

## Documents in Advance

### for Yearly Meeting Plenary Sessions, 3/23-27/2005

to be held at the Florida United Methodist Life Enrichment Center, Leesburg, FL

Dear Friends:

Our 2005 Gathering theme is *Living In The World As Quakers*. That theme poses the ancient question of our role in Life; of our response to the challenges of war and disaster. Our Spiritual Mentors, from Lao Tse, through Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., have addressed these questions for us. It is for each of us, individually, however, to discover those answers for ourselves, anew, and in our own time.

A recent formulation that I found helpful appears in a book by Neale Donald Walsch, entitled "The New Revelations." God is there quoted as saying:

When what you are doing is a reflection of what you are being, rather than an attempt to create what you wish you were being, you will know that you have produced lasting change in *yourself*. This is what produces lasting change in the world.

Remember what was said earlier. You cannot "do" peaceful, you can only "be" peaceful. You cannot "do" loving, you can only "be" loving. You cannot "do" unified, you can only "be" unified.

Seek, then, to shift your state of being. Do not seek first to change the world, seek first to change the self.

When you achieve that, your actions will automatically change....

Seek not, therefore, to change the world. Seek to BE the change you wish to SEE in the world.... How do you remain peaceful when the world is demonstrating everything but peace? Loving, when the world is demonstrating everything but love? Forgiving, when the world is demonstrating everything but forgiveness?

*You insist on being who you are* no matter what the rest of the world is being.

Slowly, the world you touch will change....

Remember this always: What you are being is who you are.

You are not what you are doing.

You are a human, *being*.

You are warmly invited to join us in seeking to discover "who we are;" and to listen to Linda Chidsey share with us in workshops and in the Walton Lecture, "INTIMATIONS OF RENEWAL." Come. Let us "be" together.

If your report or request for Yearly Meeting action does not appear in these Documents in Advance, please call me at (386) 734-8914, or email me at [dvaughen@earthlink.net](mailto:dvaughen@earthlink.net). Please also bring 150 copies of your report or request for action with you to Yearly Meeting. If you have a sudden concern at the Gathering, please speak to me between plenary sessions to see how your concern may be addressed. If your Meeting or Worship Group will not have a representative at Yearly Meeting, you are invited to send written minutes, concerns or reports to me at P.O. Box 364, DeLand, FL 32721-0364, or by email.

Daniel R. Vaughen, Clerk, <[dvaughen@earthlink.net](mailto:dvaughen@earthlink.net)>

## YEARLY MEETING PLENARY SCHEDULE & AGENDA

### Plenary 1: Thursday, March 24, 4:00-5:30 pm

Opening Worship	
Welcome to Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions .....	Daniel Vaughen
Roll Call of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups .....	
Recognition of Visitors .....	
Milestones and Memorials.....	
Announcements .....	
Presentation of the Agenda .....	Daniel Vaughen
Nominating Committee Report .....	Annie McPherson
Representative Meeting & Executive Committee Report .....	

### Plenary 2: Friday, March 25, 10:00-Noon

Announcements & Concerns laid over from Plenary 1 .....	
Faith and Practice Committee Report .....	Phoebe Andersen
F & P Section on Membership .....	Phoebe Andersen
Cuban Quaker Project .....	Carl Hersh
ProNica .....	Ruth Paine
Treasurer's Report .....	Neil Andersen
Finance Committee Report, Proposed SEYM Budget .....	Caroline Lanker
Trustees' Report .....	Herb Haigh
Visitors from Wider Quaker Organizations .....	

### Plenary 3: Saturday, March 26, 10:00-Noon; 2:00-4:00 PM

Announcements & Concerns laid over from Plenary 2 .....	
Worship and Ministry Committee Report.....	Susan Taylor
Michener Lecture Report .....	Susan Taylor
Amigos Construction .....	Doris Emerson
Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report .....	Brian Olson
Archives.....	Bill Rapp
Visitors from Wider Quaker Organizations .....	

### Plenary 4: Sunday, March 27, 9:00-11:00 am

Announcements & Concerns laid over from Plenary 3 .....	
Nominating Committee Report.....	Annie McPherson
Recognition Minutes.....	Daniel Vaughen
YM Gathering Statistical Report .....	Jack Bradin
YM Gathering Report .....	Jack Bradin
Young Friends Report.....	
Junior Yearly Meeting Report.....	
Epistles.....	
Yearly Meeting Clerk's Remarks.....	Daniel Vaughen

Closing Meeting for Worship Sunday March 27, 11:00-Noon

**A REMINDER TO ASSIST RECORDING CLERK:**

Please, Friends who are giving reports or announcements at the RM, do take a minute ahead of time to make sure you have all the information you want to report. If possible, write down the key information, especially names of individuals mentioned in your report, to give to the Recording Clerk after making your report.

A handwritten note on a scrap of paper is sufficient. This would go a long way toward making sure the records of our Yearly Meeting business are complete and accurate, and also avoids disruptions during the meeting and saves the Recording Clerk's time later as he tries to collect corrected information including the spelling of names mentioned.

Most Friends who propose formal minutes have been writing them down before proposing them to the meeting and some Friends have been regularly providing written or electronic versions of their reports. To them we are most grateful.

Do enjoy the peace and fellowship at the meetings and sessions, Thank you for your cooperation,

—Ed Lesnick, Recording Clerk

**Representative Meeting Minutes**

For your convenience SEYM minutes are now available in downloadable Portable Document Format (PDF) from the SEYM website. Please avail your self of this option should you wish to review minutes.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS****Archives Committee**

No advance report.

**Cuban Quaker Project**

No advance report.

**Faith & Practice Committee, 1/23/05**

Dear Friends,

At the 2005 Yearly Meeting annual sessions, the Faith & Practice committee plans to present a 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the Marriage and Commitment and a 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the Queries and Advices for first reading and possible approval before the YM. The Faith & Practice Committee will be holding 3 threshing sessions on Thurs. & Fri. evening and Sat. afternoon to consider the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of Establishing New Friends Meetings and the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the Monthly Meeting: Meeting for Worship & MM organization and committee structure.

Your Faith & Practice Committee has taken a long hard look at the process of completing the revision of SEYM's *Faith & Practice* in a timely manner. In evaluating recent progress towards revision of the Quaker practice portion of the *Faith & Practice*, it has become apparent that each revised section takes a minimum of 3 years from the rough draft stage to the point of YM first reading and possible approval. At this stage, it appears that we are about halfway through the complete revision of the practice section. The F & P Committee needs your help to complete the process. We plan to continue to submit to SEYM Monthly Meetings, Preparative Meetings, Worship Groups and unaffiliated Meetings 3 new sections for your review each September for the next 3 years. This is an ambitious undertaking by the F & P Committee. We hope that by YM sessions in April of 2009, to have presented for YM approval all of the proposed revisions identified at this time. The Committee is asking all of the SEYM meeting communities to plan for the next 3 years to discern the right orderedness of three new sections every Fall. Please reserve that time on your busy meeting calendars now for this important effort.

A time line of all of the proposed revisions and a list of the next two years of committee meetings is available by request from the F & P Committee at [phoebea@comcast.net](mailto:phoebea@comcast.net). All of the F&P Committee meetings are open to all interested F/friends in SEYM. Most of the committee meetings are held at Orlando Meeting's Webster Cottage, with the only exception being the location of the Fall RM committee meeting. We invite you all to come and bring your measure of the Light to add to the committee's discernment.