> <p>Fall Interim Business Meeting Numbered Minutes5</p> <p>Nominating Committee Report</p> <p>Treasurer’s Report7</p> <p>Proposed Budget with Apportionments FY 2026-2027 19</p> <p>Finance Committee Report</p> <p>Ad hoc Committee on Organizational Documents20</p> <p>YM Secretary’s Report</p> <p>Gathering Committee Report..... 21</p> <p>FLGBTQC Report 22</p> <p>Field Secretary for Earthcare Report24</p> <p>Quakers’ Concerns Regarding the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport Detention Center 30</p> <p>Trustees Report</p> <p>Half Yearly Meeting Committee Report</p> <p>Peace & Social Concerns Committee Report..... 41</p> <p>Worship & Ministry Committee Report 46</p> <p>Youth Committee Report47</p> <p>Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report 48</p> <p>Committee on Ministry for Racism Report</p> <p>Earthcare Committee Report</p> <p>Representatives to Organizations (if required for a proposed EC action minute)</p> <p>Reading back the minutes</p>
4:30	Closing Worship
5:00	Fellowship, then Dinner at a local restaurant

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

Fall Executive Committee Meeting
3 Tenth Month 2025

Sarasota Friends Meetinghouse
and Online

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 25FEC01** Friends approve of Vicki Carlie serving as recording clerk for this Executive Committee Meeting and tomorrow's Fall Interim Business Meeting, in Liz Dykes absence.

- 25FEC02** Executive Committee recommends that Fall Interim Business Meeting that the minute from Deland Quaker Meeting Regarding the Everglades Migrant Prison be adopted by SEYM.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Fall Interim Business Meeting

4 Tenth Month 2025

Sarasota Friends Meetinghouse
and Online

NUMBERED MINUTES

25FIBM01 Fall Interim Business Meeting approves the expenditure of up to \$800 to acquire a hearing assistance system to be used at SEYM events.

25FIBM02 Fall Interim Business Meeting approves a donation of \$500 to be made to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, the funds to be drawn from SEYM's contingency fund.

25FIBM03 Southeastern Yearly Meeting Quakers deplore the establishment of the Everglades Migrant Prison in the fragile environment of the Everglades. Reliable reports of conditions within the prison, the lack of adequate nutrition and sanitary facilities give us grave concern for the mental and physical health of the detainees. We stand in solidarity with the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians in Florida in calling for the immediate closure of the camp to preserve the air quality, drinking water supply, and the sacred ecological balance vital to the Miccosukee way of life.

We applaud the recent landmark agreement between the state of Florida and the U.S. Department of the Army to accelerate the restoration of the Everglades. We feel the establishment of the Everglades Migrant Prison is completely counterproductive to the restoration project's goals and betrays the promise made to Florida residents and the one million people who visit Everglades National Park each year, generating more than \$120 million dollars of revenue to our state.

There is only one Everglades in all the world. We Floridians are the trustees of this unique, beautiful, and spiritually important wetland. It is incumbent upon our governor and our legislature to reflect that trust, not betray it.

25FIBM04 Friends approve the Nominating Committee report, as revised.

25FIBM05 SEYM requires all persons who are hired to work with SEYM youth to be either CAPP registered or have other acceptable Quaker accreditation to

work with youth, as approved by the Child Protection Committee, before we agree to hire them.

25FIBM06 SEYM thanks Sarasota Friends for their great food and gracious hospitality!

Treasurer's Report

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting

24 First Month 2026

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends

Treasurer Report for 2026 Winter Interim Business Meeting

Report for end of First Half of Fiscal Year 2025-20265 (June 1 thru November 30, 2025)

All values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

SEYM Total Cash Flow not including Trustees

The overall cash flow of the Yearly Meeting (excluding the Trustees' accounts) for this period yielded a **net deficit of \$29,303**. This resulted from an SEYM total real income of \$50,245 against total expenses of \$79,548.

SEYM General Fund for Administration - Cash Flow and Budget Performance

At the end of this period, the General Fund (the operations fund for which we approved a balanced budget of \$122,155 in our 2025 Yearly Meeting sessions) showed a **net deficit of \$21,941**. This resulted from General Fund total income of \$36,864 (30% of budget) against expenses of \$58,805 (48% of budget).

Budget Support Apportionments & Contributions Received

During this period, in response to the annual request for support of the approved General Fund Budget (the Apportionments), contributions received from the Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups totaled \$28,076, or 26% of the year's budgeted request of \$108,152.

Fifteen Monthly Meetings and four Worship Groups were included in the Apportionment request this fiscal year. As of 11/30/2024 one has contributed between 76% and 100%, two have contributed 51% to 75%, two have contributed 26% to 50%, two have contributed 1% to 25%, and twelve have not contributed anything.

The unrestricted individual donations received toward the Budget during this period totaled \$2,990, approximately 75% of the \$4,000 budgeted amount.

Cash Flow Results for Programs

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

The Publications program during this period had a net real income of \$62, excluding unrealized capital gains of \$1,383 on investments for the program.

The SEYM Youth & Young Adult Coordinator program during this period received \$1,174 in individual donations and had expenses of \$14,306, yielding a **net deficit of \$13,132**.

Net Worth

The Net Worth of the combined Yearly Meeting and its Trustees at the end of this period was \$802,763, an increase of \$162,103 since 5/31/2025 including a bequest in the amount of \$158,807 from the Guin estate and \$32,767 in unrealized capital gains since the beginning of the fiscal year.

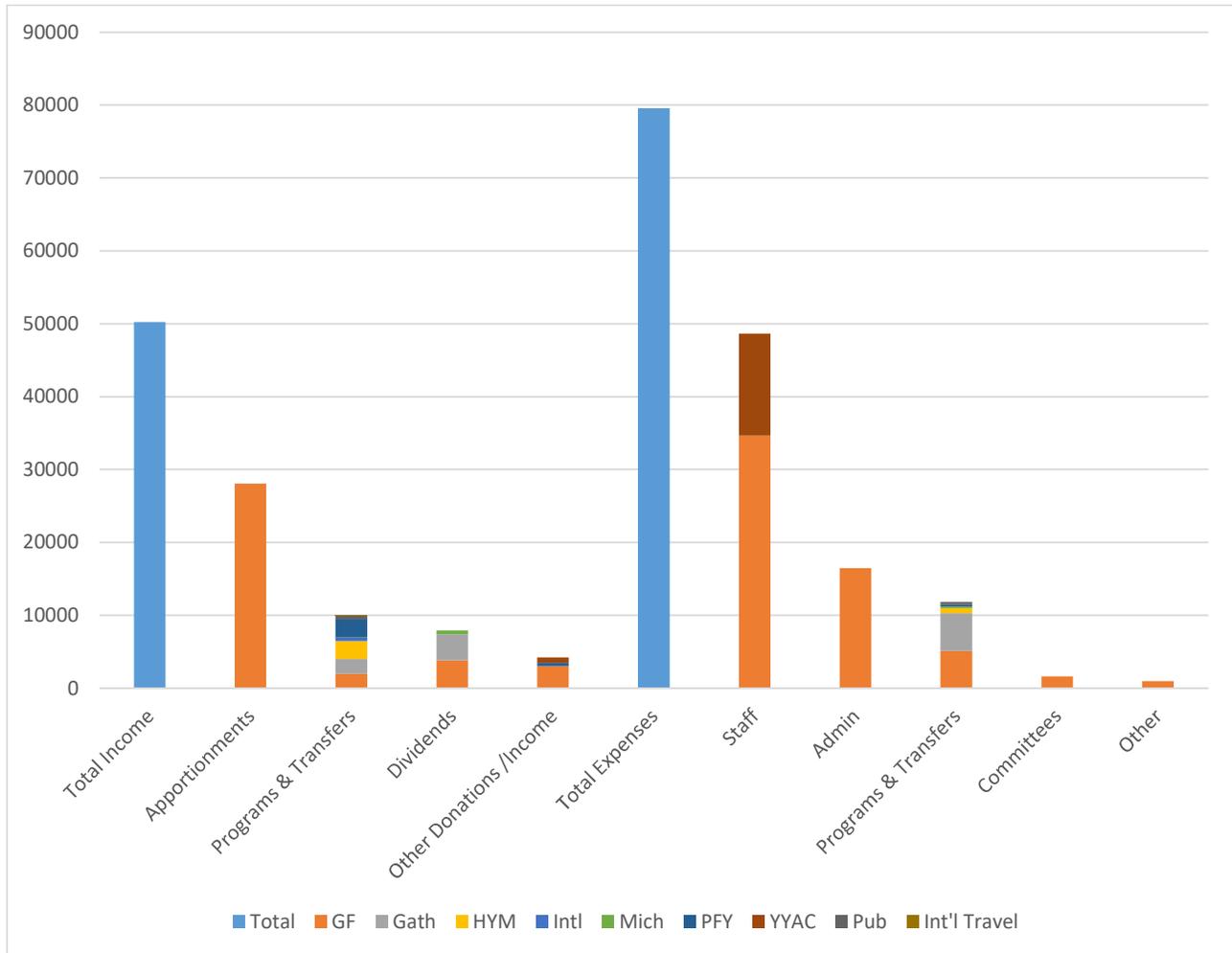
Joel D. Cook, Treasurer - SEYM 1/21/2026

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends Treasurer Report for 2026 Winter Interim Business Meeting

Report for end of First Half of Fiscal Year 2025-20265 (June 1 thru November 30, 2025)

All values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Income & Expense, Not Including Funds in Trustees' Care



Total Income	50,244	Total Expenses	79,547
Apportionments	28,076	Staff	48,657
Programs & Transfers	10,019	Admin	16,473
Dividends	7,932	Programs & Transfers	11,844
Other Donations /Income	4,217	Committees	1,600
		Other	973

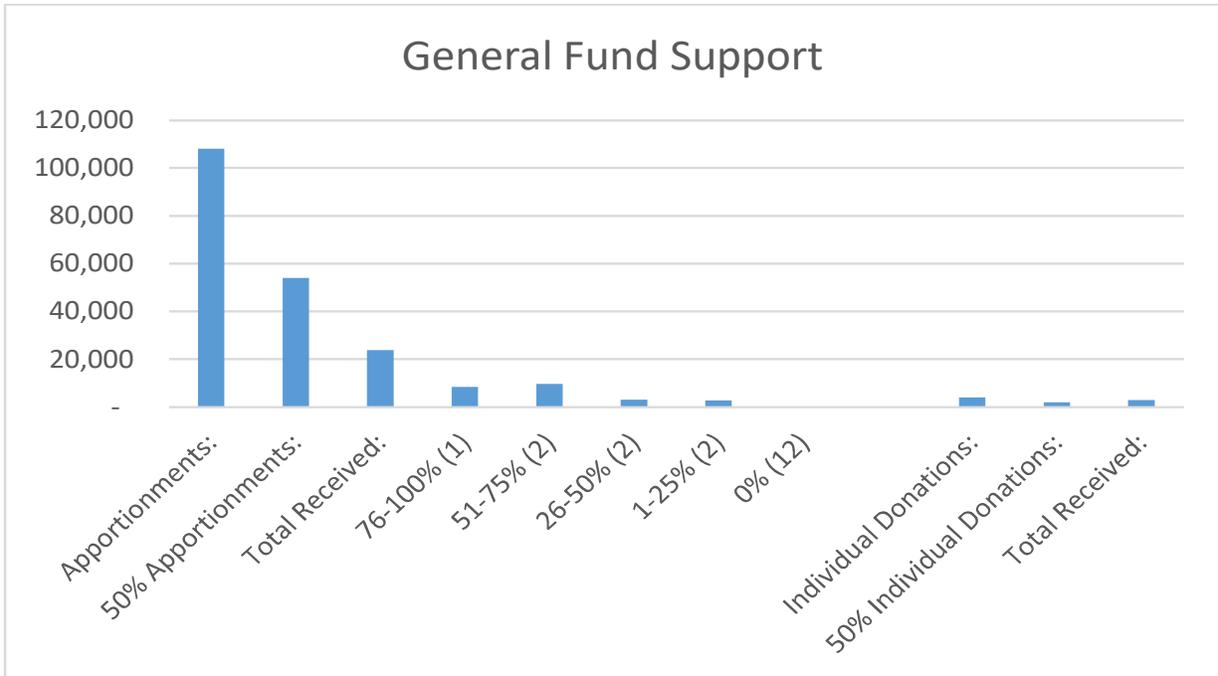
Income: \$50,244
 Expenses: \$79,547
 Deficit (Loss): -\$29,303

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends Treasurer Report for 2026 Winter Interim Business Meeting

Report for end of First Half of Fiscal Year 2025-20265 (June 1 thru November 30, 2025)

All values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Budget Support: Apportionments & Individual



Apportionments Total:	108,150
50% Apportionments:	54,075
Total Received:	23,916
76-100% (1)	8,400
51-75% (2)	9,661
26-50% (2)	3,055
1-25% (2)	2,800
0% (12)	-
Individual Donations:	4,000
50% Individual Donations:	2,000
Total Received:	2,990

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
 Budget vs. Actual
 June through November 2025

01/22/2026

Cash Basis

	<u>Jun - Nov 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Income				
2000 · Income				
2001 · Donations				
2002 · Indivd.Donations-Classes	2,990.00	4,000.00	-1,010.00	74.75%
2003 · Meeting Donations	28,075.91	108,152.00	-80,076.09	25.96%
Total 2001 · Donations	31,065.91	112,152.00	-81,086.09	27.7%
Total 2200 · Investment Earnings	0.84	3.00	-2.16	28.0%
Total 2306 · Miscellaneous Income	0.80	0.00	0.80	100.0%
Total 2000 · Income	31,067.55	112,155.00	-81,087.45	27.7%
2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes				
2712 · Michener Lect. to GF/insurance	210.00	210.00	0.00	100.0%
2732 · Gath/Walton to GF/insurance	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	100.0%
2752 · HYM to GF/insurance	590.00	590.00	0.00	100.0%
2804 · from Trustee's Funds				
2815 · for BertscheOutreach Travel	1,132.10	2,500.00	-1,367.90	45.28%
2820 · for Staff Salary	2,664.45	5,500.00	-2,835.55	48.45%
Total 2804 · from Trustee's Funds	3,796.55	8,000.00	-4,203.45	47.46%
Total 2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes	5,796.55	10,000.00	-4,203.45	57.97%
Total Income	36,864.10	122,155.00	-85,290.90	30.18%
Expense				
2999 · Expenses				
3000 · Operating Costs				
3001 · Bank Service Charges	180.45	0.00	180.45	100.0%
3002 · PayPal service fee	16.61	75.00	-58.39	22.15%
3080 · Duplication	631.38	1,000.00	-368.62	63.14%
Total 3100 · Insurance	3,077.62	2,000.00	1,077.62	153.88%
3107 · Youth Worker CAP Certification	104.56	200.00	-95.44	52.28%
3146 · Non-Profit Corporation Fee	0.00	65.00	-65.00	0.0%
3200 · Office Supplies	74.08	600.00	-525.92	12.35%
3270 · Payroll Expenses	39,521.89	75,705.00	-36,183.11	52.21%
3272 · Employer Payroll Taxes	2,996.96	7,500.00	-4,503.04	39.96%
3380 · Postage/Shipping	239.52	300.00	-60.48	79.84%
3381 · Post Office Box rental	210.00	350.00	-140.00	60.0%
3400 · Office Equipment	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
Total 3500 · Professional Fees	0.00	1,400.00	-1,400.00	0.0%
Total 3640 · Rent warehouse/office	420.00	3,140.00	-2,720.00	13.38%
Total 3700 · Repairs	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
3816 · Software	760.41	2,000.00	-1,239.59	38.02%
3840 · Telephone & Inet access	806.86	1,600.00	-793.14	50.43%
3860 · Travel Administrative	1,719.64	2,000.00	-280.36	85.98%
Total 3900 · Website	645.06	700.00	-54.94	92.15%
Total 3000 · Operating Costs	51,405.04	99,035.00	-47,629.96	51.91%
4000 · Committees Operating Expenses				
4309 · Archives	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
4329 · EC and IBM	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
4339 · Faith and Practice	0.00	10.00	-10.00	0.0%
4349 · Finance	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
4359 · Nominating	0.00	10.00	-10.00	0.0%
4369 · Peace and Social Concerns	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
4389 · Youth Committee	0.00	10.00	-10.00	0.0%
4399 · Worship and Ministry	1,600.00	2,300.00	-700.00	69.57%
4429 · Earthcare	0.00	10.00	-10.00	0.0%
4449 · Publications	0.00	10.00	-10.00	0.0%
4469 · Racism, Ministry on	0.00	10.00	-10.00	0.0%
4489 · Young Adult Quakers	0.00	10.00	-10.00	0.0%
5096 · Quaker Education Committee	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
Total 4000 · Committees Operating Expenses	1,600.00	2,670.00	-1,070.00	59.93%

	<u>Jun - Nov 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
5000 · Donations to Organizations				
5007 · AFSC	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
5018 · Earlham School of Religion	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
5027 · FCNL	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
5028 · QEW (FCUN)	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
5030 · FLGBTQC	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
5037 · FGC	0.00	1,200.00	-1,200.00	0.0%
5038 · FLCoalition for Peace & Justice	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
5047 · Florida Council of Churches	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
5048 · Florida Impact	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.0%
5057 · Friends Journal	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
5061 · Friends Peace Teams	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
5067 · FUM	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
5068 · FWCC	0.00	1,450.00	-1,450.00	0.0%
5077 · Pendle Hill	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
5085 · Quaker House of Fayetteville NC	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
5087 · Quaker Life	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
5089 · QUNO	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
5090 · NNABSHC	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.0%
5097 · Friends House	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
Total 5000 · Donations to Organizations	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,850.00</u>	<u>-6,850.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
8000 · Travel & Financial Aid				
8160 · Annual Representative	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.0%
8360 · Attend SEYM-approved Activities	200.00	2,500.00	-2,300.00	8.0%
8460 · Travel Support to SEYM Business	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
Total 8000 · Travel & Financial Aid	<u>200.00</u>	<u>6,500.00</u>	<u>-6,300.00</u>	<u>3.08%</u>
8500 · Contingency	500.00	2,000.00	-1,500.00	25.0%
Total 2999 · Expenses	<u>53,705.04</u>	<u>117,055.00</u>	<u>-63,349.96</u>	<u>45.88%</u>
9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes				
9004 · for Youth Programs	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	100.0%
9005 · for Gathering Youth	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	100.0%
9060 · for Quaker Int'l Meeting Travel	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.0%
9061 · Excess Quaker Int'l Mtg Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
9062 · Intl WG Support	500.00	500.00	0.00	100.0%
Total 9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes	<u>5,100.00</u>	<u>5,100.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Expense	<u>58,805.04</u>	<u>122,155.00</u>	<u>-63,349.96</u>	<u>48.14%</u>
Net Income	<u>-21,940.94</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-21,940.94</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Income & Expense by Class
June through November 2025

01/21/2026

Cash Basis

	Admin/ General Fund	Gathering/ Walton Lecture	Half Yearly Meeting (HYM)	Int'l WG Support	Michener Lecture	Programs for Youth	YYAC	Publications	Quaker Int'l Meeting Travel	Trustee's Funds	TOTAL
Income											
2000 - Income											
2001 - Donations											
2002 - Indiv. Donations - Classes	2,990.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,990.00
2003 - Meeting Donations	28,075.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,075.91
Total 2001 - Donations	31,065.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31,065.91
2040 - Restricted Donations											
2050 - Restricted - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	0.00	447.00	727.00	0.00	0.00	157,593.10	158,807.10
Total 2040 - Restricted Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	0.00	447.00	727.00	0.00	0.00	157,593.10	158,807.10
2200 - Investment Earnings											
2203 - Savings Account Interest	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.84
2205 - Dividends FFC Gathering Youth	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,590.17	2,590.17
2210 - Dividends FFC Michener Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	542.68	542.68
2215 - Dividends FFC Bertsche OuTravel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,132.10	1,132.10
2220 - Dividends-FFC Staff Salary Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,664.65	2,664.65
2230 - Dividends FFC Walton Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,003.08	1,003.08
2280 - Dividends FFC SEYM Publications	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	336.63	0.00	0.00	336.63
2290 - Investment Capital Gains/Losses											
2206 - Capital Gain(Loss) Gath. Youth	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,050.74	8,050.74
2211 - Capital Gain(Loss) Michener	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,686.74	1,686.74
2216 - Capital Gain(Loss) BertscheOTra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,518.81	3,518.81
2221 - Capital Gain(Loss) Staff Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,282.26	8,282.26
2226 - Capital Gain(Loss) Unrestricted	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,567.04	7,567.04
2231 - Capital Gain(Loss) Walton	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,117.77	3,117.77
2232 - Capital Gain (Loss) Meetinghous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	543.29	543.29
2281 - Capital Gain(loss) SEYM Publish	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,382.91	0.00	0.00	1,382.91
Total 2290 - Investment Capital Gains/Losses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,382.91	0.00	32,766.65	34,149.56
Total 2200 - Investment Earnings	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,719.54	0.00	40,699.33	42,419.71
2306 - Miscellaneous Income											
2302 - Pay Pal fees paid	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.50	5.45	0.80	0.00	0.00	17.55
Total 2306 - Miscellaneous Income	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.50	5.45	0.80	0.00	0.00	17.55
2400 - Program Registrations											
2430 - Registration Fee	0.00	0.00	2,470.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,495.00
Total 2400 - Program Registrations	0.00	0.00	2,470.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,495.00
2600 - Publications Donations											
2680 - Publication Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	82.16	0.00	0.00	82.16
Total 2600 - Publications Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	82.16	0.00	0.00	82.16
Total 2000 - Income	31,067.55	0.00	2,470.00	40.00	25.00	457.50	732.45	1,802.50	0.00	198,292.43	234,887.43

	Admin/ General Fund	Gathering/ Walton Lecture	Half Yearly Meeting (HYM)	Int'l WG Support	Michener Lecture	Programs for Youth	YYAC	Publications	Quaker Int'l Meeting Travel	Trustee's Funds	TOTAL
2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes											
2712 · Michener Lect. to GF/insurance	210.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	210.00
2732 · Gath/Walton to GF/insurance	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
2752 · HYM to GF/insurance	590.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	590.00
2784 · from GF for YouthProgramsClass	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
2801 · transfer from General Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	600.00
2802 · from GF for Gathering Youth	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
2804 · from Trustee's Funds											
2805 · for Gathering Youth	0.00	2,590.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,590.17
2810 · for Michener Lecture	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	542.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	542.68
2815 · for BertscheOutreach Travel	1,132.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,132.10
2820 · for Staff Salary	2,664.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,664.45
2830 · for Walton Lecture/Gathering	0.00	1,003.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,003.08
Total 2804 · from Trustee's Funds	3,796.55	3,593.25	0.00	0.00	542.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,932.48
Total 2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes	5,796.55	5,593.25	0.00	500.00	542.68	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	15,032.48
Total Income	36,864.10	5,593.25	2,470.00	540.00	567.68	2,957.50	732.45	1,802.50	100.00	198,292.43	249,919.91
Expense											
2999 · Expenses											
3000 · Operating Costs											
3001 · Bank Service Charges	180.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	181.19
3002 · PayPal service fee	16.61	0.00	44.82	0.00	0.99	17.38	17.52	1.83	0.00	0.00	99.15
3080 · Duplication	631.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	631.38
3100 · Insurance											
3106 · Liability Insurance	3,077.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,077.62
Total 3100 · Insurance	3,077.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,077.62
3107 · Youth Worker CAP Certification	104.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	104.56
3200 · Office Supplies	74.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	74.08
3270 · Payroll Expenses	39,521.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,003.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	52,525.09
3272 · Employer Payroll Taxes	2,996.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	994.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,991.70
3380 · Postage/Shipping	239.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.36	0.00	0.00	280.88
3381 · Post Office Box rental	210.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	210.00
3500 · Professional Fees											
3586 · E-pub Dist fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	104.00	0.00	0.00	104.00
Total 3500 · Professional Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	104.00	0.00	0.00	104.00
3640 · Rent warehouse/office											
3642 · Office Rent	420.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	420.00
Total 3640 · Rent warehouse/office	420.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	420.00
3816 · Software	760.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	760.41
3840 · Telephone & Inet access	806.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	806.86
3860 · Travel Administrative	1,447.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,447.00
3900 · Website											
3940 · Domain Name Registrations	419.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	419.51
3900 · Website - Other	225.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	225.55
Total 3900 · Website	645.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	645.06
3000 · Operating Costs - Other	0.00	0.00	10.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.66
Total 3000 · Operating Costs	51,132.40	0.00	55.12	0.00	0.99	18.12	14,015.82	147.19	0.00	0.00	65,369.64
4000 · Committees Operating Expenses											
4399 · Worship and Ministry	1,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,600.00
Total 4000 · Committees Operating Expenses	1,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,600.00

	Admin/ General Fund	Gathering/ Walton Lecture	Half Yearly Meeting (HYM)	Int'l WG Support	Michener Lecture	Programs for Youth	YYAC	Publications	Quaker Int'l Meeting Travel	Trustee's Funds	TOTAL
6000 · Production											
6080 · ISSN Printing, Publications	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	198.04	0.00	0.00	198.04
6380 · ISBN production	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	12.00
Total 6000 · Production	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	210.04	0.00	0.00	210.04
7000 · Operating Costs Programs											
7138 · Food purchases	0.00	0.00	37.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.24
7500 · Site Fees											
7575 · Site Fees - Lodging											
7590 · Lodging - SEYM Staff	272.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	272.64
Total 7575 · Site Fees - Lodging	272.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	272.64
7500 · Site Fees - Other	0.00	3,986.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,986.10
Total 7500 · Site Fees	272.64	3,986.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,258.74
7800 · Youth Program											
7804 · Youth Prg. Expenses/Fees/Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	271.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	271.81
Total 7800 · Youth Program	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	271.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	271.81
Total 7000 · Operating Costs Programs	272.64	3,986.10	37.24	0.00	0.00	271.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,567.79
8000 · Travel & Financial Aid											
8360 · Attend SEYM-approved Activities	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Total 8000 · Travel & Financial Aid	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
8500 · Contingency	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Total 2999 · Expenses	53,705.04	3,986.10	92.36	0.00	0.99	289.93	14,015.82	357.23	0.00	0.00	72,447.47
9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes											
9002 · to GF for insurance	0.00	1,200.00	590.00	0.00	210.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
9004 · for Youth Programs	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
9005 · for Gathering Youth	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,590.17	4,590.17
9060 · for Quaker Int'l Meeting Travel	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
9062 · Int'l WG Support	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
9210 · for Michener Lecture	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	542.68	542.68
9215 · for BertscheOutreachTravel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,132.10	1,132.10
9220 · for Staff Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,664.45	2,664.45
9230 · for Walton Lecture/Gathering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,003.08	1,003.08
Total 9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes	5,100.00	1,200.00	590.00	0.00	210.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,932.48	15,032.48
Total Expense	58,805.04	5,186.10	682.36	0.00	210.99	289.93	14,015.82	357.23	0.00	7,932.48	87,479.95
Net Income	-21,940.94	407.15	1,787.64	540.00	356.69	2,667.57	-13,283.37	1,445.27	100.00	190,359.95	162,439.96
Total 2290 · Investment Capital Gains/Losses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,382.91	0.00	32,766.65	34,149.56
Net Income w/o Unrealized Capital Gains / Losses	-21,940.94	407.15	1,787.64	540.00	356.69	2,667.57	-13,283.37	62.36	100.00	157,593.30	128,290.40
Net Income w/o Unrealized Capital Gains/Losses & Trustees	-21,940.94	407.15	1,787.64	540.00	356.69	2,667.57	-13,283.37	62.36	100.00		-29,302.90
Income w/o Trustees	36,864.10	5,593.25	2,470.00	540.00	567.68	2,957.50	732.45	419.59	100.00		50,244.57
Expenses w/o Trustees	58,805.04	5,186.10	682.36	0.00	210.99	289.93	14,015.82	357.23	0.00		79,547.47

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
 Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
 As of November 30, 2025

01/21/2026

Cash Basis

	Nov 30, 25	May 31, 25	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
0501 · Checking Account BOA			
511 · Checking - Gen'l Fund - General	-18,510.20	5,874.26	-24,384.46
560 · Checking-SA-Quaker Int'l Travel	14,691.82	14,591.82	100.00
566 · Checking-GF-Sufferings	170.00	170.00	0.00
610 · Checking-SA-Michener	356.69	0.00	356.69
630 · Checking-SA-YBM Gathering	407.15	0.00	407.15
640 · Checking-SA-Programs for Youth	12,517.73	9,850.16	2,667.57
645 · Checking - SA -YYAC	3,430.34	2,715.77	714.57
650 · Checking- SA-HYM	1,787.64	0.00	1,787.64
680 · Checking- SA-Publications	-3,089.85	-3,152.21	62.36
690 · Checking - SA - Covid Relief	500.00	500.00	0.00
695 · Checking - SA -Int'l WG Support	766.46	226.46	540.00
700 · Checking-Trustees			
705 · Checking - Gathering Youth Fund	3,391.74	3,391.74	0.00
710 · Checking - Michener Fund	65.00	65.00	0.00
715 · Checking - Bertsche Travel Fund	15.00	15.00	0.00
720 · Checking - Staff Salary	840.20	840.00	0.20
725 · Checking - Unrestricted Fund	153,938.10	-3,655.00	157,593.10
730 · Checking - Walton Fund	15.00	15.00	0.00
740 · Checking - Meetinghouse Support	303.49	303.49	0.00
Total 700 · Checking-Trustees	<u>158,568.53</u>	<u>975.23</u>	<u>157,593.30</u>
Total 0501 · Checking Account BOA	<u>171,596.31</u>	<u>31,751.49</u>	<u>139,844.82</u>
830 · Checking - BofA Payroll	2,088.80	13,644.06	-11,555.26
903 · Savings BOA	16,932.53	16,931.69	0.84
Total Checking/Savings	<u>190,617.64</u>	<u>62,327.24</u>	<u>128,290.40</u>
Accounts Receivable			
1100 · Accounts Receivable	-215.65	-215.65	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>-215.65</u>	<u>-215.65</u>	<u>0.00</u>

	<u>Nov 30, 25</u>	<u>May 31, 25</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
Other Current Assets			
1180 · FFC SOYM1 Publications Investme	19,460.29	18,413.98	1,046.31
1200 · Trustee Investments			
1205 · FFC SOYMT6 GatheringYouth Fund	149,735.18	141,684.44	8,050.74
1210 · FFC SOYMT3 Michener	31,371.67	29,684.93	1,686.74
1215 · FFC SOYMT2 BertscheTravel Fd	65,445.98	61,927.17	3,518.81
1220 · FFC SOYMT5 Staff Salary Fund	154,041.30	145,759.04	8,282.26
1225 · FFC SOYMT4 Unrestricted	104,685.37	97,118.33	7,567.04
1230 · FFC SOYMT1 Walton Fund	57,987.34	54,869.57	3,117.77
1240 · FFC SOYMT7 Meetinghouse Support	29,634.27	29,090.98	543.29
Total 1200 · Trustee Investments	<u>592,901.11</u>	<u>560,134.46</u>	<u>32,766.65</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>612,361.40</u>	<u>578,548.44</u>	<u>33,812.96</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>802,763.39</u>	<u>640,660.03</u>	<u>162,103.36</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>802,763.39</u></u>	<u><u>640,660.03</u></u>	<u><u>162,103.36</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Equity			
1400 · Trustees Funds Equity	296,694.99	296,694.99	0.00
1500 · Operational Equity/ Net Assets			
1511 · General Fund Net Assets	29,324.36	29,324.36	0.00
1560 · Quaker Int'l Travel Net Assets	5,349.80	5,349.80	0.00
1580 · Publications Net Assets	14,341.85	14,341.85	0.00
Total 1500 · Operational Equity/ Net Assets	<u>49,016.01</u>	<u>49,016.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>
1700 · Retained Earnings	294,612.43	295,266.84	-654.41
Net Income	162,439.96	-317.81	162,757.77
Total Equity	<u>802,763.39</u>	<u>640,660.03</u>	<u>162,103.36</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>802,763.39</u></u>	<u><u>640,660.03</u></u>	<u><u>162,103.36</u></u>

Proposed Budget FY 2026-2027

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting

24 First Month 2026

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
 Proposed Budget FY 2026-2027
 June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027

	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027
	Budget	Budget	Proposed
Income			
2000 · Income			
2001 · Donations			
2002 · Indivd.Donations-Classes	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,500.00
2003 · Meeting Donations			
2013 · Meeting Donations, Unaffiliated		0.00	0.00
2023 · Meeting Donations, WG wo apport		0.00	0.00
2003 · Meeting Donations - Apportionments	104,150.00	108,152.00	107,827.15
Total 2001 · Donations	108,150.00	112,152.00	112,327.15
2040 · Restricted Donations			
2200 · Investment Earnings			
2203 · Savings Account Interest	5.00	3.00	3.00
Total 2200 · Investment Earnings	5.00	3.00	3.00
Total 2000 · Income	108,155.00	112,155.00	112,330.15
2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes			
2712 · Michener Lect. to GF/insurance	210.00	210.00	336.00
2732 · Gath/Walton to GF/insurance	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,920.00
2752 · HYM to GF/insurance	590.00	590.00	944.00
2804 · from Trustee's Funds			
2815 · for BertscheOutreach Travel	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,621.00
2820 · for Staff Salary	5,500.00	5,500.00	6,160.00
2804 · from Trustee's Funds - Other		0.00	0.00
Total 2804 · from Trustee's Funds	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,781.00
2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes - Other		-	-
Total 2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes	10,000.00	10,000.00	11,981.00
2900 · Uncategorized Income		0.00	0.00
Total Income	118,155.00	122,155.00	124,311.15
Expense			
2999 · Expenses			
3000 · Operating Costs			
3001 · Bank Service Charges	360.00	0.00	360.00
3002 · PayPal service fee	100.00	75.00	75.00
3080 · Duplication	1,500.00	1,000.00	700.00
Total 3100 · Insurance	2,000.00	2,000.00	3,200.00
3107 · Youth Worker CAP Certification	200.00	200.00	200.00
3146 · Non-Profit Corporation Fee	65.00	65.00	65.00
3200 · Office Supplies	800.00	600.00	600.00
3270 · Payroll Expenses	73,500.00	75,705.00	77,976.15
3272 · Employer Payroll Taxes	4,800.00	7,500.00	7,725.00
3380 · Postage/Shipping	400.00	300.00	300.00
3381 · Post Office Box rental	300.00	350.00	350.00
3400 · Office Equipment	400.00	200.00	200.00
Total 3500 · Professional Fees	740.00	1,400.00	800.00
Total 3640 · Rent warehouse/office	2,480.00	3,140.00	3,140.00
Total 3700 · Repairs	250.00	200.00	200.00
3816 · Software	2,600.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
3840 · Telephone & Inet access	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
3860 · Travel Administrative	1,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total 3900 · Website	560.00	700.00	700.00
3000 · Operating Costs - Other		0.00	0.00
Total 3000 · Operating Costs	93,655.00	99,035.00	102,191.15

	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027
	Budget	Budget	Proposed
4000 · Committees Operating Expenses			
4309 · Archives	100.00	50.00	50.00
4319 · Cuban Quaker Project		0.00	0.00
4329 · EC and IBM	100.00	50.00	50.00
4339 · Faith and Practice	25.00	10.00	10.00
4349 · Finance	25.00	50.00	50.00
4359 · Nominating	25.00	10.00	10.00
4369 · Peace and Social Concerns	450.00	50.00	50.00
4379 · Religious Education		0.00	0.00
4389 · Youth Committee	25.00	10.00	10.00
4399 · Worship and Ministry	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,300.00
4429 · Earthcare	25.00	10.00	10.00
4449 · Publications	25.00	10.00	10.00
4469 · Racism, Ministry on	25.00	10.00	10.00
4479 · SEYM Retirement Committee	0.00	0.00	0.00
4489 · Young Adult Quakers	25.00	10.00	10.00
5096 · Quaker Education Committee	0.00	100.00	100.00
4000 · Committees Operating Expenses - Other		0.00	0.00
Total 4000 · Committees Operating Expenses	3,150.00	2,670.00	2,670.00
5000 · Donations to Organizations			
5007 · AFSC	200.00	200.00	200.00
5008 · AFSC-SERO		0.00	0.00
5017 · Cuba YM-Havana Peace Coord.		0.00	0.00
5018 · Earlham School of Religion	100.00	100.00	100.00
5027 · FCNL	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5028 · QEW (FCUN)	200.00	200.00	200.00
5030 · FLGBTQC	100.00	100.00	100.00
5037 · FGC	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
5038 · FLCoalition for Peace & Justice	100.00	100.00	100.00
5047 · Florida Council of Churches	200.00	200.00	200.00
5048 · Florida Impact	300.00	300.00	300.00
5057 · Friends Journal	100.00	100.00	100.00
5061 · Friends Peace Teams	500.00	500.00	500.00
5067 · FUM	500.00	500.00	500.00
5068 · FWCC	1,450.00	1,450.00	1,450.00
5077 · Pendle Hill	100.00	100.00	100.00
5078 · ProNica		0.00	0.00
5085 · Quaker House of Fayetteville NC	200.00	200.00	200.00
5087 · Quaker Life	100.00	100.00	100.00
5088 · SIPAZ		0.00	0.00
5089 · QUNO	100.00	100.00	100.00
5090 · NNABSHC	300.00	300.00	300.00
5097 · Friends House	100.00	100.00	100.00
5000 · Donations to Organizations - Other		0.00	0.00
Total 5000 · Donations to Organizations	6,850.00	6,850.00	6,850.00
8000 · Travel & Financial Aid			
8160 · Annual Representative	4,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
8260 · Quaker Int'l Meeting Travel		0.00	0.00
8360 · Attend SEYM-approved Activities	1,500.00	2,500.00	2,000.00
8460 · Travel Support to SEYM Business	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total 8000 · Travel & Financial Aid	6,500.00	6,500.00	5,000.00
Total 8500 · Contingency	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total 2999 · Expenses	112,155.00	117,055.00	118,711.15
9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes			
9004 · for Youth Programs	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
9005 · for Gathering Youth	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
9060 · for Quaker Int'l Meeting Travel	500.00	100.00	100.00
9062 · Intl WG Support	1,000.00	500.00	1,000.00
Total 9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes	6,000.00	5,100.00	5,600.00
Total Expense	118,155.00	122,155.00	124,311.15

Approved Budget for
Proposed Budget: \$ 124,311.00
Proposed Apportionments: \$ 107,827.00

Membership Statistics as of 3/6/2025

Meeting Name	Attenders	Members	Units	Meeting
Charleston MM	6	7	10	\$ 2,372.43
Clearwater MM	15	11	19	\$ 4,389.00
Deland MM	17	9	18	\$ 4,151.75
Fort Lauderdale MM	5	2	5	\$ 1,067.59
Fort Myers MM	26	20	33	\$ 7,829.02
Gainesville MM	15	45	53	\$ 12,455.26
Halifax UMM	11	0	0	\$ -
Havana UWG	9	0	0	\$ -
Jacksonville WG	12	0	6	\$ 1,423.46
Key West WG	12	0	0	\$ -
Lake Wales WG	1	0	1	\$ 118.62
Managua WG	6	0	0	\$ -
Melbourne, Q M of	3	19	21	\$ 4,863.48
Miami MM	5	44	47	\$ 11,031.81
Orlando MM	35	44	62	\$ 14,590.45
Palm Beach MM	9	17	22	\$ 5,100.73
St. Augustine WG	19	0	10	\$ 2,253.81
St. Petersburg MM	17	39	47.5	\$ 11,269.05
Sarasota MM	9	17	22	\$ 5,100.73
Savannah MM	7	7	11	\$ 2,491.05
Tallahassee MM	13	40	47	\$ 11,031.81
Tampa MM	9	16	21	\$ 4,863.48
Treasure Coast WG (Included w/ PBMM)	3	0	2	\$ 355.86
Winter Park MM	3	3	5	\$ 1,067.59
				\$ -
Totals	275	340	455	\$ 107,826.98

Total Apportionments: \$ 107,827.00

Apportionment Per Unit: \$ 237.24

Ad hoc SEYM Documents Committee: Updating the SEYM Handbook

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting

24 First Month 2026

This report was written on December 20 for the Documents in Advance. There likely will be oral updates at WIBM.

The committee suspended our efforts on the handbook revision at the end of October, following a debilitating head injury Phoebe sustained on a jetway in the Tallahassee airport. Ed has been undergoing cancer treatments since August and will have surgery (cystectomy) on January 19. He will continue serving on the committee.

The committee plans to reconvene on January 2, 2026, with weekly work sessions resuming on January 8, 2026. As of this writing, we hope to have a document ready to present to EC for discernment and approval at Summer EC. The printed *SEYM Operational Handbook: Procedures & Job Descriptions, Third Edition, 2026*, will be available at Fall IBM.

On behalf of the Committee, Ed Lesnick

Committee members: Neil Andersen, Phoebe Andersen, Ed Lesnick

Gathering Committee Report

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting

24 First Month 2026

The 2026 Yearly Meeting Gathering will be held April 1-5 at the Dayspring Camp and Conference Center.

Registration opens January 26th!!!

Our theme this year is **Hold Fast the Hope that Anchors the Soul**, which is taken from George Fox's Epistle 314:

“And hold fast the hope that which anchors the soul, which is sure and steadfast, that you may float above the world's seas; for your anchor holds sure and steadfast in the bottom, let the winds, storms and raging waves rise ever so high.”

Leslie Manning will be presenting the Walton Lecture and Retreats. She will lead us finding the ground of our hope and exploring the synergistic and unitive relationship of our faith, spirituality and witness.

What's new this year?

Cheryl Demers Holton, our Program Coordinator, has been working on a great lineup of workshops and planning more opportunities for our virtual attenders to participate. An early morning Bible Study will be offered at the same time as early worship. Visit our webpage to see the draft schedule.

Dayspring has made some changes that they are firm about:

- Lodging rates have increased by \$10/night.
- Check in time — that is, when you can get your room keys on Wednesday — is now 4pm instead of 3pm. Check out time on Sunday — when you return your keys — is now 9am instead of 10am.
- We have to hire lifeguards for use of the pool so we're only offering one adult swim time, and one family swim time.

We are no longer offering to let you pay by check by mail. You can pay online when you register or pay by check or online when you check in.

Because on-site lodging is limited, we can no longer offer one-night stays for some rooms, such as private rooms.

Volunteers are needed for critical responsibilities:

- **Snacks Coordinator**
- **Zoom hosts:** Volunteers are needed to run Zoom for hybrid workshops.
- **A/V assistant:** The YM Clerk, Bill Carlie, is looking for someone to arrive early Wednesday afternoon to learn how to set up and connect the equipment, with an eye towards helping out next year.

[To learn more and register, visit our YM Gathering webpage>](#)

FLGBTQC Representative Report

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting

24 First Month 2026

The FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns) communities first began in the 1970s at annual and semi-annual international gatherings (Mid-Winter Gatherings and Summer FGC Gatherings). The structure initially was similar to monthly meetings—Nominating, Finance, Worship and Ministry committees, then clerk, co-clerk, recording clerk, and treasurer with most of the work done at Gathering. Later, only one clerk would serve, and a ‘teams’ approach was tried of Heart, Worship, Tech, Finance. Interest and attendance fell off, particularly during the pandemic and at present there is a monthly meeting for worship and once a month worship sharing, both online. Attendance has varied with each, but the opportunities have been consistently offered since the lockdown. This past year saw a spark in interest causing a specially called business meeting. In this meeting, the body asked for a Steering Committee to be created to determine a structure to organize the group again, or discern if the group should be laid down. Friends in general were encouraged to speak to their monthly meetings and yearly meetings to remind all that ‘we’re still here’, particularly in this time when so many LGBTQ folks are at risk due to targeted legislation. Visibility is important and allies are cherished.

The FLGBTQC Steering Committee is comprised of 11 Friends, including two co-conveners; there are two additional Friends who do not attend, but serve to hold the committee in the Light as we meet. (I serve on the Steering Committee, which is a separate responsibility and function from that of serving as SEYM Representative. I am providing some background for the community and the current work in progress that will impact it going forward as I am involved in the work as part of the Steering Committee, and am invested in what happens as SEYM Rep, as well as a member of the FLGBTQC community). The committee spent many hours researching contact information for FLGBTQC folks who had fallen out of touch, and worked hard to recreate connections. A survey was sent out to Friends and we gathered a sense of what the community wanted still, what was troublesome, when the moments of joy and powerful connection were felt. There is a listserv that had been ongoing since early days to provide communication and connection particularly in between the in-person gatherings, and many Friends had fallen away from using it. During and after the survey, a resurgence of activity returned to the listserv, and it was good to see a variety of joys, sorrows, prayer requests, reflection, bits of wisdom, and just simply love in connection and support return to the threads.

The Steering Committee has since begun work in three areas, Revisioning, Reconnecting, and Rebooting, with respective sub-committees exploring ideas and options for each. The results of the sub-committees will be gathered into a report to be threshed then given at the next FLGBTQC Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (most likely FGC Summer Gathering).

This report had more to it than a typical Representative report, and maybe that’s a good thing going forward. There are 16 Yearly Meetings associated with FGC who have nominated Reps; there are also a number of new Yearly Meetings that have formed and separated from less inclusive Yearly Meetings because of willingness to support same-sex marriage. (Yes, still.) There’s a lot of

possibility in so many people being informed and staying connected, and there is no limit to what love and perseverance can do.

Thank you all for your continual support over so many years.

In that Peace that passes all understanding,
Jan Dahm
SEYM Representative to FLGBTQC

Field Secretary for Earthcare Report
SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting
24 First Month 2026



beverly g.ward

Winter Interim Business Meeting:
Field Secretary for Earthcare 2026
Report



Chris McBride and Suzanne Frechette, Fort Myers Monthly Meeting @ 2025 FIBM

Overview

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

This is a summary of activities undertaken since the SEYM 2025 Fall Interim Business Meeting (FIBM). Ongoing efforts and plans for future meetings also are included. These, in part, are:

- Continued community preparedness;
- Work with the SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee and other SEYM committees;
- Planning for the 2026 Gathering;
- Convening workshops and
- Producing and sharing videos and other online content.

Communication with the FSE Anchoring Committee

Communication with the Anchoring Committee since the last report has continued via email and other remote means. I had in-person visits with two members of the committee during FIBM. In addition to the committee other Friends have provided invaluable support. Deep gratitude for my SEYM coworkers and the Half Yearly Meeting Committee and attendees

The Tallahassee visit with Phoebe and Neil Anderson is planned for First Month 2026 to coincide with the Florida Council of Churches 2026 Florida Faith Advocacy Days, 14-15. More information regarding the Florida Council of Churches and advocacy days follows.



Beautyberries Sarasota Meetinghouse, 2025.10.04

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Adapted from the CDC All-Hazards Approach

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

We continue to remain vigilant regarding potential climate and anthropogenic threats. Listed below are links a few resources: 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, [click here](#)
CDC Emergency Kit Checklist: Kids and Families, [click here](#)
Grow Permaculture Hurricane Preparedness Guide, [click here](#)
Ready Emergency Supply List, [click here](#)
SEYM Zombie Apocalypse, [click here for YouTube video](#)

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?

Lee Hall, Radnor Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting have begun exploring a concern regarding shared transportation among Friends. This is of particular concern as our communities age, the impacts of automobile travel, and opportunities for community building. While many Friends have developed local strategies, Lee and I are interested in learning of these, sharing the solutions, and, if possible, providing assistance. As our discussions continue, we welcome others to join with us. More information to follow!

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Planned Visits

Future visits include:

- AVP workshop(s) in St. Petersburg. This is currently on hold as the facility is making renovations;
- Quakers of Orlando either/and “Conversations to Explore” and a possible discussion with the Property Committee regarding the grounds;
- First Month 2026, Visit Tallahassee Monthly Meeting;
- Visit to Gainesville Monthly Meeting to visit the Yearly Meeting archives at the University of Florida;
- An online presentation of Power-Mapping Workshop to be co-facilitated with Hope and Larry Ascher, Melbourne Monthly;
- 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.

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
- 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;



False Parasol aka “vomiter”, 2025.10.12

- 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.

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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 am following up with Bill Rapp as I plan visits with other committee members and the archives early 2026;
- The Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR): I attended two CMOR meeting since the last FSE report. We continue to plan for the 2026 Gathering. Also, a couple of CMOR committee members also meet with the SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee. This seems to help with communication between committees. One key discussion item from CMOR is the connection between the work I have been doing with the Towards Right Relationship with Native Peoples (TRR) program, <https://friendspeaceteams.org/trr/>, and the Decolonizing Quakers Working Group, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>, as related to the impacts the Doctrine of Discovery and colonization. The *Angelic Troublemaking: Beyond Bystander Training*, mentioned above, explores anti-racism/decolonization



Rachel Dellinger, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, Display

work with emphasis on local concerns and means of accompaniment;

- Earthcare Committee: The Peace and Social Concerns Committee has invited Earthcare Committee members to join their meetings.
- Half Yearly Meeting (HYM) Committee: More than 50 of us gathered at Wekiwa Springs State Park, 2025.11.27-30. We were near the 60-person capacity! There were bear sightings, canoeing, crafts, games, wonderful music jams, and front porch hangouts. Without access to the kitchen, each morning we had an oatmeal

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Friends "Circlize" to Give Thanks, HYM, 2025,11.28

bar, along with fruit, pastries, yogurt...There were amazing soups, stews, a cookout...and SMORES!
 This year's Faith and No Practice Talent Show was one for the record books. There were more than 10 acts, including original songs, poems, and artwork.
 The Committee's early debrief was quite favorable. However, we seem to have lost our large coffee urn. The committee is considering providing compostable dishware, we seem to have addressed the issue of reuseable cutlery.
 Personally, HYM is a pivotal event in my annual year as field secretary. Our use of the state park is contingent upon an environmental program. Given the challenges we have experienced over the last few years, it is a great joy the way we have continued to build and strengthen our connections. Thank you, Friends!

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Crafting and Chatting at HYM, 2025.11.27

- Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee met several times during and after FIBM. We have several opportunities and continue to ask that you please do not avoid us when you see one of us—Shawna Doran, Ed Lesnick, Brian Olson, and me—coming towards you. Please consider serving as Gathering Clerk.
- Peace and Social Concerns (P&S) Committee: I continue to meet with the P&S Committee along with other members of the Earthcare Committee. As mentioned above, P&S's concerns also 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 appeal was repeated for Friends to help purchase bike light kits in support of farmer workers. Fort Myers Monthly Meeting (MM) and others have been working with Mission Peniel who installs the kits.

Donations can be sent to:
 Mission Peniel
 P.O. Box 1204
 Immokalee, FL 34143

You can also order directly from the Amazon Gift Registry:
https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/2LEN1QXFAM1EF?ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_ggr-subnav-share_VDTTWZ9ATMQQYBW7WP46_6

- A concern regarding the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Center Immigrant Detention Facility located in the Big Cypress National Preserve was brought forward to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The committee was advised of a meeting of a small group of Friends and attendees that included Chris McBride who raised the concern. The group discussed the possibility of developing an amicus brief in support of the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida's intervention in the action *Friends of the Everglades, Inc., et al. v. Noem, et al.*, Case No. 25-CV-22896-JEM. Consideration also was given to writing epistles, sign-on statements, news and journal articles, etc. Betty Osceola, a member of the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida and of the Panther clan who has been leading the vigils at the gate of the detention facility was contacted regarding the possibility of an amicus brief and other support. Betty Osceola said that she "...believed it would be a good step to file in support of the lawsuit...It also help[s] to amplify the voice of the tribe and organizations working hard to stop the facility, by sharing with your networks."

The committee supported the work of the group.
 P&S and the small group will bring the concern forward to SEYM and the Yearly Meeting Clerk, Bill Carlie.

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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.

- 4-part series as you able to attend. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- 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 <https://groups.google.com/g/qcur-newsletter> and click "Ask to join the group."
 - The Transatlantic Friends Worship group has resumed meeting on the fourth Thirdday. "Transatlantic Friends is a worshipping 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):
 - One outcome of the Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network Assembly earlier this year was a presentation by Aryanna Khan, the Community Science Fellow, a partner on the Thriving Earth Exchange grant. The presentation titled "Where Science Meets Spirit: Co-Creating a Climate Assembly Rooted in Community, Ritual, and Resilience in Florida" was on 17 Twelfth Month (December) at the 2025 Meeting of the American Geological Union (AGU) in New Orleans. The Thriving Earth Exchange grant program is an AGU initiative.
 - Sowing the Harvest Advocacy Days, 2026.01.14-15: The 2026 Florida Faith Advocacy Days are First Month (January) 14-15 during the first week of the Florida Legislature. The 2026 theme is "Sowing the Harvest!" which will explore how the ministries we do in our communities translate into good public policy. Registration, which includes training, is open. [Click here](#).
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): We are asked to continue to try to save key environmental pieces of the Inflation Reduction Act. Keep up the calls, letters, and other contact with federal legislators. FCNL has created a one-page aid, FCNL

- 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 newsletter.
 - This year, AFSC launched the Hummingbird Plan, which includes 12 partner organizations across Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and El Salvador. The plan works to support immigrants by providing immediate humanitarian aid as well as building capacity for systemic change. More information can be found here, <https://afsc.org/news/providing-aid-protecting-rights-migrants-latin-america>.
 - 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](#).
 - Three Quaker Podcast
In this episode of "Thee Quaker," AFSC's Bonnie Kerness explores the history of Eastern State Penitentiary and how AFSC and Friends are working toward healing justice today. [Click here to listen](#).
- Decolonizing Quakers Working Group, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>: I continue to meet monthly with the working group as schedule permits. While our meetings have been somewhat focused on outside events, e.g., concerns regarding Monthly and Yearly Meetings on the Turtle Island (the North American continent), we intend to return to discerning our working group's intentions.
 - Please note, Nia To Go There (Cree), a member of the working group will present several modules on "A Return to Earth" beginning 10 First Month (January) 2026. You are encouraged to participate in as many of the modules of the

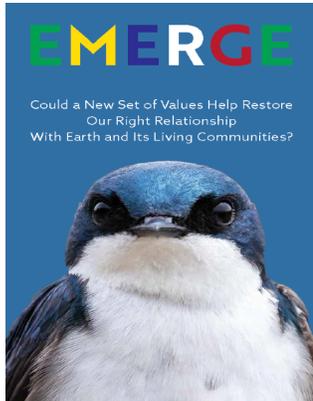
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Betty Osceola speaks at 2025.10.05 Vigil

- Legislative Ask One-Pager to help when talking to elected officials and others. To access the one-pager, [click here](#).
- I also participated in the FCNL online annual meeting and co-facilitated the People of Color Caucus with Darlene McDonald. One takeaway from the annual meeting that may be of interest to Friends was FCNL's "[Policy Statement Language on Artificial Intelligence](#)" and the background "[Resource Paper on Artificial Intelligence](#)" from the policy committee.
- Friends General Conference (FGC): During this period, most of my contact with FGC has been through the Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism (QCUR).
- Friends Peace Teams: I participated in the online North America Gathering on PeaceWays, "Celebrating Diverse Voices" 7 Eleventh Month as a facilitator and speaker. The gathering was held to lift up and listen to voices for justice and peace to create a space of sharing, learning, and connection across Peace Teams communities.

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Click on the image to see the EMERGE Website

- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to strengthen links to FWCC through affiliations with other Quaker organizations. This includes sharing resources with the Global Quaker Sustainability Network, <https://fwcc.world/areas-of-work/sustainability/>.
- Interfaith Vigil, Dade-Collier Training and Transition Center Detention Facility, Big Cypress National Preserve: John Heimburg and I will joined faith leaders and others of conscience outside the facility to witness the adverse environmental impacts, including inhumane and unconstitutional treatment on 2025.10.05.
- Lake County Conservation Council (LCCC): I tabled with the LCCC 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/>, then click on the "Input Form" link;
- I will participate in The EMERGE Framework, a series that explores the Quaker-rooted values. The framework seeks to guide a transformative shift to address the intertwined crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and inequality. For more information and to register, follow this link, <https://quakerearthcare.org/events/>.
- The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), AFSC: I participated in the Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC) meetings, Geneva, 31 Tenth Month (October) to 2 Eleventh Month (November) and New York, 13 to 15 Eleventh Month.
- Among items of interest was the update provided by QUNO staff on work related to historical injustices, highlighting the collaboration between the QUNO Geneva and New York offices and FWCC at the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PFPAD) in New York. The work included a hybrid Meeting for Worship at Quaker House with Friends from around the world. Another forum is planned for Fourth Month 2026 in Geneva. This initiative was inspired by the World Plenary. The focus on historical injustices is a direct response to the many initiatives from Yearly Meetings and Friends groups, demonstrating what QUNO staff view as a clear call to action. The African Union also declared 2025 as the Year for Reparations and the foundational work of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PFPAD).
- My tenure as a member of QUNC will end this calendar year.

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- Tri-City NAACP Branch: I continue with the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee.
- Woodbrooke (<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/>) "...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."

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

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

Courses: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses/>;

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

Learning for Communities: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/learning-for-communities/>;

Research: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/research/>.

There is also a regular newsletter available with free subscription log-in, [click here](#).

Thank you, Friends, for holding 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



Kasper Ronning, Quakers of Orlando

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Quakers' Concerns Regarding the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport Detention Center

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting

24 First Month 2026

Greetings, Friends,

Over the last month or so, a small group of Friends have been threshing our concerns regarding the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport Detention Center (also known as TNT) in the Big Cypress Preserve. Attached are two documents that we would like to the Yearly Meeting to support. The support would include:

- Approval from the YM to file an amicus brief in support of the Tribe's motion to intervene with the assistance of a pro bono attorney. (A draft of a brief is attached.). Our goal is to find an attorney who would do the work of preparing the brief pro bono. We would in that instance, raise funds for the filing fees. We ask that SEYM help with this effort by receiving and administering funds that we raise and/or assist in paying the attorney and filing fees.
- Approval of the Statement of Accompaniment, which would include adding SEYM to the list of signatures, posting it on the SEYM website. and sharing it through the newsletter;
 - Asking Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, organizations, and individuals to share the statement and, if led, to write journal and news articles about the detention facility; and
 - Hold all in prayer and ministry.

A Statement Regarding Accompaniment

This statement grew out of a concern lifted up by an attender at Fort Myers Monthly Meeting (FL)^{1,2}. The concern was shared with a number of Friends within Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends of Truth (Quakers) and another Friend, a member of Radnor Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.³ A small group began meeting remotely during Twelfth Month (December) 2025 to discuss how Quakers might accompany the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida in its legal action regarding the State of Florida managed detention facility located at the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport.

Overview

Quakers have a history of championing human rights in the United States, dating back to the days before the country was established. Since the time of William Penn's landing, Quaker adherents

¹ We acknowledge that these are the ancestral lands of the Calusa, Mascogo, Miccosukee, Seminole, and Taino.

² The Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups in Southeastern Yearly Meeting are on the unceded lands of many Indigenous people. Follow this link, <https://seymquakers.org/land-acknowledgement/>, to view the land acknowledgement.

³ Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends of Truth (Quakers) hereinafter referred to as SEYM.

have upheld the biblical values of human equality and intrinsic value and dignity of human beings. Our pursuit of migrant justice and our objections to unjust treatment of the detained are grounded by generations of Quakers who, in the 17th and 18th centuries, were subjects of atrocities and forced migration.

Quaker influence in U.S. law includes such bedrocks of the system as jury trials, the allowable scope of indictments, and the requirement that all laws be written (the documentation of all laws). The elements of humane treatment in the U.S. prison system were established in large part by the Quakers.

Work in regard to human rights may be that which most people in the United States most readily associate with Quakers, however, we also unite with the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida regarding care for the environment. Quakers in Southeastern Yearly Meeting have a long-standing history and international recognition in environmental or, what we term as, Earthcare concerns. In addition to an Earthcare Committee and individual members serving as representatives to Quaker and environmental organizations, SEYM has employed a person, Beverly G. Ward, to address Earthcare concerns since 2016. It is our understanding that this was the first such action by a Yearly Meeting. Our knowledge of the unique ecosystem of the Everglades, the Big Cypress National Preserve, and the relationship of the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida have led members within our Yearly Meeting to accompany the Tribe in the efforts to sustain the ecosystem.

A number of members and attenders from Monthly Meetings within SEYM have participated in prayer vigils led by Betty Osceola, a member of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the Panther Clan, outside the immigrant detention facility located at the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport known by the Miccosukee as “TNT”.

On 14 Seventh Month (July) 2025, the Miccosukee Tribe moved to intervene as an Intervenor-Plaintiff in the action styled *Friends of the Everglades, Inc., et al. v. Noem, et al.*, Case No. 25-CV-22896-JEM. The case seeks relief under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Administrative Procedure Act (APA); and provisions of Florida law, to stop construction of the federal detention facility at the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport Center.

On 5 Twelfth Month (December) 2025, five members and attenders of the Religious Society of Friends first met to “thresh” our concerns regarding the TNT Detention Center. Beverly Ward, an anthropologist and the Southeastern Yearly Meeting field secretary, contacted Betty Osceola advising that we would like to explore the possibility of submitting an amicus brief in support of the Tribe’s intervention in this legal matter, given that Quakers are called, by our faith and practices, to “cultivate an active spirit of love and peace.” Betty Osceola advised that it would be a good step to file in support of the lawsuit and that it also [would] help to amplify the voice of the tribe and organizations...by sharing with our networks.

Quakers are asked to live in harmony with nature. This includes living in keeping with the spirit of unity, sacredness, and integrity of all creation and walking gently over the earth, seeing that of God in all of nature. We are advised to:

- Maintain in ourselves and encourage in others a sense of responsibility for the environment, both for the present and for future generations.
- Avoid amusements that stimulate destructive emotions, are detrimental to the health or tranquility of others, or are damaging to the natural environment.
- Show a loving consideration for all creatures, cherishing the beauty and wonder of all God's creation.
- Share our sense of reverence and stewardship for the earth.⁴

It is imperative that we point out the environmental consequences of the state and federal government actions. This includes the impacts of up to 5,000 detainees and employees at the TNT detention center. We hold all in prayer and ministry.

Quaker Meeting members and attenders will be impacted by the results of the present legal action. If the current situation is permitted to continue, Quakers in SEYM have been impacted morally and spiritually by the detention and will be further impacted in all other places that attempt to replicate TNT. (In addition to the Everglades site, which began taking detainees in July. Florida has opened similar detention sites in the northeastern part of the state and is considering a third in the Panhandle.) The adverse environmental impacts of the detention facility must be assessed.

⁴ SEYM, *Faith and Practice*, Chapter 5: 11. Queries and Advices, Care of the Natural World

Critical Concerns

It is unjustified that the State of Florida has established the immigration detention facility in Ochopee, on the lands of the Miccosukee Tribe. Moreover, the facility is an affront to humanitarian, spiritual, and environmental ethics.

Sacred Land

The Miccosukee Tribe of Florida is a federal and state recognized tribe. The history of the Miccosukee people in the area known as the Big Cypress National Preserve (the “Preserve”) extends back across many centuries. Warfare and relocation, however, have reduced the Tribe’s use of the land to perpetual lease rights along the eastern boundary of the Preserve and the TNT site; Tribal rights within the Water Conservation Area 3-A; special-use permits within the Everglades National Park; and the Miccosukee Reserved Area.

The significance of the Preserve to the Tribe is best understood by a description of how the Tribe lives in this area. According to court documents:

all of the Tribe’s active ceremonial sites and a significant majority of the Tribe’s traditional villages... are located within the Preserve. Indeed, the Tribe played a significant role in the creation of the Preserve as part of the sustained campaign to prevent the further development of the TNT Site... [T]he Big Cypress Enabling Act, which created the Preserve and specifically recognized the Tribe’s rights to use and occupy the land therein.

There are fifteen traditional villages in the Preserve, home to Tribal families. The villages, and their precursors, have existed in the Preserve for at least a century before the legislation was enacted to create the Preserve. This presence of the villages includes the Tribe’s sacred cultural sites, ceremonial grounds, and burial grounds within or adjacent to the Preserve. The use and occupancy rights means access to these and other sites in order to practice traditional ceremonies. There also are other sites and villages located on Tribal lands west of the TNT site and adjacent to the Preserve which Tribal members and village residents rely on and exercise their rights to hunt, fish, and trap for subsistence.

The Tribe works to preserve its members’ rights, including those who reside within the Preserve. This includes defending members’ statutory interests and the safety, subsistence, and community health. Over the past decade, the Tribal administration conservatively estimates that at least \$2 million has been spent on infrastructure within the Preserve. The purpose of these investments is to improve Tribal residences and maintain or enhance accessibility to traditional sites, in a manner that protects the Preserve’s fragile environment.

Unidentified Impacts of the Detention Facility

The TNT facility is located within the Preserve or on lands perpetually leased to the Tribe. The proximity of the facility to the Tribe’s villages, sacred and ceremonial sites, hunting grounds, and other lands has raised concerns among its members in regard to environmental degradation and potential adverse impacts caused by the construction and operation of the detention facility. The last environmental impact study conducted in 1974 found that additional airstrip infrastructure in

the area would have significant negative impacts on the Everglades, which includes the Preserve, ecosystem. There have been no environmental impact studies conducted regarding the construction and operation of the detention facility or its effects on the ecosystem.

The 1,000 to 5,000 occupants at the facility more than doubles the population density in the area. There have been no studies or analyses to assess the impacts of the detention facility at the TNT site on the residents of nearby tribal villages or community members who live and work on the Miccosukee Reserved Area, including students attending the Miccosukee Indian School. Potential impacts may include impaired use of the Preserve by tribal members for traditional and ceremonial purposes, including hunting, fishing, and trapping within the immediate vicinity of the TNT site. Specifically, adverse impacts may include, but are not limited to:

- Potential contamination or pollution from the facility on potable water quality for residents and the surrounding environment;
- Interruption to endangered Florida panther and Florida bonneted bat habitat;
- Increased traffic, and the resulting water quality, health and safety, and subsistence impacts;
- Declines in the number and quality of game and/or fish stocks within the Tribe's traditional rights – guaranteed by federal and state law; and
- Reduced access to the two-lane Tamiami Trail, the evacuation route during inclement weather or wildfire.

The purpose of this statement is to address the relationship between the Tribe and the land, specifically the Preserve, and the potential adverse impacts of the detention facility. As mentioned earlier, we hold in prayer and ministry the detainees and employees. We limit further comments on the conditions within the facility in this statement, as we seek to accompany the Tribe.

Accompaniment

To summarize, we find the following conditions as set out in the Tribe's motion to intervene:

- The Miccosukee Tribe of Florida has a relationship with the land known as the Preserve that predates the establishment of the Preserve. This relationship includes residential, sacred, and subsistence practices;
- A 1974 environmental impact study found that additional airstrip infrastructure in the area would have significant adverse impacts on the Everglades, which includes the Preserve, ecosystem.
- The 1,000 to 5,000 occupants at the TNT facility will at least double the residential density in the area;
- There have been no studies or analyses to determine if constructing and operating the detention site will harm residents of nearby tribal villages or community members who live and work on the Miccosukee Reserved Area, including students attending the Miccosukee Indian School downstream of the TNT site.
- There have been no studies or analyses conducted regarding the effects on the number and quality of game and/or fish stocks guaranteed by federal and state law.
- Desecration of the land and human beings sets an example for other areas in the State of Florida and beyond to replicate.

This statement is shared in support of the Tribe's motion to intervene as Intervenor-Plaintiff in the action styled *Friends of the Everglades, Inc., et al. v. Noem, et al.*, Case No. 25-CV-22896-JEM. We ask others to join us in support of the motion by sharing this statement and otherwise holding all in prayer and ministry.

In Love and Peace,

Lee Hall, member, Radnor Monthly Meeting (PA) climatelaw@me.com

John Heimburg, attender, Deland Monthly Meeting (FL)

Warren Hoskins, member, Tallahassee Monthly Meeting (FL)

Chris McBride, attender, Fort Myers Monthly Meeting (FL) mcbridehouse@gmail.com

Brian Olson, member, Miami Monthly Meeting (FL)

Brad Stocker, member, Miami Monthly Meeting (FL)

Beverly G. Ward, Field Secretary for Earthcare at Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends; member Tampa Monthly Meeting (FL) fsearthcare@seymquakers.org

For: Attys. Christopher Ajizian and Todd R. Friedman:

We understand you are representing Friends of the Everglades and the Center for Biological Diversity with those groups' combined role in support of the Miccosukee Tribe's [motion to intervene](#) in *Friends of the Everglades, Inc., et al. v. Noem*. We'd like to offer our support, if in your opinion we might assist the case by way of contributing an amicus brief. If the amicus path would not be the best support role, we would offer our energies in public writing and raising awareness. A number of Friends (Quakers) in Southeastern Yearly Meeting support the Tribe with a regular, prayerful, physical presence at the site, facilitated by Betty Osceola, member of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the Panther Clan, who advocates to protect her ancestral Everglades homeland. At least one of the Friends has interviewed a family member of a former detainee at the site. For further related information, please contact Dr. Beverly G. Ward at fsearthcare@seymquakers.org

Please see a rough outline below setting forth our interest.

With appreciation,

Lee Hall, member, Radnor Monthly Meeting (PA) climatelaw@me.com (FYI, should this be useful for the federal submission, Lee is in active status in Maryland as [Attorney No. 0006210175](#))

John Heimburg, attender, Deland Monthly Meeting (FL)

Warren Hoskins, member, Tallahassee Monthly Meeting (FL)

Chris McBride, attender, Fort Myers Monthly Meeting (FL) mcbridehouse@gmail.com

Brian Olson, member, Miami Monthly Meeting (FL)

Brad Stocker, member, Miami Monthly Meeting (FL)

Beverly G. Ward, Field Secretary for Earthcare at Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends; member, Tampa Monthly Meeting (FL) fsearthcare@seymquakers.org

Quakers' Concerns Regarding the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport Detention Center

What follows is a draft of our early impressions for Counsel for Amici to consider. While our concerns may not lead to the development of an amicus brief, it is our intention to lift up these concerns and to otherwise support the Tribe's intervention.

INTERESTS OF THE AMICUS CURIAE

Quakers have a history of championing human rights in the United States, dating back to the days before the country was established. Since the time of William Penn's landing, Quaker adherents have upheld the biblical values of human equality and intrinsic value and dignity of human beings. Our pursuit of migrant justice and our objections to unjust treatment of the detained are grounded by generations of Quakers who, in the 17th and 18th centuries, were subjects of atrocities and forced migration.

Quaker influence in U.S. law includes such bedrocks of the system as jury trials, the allowable scope of indictments, and the requirement that all laws be written (the documentation of all laws). The elements of humane treatment in the U.S. prison system were established in large part by the Quakers.

While human rights work may be that which most people in the United States most readily associate with Quakers, we also unite with the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida regarding care for the environment. Quakers in Southeastern Yearly Meeting have a long-standing and international history in also championing environmental or what we term as Earthcare concerns. In addition to an Earthcare Committee and individuals serving as representatives on Quaker and other environmental organizations, Southeastern Yearly Meeting has employed a person to address environmental or Earthcare concerns since 2016. It is our understanding that this was the first such action by a Yearly Meeting. Our knowledge of the unique ecosystem of the Everglades, the Big Cypress National Preserve, and the relationship of the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida have led members within our Yearly Meeting to accompany the Tribe in their efforts to sustain the ecosystem.

A number of members and attenders from Monthly Meetings (local congregations) within Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) have participated in prayer vigils led by Betty Osceola, a member of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the Panther Clan, outside the immigrant detention facility located at the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport known by the Miccosukee as TNT.

On 14 Seventh Month (July) 2025, the Miccosukee Tribe moved to intervene as an Intervenor-Plaintiff in the action styled *Friends of the Everglades, Inc., et al. v. Noem, et al.*, Case No. 25-CV-22896-JEM.

On 5 Twelfth Month (December) 2025, five members and attenders of the Religious Society of Friends the present group first met to "thresh" our concerns regarding the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport Detention Center. Beverly Ward, who is an anthropologist and works on environmental issues for the Southeastern Yearly Meeting of Quakers, reached Betty Osceola of the Miccosukee Tribe, advising that we would like to explore the possibility of submitting an amicus

brief in support of the Tribe's intervention in this legal matter, given that Quakers are called, by our faith and practices, to "cultivate an active spirit of love and peace." Further, Quakers are asked to live in harmony with nature. This includes living in keeping with the spirit of unity, sacredness, and integrity of all creation and walking gently over the earth, and seeing that of God in all of nature, we are advised to:

- Maintain in ourselves and encourage in others a sense of responsibility for the environment, both for the present and for future generations.
- Avoid stimulating destructive emotions, are detrimental to the health or tranquility of others, or are damaging to the natural environment.
- Show a loving consideration for all creatures, cherishing the beauty and wonder of all God's creation.
- Share our sense of reverence and stewardship for the earth.

It is imperative that we point out to governments the environmental consequences of States' actions.

Moreover, in light of our values and religious obligations, it is imperative for Quakers to insist that Florida reject inhumane detention conditions. It is imperative that we know who is being detained, for Quaker interests including prayer and ministry.

Quaker Meeting members and attenders will be impacted by the results of the present legal action. If the current situation is permitted to continue, Quakers in Southeastern Yearly Meeting and in all other places that attempt to replicate TNT will be impacted spiritually, and through the need to use resources to address adverse environmental impacts.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

It is unjustified for the State of Florida to allow the Detention Center in Ochopee, on the lands of the Miccosukee Tribe. Moreover, the state-managed immigration detention facility in the Florida Everglades is an affront to humanitarian, spiritual, and environmental ethics.

Argument

I. Sacred land; no dialogue with Tribe.

It is unjustified for the State of Florida to allow the Detention Center in Ochopee, on the lands of the Miccosukee Tribe.

II. Torture is an affront to spiritual values.

The detention facility may have violated international standards by imposing conditions that could amount to torture of detainees, according to Amnesty International's new report. See Liv Caputo, ['Copy of Guantánamo': Human rights group alleges torture, inhumanity at 'Alligator Alcatraz,'](#) (December 4, 2025; *Florida Phoenix*).

The state-run site the DeSantis administration calls "Alligator Alcatraz" has engaged in practices that could violate international law. An independent investigation is imperative. Reports of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment encompass:

- Obstructions from speaking with attorneys.
- Punishment cages with shackles.
- Punishments meted out to detainees who demand respect for their own or others' human rights.
- Poor nutrition, grotesquely unhygienic conditions, poor medical conditions, and withholding of medication.
- Sleep deprivation.
- Uninvestigated claims of racism.
- Uninvestigated claim by a detainee of a death onsite.

“It’s a copy of Guantánamo,” a Cuban man identified as an asylum seeker told Amnesty International.

The asylum seekers onsite would have a strong claim under international law that they require asylum *from* the United States. Reports of the denial of asylum is an additional affront to human rights and religious values.

III. Florida’s practices in furtherance of federal objectives, as outlined herein, defy Southeastern Yearly Meeting Quakers’ longstanding responsibility for the environment.

As the Court is aware from the [Motion to Intervene](#) by Friends of the Everglades and the Center for Biological Diversity:

- A 1974 environmental impact study that found additional airstrip infrastructure in the area would have significant negative impacts on the Everglades ecosystem.
- The planned 1,000-5,000 occupants at the facility will at least double the residential density in the area.
- There have been no studies or analyses to determine if constructing and operating the detention site will harm residents of nearby tribal villages or community members who live and work on the Miccosukee Reserved Area, including students attending the Miccosukee Indian School downstream of the TNT Site.
- There have been no environmental impact studies conducted regarding the construction and operation of the detention facility or its effects on the environment generally.
- Continued desecration of the land and human beings sets an example for other States to replicate.

Taken together this is a conflict with the Quaker role to provide Earthcare through Southeastern Yearly (regional) Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Additionally, “[Trump says](#) he wants other states to build migrant detention centers after Everglades tour.” This is extremely problematic for humanitarian, spiritual, and environmental ethics and needs to be halted immediately.

CONCLUSION

It is unjustified for the State of Florida to continue to build and maintain operations “Alligator Alcatraz” on the lands of the Miccosukee Tribe for the above-stated reasons, and Quakers have a moral and spiritual obligation to speak.

In Love and Peace,

Lee Hall, member, Radnor Monthly Meeting (PA) climatelaw@me.com

John Heimburg, attender, Deland Monthly Meeting (FL)

Warren Hoskins, member, Tallahassee Monthly Meeting (FL)

Chris McBride, attender, Fort Myers Monthly Meeting (FL) mcbridehouse@gmail.com

Brian Olson, member, Miami Monthly Meeting (FL)

Brad Stocker, member, Miami Monthly Meeting (FL)

Beverly G. Ward, Field Secretary for Earthcare at Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends; member, Tampa Monthly Meeting (FL) fsearthcare@seymquakers.org

Peace & Social Concerns Committee Report

SEYM Winter Interim Business Report

24 First Month 2026

Report of the 1/10/2026 Zoom committee meeting, for the SEYM EC and WIBM meetings of 1/23-25/2026, and request for time on the agenda, and for a committee meeting on 1/24/2026, submitted 1/21/2026

Present on the SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee Zoom call that began at 10 AM on 1/10/2026: Beverly Ward, Tampa (SEYM staff, Zoom facilitator for this meeting); Warren Hoskins, Tallahassee (Committee Co-Clerk); Helen Fox, Fort Myers; Brad Stocker, Miami; Brian Olson, Miami; Shawna Doran, Gainesville; Chris McBride, Fort Myers; John Heimbarg, Orlando

We started the committee meeting hearing this Query, followed by silent worship:

As a committee, are there spiritual tools and practices to help us and others to work with the grief, anxiety, guilt and anger that arise with all the issues facing us (long COVID, wars, climate change creating extreme weather, conditions that cause refugees and people to flee, threats to vulnerable communities and to democracy)? How do we as Quakers face this in a loving, life-affirming way within ourselves as individuals and as a community?

1. At our December committee meeting, we had addressed the immigrant detention centers in Florida, especially the ones in the Everglades in South Florida. (One of these has existed for years, the Krome North Service Processing Center (ICE).) The new large-scale immigrant detention facility was built on the old Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport and dubbed “Alligator Alcatraz” – it’s where people snatched off the streets are being held in terrible conditions, with lack of transparency or access to community resources. We focused in on TNT/Alligator Alcatraz, and the committee took up a proposal for an amicus brief for support of the lawsuit brought by the Miccosukee tribe. A working group connected with our committee has been having Zoom meetings on this.

At this meeting Chris McBride reported that she and Lee Hall (from a northern Friends meeting?), an attorney, have had ongoing discussions about seeking the opportunity to file an amicus brief and the drafting of such a brief. They have also been drafting statements on the immigrant detention centers to provide to SEYM to issue. The working group has been meeting by Zoom. They need another attorney and are actively seeking someone. The Fort Myers and Miami Friends are engaged with the Sunday afternoon interfaith vigils being held outside Alligator Alcatraz and expect to continue this work; the upcoming one will be bigger, with three buses coming (two from Fort Myers, one from Miami). SEYM’s CMOR met this week and they are informed and supportive of this work.

Minute: The SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee affirms the intention to prepare and submit an SEYM amicus brief in support of the Miccosukee’s court intervention, and to prepare a broader statement on the immigrant detention centers. We are seeking pro bono counsel from an attorney; if that is not successful, we will seek support from the Yearly Meeting to include fundraising support (and

ask that SEYM would receive and manage any donations toward this amicus brief). The committee also requests support for adding statements and information to the SEYM website and distributing education and action requests to monthly meetings.

[Later note: Emails on this work have already been sent to the SEYM EC by Beverly Ward; this minute provides clarification that all the work being done flows from discernments made by the SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee at its meetings.]

2. We then took up the requests from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (the CIW) previously circulated to the committee and others in SEYM. **(See the endnote of emails about this)** In short, the only commercial grocery store in the town of Immokalee has closed; the nearest grocery store is ten miles away and more expensive than the one that closed, and many residents of Immokalee are farmworkers or dependents without licenses or transportation of their own. The CIW was already operating a Co-op grocery store on their premises in Immokalee, so they are expanding it and better provisioning it to serve their community. We agreed in December that we would ask SEYM to donate \$1,500 to the CIW for the Co-op, but we did not minute that, so now we will:

Minute: The SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee requests that SEYM make a \$1,500 donation to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers for the operation of their Community Co-op Grocery Store.

The bike light campaign continues, plus bike servicing, at Mission Peniel in Miccosukee, Florida. Warren will request a repeat announcement in the SEYM e-newsletter about donations of the light kits still being needed, to avoid nighttime pretextual stops of bicyclists.

3. On the newly extreme weather events caused by changed climate, we are looking to share more resources for SEYM such as the SHIFT Guide just emailed out to the committee, and by working with CLEO, and working with other organizations in our region. SEYM can anticipate the need to address impacts of extreme weather on all of us in SEYM, and the resulting losses of shelter, the dislocations, the stress on us (especially on children and the elderly), the disruptions of the food supply and medical care access, and so on.

The committee wants to work on a Resources page for the SEYM website, and to ask more often for something to go into the weekly SEYM e-newsletter.

4. Implications of the ending of Temporary Protected Status for the 300,000-plus Haitians residing now in the US, who are apparently to be sent back to Haiti starting February 3, 2026. Included among them are people who have had work permits and become employed in agriculture, in healthcare, as labor in many areas, who are making all kinds of contributions to our country and in many cases sending support to stranded families in Haiti - what actions are recommended for us? Do we know affected people in our community? The issue is ripe for letters to the editor, and social media commentary.

5. The FCNL Florida Advocacy Team is being reconstituted and needs more members to be acting on FCNL requests for lobbying. Are there any actions we can take or continue toward ending the genocide in Gaza? Any actions we could be taking to prevent the US from launching a shooting war on Venezuela?

There are basically three focus items nationally this year for lobbying with FCNL –

- 1) reducing internal and external militarism or similar
- 2) Gaza
- 3) environmental issues

FCNL has regular Zoom meetings, one this past week.

6. On the ongoing genocide in Gaza: An online AFSC program has been held on Gaza, a Zoom program with Tallahassee Monthly Meeting, Sunday January 11, 2026, after worship. Brian Blackmore, AFSC's Director of Quaker Engagement, led the program which featured AFSC staff who had lived in Gaza. [This program is recommended for other monthly meetings.]

Committee discussion followed about what we can do now to end the genocide. “We need to find ways to maintain our centering.” Warren asked if we could ask meetings to hold Gaza in the Light. There was no unity; we are overwhelmed and many of us are seeing Gaza as one more urgent issue.

Warren expressed a perceived need to follow up with the original statement we endorsed, “Quaker organizations discern genocide is occurring in Gaza and urge courageous action” and asked, “What is next?” Gainesville Quakers marched with Jewish Voice for Peace re Gaza last week. Maybe we could get something on the SEYM website? Consult with Vicki, and see what could be done?

8. The degradation of the public health systems, especially in Florida, even as the COVID pandemic continues - and COVID is not the only airborne disease circulating. Can we plead for more local leadership for testing and treatment, vaccination and other protective steps (such as addressing clean air for our schools and health facilities)? Can we ask ourselves and our meetings for acknowledgement that airborne diseases are circulating? Never have so many Americans been sick, tired and so stressed at the same time, yet having the main stressors ignored by politicians and the press. (The main stressors are financial and fumbling healthcare, along with looming weather extremes - some of them capable of damaging or isolating our residences [see recent South Florida flooding rains, for instance].) Exhibit A might be the current measles outbreak in South Carolina, that seems to have spread out from a church to reach more than 100 known to now have measles.

Date of our next meeting: second Saturday February 14, 2026 at 10 AM? But polling for an alternative time, third Wednesdays so February 18, 2026 .

Passage for contemplation and closing worship at 11:58 AM:

As we close our meeting let us contemplate on a larger scale what is happening in the world: the wars and campaigns of nations that inflict death, destruction and injury as a matter of policy. Let us be tender for the suffering of millions around the globe.

Respectfully submitted, Warren Hoskins, Co-Clerk of SEYM PSCC

SEYM PSCC communications in support of our Minute of 1/10/2026 on the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (the CIW) & support for their Co-op Grocery

From: Warren Hoskins <warrenhoskins@gmail.com>

Jan 9, 2026, 11:36 PM

T:o MPA,, Brian, Kasper, Helen, Chris, John, Bob, Gail, brad, cyndemercer, Leslie, Mercedes, Cecilia, Phil, Peter, Shawna, Carolyn, traceydolan@aol.com, Bill, Vicki, me, climatelaw, scott.virgin, medinagiov, Lynn

For our December Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting by Zoom, we discussed the problems that the closure of the only grocery in Immokalee (an old Winn-Dixie) had created for a community already under siege, and the appeal made by email by the CIW.

SEYM and many monthly meetings have historic concerns and relations with farmworker families and organizations in Florida, going back to the documentary about the hardships of farmworker life, HARVEST OF SHAME ([Harvest of Shame](#) was a 1960 television documentary presented by broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow on CBS that showed the plight of American migrant agricultural workers.)

For decades AFSC had farmworker programs in Florida; Quakers also volunteered with the United Farm Workers led by Cesar Chavez (whom I met in Miami in the 1970s). In recent decades we have literally marched with the CIW, and hosted speaking engagements at our meeting houses.

After discussion, we agreed to (but did not for some reason actually create a minute) asking SEYM to make a \$1,500 contribution to CIW for this Community Co-op Grocery Store.

I consulted Google AI about the CIW's Co-op and it reported the following:

In 2026, the **Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)** is focused on a critical expansion of its Community Co-op Grocery Store in Immokalee, Florida. This project serves as an urgent response to the town becoming a **food desert** following the 2025 closure of its only major supermarket, Winn-Dixie.

2026 Co-op Expansion and Community Response

- **Expansion Project:** The CIW is actively raising funds (nearly \$10,000 raised in late 2025) to scale up the co-op's physical size and inventory.
- **Affordability Measures:** To combat rising food costs and scarcity, the co-op has **lowered prices** and expanded its stock of staple foods to serve more than the 200 families it previously supported weekly.
- **Operational Model:** The co-op operates from the CIW's Immokalee office, providing groceries at prices designed only to cover operational costs, ensuring farmworker families have access to healthy food while a long-term supermarket solution is sought.

Broader 2026 Fair Food Initiatives

In addition to the local co-op, the CIW is advancing several national and international objectives for 2026:

- **New Partnerships:** Retailers and co-ops continue to join the Fair Food Sponsor Program, including independent grocers and established co-ops like the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op.
- **Heat Protections:** A major 2026 priority is pressuring large grocers like **Kroger** to join the program to implement the nation's strongest heat stress protections for field workers.
- **Global Reach:** The CIW's Worker-driven Social Responsibility (WSR) model is being adapted in **India's sugar industry**, with 2026 marking a key period for implementing these safeguards abroad.

* * *

From: Marcos Martins marcos@ciw-online.org

Tue, Jan 13, 2:05 PM (7 days ago)

To: **Eliza**, Warren, MPA,, Kasper, Brian

Hi Warren,

Thank you so much for getting in contact with me. I have a great admiration for the continual commitment to social justice that Quakers aspire to and have been looking for ways to involve you more in our work, so I am thrilled that you are reaching out.

We truly appreciate your efforts to garner financial support for us and for our Co-op.

Are you interested in setting up a virtual meeting/presentation with us and the SEYM?

Best,

Marcos Martins

Coalition of Immokalee Workers

239-657-8311

www.ciw-online.org

SEYM Worship and Ministry Report

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting

24 First Month 2026

The SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee persists in its charge of providing spiritual care to the SEYM community and beyond. In order to do this, the committee members meet monthly and steep each meeting in worship. Worship sharing has been deep and powerful these last few meetings with wisdom shared regarding what it means to hold others in the Light, finding Spirit in the ordinary, and the prophetic challenges to which we are called.

Ongoing opportunities for spiritual enrichment with which Friends are all welcome to partake are the *Weekly Queries for the Journey* found in the newsletter and on the website and the Seekers' Book Club which is currently exploring the writing of John Calvi in his book *How Far Have you Traveled?* Another experience of extended worship was offered in Eleventh month. Friends expressed gratitude for worship that felt deep and positive, and want us to continue to offer the opportunity.

Lately, we worked to help bring Traci Hjelt Sullivan opportunities to minister among SEYM Friends regarding her work with Right Sharing of World Resources. She will be doing a presentation at Deland Friends and may visit other Friends as time permits.

At FIBM, we announced the Michener Lecturer as Susan Taylor from Tallahassee MM. She will invite us into Listening Circles on her topic "Tending the Soil of our Faith Community". We continue to work with Susan to support her ministry with us at the 2026 Michener Lecture.

Cheryl Demers-Holton has been chosen as a Fellow in the first cohort of the Friends Incubator Fellowship for Public Ministry for 2026-2028. "This cohort represents a shared commitment to reclaiming public ministry as a communal practice rooted in worship, sustained by relationship, and accountable to the body. It includes the participation of five-yearly meetings on the East Coast of the United States... [this project] supports Friends who are called into visible Spirit-led ministry and the meetings willing to walk with them. In the Quaker tradition, public ministry is never a solo act. It arises from worship, is tested in community, and is carried on behalf of the meeting into the world" (<https://www.friendsincubator.org/>).

We are grateful Cheryl's gifts and spirit were recognized in the intensive interview and selection process and ask that all Friends hold her, her elder, support committee, and Deland Friends Meeting in the Light through this journey of ministry.

The Worship and Ministry Committee persevere in seeking new openings for Spirit to labor among Friends. Please check out all the offerings that are published in the newsletter and SEYM website to find what speaks to that of God within you so that our listening hearts can be transformed to bring the Light to others.

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

Youth Committee Report

SEYM Winter Interim Business Report

24 First Month 2026

The Youth Committee has been busy discerning how best to provide long term support to the SEYM's youth and ensure that all generations of seekers feel welcome in our community.

With this goal in mind, the Committee has created a “toolkit” to help Meetings develop their First Day Schools. The intention is for this to be a living document for SEYM, evolving with new needs and compiling our collective experience. It includes book recommendations, tips on setting up, and suggested themes for lessons. We ask that Meetings provide us with their insights or questions so that we can continue to gather information and address. We also ask that Meetings continue to ask what they are doing to foster a safe environment welcoming to families.

Our attention will be shifting now towards the Gathering, and we hope to have many youth and young adults in attendance. Our theme this year is “Love, Hope, and Action in Troubled Times”. In an era where so much around the world is confusing and violent, we hope that the youth can find comfort and solidarity in our Beloved Community.

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting

24 First Month 2026

Half-Yearly Meeting

Ten youth and 15 young adults attended Half-Yearly Meeting at Wekiwa Springs State Park, making up nearly half the attendees. We are grateful to the DeLand Quakers for inviting the Williams and the Dykes families. Also new to the gathering were the Sims family from Gainesville, and the Cawns from Orlando. These new families were extremely talented and significantly raised the bar for the Friday night Talent/No Talent show. After the gathering, one new participant expressed the following:

I wanted to write and express our gratitude for a lovely time. The girls made friends and were eager to participate in the activities. The volunteers were warm and friendly. It was so nice to be part of a beloved community. Please know how amazing the weekend was! A truly remarkable experience....The girls have already asked if we can go next year!

Next year, we hope to make kayaking more accessible for families, and to reinstate the tradition of having youth prepare a meal for everyone on Saturday night.

Outreach Literature

I created two pamphlets to use for outreach events. The first is titled “You Might Be a Quaker If...” and is a simple, 8-page “minizine” (a popular form of small, folded, DIY pamphlets) with basic principles of Quakerism and a QR code linking to Belief Net’s online “What Religion Are You?” quiz. Although Quakers of course do not proselytize, many report first coming to Quakerism through this online quiz.

The second pamphlet, “Quaker and Queer,” was created at the suggestion of OMM’s Kasper, specifically for LGBTQ+ outreach. While researching it, I consulted with AFSC/GMM’s Brian B. and asked permission from other notable Friends to include them in the 21- page, 4-1/4 x 5-1/2” pamphlet.

Lastly, I formatted the SEYM youth committee’s new First Day School Toolkit. Printed copies of all three of these pamphlets will be available at the Winter Interim Business Meeting, and digital versions are available from the YYA coordinator for Friends to print and distribute.

Outreach to and Retention of Families

Outreach: I organized volunteers from OMM to table at Orlando’s Come Out With Pride Festival. While doing so, I also compiled a set of portable outreach equipment with the hope of tabling at future events for SEYM or with individual meetings, as recently discussed by the youth committee. I continue to foster relationships with like-minded organizations of young adults that use the Orlando meetinghouse. I have also begun a new relationship with an educational program for undocumented youth at in Apopka. Doing so has made Quakerism more visible in the community, but, unfortunately, very few individuals have expressed interest in attending meeting or learning more.

Retention: Retaining families after an initial period of their feeling welcomed and included continues to be a challenge. While many families feel spiritually aligned with Quakerism, they are busy, and they struggle to attend worship on Sunday mornings. Some families express waning interest due to lack of ministry, activism, and/or social opportunities throughout the week, and some teens are reluctant to attend first day school when there is no one else their age present. I hope that Friends will join me in continuing to try to engage young families and to include them in their meetings' activities.

*Rachel Dellinger, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator
December 19, 2025*