

# Southeastern Yearly Meeting Gathering & Annual Sessions

April 8 - 12, 2020

Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center  
Fruitland Park, Florida

## DOCUMENTS IN ADVANCE

**Dear Friends,**

***Welcome to our 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of Southeastern Yearly Meeting!***

You are invited to join us in the annual renewal of our ties of fellowship, both within this yearly meeting, and as we welcome visitors from afar and first-time attenders to our blessed gathering community!

SEYM Annual Gatherings include lots of hugs, plenty of smiles, laughter and singing from our hearts, and opportunities for deep listening for the guidance of the Spirit in all we are led to undertake together.

We are especially pleased to bring you Pamela Boyce Simms as our Walton Lecturer, two retreat sessions, and Kody Gabriel Hersh reporting on his work as our Youth and Young Adult Coordinator.

I intend to make a few changes to our order of business for these sessions. My intent is to move the usual housekeeping matters along more efficiently to leave more time to share and explore how spirit moves among us in our Meetings and organizations.

Part of this effort will require your assistance in paying closer attention to these Documents in Advance so that acceptance of the Minutes from EC and IBM will not require re-reading to the body. Other routine matters will hopefully rely heavily on these documents with committee clerks only speaking to any changes from the written materials or particular areas in need of deeper discernment.

The final part of this effort will count on your participation. After our experience in 2019 we will continue and hopefully expand a Meeting and Worship Group forum at plenary. I encourage you to come prepared to speak to how the Spirit moves among your Meetings and gatherings. Where are we growing and celebrating success?

Again, welcome to our 55th Yearly Meeting Gathering. You are invited to have some fun, get some rest (or not), learn something new, and be renewed as we love each other in the Spirit.

*In Friendship,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Carlie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "C".

Bill Carlie, clerk, SEYM

## **TO SEYM CLERKS, OFFICERS, & REPRESENTATIVES:**

We are continuing our format for yearly meeting business sessions. Please remember that:

- **ALL reports from SEYM Officers, Committee Clerks and Representatives need to be shared with SEYM Friends in written form.**
- **If any of the above reports are missing from the DIA, then please bring 50 copies of each missing report to share with Friends and the clerks table, and email the original report to the recording clerks so it can be attached to the minutes of Yearly Meeting.**

Written reports are important, to inform SEYM Friends, to include in our minutes, and for our archived records. The DIA is created for that concern and is then posted on the website and emailed to all the meetings and worship groups of SEYM. This allows time for worship, as well as seasoning and discernment of any action minutes brought to SEYM. Please hold us in the Light as we continue this process.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting  
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

**AGENDA**

April 8 - 12, 2020

“Our Gracious Creator cares and provides for all His Creatures. His tender mercies are over all his works and, so far as His love influences our minds, so far we are interested in His workmanship and feel a desire to take hold of every opportunity to lessen the distress of the afflicted and increase the happiness of the Creation. Here we have a prospect of one common interest from which our own is inseparable, that to turn the treasure we possess into the channel of Universal Love becomes the business of our lives”

*John Woolman 1773*

**Executive Committee Meeting • Wednesday, April 8 • 2:30 – 5:30 pm • Room 2**

**Committee Meetings • Thursday, April 9 • 12:50 – 2:30 pm**

*See Bulletin Board for locations*

**First Plenary Session • Thursday, April 9 • 4:15-5:30 pm**

Open, centering worship

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, and/or a Friend’s writing

Welcome

Roll call of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, including their milestones (in writing)

Introduction of Visitors and Reading of Letters of Introduction

General announcements (*Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.*)

Agenda review with corrections as necessary.

Appointment of *Ad hoc* Committee for SEYM Epistle 2020

Nominating Committee preliminary report, Ed Lesnick, clerk..... 6-9

Review of Minutes for approval

Open Worship

**Second Plenary Session • Thursday, April 9 • 7:00-8:15 pm**

Open, centering worship.

General announcements (*Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.*)

Review and approval of Executive Committee Minutes, *Bill Carlie, EC Clerk (Acting)*..... 10-12

Review and approval of Interim Business Meeting Minutes, *Bill Carlie, IBM Clerk (Acting)*..... 13-15

Trustees Report, *Jack Bradin, Clerk*

Treasurer’s report, *Joel Cook, Treasurer*

First Reading of 2018-2019 Budget, *Peter Schmidt, Finance Committee clerk*

    Proposed budget ..... 16-17

Review of Minutes for approval

Open worship

**Third Plenary Session • Friday, April 10 • 10:00-11:45 am**

Open, centering worship.

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, and/or a Friend’s writing.

Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced.

General announcements (*Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.*)

First Reading: Action Minutes from SEYM Committees & Representatives

***provide copies to the Clerk’s table***

Worship and Ministry Report, *Clara Diaz, clerk*

Committee for Ministry on Racism Report ..... 18-20

Peace and Social Concerns Report, *Cece Yocum, clerk*..... 21-22

Friends Peace Teams and Peace Building en las Americas, *Cece Yocum, representative*..... 23-26

FLGBTQC Report, *Sara Humphrey, representative*

Committee for Earthcare Report

Field Secretary for Earthcare and Anchor Committee, *Beverly Ward, FSE & others* ..... 27-30

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Support Committee

Review of Minutes for approval

Open worship

**Fourth Plenary Session • Friday, April 10 • 1:15 – 2:30 pm**

Open, centering worship

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, and/or a Friend’s writing

Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced

General announcements (*Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.*)

Youth Committee Report

Youth & Young Adult Friends Coordinator Report, *Kody Hersh*

FWCC Report, *Clara and Eduardo Diaz, FWCC representatives*

FGC Report & Epistle

FUM Observer report

Florida Council of Churches report .....	31
FCNL report, <i>Karen Putney, representative</i> .....	33
AFSC Report	
QEW report	
QUNO report	
QVS report	
Review of Minutes for approval	
Open Worship	

### **Fifth Plenary Session • Saturday, April 11 • 1:15-2:30 pm**

- Open, centering worship
- Welcome of Friends & Visitors not previously introduced
- FLGBTQC Report, *Sara Humphrey, representative*
- Young Friends – Report of Young Friends concerns and minutes to Yearly Meeting
- Young Adult Quakers – Report of YAQ activities and concerns
- Meeting and Worship Group Forum
  - Where are we growing and celebrating success?
- Review of Minutes for approval
- Open worship

### **Sixth Plenary Session • Sunday, April 12 • 9:00 - 10:45 am**

- Open, centering worship
- A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, and/or a Friend’s writing.
- General announcements – (Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.)
- Reading for Approval of Action Minutes from SEYM committees and representatives.
  - (for minutes under revision from second plenary)
- Second Reading for approval of Nominating Committee report, *Ed Lesnick, clerk*..... 6-9
- Second Reading and Approval of Budget, 2020-2021, *Peter Schmidt, Finance clerk*
  - Proposed budget..... 16-17
- Gathering Committee report, *Andrea Hoskins, Clerk*
- Epistles – Wee Friends, Young Friends, and Teen Friends (*This will occur whenever these Friends arrive in the auditorium.*)
- SEYM Epistle – reading and approval
- Minutes of appreciation
- Review of Minutes for approval

***Our Gathering will close with First Day Meeting for Worship at 11:00 am***

# Nominating Committee Report - SEYM Personnel

Slate of Officers, Committees, Representatives, and Appointees as of JANUARY 23, 2020

New appointments are in CAPS.

Ending Term Year noted in **BOLD** are re-appointments and new appointments.

## OFFICERS

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Yearly Meeting Clerk..... Bill Carlie.....St. Petersburg..... **2023**

### *Interim Business Meeting (IBM) and*

*Executive Committee (EC) Clerk* ..... PHOEBE ANDERSEN .....Tallahassee ..... **2021**

*YM and IBM Assistant Clerk* ..... JACK BRADIN .....Palm Beach ..... **2023**

*YM Recording Clerk*..... Richard Frechette ..... Ft. Myers..... 2021

*Recording Clerk, IBM/EC*..... Liz Dykes..... Gainesville..... 2022

*Assistant Recording Clerk(s)* ..... OPEN

*Treasurer* ..... Joel Cook .....Palm Beach ..... **2023**

*Membership Recorder* ..... Ed Lesnick.....Orlando ..... **2023**

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## TRUSTEES

Jack Bradin, *Clerk*..... Palm Beach ..... 2021

Neil Andersen .....Tallahassee ..... **2023**

LIZ DYKES.....Gainesville..... **2023**

Mike Flanery .....Clearwater ..... **2023**

Chris Laning.....Orlando ..... 2022

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## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM (CAPP)

Program is currently operating under a **WIBM** approved minute

## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT COORDINATOR

Kody Hersh.....Miami

## COMMITTEES

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### Archives

Bill Rapp, *Clerk* .....Lake Wales..... 2021

Neil Andersen .....Tallahassee ..... 2021

Phoebe Andersen .....Tallahassee ..... **2023**

### Earthcare

Bill Carlie, *Co-Clerk*.....St. Petersburg..... 2021

BRIAN HUMPHREY, *Co-Clerk*..... Ft. Lauderdale..... **2023**

Jack Bradin.....Palm Beach ..... **2023**

GARY CROSBY .....St. Petersburg ..... **2023**

Mike Flanery .....Clearwater ..... **2023**

HOLLYN GREEN .....Savannah ..... **2023**

Jim Koopman.....Ft. Myers..... 2022

Catherine Price .....	Lake Wales.....	2022
Brad Stocker.....	Miami .....	<b>2023</b>
Beverly Ward.....	Tampa .....	2022
Bonnie Zimmer .....	Gainesville.....	2022

**Faith and Practice**  
(Committee on sabbatical)

Phoebe Andersen, <i>Clerk</i> .....	Tallahassee .....	2022
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**Facebook Page**

Mike Flanery .....	Clearwater .....	2021
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**Finance**

Peter Schmidt, <i>Clerk</i> .....	Tampa .....	2022
Jack Bradin, Asst. YM Clerk and Clerk of Trustees (ex officio) .....	Palm Beach .....	2021
Joel Cook, Treasurer (ex officio) .....	Treasure Coast.....	<b>2023</b>
Steve Donachie .....	Miami .....	2021
Shawna Doran .....	Gainesville.....	2021
Carl Hersh .....	Miami .....	2021
Susan Wade, YM Admin Sec (ex officio).....	St. Petersburg	

**Half-Yearly Meeting**  
HYM is a self-selecting committee

Jerry Knutson, <i>Clerk</i> .....	Orlando .....	2021
Caroline Kaufman, Food Coordinator	Clearwater .....	2022
Brian Olson, Registrar .....	Miami .....	2021

**Ministry on Racism**

Wendy Clarissa Geiger, <i>Co-Clerk</i> .....	Jacksonville .....	<b>2023</b>
Susan Taylor, <i>Co-Clerk</i> .....	Tallahassee .....	<b>2023</b>
Cheryl Demers .....	Gainesville.....	<b>2023</b>
Minerva Glidden .....	Orlando .....	2021
Kathy Hersh.....	Miami .....	2021
Jean Larson.....	Gainesville.....	2022
MAINUS SULTAN .....	Savannah .....	<b>2023</b>
Beverly Ward .....	Tampa .....	2021
Jane Westberg.....	Miami .....	2021

**Peace & Social Concerns**

Cece Yocum, <i>Co-Clerk</i> .....	Tampa .....	2022
Peter Ackerman .....	Gainesville.....	2020
Helen Fox.....	Ft. Myers.....	2022
Willie Hager.....	Jacksonville .....	2022
Peter Harrell.....	Gainesville.....	2021
John Heimburg.....	Orlando .....	2022
Warren Hoskins.....	Miami .....	2022
Caroline Kaufman .....	Clearwater .....	<b>2023</b>
Mercedes Soca .....	Miami .....	2022
Phil Stone.....	Clearwater .....	<b>2023</b>
Eileen Zingaro .....	Clearwater .....	2021

**Publications**

Phoebe Andersen, <i>Clerk</i> .....	Tallahassee .....	2021
Mercedes Soca .....	Miami .....	2020

<b>Worship &amp; Ministry</b>	Clara Diaz, Clerk.....	Miami .....	<b>2023</b>
	ELLIE CALDWELL .....	Palm Beach .....	<b>2023</b>
	Eduardo Diaz.....	Miami .....	<b>2023</b>
	Nancy Fennell.....	Ft. Myers.....	2021
	Nancy Rose Logan.....	Sarasota .....	2022
	Richelle Ogle.....	Orlando/SAWG .....	2022
<b>YM Gathering</b>	Andrea Hoskins, Clerk.....	Miami .....	2022
	Vicki Carlie.....	St. Petersburg.....	<b>2021</b>
	Caroline Kaufman, <i>Bookstore</i> .....	Clearwater .....	2021
	BRIAN OLSON, <i>PROGRAM COORDINATOR</i> ...	Miami.....	<b>2023</b>
	Stephanie Preston-Hughes .....	Orlando .....	2022
	Susan Wade, <i>Registrar</i> .....	St. Petersburg.....	<b>2023</b>
<b>Youth Committee</b>	Mira Tanna, Clerk.....	Orlando .....	2020
	Jenn Ambrose .....	Gainesville.....	2021
	Aurelio Anderson .....	Tallahassee .....	2021
	Jennifer Mendoza .....	Sarasota .....	2021
	Cecelia Yocum.....	Tampa .....	2021

## **REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS**

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### **American Friends Service Committee Corporation, AFSC/Philadelphia**

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

### **Friends Committee on National Legislation, FCNL**

Aurelio Anderson .....	Tallahassee .....	2020
Catharine Price .....	Lake Wales.....	2020
Karen Putney .....	Tampa .....	2021
Sandra Schwartz.....	Clearwater .....	2020

### **Friends General Conference, FGC Central Committee**

Susan Taylor .....	Tallahassee. ....	2022
Susan Wade .....	St. Petersburg.....	2022
OPEN.....		<b>2023</b>

### **Friends World Committee for Consultation - FWCC**

Clara Diaz .....	Miami .....	2022
Eduardo Diaz.....	Miami .....	2021
Nancy Rose Logan.....	Sarasota .....	<b>2023</b>

### **Friends Peace Teams**

Cecilia Yocum .....	Tampa .....	2021
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### **Florida Council of Churches**

Beverly Ward.....	Tampa .....	2021
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**Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns – FLGBQ**

Sara Humphrey .....Orlando ..... 2020

**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**

Elaine Martin.....Jacksonville ..... 2020

**Quaker UN Office (QUNO)**

Warren Hoskins .....Miami ..... 2022

**APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATIONS**

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**FUM General Board Observer**

Eduardo Diaz .....Miami ..... 2021

Ellie Caldwell, *Alternate* ..... Palm Beach ..... 2021

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

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Ed Lesnick, *Clerk*.....Orlando ..... 2021

Beverly Ward .....Tampa ..... 2022

Shawna Doran .....Gainesville..... 2022

Brian Olson .....Miami ..... **2023**

# Executive Committee Meetings

## Numbered Minutes

### Summer Executive Committee Meeting

Sixth Month 8, 2019, Tampa Friends Meeting

SEC2019.01 In absence of an Executive Committee Clerk, Friends approve designating Bill Carlie, YM Clerk, as acting clerk for this meeting.

SEC2019.02 In the absence of Liz Dykes, EC/IBM Recording Clerk, Friends approve designating Vicki Carlie as acting recording clerk for this meeting.

SEC2019.03 Signatories on existing bank accounts

The SEYM Executive Committee agrees that the SEYM Treasurer, Treasurer of Trustees, Yearly Meeting Clerk, and Administrative Secretary shall be signatories on the Southeastern Yearly Meeting checking and savings accounts at Bank of America. To this end:

For the checking account,

- Victoria Carlie shall be removed as signatory.
- Susan Wade and William Carlie will be added as signatories.
- Joel Cook and Neil Andersen will remain signatories.

For the savings account, Lyn Cope-Robinson, Caroline Lanker, and Daniel Vaughn shall be removed as signatories.

- Joel Cook, William Carlie, and Susan Wade shall be added as signatories.
- Neil Andersen will remain a signatory.

SEC2019.04 New bank account for payroll  
Executive Committee of Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the opening of a second checking account at Bank of America to be used exclusively for payroll.

Signatories on this account shall be:

- SEYM Treasurer: Joel Cook
- SEYM Treasurer of Trustees: Neil Andersen
- SEYM Clerk: William Carlie

SEC2019.05 We are sad to hear that Jacksonville Friends are considering laying down their Meeting. Friends recall how much Jacksonville Monthly Meeting has contributed to the life of SEYM over the decades.

We agree to place the concern for support of Jacksonville Meeting in the hands of the Worship & Ministry Committee.

SEC2019.06 Friends accepted the Secretary's report, presented by Vicki Carlie (outgoing Secretary) & Susan Wade (incoming Secretary).

- SEC2019.07 The Executive Committee accepts the resignations of Nancy Corindia (Sarasota) as EC/IBM Clerk, and of Nancy Howell (Fort Myers) as YM and IBM Assistant Clerk. We thank them for their valuable service to SEYM.
- SEC2019.08 EC approves the nominations of Vicki Carlie (Orlando) as a member of the Gathering Committee, effective June 1; and of Jim Koopman (Ft. Myers) as a member of the SEYM Earthcare Committee.
- SEC2019.09 Friends accepted the Treasurer's report.
- SEC2019.10 The SEYM Executive committee is in unity with honoring, and not renegotiating at all, the contract, signed in 2018, between SEYM and Wendy Geiger regarding SEYM's publication of her book. We support the Publications Committee Clerk's plans for completing this project and fulfilling our obligations under the contract. We ask Bill Carlie, as acting clerk of EC, to write a letter to Wendy to relate the Sense of the Meeting.
- SEC2019.11 We ask the Treasurer and Trustees to further investigate whether there are other banks or other financial institutions that are more in keeping with our testimonies than those of our current bank, while also meeting the criteria and needs of SEYM financial operations.

### **Fall Executive Committee Meeting**

Tenth Month 4, 2019, Tampa Friends Meeting

- 19FEC.01 Cece Yocum, Joel Cook, Susan Taylor, Ellie Caldwell, and Phoebe Andersen form a WCG Book Ad Hoc Committee to complete this publication.
- 19FEC.02 Executive Committee expresses its gratitude to Publications Committee and its clerk, Phoebe Andersen, for its work on Wendy Geiger's book to date.

### **Winter Executive Committee Meeting**

First Month 17, 2020, Orlando Monthly Meeting

- 20WEC.01 In order that the Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) may continue to operate in the absence of a CAPP Coordinator, until a new Coordinator is named and approved: The registrations of SEYM Youth Workers that are expiring this month shall be extended until the end of the 2020 YM Gathering.
- a. Mira Tanna, as Youth Committee Clerk, and Kody Hersh, as Youth & Young Adult Coordinator, may schedule and oversee the training sessions as needed.
  - b. The Secretary will accept and process applications in advance of scheduled trainings.
  - c. EC appoints Vicki Carlie to serve on the CAPP Review Committee in absence of a Coordinator, until the new Coordinator is approved.
- 20WEC.02 Because we firmly hold our belief that there is that of God in each of us, SEYM Executive Committee calls on Monthly Meetings to become more actively affirming communities for transgender and gender non-conforming people by building relevant knowledge and skills

among Friends. Meetings are requested to report back by the Winter Interim Business Meeting 2021.

- 20WEC.03 Executive Committee agrees that the SEYM website will be used as a resource to share educational resources, and will highlight new material in the e-news.
- 20WEC.04 Executive Committee approved adding a position of Food Coordinator to Half Yearly Meeting Committee, which will be filled by HYM Committee.

# Interim Business Meetings Numbered Minutes

## Fall Interim Business Meeting

Tenth Month 5, 2019, Tampa Friends Meeting

- 19FIBM.01 Friends approve Bill Carlie to serve as acting Interim Business Meeting clerk, and thus as the supervisor of SEYM staff until Winter Interim Business Meeting.
- 19FIBM.02 SEYM Friends are grateful for the hospitality of Tampa Friends. The light-filled meeting house, the grounds on which to camp, the spaces inside and out for committees, the delicious lunch, and most of all the loving spiritual care given to us are deeply appreciated.
- 19FIBM.03 Fall interim business meeting of SEYM recommends that Monthly Meetings in Florida contact local chapters of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition to learn how our meetings can support the reentry and restoration of voting rights of formerly incarcerated, returning citizens, and report back to the SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee about their findings.
- 19FIBM.04 Fall Interim Business meeting directs Peace and Social Concerns Committee to work with the Administrative Secretary to collect the information from meetings about contact with the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition and have a preliminary report by Winter Interim Business meeting.
- 19FIBM.05 With the goal of working together with other concerned individuals and groups in Florida to abolish the use of prison labor by governmental entities, the Fall Interim Business Meeting of SEYM encourages all monthly meetings to contact their respective county commissioners and, as a first step, request copies of all county contracts with the Florida Department of Corrections.  
Peace and Social Concerns Committee intends to present a report to the Winter Interim Business Meeting and requests that you forward copies of all documents obtained by November 30 to [ceceyocum@aol.com](mailto:ceceyocum@aol.com). Information and a resource packet can be obtained from Peter Ackerman, 386-203-1512; [petequaker@gmail.com](mailto:petequaker@gmail.com).
- 19FIBM.06 SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting approves Kody Hersh, Cece Yocum, Susan Wade, Vincent Cosomano, and Mira Tanna, as the committee to review the CAPP manual.

## Winter Interim Business Meeting

First Month 18, 2020, Orlando Monthly Meeting

- 20WIMB.01 Friends approve Bill Carlie to serve as acting Interim Business Meeting clerk, and thus as supervisor of SEYM staff until SEYM Annual Sessions.
- 20WIMB.02 Winter Interim Business Meeting appoints Phoebe Andersen as IBM and Executive Committee clerk effective at the rise of annual sessions.
- 20WIMB.03 Winter Interim Business Meeting appoints Jack Bradin as assistant clerk for Yearly Meeting, IBM and Executive Committee.

- 20WIMB.04 Winter Interim Business Meeting approved the Nominating Committee report as given.
- 20WIBM.05 Winter Interim Business Meeting supports the leading of Orlando MM, endorsed by SEYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee, in asking SEYM to join the 'No Way To Treat A Child' Campaign. SEYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee requests SEYM Monthly Meetings to engage in discernment regarding SEYM becoming a signatory on the national letter of faith leaders in Support of HR 2407.
- SEYM Monthly Meetings are asked to come to SEYM Annual Gathering sessions in April 2020 prepared to move forward in discernment on this request.
- 20WIBM.06 SEYM accepts with sadness the laying down of Jacksonville Monthly Meeting and with joy the creation of Jacksonville Worship Group. An ad hoc care committee of Liz Dykes, Jean Larson, Heidi Lowey-Ball, Mike Shell, and Susan Taylor will assist with the transition.
- 20WIBM.07 Winter Interim Business Meeting approves creating an ad hoc site selection committee to be appointed by clerk to seek a site and time for annual gathering.
- 20WIBM.08 Winter Interim Business Meeting approves sending the letter of objection to the Seven Springs Water Company Permit Application to the Suwannee River Water Management District (attached).
- 20WIBM.09 SEYM Winter Interim business meeting appreciates the gracious hospitality of Orlando Friends meeting—the abundant food, comfortable seating, friendly faces, and spiritual surroundings made our time most pleasant and productive.

## Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Quakers in Florida, southeast Georgia, and coastal South Carolina  
P. O. Box 1062  
St. Petersburg, FL 33731-1062

January 18, 2020

Mr. Warren Zwanka, Director  
Resource Management Division  
Suwannee River Water Management District  
9225 CR 49  
Live oak, FL 32060

Re: Seven Springs Water Company  
Permit Application Number 218202-3

Dear Mr. Zwanka,

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met on January 18, 2020. Our membership has expressed concerns and objections about this project. Our Earthcare Committee members have reviewed the District file for this application and found both environmental concerns with the project as well as encouragement with the steps that Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) has taken to protect a valuable resource.

Friends unite in objection to the issuance of this permit application that will increase actual water use from wells adjacent to Ginnie Springs. We specifically object to the potential for reduction of spring flows and impacts to local wetlands and the animal species dependent on local water levels and flows. We also object to the expanded manufacture of single use plastic bottles, which depending on the format selected, may approach 8 million single use plastic bottles being produced daily at this one plant. We understand that the manufacture of single use plastic bottles is not a matter regulated by the State's Water Management Districts and will address this concern with our legislators.

Our objection stated, we were encouraged by the SRWMD letter of November 25, 2019 in which the agency requests more complete hydrologic testing and modeling, as well as an expanded ecological study of the spring system and potential impacts to its flora and fauna. We have now reviewed the applicant's response as received by SRWMD on January 14, 2020. We are discouraged by this response and find it to include virtually no new data and to be merely a more elaborate restatement of the professional conjecture offered to your agency in their November 1, 2019 report.

In that all the questions of your November 25 letter have been addressed, though largely by providing little if any new information, it seems appropriate to deem this application complete and to determine that it contains insufficient information to demonstrate that the proposed withdrawal meets the criteria for permit issuance. We understand that the applicant's invocation of section 120.60(1) F.S. leaves SRWMD no alternative but to act on this application in some manner. We therefore request that you place this permit application on a timely Governing Board agenda for denial.

Thank you for your efforts to protect Florida's water resources,



William Carlie, clerk

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

**SEYM Proposed Budget  
FY 2020-2021**

	Annual Budget \$ FY2019-20	Proposed 2020-21 Budget	Comments
<b>Income</b>			
2000 Income			
2001 Donations			
2002 Individual Donations (& In-Kind: GF Acct#2006)	2,000	2,000	
2003 Meetings & Worship Groups - <b>Apportionments</b>	<b>73,900</b>	<b>76,590</b>	
Total 2001 Donations	75,900	78,590	
2200 Investment Earnings			
2203 Savings account interest	20	20	
Total 2200 Investment Earnings	20	20	
<b>Total 2000 Income</b>	<b>75,920</b>	<b>78,610</b>	
2700 Transfers in FROM other classes			
2712 Michener Lecture to GF/insurance	150	150	
2732 Gath/Walton to GF/insurance	900	900	
2752 HYM to GF/insurance	450	450	
2815 for Bertsche Outreach Travel	1,800	1,800	
2820 for Secretary's Salary	4,500	4,500	
Total 2804 from Trustee's Funds	6,300	6,300	
Total 2700 Transfers in FROM other classes	7,800	7,800	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>83,720</b>	<b>86,410</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>			
3000 Administrative			
3001 Bank Service Charges	20	100	
3002 Credit Card service fees	10	10	
3080 Duplication (& GF Acct#6000)	1,500	1,200	
3100 Insurance	1,400	1,400	
3107 Youth Worker CAP Certification Program	150	150	
3146 State Fee for Non-Profit Corporation	60	70	
3200 Office Supplies	800	800	
3270 Payroll Expenses - Employee Salary	46,000	47,500	
3272 Payroll Expenses - Employer Taxes for Staff	3,300	3,500	
3380 Postage & Shipping	400	400	
3381 Post Office Box Rental	180	180	
3400 Office Equipment	400	400	
3500 Professional Svcs (& GF Accts#3536,3556,5187)	1,400	1,400	
3640 Rent, Office & Offsite Storage Unit	1,650	2,800	
3740 Computer Repairs	200	200	
3816 Software	1,200	1,200	
3840 Telephone & Internet Service	1,700	1,700	
3860 Travel Administrative (& GF Acct#9003)	2,000	2,000	
3900 Website Fees (& Off-site E-Data Storage)	900	900	
<b>Total 3000 Administrative</b>	<b>63,270</b>	<b>65,910</b>	



4000 Committees Operating Expenses			
4309 Archives	550	100	
4329 EC & IBM (& GF Acct#7000)	100	100	
4339 Faith & Practice	50	50	
4349 Finance	50	50	
4359 Nominating	50	50	
4369 Peace & Social Concerns	450	450	
4389 Youth Committee	50	50	
4379 Publications	50	50	
4399 Worship & Ministry	150	150	
4429 Earthcare	500	500	
4469 Ministry on Racism	50	50	
4489 Young Adult Quakers	50	50	
Total 4000 Committee Operating Expenses	2,100	1,650	
5000 Donations to Organizations			
5007 AFSC	200	200	
5018 Earlham School of Religion	100	100	
5027 FCNL	300	300	
5028 QEW	200	200	
5030 FLGBTQC	100	100	
5037 FGC	1,200	1,200	
5038 Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice	100	100	
5047 Florida Council of Churches	200	200	
5048 Florida Impact	300	300	
5057 Friends Journal	100	100	
5058 Friends Peace Teams	500	500	
5067 FUM (often restricted to specific Project(s))	500	500	
5068 FWCC	1,450	1,450	
5077 Pendle Hill	100	100	
5085 Quaker House of Fayetteville NC	200	200	
5087 Quaker Life	100	100	
5089 Quaker UN Office	100	100	
5097 William Penn House	100	100	
Total 5000 Donations to Organizations	5,850	5,850	
8000 Representative Travel			
8160 Annual Representatives	4,000	4,000	
8460 Travel Support to SEYM Business	1,000	1,000	
8560 Attendance at SEYM-approved Activities	1,000	1,000	
8360 Attendance at SEYM-approved Activities	1,000	1,000	8560 Duplicate
Total 8000 Representative Travel	7,000	6,000	
8500 Contingency	2,000	2,000	
Total 2999 Expenses	80,220	81,410	
9000 Transfer out to other classes			
9004 for Youth Programs	2,500	2,500	
9005 for Gathering Youth	2,000	2,000	
9060 for Triennial Travel Reserves	1,000	500	
Total 9000 Transfer out to other classes	5,500	5,000	
Total Expenses	85,720	86,410	
Net Income/Deficit	(2,000)	-	

# Committee for Ministry on Racism

Yearly Meeting 2020 Report

*You cannot find a corner of this continent that does not hold ancient history, Indigenous value, and pre-colonial place names and stories. And every place we occupy was once the homeland for other people, most of whom didn't leave willingly.*

Chelsey Luger

**“This App Can Tell You the Indigenous History of the Land You Live On”**  
**Native Lands App. [native-land.ca](http://native-land.ca);**  
**yes! magazine online ([yesmagazine.org](http://yesmagazine.org)) Spring, 2018, The Decolonize Issue.**

Chelsey Luger is a journalist from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. She is a contributing editor for Indian Country Media Network and co-founder of the grassroots initiative Well for Culture. Her bio is from the online article, **Land Acknowledgement** for Fruitland Park, Florida, where we hold our SEYM Gathering: The information below is directly from the Native Lands App and the websites of the Native American Tribal Republic of Timucua and of the Seminole.

## **A brief outline of the History of the Native American Tribal Republic of Timucua**

Beginnings of Time to 1562 A.D. - We the people of Timucua lived in harmony with nature building a strong nation that lived in harmony with our land. We used the natural resources of our country to provide for the basic needs of our people. We thanked the Great Creator each spring for the new life of our lands and for our crops. We then preserved the bounty of our harvests in the fall to prepare for the coming winter's cold. We shared a beneficial trade system with the Creek and Cherokee tribes to our north, the Calusa, Miami, and Seminole tribes to our south, and with the Appalachee and Choctaw tribes to our west as well as with other nations beyond our shores. This provided a good life for our people as each summer brought trade fairs from all parts of the Western Hemisphere and the winter brought time to work on our construction of canoes and homes. . . .”

### **Seminole**

We Seminole have lived in Florida for thousands of years. Our ancestors were the first people to come to Florida. Our ancestors were connected by family and culture to others across North America, from the Atlantic coast to the Mississippi river, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes. They are now called the Mississippian Culture, and their traditions still exist among the Seminole and other tribes today. We were in Florida when the Spanish arrived. They met our ancestors, who they called by different names; the Miccosukee people, the Muscogee people, the Calusa people, and other Native American tribes. The Spanish brought with them diseases that devastated our ancestors. Within one hundred years the new diseases had killed nine out of ten of the Native People of the Americas.

We gathered from across Florida, Georgia, and Alabama; those borders did not exist for us. Our culture, our home, and our way of life joined us together. We defended our homes and our people, and we became a refuge for those who sought freedom from conquest and slavery. For this, we were seen as a threat.

Loving Greetings, Friends,

The Committee for Ministry on Racism invites you to attend our committee meeting (look for posted time and place) and one of our two identically titled workshops:

## Uncovering Bias with Love and Integrity

to be held Friday, April 10, and Saturday, April 11, during our Gathering.

**Facilitators:** Beverly Ward (Tampa), Kathy Hersh (Miami),  
Katie Green (Clearwater), Susan Taylor (Tallahassee)  
Pronouns for all facilitators: She, Her, Hers

This intergenerational, interactive workshop will be a safe place to discover, explore and learn about the unconscious, or implicit, biases we all have that keep us from embracing our differences and being fully and equitably in community together. The focus in this workshop will be on uncovering implicit biases associated with the social construct of race, though biases operate and intersect in many other areas of our lives as well, e.g. sexual orientation and gender identification, sex, age and ability. Video, story-telling, and interactive scenarios reflecting the Platinum Rule (treat others as they wish to be treated) will be integral to the uncovering process. Beverly Ward will share how she was radicalized through the Birmingham Children's Crusade in 1963 with the empowerment of youth activism, and she will illuminate how structures within our society can be changed to support equity for all. Structural racism and implicit bias are interwoven. We will have the joy of knowing each other and ourselves more deeply by the end of the workshop. Suggested, but not required, reading for the workshop is, "[Explaining White Privilege to a Broke White Person](#)." (Gina Crosley-Corcoran, HuffPost, May 8, 2014, updated December 6, 2017.)

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The Committee continues to explore options for effectively supporting the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition as a yearly meeting. We recommend to Friends a video: [The Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing Our History and Ourselves](#) by Paula Palmer, Jerilyn DeCoteau, and Jane Westberg. It includes "**The Indian Boarding Schools and Pathways to Healing**", an interview with Jerilyn DeCoteau, chair, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (10 minutes), and "**The Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing our History and Ourselves**," a slide presentation by Paula Palmer (56 minutes).

We further recommend to Friends, Paula Palmer's vulnerable, tender personal account in the February 1, 2020, **Friends Journal** ([friendsjournal.org](#)), "**The Land Remembers: Connecting with Native People Through the Land.**" *"There is a way that Nature speaks, that land speaks. Most of the time we are simply not patient enough, quiet enough, to pay attention to the story."* —Linda Hogan, Chickasaw

*"I think the land can be our connective tissue. Most of us are connected to land somewhere: the land where we live today, the land of our ancestors, the land where we were born, the land where we vacation, the land we love for whatever reason. On the North American continent, all the land we know and love was known and loved first by Indigenous people. And Indigenous people say the land*

*remembers. If the land we love could tell us what it remembers, what would it say?"*

Paula Palmer  
**Friends Journal**, February 1, 2020

We look forward to being with you.

Loving blessings,

Susan Taylor (Tallahassee), Co-clerk, for the committee:

Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Co-clerk (Jacksonville); Minerva Glidden (Orlando); Beverly Ward (Tampa); Jean Larson (Gainesville); Cheryl Demers (DeLand Worship Group, Gainesville); Katie Green (Clearwater); Kathy Hersh (Miami); Jane Westberg (Miami)

# Peace & Social Concerns Committee

Yearly Meeting 2020 Report

At Orlando, Florida, January 18, 2020

Those in attendance included:

Warren Hoskins, Phil Stone, Karen Putney, Eileen Zingaro, Chris Laning, Cecilia Yocum, Stephanie Preston-Hughes, and others.

The meeting was convened by Cecilia Yocum, Committee Clerk, and began with a period of worship.

Old business:

The Committee reviewed its previous recommendations to develop a project regarding the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, with a special concern for slave labor in Florida, using prisoners in jails or prisons. There was no progress on this issue.

There was no progress on a previous recommendation to help with Amendment 4 in Florida. Leslie Bowman attempted to make some inroads with the Returning Citizens Program but she was not able to obtain more information or input from that program.

New business:

The Committee members brainstormed on work they were involved with or would like to become involved with, including nuclear weapons prevention, preventing a war in Iran, the detention centers in Homestead that might be resumed, racial justice, Gray Panthers, promoting Alternatives To Violence programs, developing workshops for the SEYM Gathering Committee, reporting individual leadings, and approving the ERA Amendment in Florida.

The Committee discussed workshops at Monthly Meetings with George Lakey featuring his book *How We Win*. There will be two other workshops at Palm Beach and Miami Monthly Meeting in March. The Committee has scheduled time for a discussion / interest group at SEYM Yearly Meeting open to all as a follow up on George Lakey's visit, and how we would like to continue that work.

The Committee discussed grants available for Meetings and Worship Groups to do peace and justice work projects before the end of SEYM's fiscal year. Please e-mail Cecilia Yocum, [ceceyocum@aol.com](mailto:ceceyocum@aol.com) for more information about these grants.

Orlando's P&SC Committee reported that they had been active in the "No Way To Treat A Child" campaign, sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. That campaign opposes the detention abuse of Palestinian children by the Israeli military. The Committee asked SEYM to sign the faith leader support letter supporting HR 2407, Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Military Occupation Act. At the SEYM Winter Interim Business session, the Interim Business Meeting agreed to become a signatory to that letter.

Members of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee also stated that they like sharing information with other Meetings, and stated that there was "strength in numbers." Committee members hoped to find areas of overlap with peace interests in Florida. Many Committee members stated that they wanted to do

a better job of reaching out to individual Meetings and develop a better communication between meetings via phone, and possibly Zoom, a video conferencing platform. Eileen Zingaro volunteered to coordinate Zoom calls, at dates yet to be determined. Hopefully, we can have a Zoom Meeting before Yearly Meeting.

Committee members also noted the need for a “point person” to make sure that the Committee's ideas are carried out.

Stephanie Preston- Hughes asked, “How can we support individual leadings?” Karen Putney said that we need to encourage people to bring their individual leadings first to their Monthly Meeting to help test the leading, and then the Yearly Meeting Committee can be more helpful.

Phil Stone volunteered to contact individuals who responded to an earlier survey about Peace & Social Concerns, to help determine how Meetings with special interests could contribute to the Committee's programs. He also volunteered to ask individuals from SEYM to join Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

Several other Committee members brought up a leading to work against nuclear weapons and “the equal rights amendment.” At this time, the Committee meeting ran out of time.

The Committee did agree to donate funding for AVP in Nicaragua through Friends Peace Teams from funds that had been returned to the Yearly Meeting from Jacksonville Meeting (AVP), and the committee requested that those funds be used to support the AVP program in Nicaragua.

The meeting closed with silent worship.

# Friends Peace Teams

## Peacebuilding en las Americas

Yearly Meeting 2020 Report

Thanks for all the support for Friends Peace Teams over the last 25 years from SEYM. As you might know, SEYM is one of the original Yearly Meetings that helped form Friends Peace Teams. Please visit the Friends Peace Teams table for recent newsletters and more information.

**Our Mission:** Friends Peace Teams is a Spirit-led organization working to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict around the world to create programs for peace building, healing and reconciliation. We travel and visit with a concern for peace in difficult places—geographically, politically, and emotionally. Wherever we go, we bring people together from different backgrounds, orientations, affiliations, ethnicities, religions, and ages. We contribute to healing the effects of trauma and deprivation in their many forms across boundaries.

**Our Approach:** We work in solidarity and parity, listening to and sharing our experiences, not working or teaching from an agenda. To honor the dignity of every person and support local peace workers, we exchange experience through active, experiential methods. We work grassroots to grassroots to deconstruct historical legacies of racism, exploitation and oppression to preserve peace.

**Our Philosophy:** We believe there is good in everyone and we each have the inner capacity to heal. Both victims and perpetrators of violence experience trauma and its after-effects. For healing and empowerment, we seek to share the inner goodness and wisdom of each person. This rebuilds trust. We aim to integrate spiritual conviction with action and develop a standard for spiritual accountability. We pay attention to the immeasurable, discern where our work is alive with spirit, and braid love, truth and justice together.

Currently, we have four Initiatives:

- African Great Lakes initiative,
- Peacebuilding en las Americas (PLA),
- Asia West Pacific,
- and our most recent initiative, Toward Right Relations with Native Peoples.

Please visit our website [friendspeaceteams.org](http://friendspeaceteams.org) for more information and the Friends Peace Teams table at Yearly Meeting for recent newsletters and lots of crafts for sale to support our work.

Recent News and Upcoming Programs related to PLA :

### **Honduras:**

#### **Background:**

Honduras has one of the highest homicide rates in the world; the violence, insecurity, corruption and poverty have driven thousands of families to take the dangerous trek north to the United States. Gang activity is widespread, including within the prison system where extortions and threats of outside citizens take place. Peace activist Ondina Murillo has dedicated her life to transforming the violence in her beloved country. She offers Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops with gang members and former gang members who have been detained and incarcerated in northern Honduras. There are now

teams of internal facilitators who are eager to expand the training to other men who are incarcerated. The workshops have been so successful that the prison guards have asked for their own training.

**Updates:**

Honduran prisons over the Christmas holidays (2019) suffered massacres in Tela and near Tegucigalpa and an emergency has been declared; military have gone into what are supposed to be maximum security prisons. A slew of murders in prison started after the Honduran president's brother, Tony Hernandez, was convicted recently of narco trafficking in New York City, with revelations that the president had received \$1M from Chapo; a key informant in el Porvenir in Ceiba was murdered and then the director of the prison himself was murdered. This is a very current and dangerous situation. Our partner Ondina Murillo, who works in Ceiba prisons, has been very upset about all the violence and death, very concerned about AVP internal facilitators.

**Future Goals:**

Creating Cultures of Peace in Honduran Prisons is an initiative to bring tools of peacebuilding and conflict transformation to police, prison guards, and people who are incarcerated in Honduras.

**Colombia:**

**Background:**

In 2016, the national government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a historic peace accord to end a half-century of armed conflict. The process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration began throughout the country as former combatants returned to their communities. This post-accord process has not been easy, as violence remains in many former red zones of conflict, including gang activity, criminal networks, guerilla groups and domestic abuse. In order to build a social fabric of peaceful co-existence, Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Facilitators, Bibiana Duque and Sister Patricia Duque of Antioquia, have begun to work with the children of ex-combatants.

**Future Goals:**

Peace Training for Children of Ex-Combatants is an investment in the next generation of leaders in Colombia, providing them concrete tools to break patterns of cyclical violence. AVP workshops will be held in Departments which have experienced the greatest armed conflict and where youth face myriad challenges as their parents reintegrate back home after years of violent struggle. AVP workshops held to date with children of ex-combatants have produced positive results; Bibiana and Patricia Duque are determined to continue the training and expand it to new areas where there is interest and demand.

**Nicaragua:**

**Background:**

Many SEYM Friends are familiar with Nicaragua through the past work of ProNica. AVP Nicaragua began at the end of the armed conflict between the Sandinista Army and the Contras; unfortunately, AVPs presence in the 90's was minimal and limited to the prison system.

AVP Workshops were given by Quaker Friends Kit and Evelyn Pilgrim. From 2003 to 2007, the organization ProNica supported this work and workshops in English and Spanish were held in various regions including Matagalpa, Managua, and San Marcos. Between 2008-2012, Val Liveoak, as the coordinator of Peacebuilding en las Americas, developed a program of AVP workshops that worked with various groups: the KAIROS Association (Elena Hendrik), The Acuhualinca Women's Center (Maria Elena



Bonilla), communities in Matagalpa (Vicente Padilla), and Managua Human Rights Promoters (Harold Urbina).

In 2013 and 2014, Samuel Estes (Centro Cultural Batahola Norte), José Barnet (CANTERA), Laura Hopps (ProNica), and Harold Urbina (AVP facilitator) worked together to restart AVP activities in Nicaragua and were able to carry out a series of basic and advanced workshops, as well as a Training for Trainers.

Another full series of AVP workshops (basic, advanced, and TFT) was carried out between 2015 and 2017 as a partnership of ProNica, We Are For Peace and Life Foundation (Dorothy Granada), and Parteras y Promotores de Salud, in a region in the north of the country that had been intensely impacted by the war in the 80's: Waslala, La Dalia, Rancho Grande, Matiguás, and Rio Blanco.

During 2018, the AVP facilitators met various times between July and November to discuss how to promote AVP in Nicaragua. In addition, to organizing and carrying out a mini-workshop in September and a 2-day basic workshop in November (Rotary Club of Ciudad Sandino), the AVP facilitators also established the following agreements:

1. Consensus that the work of AVP in Nicaragua is important in the current socio-political context in order to contribute to a reduction in the extremely high levels of violence. We believe the peace that has been so costly to build and maintain over the years can prevail despite the increasing political polarization.
2. Consensus to explore opportunities to collaborate with other AVP Teams in neighboring countries (Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala), or in other countries in Latin America (Colombia, Perú, Bolivia, Ecuador) in order to share experiences, materials, and workshops in order to strengthen AVP in Nicaragua.
3. Identify possibility for support, especially from the United States.
4. Explore the possibility of collaboration and/or support with PLA (Peacebuilding Las Americas) in order to develop AVP in Nicaragua.

These agreements point to the need to focus on strengthening the AVP movement and individual AVP facilitators, while simultaneously engaging with communities and organizing workshops. Additionally, there is a recognition that without addressing the deep traumas in Nicaragua life and experience, it will be incredibly difficult to have lasting peace. Therefore, training in the Trauma Healing workshop is needed.

#### **Future Goals:**

- Strengthen the active team of AVP facilitators in Nicaragua through a Trauma Healing training workshop.
- Provide a Trauma Healing workshop to a community group, which will simultaneously provide a chance for Nicaraguan facilitators to practice facilitating with the help of facilitators experienced in this workshop.
- Promote the ideas and tools of Alternative to Violence Project with youth, women, and community leaders in local organizations through 2 community workshops.

#### **Guatemala:**

#### **Background:**

The country had 36 years of armed conflict that ended with a peace accord in 1996. The conflict resulted in around 250,000 fatalities.

Even after 20+ years of peace, a great deal of war-related trauma remains and there have been recent outbreaks of violence due to crime rings, gangs, gender-based violence and extreme poverty. Some reports indicate current levels of violence are worse than during the war. Given the severity of the situation the numbers of young people and entire families migrating to the US has increased greatly over the last two years, despite the US closed border policy.

AVP Guatemala is committed to creating conditions which promote nonviolence and the wellbeing of citizens most at risk because of a crisis affecting their basic safety. AVP offers conflict resolution tools to groups of youth, most of whom are exposed to violence at home and school, and are at risk of joining criminal associations because they live in 'red zones,' that is, areas where the concentration of dangerous and violent gang and drug activity is highest. In addition,

AVP Guatemala is committed to working with women who are marginalized and underserved by a patriarchal society that still treats women as second-class citizens rather than taking into account their full potential as highly effective and active citizen participants. This problem is even more acute with respect to working-class women from marginal inner-city neighborhoods. Guatemala has one of the world's highest rates of femicide (homicides in which the victim is female). Young men, as well as women, in red zones have internalized notions of physical abuse as normal. The majority of people struggle with low self-esteem and loss of hope for the future. Suicide is now reportedly the #3 cause of death among adolescents ages 15-19.

**Future Goals:**

Activities: Four AVP workshops would enable us to meet this year's goals: 1 at the Basic Level, 1 at the Advanced Level, 1 Trauma Recovery Workshop and 1 Facilitator Training.

Population: The project's target population consists of women and youth residing in red zones in greater Guatemala City, areas with high rates of domestic violence, gang activity, organized crime, narco and sex trafficking.

AVP has already worked quite successfully in red zones, like the El Pedregal community in Amatitlán, and has succeeded in impacting the most marginalized groups of young people and women. The workshop series will have some 20 participants. Each participant takes part voluntarily.

Past experience indicates each participant positively affects around 10 people in his or her family, workplace and community. Consequently, the project would impact indirectly the lives of 200 persons.

You are invited to become part of this transformative work for peace! Please talk with Cecilia (Cece) Yocum for more information or email [ceceyocum@aol.com](mailto:ceceyocum@aol.com).

Cece Yocum  
SEYM Representative to Friends Peace Teams

# Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE)

Yearly Meeting 2020 Report

## Overview

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

This report updates activities undertaken since the written Winter Interim Business Meeting report and lists activities planned for the near future.

## Communication with the Anchoring Committee

The Anchoring Committee interactions continue through face-to-face and remote communication. Most recently, I met with several members of the Anchoring Committee during Winter Interim Business Meeting. Part of this communication includes putting together a document that chronicles my personal experiences and interpretation of the work of field secretary. Phoebe Andersen has agreed to help with editing the results.

## 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

## Contact Information

- Email: [fsEarthcare@seymquakers.org](mailto:fsEarthcare@seymquakers.org).
- Facebook: @fsearthcare
- Twitter: @fsearthcare.
- Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/7545638812>.
- Skype: phdant
- Telephone number: 813.928.8823.
- Snailmail: 13705 Lazy Oak Drive, Tampa, FL, 33613-4923

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 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:

- Bystander training;
- Climate Justice in Our Community (Location specific climate justice issues);
- Discerning Earthcare Leadings;
- Earthcare audits (baseline assessment of individual or community activities and discernment);
- Permaculture is Not Just Agriculture;
- 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 also might let me tag along on some Youth events/visits.

***Miami Monthly Meeting/FWCC Section of the Americas Southeast Regional Gathering  
6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> Second Month (February) 2020***

I co-facilitated two sessions during the regional Gathering. (See also [“Field Notes: Britain Yearly Meeting and FWCC Section of the Americas”](#)) The Gathering venues included Iglesia de Los Amigos (Friends Church) and Miami Friends Meeting. Brad Stocker and I focused on Earthcare within SEYM and our work with Quaker Earthcare Witness. Brad and I were invited to return to Iglesia de Los Amigos to do more presentations on Earthcare.

Eduardo Diaz and I talked about the structure and work of the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) and the Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC), New York. American Friends Service Committee, Britain Yearly Meeting, and Friends World Committee for Consultation provide funding and oversight to QUNO, which has two offices; one in New York and the other in Geneva, Switzerland. (Quaker Earthcare Witness also has been active in the work of the United Nations.)

***Lake Wales Worship Group, to be scheduled***

***St. Augustine, to be scheduled***

***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 will assist with the 2020 Gathering CMOR workshop, “Uncovering Bias with Integrity & Love”
- Earthcare Committee: I will co-facilitate an Earthcare workshop during the 2020 Gathering, “Reversing Global Warming: Introduction to Drawdown for Quakers” with John Heimburg
- Florida Council of Churches (FCC): I will have an update from the Sixth Annual Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN) Assembly which will take place 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Third Month 2020. Registration and other information can be found at [FL-iCAN Events](#). The theme, “Our Opportunity to Realize Blue Green Neighborhoods: Restorative, Regenerative and Resilient.” On 13 Third Month (March), 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM, Christ the King Episcopal Church, 26 Willow Drive, Orlando, Florida, and 14 Third Month, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM, Callahan Neighborhood Center, 101 N Parramore Avenue, Orlando, Florida. We will perform a play from “Lighting the Way”, from the 2019 Climate Change Theatre Action cycle on, the 14<sup>th</sup>. (Please see also the Florida Council of Churches report)
- Peace and Social Concerns: I continue to remain in contact with members of SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee and some Monthly Meetings Peace and Social Concerns Committees
- 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 with Nilufer Wilkins to build links, including QEW United Nations Working Group and AFSC
- Youth Committee: Kody Hersh, Youth Coordinator, and I continue to look for opportunities to collaborate. We continue to welcome ideas, suggestions, and concerns as we develop programs. Thank you, in advance.

### **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), I continue to help coordinate and facilitate AVP workshops. We are working to provide training for AVP facilitators in 2020;
- 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. This work is becoming more closely linked with Quaker Earthcare Witness and FWCC.
- Britain Yearly Meeting, Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC): I participated via Zoom in the QWRC Consultative Forum.
- Broward County Environmental Planning and Community, Environmental Stewardship and Community Resilience: I continue to remain in contact with the staff and others in this Broward County unit;
- [Decolonizing Quakers](#), has posted a "[Save the date](#)" for a second conference calling Quakers to a concern for Truth and Healing with Indigenous Peoples, 30 Fourth Month to 3 Fifth Month 2020 at Pendle Hill;
- Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN): as mentioned above, the FL-iCAN! Sixth Assembly is scheduled for 13-14 Third Month 2020. This year's theme, "Blue Green Neighborhoods: Restorative, Regenerative, and Resilient." We will return to the Callahan Neighborhood Center, 101 North Parramore Avenue, Orlando. Please also check out the website, [FL-iCAN](#). It's not too late to sign up for [Legislative Action Alerts](#).
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): Brad Stocker and I continue to share a slot as representatives to FCNL for QEW;
- Friends General Conference: the workshop that Cece Yocum proposed for the 2020 Gathering was not accepted. I will continue to work with FGC through other means;
- Friends Peace Teams (FPT): I continue to work with members of FPT linking FPT to QEW UN Working Group, see below;
- Friends United Meeting (FUM): Geeta McGahey and I are continuing to identify opportunities to work FUM. Iglesia de los Amigos, mentioned above, is an FUM affiliate;
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to strengthen links to FWCC through QEW and AFSC.
- National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Environmental Justice Issues in Transportation and the Women's Issues in Transportation Committees. Work on the transportation equity conference in 2021 continues. I am committed to ensure that the conference includes the faith-based community;
- Organize NOW, Climate Justice Committee: I continue to assist the local committee;
- The Pachamama Alliance: I continue to work with members through the FL-iCAN network;
- QEW: I continue focus on the International Decade for People of African Descent and co-clerking the Water Circle, researching water issues, and planning for the 2020 side event

through the UN Working Group. The United Nations High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development will take place 7-16 Seventh Month 2020. We are seeking to convene the side event on or about 10 Seventh 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. The Institute will convene a mini-conference on Decolonization in Theory and Practice: Europe and the Americas Otherwise, 25 Second Month, in Tampa.

### **Social Media**

I continue to blog, “fsEarthcare Processing”, for the SEYM website. The SEYM Web Clerk, Vicki Carlie, also has created a [Field Secretary for Earthcare](#) webpage. Currently, the page contains the blog, the job description, and other links. I share “Field Notes”, short pieces on activities, with SEYM Monthly Meetings, Working Groups, the wider Quaker world and others. Please send suggestions for topics, research, etc.

### **Summary**

The work continues and despite the grief, there are many occasions for joy and gratitude for the many people who also are on this path. Thank you, Friends!

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 Ward  
Field Secretary for Earthcare

# Florida Council of Churches (FCC)

## Yearly Meeting 2020 Report

This report focuses on the work of the Council since the 2020 Winter Interim Business Meeting report. The FCC is a partner in the [Florida Real Talk Coalition](#), a grassroots organization with the goals of improving the outcomes for Florida students by increasing participation of affected communities in the decision making process. (Russell Meyer, FCC Executive Director, is the Coalition's Communications Chair.) As part of this legislative session, members of FCC have been involved in the planning for the Pastors for Florida Children in Tallahassee for a Faith Advocacy Week for Public Education, 24 – 28, Second Month (February), 2020. The goal is to have two teams of two faith advocates, with one team going to the State House and one team going to the State Senate from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM on 24 - 27 Second Month, and 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM on 28 Second Month. Advocates are urged to be "... prepared to raise our voices in support of those bills which will fully fund early childhood education, increase per pupil spending across the State of Florida, establish meaningful uniform standards for measuring student progress in all schools, and to provide substantial money to pay educators, and those who support them, fair salaries and wages."

FCC is also the fiscal agent for the Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN) and a member of the planning group for the sixth annual assembly. This year's Assembly will take place 13 – 14, Third Month (March). The theme is "Our Opportunity to Realize Blue Green Neighborhoods: Restorative, Regenerative and Resilient." The times and locations are:

- 13 Third Month, 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM, Christ the King Episcopal Church, 26 Willow Drive, Orlando, Florida; and
- 14 Third Month, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM, Callahan Neighborhood Center, 101 N Parramore Avenue, Orlando, Florida.

### **FL-iCAN members:**

A Blue Green Neighborhood has its roots in honoring the place of our lives, including the relationships that we cultivate and nurture with both people and environment. It is where we live, work, study, play and pray in full expression of the wholeness in human life that is fulfilling to the human soul. A Blue Green Neighborhood conjoins our sense of beauty and our need for functionality into a place of felt belonging and completeness that flows from connection to Earth and to each other.

As we approach the challenges of environmental degradation, the traumatic consequences of extractive industries resulting from the legacies of colonialism and slavery, which have led to profound and complex impacts of climate change, we must develop resiliency that transforms the current malformed systems. This means that we must regenerate the systems that make our lives possible. These systems include natural systems, social systems, and economic systems.

The opportunity to realize Blue Green Neighborhoods is in the repurposing of the stranded assets from the fossil fuel political economy into a fully participatory society based on renewable energy that empowers and networks local agency for the good of the whole.

Our ability to restore the oceans we rely on for food, the air that we depend on for every breath, and the Earth that is the foundation on which we walk, and on which both our sustenance and our commerce depend, rests in our ability to:

- Regenerate environmental systems through direct restorative projects and adoption of clean energy solutions, including locally controlled micro-grids that can function independently of the energy grid;
- Regenerate restorative community, so it is able to support robust neighborhood level deliberation and local planetary stewardship; and
- Regenerate systems of trade and commerce by establishing circular rather than extractive economies that enable us to transition to quality of life metrics rather than growth metrics to measure success.

The program information and registration can be found at [Florida iCAN Events](#). One-day registration and tabling are available. Hope to see you there!

I will provide an update on these and other FCC activities at the Annual Gathering.

Submitted by Beverly Ward  
SEYM Representative to Florida Council of Churches



# Friends Committee on National Legislation

Yearly Meeting 2020 Report

FCNL 2019 Report to SEYM

Presented January 18, 2020, at Winter Interim Business Meeting, Orlando Friends Meeting

Friends gathered in Washington D.C., November 14-17, 2019, to participate in the FCNL Public Policy Institute (PPI) annual lobby and to participate in the Annual Meeting of the FCNL General Committee. SEYM Representatives to the General Committee in attendance included Sandra Schwartz - Clearwater MM, Aurelio Anderson - Tallahassee MM, and Karen Putney - Tampa MM. In addition, Friend Helen Fox - Fort Meyers MM and Chad Martin - Gainesville MM participated in the PPI lobby visits. Brad Stocker - Miami MM was in attendance as appointed Representative of Quaker Earthcare Witness. We were also accompanied in our PPI lobby effort by friends of Friends Sita Scheppele and Ormand Derrick who have lobbied with our Florida delegation in previous years as well as Katie Thurson of New College who is an FCNL Advocacy Corp member.

The FCNL Public Policy Institute began Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, with 400 Friends and like-minded activists gathering for panel presentations and speakers to inform our work of going to our members of Congress asking them to urge Armed Services Committee leadership to include the House provision for repeal of the 2002 Iraq Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) in the final National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Representative Barbara Lee encouraged us and we took the words of this staunch Peace advocate to heart as she was the only NO vote to the 2001AUMF in the House. The afternoon was spent gathering in our lobby delegations, organized by state, to prepare our presentations and plan for our lobby visits. We lobbied in the offices of Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott. With nine in our Florida delegation we were also able to lobby several House Representatives. Our ask was timely as the NDAA was being negotiated even as we walked the halls of Congress. Combined efforts by those participating in the Public Policy Institute resulted in 227 lobby visits, representing 44 states.

The work of the General Committee began officially with the start of FCNL Annual Meeting Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>. Over the weekend, we were afforded many workshop opportunities to meet with staff about specific policy issues, to help build our capacity to be informed advocates and representatives of FCNL and in a variety of ways encouraged to deepen our relationship and understanding of the Quaker work and witness FCNL embodies. The most important focus of our discernment in 2019 was the approval to changes and updates in the FCNL Policy Statement, the document that represents the vision that informs our Quaker lobby actions. In the work of our plenaries General Committee was also charged with approving the budget and nominations to standing committees. It was exciting to learn that after much work in discernment with William Penn House (WPH), FCNL has assumed responsibility for William Penn House and begun needed repairs and updating. When re-opened, WPH will better be able to serve and strengthen the Quaker presence on Capitol Hill.

Friends, please hold in the Light those who work with us in the office on Capitol Hill. As hard as it is for Friends across the country to persist in our work and witness from a distance, to be present and attentive daily to what is happening in our government and our country is a challenge and burden that we have asked the FCNL staff to undertake on our behalf. They are talented, committed and doggedly determined people who deserve our respect, our support and our thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Putney

SEYM Representative to FCNL General Committee