

# **Southeastern Yearly Meeting**

of the Religious Society of Friends

## **Yearly Business Meeting 2017**

Fourth Month, 13th Day to Fourth Month 16th Day, 2017

### **Numbered Minutes**

**17YM01 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the Numbered Minutes of the 2016 Summer Executive Committee, Fall Interim Business Executive Committee, and the Yearly Meeting Executive Committee Meetings.**

**17YM02 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends accepts the Treasurer’s Report as provided and explained in the report.**

**17YM03 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the Numbered Minutes of the 2016 Fall Interim Business Meeting and 2017 Winter Interim Business Meeting.**

**17YM04 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the Finance Committee establishing a new budget line item for the operating budget, beginning with the 2017-18 fiscal year, for financial assistance to attendees of programs and activities of interest to SEYM. Requests shall be made to the SEYM Assistant Clerk for discernment, in consultation with the appropriate committee clerks. The SEYM Assistant Clerk is responsible for transmitting approval to the SEYM Treasurer.**

**17YM05 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the 2017-2018 budget as presented by the Finance Committee in the second reading.**

**17YM06 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends stands in unity with other faith communities in Florida by signing on to a letter of support for State Attorney Aramis Ayala for her brave decision to not pursue the death penalty in cases prosecuted by her office. This letter is addressed to Governor Rick Scott and asks him to reconsider his decision to remove these cases from State Attorney Aramis Ayala’s prosecutorial discretion.**

**17YM07 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the request from the Earthcare Committee to distribute the Statement on Climate Change and Environmental Protection to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups for their discernment and comment.**

**17YM08 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends joins in support of the national movement to remove the exception clause of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Currently, persons in prisons are coerced into working in what amounts to slavery. They leave prison with severely restrictive conditions of freedom that shackle their efforts for normalcy, often for the rest of their lives. We affirm that the purpose of**

prisons should be to protect members of society and prepare those imprisoned to return as productive members of their community through provision of comprehensive education and training. We further affirm that persons formerly in prison should have full restoration of constitutional rights, including access to housing, voting, and jobs.

We seek the above in light of the Religious Society of Friends' (Quakers) testimony on equality and our history of seeking to honor that of God in everyone through justice that restores.

We ask other Yearly Meetings to join us in this ministry.

17YM09 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends strongly supports the Institutional Assessment of Friends General Conference (FGC) that aims to remove structural racism within the organization. We will give \$1500.00 from the contingency fund to help fund this endeavor and will let FGC know of our financial commitment by May 1. We will also work to hold FGC accountable for sharing the outcome of the assessment and following through with the recommendations for implementation of the assessment. SEYM sees this as an opportunity for us to address structural racism within our own yearly meeting. We also recognize that structural racism is connected to all other forms of oppression including patriarchy, sexism, and LGBTQ discrimination.

17YM10 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the Nominating Committee's second reading of the new positions being filled. Friends express deep gratitude for the faithful work of this committee in listening and responding to the Spirit.

17YM11 – After careful consideration of the ProNica by-laws and incumbent Florida legal obligations, Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends urges the ProNica board of directors to convene an annual meeting before 31 Fifth Month, 2017, at a mutually convenient time and place, in order to determine ProNica's ongoing viability. SEYM will continue to hold the board of directors in the Light as it seeks way forward.

17YM12 Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends joyfully expresses gratitude for Katie Breslin's faithful and tireless service as our microphone runner throughout our plenary sessions.

17YM13 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends accepts the Gathering Committee Report with joyful thanks.

17YM14 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends accepts with joy the SEYM youth and teen program and YAQ epistles. These will be posted on the SEYM website and distributed to "Friends Everywhere."

17YM15 – Friends approves with deep appreciation the 2017 SEYM epistle, which captured the Spirit of our Gathering. It will be posted on the SEYM website and distributed widely among Friends.

17YM16 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends minutes its heartfelt appreciation of Phoebe Andersen for her loving and wise service as our Yearly Meeting Clerk for the last six years.

**17YM17 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends expresses gratitude to the Gathering Committee for their creativity and care in all aspects of organizing this year's Gathering which ensured our joyful experience.**

**17YM18 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends thanks Carl Hersh, Vincent Cosomano, and Ezra Merleaux for their faithful preparation and continuing care of our technical and sound needs throughout the Gathering. Helping Friends to truly hear was a gift.**

**17YM19 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends expresses their sincere thanks to the staff and the director of the Florida United Methodist Life Enrichment Center for their diligent efforts that make our time together so rewarding and comfortable.**

**17YM20 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends expresses gratitude to Cece Yocum, Elizabeth Croce, Mira Tanna, Kody Hersh and all others involved in preparing, creating, and guiding the activities and programs for the young Friends of all ages. Their love and tender care was evident and abundant.**

**17YM21 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends thanks those Friends who gave of their time and gifts in providing a Healing Center during the Gathering.**