

Southeastern Yearly Meeting *of the Religious Society of Friends*

Summer Executive Committee Meeting
13 Sixth Month 2026

MINUTES

Clerk Bill Carlie opened the meeting from the silence with the following quote:

As Friends we believe that love is the unifying force in human relations. Let us understand what brotherly love is and what it is not. Love is not self-seeking; it is self-giving. Love does not try to make up a deficiency in that of God in another from an overabundance of divinity in ourselves; it opens us to the divine Light in him and rejoices in it. Love does not mean agreeing on all questions of belief, values, or rules of conduct; it means accepting with humility and forbearance such differences as cannot be resolved by open and patient give-and-take. Love does not recreate our brother in our image; it recreates us both in relation to each other, united like limbs of one body yet each distinctly himself.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1969

Clerk Bill Carlie welcomed Friends who introduced themselves.

Brian Olson reported that Fort Lauderdale had not been meeting because Brian Humphries had been ill. His health is improving so the Meeting will hopefully get going again. Please hold the Brian Humphries and the Fort Lauderdale Meeting in the light.

Secretary's Report

Susan Wade gave the YM Secretary's report. Susan has been working on changes to the SEYM directory with the new Membership Recorder Liz Dykes.

Friends accepted the report.

Nominating Committee Report

Brian Olson gave the Nominating Committee report. Vicki Mariner will be joining the Committee for Ministry on Racism.

Friends accepted the report.

Friends adjourned to go to individual committee meetings.

Meeting Forum

After committee meetings, Friends reconvened for the Meeting Forum and spoke from the silence:

Saint Petersburg Meeting:

Bill Carlie reported that St. Pete represented the Meeting at the Gulfport Pride parade and had a lot of fun. St. Pete Meeting has attracted a few new attenders. Dianna Langan talked about the zoom meeting during Adult First Day School with two members of the Minneapolis Monthly Meeting and noted that a video of the meeting is online at <https://stpetersburgquakers.org/videos>. The Meeting will be planting a new magnolia tree to replace a diseased tree that had to be removed.

Miami Meeting

Brian Olson reported that the Meeting is selling their property known as Bartram House. There are some complications with the sale because Bartram House currently hosts a pre-school but looks like the sale will go through. The Meeting has added a new member

Havana Unprogrammed Meeting

Mercedes Soca reported that the Havana meeting has moved to a new place. Joel Cook has been very helpful to the meeting. She has felt very supported in helping the Havana meeting thrive. Quakers have been a blessing to the Havana meeting. She traveled to Earlham in Richmond, Indiana, and was very welcomed there and returned with the joy of revival and a determination to expand Quaker outreach.

Treasurer Coast Worship Group (TCWG)

Amy Richards reported that TCWG has had several new attenders. She personally welcomed a new grandbaby in May.

DeLand Quaker Meeting

Dan Vaughn reported that DeLand Meeting has good attendance, 20 – 25 each week. The Meeting is assisting local Pearson farmworkers and supporting a woman who will be going to an Immigration hearing soon; supporters can be in courthouse but not in the hearing room. The Meeting puts together packets for homeless, which they hand out to unhoused people they meet. They are partnering with a local black sorority to handing out books and read to children. Finances are good; they are able to build up their savings. They are currently addressing a concern to provide rides to meeting for Friends who don't drive.

Clearwater Meeting

Eileen Zingaro reports that despite the name, the Meeting actually meets in Dunedin. They are celebrating this because this is the first year that they have had a steady meeting space provided by a group affiliated with American Baptists. They purchased a large television for the church so they could have better visuals and have become dependent on the transcription option on the television. They've added a few attenders, about 4 or 5. They are a very active group and hold regular vigils at Clearwater jail and participate in Get Out The Vote actions.

Palm Beach Meeting

John Palozzi reports that Palm Beach Meeting continues to function even though they have fewer attendees since winter visitors have gone up north. After meeting and during lunch they have very philosophical discussions. Local groups working on feeding the homeless, voting rights, AA and Alon groups, a singing group, and a Thursday meditation group are using the meetinghouse.

The Meeting adjourned for lunch provided by the Tampa Meeting.

Bill Carlie opened the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with the following quote:

The life of a religious society consists in something more than the body of principles it professes and the outer garments of organization which it wears. These things have their own importance . . . but the springs of life lie deeper and often escape recognition. They are to be found in the vital union of the members of the society with God and with one another, a union which allows the free flowing through the society of the spiritual life which is its strength.

William Charles Braithwaite, 1905

Two items were added to the agenda: a report from the Gathering Committee and a report from the Education Committee.

Clerk's Report

Bill Carlie reported that Charleston Friends Meeting is asking to be released from association from Southeastern Yearly Meeting. Charleston Meeting has been participating in Palmetto Friends Fellowship. The clerk will write to Charleston Monthly Meeting acknowledging the letter. The item will come to Fall Interim Business Meeting for acceptance.

Friends accepted the clerk's report with continuing gratitude for Bill's leadership.

Treasurer's Report

Joel Cooke sent the Treasurer's Report in the form of the 2026-2027 Budget approved at Yearly Meeting (attached). He is out of the country, and if we have any questions we can reach out.

Friends accepted the report.

Worship and Ministry Committee Report

Lisa Erazmas referred to the written report from the Worship and Ministry Committee (attached). She added that Beverly Ward will give an educational presentation entitled, "Permaculture is Not Just Agriculture" on Saturday, June 27, from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

Friends accepted the report.

Field Secretary for Earthcare Report

Beverly Ward gave the Field Secretary for Earthcare's report (attached). She asked that Friends read the minute from BBIPOC Friends at monthly, quarterly and yearly meetings and other events, and share it as widely as possible:

Believing that friends should remove all occasion for war, BBIPOC (black, brown, indigenous, people of colors) Religious Society of Friends online oppose USA attacks and war on Iran as wrong & immoral.

Let they who have ears hear & hearts ACT.

Friends accepted the report.

Ad hoc Organizational Documents Committee

Phoebe Andersen gave a report from the *ad hoc* Organizational Documents Committee. There hasn't been much movement. There should be a draft for review in the late summer.

Friends accepted the report.

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report

Rachel Dellinger gave the Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report (attached)

Friend accepted the report.

Committee for Ministry on Racism Report

The committee's report was submitted for the Documents in Advance (attached).

Friends accepted the report.

Ad hoc Committee to Consider Changes to the SEYM Directory

Liz Dykes gave the report for the committee and submitted a proposed minute to be approved by the Executive Committee.

- 26SEC01:** The SEYM Executive Committee approves the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Committee to Consider Changes to the SEYM Directory that going forward, the SEYM Directory will be limited in scope to contact information for meetings, individuals, and Quaker related bodies; and the Nominating Committee report. Primary responsibility for the directory contents lies with the Membership Recorder and the Yearly Meeting Secretary.

APPROVED

Gathering Committee Report

Vicki Carlie presented the report of the Gathering Committee (attached). Lauren Brownlee will be the Walton lecturer and retreat leader. Lauren is the Deputy General Secretary of Friends Committee on National Legislation, and we are very excited she is joining us. The Gathering will be at Dayspring Conference Center, March 24-28, 2027.

Friends accepted the report.

Education Committee Report

Eileen Zingaro gave the report for the Education Committee (attached). The committee meets monthly on Zoom. The relationship with Stetson University continues. We would like to know what Friends in SEYM are trained AVP facilitators. We also need to know Friends who are trained in active bystander intervention and other programs. The committee will be sending a brief survey by mail to each monthly meeting. The committee will share resources online for both adults and children.

Friends accepted the report.

FLGBTQC Representative's Report

Jan Dahm reported as SEYM's representative to FLGBTQC. She reminded Friends that yesterday was the ten-year anniversary of the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando. She asked that in these tenuous times we hold LGBTQ folks in the light and provide informed support.

Friends accepted the report.

Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative's Report

Brian Olson reported as SEYM's representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness. QEW is doing a project mapping the meeting houses including the environmental things they are doing. We are working with Friends in Kenya. We have a connection with FCNL, and we are expanding into local activities for networking on local issues.

Friends accepted the report.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Representative's Report

Eileen Zingaro reported as SEYM's representative to FCNL. The annual meeting will be the November 12-14, 2026, online and in person. Registration is available online.

Friends accepted the report.

Friends thanked Tampa Friends Meeting for its hospitality.

- 26SEC02** SEYM's Executive Committee is grateful for the meeting space at Tampa Friends, with the bright sun outside the windows and the beautiful handmade quilts on the benches. The bountiful lunch was enjoyed by all.

APPROVED

Friends closed with worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Dykes, Recording clerk

Participants:

Clearwater Monthly Meeting

Debra McMaster

Eileen Zingaro

DeLand Quaker Meeting

Kathryn Louise

Dan Vaughn

Fort Lauderdale Monthly Meeting

Angela Hopkins

Gainesville Monthly Meeting

Gary Arthur

Shawna Doran

Liz Dykes

Miami Monthly Meeting

Brian Olson

Orlando Monthly Meeting

Rachel Dellinger

Christine Laning

Palm Beach Monthly Meeting

Margaret Brittingham

John Palozzi

Saint Petersburg Monthly Meeting

Bill Carlie

Vicki Carlie

Dianna Langan

Susan Wade

Sarasota Monthly Meeting

Mercedes Soca

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting

Neil Andersen

Phoebe Andersen

Tampa Monthly Meeting

Jan Dahm

Lisa Erasmus

Dustin Lemke

beverly g ward

Treasure Coast Worship Group

Joel Cook (Palm Beach MM)

Amy Richards

Visiting Friends

Earl Smith (Stillwater Mtg/Ohio YM)

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

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

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

Approved Budget for FY 2026-2027 (6/1/26 - 5/31/27)

Approved Budget: \$ 124,311.00

Approved 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

Worship and Ministry Committee Report

Summer Executive Committee Meeting

13 Sixth Month 2026

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

Isaac Penington, 1667

The call of the SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee is to provide opportunities and resources for spiritual nurture and joyful hope to both individual Friends and to SEYM Meetings and Worship Groups. We accompany all who are struggling to make sense of the difficulties faced by the most vulnerable among us by holding them in the Light, helping them to find answers along their journey, and providing tools of discernment and wisdom for those seeking solace.

After our wonderful Michener Lecture during First Month with speaker Susan Taylor, we shifted focus to the Yearly Meeting Gathering, 1-5 Fourth Month. Worship and Ministry-sponsored sessions included

- a workshop, “Reflections from the Heart and Spirit” (facilitated by Jan Dahm and Lisa Erasmus);
- Extended Worship (clerked by Jan Dahm);
- Meeting for Remembrance (Nancyrose Logan); and
- early morning Bible Study (Joel Cook) with the theme, “When All My Hopes were Gone.”

In addition, morning Worship Sharing sessions, with quotes and queries discerned by Jan Dahm and Lisa Erasmus, were a centerpiece of Annual Gathering, as always. All were meaningful experiences for those attending.

Technical issues for hybrid workshops were more infrequent this time round, in part due to the dedication of Hope and Larry Ascher to facilitate the experiences of our many online attenders.

Going forward, we have at least one new online presentation in the works for this summer. Specifically, Beverly Ward will share with Friends on the topic of Faith and Practice understood through Permaculture. We also hope to schedule a summer Extended Worship. For the Fall, we are discerning how to offer a Quakerism 101 series that will work well online, and are discussing another possible online worship session – to be determined.

We attempt to be faithful to our labor of encouragement by holding individuals and Monthly Meetings/Worship Groups in our hearts and working toward the recognition of Friends’ work in the world as a sacred task needing deep spiritual nourishment. We ask that all continue to hold each other (and themselves) with a tender hand and listen deeply to where Spirit is leading us.

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

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report

Summer Executive Committee Meeting

13 Sixth Month 2026

Annual Gathering

Youth Program

Seven children attended the gathering. We missed two wee friends (absent due to family obligations) and three teens who graduated from the program. Otherwise, all SEYM youth who attended last year were present. We also joyfully welcomed two new youth from Gainesville.

Although Asma has outgrown the youth program, she has transformed into a competent young adult Quaker who is more than capable of sharing our faith and traditions. As one of this year's youth workers, she went above and beyond in demonstrating her leadership skills by taking charge of the youth business meeting and epistle-writing, and by serving as a role model to the younger children.

Our new youth worker, Mikey, is new to Quakerism but his energy and kindness were a real asset to the program.

Seth, Amanda, and Jennifer volunteered a lot of their time, and it is only because of them that the weekend went so smoothly.

Young Adults

Several young adult faces were notably missing from the gathering, but the thirteen who attended left feeling a sense of renewed community. Intense discussions of the future of Quakerism, coping with trauma, and countering racism were just a few of the topics that spontaneously arose during their conversations. They are well-grounded in the traditions of the gathering and of Quakerism in general, but their own traditions are arising organically. For example, they spontaneously hosted a talent show Saturday night after the Walton lecture, when many older friends were already in bed.

Young Adult Actions

In the current political situation, there is no shortage of ways for young adults to engage in actions in accordance with Quaker testimonies. In Orlando, they have hosted a community Iftar dinner and prayer vigil for immigrant justice, participated in parades and rallies, spoken out at community organizing meetings, worked with mutual aid organizations to provide assistance to others, and worked with other Quaker organizations such as FGC, FWCC, QEW, and North Star Network. Young adults in Gainesville have also been active in political organizing, immigrant justice, and mutual aid.

Monthly Meeting Engagement

The Youth Committee created a First Day School Toolkit, which they presented in a workshop at Annual Gathering. This publication contains reproducible flyers and surveys, a list of books, suggested curricula, and links to online resources. The committee hopes that it will encourage meetings to prepare religious education materials for youth, whether they currently have any in attendance or not.

In the upcoming year, I hope to do outreach through tabling at events and possibly hosting a summer (2027) program in conjunction with a monthly meeting interested in ministering to children in their surrounding

community. I also hope to collaborate with the Quaker Faith & Play organization to provide training in this tradition of storytelling. I remain eager to support monthly meetings in their initiatives to welcome younger people into their communities.

Rachel Dellinger, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator
May 16, 2026

Committee for Ministry on Racism Report

Summer Executive Committee Meeting

13 Sixth Month 2026

CMOR Postscripts from Yearly Meeting

It's only after you've stepped outside your comfort zone that you begin to change, grow, and transform.

Roy T. Bennett, author

The Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR) is charged with the task of examining racism within SEYM and helping us become an anti-racist yearly meeting. Friends General Conference has been working to eradicate racism within their organization for several years and have produced a lot of resource material to assist Yearly Meetings in this work.

CMOR carefully crafted queries for its recent Yearly Meeting workshop that invited us to step out of our comfort zones and bravely talk about a subject which has been avoided for too long in our country, our communities, and in our monthly meetings. We encourage monthly meetings to take up these queries:

- What is your first memory of racism? What was its effect on you?
- Why is it important to be aware of your privilege or lack of it?
- What has been your experience of systemic racism?
- What have you done or can you do to challenge the systemic racism you experience?
- What can we, as the Religious Society of Friends, do about systemic racism?

We make sure an antiracist workshop and affinity group sessions are in the schedule every year at YM. These provide opportunities for frank discussions about race in safe/courageous spaces. Sometimes the discomfort lingers. That is not unusual, it's part of growth. When that is the case, we urge anyone troubled by issues raised or microaggression not dealt with satisfactorily to consult with their Care and Counsel Committee in their home meeting.

CMOR also appreciates feedback so that we can address any issues in future workshops and affinity group sessions.

FGC and CMOR recommend the resources below to help us deal with any ongoing issues aroused by the hard and necessary work we are engaged in:

- Becoming an Anti-Racist Quaker Meeting (FGC)
<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcresources/anti-racism/becoming-an-anti-racist-quaker-meeting/>
- Waking Up White, by Debby Irving. "This is the best book I've read yet on white privilege, or advantage, if you prefer. Irving takes the reader on her painful journey of discovering the hard truth, that her reality was not "the" reality, that racism is so deeply embedded in American culture it is invisible to white people. She is informative about the "real" reality without being preachy or blaming." (Kathy Hersh, CMOR)
- Thriftbooks.com Has some used copies \$5 and up. They have a good collection of books on race. "Good prices and consistently reliable." (KH)

Field Secretary for Earthcare Report
Summer Executive Committee Meeting
13 Sixth Month 2026

Overview

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

This is an update on field secretary activities that have taken place since the 2026 SEYM Annual Gathering. Also, included are scheduled work and plans at time of submission. Scheduled or planned work includes:

- Continued community preparedness;
- Continued support for the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida's intervention in the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport Detention Facility;
- Work with the SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee and other SEYM committees;
- Convening workshops and visiting Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups;
- Producing and sharing videos and other online content; and
- Working in the wider Quaker world and environmental groups.

Also included is a request from the Black Brown People of Color BBIPOC (black, brown, indigenous people of colors) Religious Society of Friends online.

Communication with the FSE Anchoring Committee

Communication with the FSE Anchoring Committee members included in-person, email, telephone, and videoconferencing. As discussed below, much of the contact was initiated by committee work.

Communication with the FSE Anchoring Committee members included in-person contact and email, telephone, or other remote means. Most of exchanges were prompted by committee work as described.

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

Planning to work with SEYM committees to revisit our community preparedness is underway. There is ongoing concern regarding state and federal resources. More information will be made available about these

planning activities directly to Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, through SEYM committees and eNews.

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 person in your Meeting or Worship Group to share your plans with?

An online planning meeting on SEYM Community Preparedness will be scheduled.

SEYM 2026 Earthday Virtual Observance, 25 Fourth Month (April)

The working group of Friends who have been holding the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida's intervention regarding the federal detention center in the Everglades gathered online to discuss their efforts. Beginning with Chris McBride, Fort Myers Monthly, workgroup participants spoke on their leadings or response to this concern. Clyde Dunton-Gallagher, Miami Monthly Meeting, providing an overview of the legal history and potential next steps. The crux of the issue is the failure of the state and federal government to follow the law,



especially the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA directs that among other considerations tribal governments should be consulted and there should be a public comment period. The case has been awaiting a decision from the appeal court. Clyde Dunton-Gallagher anticipates that the case may be sent back to the lower court. The working group is drafting an amicus brief.

Chris McBride also recommended the book, *Journey to Eloheh: How Indigenous Values Lead Us to Harmony and Well-Being*, by Randy Woodley and Edith Woodley.

SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee Virtual Workshop, 27 Sixth Month (June)

At the request of Worship and Ministry, a workshop, Permaculture is Not Just Agriculture. This workshop will introduce permaculture design and domains. From *SEYM Faith and Practice*, we will consider ways to align permaculture practices with Friends' testimonies. The intention is to couple our spiritual practices with permaculture, finding more ways to embody care for the earth. The workshop will be held Seventh Day (Saturday), 27 Sixth Month (June), 10:30 AM. Registration information will be provided in the SEYM newsletter and by email to Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, and individuals.

Ongoing Initiatives with Meetings

- Fort Myers Monthly Meeting (MM) and others have been working with Mission Peniel to help purchase bike light kits in support of farmer workers .

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.

- Quakers of Orlando Property Committee is revisiting the plantings and design of the meetinghouse grounds.
 - Other Meetings also are interested in xeriscaping — designing with slow-growing, drought-tolerant plants to conserve water and establish a waste-efficient landscape. It may be useful to bring together interested Friends to share ideas and other resources in the near future. This can be coupled with Community Preparedness Planning.
- Several members of Deland Monthly Meeting are sitting with ways to “enliven Earthcare within our Meetings.” A broad range of ideas are under consideration, which include establishing Unity with Nature Circles, interfaith nature conservancy, a community garden, and more.
- Chris Ruhnke, Fort Myers Monthly Meeting, is working with The Anointed Rivers Academy, anointedacademy.org, a school in Matunda, Kenya. One of the goals of the school is to establish a small farm to help feed the students. Chris is planning fundraising for the school. I shared Quaker Earthcare Witness’s Mini-Grants program with Chris.

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;
- 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 ideas, topics, or suggestion you would like to see that is not listed here.

Interactions or Collaborations between and among other SEYM Committees

The interactions between and among SEYM committees help to facilitate communication and collaboration of our regional concerns with national organizations and to be a Quaker Presence at specific events.

- Archives Committee: Bill Rapp and I have had several phone and email exchanges regarding contacts and accessing the Yearly Meeting archives at the University of Florida, Smathers Library. A visit to the library is planned for the week of 15 Sixth Month (June).
- The Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR): I assisted the committee with its plenary session for the 2026 SEYM Gathering. We are working to increase our use of resources available from other Quaker organizations who are engaged in this work such as Friends General Conference Anti-Racism, <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcresources/anti-racism/> and Decolonizing Quakers, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>.
- Earthcare Committee: The Earthcare Committee has met twice since annual gathering. While a clerk has not stepped forward, Hollyn Green, Savannah Monthly, has agreed to serve as a second representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness;
- Half Yearly Meeting (HYM) Committee: The committee has not met since SEYM was approved to return to Wekiwa Springs State Park Youth Camp for Eleventh Month 2026, Fifthday (Thursday), 26 through Firstday (Sunday), 29. Continue to look for information directly from the committee and SEYM eNews for updates!
- Nominating Committee: Welcomes to Angela Hopkins as a new member to NomCom!
- Peace and Social Concerns (P&SC) Committee: I continue to meet with the P&SC Committee. The committee asks Monthly Meetings and Working

Groups to consider of the AFSC statement, “A different future is possible: Quaker organizations share a vision for peace in Palestine and Israel.”

The Wider Quaker World, Interfaith Groups, Other Environmental Organizations

To communicate and collaborate our regional concerns with national organizations including Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Friends General Conference (FGC). To be a Quaker Presence at specific events, including those arranged by others.

- Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP): planning continues for workshops in St. Petersburg, other areas, and online;
- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): the AFSC Corporation met 9-11 Fourth Month (April). The theme was “Spirit-Led Activism for Our Suffering World”. Recordings for public viewing and wide sharing are now available.
 - Plenary, Anton Flores-Maisonet: <https://youtu.be/E4ly8SxSLMc>
 - Workshop, “Join the Apartheid-Free Movement”: <https://youtu.be/mpu9W9ZelmA>
 - Programmed Worship (Colin Saxton): <https://youtu.be/9HFHNJaG9Vc>
 - News items from recent AFSC newsletters.
- **Love as Action**, AFSC invites Friends and people of all faiths to gather in Quaker-led silent worship all across the country—to share witness to the

rising authoritarianism and oppression in the United States. The actions will take place 13 - 14 Sixth Month (June) and 4 Seventh Month (July). To find or host an action, resources, and news, following this link, [click here](#).

- See AFSC's most recent edition of Quaker Action, <https://afsc.org/tag/quaker-action-spring-2026>
- The Hummingbird Plan 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](#).
- After rotating off the Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC) as an AFSC representative, Friends within SEYM and the AFSC Naming Committee have asked me to serve on the AFSC Standing Naming Committee.
- The BBIPOC (black, brown, indigenous, people of color) Online Group recently passed the following Minute and ask Friends to read the collective Minute as an Epistle to/at all Monthly, Quarterly and Yearly Meetings, post on digital forums, and distribute it as widely as possible:

"Believing that friends should remove all occasion for war, BBIPOC (black, brown, indigenous, people of colors) Religious Society of Friends online oppose USA attacks & war on Iran as wrong & immoral.

Let they who have ears hear & hearts ACT."

The Group expressed deep appreciation.

- Decolonizing Quakers Working Group, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>: The Decolonizing Quakers working has met twice since SEYM's annual gathering and I participated in both meetings. We continue to work on our individual and collective definitions of decolonization and also are working to decolonize language. Examples include efforts to return to and promote focus on original indigenous languages; tribes/First Nations and allies returning indigenous words to the colonial-settler lexicon, re-indigenizing placenames and things; and tribes/First Nations allies correcting the colonial-settler lexicon, e.g., "indian" versus indigenous, "sioux" versus Dakota or Lakota; "America" versus Turtle Island or Abya Yala, etc.
- Fellowship of Friends of African Descent (FOFAD): The Fellowship is currently on hiatus. However, I do keep in contact with the convener, Rashid Darden.
 - 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 Third Day. "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 Network/Florida Connections Partners: The Florida Network continues to meet online each Second Day, 5:00 - 6:30 PM. If you are interested in participating please contact me by email or text me and I will ask the convener, Sharon Joy Kleitsch to add you to the mailing list.
- Florida Council of Churches (FCC): Following annual gathering, Rev. Dr. Russell Meyers, FCC Executive Director shared a "Faith Letter To Close Detention Centers". To view the letter and continue to sign on and share, follow this link, <https://floridachurches.org/detention-centers/>.
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): I continue to follow FCNL. The FCNL staff for Environment & Energy are Jeffrey Jordan, II,

Legislative Representative for Sustainable Energy & Environment and Paul Aversa, Program Assistant for Nuclear Disarmament and Pentagon Spending. Please visit the FCNL Environment & Energy webpage for more information, <https://www.fcnl.org/issues/environment-energy>. Other items I draw your attention to are:

- This Week in the World: Inhumane Conditions at ICE Facilities Spark Protests, <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2026-05/week-world-inhumane-conditions-ice-facilities-spark-protests>
- 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.
- FCNL is still working on the Farm Bill. Please read the latest update, <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2026-05/fixing-farm-bill>.
- Friends General Conference (FGC): Initial work on the 2027 FGC Gathering has begun. This includes identifying a theme to share at the 2026 Gathering. We also are holding the FGC 2026 clerking team and the Long-Range Conference Planning (LRCP) ;
- Friends Peace Teams: Paula Palmer and I co-facilitated a workshop, "Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples and SEYM" during the 2026 SEYM Gathering. We shared information about the Toward Right Relationship program and Friends Peace Teams. Paula was particularly interested in learning from Friends about the work we are doing in SEYM. We are considering offering the "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change – Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples" (for high school students and adults), virtually. For more information about this workshop and other Toward Right Relationship Resources, go to <https://friendspeaceteams.org/trr/>.
- 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: The vigils continue every Firstday

(Sunday) from 4:00 – 5:00 PM ET. People gather across from the camp's entrance on Route 41. In addition to the Miccosukee, The Workers Circle has been organizing people of faith and conscience to hold the vigils. To sign up and learn more, including buses from Miami and Fort Myers, [click here](#).

- 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;
 - The last session of The EMERGE Framework, a series that explores the Quaker-rooted values facilitated by Lee Hall, will take place on 20 Sixth Month (June). You are welcome to participate, even if you have not participated in other sessions. For information and registration, go to <https://quakerearthcare.org/event/emerge-reimagining-our-values-for-a-restored-earth/2026-06-20/>.
 - Jacob Johns, a Hopi and Animal O'odham wisdom keeper, activist, artist, and public speaker provided the keynote presentation for QEW's spring meeting. To watch the recording follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUWz31azmvU>.
 - 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."
 - Stuart Masters delivered the Swarthmore Lecture during Britain Yearly Meeting. To see a recording of the lecture, "Tangled Roots: Navigating

the Complex Legacy of Early Quakers”, go to
<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/research/swarthmore-lectures/>.

For more on Stuart Masters, follow this link,
<https://www.stuartkmasters.com/>.

- Other Woodbrooke offerings:

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 Woodbrooke newsletter available with free subscription log-in, [click here](#).

Communication

Contact Information

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

Thank you, Friends!

Ad hoc Committee to Consider Changes to the SEYM Directory

Summer Executive Committee Meeting

13 Sixth Month 2026

The current contents of the SEYM directory far exceed the requirements set forth in the SEYM handbook (2007). Further, the cost of printing the directory has risen dramatically. At Yearly Meeting sessions, a small *ad hoc* committee was appointed to consider a change to the directory. The committee consisted of Phoebe Andersen (Archives Committee), John Palozzi (Publications Committee) and Susan Wade (*ex officio*, YM secretary). Liz Dykes was added to the committee upon her confirmation as the membership recorder.

The committee has agreed that the directory can best serve its intended purpose if it contains only meeting and personal contact details, organized for maximum efficiency. Therefore, we propose reducing the content and scope of the directory to meeting information pages (mailing addresses, meeting location and time, officers, SEYM positions), address lists for each meeting, and contact information for related Quaker bodies.

Proposed minute: The SEYM Executive Committee approves that going forward, the SEYM Directory will be limited in scope to contact information for meetings, individuals, and Quaker related bodies. Primary responsibility for the directory contents lies with the Membership Recorder and the Yearly Meeting Secretary.

Archives Committee continues to carry the concern that complete printed copies of the minutes with all reports and attachments should be available, both for the University of Florida and for the Yearly Meeting. This can be, in part, accomplished by cooperation between the Archives Committee and the YM Secretary.

In addition, it appeared that as new minutes and documents are added to the website, the oldest minutes and documents drop off. We do not know if this is an issue of cloud storage, website design, or something else. We also do not know what committee might address this. We believe that it is essential to have adequate, reliable cloud storage for all Yearly Meeting archival materials, even if they are also stored offline in the archives. The YM Secretary believe that all available digital archival minutes are stored and accessible. As this is outside the charge to this committee, we will pass this to the relevant Friends to assure that nothing is being deleted that should be kept.

Submitted by

Liz Dykes, Membership Recorder

Gathering Committee Report

Summer Executive Committee Meeting

13 Sixth Month 2026

The Gathering Committee is pleased to announce that Lauren Brownlee will be our 2027 Walton Lecture and Retreat leader.

Lauren is FCNL's deputy general secretary and the leader of the organization's Governance, Community and Culture team. In this role, she serves as staff clerk and partners with the general secretary on organizational leadership. She offers strategic guidance around FCNL living into its values, particularly as they relate to its Quaker identity and its anti-racism, anti-bias, justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion commitments. She also offers strategic support to FCNL's human resources and Friends Place on Capitol Hill.

She also currently serves on the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)'s corporation and board and the steering committees of the Quaker Call to Action and Quakers for Peace in Palestine and Israel. She co-clerks the Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism's steering committee and the AFSC's Community, Equity, and Justice Board Committee.

She presented a lecture at the FGC 2023 Gathering, has appeared in podcasts and QuakerSpeak videos, and has written several articles for Friends Journal. She is a member of Bethesda Friends Meeting in Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

The 2027 Yearly Meeting Gathering will be held at Dayspring Conference Center March 24-28, 2027.

Submitted by
Vicki Carlie, Gathering Co-Clerk

Education Committee Report

Summer Executive Committee Meeting

13 Sixth Month 2026

The Education Committee meets monthly via Zoom

We continue our contact with Stetson University and recently inquired to the Chair of Education, Chris Colwell, about proposing a program to train educators and/or students on Alternatives to Violence. In Chris' response he discouraged making any proposal until next year and emailed

... due to the significant number of programs we are already committed to support for the 2026-2027 school year, we are not able to add additional programs at this time. Our review window for new program opportunities typically is completed by March of each year for the following academic year. I'm sorry we are not able to partner with you for this upcoming school year.

The Committee agreed that we should consider having a program submitted by March 2027 for the following school year if possible. We are aware of 4 SEYM Members who are trained facilitators two of whom we have spoken to and who are willing to travel to give Alternatives to Violence Program training where needed.

Kathy Hersh from DeLand Monthly Meeting referred us to another contact at Stetson, Reverend Caitlin Swann. Kathy met her at a meeting of Friends and other community leaders were invited. The purposed of that meeting was to encourage participants to be actively involved in community programs that enrich the well being of students and educators. Reverend Swann is scheduled to be on our June Zoom Meeting. In her recent email she states:

The leadership team of the Hollis Institute {part of Stetson} appreciates the interest of the Education Committee of the Quakers of Florida to partner with our Institute. We are always interested in innovative programs that support the teachers and students in our community.

Members of our Committee are encouraged by the creative work that Rachel Dellinger, SEYM Youth Coordinator, is doing as demonstrated not only by her presence but also by her innovative educational materials like the "First Day School Kit" and mini hand foldouts including one entitled "You Might Be A Quaker If. . .". Rachel contacted Angela Hopkins, long time Quaker, retired teacher and a Facilitator for "Godly Play/Faith" (a spiritual formation through storytelling program). Angela has offered to attend one of our Zoom Meetings when she can.

After feeling confident that any surveys Rachel sent to Monthly Meetings in the past did not conflict with information we were seeking in a new survey, our Committee agreed to forwarded to every Monthly Meeting a brief survey asking more specifically about their current adult, youth, and community educational activities and to advise us of immediate and future needs including AVP training. The survey will be sent asking for communal discernment with a return enclosed postage paid envelope addressed to the Clerk of the Education Committee using the Palm Beach Meeting address and a "respond by" date. Committee members agreed to follow up with calls to Meetings that did not respond.

We hope to bring more attention to the Monthly Meetings encouraging the use of SEYM "Faith and Practice", handouts to new attenders, and noting online sources about Quakers, like QuakerSpeak, Quakerism 101, Thee Quaker Podcast, Faith and Play Stories, etc., that speak to our values and Quaker process.

The members of our committee welcome ideas or requests for our Committee and how we can best serve each Meeting by encouraging an active search for truth, diversity, and equity through Quaker education.

Submitted by

Eileen Zingaro, Education Committee Member