

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Executive Committee Meeting 10/05/07

The Executive Committee convened at the Palm Beach meetinghouse at 7 PM. The meeting started with a period of silent worship.

EC members and committee representatives attending were: Nancy Fennell, clerk of Interim Business Meeting; Recording clerk Ed Lesnick; Tom Fennell representing Worship and Ministry Committee; YM clerk Susan Taylor; Sybil Brennan, assistant clerk and representative to FWCC; Caroline Lanker, clerk of Finance Committee; Steve Kinney, clerk of Gathering Committee; Andrea Walsh, Gathering registrar; Dan Vaughen, clerk of Nominating Committee; Treasurer Neil Andersen, Phoebe Andersen, Membership Recorder and clerk of Faith and Practice Committee; Herb Haigh, clerk of Trustees; and Lyn Cope, administrative secretary.

Others who attended were Ellie Caldwell, Gary Arthur, John Buchholz, Pat Buchholz, Joan Carney, and Mary Wicks of Palm Beach MM; Davida Johns, stateside coordinator for ProNica; and Mary Jo Klingel, representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Mary Beth Carson was present on behalf of Becky Steele, Peace and Social Concerns committee clerk.

EC committees and positions not represented: Youth Committee, Half Yearly Meeting and the Young Friends clerks.

Caroline Lanker and Neil Andersen summarized the Finance committee's and Treasurer's reports to be presented at the business meeting.

Neil stated the general fund balance is \$53,997. Total income is about \$103,500, including the balance from the annual Gathering. The current Fiscal YTD budget continues to compare favorably with actual income, expenses, and estimations.

Caroline projects there will be no increase in monthly meeting apportionments.

As the Finance committee prepares the FY 2008-2009 budget for approval, Caroline requests representatives to consider their budget line items and inform YM of the representative or committee's financial needs.

Donation categories have not increased since 2000, other than special requests.

The apportionment process is in need of revision. There are inconsistencies among monthly meetings as to how membership is reported and the ability of YM to accurately assess each monthly meeting's annual contribution.

In response to EC minute from June, 2007, the Finance committee has drafted a process for YM's consideration. Similar in structure to the Faith and Practice revision, but to be accomplished in less than two years, the procedure will provide the necessary information for an equitable determination of monthly meeting contributions. At the

same time, monthly meetings will benefit from a review of their respective membership lists and actual participation.

A draft of the revision process was distributed for EC's consideration. The main purpose for the revision process is stated on page 3 of the draft. Discussion followed, questions were raised, and suggestions made to amend the document.

07EC15 EC recommends approval of the Proposed Process for Revising the SEYM Apportionment Process as presented by the Finance Committee.

The draft will be presented to FIBM at the Saturday afternoon session.

Lyn Cope gave the administrative Secretary's report. [Attachment 1: Administrative Secretary's report]

Lyn raised a concern in the selection, editing, and publication of submitted manuscripts. It was suggested a committee be formed to develop a policy and guidelines regarding publications. Eventually, a select publications committee comprised of skilled and learned individuals would serve as a permanent committee on publications.

Susan Taylor, SEYM clerk, reported on our on-going concern for worship in all that we do. Also expressed was our continued need for monthly meeting representatives and clerks to attend Yearly Meeting functions. Susan spoke of communications she had with worship groups not in regular contact with SEYM.

Sybil Brennan, a representative to Friends World Committee for Consultation, spoke of her participation and experiences at the 2007 FWCC Triennial. Specifically, Sybil spoke of the purposes and actions of the Outreach/Growth Working Group. The atmosphere was one of deep listening and personal sharing. Topics included were intervisitation, regional communication, missions, "articulating truth among ourselves," and future growth.

Steve Kinney, Yearly Meeting Gathering clerk, gave a summary report on the 2008 SEYM gathering. He noted the desire of participants for an increased amount of worship and worship-centered workshops. The ongoing challenge for supervision for the youth program was reemphasized, and several improvements in the registration process will be forthcoming.

At the June EC meeting, Ellie Caldwell brought forth a proposal for a standing committee on racism and diversity. After discussion, EC approved minute 07EC011 to form an ad hoc committee that would present a proposal at FIBM. Ellie explained the need for SEYM Quakers to recognize and respond to racism and the need for Friends' better understanding and acceptance of diversity. The proposed committee would be patterned on the Committee for Ministry and Racism (CMR) established by the Friends General Conference in November, 2000.

08EC16 EC recommends establishing a standing Committee for Ministry on Racism. EC recommends Ellie Caldwell serve as convener of the committee until YBM 2008.

Mary Jo Klingel, SEYM representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness, brought forth a concern for a wider base of participation in the yearly meeting regarding earth care issues. Many SEYM members have indicated their willingness to be representatives from their respective meetings to an SEYM committee and to cooperate in that endeavor.

08EC17 EC recommends establishing a standing Committee for Earthcare. EC recommends Barbara Letch serve as convener of the committee until YBM 2008.

Lisa Stewart, a SEYM representative to FUM, spoke of her recent experiences with FUM Quakers and gave an assessment on current circumstances. [See the attachment in FIBM minutes.]

EC recognizes the need to pursue the matter of our relationship with FUM and not wait for the two-year “separation” period to expire without an earnest effort.

At the 2007 YBM, Friends approved a suspension of SEYM’s affiliation with Friends United Meeting, 07YBM15 stated:

SEYM is in unity in declaring that our Yearly Meeting has entered a period of transformation with regard to our membership in Friends United Meeting. We acknowledge great pain and struggle within our body and, as we have heard, among other members of F.U.M. as well, over this process and we strive to hold each other in love and Light as we labor.

We will work as a Yearly Meeting toward reaching unity with regard to laying down our present relationship, and toward creating new relationships as opportunities arise and as spirit leads.

To allow this process to occur, SEYM will suspend formal membership in F.U.M. for two years. During this time, our yearly meeting will make no financial contributions to F.U.M. Instead, the funds that would have gone to F.U.M. will go to support F.U.M.-related activities or outreach at the discretion or suggestion of SEYM. We will offer both financial and spiritual support to representatives to F.U.M. as our members come forward to carry out those duties. If at the end of the two-year period our membership is not in unity to renew the relationship, SEYM will permanently lay down our membership in F.U.M.

We seek to maintain a loving relationship with Friends United Meeting. We also look for opportunities to communicate with members of F.U.M. about our concerns.

In order to faithfully meet the minute’s provisions and the membership’s intent, there would need to be an ongoing discernment among SEYM Friends, communication with FUM, and a process to find a way forward.

Friends noted the need for clarity, the need for objectivity, and spirit led decision making, A committee should be widely interactive and in contact with monthly meetings and members.

There was discussion on the wording of a proposed minute and the committee's composition.

EC approved the following minute. Lyn Cope and Ed Lesnick are recorded as standing aside.

08EC18 EC recommends appointment of a committee to meet in worship and prayer to discern way forward on SEYM's relationship with FUM, to be convened by Lisa Stewart until YMB 2008.

EC expresses its trust in the guidance of the Spirit and the process of spiritual discernment for this committee.

Those who feel called to serve shall communicate that calling to Lisa Stewart. This committee shall report to YBM 2009.

The meeting concluded with silent worship.

Secretary's Report

to EC 10/05/2007 to be held at Palm Beach Meeting House

Office activities:

The office prod to consider donating inspired you to give \$9755 and with pledges, we will surpassed the \$10,000 match! Yippee for our kids! Your donations (including the Julia Geiger and Jack Deppner memorial donations), the \$10,000 match from Palm Beach Meeting, the \$11,000 from you in pledged matching funds, and a transfer from the Trustees for \$10,000 will bring the value of the Youth Endowment Fund to \$41,374. The Trustees' long term goal is \$80,000-\$100,000 to fully, or significantly, fund SEYM's youth peace program at YBM and continue to provide SEYMer youth meals at 1/2 cost, or as the Gathering Committee discerns.

Then ongoing communications with Arthur Larrabee, Walton Lecturer: *Leadership and Authority in the Religious Society of Friends*, with Niyonu Spann, Michener Lecturer: *Letting Go of Illusion, Engaging Truth: Healing!*, AND with Steve Smith, next January's Michener Lecturer speaking on the environment, *In the Love of Nature*, have been exciting and resulted in superb pamphlets/booklets and advance materials for the Michener Lecture brochure, and the HYM on-line and paper registration forms. The HYM theme, *The Reflecting Pool*, and anticipated intergenerational workshop/lecture, as required by Wekiva Springs State Park to use their facilities, already has HYM registrations arriving!

Alas, the newsletter (and you all know publishing is the love of my life besides you, family, and furry friends) kept being pushed to the bottom of the pile. Now it has surged to the top and a fantastic newsletter this Fall issue will be—better for its seasoning.

Please download, print, and bring with you the FIBM-DIA. All DIAs are available for downloading from <http://www.seym.org>, upper left corner (or from: calendar's appropriate date, or archived library).

FIBM (*always the first weekend in October*) includes: 1) EC meeting, **Friday, October 5th**, 7pm, and 2) **Saturday, October 6th**, 9-4:30 committee meetings & FIBM. We are invited (encouraged) to join Palm Beach Meeting for singing, worship, and lunch, **Sunday, October 7th**.

New Concerns:

- Request someone to oversee that youth worker application process is complete and fees, if appropriate, are collected, before paperwork is submitted to the office. Note, all forms/manuals are available from <http://www.seym.org/dcumnts.html> with the exception of the SEYM-coded finger-print card available from office.

Thank you.

—Lyn Cope, submitted 09/25/2007