

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Winter Interim Business Meeting

Minutes
First Month 18, 2020

The meeting began with worship at 9 a.m.

Bill Carlie read from Faith & Practice from the silence.

The Quaker meeting is meant to be a blessed community – a living testimony to God’s peace, justice, love, compassion, and joy, and is an example and invitation to a better way of life. Like our other testimonies, community can be a prophetic call to the rest of society.

SEYM Faith and Practice, pg. 76

Bill Carlie welcomed Friends.

20WIBM-01 Friends approve Bill Carlie to serve as acting Interim Business Meeting clerk, and thus as supervisor of SEYM staff until SEYM Annual Sessions. APPROVED

Friends adjourned to committee meetings, to reconvene at 1 pm.

The afternoon session began with worship at 1:15 pm.

Bill Carlie welcomed Friends and reviewed the agenda. There was then a rollcall of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. Friends reported on milestones.

Announcements were made.

Ed Lesnick made the Nominating Committee Report (attached).

20WIBM-02 Winter Interim Business Meeting appoints Phoebe Andersen as IBM and Executive Committee clerk effective at the rise of annual sessions. APPROVED

20WIBM-03 Winter Interim Business Meeting appoints Jack Bradin as assistant clerk for Yearly Meeting, IBM and Executive Committee. APPROVED

20WIBM-04 Winter Interim Business Meeting approved the Nominating Committee report as given. APPROVED

Liz Dykes read the Winter Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. Friends accepted the minutes as read.

Jerry Knutson presented the Half Yearly Meeting Committee report. The report was accepted.

Joel Cook presented the Treasurer’s report. The report was accepted.

Peter Schmidt presented the Finance Committee's report. The Finance Committee is charged with the Yearly Meeting's operating budget. It does not budget the funds for individual committee funds. The draft budget will be in the Documents in Advance for Annual Sessions. The treasurer is continuing to work on the audit. The report was accepted.

Cece Yocum reported for Peace & Social Concerns. Jacksonville Meeting returned the remainder of an AVP grant to Peace & Social Concerns; P&SC plans to use that money for an AVP program under Friends Peace Teams in Nicaragua. Stephanie Preston Hughes presented information on a leading of Orlando Monthly Meeting to join "No Way to Treat a Child," a program that confronts abuses of children in Palestine. Peace & Social Concerns would like SEYM to agree to be a signatory on a letter supporting HR 2407, a House Bill entitled "Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act." This legislation prohibits any U.S. taxpayer funds from contributing to the military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of children by any country, including Israel. The report was accepted.

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. APPROVED

Clara Diaz presented for the Worship & Ministry Committee. The committee has discerned a possible program for the 2021 Michener Lecture. The committee was able to have good conversations with Mike Shell about Jacksonville and Scott Miller from Fort Walton Beach. Friends are concerned about diminished numbers of children in our meetings. Worship & Ministry takes the concerns of our LGBTQ siblings seriously and will hold these concerns in our care. The report was accepted.

Mike Shell reported for Jacksonville Friends Meeting. Mike sees that worship is the most important thing for the group, not the organizational structure of a monthly meeting. Three members of the meeting have transferred their membership to Gainesville Friends Meeting. Four other members have not yet taken action on their membership; two don't want to transfer, and two have not been heard from. The group is now meeting once a month for worship on Sunday evening at Heidi Lowey-Ball's home. The report was accepted.

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. APPROVED

Kody Hersh presented the report from the Youth and Young Adult Coordinator. His report is in the Documents in Advance, but he highlighted summer events in the works. One thing he would like to do is explore ways to facilitate funding to help youth and young adults who want to go to events but lack the financial means. Work is progressing on the revised CAPP manual, and Kody wants to work to get more people registered and involved. The report was accepted.

Phoebe Andersen reported for the Archives Committee. The report was in the FIBM documents in advance. The committee has completed going through the papers and they have been indexed. Phoebe again encouraged meetings to give the archives committee minutes, papers, materials about events, and other materials for the archives. There was concern about the tension between making the materials in the digital archives at Smathers Library available to meetings and making sure that things are private and secure. The report was accepted.

Susan Taylor reported for the Committee for Ministry on Racism (attached). She read from powerful historic documents including Martin Luther King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail and a description of the 1963 Birmingham Children's Crusade. This history informs the workshop the committee will present at the annual gathering. The report was accepted.

Caroline Kaufman reported as Half Yearly Meeting Food Coordinator. She stressed the impossibility of avoiding all cross contamination in the kitchen. The report was accepted.

Vicki Carlie reported for the Gathering Committee. The theme of the gathering is Spiritual and Cultural Transformation. Pamela Boyce Sims will be the Walton lecturer. There have been concerns about the Life Enrichment Center: food quality has been declining; mold in the rooms causes problems for some Friends; and bugs may also be a problem. At this time SEYM does not have another site to use. The Gathering Committee is asking IBM to create an ad hoc site selection committee. The Nominating Committee will appoint members.

20WIBM-07 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. APPROVED

Bill Carlie reported for Earthcare Committee. He presented a letter to the Resource Management Division, Suwannee River Management District, opposing the Seven Springs Water Company permit application (attached).

20WIBM-08 Interim Business Meeting approves sending the letter of objection to the Seven Springs Water Company Permit Application to the Suwannee River Water Management District. APPROVED

Friends also want the letter used as an op ed or letter to the editor. Earthcare will be providing a written evaluation of the Secretary for Earthcare position and making the position permanent. The report was accepted.

Beverly Ward made a report for the Secretary for Earthcare. The report, in Documents in Advance, was accepted.

Beverly Ward reminded Friends of the Florida Council of Churches report in the Document in Advance. Friends accepted the report.

Eduardo Diaz reported for FWCC-Section of the Americas. He highlighted the regional gathering coming up in Miami and encouraged Friends to come. Information and registration forms are in the Documents in Advance. The report was accepted.

Cece Yocum reported for Friends Peace Teams. Cece requested that Monthly Meetings consider sending a special contribution to SEYM for AVP in Nicaragua. The report was accepted.

Karen Putney reported for Friends Committee on National Legislation. The report was accepted.

The numbered minutes were approved as read.

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. APPROVED

Present: Neil Andersen (Tallahassee), Phoebe Andersen (Tallahassee), Jack Bradin (Palm Beach) Eleanor Caldwell (Palm Beach), Bill Carlie, acting clerk (Orlando), Vicki Carlie (Orlando), Bethany Carvano (Tallahassee), Joel Cook, treasurer (Palm Beach/Treasure Coast WG), Gary Crosby (St. Petersburg), Michelle Crosby (St. Petersburg), Jan Dahm (Tampa), Cheryl Demers-Holton (Deland WG/Gainesville), Shawna Doran (Gainesville), Clara Diaz (Miami), Eduardo Diaz (Miami) Liz Dykes, recording clerk (Gainesville), Lisa Erazmus (Tampa), Gary Evans (Orlando), Nancy Fennell (Fort Myers), Richard Frechette (Fort Myers), Minerva Glidden (Orlando), Hollyn Green (Savannah), Katie Green (Clearwater), John Heimburg (Deland WG/Orlando), Kathy Hersh (Miami), Carl Hersh (Miami), Kody Hersh, Youth & Young Adult Coordinator (Orlando), Andrea Hoskins (Miami), Warren Hoskins (Miami), Liz Jenkins (Orlando), Ray Jenkins (Orlando), Caroline Kaufmann (Clearwater), Jerry Knutson (Orlando), Dianne Langan, bookkeeper (St. Petersburg), Chris Laning (Orlando), Jean Larson (Gainesville), Ed Lesnick (Orlando), Kay Lesnick (Orlando), Nancyrose Logan (Orlando), Scott Miller (Fort Walton Beach), Stephanie Preston-Hughes (Orlando), Karen Putney (Tampa), David Rakyta (Gulf Coast WG/Tampa), Peter Schmidt (Tampa), Mike Shell (Jacksonville/Gainesville), Phil Stone (Clearwater), Mainus Sultan (Savannah), Mira Tanna (Orlando), Susan Taylor (Tallahassee), Nancy Triscritti (Tampa), Susan Wade, Administrative Secretary (St. Petersburg), Beverly Ward, Secretary for Earthcare (Tampa), Mary Jane Williams (Orlando), Douglas Woodward (Clearwater), Elizabeth Woodward (Clearwater), Cecilia Yocum (Tampa), Eileen Zingaro (Clearwater)

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Dykes, recording clerk

Nominating Committee Report - SEYM Personnel

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

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

New appointments are also in CAPS.

OFFICERS

Yearly Meeting Clerk	Bill Carlie.....	St. Petersburg.....	2023
<i>Interim Business Meeting (IBM) & Executive Committee (EC) Clerk.....</i>	PHOEBE ANDERSEN	Tallahassee	2021
YM & 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).....			
Treasurer.....	Joel Cook.....	Palm Beach	2023
Membership Recorder.....	Ed Lesnick	Orlando	2023

TRUSTEES

Jack Bradin, <i>Clerk</i>	Palm Beach	2021
Neil Andersen	Tallahassee	2023
Mike Flanery	Clearwater	2023
Chris Laning.....	Orlando	2022
LIZ DYKES	Gainesville	2023

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM (CAPP)

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

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS CONTACT Kody Hersh

COMMITTEES

Archives	Bill Rapp, <i>Clerk</i>	Lake Wales.....	2021
	Phoebe Andersen.....	Tallahassee	2023
	Neil Andersen	Tallahassee	2021
Earthcare	BRIAN HUMPHREY, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Ft. Lauderdale.....	2023
	Bill Carlie, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	St. Petersburg.....	2021
	Jack Bradin.....	Palm Beach	2023
	Mike Flanery	Clearwater	2023
	Beverly Ward	Tampa.....	2022
	Catherine Price.....	Lake Wales	2022
	Bonnie Zimmer	Gainesville	2022
	Jim Koopman	Ft. Myers	2022
	Brad Stocker.....	Miami	2023
	GARY CROSBY	St. Petersburg.....	2023
	HOLLYN GREEN.....	Savannah.....	2023
Faith & Practice (Committee on sabbatical)	Phoebe Andersen, <i>Clerk</i>	Tallahassee	2022
Facebook Page	Mike Flanery	Clearwater	2021
Finance	Peter Schmidt, <i>Clerk</i>	Tampa.....	2022
	Shawna Doran.....	Gainesville	2021

	Steve Donachie	Miami	2021
	Carl Hersh	Miami	2021
	Jack Bradin, Clerk of Trustees (ex officio) & Asst. YM Clerk (ex officio)	Palm Beach	2021
	Joel Cook, Treasurer (ex officio)	Treasure Coast	2023
	Susan Wade, YM Secretary (ex officio)	St. Petersburg	
Half-Yearly Meeting	Jerry Knutson, <i>Clerk</i>	Orlando	2021
	Brian Olson, Registrar	Miami	2021
	Caroline Kaufman FOOD COORDINATOR ...	Clearwater	2022
	Half Yearly Meeting is a self-selecting committee.		
Ministry on Racism	Susan Taylor, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Tallahassee	2023
	Wendy Clarissa Geiger, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Jacksonville	2023
	Cheryl Demers	Gainesville	2023
	Minerva Glidden	Orlando	2021
	Beverly Ward	Tampa	2021
	Kathy Hersh	Miami	2021
	Jane Westberg	Miami	2021
	MAINUS SULTAN	Savannah	2023
	Jean Larson	Gainesville	2022
Peace & Social Concerns	Cece Yocum, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Tampa	2022
	Phil Stone	Clearwater	2023
	Willie Hager	Jacksonville	2022
	Warren Hoskins	Miami	2022
	Mercedes Soca	Miami	2022
	Peter Harrell	Gainesville	2021
	Eileen Zingaro	Clearwater	2021
	Caroline Kaufman	Clearwater	2023
	Peter Ackerman	Gainesville	2020
	John Heimburg	Orlando	2022
	Helen Fox	Ft. Myers	2022
Publications	Phoebe Andersen, <i>Clerk</i>	Tallahassee	2021
	Mercedes Soca	Miami	2020
Worship & Ministry	Clara Diaz	Miami	2023
	ELLIE CALDWELL	Palm Beach	2023
	Eduardo Diaz	Miami	2023
	Nancy Fennell	Ft. Myers	2021
	Nancy Rose Logan	Sarasota	2022
	Richelle Ogle	Orlando/SAWG	2022
YM Gathering	Andrea Hoskins <i>Clerk</i>	Miami	2022
	Susan Wade, <i>Registrar</i>	St. Petersburg	2023
	Caroline Kaufman, <i>Bookstore</i>	Clearwater	2021
	BRIAN OLSON, <i>PROGRAM COORDINATOR</i> ...	Miami	2023
	Stephanie Preston-Hughes	Orlando	2022
	Vicki Carlie	St. Petersburg	2021
Youth Committee	Mira Tanna, <i>Clerk</i>	Orlando	2020
	Aurelio Anderson	Tallahassee	2021
	Jennifer Mendoza	Sarasota	2021
	Cecelia Yocum	Tampa	2021
	Jenn Ambrose	Gainesville	2021

REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS

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
Sandra Schwartz Clearwater 2020
Catharine Price Lake Wales 2020
Karen Putney Tampa 2021

Friends General Conference, FGC Central Committee

Susan Taylor Tallahassee 2022
Susan Wade St. Petersburg 2022
OPEN 2023

Friends World Committee for Consultation – FWCC

Clara Diaz Miami 2022
Eduardo Diaz Miami 2021
Nancy Rose Logan Sarasota 2023

Friends Peace Teams

Cecilia Yocum Tampa 2021

Florida Council of Churches

Beverly Ward Tampa 2021

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & 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

FUM General Board Observer

Eduardo Diaz Miami 2021
Ellie Caldwell, *Alternate* Palm Beach 2021

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ed Lesnick, *Clerk* Orlando 2021
Beverly Ward Tampa 2022
Shawna Doran Gainesville 2022
Brian Olson Miami 2023

Committee for Ministry on Racism Report
Winter Interim Business Meeting (WIBM)
January 18, 2020

Mark 12:31 RSV "... 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

John 13: 34 RSV "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

*Freedom and equality-regardless of religion or social class-were radical new ideas when the United States was formed. At the same time, the US economy was based on the abduction and enslavement of African people, the displacement and genocide of Indigenous people, and the annexation of Mexican lands... The tension between the noble ideology of equality and the cruel reality of genocide, enslavement, and colonization had to be reconciled...The idea of racial inferiority was created to justify unequal treatment [and exploitation]...Paraphrasing Ibram Kendi in **Stamped from the Beginning**: if we truly believe that all humans are equal, then disparity in condition can only be the result of systemic discrimination. (Robin DiAngelo. **WHITE FRAGILITY WHY IT'S SO HARD FOR WHITE PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT RACISM**, pp. 16-17, 2018.)*

Greetings Friends!

Please join the Committee for Ministry on Racism during the committee meeting sessions at WIBM from 9:30 – 11:30 AM on Saturday, January 18, to share your questions, ideas, concerns and experiences regarding ways to support SEYM as we seek to transform into an actively anti-racist yearly meeting faith community. Committee Co-clerk, Susan Taylor, who is also one of SEYM's representatives to the Friends General Conference Governing Board, Central Committee, was inspired by her October attendance at the Central Committee annual meeting, where the conscious intent of all committee and FGC activity is now to have this query before them: "How does this decision support FGC in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist Faith Community?" (FGC Institutional Assessment Implementation Committee, fgcquaker.org).

We eagerly look forward to the Michener Lecture and Seminars on First Day, with deeply experienced Brian Corr who has worked widely and in a variety of ways on peace and justice issues. He will begin to lead us "**From Fear and Scarcity to Hope and Abundance: Confronting and Transforming the Giant Triplets of Racism, Materialism and Militarism.**" Please spread the word among Friends.

With gratitude to Susan Wade, SEYM's Administrative Secretary, the Committee met by ZOOM teleconference on December 4th. We happily welcomed Friend, Katie Green (Clearwater), as a visitor and always extend an invitation to other SEYM Friends who would like to join us. We acknowledged the Indigenous Peoples whose land we were each zooming in from, then gave priority to the initial work on the intergenerational, experiential workshops that we'll offer at the SEYM Gathering in April. The workshops will cover peeling back personal layers of bias and aspire to be safe places for exploration. Though everyone is welcome to attend, the emphasis will be on white Friends, since most of SEYM identifies as white. Our desire is to provide the same-themed workshop twice, each on a different day, in order to maximize the ability of more Friends to attend. Discerning a title for the workshops and more content will be among the agenda items, yet to be finalized, for our WIBM meeting.

We acknowledged that racism is the root of the varieties of horrific immigrant abuse by the United States as we heard Kathy Hersh report on a meeting of Miami interfaith leaders she attended in Miami with the Acting Director of the Office Of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) of the Department of Health and Human Services and

several community outreach officials with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), directly involved in the operation of the Homestead migrant children's prison.. The meeting was convened at their request under the auspices of United Way. ORR and DHS felt they got a "bad press" and came to defend their policies. They encountered a group of well-informed witnesses and immigrant advocates who took the opportunity to speak truth to power. ORR and DHS saw that their actions were being scrutinized by a resourceful, empowered group of advocate activists with legal expertise and moral authority who insisted on transparency in the future and direct communication. The AFSC and WeCount, a local migrant advocacy group, presented their report on the toxicity of the soil and ground water of Homestead Air Force base area where the prison is located, Kathy Hersh stated that the entire policy of childhood separation is "morally reprehensible," done by no other country with a refugee influx.

The officials asked for another meeting in the near future. Meanwhile, the Homestead influx detention center remains on standby in the event of another influx of refugees.

The Committee continues our strong interest in supporting, learning more about, and sharing with Friends, The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (<https://boardingschoolhealing.org>) actions and requests for varying kinds of support. We have learned from Paula Palmer (Boulder, CO Friends Meeting), and would like to have her as a Walton Lecturer in order to include SEYM Friends in the healing that is necessary following Native Americans' attendance at Quaker Indian Boarding Schools. Paula's ministry, "Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, (TRR)" is now under the care of Friends Peace Teams (friendspeaceteams.org). See her Quaker Indian Boarding Schools video on the latter website; a video we'd like to show at our SEYM's April Gathering. We would like SEYM to continue to donate to this vital organization and will discern further on this as another agenda item for our WIBM committee meeting.

We revisited Decolonizing Quakers, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org>, as an important resource for learning more about colonization and its relationship to racism. Some Friends have expressed the need to have a greater understanding of this. Thank you, Beverly Ward! Houston Cypress spoke about decolonization at Half Yearly Meeting.

The Committee applauds and supports Kody Hersh, Youth and Young Adult Friends Coordinator, in his efforts with many Friends from other yearly meetings to create a new curriculum for First Day Schools on racial justice. Please pass your ideas and experience on this concern along to him, as well as our Committee.

We will continue to explore the possibility of publishing a variety of book, article, podcast, movie, etc. reviews on aspects of racism in the SEYM E-newsletter. We warmly invite Friends outside the committee to submit to us your reviews of material that has helped you.

We hold all of our work in prayer, from which action springs.

Loving Blessings,

Susan Taylor, Co-clerk

For the Committee: Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Co-clerk (Jacksonville), Minerva Glidden (Orlando), Beverly Ward (Tampa), Kathy Hersh (Miami), Jane Westberg (Miami), Jean Larson (Gainesville), Cheryl Demers (Gainesville), Kody Hersh (SEYM Youth and Young Adult Friends Coordinator) sometimes attends and we consult with him.

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