

Southeastern Yearly Meeting  
*of the Religious Society of Friends*  
Fall Executive Committee Meeting  
4 Eleventh Month 2022

MINUTES

Clerk Bill Carlie open the meeting out of the Silence at 7:00 p.m. by reading a quote from Robert Barclay's Apology.

And as many candles lighted, and put in one place, do greatly augment the light, and make it more to shine forth, so when many are gathered together into the same life, there is more of the glory of God, and his power appears, to the refreshment of each individual; for that he partakes not only of the light and life raised in himself, but in all the rest.

Robert Barclay, Apology, 1676

The Clerk reviewed the agenda.

Brad Stocker requested that a report from Quaker Earthcare Witness be added to the agenda, under reports from Representatives to Organizations. With that addition, the agenda was approved.

**Clerk's Report:**

The Clerk reported on an interview he had with a reporter about sexual abuse in the Religious Society of Friends. The Clerk shared with the reporter the open process used by the Yearly Meeting in addressing the abuse issue. He referenced and explained the documents posted on the SEYM website. Nothing further happened as a result of the interview. No articles were published. That the YM process was open, that it was found not to be newsworthy, was evidence that SEYM had done a good job in handling the difficult and sensitive issue.

The Clerk also reported that he had signed a contract for the new Gathering site this coming Spring. The new camp is physically different from the former site. The greater distance between event sites will necessitate some adjustments in the schedule. There are three nature trails and other amenities that look very promising. Because they have two chefs on staff, next year's Gathering might even provide a positive food experience, as well.

**Nominating Committee Report:**

Ed Lesnick, Clerk of the Nominating Committee, was pleased to announce that Kathy Hersh had offered to serve as Clerk of the Committee for Ministry on Racism. Nominating has also advertised a new position: co-clerk for the Gathering Committee. The present Clerk of the Gathering Committee has asked for a co-clerk to work with her on the upcoming Gathering, to take the baton forward, should she need to leave on short notice because of family commitments out of State.

The Clerk of Nominating also noted that an unusually large number of terms of office will be ending in 2023. He asked those present to review The Nominating Committee Report included in the received DIA. The Clerk of Nominating requested that the Nominating Committee Report be scheduled somewhat earlier in tomorrow's agenda, if possible.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer requested that Friends read the report furnished in the DIAs. He will go over that report in more detail tomorrow. There were no questions at this time.

### **Secretary's Report**

The secretary reported that she has been working with Vicki Carlie in the past few weeks learning how to publish the SEYM eNews and work on the SEYMquakers.org website.

### **Field Secretary's Report:**

The Field Secretary referred to her report included in the DIAs. She also announced that she will be presenting a Pendle Hill First Monday Lecture in February 2023. Her topic will be on Earthcare topics.

### **Gathering Committee:**

A full report will be given at the Fall Interim Business Meeting.

### **Half Yearly Meeting Report:**

Susan Wade, committee member, reported for the clerk of the committee that Half Yearly Meeting has been moved from Thanksgiving week to the 16<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> Twelfth Month (December) 2022, because Wekiva Springs State Park was unavailable during Thanksgiving this year. On the positive side, students will be out of school for the Christmas holidays at the new time. More information about Half-Yearly Meeting is on the website. The cost will be on a "Pay as Led" basis.

### **Peace and Social Concerns:**

Beverly Ward reported on behalf of the Peace and Social Concerns committee and referred to a statement from the Florida Council of Churches (FCC) condemning the antisemitic signs that were posted recently in Jacksonville, Florida, and the lack of response from local government officials. The FCC is asking SEYM to join in their statement. This request will be considered at the Fall Interim Business Meeting.

It was also announced that George Lakey, author and peace activist, is scheduled to come to Florida on a book tour in early December. He will start in Miami and travel throughout the State.

### **Havana Worship Group**

Teresita Dovalpage shared news from the Havana Worship Group. Mercedes Soca asked that the worship group's report be placed on the agenda for Fall Interim Business Meeting.

Brad Stocker requested that we lift up the "Quaker Call to Action" and Phil Stone said that he would do follow up on that via email.

### **Worship and Ministry:**

Worship and Ministry's report is in the DIAs and will be attached to the minutes of the Fall Interim Business Meeting.

### **Committee for Ministry on Racism:**

Committee for Ministry on Racism's report is in the DIAs and will be attached to the minutes of the Fall Interim Business Meeting.

### **Earthcare Committee**

The committee had no report at this time.

### **Representatives to Organizations:**

#### **Quaker Earthcare Witness:**

Brad Stocker, SEYM's representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness, has a report and request, included in the DIAs. A full report will be presented at FIBM.

#### **Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice (FCPJ):**

There is a report in the DIAs that includes a request for additional funding from SEYM. Peter Ackerman, representative from FCPJ, could not be present at the FEC or FIBM because of a prior commitment. FCPJ's request will be directed to the Finance Committee for consideration for next year's budget. Brad Stocker will make an estimate of JCPJ's needs and forward it to the Treasurer.

### **Trustees:**

Neil Anderson reported that dividend payments from investments have been made to SEYM.

After silent worship, the Fall Executive Committee meeting ended at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel R. Vaughn Recording Clerk

**Participants:**

**Deland Worship Group**

Cheryl Demers-Holton (Gainesville MM)

Dan Vaughn (Orlando MM)

Beverly Ward (Tampa MM)

**Fort Lauderdale Monthly Meeting**

Brian Humphrey

**Gainesville Monthly Meeting**

Shawna Doran

**Havana Worship Group**

Teresita Dovalpage

Mercedes Soca

**Miami Monthly Meeting**

Brad Stocker

**Orlando Monthly Meeting**

Liz Jenkins

Ed Lesnick

**Palm Beach Monthly Meeting**

John Palozzi

**Saint Augustine Worship Group**

Dianna Langan (Saint Petersburg MM)

**Saint Petersburg Monthly Meeting**

Bill Carlie

Vicki Carlie

Susan Wade

**Tallahassee Monthly Meeting**

Neil Andersen

Phoebe Andersen

Andrea Hoskins

Warren Hoskins

**Tampa Monthly Meeting**

Karen Putney

Cece Yocum

**Treasure Coast Worship Group**

Jack Bradin (Palm Beach MM)

Joel Cook (Palm Beach MM)