

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

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

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Winter Interim Business Meeting

Saturday, January 15, 2022, 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time

And

Winter Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, January 14, 2022, 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Documents In Advance

We will be gathering via video teleconference on Zoom

Winter Executive Committee Meeting:

Jan 14, 2022, 7:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Winter Interim Business Meeting

Jan 15, 2022, 1:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89967963791?pwd=MFZxZVk5OFJvWXppS240VG5XKysvdz09>

Meeting ID: 899 6796 3791

Passcode: 288498

One tap mobile

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Southeastern Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
Fall Interim Business Meeting 2021
2 Tenth Month 2021

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 21FIBM01** Fall Interim Business Meeting approves Nominating Committee's recommendation of Brad Stocker to the Committee for Ministry on Racism for a term to end in 2024.
APPROVED
- 21FIBM02** Fall Interim Business Meeting approves creating an ad hoc committee to address needs of Friends in worship groups outside the US affiliated with SEYM. Johannes Werner & Mercedes Soca, along with other Friends for the committee will be appointed by the Executive Committee clerk. Further, FIBM authorizes SEYM to transfer \$500 from the contingency fund to the restricted fund for this work created by minute 21SEC01.
APPROVED
- 21FIBM03** Friends accept Phoebe Andersen, Dianna Langan, Chris Laning, and Caroline Lanker joining Dan Vaughen on the *ad hoc* committee on a Quaker Retirement Community.
APPROVED
- 21FIBM04** Fall Interim Business Meeting agrees to implement all the recommendations in the ad hoc Crisis Response Committee's report. The EC clerk, in consultation with the youth committee clerk, the CAPP coordinator, the YM secretary, and others as appropriate will report at WIBM on next steps.
APPROVED
- 21FIBM05** Fall Interim Business Meeting unites with the Committee for Ministry on Racism in supporting the bipartisan Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act that was re-introduced to Congress on September 30, 2021, the National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools.

The Act "would establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies. This Commission would formally investigate the past wrongs of the federal government's attempts to terminate the cultures, religions, and languages of Native communities and respond to the ongoing historical and intergenerational trauma devastating tribal communities today," according to Senator Elizabeth Warren, D- Mass. who joined Senator Edward J. Markey, D- Mass, Congresswoman Sharice Davids, D-Kans. and Congressman Tom Cole, R- Okla. in introducing the bill. This would be the first commission of this kind ever established.

Quakers were among the strongest supporters of the federal policy calling for this forced assimilation and operated some 30 Indian schools. The children were taught to reject their Native languages, cultures, and spiritual practices and adopt Euro-American culture.

We urge Congress to establish a Truth and Healing Commission on U.S. Indian Boarding School Policies.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting urges all Friends to support this bill.

APPROVED

21FIBM06

Fall Interim Business Meeting agrees to designate a day of fasting and prayer, with the intention of healing individual ills and social conflicts and seeking our way forward. SEYM will petition other yearly meetings, Friends' agencies, and groups like the Poor Peoples' Campaign to unite on an upsurge into a worldwide focus on how we are ruining Planet A and inflicting grievous harm on each other, then resolve to turn about-face and march together toward freedom and peace.

APPROVED.

Nominating Committee Report

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting
15 First Month 2022

THE SEYM Nominating Committee members are Ed Lesnick (Clerk), Beverly Ward, Shawna Doran, and Brian Olson.

Directed in the Spirit, the committee has several charges: (1) Identify Friends who have gifts and a leading to serve in important positions, which are central to the success of SEYM and its programs. (2) Contact members whose terms are expiring about continuing to share their gifts as a committee member, officer, or representative. (3) Identify and encourage more members to partake in the operation of SEYM. We continually address these needs. We always need your help!

We ask Friends who see gifts in others to recommend them to the Nominating Committee.

We ask you to encourage Friends at your monthly meeting or worship group to become active and spiritually enriched by serving others in Southeastern Yearly Meeting.

There are committee memberships and representatives' terms that remain unfilled for 2022. We welcome new contributors and those who continue service to the Yearly Meeting.

Current needs include:

1. Yearly Meeting Recording Clerk. Friends have traditionally kept careful records of all business, keeping with the Friends testimonies of Truth and Integrity. The recording clerk is charged with carrying on this practice for the SEYM at the annual business meeting sessions during the week of the Annual Gathering.
2. Youth Committee. The committee needs *additional members* to conduct a program that enriches the spiritual lives, develops camaraderie, and promotes Quaker testimonies in our young people. With the mitigation of the pandemic, the Young Friends will have more contact, and SEYM adult Friends are needed to administer the program.
3. Representative(s) to FGC Central Committee. We thank Susan Taylor, who is completing her service as a representative. As most know, she has faithfully served SEYM in many capacities over the years. *We now need one (or two) additional members*. Service requires attending the FGC Central Committee annual sessions (one weekend) in early October and communicating to SEYM about the activities of FGC.
4. Publications Committee seeks *members who have knowledge and experience in this specialized field*. If interested, please talk to Friend Phoebe Andersen, Clerk of Publications, for the particulars.

More information is at The SEYM Operational Handbook section for “job descriptions” online at seymquakers.org/organization/policies-handbooks.

SEYM Officers, Committees, Representatives, & Appointees
As of WIBM January 2022

OFFICERS

Yearly Meeting Clerk.....	Bill Carlie.....	St. Petersburg.....	2023
Interim Business Meeting (IBM)			
& Executive Committee (EC) Clerk.....	Phoebe Andersen	Tallahassee.....	2023
YM & IBM Assistant Clerk	Jack Bradin.....	Palm Beach.....	2023
YM Recording Clerk.....	<i>Under Discernment</i>		
Recording Clerk, IBM/EC	Liz Dykes.....	Gainesville	2022
Assistant Recording Clerk(s).....	Susan Wade	St. Petersburg.....	2024
Treasurer	Joel Cook.....	Palm Beach.....	2023
Membership Recorder	Ed Lesnick.....	Orlando.....	2023

TRUSTEES

Neil Andersen, <i>Clerk</i>	Tallahassee	2023
Jack Bradin	Palm Beach	2023
Mike Flanery.....	Clearwater	2023
Liz Dykes	Gainesville	2023
Chris Laning.	Orlando.....	2022

COMMITTEES

Archives	Bill Rapp, <i>Clerk</i>	Lake Wales WG	2024
	Neil Andersen.....	Tallahassee	2024
	Phoebe Andersen	Tallahassee	2023
Earthcare	Brian Humphrey, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Ft. Lauderdale.....	2023
	Bill Carlie, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	St. Petersburg.....	2022
	Jack Bradin	Palm Beach	2023
	Mike Flanery.....	Clearwater	2023
	Hollyn Green	Savannah	2023
	Brad Stocker	Miami	2023
	Gary Crosby	St. Petersburg.....	2023
	Jim Koopman	Ft. Myers.....	2022
	Catherine Price.....	Lake Wales WG	2022
	Beverly Ward	Tampa	
Faith & Practice (Committee on sabbatical)	Phoebe Andersen, <i>Clerk</i>	Tallahassee	2024
Facebook Page	Mike Flanery.....	Clearwater.....	2024
Finance	Peter Schmidt, <i>Clerk</i>		2022
	Steve Donachie.....	Miami	2024
	Shawna Doran.....	Gainesville	2024
	Carl Hersh.....	Miami	2024
	Asst. YM Clerk (ex officio)		
	SEYM Treasurer (ex officio)		
	Clerk of Trustees (ex officio)		
	SEYM Administrative Secretary (ex officio)		

Half-Yearly Meeting	Brian Olson, <i>Clerk</i>	Miami	2024
	Beeg Camarota, <i>Registrar for 2021</i>	Deland WG/Orlando	2024
	Caroline Kaufman, <i>Food Coordinator</i>	Clearwater	2022
Ministry on Racism	Susan Taylor, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Tallahassee	2023
	Wendy Clarissa Geiger, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Jacksonville WG	2023
	Minerva Glidden	Orlando	2024
	Kathy Hersh	Miami	2024
	Brad Stcker	Miami	2024
	Beverly Ward	Tampa	2024
	Jane Westberg	Miami	2024
	Cheryl Demers	Gainesville	2023
	Katie Green	Clearwater	2023
	Mainus Sultan	Savannah	2023
Jean Larson	Gainesville	2022	
Peace & Social Concerns	Phil Stone, <i>Clerk</i>	Clearwater	2023
	Peter Harrell	Gainesville	2024
	Caroline Kaufman	Clearwater	2023
	Karen Putney	Tampa	2023
	Cece Yocum	Tampa	2022
	Helen Fox	Ft. Myers	2022
	Willie Hager	Jacksonville	2022
	Warren Hoskins	Miami	2022
	John Heimborg	Orlando	2022
	Mercedes Soca	Havana WG	2022
Publications	Phoebe Andersen, <i>Clerk</i>	Tallahassee	2024
Worship & Ministry	Nancy Triscritti	Tampa	2024
	Edward Abraham	Miami	2024
	Ellie Caldwell	Palm Beach	2023
	Jan Dahm	Tampa	2023
	Eduardo Diaz	Miami	2023
	Lisa Erazmus	Tampa	2023
	Nancy Rose Logan	Sarasota	2022
	Richelle Ogle	SAWG/Orlando	2022
YM Gathering	Andrea Hoskins, <i>Clerk</i>	Miami	2022
	Susan Wade, <i>Registrar</i>	St. Petersburg	2023
	Caroline Kaufman, <i>Bookstore</i>	Clearwater	2022
	Brian Olson, <i>Asst. Program Coordinator</i>	Miami	2023
	Vicki Carlie	St. Petersburg	2022
Youth Committee	Jennifer Mendoza, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Sarasota	2024
	Cecelia Yocum, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Tampa	2022
	Rachel Dellinger	Orlando	2023
	Mira Tanna	Orlando	2022

REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS

American Friends Service Committee Corporation, AFSC/Philadelphia

Kathy Hersh..... Miami 2022
Beverly Ward Tampa 2022

Friends Committee on National Legislation, FCNL

Karen Putney..... Tampa 2024
Pete Akerman..... Gainesville 2023
Eileen Zingaro Clearwater 2024

Friends General Conference, FGC Central Committee

Susan Taylor..... Tallahassee..... 2022
Susan Wade..... St. Petersburg..... 2025

Friends World Committee for Consultation – FWCC

Nancy Rose Logan Sarasota 2023
Clara Diaz Miami 2024
Eduardo Diaz Miami 2024

Friends Peace Teams

Cecilia Yocum..... Tampa 2022

Florida Council of Churches

Beverly Ward Tampa 2024

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns – FLGBTQ

Under Discernment

Palmetto Friends Gathering

Phoebe Andersen..... Tallahassee 2023
Neil Andersen..... Tallahassee 2023

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Jack Bradin..... Palm Beach 2022
Brad Stocker Miami 2022

Quaker House (Fayetteville)

Lynn Newsom..... Bluffton SC WG 2023

Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

Warren Hoskins Tallahassee 2022

APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATIONS

FUM General Board Observer

Under Discernment

Ellie Caldwell, *Alternate*..... Palm Beach 2024

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ed Lesnick, *Clerk* Orlando 2022
Beverly Ward Tampa 2022
Shawna Doran..... Gainesville 2022
Brian Olson..... Miami 2023

Quaker United Nations Office Report

Submitted by Warren Hoskins, SEYM Representative to QUNO
SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting
15 First Month 2022

Epistle from the Heads of Quaker Agencies meeting held in London, 6 to 8 December 2021

Eleven of us from seven international Quaker organisations have come together at Friends House London and online for a three-day gathering. We meet at a time of transition. The Covid pandemic has changed our lives and the societies we live in amplifying the inequalities which were already present. The work of our family of Quaker organisations is also developing and evolving, responding to these changes and to the new leadings we are given to follow. And it is a time of transition in the leadership of many of our organisations – five of the seven will have new leadership from 2022.

We gather because our work is connected. As Quaker service agencies we stand together in our witness to the world. We know that a just and peaceful world is possible, and that by working alongside one another we bring it closer than if we work alone. We seek relationships of trust and collaboration between Quaker organisations, bringing the strengths of each to the work we are all called to. Our legitimacy to speak and act on behalf of Quakers stems from a process of discernment, discovering as best we can God's will in the matters before us. Anyone can be part of this discernment, Quaker or not, and we all benefit when diverse participants are involved. Others can see things and bring insights we do not; we understand the importance of taking a lead from those most impacted by oppression.

In reflecting back on our work together we value the opportunity our Heads of Agencies group allows us to share experiences, providing a source of support and spiritual grounding. Our connection provides the space for us to think about how we connect with Quaker voices around the world. One of our organisations can often offer deep expertise or subject knowledge on behalf of all of us. At times we are challenged by issues of scale as it can be difficult for our smaller organisations to maintain many relationships. Tensions that arise could be resolved if we go one level deeper, name what we're trying to achieve, and share each other's theories of change.

Together we have celebrated the steadfast and faithful service of Diane Randall, Andrew Tomlinson, and Jonathan Woolley, each of them leaving after more than ten years in post. We have learned much from their experience, their generosity with their gifts, and their friendship, and are full of gratitude for their public ministry as well as their relationships with each of us as inspiring colleagues. They leave with our thanks, and our love.

We have welcomed too those taking up positions of leadership in our organisations, and those who are looking after organisations during times of transition. Our meeting has been much enriched by the opportunity to bring together in one place the insights and experience of those laying down their service with the energy and openness of those taking on new responsibilities. We wish Sarah Clarke, Tim Gee, Bridget Moix, and Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, well as they take up this work.

We have explored the difference between climate justice and sustainability. We recognise the need to look at the climate crisis holistically as a social, political, ethical, and spiritual issue, beyond a focus exclusively on emissions targets and personal lifestyle change. We see that those who are most affected are the least responsible, and that their voices are often silenced. We place the need for justice at the heart of our response, advocating solutions that redistribute power away from dominant states and

commercial interests, and centre the most affected. We shared examples of taking a justice-based approach to climate action in our work and reflected on the positive impact of a strong Quaker voice at COP26 in November 2021.

We have been led to explore how we are called to engage in ‘peacebuilding at home’, what that may entail in our different contexts, and how it relates to closing space for civil society and dismantling systems of oppression. We recognise a need to confront the violence that exists in global North countries and to work to address the root causes of violence and injustice wherever we engage in peacebuilding efforts. We see advancing justice as fundamental to peacebuilding and the need to listen and learn more from those most affected by violence and injustice.

We reaffirm our commitment to dismantle and prevent the presence of institutional oppression within the lives of our organisations. Walking alongside one another, we commit to doing better in creating welcoming, affirming, and supporting work environments for staff and volunteers, both in policies and practice. We have explored what it means to be an anti-racist and anti-oppression organisation and recognise that more work is essential to build our shared understanding. We emphasise the need for staff initiatives to go hand-in-hand with intentional and accountable governance efforts while encouraging and allowing space for discomfort and difficult conversations. While centring the leadings of those most adversely impacted by oppression we acknowledge that we should not overburden them with the work that needs to be shouldered by those holding power.

We have considered the future of multilateralism, where countries can work together for the common good, beyond their self-interest. QUNO is part of this, helping build understanding, using human connections alongside technical knowledge, finding opportunities for cooperation not conflict. We recognise threats to the legitimacy of the multilateral system whether by disruptive state actors or the experience of those in situations of conflict that the UN is just a ‘guest walking by’. In seeking a vision of how we could help improve international relations at the UN and reform the ways its institutions work, we are reminded of its powerful original vision to “save future generations from the scourge of war” and of justice as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As we reach the end of our time together we call on Friends to be humble and to be bold, to be faithful and determined, to work inwardly and outwardly, within our Quaker communities and outside them, to build the just and peaceful world God tells us can be ours.

In peace and with love,

Joyce Ajlouny, General Secretary, American Friends Service Committee

Atiaf Alwazir, Head of Peace Programme, Quaker Council for European Affairs

Sarah Clarke, incoming Director, Quaker United Nations Office New York

Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, incoming Director, Quaker United Nations Office Geneva

Susanna Mattingly, acting General Secretary, Friends World Committee for Consultation

Bridget Moix, incoming General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, Britain Yearly Meeting

Diane Randall, outgoing General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Oliver Robertson, General Secretary, Quaker Peace & Social Witness

Andrew Tomlinson, outgoing Director, Quaker United Nations Office New York

Jonathan Woolley, outgoing Director, Quaker United Nations Office Geneva

Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting

15 First Month 2022

Overview

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

This is an update on field secretary activities since the written and oral reports submitted for Fall Interim Meeting with a Concern for Business. It also includes planned activities. The majority of activities continue to be carried out online. I ask that we all continue to hold this planet and its inhabitants in our hearts.

Communication with the Anchoring Committee

Communication with the FSE Anchoring Committee members continues to be through email, telephone, or other electronic means.

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.

As a reminder, "Meetings can issue invitations to the [SEYM] administrative secretary, FSE, or the Anchor Committee [for FSE visits]. We will all conference over the invitation and subsequent planning" (Phoebe Andersen, 3 Tenth Month 2016). This includes virtual visits.

Contact Information

- Email: fsEarthcare@seymquakers.org.
- Facebook: @fsearthcare
- Twitter: @fsearthcare.
- Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/7545638812>.
- Skype: phdant
- Telephone number: 813.928.8823.
- Snailmail: P.O. Box 1614, Umatilla, FL 32784 (until further notice).

A Google calendar showing requests for visitation and FSE has been created and shared with the Anchoring Committee and the Co-Clerks of the Earthcare Committee. All prior, for this reporting period, and upcoming visits are shown below. MMs and WGs continue to request visits, particularly in conjunction with retreats and AVP workshops.

Suggested workshop/event topics:

- Angelic Troublemaking: Beyond Bystander Training;
- Climate Equity/Climate Justice in Our Community (Location specific climate justice issues);
- Discerning Earthcare Leadings;
- Earthcare audits (baseline assessment of individual or community activities and discernment);
- Equality or Equity? What is Our Testimony?;
- Permaculture is Not Just Agriculture;
- Project Drawdown, Introduction and more
- Quakers and Climate Collapse;

- Racial Wealth Gap Simulation;
- Transportation, migration, and climate;
- Underwater Homeowners Association;
- Water: Sea Level Rise, Flooding, and Water Quality;
- Waterline Communities: Displacement and Gentrification and Why Quakers Should Care; and
- Kody Hersh and I also plan and work together.

Lake Wales Worship Group, to be scheduled

This e-visit is still on hold.

St. Augustine Worship Group, to be scheduled

I continue to worship virtually with various Meetings and Worship Groups, the SEYM, and other Quaker groups.

Half Yearly Meeting Gathering, 25-28 Eleventh Month

Yay! We returned to Wekiwa Springs State Park for the HYM since 2019. In addition to storytelling, sitting on the front porch (Apologies to the Discernment group for the spirited noise of the ecostrategists.), sunset watching, meal making, several Friends also participated in the Loving Earth Project, <http://lovingearth-project.uk/getting-started/>. Our contributions are being compiled and the results will be shared on the SEYM website. A huge thank you to all the participants. Please note: it's not too late to participate. I'm happy to facilitate an online workshop with any size group!

Interactions or Collaborations between and among other SEYM committees

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

- The Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR): I continue to serve as a member of CMOR and provide support, especially in identifying resources. CMOR requested at Fall Interim Business Meeting that Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups share the anti-racism work that is being done with their Meetings and communities. See also the notes below on Quakers Uprooting Racism;
- Earthcare Committee: I continue to work closely with the Committee on an individual or small group basis. Much of this work overlaps with that of Quaker Earthcare Witness as I coordinate with the two representatives from the Yearly Meeting to that group. I will be working with the committee to develop sessions for the 2022 SEYM Gathering;
- Florida Council of Churches (FCC): During this period, work with Florida Council of Churches has been through FL-iCAN and collaborations with individuals in that group;
- Peace and Social Concerns: I remain in contact with the SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee and some Monthly Meetings Peace and Social Concerns Committees, again, as a resource;
- Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), AFSC: Kathy Hersh and I share an SEYM appointment to AFSC. More information about QUNO and AFSC is detailed below;
- Right Sharing of World Resources: I continue to share information through the QEW United Nations Working Group, AFSC, and Quaker United Nations Committee.

- Youth Committee: I continue to work with the Youth Committee. Youth and young adults were major contributors to the Loving Earth Project. Thank you, again!

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.

In the wider Quaker World, interfaith groups, and other environmental organizations, I have listed existing memberships, partnerships, or collaborations that have been a part of the outreach effort. These include, but are not limited to:

- Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), there are now online AVP workshops. I have not been able to participate in any offerings to date, but hope to be available in the future as a facilitator. The Florida AVP facilitators continue to hold monthly virtual meetings;
- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): I continue to serve as a corporate member of AFSC and as part of that work am a member of the Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC). I also am part of AFSC's Third World Coalition. AFSC has a resource page, Caring for each other during COVID-19, <https://www.afsc.org/content/caring-each-other-during-covid-19>. Friends in SEYM and beyond continue to find AFSC's "Changing Systems, Change Ourselves" self-study e-course, <https://www.afsc.org/resource/self-study-changing-systems-change-ourselves-e-course> a valuable resource;
 - o Both Quaker United Nations Offices (QUNO), New York and Geneva have new directors; Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, Geneva, and Sarah Clarke, New York. Both participated in a recent QUNC virtual meeting where we focused on the transitions and the upcoming 75th anniversary of QUNO. More details to follow soon.
 - o I am participating in the Quakers Uprooting Racism (QUR) community of practice. QUR is a coalition of four Quaker organizations (AFSC, Friends Council on Education, FGC, and Pendle Hill) which are working to accelerate the movement for and capacity to create racial justice among (and beyond) Friends through the creation of a community of practice of racial justice changemakers learning and experimenting with actions together. See more at "Quakers uprooting racism coalition works to accelerate racial justice among Friends", <https://www.afsc.org/quakers-uprooting-racism>.
- Britain Yearly Meeting: On 3 Eleventh Month (during the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26), I participated on a panel, "Caring for what we love in the World in the face of environmental threats" with Wopicho Apollo, from Uganda where he trains a variety of groups about sustainability, adaptation and mitigation measures and plays a leading role in the Friends Church of Uganda (Quakers) and Ed Tyler who teaches permaculture in Glasgow and works to create regenerative culture in the Clyde bioregion, as part of the Loving Earth Project. We each chose three panels and spoke for about three minutes on why we chose the panels. The video can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/9sivxXiqs3E>.
- Decolonizing Quakers, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>, among the follow up activities from the virtual "Working Towards Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples" conference are a series of affinity group online meetings that will focus on the impacts of colonization on various

human population groups. The first is planned for late winter 2022 and will be the Indigenous peoples affinity group. Information and registration information will be available soon. This affinity group will be followed by others;

- Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN): Jan Booher continues to work with the Florida Disaster Resilience Initiative, (<https://resiliencesystem.org/dashboards/florida-disaster-resilience-initiative/>) and share health and environmental information, including COVID-19. As part of this effort, I continue participate in a Resilient American Communities (RAC) COVID-19 Convocations.
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): Brad Stocker and I continue to share a slot as representatives to FCNL for QEW. This includes participation in now twice monthly telephone conference calls with FCNL staff, Clarence Edwards and Rosalie Ruetz. To register for Call to Climate Conscience, follow this link, <https://act.fcnl.org/event/call-conscience/search/>. Friends also may be interested in “Inside the Greenhouse”, a monthly update on FCNL’s environmental advocacy and the emerging climate issues. See, <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2021-12/december-2021-inside-greenhouse> ;
- Friends General Conference: I continue to work with FGC, particularly with the Fellowship of Friends of Color. FGC is one of the organizers of the Quakers Uprooting Racism. I am holding a request to lead a Friends of Color session at the FGC 2022 pre-Gathering on Climate Justice. Please hold me in your hearts.
- Friends Peace Teams (FPT): I continue to work with members of FPT linking FPT to QEW UN Working Group and Towards Right Relationship/Decolonizing Quakers;
- Friends United Meeting (FUM): I continue to work with Jim Kessler, Grinnell Friends Church, through Quaker Earthcare Witness and on Grinnell Friends support of low-income and minority communities in and around Grinnell (IA);
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to strengthen links to FWCC through QEW, FGC, and AFSC. Of particular interest is the opportunity to work with FWCC and the efforts of Decolonizing Quakers and the planned affinity groups.
- Lake County Greens: I collaborated with the Lake County Greens by adding some information on “The Problem with Plastics and Some Solutions.” A copy is attached.
- National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Equity in Transportation and the Women’s Issues in Transportation Committees. The planning committee for the Conference on Advancing Equity in Transportation is preparing a summary document about the conference. A number of committee members and I have participated in several invited sessions with various organizations about preliminary findings from the conference. These have included the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials and a joint Federal Highway Administration and Transportation Research Board symposium on emerging trends of urban, suburban, and rural travel needs. I am most concerned with internal displacement due to climate collapse, including the impacts of the corona virus.
- The Pachamama Alliance: I continue to work with members through the FL-iCAN network;

- QEW: I have move into a co-clerk position with Brad Stocker. We will clerk our first steering committee meeting First Month 2022. Through QEW Presents!, an online offering of workshops, I also worked with
 - o Live Oak Friends Meeting, Houston, TX, 12 Twelfth Month.
- Tri-City NAACP Branch: I continue with the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee. I participated in a panel on sustainable growth on 4 Eleventh Month.
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship: Jan Booher, Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida (UUJF), and I continue to collaborate through FL-iCAN.
- University of South Florida, Institute on Black Life (IBL), Advisory Committee and the Patel College of Global Sustainability (PCGS): I continue to work with the University and am planning for the 2022 Weather, Climate, and Science National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates this summer. My colleagues and I have a upcoming publication, “Exploring the Role of Social Networks in Hurricane Preparedness Planning: A Study of Public Housing Residents” in the book *Hurricane Risk in a Changing Climate*.

Social Media

I continue to blog through “eField Notes” on the SEYM website, <http://seymquakers.org/faith-in-action/field-secretary-for-earthcare/>. I also share short pieces on activities, with SEYM Monthly Meetings, Working Groups, the wider Quaker world and others. Please send suggestions for topics, research, etc.

After this year’s COP26, I feel almost overwhelmed by a sense of urgency in the face of “blah, blah, blah.” It was regenerative to be with Friends for HYM, however, I am deeply saddened by the milestone of 800,000 deaths in the U.S. alone from COVID 19 and continued “business as usual.” Thank you for your faithfulness and love.

May we all be safe.
 May we all be healthy.
 May we all know joy.
 May we all know happiness.
 May we all live lives of wellbeing.

Love and Peace,
 Beverly G. Ward

Committee for Ministry on Racism Report

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting
15 First Month 2022

In [bell] hooks' 1999 classic [All About Love](#) she wrote "rarely, if ever, are any of us healed in isolation. Healing is an act of communion." This quote can be interpreted in a number of ways. hooks was emphasizing the importance of being in community and how therapeutic our communities can be. Those who navigate spaces being "the only" recognize how challenging this experience can be. Being "the only" Black person, for example, in your workplace can leave you feeling [depleted and exhausted](#). Being able to commune with others who share our same or similar experiences can provide a restorative outlet for racialized people. In an insightful Harvard Business Review [piece](#), the authors wrote about the importance of allowing employees an opportunity for collective healing. The authors defined collective healing as "group-based processing and coping among those who share a common identity." To promote wellbeing, we should ensure that we are creating opportunities to come together and share similar experiences.

Janice Gassam Asare, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion,
Forbes, "Five bell hooks Quotes to Carry With You While Trying to Create a More Equitable World."
[in honor of bell hooks, September 25, 1952- December 15, 2021]

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:/ where there is hatred, let me sow love;/ where there is injury, pardon;/ where there is doubt, faith;/ where there is despair, hope;/ where there is darkness, light;/ where there is sadness, joy.

(First verse of **Prayer of St. Francis**)

Greetings dear Friends,

We warmly welcome you to attend the next SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism meeting to be held virtually at 9:30 AM, Saturday, January 15, 2022. Please send your email to susantaylor410@gmail.com if you wish to attend. Together we aspire to create the communion of healing the late bell hooks referred to in the introductory quote to this report. During our meetings we follow Divine guidance, in part, through the AVP advices of: ask for a nonviolent solution, expect the best outcome, and think before reacting.

The entire **Prayer of St. Francis** arose as vocal ministry during open worship in our recent Zoom meeting, another reminder of how to communicate in the Spirit as, together, we remove White supremacy from SEYM, affirming and meeting each other where we are.

Included in the WIBM DIA is our full report to Fall Interim Business Meeting since it was inadvertently not included in the published FIBM documents on the SEYM website. **We ask all monthly meetings and worship groups to please note our request in that report: to send us a report on actions they are taking to reduce racism in their meetings by December 30.** This is so that we may all learn from each other as we move forward in the lifelong work of achieving our goal and to name the steps we are taking. No step is too small- none is better than another. We realize the importance of being there for one another in an effort that can feel very difficult. It is not about being a good or bad person or a good or bad meeting or worship group. We are all of God. We ask meetings and worship groups to send your reports to Susan Taylor at susantaylor410@gmail.com. Thank you.

At our December 13th Zoom meeting, we began planning for our SEYM Gathering workshop, which will be the focus of our January meeting. It will be an engaging, affirming, experiential occasion addressing racism in some way. Stay tuned. We have been working with the Youth Committee and the Youth and Young Adult Coordinator. Aurelio Anderson was the member of the Youth Committee who was able to attend our meeting. Kody Hersh, SEYM Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, was unable to attend this particular meeting, though he has been active with us.

We are following the progress of the bipartisan federal **Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act**. We continue to ask Friends to give support for this **Act** through FCNL, www.fcnl.org. SEYM minuted support for the **Act** during FIBM, 2021.

Our committee approved sending a request to the SEYM Finance Committee to bring forward for Friends' possible approval, a recurring line item to give an annual donation to the National **Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition**, <https://boardingschoolhealing.org>, as part of making amends for Friends' participation in taking Native children from their families and culture by placing them in boarding schools.

We are following committee member, Beverly Ward's, participation with a cohort of Friends with **Quakers Uprooting Racism**. This is an initiative created by the American Friends Service Committee, Friends General Conference, Friends Council on Education, and Pendle Hill that has been designed "to accelerate the work to end white supremacy among and beyond Friends." ("**Quaker Organizations Launch Racial Justice Initiative**," FJ News Editors, June 24, 2021, www.friendsjournal.org.)

We are also looking forward to hearing Paula Palmer's (of Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, <https://friendspeacetteams.org>, information on the recent request by the Association of Indigenous Anthropologists to the American Anthropological Association to officially pause land acknowledgments of Native Peoples until a task force can "recommend improvements after examining these practices and the history of the field's relationship with American Indians and Alaska Natives more broadly." (**The Conversation**, www.theconversation.com, Oct. 7, 2021. Search "Land Acknowledgments").

We look forward to being with you at Winter Interim Business Meeting, as we celebrate the weekend honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "**A man dies when he refuses to stand up for that which is right. A man dies when he refuses to stand up for justice. A man dies when he refuses to take a stand for that which is true.**" (Sermon, March 8, 1965, Selma Alabama after "Bloody Sunday.")

Trusting in the Spirit, with Love,
SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism

Susan Taylor, co-clerk (Tallahassee)
Wendy Clarissa Geiger, co-clerk (Jacksonville)
Minerva Glidden (Orlando), Beverly Ward (Tampa), Kathy Hersh (DeLand Worship Group) Mainus Sultan (Savannah), Jane Westberg (Miami and Boulder), Jean Larson (Gainesville), Katie Green (Clearwater), Cheryl Demers-Holton (DeLand Worship Group), Brad Stocker (Miami), Aurelio Anderson, Youth Committee (Tallahassee).

A Letter to SEYM Friends of Personal Reflections from Wendy Clarissa Geiger

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting
15 First Month 2021

Dear Friends of Southeastern Yearly Meeting,

Perhaps, some Friends cringe at the thought of facing our racism when we are confident we have no racist bone in our body. Or, are terrified racism will never end, we haven't the power to stop racism, so want not to deal with the conundrum of: What am I to do with this information this racism committee keeps shoving in my face? Ignore it and it will go away. I'm busy and overwhelmed, and this racism stuff is annoying. I'm not responsible for it. I treat everyone kindly. I'm not racist. Besides, whatever racism I hold, if addressed, would destroy my sense of self and self-worth and disrupt my whole life. And, I'll do anything to be told I'm good.

Friends, there is more to being a Quaker than attending meeting for worship determined to enjoy the stillness and lay bare the heart. There's doing what our hearts "tell" us to do. It may be a nudge, a message another Friend shares, an announcement, a smile, a once-a-week dose of feeling noticed, being spoken to with sincerity. What if, in order for the door to the meeting for worship space to be opened each First Day, each Friend had to show up with their part of the key?

The centerfold in a 1974 "Friends Journal" pictured a despondent Pakistani man and in small type the message: "Do we know the hearts of our strangers?" We may pass it off to Godde to save those who are struggling to raise children, to pay the bills, gas, and food. As it must be their fault they're struggling. They have plenty of opportunities. They obviously did not work hard enough. Quakers seem to want to HELP impoverished folk. We just don't want to BE the impoverished folk. Impoverishment of the heart is what we attend meeting for worship to address: to relieve their suffering very visibly relieves our suffering and vice versa. Phil Buskirk of blessed memory gently stated at Yearly Meeting Gathering retreat in 1993, "It's hard to be a good Quaker."

How did John Woolman and fellow abolitionists in the 1600's, 1700's, 1800's convince others racism was deeply warping and destructive and disruptive and evil when slavery was so entrenched in "every hamlet and village," (to use Bayard Rustin's words in modern times) - so normalized? And, now, Friends are determined to abolish war, so entrenched in "every hamlet and village" the business of war is - so normalized.

Friends explore and find where our deep hungers meet our deep needs: within us, in our home life, in society and in our Religious Society. Experiment with the truths we find rest easy in our hearts (or terrify us). The SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism is present and willing to explore, seek, and find with we who are raring-to-go and with we who are freaking out we're more racist than we want to be and are petrified at being exposed to our seemingly irretractable, irredeemable faults. Not to worry. We're normal. We're not irredeemable monsters. This Committee is committed to finding, acknowledging, and addressing our seemingly irretractable, irredeemable faults and pleas regarding racism. To go from rolling our eyes to rolling up our sleeves...Friends, we can do this!

Here are some questions and further thoughts.

Is meeting-persons-where-they're-at an aspect of Friends' Testimony on Equality? I like to ask White folk, "Do you want White folk to be equal to Black folk? Or, do you want Black folk equal to White folk?" Especially, I like the question for White folk: "Now that you know you have White privileges, what

White privileges are you giving up?" "Define racism and give three examples of racisms you express."

What oppressors tend not to realize is that ending our oppressive ways in our living, dying, and carrying on will relieve not only the oppressions we impose on our kin, this will free us of burdens on ourselves. It's a true-ism of nonviolence: Freeing the oppressed, frees the oppressor.

bell hooks, one of the greatest thinkers of the 20th century, transitioned on December 15th, 2021 at age 69. How she wrote AIN'T I A WOMAN: BLACK WOMEN AND FEMINISM while an undergrad...m..m..m! her books are sacred texts to understanding humanity. SISTERS OF THE YAM: BLACK WOMEN AND SELF-RECOVERY...RACE AND REPRESENTATION...KILLING RAGE....

Find a book, a video, an article, a resource recommendation, when we cannot yet speak our fears aloud to ourselves or to another person or to a pet. Try writing them down. Friends' idiom helps: "Let us see what love can do." Decades ago, I was railing about corporations to Ruth Hyde Paine, formerly of St. Petersburg Meeting and now at Friends Home in Santa Rosa, California. And Ruth gently asserted, "Wendy, corporations are made of people." And, people change. We change. Oh, the possibilities! the opportunities! When Ellie Caldwell and I were seeking an apt name for this Committee in our beginnings, a Friend suggested: The Committee To Further the Work of Lucretia Mott and John Woolman. It may take a long name to understand the long uncomfortableness we may feel in undoing racism, individually as a Friend and collectively as Friends.

Carry On With Loving Fortitude For the Long Haul, Friends!
In the Love of Christ's Heart,
Wendy Clarissa Geiger

Proposal by Wendy Clarissa Geiger to SEYM

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting

15 First Month 2021

To the attention of Phoebe and Susan...For our Committee agenda or the E.C. agenda, or both? and for the body of the WIBM, I offer the following:

During Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend 2022, among SEYM Friends gathered for WIBM, I feel led to proclaim to the world, to introduce January as Martin Luther King Jr. MONTH and Study To Be Nonviolent Month, inviting we Friends to consider, to discern, to endorse, to minute the potential, the possibilities of such a move: in healing, in encompassing and expressing Friends' Testimonies, and in expanding in time and exploring in study, research, and practice how putting down the swords of war uplifts the reality of Dr. King's vision for humanity. To quote from Robert Hayden's poem about Malcolm X, which equally describes Dr. King: "He became much more than there was time for him to be." And, to paraphrase same, "May we become much more than there is time for us to be."

In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson introduced Negro History Week in February. The week was chosen by this brilliant Black man, who founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASAALH, pronounced a-sah'-la), because it includes the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Long while later, February became Black History Month. Deep is the hunger to make Dr. King more than a name, a birthday, a holiday, a monument, a dreamer. Having a dream suggests wishful thinking, unrealistic, idealistic foolishness - easily dismissed. The following would further legitimize Dr. King as a visionary with purpose, practice, and practicality.

Expanding Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Weekend to the whole MONTH of January would mean encompassing, as well, the birthdays of Joan Baez, Thomas Merton, Lucretia Mott, and AJ Muste, and the transition days of George Washington Carver, MK Gandhi, and Pete Seeger - all visionary practitioners of nonviolence: "the force of truth," as MK Gandhi worded it, and "soul force," as Gandhi's student, Dr. King, worded it.

I hear and read the pleas, the demands of young people to be taught in school the history of the Civil Rights Movement - also known as the Movement To Make Democracy Real and the Southern Freedom Movement of the Black Freedom Struggle. To study the Civil Rights Movement is to study nonviolence in theory, training to be nonviolent, and nonviolence in action. We train to go to war. We train to be nonviolent.

Gentle blessings,
Wendy Clarissa Geiger