

SEYM Annual Gathering 2006

Documents in Advance (DIA)

For Southeastern Yearly Meetings for Worship with a concern for Business

Plenary Sessions to be held 4/12-16/2006

at the Florida United Methodist Life Enrichment Center, Leesburg, FL

Dear Friends,

A joyous welcome! As we gather for worship with a concern for the business of Southeastern Yearly Meeting, may we be faithful to the leading of the Spirit in our sessions. To facilitate a gathered meeting, please attend meetings for business as close to on time as possible and enter in silence, for the sessions are meetings for worship. Frame each speaker's ministry with silence.

We seek unity, *"not unanimity. We consider ourselves to be in unity when our search for Truth is shared, when our listening for God is faithful, when our wills are caught up in the presence of Christ, and when our love for one another is constant and manifest. A united meeting is not necessarily all of one mind, but it is all of one heart. We believe that this unity, transcending apparent differences, springs from God's empowering love, and that a meeting, trusting in the leadership of that love and gathered in its spirit, will enjoy unity in its search for Truth. A meeting is a living spiritual entity, a corporate body, which sometimes encompasses strong differences of opinion. It is like an individual who may have many conflicting inclinations but who still has a final sense of how to act. The sense of the meeting is not designed and fitted together, but is conceived, born, and nurtured; the Meeting's care for the quality of its decision-making process is essential to the rightness of its decisions."*

—SEYM Faith and Practice, Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, 2001, pp. 2-3

"Throughout, the grace of humor can often help to relax the tensions of a Meeting (for Business) so that new Light comes to it."

—North Pacific Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice, Second Edition, 1993, p. 75

Thank you.

In the Light,



Susan Taylor, clerk

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

Proposed Agenda
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
 Southeastern Yearly Meeting
 April 12-16, 2006

Plenary 1: Thursday, April 13, 4:00- 5:30 p.m.

Worship
 Reading from SEYM Faith and Practice
 Opening minute
 Greetings from monthly meetings, preparative meetings, worship groups, unaffiliated meetings and visitors
 Approval of agenda after corrections or additions
 Reading from other Yearly Meetings' epistles
 Preliminary Nominating Committee Report.....Dan Vaughan
 Committee for SEYM epistle
 Faith and Practice Committee AnnouncementPhoebe Andersen
 Walton Workshops and LectureGathering Committee
 Other announcements
 Closing Worship

Plenary 2: Friday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon

Worship
 Reading from other Yearly Meetings' epistles
 Greetings from monthly meetings, worship groups, unaffiliated meetings and visitors
 Executive Committee Report.....Nancy Fennell
 Approval of minutes from Fall and Winter Interim Business Meeting
 Worship and Ministry/ Michener Lecture Report.....SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee
 Preliminary Faith and Practice Committee Report.....Phoebe Andersen
 Trustee's Report.....Herb Haigh
 Pro Nica ReportLillian Hall
 Reports from SEYM representatives to organizations that are not in Documents in Advance
 Visitors from Wider Quaker Organizations
 Closing worship

Plenary 3: Saturday, April 15, 10:00 a.m.- 12 noon

Worship
 Reading from other Yearly Meetings' epistles
 Greetings from meetings, worship groups and visitors
 Peace and Social ConcernsCecilia Yocum
 Faith and Practice Committee.....Phoebe Andersen
 Approval of Sections: The Monthly Meeting, Meeting for Worship and Establishing New Friends Meetings
 Closing worship

Plenary 4: Saturday, April 15, 1:00- 2:15 p.m.

Worship
 Continued discernment on the relationship of Southeastern Yearly Meeting and Friends United Meeting—See minutes from meetings and worship groups in Documents in Advance. Reports from meeting and worship groups. Sharing from worship
 Closing worship

Plenary 5: Sunday, April 16, 9- 10:30 a.m.

Worship

Follow-up on SEYM's Child Abuse Prevention PolicyLyn Cope

Epistles..... Wee Friends, Young Friends, Teen Friends

Treasurer's Report Neil Andersen

Finance Committee Report..... Caroline Lanker

Nominating Committee Report..... Dan Vaughen

Gathering Committee Report..... Barbara Wolfe

Reading of SEYM epistle Representative of epistle committee.

Minutes of Recognition

Closing worship

RE: SEYM Minutes

For your convenience **SEYM Minutes are available** in downloadable and printable PDF format (Portable Document Format) from the SEYM website: <www.seym.org>; click File-folder Logo at bottom of left column, DIAs, Minutes and More; a document list appears. Select document you wish to see. Please avail your self of this option should wish to review minutes. The Fall Interim Business Minutes are a 15-page document. The FIBM Numbered Minutes follow.

Fall Interim Meeting Numbered Minutes:

Attachment 1: Numbered Minutes, Fall Interim Business Meeting, 2005

05IBM10 IBM recommends the YM Gathering Committee clerk be a permanent member of the Executive Committee.

05IBM11 IBM approves the Treasurer's Report.

05IBM12 IBM, acting on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, approves Mary Jo Klingel, Ft. Lauderdale MM, as SEYM representative to Quaker Earth Witness; Ellie Caldwell, Palm Beach MM, representative to Friends World Committee on Consultation; and Connie Ray, Gainesville MM, to replace Gay Howard on Faith and Practice Committee.

05IBM13 IBM approves the Nominating Committee report.

05IBM14 IBM expresses appreciation to Palm Beach MM for the warm welcome and mindful hospitality provided to the fall Interim Business Meeting, 2005. It is always renewing and invigorating to come together under the tender care of this meeting and these loving Friends.

Winter Interim Meeting Minutes:

Synopsis of the Winter Interim Business Meeting

The Winter Interim Business Meeting (WIBM) was held on January 14, 2006, in the Orlando meetinghouse, Orlando, FL. Forty-Nine Friends from sixteen monthly meetings, one preparative, and one worship groups attended.

Following opening worship, greetings from IBM clerk, Nancy Fennell, monthly meeting milestones, and announcements, Friends devoted their attention to Committee Reports and Reports by Representatives to Organizations.

Nominating committee clerk, Dan Vaughen spoke of the many vacancies that must be filled. Those present were encouraged to seek to their respective monthly meeting members who may have the gifts and leading to serve the wider Quaker community. The Worship and Ministry committee will explore ways to increase the dialog among Worship & Ministry clerks.

Annie McPherson, Representative to AFSC-SERO, gave a comprehensive and insightful report on SERO's reorganization, disaster relief, and program developing efforts.

Arising from other reports and concerns, the following minutes were approved in unity.

06IBM01 The Winter IBM recommends that hours of the Administrative Secretary be increased to forty (40) per week. This is in consideration of the need to manage the web site and other demands.

06IBM02 Given current restrictions on providing funds to help Cuba Yearly Meeting the Winter IBM recommends the Cuban Quaker Project be laid down.

The Cuban Quaker Project has succeeded in facilitating church reconstruction and in building relationships among Friends. The seeds for the Havana Peace Mission have been planted and there is a viable Quaker presence there. This has been a Spirit led effort and individual monthly meetings and worship groups are encouraged to discern how the Spirit leads them to further visit Quakers in Cuba.

We thank all who have been part of the Cuban Quaker Project committee and all those who have participated in these efforts.

063IBM03 Upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Winter IBM reappoints Herb Haigh to the FGC General Board for a three year term beginning April 2006.

06IBM04 The Winter Business Meeting of SEYM offers appreciation to Orlando MM for cheerfully and graciously opening its doors to us, once again. We are also grateful for the assistance of Winter Park Meeting. It is no small task to host a group of this size over an intensely active period of 2 ½ days. We are thankful for the wonderful, nutritious food, for the organizing demonstrated that allows things to run smoothly, and for the warmth and Friendship that surround us.

—Ed Lesnick, Recording Secretary

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives Committee

Archives Committee is in contact with Tom Hobbs concerning papers of the former Augusta Monthly Meeting. He will send them to us. We are also starting to make hard copies of recent SEYM records onto acid-free paper for our collection.

—Bill Rapp, Clerk

Cuban Quaker Project

Please see WIBM Minute **06IBM02** Given current restrictions on providing funds to help Cuba Yearly Meeting the Winter IBM recommends the Cuban Quaker Project be laid down.

Faith & Practice Committee

2/1/06

Dear Friends,

At the 2006 Yearly Meeting annual sessions, the Faith & Practice committee plans to present a 3rd draft of “The Monthly Meeting”, “The Meeting for Worship” and “Establishing New Friends Meetings” for first reading and possible approval before the YM. In addition, the Faith & Practice Committee will be holding 2 threshing sessions on Thurs. evening and Sat. afternoon to consider the 2nd draft of “Blessed Community” and the 2nd draft of “Concerns, Leadings & Testimonies”. Please reserve time to attend these sessions. It would be most helpful if a representative from each of the meetings is asked to attend these threshing sessions.

Draft 3 of “The Monthly Meeting”, “The Meeting for Worship” and “Establishing New Friends Meetings” are not included in this DIA as their revisions will not be complete until 3/1/06, long after the print date for the DIAs. We ask each of you to go to the SEYM website, www.seym.org and download those drafts and look them over before YM. If you have any concerns about the text please email me at phoebea@comcast.net or call me at 850-926-8301 with your comments. By 3/15/06, Draft 2 of “Blessed Community” and “Concerns, Leadings & Testimonies” will be available for downloading from the SEYM website. This version will be threshed during YM annual sessions.

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 two-thirds 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 2 or 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 two or 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 Faith & Practice Committee at 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 Interim Business committee meeting. We invite you all to come and bring your measure of the Light to add to the committee's discernment.

Respectfully submitted,

Phoebe Andersen, clerk, Faith & Practice Committee

Finance Committee

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Finance Committee Report

For Gathering 2006
Reported January 30, 2006

This report summarizes the final results for last fiscal year, the projection for the current fiscal year, and the proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

Summary Results of last year (FY 2004-2005)

The General Fund broke even (net income \$26) in spite of two large, unbudgeted expenditures: \$1111 for insurance and \$1997 to cover the Gathering 2004 shortfall. The positive outcome is thanks to some generous individual donors near the end of the year. Also, all monthly meetings and almost all of the other groups contributed, for a total of almost 99% of the meeting contribution budget!

Half Yearly Meeting 2004 produced a surplus which paid \$400 for the site deposit for HYM 2005 and contributed \$392 to the General Fund. Michener Lecture 2005 broke even (net income \$32).

Outlook for this year (FY 2005-2006)

The current SEYM financial status is discussed in the treasurer's report.

Projecting the rest of this year: the YM should about break even, provided that meeting contributions continue to come in before the end of the fiscal year, May 31. To date, 11 of 15 monthly meetings have contributed and most of those have contributed at least half of their apportionment. Of the five worship groups and one preparative meeting, two have contributed something.

We expect that expenses will come in below budget, barring unforeseen circumstances. Regrettably, we will be unable to spend the \$2000 budgeted for the Havana Peace Coordinator this year because we can no longer send money to Cuba.

The YM General Fund started this year with a little over \$17,500 in reserves. If we break even, we will end the year with about the same. If so, the General Fund reserves will be a little over 1/4 of the proposed expense budget for next year. In other words, the reserve would cover YM expenses for about 3 months next year. This is an adequate reserve, provided that the meetings continue to make regular contributions.

Budget for next year (FY 2006-2007)

A copy of the proposed budget follows this report. It will be brought up for approval at the Gathering. Points of interest are:

- Most of the lines are unchanged.

- A 3% cost-of-living increase for the secretary on an hourly basis.
- Increasing the secretary's hours from 30 to 40 per week. This increase was approved at the Winter Interim Business Meeting and will be brought to the Gathering for approval.
- Increases in the income from the Trustees' Secretary's Salary Fund and Outreach Travel Fund, based on the current value in the funds.
- Increases in expense lines for office equipment and software. We need to be prepared to replace the SEYM computer and upgrade software when necessary.
- Removal of the expense lines for the Cuban Quaker Project committee and the donation to Cuba Yearly Meeting for the Havana Peace Coordinator. This committee is expected to be laid down, as approved by the Winter Interim Business Meeting, pending approval by the Yearly Meeting.
- A reduction in the budget for the Worship and Ministry Committee. The reduction brings it in line with other committee budgets. Since the committee currently has no clerk, it is not known what its needs will be.
- Treating the triennial travel reserve as a separate fund. This change enables us to keep track of the money set aside for triennial travel from the General Fund every year, while also keeping track of the actual use of the money in the years when the travel occurs.
- In order to balance the budget, with the above changes, the line items for both individual donations and meeting contributions are increased by 13 to 14%.

Apportionments for Next Year

The apportionment for next fiscal year will be calculated when the YM directory is published after the Gathering. The effect of the budget on each meeting's apportionment will depend on the total YM population as well as the population of the meeting.

If the proposed budget is approved and if the YM population has changed by no more than 5% from last year, the meeting apportionments will increase by an average of between 13.1% and 14.5%. The change in your meeting's apportionment would depend on the change in its population relative to the change in the total YM population.

Making an increase in contributions will be more difficult for some meetings than for others. As always, apportionments are only a guideline and each meeting must determine what it can and should contribute.

One meeting has said that it will not be able to increase its contribution. But other people at Winter IBM said that they thought their meetings could. If one or a small number of meetings is unable or unwilling to meet their full apportionment, that may not be a problem, since others may contribute more than their apportionment. That is how we reached almost 99% of our meeting contribution budget in last fiscal year.

Please carefully consider this budget with your meeting. If no one from your meeting can attend the Gathering, please send comments or concerns to the finance committee in advance of the Gathering.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting General Fund Budget

Categories	Budget 03-04	Actual 03-04	Budget 04-05	Actual 04-05	Budget 05-06	Budget 06-07 proposed	% change from 05-06
Income							
Real Income to General Fund							
2002 Individual Donations	\$ 8,559	\$ 2,636	\$ 7,895	\$ 6,514	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,825	13.0%
2203 Interest-Investments/Sa	\$ 150	\$ 92	\$ 150	\$ 109	\$ 80	\$ 120	50.0%
2003 Meeting & Worship grou	\$ 42,153	\$ 38,182	\$ 43,840	\$ 43,299	\$ 50,276	\$ 57,217	13.8%
2300 Miscellaneous		\$ 823		\$ 351			
Subtotal	\$ 50,862	\$ 41,733	\$ 51,885	\$ 50,274	\$ 52,856	\$ 60,162	13.8%
Transfers from other accounts							
2820 Secretary's Fund (from	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,590	\$ 4,132	\$ 4,185	\$ 4,290	\$ 5,390	25.6%
2815 Outreach Travel (from Trustees Funds)				\$ 942	\$ 1,870	\$ 1,980	5.9%
2871 Interest-Mortgage (from	\$ 511	\$ 411	\$ 128	\$ 147	\$ 75	\$ -	-100.0%
2712 From Michener Lecture for admin			\$ -		\$ 100	\$ 100	0.0%
2732 From Gathering for admin			\$ -		\$ 700	\$ 700	0.0%
2752 From HYM for admin		\$ 10	\$ -	\$ 392	\$ 365	\$ 365	0.0%
Subtotal	\$ 4,111	\$ 4,011	\$ 4,260	\$ 5,666	\$ 7,400	\$ 8,535	15.3%
Total Income	\$ 54,973	\$ 45,744	\$ 56,145	\$ 55,940	\$ 60,256	\$ 68,697	14.0%
Expenditures							
Administration							
3001 Bank Charges	\$ 25	\$ 32	\$ 25	\$ 19	\$ 40	\$ 40	0.0%
3002 Credit Card Processing Fees				\$ 2	\$ 24	\$ 10	-59.0%
8500 Contingency	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 500		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	0.0%
3080 Duplication	\$ 3,400	\$ 4,028	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,507	\$ 4,600	\$ 4,600	0.0%
3400 Office Equipement			\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 400	33.3%
3146 Fee for Non-Profit Corp	\$ 65	\$ 96	\$ 65	\$ 61	\$ 65	\$ 62	-4.6%
3106 Liability Insurance				\$ 1,111	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,550	0.0%
3200 Office Supplies	\$ 400	\$ 475	\$ 500	\$ 445	\$ 510	\$ 510	0.0%
3381 Post Office Box Rental	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 50		\$ 50	\$ 50	0.0%
3380 Postage	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,187	\$ 1,600	\$ 791	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600	0.0%
3500 Professional Svcs	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,196	\$ 500	\$ 334	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.0%
3270 Secretary Salary/Payroll	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,750	\$ 25,750	\$ 26,523	\$ 36,423	37.3%
3270 Secretary Benefits/Payroll inactive							
3270 Secretary Employer Tax	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,913	\$ 1,970	\$ 1,970	\$ 2,029	\$ 2,786	37.3%
3640 Office Rent/ Rental Unit	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	0.0%
3816 Software		\$ 445	\$ 150	\$ 95	\$ 350	\$ 500	42.9%
3700 Repairs		\$ 160	\$ 100		\$ 250	\$ 250	0.0%
3900 Website	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 119	\$ 300	\$ 300	0.0%
3840 Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,060	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,059	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	0.0%
3860 Secretary Travel/Travel	\$ 1,000	\$ 883	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,169	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,050	0.0%
Subtotal	\$ 37,138	\$ 37,824	\$ 39,460	\$ 37,930	\$ 43,041	\$ 53,932	25.3%
Committees							
4309 Archivist	\$ 50	\$ 34	\$ 50		\$ 50	\$ 50	0.0%
4339 Faith & Practice	\$ 300	\$ 286	\$ 300		\$ 300	\$ 300	0.0%
4349 Finance	\$ 200	\$ 107	\$ 50		\$ 100	\$ 100	0.0%
4329 Executive Committee	\$ 200		\$ 100	\$ 96	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.0%
4359 Nominating	\$ 50		\$ 50		\$ 50	\$ 50	0.0%
4369 Peace & Social Concerr	\$ 300	\$ 100	\$ 150	\$ 100	\$ 150	\$ 150	0.0%
none ProNica (moved to dona		see donations					
4065 Publications inactive							
4379 Religious Education	\$ 200		\$ 50	\$ 50	inactive	inactive	
4399 Worship & Ministry	\$ 150		\$ 150	\$ 350	\$ 500	\$ 100	-80.0%
4389 Youth Committee	\$ 750		\$ 50		\$ 50	\$ 50	0.0%
4319 Cuban Quaker Project	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 50		\$ 50	lay down	-100.0%
Subtotal	\$ 4,200	\$ 2,526	\$ 1,000	\$ 596	\$ 1,350	\$ 900	-33.3%

	Budget 03-04	Actual 03-04	Budget 04-05	Actual 04-05	Budget 05-06	Budget 06-07 proposed	% change
Donations to Organizations							
5007 AFSC	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.0%
5008 AFSC-SERO	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.0%
5017 Cuba YM-Havana Peace	see cmtes	see cmtes	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	discontinue	-100.0%
5018 Earlham School of Relig	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.0%
5027 FCNL	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	0.0%
5028 QEW	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	0.0%
5037 FGC	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	0.0%
5038 FL Coal for P & J	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	0.0%
5047 FL Council of Churches	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 300	\$ 200	\$ 200	0.0%
5048 Florida Impact	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	0.0%
5057 Friends Journal	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.0%
5058 Friends Peace Teams	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ 250	0.0%
5067 FUM	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	0.0%
5068 FWCC	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,380	\$ 1,380	0.0%
5078 ProNica	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.0%
5077 Pendle Hill	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.0%
5087 Quaker Life	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.0%
5097 William Penn House	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.0%
5098 SIPAZ	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Subtotal	\$ 9,635	\$ 9,285	\$ 11,535	\$ 11,885	\$ 11,715	\$ 9,715	-17.1%
Representative Travel							
8160 Annual	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,226	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100	0.0%
8260 Triennial	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,050	See 9060			
Subtotal	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,226	\$ 3,150	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100	0.0%
Subtotal actual expenses	\$ 53,973	\$ 52,861	\$ 55,145	\$ 51,616	\$ 58,206	\$ 66,647	14.5%
Transfer out to other classes							
9005 Youth at YM Gathering	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	0.0%
9060 for Triennial travel reserves				\$ 1,050	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,050	0.0%
9300 To Trustees Funds		\$ 1,449		\$ 250			
9230 to Walton Lecture/Gathering				\$ 1,997			
Subtotal	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,449	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,297	\$ 2,050	\$ 2,050	0.0%
Total Income	\$ 54,973	\$ 45,744	\$ 56,145	\$ 55,940	\$ 60,256	\$ 68,697	14.0%
Total Expenses	\$ 54,973	\$ 55,310	\$ 56,145	\$ 55,914	\$ 60,256	\$ 68,697	14.0%
Net Income		\$ (9,566)	\$ 0	\$ 26	\$ -	\$ -	

TRIENNIAL TRAVEL RESERVE

Categories	Actual 03-04	Actual 04-05	Expected 05-06	Expected 06-07
Carryover from Previous Years	\$ 1,899	\$ 899	\$ 1,949	\$ 1,260
Income				
2801 Transfer from General Fund	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,050
Total available for year	\$ 2,899	\$ 1,949	\$ 2,999	\$ 2,310
Expenses				
8260 Triennial Travel	\$ 2,000		\$ 400	\$ -
8360 Other Travel			\$ 1,339	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 1,739	\$ -
Net Income	\$ (1,000)	\$ 1,050	\$ (689)	\$ 1,050
Carryover to Next Year	\$ 899	\$ 1,949	\$ 1,260	\$ 2,310

Notes: \$1339 "Other Travel" in 05-06 has been spent for two Friends' travel to FWCC Youth Gathering.

The next FWCC triennial is in 2007 in Dublin. The next FUM triennial is in 2008.

Half Yearly Meeting (HYM)

Registrar Karyn Begin writes:

HYM was a great success... Mike Wilson officially stepped down as Clerk at the close of HYM. At the end of Meeting for Business no one had taken on that position. I advised that next year was to be my last as Registrar. No bites. Kurt Guenther is remaining in his role as food / kitchen coordinator. Possibly the most important role at HYM and he/ it was a resounding success. The food was great! We had 69 attendees: Wed.— 8 (the prep crew); Thurs.— 47; Fri.—60; Sat.—38. Nineteen were from Miami Meeting, YEAH! We need to talk this thing up in the Monthly Meetings next year. It can be done.... I know that it worked at the Miami Meeting.

THANKS! To one and all who made this work!!!!!!

Note: the HYM Committee has reserved and paid the deposit to Wekiva Springs State Park for HYM November 22, 23, 24 and 25th, 2006, and approved the use of the \$267.50 overage to go toward providing a user-friendly Statement for on-line registrants. Approving this expense now, assists the development for YM Gathering on-line statement.

HYM Financial Report:

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Income/Expense - Half Yearly Meeting
June 1, 2005 through February 5, 2006**

	Jun 1, '05 - Feb 5, '06
Income	
2000 · Income	
2400 · Program Registrations	3,724.41
Total 2000 · Income	3,724.41
Total Income	3,724.41
Gross Profit	3,724.41
Expense	
2999 · Expenses	
3000 · Administrative	
3080 · Duplication	55.50
3500 · Professional Fees	
3556 · Web consult/CGI script	112.50
Total 3500 · Professional Fees	112.50
Total 3000 · Administrative	168.00
7000 · Program Expense	
7138 · Food purchases	1,423.91
7500 · Site Fees (Food & Lodging)	
7533 · Site Deposits	400.00
7534 · Site Fees-food/lodging	1,100.00
Total 7500 · Site Fees (Food & Lodging)	1,500.00
Total 7000 · Program Expense	2,923.91
Total 2999 · Expenses	3,091.91
9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes	
9002 · to GF for insurance	365.00
Total 9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes	365.00
Total Expense	3,456.91
Net Income	267.50

IT/website Committee (Information Technology)

No advance report from members of the committee.

SEYM Secretary Lyn Cope writes:

It has become increasingly clear that as technology has grown exponentially, Friends and seekers rely on the web and email for contact, information, and to lessen their incoming paper loads! Maintaining the SEYM website has become more than a hobby and has seemingly grown beyond the scope of volunteers attempting to work together to upload files without breaking links, or unintentionally destroying someone else's work.

Website Committee Clerk Mike Flanery purchased the <seym.org> address in October 1999, donating the address and his labors in setting the site up. I was hired in November 2000 and Mike and I worked together that first year. His dream was complex. His view included all manner of web-based services, some accomplished—others such as live blogs and a weekly paper have fallen by the way-side. In fact, my view of the SEYM site has become that it is our personal library, and that it is my job, as 'Reference Librarian', to provide you with access on an on-demand basis! Unfortunately my dreams, like Mike's, require a dedicated amount of time—more than I can donate as a volunteer (maintaining the website is not in my job description.) However, at the moment, I am in the process of setting up an additional pass-word protected site for Meetings that choose to participate. This may be particularly advantageous to meetings not presently having websites and/or to meetings without access to free hosting. Folding multiple sites into one seemed wise and frugal, and SEYM will provide this new service without additional cost to the meetings.

In summary, I see the SEYM website as fulfilling three very different needs:

- 1) **SEYM organizational needs:** calendar, current documents such as for Faith and Practice Committee and Finance Committee, lists of people, lists of publications, announcement of events, etc.—being our Library.
- 2) **Peace and Social Concerns:** current issues and insight imperative to us as a Yearly Meeting and to us as individuals. Mike Shell, volunteer, is continuing to do a superb job providing Peace and Social Concerns items of interest—our own cutting-edge news source.
- 3) **SEYM Meetings:** a complete listing of meetings and their data, an opportunity to let Seekers know we exist. Some meetings choose to use their websites as an intra-meeting communication tool.

Financing this site was approved in the YM 2005-2006 budget. This site is under development.

When queried by the Nominating Committee at the Fall Interim Business Meeting, it became increasingly clear that well-meaning volunteers do not have the time, talent, or inclination to provide the level of service needed. Hiring a professional would be excessively expensive. Since I developed websites prior to my employment with SEYM, and presently have managed the SEYM website for 5 years on an as-time-allows basis, I was asked if I would consider additional hours. I enthusiastically consented. This proposal was brought to Winter Interim Business Meeting and approved to bring forward to Yearly Meeting. Needless to say, I am hopeful that SEYMers see themselves clear to approve this addition to my job description so that I may more fully meet your needs.

Thank you,



Lyn Cope 2/1/2006

Nominating Committee Report

Friends are reminded that the work of the Yearly Meeting is dependent upon volunteers, without whom important work will languish. Friends are accordingly encouraged to gift themselves with an opportunity for personal service, and the Yearly Meeting with their energy and Light, in order that the Yearly Meeting may do its part in building the Peaceable Kingdom on earth. Please notify any one of the members of the nominating committee listed below of your specific interest in service to the Yearly Meeting, or suggest to any member of the committee a person who might not be aware of how his or her gifts could benefit the Yearly Meeting.

WIBM suggested we remind Meeting Clerks that each Meeting should send a minimum of two representatives to interim business meetings and to YM.

Here is what I have, so far:

Archives Committee is requesting the addition to their committee of someone who can visit archive locations and bring back evaluative reports.

No nominations for **Cuban Quaker Project** because of the committee's recommendation that it be laid down.

Add Barbara French and Connie Ray to **Faith & Practice**, to replace Gay Howard and Jan Dahm, and extend Cathy Gaskill until 2009.

Caroline Lanker has agreed to extend for one more year on **Finance Committee**, and has asked for the appointment of an understudy.

We need a **Clerk for Half Yearly Meeting**, and more help would be welcome.

We need another member on **Nominating Committee**.

Herb Haigh has agreed to extend for another 3 year term on **Pro Nica's Board**.

We need a **Clerk for Worship and Ministry**. Wendy Clarissa Geiger has agreed to extend her service on that committee for another three year term. Jeannie Buskirk, from Gainesville, should be added to that committee.

We need a clerk and a registrar for **YM Gathering Committee**, 2007.

We need another **representative to AFSC-SERO**.

Add Mary Jo Klingel as a representative to **Quaker Earth Witness**.

Add Liz Kamphausen to replace Ellie Caldwell as representative to **FGC Central Committee**.

We have up to five slots to fill for representatives to **FUM General Board**.

Add Ellie Caldwell to **FWCC**.

We need a representative to the **Florida Council of Churches**, which generally meets in Orlando.

Add Kody Hersh as a representative to **FLGBTQC**.

We need another **Trustee**.

Peace,

Dan Vaughn, P.O. Box 364, DeLand, FL 32721-0364.

Voice: 386-734-8914; Cell: 386-490-2216; email: dvaughen@earthlink.net

OFFICERS

Yearly Meeting Clerk	Susan Taylor (Tallahassee)	2008
Assistant Clerk	Sybil Brennan (Gainesville)	2008
Interim Business Meeting Clerk	Nancy Fennell (Ft. Myers)	2008
Recording Clerk	Ed Lesnick (Orlando)	2006
Treasurer	Neil Andersen (Tallahassee)	2008
Membership & Data Recorder	Phoebe Andersen (Tallahassee)	2007
Trustees	Herb Haigh, clerk (St. Pete)	2007
	Cathy Gaskill (Winter Park)	2008
	Mimi McAdoo (Sarasota)	2007
	Carl Hersh (Miami)	2008
	Al Webber (Ft. Myers)	2006
		2009
	Treasurer (ex-officio)	
Young Friends Clerks:	Annie Schmalstig (Orlando)	2006
	Alan Schmalstig (Orlando)	2006
	Elizabeth Croce (DeLand)	2006
Young Friends Recording Clerk:	Daniel Doan (Tallahassee)	2006

COMMITTEES**Archives**

Cathy Gaskill (Winter Park)	2007	Mary Jo Klingel (Ft. Laude))	2007
Bill Rapp (Lake Wales)	2007	Fern Mayo (Sarasota)	2008
	2009		2008

Faith & Practice

Phoebe Andersen, Clerk (Talla)	2007
Jim Westin (Sarasota)	2008
Cathy Gaskill (Winter Park)	2006
Vickie Carlie (Orlando)	2007
Beverly Bird (Halifax)	2007
Barbara French	2009
Connie Ray	2009

Finance

Caroline Lanker, Clerk (Tampa)	2007
YM Treasurer (ex officio)	
YM Secretary (ex officio)	
Clerk of Trustees (ex officio)	
Asst. Clerk (ex-officio)	

Half Yearly Meeting

_____, clerk	2009
Karyn Begins, registrar (Miami)	2007
Andrea Walsh, asst.reg.(Tampa)	2009
Kurt Guenther (Jacksonville)	
Elaine Martin (Jacksonville)	
Richard McCleery (Halifax)	
Kathy Hersh (Miami)	

Nominating

Dan Vaughen, Clerk (DeLand)	2008
Laura Winefordner (Gainesville)	2008

Peace and Social Concerns

Cecilia Yocum, Clerk Tampa)	2008
Al Geiger (Jacksonville)	2007
Shawna Doran (St Pete)	2007
Steve Kinney (Tampa)	2008
Becky Steele (St. Pete) Rep. CFA*	2008
* Coalition for Fair Adoption	

ProNica Committee Board

Al Webber (Ft. Myers)	2007
Barbara Wolfe (Tampa)	2008
Herb Haigh (St. Petersburg)	2009

Website & Information Technology

Michael Flanery, Clerk (Clearwater)	2006
Caroline Lanker (Tampa)	2007
Warren Hoskins (Miami)	2007
David Robinson (Space Coast) IT	2008
Andrew Jason (Miami)	2008
Mike Shell (Jacksonville)	2008
YM Secretary (ex-officio)	

Worship & Ministry

_____, clerk	2007
Ruth Dickinson (Palm Beach)	2006
Fern Mayo (Sarasota)	2007
George Newkirk (Gainesville/Ocala)	2007
Fran Palmeri (Sarasota)	2007
Petra Doan (Tallahassee)	2007
Wendy Geiger (Jacksonville)	2009
Jeannie Buskirk, (Gainesville)	2009

Yearly Meeting Gathering

_____	, clerk	2009
_____	, Registrar	2009
Jack Bradin	(Palm Beach)	2007
Becky Steele	(St. Petersburg)	2006
Judy Schmalstig	(Orlando) Volunteers	2007
Warren Hoskins	(Miami)	2007
Kathy Hersh	, Youth Coord. (Miami)	2007
Ellie Caldwell	(Palm Bch)	2007
Gary Arthur	(Palm Bch)	2008
Eileen Zingaro	(Clearwater)	2008
Andrea Walsh	(Tampa)	2009

Youth Committee

Kathy Hersh	, Clerk (Miami)	2007
Javier del Sol	(Palm Beach)	2008

Meeting for Sufferings

Inactive

Publications & Newsletter

Inactive

Religious Education

Inactive

Florida Impact

Inactive

Friends World Com. For Consultation

Fern Mayo	(Sarasota)	2007
Ellie Caldwell		2009

Florida Council of Churches

Richard McCleery	(Halifax)	2007
_____		2009

FLGBTQC**

Kody Hersh	(Miami)	2007
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Quaker UN Office

Laura & Jim Winefordner	(G'ville)	2007
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Friends Peace Team

Cecelia Yocum	(Tampa)	2007
Dave Bechtel	(Sarasota)	2007

**Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer Concerns

REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS**Amer. Friends Service Com. Corp/ Nat'l**

Petra Doan	, Board (Tallahassee)	2006
David Robinson	(Space Coast)	2008

Amer. Friends Service Com./SE Region

Annie McPherson	(G'Ville)	2008
_____		2009

Friends Com Nat'l Legislation**/Wm. Penn House**

Lou Putney	(Tampa)	2008
Dana Putney	(Tampa)	2006
Don Smith	(Gainesville)	2007
Jack Bradin	(Palm Beach)	2007
Dave Bechtel	(Sarasota)	2007

Quaker Earth Witness

Jack Bradin	(Palm Beach)	2007
Mary Jo Klingel		2009

Friends General Conference Central Com

Herb Haigh	(St. Pete)	2007
Tom Fennell	(Ft. Myers)	2008
Liz Kamphausen	(Tallahassee)	2009

Friends United Mtg General Board/ Commissions

Tor Bejnar	(Tallahassee)	2007
Phoebe Andersen	(Tallahassee)	2008
_____		2009
_____		2009
_____		2009

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

At our next Peace and Social Concerns Committee Thursday afternoon, 1PM, at YM we'll be taking up the topic of *"Strategies and Tactics in Friendly Peacemaking."* We'll talk about how our historic peace testimony is informing us as well as what is working and the difficulties we are encountering. Please consider this topic ahead of time and come with your ideas or send your ideas to ceceyocum@aol.com

Meeting Clerks, please send someone from your MM or WG, either from your own P&SC or similarly interested. All are welcome.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Theme:

Peace and Social Concerns invites you to come to an interest group, Saturday afternoon, 4PM on *"Nurturing ourselves as we witness our truth"*

Please bring your ideas and ideas from your MM or WG to share. Below are some examples that were shared at our October P&SC committee.

Self nurturing practices:

1. Deep Ecology (PBMM) for last 1 + years meets 1-2 times per month in evening
2. Light Meditation (Tampa) UCC, one evening a week for past 1- 2 years, afterwards journaling, drawing, reflecting, short discussion involving 5 10 people,
3. Cecilia from Tampa MMclearness committee for peace team work, use of spiritual companion when traveling to give talks, reading inspiring books, two little handmade books she takes with her that have photos of people who are there for her at low points (books serve as an anchor).
4. Worship sharing group each week for the past eight years. Personal spiritual topics with topic picked the week before, each person talks for 10-20 minutes, once a month check in, not a psychology group, shared leadership, one person's home, six people, most participate in meeting, closed meeting.
- 5 St Petersburg MM—Wed night worship
6. Space Coast MM—book group

If you can't make it, please send your ideas to [<ceceyocum@aol.com>](mailto:ceceyocum@aol.com)

Peace and Social Concerns would like YM to consider action we might take as a YM related to the war in Iraq. We are aware that many MMs , WGs and individual Friends have been active (visit the Southeastern Yearly Meeting's website, [<http://www.seym.org.>](http://www.seym.org) for Peace & Social Concerns and click on peace sign, but we would also like YM to consider some action.

One potential action is to endorse the STEP resolution endorsed by FCNL and many other groups. It is printed below but please also visit the FCNL website for more info. www.fcnl.org/iraq/

Please review the resolution prior to YM.

Iraq STEP Resolution: Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace

Whereas President George W. Bush stated on April 13, 2004 that "as a proud and independent people, Iraqis do not support an indefinite occupation and neither does America" and that the U.S. will remain in Iraq "as long as necessary and not one day more";

Whereas Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld assured the Senate Armed Services Committee on February 17, 2005, that "we have no intention, at the present time, of putting permanent bases in Iraq";

Whereas the Wall Street Journal reported in February 2005 that 60% of the people in the United States think that the Bush administration should set a public or private timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq;

Whereas former Secretary of State James Baker, former Pentagon official Anthony Cordesman, the International Crisis Group, and other respected leaders and analysts have said that it is critical that the U.S. government declare now its intention to fully withdraw from Iraq;

Whereas political parties opposed to the ongoing U.S. military presence won the overwhelming majority of votes in Iraq's January 2005 election and a clear majority of voters interviewed in exit polls cited their desire to see an end to the military occupation as a major impetus for voting;

Whereas the perception that the U.S. intends to permanently occupy Iraq aids insurgent groups in recruiting supporters and fuels violent activity;

Whereas many insurgent groups have expressed a willingness to engage in political dialogue if the U.S. clearly states its intention to withdraw from Iraq;

Whereas we can best honor the lives and memories of all who have died in Iraq by expediting the end of the war, bringing U.S. troops home as quickly as possible, and supporting the Iraqi people in rebuilding their country;

Whereas a clear statement of intent to fully withdraw U.S. troops and bases does not imply the setting of a particular deadline, time frame, or exit strategy;

Whereas such a statement would send a strong signal to the people of Iraq and the international community that the United States does not have imperial intentions in Iraq and affirms that the Iraqi people will regain through their elected representatives the full exercise of national sovereignty, including control over security and public safety;

Therefore, be it resolved that this congregation/meeting/organization holds in our prayers the people of Iraq, the U.S. troops and international troops and humanitarian workers in Iraq, the leaders of Iraq and the United States, and all others affected by this war;

Be it also resolved that this congregation/meeting/organization calls on the United States Congress to adopt a sense of the Congress resolution declaring: "It is the policy of the United States to withdraw all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq";

Be it also resolved that this congregation/meeting/organization will present a copy of this resolution to the members of Congress who represent the district in which the congregation is based;

And be it also resolved that this congregation/meeting/organization will send a copy of this resolution to the local media.

245 Second Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002 * (202) 547-6000 * (800) 630-1330 * www.fcnl.org

Would you be interested in going to Washington, DC, to lobby as a group from SEYM? FCNL can help arrange that for us and help us find places to stay at Penn House, etc with enough notice. They can give us hints on lobbying and help us set up meetings with our congress people. If you are interested, contact someone with SEYM Peace and Social Concerns committee and we'll see what we can do.

Are you registered to vote? P&SC committee member Al Geiger reminded us at the last committee meeting on the importance of voting. FCNL has also reminded us that not all Friends are registered to vote.

—Cecilia Yocum, P&SC clerk

ProNica Report

Davida Johns, Stateside Coordinator writes:

The stateside office is getting organized. We're moving desks, updating computer and paper filing systems and creating newsletters in-house. If you'd like to be included in our updated mailing list and receive your very own ProNica newsletter four times a year, let us know.

In January Eckerd College sends a delegation to Nicaragua. Last year EC students were full of energy and enthusiasm after learning about Nicaragua's history and culture and visiting several ProNica projects. Wanting to perform a service project, they painted a library and preschool. This year four Nicaraguans, a teacher and three students, will join the EC delegation for true cross-cultural interaction. And they will probably paint newly constructed wall and buildings in La Chureca where the Los Quinchos feed children who live in the Managua city dump. Are there colleges in your area that might be interested in such an international educational/service project? Put us in touch.

The Summer 2005 Friends Witness trip was full with a family of four, a college student and me, the new Stateside Coordinator. In addition to some really neat touristy things – the 5th Annual Achuapa International Music and Solidarity Festival and an afternoon swim at a volcanic crater lake – we visited six ProNica project partners. The family brought medical supplies for the Auchualinca Women's clinic and sports equipment to the boys' soccer teams at the Los Quinchos farm in San Marcos. Our visit to the city dump was heart-wrenching, but was balanced by the hopeful, smiling faces of the women awaiting their high-risk births at the Casa Materna in Matagalpa. There's something uplifting about a roomful of very pregnant women resting and rocking the afternoon away. 2006 witness trip planning is underway. If you have ideas and wish to join us, please contact the ProNica office at 727.821.2428 or pronica@verizon.net.

Worship and Ministry/Religious Education/Michener Lecture Committee Report

“A Friends’ meeting, however silent, is at the very lowest a witness that worship is something other and deeper than words, and that it is to the unseen and eternal things that we desire to give the first place in our lives. And when the meeting, whether silent or not, is awake, and looking upwards, there is much more in it than this. In the united stillness of the truly “gathered” meeting there is a power known only by experience, and mysterious even when most familiar. There are perhaps few things which more readily flow “from vessel to vessel” than quietness. The presence of fellow-worshippers in some gently penetrating manner reveals to the spirit something of the nearness of the Divine Presence...”

Caroline E. Stephen: Light arising, 1908

Dear Friends,

We warmly invite you to attend the Worship and Ministry Committee meeting on Thursday, 4/13 from 1:00-3:45 p.m. Place to be announced. We will be holding everyone and all Yearly Meeting sessions and activities in tenderness and are looking forward to participation in Ernie and Vince Buscemi's ministry, “Here I am, Lord”.

This is a time of reorganizing for the committee, as we seek a new committee clerk. We are grateful for the deeply spiritual gifts of ministry of our former clerk, Jan Dahm, and her leadership in traveling in the ministry. We celebrate her following her clear leading on her new path.

Our meeting at Winter Interim Business Meeting was gathered as we shared some of our personal journeys and concerns for our meetings. We would like to learn more about how to nurture newcomers (e.g. sessions like Quakerism 101) and how to remain in touch with one another both within our meetings

and when people move away. We often feel a deep missing for those who have moved on, either to another part of the country or through death. It is important to explore ways of support during those times. Retreats, both with the entire meeting and with women only have been very helpful. Intervisitation between meetings has also been important and we support the steps that are being taken by the Yearly Meeting to increase that. We ask that people in monthly meetings, the preparative meeting and worship groups take time to discern whether they are called to commit themselves to serving regularly on this committee, perhaps even as clerk. Please see Dan Vaughen, clerk of nominating committee, or other members of that committee if you are so led.

We are seeking ideas for a Michener lecturer for January, 2007. Please check the listing in the SEYM Directory of committee members, and give them your thoughts.

The morning worship by the lake at the Gathering has been an inspirational start to the day for many of us. We invite you to attend. Upon arrival, look for the sign up sheets for worship sharing near the registration desk and get your hair trimmed later on at Pam Haigh's worship shearing. The meeting for remembrance is always a healing time. Check your schedule for time and place.

In peace,

Susan Taylor

Convener of the committee during Winter Interim Business Meeting

Please see the following page for a financial report of the Michener Lecture.

Notes:

Michener Lecture Financial Report

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Income/Expense - Mitchener Lecture

June 1, 2005 through February 5, 2006

	Jun 1, '05 - Feb 5, 06
Income	
2000 · Income	
2400 · Program Registrations	
2430 · Registration Fee	1,136.00
Total 2400 · Program Registrations	1,136.00
Total 2000 · Income	1,136.00
2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes	
2804 · from Trustee's Funds	
2810 · for Michener Lecture	741.55
Total 2804 · from Trustee's Funds	741.55
Total 2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes	741.55
Total Income	1,877.55
Gross Profit	1,877.55
Expense	
2999 · Expenses	
3000 · Administrative	
3080 · Duplication	186.37
3380 · Postage/Shipping	142.63
Total 3000 · Administrative	329.00
7000 · Program Expense	
7086 · Equipment Rental	101.18
7138 · Food purchases	132.73
7500 · Site Fees (Food & Lodging)	
7534 · Site Fees-food/lodging	
7600 · Food/lodging, Speaker	209.03
7616 · Scholarships-food/lodging	75.00
Total 7534 · Site Fees-food/lodging	284.03
Total 7500 · Site Fees (Food & Lodging)	284.03
7650 · Speaker Honorarium	500.00
7660 · Speaker travel	288.79
7805 · Youth Program Leader/childcare	10.00
7000 · Program Expense - Other	75.00
Total 7000 · Program Expense	1,391.73
Total 2999 · Expenses	1,720.73
9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes	
9002 · to GF for insurance	100.00
Total 9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes	100.00
Total Expense	1,820.73
Net Income	56.82

Yearly Meeting Gathering Committee

Report given Sunday morning plenary.

Youth Committee

Youth Committee Clerk/YM Youth Coordinator oversees all youth programs for YM and assists with intergenerational activities at HYM.

OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS**Membership Recorder/Database Manager Report 2/1/06**

Dear Meeting Clerks and Membership Recorders:

It is past time to update your Meeting's data in the SEYM database. We have received to date membership data from approximately one-half of the meetings. Please help your Yearly Meeting keep our membership records up to date and send me your membership data for the directory as soon as possible. I plan to have on the secretary's table a draft of the 2006-2007 directory for your review and any additions. We plan to publish the directory immediately after Yearly Meeting sessions and mail 2 copies to each MM, PM & WG. In addition, every officer/clerk and committee member of SEYM, meeting clerk/contacts and membership recorders will receive a copy of the directory. If you are not serving in the capacity of those Friends listed above and would like to receive a copy of the directory please let me know by email, phoebea@comcast.net or by writing your name on the back of the draft directory on the secretary's table during YM annual sessions.

Please update the information on the Meeting's clerks, and try to include the names of all of the following:

- Clerk
- Recording Clerk
- Treasurer
- All Committee Clerks
- RM & YM Representatives

In the membership data, please update the information and try to include all of the following:

- Mailing Address
- Membership Status - Attender (A)/Member (M)/Child (AC or MC)
/Sojourning (S)/ Dual Membership (D)
- Phone Number with Area Code
- Email Address
- Birth Date (Required for 18 yrs. & younger – ie., status is “AC” or “MC”
mm/dd/yy)
(Optional for Adults – just use month and day – ie. mm/dd)

Thank you for your efforts in updating this valuable information.

In the Light,
Phoebe Andersen, Membership Recorder/Database Manager

SEYM Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report consists of the following two tables:

1. A **Budget vs. Actual** summary for the SEYM General Fund for the first eight months of the current fiscal year (June 2005 through January 2006). Note that the budget column contains the pro-rated budget for the first 8 months, not the total budget for the year.

This report shows expenses (temporarily) way below income. Between now and the Gathering, SEYM will have some large expenses, including:

- Sending our donations to other organizations for the year.
- Printing and mailing the next newsletter
- Printing and mailing these Documents in Advance

2. An **income and expense report for all funds (General Fund, publications, Trustees funds and the special event and travel funds)** for the first eight months of the current fiscal year.

12:03 PM
02/02/06
Cash Basis

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Budget vs. Actual Summary
June 2005 through January 2006**

	Jun '05 - Jan 06	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
2000 · Income			
2001 · Donations			
2002 · Individual Donations	1,235.00	1,666.64	-431.64
2003 · Meeting Donations	32,077.84	33,517.36	-1,439.52
Total 2001 · Donations	33,312.84	35,184.00	-1,871.16
2200 · Investment Earnings			
2203 · Savings Account Interest	98.83	53.36	45.47
Total 2200 · Investment Earnings	98.83	53.36	45.47
Total 2000 · Income	33,411.67	35,237.36	-1,825.69
2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes			
2712 · Michener Lect. to GF/insurance	100.00	100.00	
2752 · HYM to GF/insurance	365.00	365.00	
2804 · from Trustee's Funds			
2815 · for Outreach Travel	1,880.98	1,870.00	10.98
2820 · for Secretary's Salary	4,955.33	4,290.00	665.33
Total 2804 · from Trustee's Funds	6,836.31	6,160.00	676.31
Total 2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes	7,301.31	6,625.00	676.31
Total Income	40,712.98	41,862.36	-1,149.38
Gross Profit	40,712.98	41,862.36	-1,149.38
Expense			
2999 · Expenses			
3000 · Administrative			
3080 · Duplication	766.88	2,468.00	-1,701.12
3100 · Insurance			
3106 · Liability Insurance	1,204.70	1,162.50	42.20
Total 3100 · Insurance	1,204.70	1,162.50	42.20
3200 · Office Supplies	255.03	340.00	-84.97
3270 · Payroll Expenses	16,655.38	19,034.64	-2,379.26
3380 · Postage/Shipping	425.23	1,066.64	-641.41
3381 · Post Office Box rental	48.00	50.00	-2.00
3400 · Office Equipment		200.00	-200.00
3500 · Professional Fees			
3500 · Professional Fees - Other		333.36	-333.36
Total 3500 · Professional Fees	0.00	333.36	-333.36

12:03 PM
02/02/06
Cash Basis

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Budget vs. Actual Summary
June 2005 through January 2006**

	<u>Jun '05 - Jan 06</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
3640 · Rent, Office	500.00	800.00	-300.00
3700 · Repairs			
3700 · Repairs - Other		166.64	-166.64
Total 3700 · Repairs		<u>166.64</u>	<u>-166.64</u>
3816 · Software		233.36	-233.36
3840 · Telephone & Inet access	312.20	733.36	-421.16
3860 · Travel Administrative	424.50	700.00	-275.50
3900 · Website	300.00	263.00	37.00
Total 3000 · Administrative	<u>20,891.92</u>	<u>27,551.50</u>	<u>-6,659.58</u>
4000 · Committee Operating Expenses			
4309 · Archives		33.36	-33.36
4319 · Cuban Quaker Project		33.36	-33.36
4329 · Executive		66.64	-66.64
4339 · Faith and Practice	49.95	200.00	-150.05
4349 · Finance		66.64	-66.64
4359 · Nominating		33.36	-33.36
4369 · Peace and Social Concerns		33.36	-33.36
4389 · Youth Committee		50.00	-50.00
4399 · Worship and Ministry		333.36	-333.36
Total 4000 · Committee Operating Expenses	<u>49.95</u>	<u>850.08</u>	<u>-800.13</u>
5000 · Donations to Organizations			
5078 · ProNica		2,000.00	-2,000.00
Total 5000 · Donations to Organizations		<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>-2,000.00</u>
8000 · Representative Travel			
8160 · Annual Representative	161.60	1,400.00	-1,238.40
Total 8000 · Representative Travel	<u>161.60</u>	<u>1,400.00</u>	<u>-1,238.40</u>
8500 · Contingency		666.64	-666.64
Total 2999 · Expenses	<u>21,103.47</u>	<u>32,468.22</u>	<u>-11,364.75</u>
9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes			
9060 · for Triennial Travel	1,050.00	1,050.00	
Total 9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes	<u>1,050.00</u>	<u>1,050.00</u>	
Total Expense	<u>22,153.47</u>	<u>33,518.22</u>	<u>-11,364.75</u>
Net Income	<u>18,559.51</u>	<u>8,344.14</u>	<u>10,215.37</u>

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Cash Basis

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Income/Expenses by Class

June 2005 through January 2006

	Gatherin...	General ...	Half Yea...	Michene...	Publicati...	Triennial...	Trustee'...	TOTAL
Income								
2000 · Income								
2001 · Donations								
2002 · Individual Donations		1,235.00						1,235.00
2003 · Meeting Donations		32,077.84						32,077.84
2006 · In-kind Donation								
2105 · Gathering Youth, to Trustees							35.00	35.00
2110 · Michener, to Trustees							700.00	700.00
2115 · Outreach Travel, to Trustees							130.00	130.00
2120 · Sec.'s Salary Fund, to Trustees							200.00	200.00
2125 · Unrestricted, to Trustees							200.00	200.00
Total 2001 · Donations		33,312.84					1,265.00	34,577.84
2200 · Investment Earnings								
2203 · Savings Account Interest		98.83						98.83
2205 · Dividends FFC Gathering Youth							243.67	243.67
2206 · Capital Gain(Loss) Gath. Youth							171.08	171.08
2210 · Dividends FFC Michener Fund							741.55	741.55
2211 · Capital Gain(Loss) Michener							285.43	285.43
2215 · Dividends FFC Outreach Travel							6,681.40	6,681.40
2216 · Capital Gain(Loss) Outreach Tra							1,080.40	1,080.40
2220 · Dividends-FFC Sec. Salary Fund							4,955.33	4,955.33
2221 · Capital Gain(Loss) Sec.'sSal Fd							3,233.61	3,233.61
2225 · Dividends FFC Unrestricted							1,432.17	1,432.17
2226 · Capital Gain(Loss) Unrestricted							939.83	939.83
2230 · Dividends FFC Walton Fund							1,907.36	1,907.36
2231 · Capital Gain(Loss) Walton							1,242.00	1,242.00
2250 · Interest FGC Meetinghouse Fund							400.00	400.00
2255 · Dividends, Domini Fund							208.91	208.91
2256 · Capital Gain(Loss) Domini							2,089.89	2,089.89
2273 · Interest Bartrum/Miami loan							650.00	650.00
Total 2200 · Investment Earnings		98.83					26,262.63	26,361.46
2306 · Miscellaneous Income		17.65						17.65
2400 · Program Registrations								
2430 · Registration Fee				1,136.00				1,136.00
2400 · Program Registrations - Other			3,724.41					3,724.41
Total 2400 · Program Registrations			3,724.41	1,136.00				4,860.41
2600 · Sales								
2680 · Publication Sales					3,102.10			3,102.10
Total 2600 · Sales					3,102.10			3,102.10
Total 2000 · Income		33,429.32	3,724.41	1,136.00	3,102.10		27,527.63	68,919.46
2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes								
2712 · Michener Lect. to GF/Insurance		100.00						100.00
2752 · HYM to GF/Insurance		365.00						365.00
2801 · transfer from General Fund						1,050.00		1,050.00
2804 · from Trustee's Funds								
2810 · for Michener Lecture				741.55				741.55
2815 · for Outreach Travel		1,880.98						1,880.98
2820 · for Secretary's Salary		4,955.33						4,955.33
2830 · for Walton Lecture/Gathering	1,907.36							1,907.36
Total 2804 · from Trustee's Funds	1,907.36	6,836.31		741.55				9,485.22
Total 2700 · Transfer in FROM other classes	1,907.36	7,301.31		741.55		1,050.00		11,000.22
Total Income	1,907.36	40,730.63	3,724.41	1,877.55	3,102.10	1,050.00	27,527.63	79,919.68
Gross Profit	1,907.36	40,730.63	3,724.41	1,877.55	3,102.10	1,050.00	27,527.63	79,919.68
Expense								
2999 · Expenses								
3000 · Administrative								
3001 · Bank Service Charges		3.00						3.00
3002 · PayPal service fee		1.03					3.20	4.23
3080 · Duplication		766.88	55.50	186.37				1,008.75
3100 · Insurance								
3106 · Liability Insurance		1,204.70						1,204.70
Total 3100 · Insurance		1,204.70						1,204.70
3200 · Office Supplies								
3200 · Office Supplies		306.97						306.97
3270 · Payroll Expenses								
3270 · Payroll Expenses		19,047.66						19,047.66
3380 · Postage/Shipping								
3380 · Postage/Shipping		439.61		142.63				582.24
3381 · Post Office Box rental								
3381 · Post Office Box rental		48.00						48.00

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Cash Basis

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Income/Expenses by Class
June 2005 through January 2006**

	Gatherin...	General ...	Half Yea...	Michene...	Publicatl...	Triennial...	Trustee'...	TOTAL
3500 · Professional Fees								
3526 · Accounting		97.00						97.00
3556 · Web consult/CGI script			112.50					112.50
Total 3500 · Professional Fees		97.00	112.50					209.50
3640 · Rent, Office		800.00						800.00
3840 · Telephone & Inet access		613.89						613.89
3860 · Travel Administrative		494.71						494.71
3900 · Website		300.00						300.00
Total 3000 · Administrative		24,123.45	168.00	329.00			3.20	24,623.65
4000 · Committee Operating Expenses								
4309 · Archives		15.00						15.00
4339 · Faith and Practice		49.95						49.95
Total 4000 · Committee Operating Expenses		64.95						64.95
6000 · Production								
6080 · Printing, Publications					592.07			592.07
Total 6000 · Production					592.07			592.07
7000 · Program Expense								
7086 · Equipment Rental				101.18				101.18
7138 · Food purchases			1,423.91	132.73				1,556.64
7500 · Site Fees (Food & Lodging)								
7533 · Site Deposits	3,091.00		400.00					3,491.00
7534 · Site Fees-food/lodging								
7537 · Food, Dining Room		22.06						22.06
7600 · Food/lodging, Speaker				209.03				209.03
7616 · Scholarships-food/lodging				75.00				75.00
7534 · Site Fees-food/lodging - Other			1,100.00					1,100.00
Total 7534 · Site Fees-food/lodging		22.06	1,100.00	284.03				1,406.09
Total 7500 · Site Fees (Food & Lodging)	3,091.00	22.06	1,500.00	284.03				4,897.09
7650 · Speaker Honorarium				500.00				500.00
7660 · Speaker travel				288.79				288.79
7805 · Youth Program Leader/childcare				10.00				10.00
7000 · Program Expense - Other				75.00				75.00
Total 7000 · Program Expense	3,091.00	22.06	2,923.91	1,391.73				7,428.70
8000 · Representative Travel								
8160 · Annual Representative		161.60						161.60
8360 · Other Travel						1,339.00		1,339.00
Total 8000 · Representative Travel		161.60				1,339.00		1,500.60
2999 · Expenses - Other								
Total 2999 · Expenses	3,091.00	24,372.06	3,091.91	1,720.73	592.07	1,339.00	3.20	34,209.97
9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes								
9002 · to GF for insurance			365.00	100.00				465.00
9060 · for Triennial Travel		1,050.00						1,050.00
9210 · for Michener Lecture						741.55		741.55
9215 · for Outreach Travel						1,880.98		1,880.98
9220 · for Sec.'s Salary						4,955.33		4,955.33
9230 · for Walton Lecture/Gathering						1,907.36		1,907.36
Total 9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes		1,050.00	365.00	100.00		9,485.22		11,000.22
Total Expense	3,091.00	25,422.06	3,456.91	1,820.73	592.07	1,339.00	9,488.42	45,210.19
Net Income	-1,183.64	15,308.57	267.50	56.82	2,510.03	-289.00	18,039.21	34,709.49

Trustees Report

The Trustees have approved a loan to Gainesville Meeting to assist them in the building of their Meeting house. This loan will be extended prior to YM 2006.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Income/Expense - Trustees' Funds June 1, 2005 through February 5, 2006

	Jun 1, '05 - Feb 5, '06
Income	
2000 · Income	
2001 · Donations	
2105 · Gathering Youth, to Trustees	35.00
2110 · Michener, to Trustees	700.00
2115 · Outreach Travel, to Trustees	130.00
2120 · Sec.'s Salary Fund, to Trustees	200.00
2125 · Unrestricted, to Trustees	200.00
Total 2001 · Donations	1,265.00
2200 · Investment Earnings	
2205 · Dividends FFC Gathering Youth	243.67
2206 · Capital Gain(Loss) Gath. Youth	171.08
2210 · Dividends FFC Michener Fund	741.55
2211 · Capital Gain(Loss) Michener	285.43
2215 · Dividends FFC Outreach Travel	6,681.40
2216 · Capital Gain(Loss) Outreach Tra	1,080.40
2220 · Dividends-FFC Sec. Salary Fund	4,955.33
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2225 · Dividends FFC Unrestricted	1,432.17
2226 · Capital Gain(Loss) Unrestricted	939.83
2230 · Dividends FFC Walton Fund	1,907.36
2231 · Capital Gain(Loss) Walton	1,242.00
2250 · Interest FGC Meetinghouse Fund	400.00
2255 · Dividends, Domini Fund	208.91
2256 · Capital Gain(Loss) Domini	2,089.89
2273 · Interest Bartrum/Miami loan	650.00
Total 2200 · Investment Earnings	26,262.63
Total 2000 · Income	27,527.63
Total Income	27,527.63
Gross Profit	27,527.63
Expense	
2999 · Expenses	
3000 · Administrative	
3002 · PayPal service fee	3.20
Total 3000 · Administrative	3.20
Total 2999 · Expenses	3.20
9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes	
9210 · for Michener Lecture	741.55
9215 · for Outreach Travel	1,880.98
9220 · for Sec.'s Salary	4,955.33
9230 · for Walton Lecture/Gathering	1,907.36
Total 9000 · Transfer OUT TO other classes	9,485.22
Total Expense	9,488.42
Net Income	18,039.21

Secretary's Report to YM 2006

I am truly blessed to have a job that provides no end in variety of tasks to be performed! Each day brings a new and interesting challenge, seldom routine. The following descriptions of tasks includes excerpts from my report to EC 06/2005 and new activities. I have divided tasks into several different categories: **General Secretarial Duties, Finance, Publishing, Website, and New & Additional Activities.**

General Secretarial Duties

Daily tasks include but are not limited to:

- 1) Downloading and responding to email communication, etc. With new software that presorts out advertisements, the <admin@seym.org> address is receiving less spam.
- 2) Picking up snail-mail from P.O. Box, responding, filing.
- 3) Banking includes crediting checks properly in QBP, hard-copy check-book record keeping, physical trip to bank, filing papers, etc. It should be remembered that effectively SEYM has 12 virtual checking accounts: 1) Checking-General Fund; 2) Triennial Travel; 3) Sufferings (basically inactive); 4) Michener; 5) YM Gathering; 6) HYM; 7) Publications; and five Trustees accounts. The virtual banking accounts for the Trustees include their general account with three sub accounts, one each for FGC Meetinghouse Fund, Other Trustee cash, and for whichever meeting has borrowed the roving unsecured \$10,000 loan. Setting up QBP with these multiple virtual accounts provides separate and complete bookkeeping records for the entities involved, as well as includes their data automatically in SEYM bookkeeping records. While this data entry is time consuming, I think that ultimately the benefits outweigh the disadvantages as well as saving SEYM considerable money—our books are now clearly kept with reports being created that previously we paid an accountant to do (I do the bookkeeping; Neil does the Annual Report). Perhaps, I should also note having the SEYM secretary keep books for the Trustees, as well, is a duty that evolved as we set up QBP.
- 4) Processing publications orders: receive (email, snail-mail, phone), bill, prepare, fill, pack, ship and manage inventory making required trips to warehouse to pick up publications when orders exceed office supply.
- 5) Writing thank-you's for donations (General Fund individual and for Trustee Endowment Fund donations).
- 6) During conversations, being aware of the annual budget, and encouraging Friends to make donations to the General Fund and/or to the Trustee Endowment Funds that meet their individual needs and wishes to benefit the Yearly Meeting.
- 7) Phone calls, with the exception of crisis management, continue to decrease with the increase in email. This is welcome and allows me to better budget my time. My most frequent phone calls represent communications with EC members (Finance Committee) and trouble-shooting on behalf of Committees (most notably this and last year, the Gathering Committee). A significant number of long distance calls are placed from my personal lines at no cost to the Yearly Meeting, however, others (approximately \$25/month) use a long distance service which benefits FGC.
- 8) After completing the above tasks, I turn my attentions to publications layout/editing (seldom to filing as Caroline can attest) and office cleaning! Each trip to the printer is a 1.5+ hour trip—but this printer provides us great prices and good quality.
- 9) Ideally, I also attempt to read newsletters and Q. periodicals to remain informed and keep myself attuned to prospective newsletter items.

Other seasonal tasks include but are not limited to:

- 1) Preparation of **Documents in Advance** (DIAs) for all Yearly Meeting Business sessions: Fall Interim Business Meeting (FIBM), Winter Interim Business Meeting (WIBM) and Yearly Meeting. This includes collecting reports, and at times, having to edit incoming submitted notes. As a pattern, the FIBM DIA has been posted on the web only; the WIBM DIA is posted on the web and mailed to clerks and representatives; the YM DIA is bulk mailed to everyone listed in the Directory. We need to make a decision as a whole, at YM regarding if this is working. It is certainly time-efficient for Committee Clerks and Representatives who routinely provide documents late to have immediate access on the web. HOWEVER, a significant number of Friends who might attend may not be receiving the information UNLESS Meeting Clerks are announcing and posting the information that the DIAs are up on the web.
- 2) Barbara Wolfe and I worked closely last year when it fell to us to pull together **YM 2005** following the preceding summer's hurricanes. This year, we continue to work closely together, with several others pitching in notably: Caroline Lanker and Nancy Fennell. *Planning and running any annual Corporation Meeting is a big endeavor*—I greatly appreciate the Gathering Committee's labors and the Youth Program Workers and all other volunteers for providing all of us the opportunity to meet, greet, eat, and do business in our inimitable Quaker way.
- 3) Working with Karyn Begin, HYM Registrar is a delight. Together we create the **HYM flier** which is bulk mailed to everyone listed in the Directory. However, we need to do a better job promoting this **4th Gathering in SEYM**—the only Gathering devoted entirely to recreation (the other three being Meetings for Worship with attention to Business).

HYM paid the \$400.00 reservation fee for Wekiva State Park for HYM 2006 with earnings from HYM 2005! This is the second year that the SEYM General Fund has not been required to front HYM site-deposit money.

- 4) The secretary prepares and mails the **Michener Lecture flier** to everyone listed in the Directory. This year it fell to me to make other arrangements as well.
- 5) To accomplish **bulk mailings**, I rely on Membership Recorder/Database Manager, Phoebe Andersen, to email PDF addresses labels, sorting & bagging labels. Each bulk mailing requires a minimum of six hours to label, sort, and bag in preparation for posting. Phoebe also formats the data for our Directory and emails it to me in PDF format. After printing out the master pages and double checking format (check to see that nothing got lost in transmission), the Directories are printed and bulk mailed. Directory 2006-2007 will be compiled following YM 2006.
- 6) Maintain the **calendar** on the web and for inclusion in the Newsletter and remind Clerks (Meeting and Committee), Officers and Representatives to submit reports in a timely manner.
- 7) Submit the **Uniform Business Report** as required by State of Florida with officer updates, following Yearly Meeting. I now do this electronically.

Finances

Fiscal Year 2005-2006 is progressing nicely. FY 2005-2006 came in within budget thanks to several new donors and several very generous donors. Also for the first time in recent memory, all Monthly Meetings, with the exception of Augusta (*that laid itself down and donated the proceeds from the sale of their meetinghouse to the Outreach Travel Endowment Fund thereby providing an ongoing gift to SEYM*), met their apportionments last fiscal year.

QuickBooks Pro:

I continue to be very pleased with the record keeping that QBP provides. In many ways, double-entry

bookkeeping is cumbersome, but I do believe there is no other viable option for proper bookkeeping. Even with Caroline's brilliant *Bookkeeping Manual*, it is vital to have hers and Neil's eagle eyes checking the data monthly. For example, a power surge or fatigue may cause a blink that inadvertently automatically deselected one account in favor of the master account.

For the convenience of the Finance Committee, I had set up password-protected on-line access to the Bank account and to the Trustee's Domini Investment Fund account. Friends Fiduciary Corporation Fund reports are now being sent to Caroline and Neil, as well as to Herb and Mimi.

Trustees:

I continue to work very closely with Herb Haigh, Clerk of Trustees. Together we seek to increase the SEYM endowment funds. Perhaps most notable has been to encourage Friends to consider donations to a Trustee's Endowment Fund in lieu-of-flowers when a death occurs. This was made possible with the Trustees funding the CGI web-script to enable on-line donations. (The Trustees used earned interest from the Tampa Meetinghouse loan for this expense.) Having this procedure for donations in place allowed several Friends to suggest this option to friends of the family, even those not Quaker.

Of significant note is that John Sullivan, who purchased the Daytona Beach Meetinghouse fifteen years ago when that meeting laid itself down, has paid that loan in full. Tampa Meeting paid their loan in full this past fiscal year, as well, making that money available for the Trustees to extend a loan to Miami Meeting for renovation of Bartram House. Miami Meeting has now paid their loan in full! This seemingly rotating unsecured loan of \$10,000 is now being extended to Gainesville Meeting.

Donations:

FYI, Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC) is accepting **gift annuities** on behalf of SEYM as small as \$5000. The return for seniors is quite high (early 60's over 5%; 80's-11%). If/when you, or someone you know, are/is interested, we can get current information. The average return/contribution to the designated Quaker beneficiary is approximately 50%, and in the meantime provides substantial income to the donor.

Please note that **Connie Brooks, FFC Executive Director**, (see <www.friendsfiduciary.org>) **will be giving a workshop Friday afternoon 3:45-5:30 especially for Meeting Treasurers and any others interested in gleaning her wide wealth of financial wisdom.** Her workshop will be in Room 3 off the auditorium.

Publishing

Publications (pamphlets, T-shirts, aprons, book/knitting bags and meetinghouse cards) sales continue to cover all expenses (printing, binding, screen printing). At this time we have a nice inventory of pamphlets, and by popular request, will be doing a 7th print-run of t-shirts before YM 2006. The lion and lamb logo design continues to be in high demand and the Peace and Social Concerns PEACE sign website-logo on blue tie-dyed t-shirts has even sold outside the yearly meeting! Friends are encouraged to remember that the original purpose was twofold: 1) to encourage camaraderie within SEYM, and 2) profits to be saved to go toward printing *Faith and Practice*. (Note: to date we have invested \$4500.00 from publication sales in a new FFC Fund to go toward the printing of *Faith and Practice* in 2009.)

New pamphlets since YM 2005:

- 1) Mary Lord's *A Vision of Peace* (32 pages)
- 2) Deborah Shaw's *Being Fully Present to God with Queries, Prayer & Blessings Exercises* (48 pages).
- 3) Linda Chidsey's *Intimations of Renewal in New York Yearly Meeting* (32 pages)
- 4) Douglas Steere's *Quaker Meeting for Business* has been reprinted.

Bill Carlie, Orlando Meeting Clerk, taped this year's Michener Lecture given by Frank Massey, but I have yet to receive a copy of notes which makes transcribing the tape easier.

SEYM's 40th Anniversary greeting cards featuring SEYM meetinghouses continue to be appreciated. Having designed the QBP receipt to fit into the cards, I continue to use our cards to thank donors, and as *Missing You cards* at IBMs and YM.

The next newsletter is long overdue. In my life of triage, finishing it up seems to fall through the cracks, but I am pleased to announce that it shall be published in a timely manner to arrive before YM 2006.

Website

The <www.seym.org> website receives rave reviews from Friends outside SEYM. Friends seem to like the easy-to-navigate logos: calendar, *Faith and Practice* book, P&SC Peace-sign, lion and lamb piggy bank, and file folders for Finance, FUM, and Documents that I had fun creating in Adobe Illustrator and learning the ins and outs of web logo-publishing.

Most exciting news is the creation of the new web section for SEYM Meetings that will allow those meetings that choose to have SEYM host their websites without additional cost to them. *Please see page10 for a complete report on the website(s).*

New & Additional Activities

- 1) Planned, but not yet started, is laying out into pamphlet format our section on *Marriage, Commitment, Separation & Divorce*, the cutting edge commentary on contemporary Quaker relationships. This will enable it to be widely distributed in support of SEYM's statement of equality.
- 2) Updating the *SEYM Operational Handbook* commenced last summer and will continue this summer. This document has two purposes: 1) to document SEYM's operational policies and practices and to provide continuity in the operations as the individuals in the various positions change over time, and 2) to provide a reference for anyone in the YM who has a concern for, interest in, or question about the operational policies and practices of the Yearly Meeting.
- 3) SEYM's *Child Abuse Prevention Policy*, as approved at YM 2005, requires that we obtain background references on all Designated SEYM Youth Program Workers for SEYM events. SEYM is now an approved entity with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Volunteer and Employee Criminal History System (VECHS) enabling us to protect our children by securing background checks for SEYM Youth Program Workers. Caroline and Nancy are writing the Training Program Manual and I hope to have it put into a Power Point presentation before YM 2006.

—Lyn Cope, Administrative Secretary

SEYM REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATION REPORTS

AFSC Corporation (American Friends Service Committee)

It's been a particularly eventful year for AFSC. In addition to its continuing efforts to "Wage Peace", including the Eyes Wide Open project, it continues to focus on the six focus areas identified in the Strategic Plan (Peace Building & Reconciliation, Healing Justice, Economic Justice, Migration & Human Mobility, Youth, and Humanitarian Aid and Assistance).

Of special note this year are two initiatives in response to natural occurrences. Perhaps the more dramatic is AFSC/SERO's efforts in the Gulf Coast states prompted by the devastation wrought by hurricane Katrina. The report of the assessment team was considered at the Annual Corporation meeting, and a commitment to a long-term presence (4-8 years) has resulted. At this point, plans call for a total of five staff based in two locations (New Orleans and somewhere in Mississippi) to be in place by April.

The second natural occurrence was more predictable, and has been anticipated. It has been some 25 years since the last major overhaul of the AFSC facilities in Philadelphia, Much has changed in the interim, such as the development of desktop computers and cell phones, and the advent of email and the internet. Changes in technology for such things as heating and lighting have also emerged. And, of course, there's always 'normal' wear and tear. Consequently, AFSC is initiating a major overhaul of this facility, to include many 'green' technologies. If the results FCNL achieved are indicative of the kind of changes to be made, the results will be gratifying in all respects.

The primary hope for the coming year is for changes in the world that reduce the need for the kind of services AFSC provides. Supporting AFSC, of course, helps achieve that goal.

—David Robinson, SEYM representative to AFSC/National
Also please see Dave's article in Spring 2006 SEYM Newsletter.

Report on the Annual Meeting of the AFSC Corporation

The annual meeting of the Corporation of the American Friends Service Committee took place in Philadelphia on November 4-5, 2005. This meeting is technically the time for the Corporation to undertake its legally mandated once a year task of approving nominations to the Board and to the Standing Nominating Committee that seasons and presents the nominations. The rest of the time is devoted to opportunities for learning about the work of AFSC as well as connecting with Friends from around the country who are actively working on a broad range of peace-making and social justice issues. In previous years it has felt like much of the time was dominated by a one way flow of information from AFSC to the Corporation as various program and staff members use this opportunity to showcase their work over the past year. As a result several years ago I volunteered to serve on the committee that organizes this gathering to see if more of a dialogue could be developed.

This year marks my second year serving as clerk of the AFSC Friends Relations Committee (AFR) that is responsible for organizing the form and content of the gathering. At our AFR meetings prior to the Corporation there was a strong sense that we wanted to try something different, an approach to the meeting that encouraged Friends from around the country to talk about their own monthly and yearly meetings commitments to work that is parallel to the work of the AFSC's six strategic goal areas (peace-making, migration and human mobility, economic justice, criminal justice, youth, and humanitarian assistance). Accordingly we circulated queries to all Corporation members in September asking them to reflect on their own work and how what they were working on individually or collectively might be useful to inform AFSC's work. On Friday afternoon we divided the members of Corporation into small groups by these six goal areas and asked them to share while the AFR committee members and a number

of AFSC staff simply listened and took notes. I listened to the sharing on humanitarian assistance and can report that the sharing was deep and quite wonderful. Friends are NOT hiding their light under a bushel but are engaged in quite wonderful work. The feedback we have received to date is that many Friends really appreciated this opportunity to be heard and to hear what others are doing.

I have sometimes heard rumblings from a few Friends that stem in part from concerns that AFSC has lost its connections to Quakers. I am happy to report that I continue to find this concern to have little substance. I am powerfully moved each year by the spiritual depth, delightful humor, and skillful clerking style of Paul Lacey (Emeritus Professor of English from Earlham College). His leadership of the National Board and his presiding role at the Corporation Meeting provide a deep grounding in the spirit. In addition Mary Ellen McNish, the General Secretary of the AFSC, in her role as chief administrative officer for the AFSC, continues to demonstrate great administrative acumen tempered with the compassionate conviction necessary to keep an organization with roughly 450 staff members and an annual budget of more than \$40 million running smoothly. In recent years a Simplicity Committee has been working to clarify the distinction between governance (the work of the Corporation and the Board) and administration (the work of Mary Ellen and her staff) that has been enormously helpful.

Both the Board meetings and the Corporation meeting are conducted in a spirit of worship in the best manner of Friends business practices. At the Corporation meeting I find the opportunities for corporate worship to be some of the high points of each year. On Friday morning there is an unprogrammed meeting for worship that is at the heart of the Corporation's business process, providing opportunities for all to connect with the divine spirit that provides each of us with the inspiration and energy to undertake all the work that we do. On Saturday out of respect for the diversity of Friends who make up the AFSC family, there is always an opportunity for programmed worship, with an invited speaker and hymn singing. This year we heard from Judith Dancey the Pastor of Winston Salem Friends Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends United Meeting. Her message was inspiring and full of hope.

We also heard from a number of people (including SEYM's own David Robinson) about the ongoing work of AFSC in response to Hurricane Katrina. The AFSC committed more than \$1 million in the first days after the catastrophe for feeding programs for displaced residents of New Orleans and then sent teams of people to the region to find ways to connect with populations who were not being served by the many other organizations working in the area. The Board has expressed its willingness to expend additional funds (perhaps as much as another \$1 million) to renew its programmatic work in the Gulf Coast region where for a number of years there has been little AFSC activity.

All in all this was a powerful gathering that I was grateful to be part of. I would be happy to share further insights or respond to questions from Friends at Yearly Meeting or by email, pdoan@garnet.acns.fsu.edu.

In the Light,

Petra Doan
Tallahassee Monthly Meeting

AFSC/SERO (American Friends Service Committee, Southeastern Regional Office)

AFSC SERO Report to SEYM
Submitted by Annie McPherson, SEYM Representative
Winter Interim Business Meeting 1-14-06

SE Yearly Meeting approved me as a Representative to AFSC SERO Executive Committee (EC) and I attended the June 05 meeting in Atlanta. I missed the September 05 meeting, but was approved by AFSC National and attended the December 05 meeting as a full member of the EC. I joined the Communications and Development Committee. I am still learning!!

As far as my current understanding, these are the main issues facing AFSC SERO at the moment:

- ❖ New executive director Betti Knott
- ❖ Getting finances in right order
- ❖ Newsletter
- ❖ Reorganization of offices and programs – some by National, some by Betti & SERO
- ❖ Desire for closer ties to Quaker Meetings
- ❖ Hurricane Katrina
 - 1 million sent by National (reserves) to Astrodome – FOOD for 1 wk
 - Assessment Team sent to area – John Rogers & Dave Robinson involved
 - \$50,000 sent to local immigrant orgs -Assessment Team recommendation
 - Decision to focus on more long term relief efforts
 - Decided to work with more rural areas – New Orleans not practical
 - Tentatively - \$250,000 being committed over 5 yrs for long term relief
 - Office being set up in area – southern Mississippi or Alabama
 - Connection to Meetings
- ❖ Miami office issues
- ❖ Iraq war and CO status (Sept mtg) – not sure where we are with this one
- ❖ Need another Rep from SEYM
- ❖ Youth programs – different approach, youth in all programs not “youth programs”
- ❖ Programs – clustering based on National Focus areas
 - MEPEP - Middle East Peace Education Program : conference, education, advocacy, newsletter. Based in Atlanta
 - APEP – Africa Peace Education Program: debt cancellation, education, advocacy. Based in Atlanta.
 - ORITA – Peace and Justice Program: “Crossroads” w/ Highpoint U. education, community capacity building, counter-recruitment, college age & migrant
 - HIPP – devolving
 - AFIS – American Friends Immigration Services: legal & ed services. Miami.
 - Project Voice – Immigration (Latino(a)) education & advocacy. Charlotte, NC. Participated in Katrina Assessment Team.
 - MAP – Material Assistance Program: Provide clothing, kits & physical needs. NC

SERO covers 8 States:

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

AFSC National Focus Areas:

Economic Justice
Migration and Mobility
Peacebuilding & Prevention of Conflict (Demilitarization)
A New Vision of Justice – Criminal Justice
Humanitarian Assistance and Education
Youth

FCNL/Wm Penn House (Friends Committee on National Legislation)

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Proclaiming Our Prophetic Witness

“In the midst of World War II, on June 11-12, 1943, fifty-two Friends from fifteen U.S. Yearly Meetings met at Quaker Hill, Richmond, Indiana, to lay plans for the establishment of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. The aim was to seek as wide support as possible among Friends, both for appointment of Yearly Meeting representatives to FCNL and for their financial support. The Richmond meeting released the following statement regarding the establishment of a Washington office:

Friends have a responsibility to contribute...to the shaping of wise and right legislation in those areas in which our principles and the causes we believe in are most closely affected...These critical times...are bringing home to us acutely the sweeping role which government is playing in shaping life, both national and international.”

Witness in Washington: Fifty Years of Friendly Persuasion, 1994

SEYM was represented at the FCNL annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in November of 2005 by our appointed FCNL General Committee members Dana Putney, Lou Putney and Jack Bradin. The work of this annual meeting was focused by the theme, “Proclaiming Our Prophetic Witness”. As this was not the year for work on setting priorities or for fine tuning our policy statement, the substance of our work this year was directed by the FCNL Field committee and set out in a letter of invitation received by General Committee members as follows:

“...We will reflect upon our struggle and discouragement in seeking to be faithful in this witness. We will seek renewal of our spirit in our worship, fellowship and tour of the new building. We will rededicate ourselves to the work of proclaiming our prophetic witness through our spirit-led discernment in Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, in skill building workshops and in sharing stories of our work. We will explore our witness and the work that lies before us through speakers such as, Rep. Lynn Wooley, who can bring us the legislative perspective and Senior Fellow Mary Trotochaud, who can relate first hand the reality of the war in Iraq.”

200 Quakers from all over the country gathered at a conference center to consider the work and witness of the Religious Society of Friends in Washington, D.C. Morning worship sharing in small groups was central to our effort to be spirit-led in our work. We worked on our lobbying strategy and skills. We worked to learn how to present FCNL to Friends and other like-minded activists. We put our heads together to consider how we might strengthen the witness of Friends in our home states. We recognized the gifts of our talented staff whom we seek to hold up in this difficult and challenging witness in Washington. We also recognized that Friends witness at home is an integral part of the voice that is heard in Washington. It is our visits to our Senators and Representatives and our phone calls and our letters and active participation that make change happen. We heard clearly this message:

Sustained, focused engagement can and is having a persuasive impact in Washington.

Another very special charge for General Committee members this year was our acceptance of ownership of our

new FCNL building on behalf of the Religious Society of Friends. This event included a well organized tour of the new FCNL home on Capitol Hill. Friends were able to roam the halls and offices and get a feel for how this building will facilitate our work on the Hill. Staff were in place at their workstations which gave us a chance to ask questions and to understand more about how they do the work set before them by our General Committee. Our new building is beautiful and Friends who are in Washington should be sure to take the time to go see it firsthand. One of the highlights of the tour was the opportunity to see and learn about the green technology that has been incorporated into the very fabric of this building. We were blessed to have architects, builders and many volunteers who took to heart our concern and commitment to “seek an earth restored” as they worked to plan and construct this home for us. Already our green building has attracted attention that gives us an even greater opportunity to witness on Capitol Hill.

ACTION REQUEST:

This report must conclude with a call to action for all SEYM Friends. Our voice matters, our voice counts, and our voice strengthens Friends witness in Washington.

** Please go to fcnl.org, click on Take Action, and sign-up to receive the weekly Legislative Action Message. When you receive the message you will be given background information on an issue which requires action and you will be requested to act. PLEASE TAKE ACTION! If FCNL says we need to call...PLEASE CALL. If FCNL asks that we email Congress...EMAIL ASAP. We can and are making a difference. Senator Nelson, Senator Martinez, and our representatives will notice when hundreds Quaker voices are contacting them.

** Please read the January 2006 FCNL Washington Newsletter. (You can subscribe to receive a monthly hard copy or go to fcnl.org and click on Publications.) The January issue explains how our voice is shifting Congressional debate on the Iraq War, and provides tips on how to write to Congress and how to conduct a successful lobby visit and much more.

—Lou Putney

FGC Central Committee (Friends General Conference)

Report included in DIA (Documents in Advance) WIBM

FUM General Board/Commissions (Friends United Meeting)

No advance report

FWCC (Friends World Committee for Consultation)

No advance report

Florida Council of Churches

No advance report

Florida Impact

No advance report

FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns) formerly FLGC (Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns)

No advance report

Friends Peace Teams

Our Yearly Meeting is a member of Friends Peace Teams. As some of you may know I have been active in FPT and have gone to Burundi and Rwanda to help with the Trauma Healing programs through the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI). I wanted to let you know we are accepting applications for the workcamps this summer. Please go to our website at aglionline.org/ for more info and a downloadable application. Please email me at <ceceyocum@aol.com> for more info.

Workcamps

AGLI is now accepting workcamp applications.

Dates: June 23 to July 29, 2006

Orientation session:

Orientation will begin on Friday, June 23, 2006 at 1:00 PM. It will be held at Wellspring in Germantown, MD, outside Washington, DC area and will continue til 3:00 Saturday when we will go to Dulles Airport to depart for Africa.

Burundi Workcamp I

Location: Kamenge, Burundi, on the outskirts of Bujumbura

Objective: The Workcamp Peace Team will begin building an HIV/AIDS clinic in association with the Friends Women's Association. SEYM goes to Washington?

Housing: Arrangements in process.

Burundi Workcamp II

Location: near Kibimba, Burundi

Objective: The Workcamp Peace team will work with Burundi Yearly Meeting of Friends to build three additional classrooms for the Nyarurambi primary school.

Housing: The Workcamp Peace Team will reside in a house at Kibimba.

Kenya Workcamp

Location: Lubao, in western Kenya near Kakamega and the border with Uganda.

Objective : The Workcamp Peace Team's objective is to continue building the AVP Peace Center.

Housing: Workcampers will live with host Kenyan families.

Rwanda Workcamp

Location: Kigali, Rwanda—about 4 miles from city centre.

Objective: After the genocide in 1994, the Friends Church found that there were many orphans and street children in Kigali. The street children are placed in church members' homes, but are taken care of during the day at the center. The Workcamp Peace Team will continue construction of classrooms for the eighty young people—12 to 17—who need to learn everything from literacy to occupational skills. AGLI sponsored similar work camps in the summer of 2004 & 2005.

Housing: The Team will reside in a dormitory on the church compound at Kucikiro.

Uganda Workcamp

Location: Bududa, Uganda, about 20 miles north of Mbale on the slopes of Mount Elgon

Objective: The Workcamp Peace Team will continue buildings for a technical school for older orphans who will need an occupation in order to be contributing members of society. AGLI sponsored similar work camps in the summer of 2003, 2004, and 2005.

Housing: Work campers will live with host Ugandan families.

QEW (Quaker Earthcare Witness), formerly FCUN (Friends Committee on Unity with Nature)

This past Year at QEW has been another year of success expanding the number of Yearly meetings formally sending representatives to QEW. These new YM Reps. enable QEW to increase its at large steering committee members to staff the outreach necessary to compliment the fine work the YM Reps.

QEW's new Outreach Committee we hope will become a lens for identifying strengths in YMs so these strengths may be cross pollinated by our YM representatives to the MM QEW committees.

We are continuing the vision of helping the outreach of the YM Reps so vital to the mission of QEW.

QEW's FCNL work carried out by QNL a standing committee of QEW has expanded into the Executive and Policy committees of FCNL. I have had many good sessions with Ned Stowe on the upcoming Energy discussions in Congress and the Senate. Friends have a wonderful resource in the power of QEW and FCNL. We at QEW do the digging and checking and FCNL carries the message deep into the pothole roads of self-interest in Washington.

On a closing note I welcome Mary Jo Klingel to QEW's steering committee as the additional SEYM representative. I would further note Ft. Lauderdale MM has started a QEW committee as has PBMM under its Social Concerns Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

jack bradin

QUNO (Quaker United Nations Office)

Since the establishment of the UN, QUNO has represented Friends through FWCC through offices in NYC and Geneva. A small group of staff members work persistently to abolish war and promote peaceful resolution of conflicts, human rights, economic justice and good governance. QUNO is an official Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

QUNO has a small office across the street from the UN. Each of six staff members has a particular knowledge in one of QUNO's key areas of concern and writes reports that are widely used at the UN and elsewhere.

Quaker House is in walking distance from the UN and it provides living space for our representatives to the UN, an apartment for visiting Friends, and space where delegates and others can meet in a comfortable living room and labor with difficult issues in a quiet atmosphere. Lunches and meetings here have helped move many issues of concern to Friends forward on the UN agenda.

Specific areas of QUNO work include Emerging Conflicts and Crises—Uganda, Israel Palestine and Iraq, Economic Issues, and Criminal Justice.

A relatively new program addresses the problems and circumstances of child soldiers including girls and war.

QUNO does amazing work, especially considering its limited space and resources. The best way to find out about everything QUNO does is to access the Web Site: www.quno.org with links to many topics. Signing up on the site for email newsletters brings a wealth of information.

We thank SEYM for allowing us to be representatives.

—Laura and Jim Winefordner

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

Charleston MM...

Clearwater MM...

Deland PM...

Ft.Lauderdale MM...

Ft Myers MM...

Spiritual State of the Meeting

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Twelfth Month, 2005

I.

What is the state of your meetings for worship and business?

1. Religious meetings.

Meetings for worship and meetings for business were held at the appropriate time and in an appropriate manner. Meeting for business is often attended by well over half of our attendance at worship. We are pleased that newcomers visit and return to us; many winter visitors continue to return year after year and have become an integral part of the Meeting.

A midweek meeting for worship in Naples, under the care of the Fort Myers Meeting, has been laid down in the year 2005, as well as a group that met during the first quarter of the year for the convenience of winter visitors.

We have tried to include more spirituality in our dealings with business. We welcome attenders at meetings for business and worship. Attenders are such a part of the meeting that no one is conscious of any division. These valued friends graciously accept a share of tasks that necessarily occur.

A memorial service was held to celebrate the life of Richard Squires, who died in August at home, in the center of his family, at age 95. His life-long commitment to Quaker ideals remains a light for all of us to follow.

In September the Meeting suffered a second loss in the death of Daniel Calvin Stanley, who has faithfully attended Quaker meeting for 54 years. The memorial services for both of the dear friends were held in the manner of friends and focused attention, not on death, but on a living spirit.

2. Ministry.

We are grateful for the silence which seems to be filled with a spirit that touches us individually, yet unites us. We treasure the Spirit-led messages of vocal ministry, which many say they carry with them into the everyday world of the week ahead. We have developed regular worship sharing at the rise of meeting, enabling Friends to share deeply-felt concerns and to respond to messages given to them within worship that were not spoken.

The Meeting, in its desire to deepen spiritually, has united with one member's leading to immerse herself in the internal work of the School of the Spirit. As a group, it is our prayer that individual calling among Friends will help to leaven the loaf.

3. Participation in the meeting.

Because we are a close-knit meeting, Friends are generally in attendance at worship.

II.

How do Friends care for one another?

4. Unity within the meeting. Are love and unity maintained among you?

Over the years that we have been a meeting we have been a group linked by love. Sadly, in this year the link seemed in jeopardy when discord arose among us. Anger flared in meeting between those most closely involved. Ministry and Counsel has unsuccessfully attempted to heal the breach. We are genuinely grieved that our clerk has temporarily withdrawn from Meeting itself, but not from Quaker belief.

Without exception we respect that of God in each one, though that of God may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or may be difficult to discern. Ministry and Counsel, strong and vital, stands clearly as a support to the Meeting, offering care to all who worship with us.

For the fourth year we have held a women's retreat, which includes ages 15 to the 80's. It has now become a tradition. It is an opportunity to share one's deepest thoughts, to ask questions seldom voiced, to listen, and to give support. At times life stories are painful, but the sharing brings forth a caring that is deep; hour by hour we all drink of the life which comes through the Spirit existing among us.

5. Education.

Those children who went through First Day School are older now and regularly attend meeting for worship. In spite of having only one child waiting for a First Day class, we have decided to plan a class for her. Teachers are being recruited. There have been inquiries from outside the meeting asking about classes for children. We are optimistic that the time to resume First Day School is now.

A series of bi-weekly studies has been regularly presented in an adult education class. Potluck dinners, held in our homes, usually have a topic of discussion. Materials on these subjects are available in advance. Our library on Quaker thought and history is well used. Unfortunately, space for our collections is limited.

6. Oversight of the members.

Potlucks are held in the meeting place on the first Sunday of the month. All are invited and a special effort is made to include newcomers. Letters and planned visits keep contact with members unable to physically attend meeting. Regular monthly meetings of Ministry and Counsel insure constant care of members who are in need emotionally, financially, or spiritually.

III.

How do Friends meet their responsibilities outside the meeting?7. Social and economic relationships.

Our members, working as individuals, express their concern for various community programs, such as Environmental and Peace Education Center (EPEC), Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida and the Coalition of Immokalee Farm Workers, a counter-military recruitment project, Right Sharing, and the Calusa Nature Center.

8. Civic responsibilities.

Individual members were active in the area of civil liberties through participation in vigils and demonstrations. Other Friends are active in neighborhood organizations; one member is a guardian ad-litem and a volunteer at a Senior Friendship Center. A member has contributed, in the Meeting's name, to a perpetual fund to serve children. For the fourth annual holiday gift giving, Quaker Elves and Angels gave presents to disabled, needy children and their families.

9. Extending our message.

We have a website that has brought in new people. We are sited in *Friends Journal* and *Quaker Life*.

IV.

To what extent is your personal life in accord with Friends' principles?10. The home.

We visit each other in our homes; we hold potlucks and committee meetings in our homes. We share books, home produce, and news of our families and each other. There is an active e-mail exchange. We are mindful and cautioned against recreational activities that are harmful to others, as well as to ourselves. We are family.

11. Self-discipline.

Friends struggle to find time for daily prayer. Family and relationships were mentioned as a support for spiritual discipline, as were places of reflection, such as gardens. Others mentioned reading, walks—mindful walking—and work that bring us close to the Spirit.

12. Peace testimony.

Friends acknowledge that the peace testimony is a difficult one to live. The meeting has a number of peace activists, supported to one extent or another by the Meeting. However, we are mindful of the admonition from Yearly Meeting about Friends' potential lack of reconciliation and sensitivity in political areas. We believe we need work in this aspect of the testimony. The meeting has worked to understand the difference between war and the protection of the innocent, requiring us to reconsider our attitudes about law enforcement.

From minute **05MM12**: The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, following our traditional peace testimony, is concerned with the heavy costs of military involvement by the United States in Iraq and around the world. And we are concerned about the even heavier costs to the lives, well-being and conscience of the troops that are sent by the U. S. government. In response to these concerns, we wish to offer effective support to local young people, men and women, Quakers and others, who have a conscientious objection to participation in war and killing. In the context of the current volunteer military force, we seek to make young people aware of their choices concerning registration and enlistment.

Within the meeting, we continue to wrestle with the peace testimony.

On September 10 and 11, a workshop on militarism was held at the meetinghouse. Oskar Castro, of AFSC, conducted the workshop, presenting a program called "National Youth and Militarism." There were 17 participants, 10 members of the meeting, and 7 individuals from outside the meeting.

As a follow-up of the program, participants established the Wage Peace Project in the Environmental and Peace Education Center. Planning is underway covering conscientious objection, draft counseling, alternatives to the military, and reaching high school youth at high schools when military recruiters are present. The meeting takes as its special responsibility the counseling of conscientious objectors.

Members and attenders approved this report at rise of meeting for worship, First Month 22, 2006.

Gainesville MM...

State of the Meeting 2005

Gainesville Monthly Meeting

Gainesville Friends Meeting was, during 2005, a meeting in transition, even a transient meeting. We held our final meeting for worship in our old meetinghouse on NW 2nd Avenue on February 6. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new meetinghouse on NW 38th Street took place on March 20. On April 4 a lengthy article appeared in the Gainesville Sun, informing the larger community of our plans. On June 12 the Southeastern Yearly Meeting trustees and executive committee members combined their annual meeting with a trip to Gainesville to see the new meetinghouse's progress.

Without a permanent residence, we met most First Days at the Hillel Center on University Avenue, but we also held a number of meetings in private homes. Fortunately, despite the instability of our situation, our numbers remained steady, our spirit stayed strong, and a few new attenders joined us along the way.

As in 2004, our "Quaker Market" subcommittee planned and carried out a series of fundraising dinners, including Irish, "local," All-American, French Canadian, and Latin American cuisine. The subcommittee also sold cookbooks, beans, peace buttons, gift bags, and T-shirts.

The Bible Seminar studied, among other things, the Gospel of Thomas. Quaker Earthcare Witness created a “tool library” so that people could borrow tools from one another without having to buy or rent them. The Quaker Study Group continued to meet, as did our “Inquirers Group” for newcomers. But forums, potluck Sundays, and Meetings for Healing were discontinued during our time of wandering. A committee was formed for the purpose of starting a Friends school in Gainesville.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee joined with other religious groups in a vigil on the anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq and again when the 2,000th U.S. soldier was killed. Members of the committee helped impress on the Alachua County School Board the need to make parents more directly aware that they can have their children’s names removed from the list given to military recruiters. Further, Peace and Social Concerns co-hosted a fundraiser for the victims of the tsunami. And through the Houston Meeting the committee found a mother and her seven children who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina for us to adopt for the holidays.

The Ministry and Nurture Committee sponsored our participation in three outreach opportunities: a booth at Santa Fe Community College’s Religious Diversity Event, another at UF’s Lesbian, Bi, Gay, and Transgendered welcome event, and a third at the Gay Pride Event downtown. Some of us marched in the Pride Parade. Throughout the year Ministry and Nurture led us in threshing proposed sections of the new SEYM Faith and Practice. It also encouraged a more worshipful atmosphere during Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business.

We took under prayerful consideration SEYM’s request to propose a minute concerning our affiliation with Friends United Meeting. A forum was held in September to present the basic facts of FUM’s history and population distribution as well as FUM’s history with SEYM. A period of worship sharing followed the forum. In October we approved a minute that reads in part, “In spite of disagreeing with the policy of hiring only persons who are celibate or married (one man, one woman), it is the sense of the meeting that maintaining the affiliation with FUM is best for all Friends.” At the same time we approved a minute supporting loving and committed relationships independent of the sexual orientation of the individuals involved.

During 2005 we recorded Karen Porter as a minister for the purpose of counseling people in matters of conscience related to military service. We helped sponsor Devender Sellar’s attendance at the triennial World Gathering of Young Friends in Lancaster, England, a trip that enabled him to reconnect with his spiritual roots.

We rejoiced in the birth of three babies: Hoyt, son of Jen and Bryan Cotter; Jake, grandson of John and Jean Burton; and Nate, grandson of Dick and Gene Beardsley. On April 9 our meeting celebrated the union in marriage of Marilyn Muller and Phil Hall, held under the care of the meeting. We ended the year with a rousing Christmas party at the house of Andy and Eleanor Merritt.

The move into the new meetinghouse was postponed into the early months of 2006, but we were able to rejoice at year’s end in seeing the building substantially completed.

Submitted by Don Smith, Clerk

Golden Isle WG...**Halifax...****Jacksonville MM...****Jacksonville Monthly Meeting's Spiritual State of the Meeting Report to SEYM -1/15/06**

We regularly worship First Day mornings in the library of Bolles School - Bartram Campus, except periodically when we meet in a home on First Day for worship, discussion and a potluck meal. Usual attendance varies between 4 and 13, mostly attenders.

E-mail, the meeting newsletter, and phone calls keep Northeast Florida Friends connected over the great physical distances between us. A core group of Friends live in the same geographic section of Jacksonville and regularly visit between First Days and eat First Day lunch together at a restaurant with other Friends joining them occasionally.

Several new attenders were welcomed in 2005, and we bade farewell to Joanne Herrmann when she moved to Milwaukee, WI. She was a faithful attender, organizer of the local exhibiting of Eyes Wide Open, and is a peace activist and inspiring practitioner of nonviolence. Originally, Julia Geiger had the confidence to invite Joanne to attend meeting for the first time. For another Friend - who was a periodic visitor from Madison, WI - attending Jacksonville Meeting led him to finally officially join his home meeting.

Most visitors find Jacksonville Meeting through FGC's quakerfinder.org or through our website, jacksonvillefriends.org, as we find the phone book listing too costly. Many attenders find value in the silence, fellowshipping with Friends, and Quaker philosophy, and want to read the newsletter and be on the e-mail list, but they seldom participate in First Day corporate worship. For some Friends, the driving distance is far, but they are regularly irregular in their attendance on First Day mornings. Then there's Noel and Daisy Palmer, who regularly attend meeting in Jacksonville while wintering in St. Augustine. Their whole being is in such a depth of Friendliness that the rest of Jacksonville Meeting treasures meetings with them, and their spiritual contributions linger long after they've returned to their home meeting in New York. Noel's biblical lessons are a needed and welcome addition to meeting. Fritz and Tacie Renken, of Germany (and Switzerland Yearly Meeting), visit one month each year and bring an international perspective; and, their spiritual gifts, also, deepen worship and flavor meeting for months to come.

Beverly Bird of Halifax Meeting is sojourning in Jacksonville while undergoing chemotherapy and regularly shares her warmth, spunk, and wisdom with Friends on First Days.

In 2005, Friends participated in: the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice (FCPJ) Youth Peace Camps; FCPJ's Jacksonville Community Dialogue program; peace vigils and activities of the local group Wage Peace (wagepeace.net); humanitarian aid shipments, art exhibits, and delegations to Cuba through the St. Augustine-Baracoa Friendship Association (staugustine-baracoa.org); the Alternatives to Violence Project; the annual Alternative New Year's Gathering of peace activists from the Southeast U.S. held in St. Marys, Georgia; FUM's chain of prayer; a "musical play-in for peace" in New Hampshire; the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist temple dedication in Cosby, Tennessee; welcoming Julie Harlow of Friends House Moscow Support Association (based in CA) at a potluck; and, Yearly Meeting, Half Yearly Meeting and Winter Interim Business Meeting and the Michener Lecture.

Key West WG...

Lake Wales WG...**Lake Wales Worship Group****State of the Meeting 2005-'06**

Lake Wales Worship Group continues to meet at 10:30 am on First Days at the Audubon Center in Babson Park, Fla. We remain a very small group, which presents some challenges and some opportunities. We are challenged to keep meeting on a regular basis; sometimes Meeting for Worship is not held because of the absence of attenders. We currently have no children attending but one teen-ager.

Our small size provides opportunities for community. It is our custom after Meeting for Worship to have a group discussion which often centers on thoughts arising out of the worship, concerns which individuals raise, perhaps a reading which a member shares with the group, and occasionally worship group business. Usually everyone present participates. The community of the group is also fostered by attenders sharing other activities, such as hiking, canoeing, music and dance, outside of the worship group.

We recently welcomed a new attender, Tom Hughes, a Friend from Albuquerque, New Mexico who recently relocated to Lake Wales. Winter attenders are back and much appreciated.

Our group contributed to intervisitation within SEYM in a small way with some of us worshipping at the Tampa and St. Petersburg Monthly Meetings. We also welcomed a visit from Nancy Fennell of Ft. Myers Monthly Meeting.

We are holding former member Geoff Babb and his family in the Light following his stroke this past November. Attenders at Half Yearly Meeting sent their prayers and support to the Babb family, as well.

Managua WG...**Miami MM...**

Ocala...

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT 2005
 Friends Meeting of Ocala (A Worship Group)
 Meeting for Worship Sundays 11:00 a.m.
 George Newkirk, Contact

352-236-2839

SEYM Annual Gathering April 2006
 1010 N.E. 44th Avenue
 Ocala, Florida 34470-8160
gnewkirk1@cox.net

The year 2005 has been a rather placid period for us. We had a goodly number of visitors, and one couple stayed overnight. We continue to meet regularly for worship, followed by fellowship that sometimes lasts several hours. Our ministry is peaceful and satisfying, usually pleasant but sometimes quite moving. The usual pattern is three to five messages, often somewhat sequential, only one of 52 meetings being without some vocal ministry.

Relocation has lost us several regular attenders, while several new and quite interested persons have joined us in worship and fellowship. Our booklet and table literature was sent to four inquirers, with no responders. We probably should follow up, but we don't. Gifts included a top-of-the-line IBM Selectric typewriter, and four volumes of *The Self-Interpreting Bible*. Generous contributions by two attenders were used to purchase DVDs dealing with the origin of the New Testament, life during the time of Jesus, and the writings of C. S. Lewis. Our plans to reactivate the Course in Miracles seminars are still under consideration.

Although we have no formal programs or projects, several of us participate in the Marions for Peace candle-light vigils and sidewalk demonstrations, the latter being bushwacked by a larger and more organized counter group called Marions for Victory. We continue representation in the Greater Ocala Ministerial Association and The Interfaith Alliance, and shared sponsorship of the Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service. And we sponsored the Cup Cake and the Pine Cone decorating at Half-Yearly Meeting, dropped our subscription to the Pastoral Newsletter, provided modest support to Quaker House, Friends General Conference, and Marions for Peace. Friends United Meeting discontinued our freebie subscription to Quaker Life.

Consideration of SEYM's future relationship with Friends United Meeting (FUM) has been informal; the consensus seems to be "I couldn't care less." Historically, Friends Meeting of Ocala is an independent worship group only because membership in SEYM requires membership in FUM, which in theory requires acceptance of FUM's creedalism. Should SEYM eventually sever its relationship to FUM, Friends Meeting of Ocala will likely seek a formal relationship with SEYM. Meanwhile, we'll sit on the curb and watch the parade of positions the various affiliated Meetings develop. If there is any cheering, it will most likely be to withdraw, for dual membership in two Yearly Meetings, each holding distinctly different theological positions, a sticky wicket whenever it has come up for discussion.

Of the 34 YMs listed in the 2002 Friends Directory, nine are solely affiliated with FGC, eight with FUM, three with the Conservatives, six with Evangelical Friends United (EFI) five are Independents, while three (New York, New England, and SEYM) claim adherence

to both FGC and FUM. At least one of the three has committed itself to withdrawal from FUM.

Our status as an independent Worship Group is more theoretical than actual, for SEYM treats us as insiders rather than outsiders. We receive the official bulletins and notices, are invited to its activities, and provide input to one committee—Ministry and Worship. SEYM incurs on our behalf the same expenses it incurs on behalf of those with formal membership in SEYM affiliated meetings. And we regularly receive reminders of the paucity of our contribution to the expenses SEYM's generosity creates.

Four who worship here are members of Gainesville Meeting, two are members of the Miami Meeting. Others list the Baltimore, Ohio Valley, Southern Appalachian, and Lake Erie as their bases.. Presumably each contributes to their home meetings, which share a portion with their Yearly Meeting. This pattern, plus pleas for personal supplements, is followed by SEYM. Publishing our paltry Unaffiliated Organization contribution is a bit embarrassing, as is the unpublished suggestion we contribute an amount likely stretch the budget of the Palm Beach Meeting. We will again review the matter, and offer this suggestion: That SEYM eliminate or drastically reduce its mailings to FMO, while those of us who hold membership share the mailings we receive with the non-member attenders.

Let those who sign the greeting cards (on the table at Quaker Gatherings) sent to absentee members know that their greetings are well received. It may be better to be present, but it is very good to be missed!

Orlando MM...

Palm Beach MM...

Sarasota MM...

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT FOR 2005
SARASOTA MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

As our meeting continues to experience growth through new members and attenders, we have felt there is a thirst for spiritual sharing and learning about Quaker beliefs and testimonies. These feelings were recognized and as a result the meeting now has an ongoing inquirers' session once a month with active participation. We also held two religious education sessions, one in the spring on the book, "A Living Faith" by William Cooper, and another in the fall on the Quaker peace testimony. Both sessions were well attended and we were grateful they could be held. We welcomed a traveling minister from the St Petersburg meeting and were uplifted by her spiritual journey. Several members went on a Quaker heritage tour to England in the summer, which increased their knowledge of Quakerism. The meeting also hosted several lectures, seminars and benefit concerts, and we thoughtfully discussed the FUM personnel policy and the presence of homeless persons on our property. These two issues will continue to be discussed in the coming year.

Our young families organized several camping trips where all were invited and they provided much sharing and helped build our sense of community. Our children held bake sales to raise money for tsunami and hurricane relief. We were proud of their efforts and concern for others. They also produced a calendar with their art work. Because the meeting wants to encourage young parents in their involvement in the meeting, we increased child care hours so they could participate more fully in education sessions and business matters.

A threshing session on budgeting was held early in the year to clarify priorities as we move forward. Though this process it was decided to budget for expenditures that the meeting wished to undertake and prioritize them based on actual income. A milestone was reached in December when a decision was made to use funds to retire our mortgage. With this accomplished, we will have more funds for activities related to our spiritual and social leadings. We also completed a much needed records update during the year.

The meeting accepted four beautiful wooden benched from the Augusta, Georgia meeting, which was laid down. We were sad to see the closing of a Friends meeting, but we appreciated the gift with thanks.

We have all felt the loss of two of our members who died during the year, our beloved Elizabeth Clough and Frank Burke.

Space Coast MM...**Space Coast Monthly Meeting 2005
Spiritual State of the Meeting Report**

Space Coast Friends Meeting sorrowfully reports, to borrow SEYM Clerk Susan Taylor's words, the increasing number of phantom members/attenders. Whereas Rebecca Deppner Courtois's activity during the past election brought us several inspiring newcomers, these seekers with children moved to Hawaii and D.C. They continue to be involved in the PEACE movement (as they were before their worshiping with us) and one family is exploring membership in their meeting near their new home. We miss the exuberance they brought.

Our weekly attendance varies greatly from 4-12, due we are afraid to other priorities (over-employment, fatigue, job-related travel, illnesses, family). The purchased materials and planned First Day School has yet to be implemented due to lack of children at meeting. Three 'local' families live over an hour's drive south, north and far north of us. We no longer have a working address, phone number or email address for one member family of three and have had no contact for over three years but several among us feel very strongly that we cannot drop memberships, especially during these troubling times. Other members are our children living at a distance who wish to maintain Quaker membership in a Yearly Meeting that allows Youth membership.

We recognize holding Meeting for Worship in homes may discourage new seekers, but do not see ourselves clear to rent a property.

Our Meetings for Worship are greatly appreciated by those who attend. Following Palm Beach Friends Meeting's suggestion, we have been holding weekly potluck lunches following Meeting for Worship.

Space Coast diligently reviews SEYM's proposed Faith and Practice documents and appreciates the opportunity to view these as queries into our own well-being.

We ask that SEYM Friends hold us in the Light as we seek direction.

01/29/2006

Approved by those in attendance.

St. Petersburg MM...

Stuart WG...**State of the Meeting Report
Stuart Area Worship Group**

Our Worship Group is small but vibrant, full of spirit. There is movement, change, as we in a time of transition.

Last year, in the wake of hurricane damage, part of the group met in Vero Beach and part of the group met in the Stuart-Port St.Lucie area. We are grateful to all who have opened their homes to the worship group. This winter we are meeting in Fort Pierce where Friends from the Vero Beach area and from the Stuart area can come together.

We sense a deepening of the spiritual life in our circle. As we join together in our seeking and our sharing, we experience a Quaker 'essence' which is genuine.

Our fellowship time following meeting for worship helps us to be an intimate group. We also enjoy the presence of new-comers who come occasionally. We aim to be welcoming, and we see the need to put notices in the local newspapers so we can reach out and share what we are finding.

Although we miss Friends who have died and who have moved, we are thankful for the presence of their spirit with us as we meet each First Day for worship and fellowship.

Submitted by Jacquie Moll, Contact, for the Worship Group

Tallahassee MM...**Tallahassee Monthly Meeting 2005
Spiritual State of the Meeting Report**

On November 27, 2005, the Meeting considered four queries which have helped this process of self-examination for the past several years:

How has our meeting for worship nurtured our spiritual growth?

This year has been one of change, with many opportunities for growth. Long-term stalwart Friends are no longer here, and we miss them -- the Allensons, Gay Howard, Alice Bejnar and the Child-Lanning family. We celebrate that we are still here as a community, looking inward to ourselves to discover new gifts, and welcoming the new attenders and members who are coming to join us with their gifts. We have joyfully approved four people into membership in 2005: Hilda Walker, James Lamm, Paulette Bond and Leslie Anderson-Adams. We have also gratefully received one transfer of membership: Elizabeth "Liz" Kamphausen from Toronto MM, Canadian YM. Newcomers have helped Quakerism to grow in Tallahassee. There needs to be a root and there needs to be new growth, and we find that ministry is flowing through both newcomers and long time Friends.

This year's annual retreat on the theme of Sharing Our Stories of Faith was a growth experience for our Meeting, the first time in recent years that we shaped a full retreat program without inviting an outside facilitator or presenter. New and old friends stepped forward as facilitators, and our sharing was rich and deep. Putting this program together and carrying it out helped us overcome fears that something might be lost or some harm might come if we started to talk about our beliefs and experiences of the spirit. The result was the opposite of what we had feared.

We have a new sense of our need to be responsible and mindful in all things that we do. Our worship leads us inward, and then we find where our responsibility to the world truly lies.

How well do our meetings for worship for business lead to a corporate search for and revelation of God's truth?

We have adhered to our vision of trusting committees to do their work and encouraging members to research and reflect on the business of the Meeting well in advance of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. As one member said, we can now find joy in Meeting for Business, where before this was a challenge. Space has been cleared within the context of Meeting for Business for members to share testimony, to bring their leadings forward to the full Meeting, and we wait attentively for our testimonies of faith to come forth in Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business.

How do we support each other as members of this beloved community?

We endeavor to be open and welcoming to new attenders, and to encourage them to share their gifts within our community. We have tried to improve our support and nurturing for families with young children. After searching for a child care provider for a long time, we entered a contract with a babysitting service in order to provide care for young friends so their parents may attend Meeting more regularly when the young ones are not able to be still through it. Through the initiation of a monthly intergenerational First Day School before the meeting for worship, we are encouraging the knitting together of the generations within our meeting, providing the chance for small children to get to know the adult members outside their families better, and for older people to have direct contact with the children who are the future of our meeting. We celebrated the graduation from high school of our young Friends Laura Bastian, Jesse Hochstetler and Jessica Swihart with a potluck and knitted/crocheted gifts. We had a Friendly Halloween party for the young Friends and a blessed intergenerational Christmas Eve gathering.

Roman generals remarked of early Christians, "See how they love one another." We try to embody that deep caring for one another, both within our meeting community and reaching beyond it to the wider world, and to "let our lives speak."

What was our meeting's witness in the wider community in the last year?

This was a year of increasingly active outreach efforts in many directions. We now have an active and vital Peace and Social Concerns Committee, after several years without one. Several activities of the Meeting have engaged us with the broader community, in cooperative efforts across faiths and cultural groups.

With members of the local Sri Lankan community and other groups, we co-sponsored a fund raising dinner and celebration to assist in Tsunami relief in Sri Lanka.

We continued active engagement with the 17 congregations of the interfaith Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry (TEAM), sharing in efforts to promote a comprehensive health care plan for the poor and uninsured, improvements to the public transportation system, and increased participation in the Change for Change program which helps the homeless in our community.

Our meeting has moved toward finding common ground between Quakers and other denominations and faiths, in part through our involvement with TEAM. We are finding that we do not have to protect Quakerism from others. We are small, and can do more in the world through working with others moved by the same Spirit. This also brings new depth to our spiritual lives and our worship.

We assisted with the display of the Eyes Wide Open exhibit concerning the deaths of American soldiers and Iraqi civilians in the Iraq War when it was mounted at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, and we started weekly interfaith prayer vigils for peace as a result of the kidnapping of four Christian Peacemaker Team members in Iraq.

Several attenders and members have developed a local initiative in the Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP). Having completed training in this program, they have led workshops both at the Meeting and in the wider community with a variety of participants from various backgrounds and age-groups.

We are exploring ways to bring our existence to the attention of people who do not know of us but are seeking involvement with a spiritual community like our own, through advertising, the internet, and outreach activities. As one who began to attend this year said, "I've been living in Tallahassee for 12 years and just found out about the meeting. I wish I hadn't wasted all those years!"

We have a sense that there is emerging a process of discovery of what the first Quakers exemplified, listening directly to God speaking; that there is emerging a self-organizing system, of people just coming forward to do the work that needs to be done. It starts by taking the risk to live by listening deeply to God. There is something at work in the world which Quakers have been working at for a long time. Therefore letting people know of it is very important. This does not require evangelism, because people are naturally drawn to this when they know it exists.

Tampa MM...**State of the Meeting Report 2005
Tampa Monthly Meeting**

Tampa Friends continue seeking to ground our work and witness through the living silence of our worship together. In considering the query regarding our Meeting for Worship we affirm our experience of feeling “drawn together in the Light by the presence of God.” This year, as any other, has presented joys, concerns and often the need for prayers. Yet in all this we continually feel strengthened and nurtured by our worshipful life in community.

All that we are called to in this troubled world reminds us of the importance, the centrality of our Meeting community in our lives. Through Meetings for Learning we continue to seek greater understanding of the Quaker path, of our Faith and Practice, of how we are led to witness, of the walk of individuals who are led to certain work - we have much to learn and more to understand. Tampa Meeting is growing with new members, new attenders and opportunities such as that afforded by a marriage coming under the care of our meeting. The simple ceremony, in the manner of Friends, celebrating the marriage commitment was aglow with joy and love. We continue to be blessed as the spirit of this couple’s love for one another enriches our community. We are blessed by the gifts of ministry shared in our Meeting for Worship as well as in offerings such as the laying of a labyrinth in our back yard. We heartily enjoy sharing our property responsibilities through specially called workdays as well as in spontaneous offerings such as the midweek building of new picnic tables, or the individual effort constantly applied to wrestling the incredibly prolific potato vine. Informal gatherings for fellowship, such as Friendly dinners at individuals’ homes, have strengthened our personal relationships and afforded opportunity for much laughter and sharing. We find the lengthening of our worship to include a space for joys,

concerns and prayer requests to be shared and held in the Light has been essential to the care and nurture of our community. While our stated time for worship to begin is 10:00am, we often find that worship has begun before the appointed hour as we have settled into the silence in expectant waiting.

Friends continue to struggle with our grief and despair as the war continues. Our witness for peace has taken many forms including vigiling on street corners, visiting legislators, letter writing, radio editorializing and ongoing prayer. We have adopted the FCNL STEP resolution and seek to strengthen our voice with the help and direction of FCNL. We recognize our Meeting for Worship as the foundation of our witness both as individuals and as a community. It is in knowing the peace that passeth understanding that we can envision and work for peace in our world.

Recognizing the necessity for truth and justice in building a foundation for peace, members of our community have stood witness with the Muslim community of Tampa. Offering friendship and support to the Muslim community has been both trying and rewarding. The wider Tampa community has been strained by ongoing trials of “suspected terrorists.” This witness spoke to a concern for integrity and for the just application of the rule of law. It has been a burden to see the mistreatment of the incarcerated and their families, as well as the fear, disrespect and anger that has been directed at the Muslim community in general. Again, the energy required to accompany those seeking justice demands a patient, steadfast, determined presence and we are grateful that our meeting has been able to hold up those who are called to this work. As the acquitted have not been released from prison and may face further prosecution, this concern is

ongoing and we would ask that our Friends be held in the Light as they continue to witness as they are led.

Tampa Meeting held a memorial service on 5, eighth month, the 60th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Standing in downtown Tampa, we were mindful that our candle lanterns floating on our river were mirroring the witness of those who were standing at the riverside in Hiroshima. Our service was conducted in the manner of Friends worship and spoke powerfully to those from our Quaker community and to those from our wider community who participated.

Tampa Friends Meeting continues to seek the peace within that enables us to move forward and witness to the power of love. We attend Meeting for Worship seeking to be spirit led, seeking to discern what we are called to do and praying for the strength and guidance to be faithful to that call.

Respectfully submitted,

Tampa Monthly Meeting

MEETING STATEMENTS REGARDING FUM

Clearwater Meeting

On First Day October 15 2005 11 members and attenders of Clearwater Meeting gathered after Meeting for Worship to consider the documents relating to FUM's personnel policy which discriminates against gays, lesbians and unmarried heterosexual couples. Most of us had read the 8 documents posted on the SEYM web site. Discussion in the form of worship sharing revealed the following views among Clearwater Friends.

If an important telephone conversation is interrupted by one party hanging up any dialogue ceases instantly. If SEYM left FUM this would have the same effect.

Separation among Friends has happened before. Good judgment comes from experience, and that experience often comes from bad judgment.

Many people are very hurt by FUM's stance. It is not Friends' way to hurt others intentionally or unintentionally. At YM 2005 we learned that FUM would not consider the matter because they had other matters they deemed more important. Even so we need to maintain dialogue.

Those in other Christian denominations have grappled with other difficulties. It seems that anyone who believes himself to be a Christian would be open minded to other earthlings.

FUM is another branch of Friends. Each of us has his or her own views on what being a Christian means. I am struggling with my own Christianity. In this instance we are trying to learn from our history and not repeat it. Cutting ourselves off from FUM will not make them or us better Christians.

Whatever we say to SEYM we should include a strong statement showing our concern at the dismissive attitude of FUM towards our statement.

We should remember that we should not judge, knowing that if we do so we will also be judged. In relation to thinking about schism in this instance part of the solution tends towards universalism, where diversity is supposedly welcomed. However, universalism is difficult for bible-centered Friends to grasp. There is no scriptural justification for a homosexual life style. The Quaker view is to wait to determine the leading of God. The present schism is a sign that we haven't struggled enough. The American Psychological Association said in 1970 that homosexuality is an alternative lifestyle.

We should center down in our Meeting and come out with the leading of God. Is this action of FUM concerned with workers' true job seeking OR is the policy of FUM concerned with exclusion because of another dimension to the applicants' qualifications than their job skills?

There seems no advantage to Clearwater Meeting to ask SEYM to secede. Why not send letters to FUM from individual Friends?

It will make no difference whether or not we leave FUM. FUM has internal forces driving it. Some Midwest meetings seem more liberalized than others. In some cultures represented in FUM

homosexuality is taboo. The word "should" leaves some wiggle room in a discussion but the word "must" is obligatory. We are addressing the issue of equality. Each meeting should decide.

In a marriage a woman usually gets her way. If we keep on talking and agitating (female method) we'll get a result in a different way from taking a precipitate decision (male).

I found FUM trying in the past. How did we (as unprogrammed Friends) end up being given the same name? Everything that has been built up around our common core of belief is very different. But if you cut off the dialog where are we? The division has created an opportunity and need to dialog. The membership and influence of the overseas Friends is deeply conservative and narrow in its roles for the sexes. However, the whole world is not about sex!! Try to keep talking to FUM.

I would like us to understand that in times of internal and external strife such as the US faces at the present time many men and women seek to conserve what they think is precious and hold on to it in order to experience a sense of safety. When we open ourselves and seek as a meeting to struggle with what we perceive as injustice we nurture and support our meeting, and the Society of Friends, by listening for God's guidance. We continue to strive for justice for as long as it takes to find a resolution that is God inspired and not one arrived at because we are fatigued and long to cease the struggle.

The following minute was approved at a meeting of 8 members and attenders held after meeting for worship on First Day October 23 2005:

That of God in everyone unites all Friends. Although our Monthly Meeting is not in unity with the personnel policy of FUM at this time we feel that we should continue the dialog with the Friends in those YMs that support it. One effective means of continuing this dialog is for us to remain affiliated with FUM and to continue to voice our concern.

January 14, 2006

To: Southeastern Yearly Meeting

From: Fort Lauderdale Friends Meeting

This report is the result of our threshing and discernment regarding our affiliation with FUM. We offer our recommendations with brevity that does not adequately reflect the thorough process of threshing we undertook. We would like to offer just a bit of that threshing to share some of a very rich process.

We return first to that which is foundational for Friends - the belief that there is that of God in everyone and in all of Life. That belief asks that we honor that of the Spirit in all life with no distinction for personal, marital or lifestyle choices. We consider FUM policies to be discriminatory and incongruent with our faith. Further, our hearts are in pain over this policy. We hurt because we feel the injustice and inequality, but so too are we pained by concern that our responses may cause division among our blessed community. It is not that we wish to pull away, rather that we should not follow.

In that spirit, we offer these recommendations:

1. Fort Lauderdale Friends Meeting is in unity in recommending that we remain affiliated with Friends United Meeting.
2. It is of urgent importance to us that we remain conscientious in holding this issue forward and diligent about expressing our concerns to FUM.
3. We urge SEYM to request in the strongest terms that the FUM Board publish all the minutes and reports submitted to them by all monthly meetings.
4. With regard to the issue of withholding funds from FUM, Fort Lauderdale Meeting is not in unity. We are, however, in unity that funds continue to be made available to support Friends from SEYM in attending FUM Triennials. We would appreciate more information on how or if it would be possible to allocate funds to specific areas in the FUM budget.

We end by acknowledging our learning and growth through participating in this process. It has been good and worthy work, and our meeting has benefitted.

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting

06MM02. The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting unites in its support for an end to job or other discrimination based on sexual practices. The Meeting unites in its desire to cease public affiliation with, and any form of economic support for, any organization, including Friends United Meeting, that practices such discrimination.

The Meeting unites in its desire to maintain a spiritually-based dialog with those in Friends United Meeting who are in a position to change that policy. The Meeting is unable to unite, however, on a course of action related to SEYM;s affiliation with FUM.

Gainesville Monthly Meeting

“...the Ministry and Nurture Committee joined with the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to hold a forum and worship sharing session on Ninth Month25, 2005 to consider whether Southeastern Yearly Meeting should remain affiliated with Friends United Meeting. Although some may still be struggling with the issue, Ministry and Nurture committee members sense that the meeting is moving toward unity in having SEYM stay affiliated with FUM.”

The minute: “ 05-10-25 Gainesville Monthly Meeting desires to unite with Friends everywhere in seeking the Light, in responding to that of God in everyone, in the peaceful resolution of conflict, in working to maintain love and unity among us, and in bearing witness to the Truth as it is revealed to us. In spite of disagreeing with the policy of hiring only persons who are celibate or married (one man/one woman), it is the sense of the meeting that maintaining affiliation with Friends United Meeting is best for all Friends. We wish to ‘be willing vessels of God’s overflowing love for all of us and let that love build bridges across all that divides us’”*

As sent to Phoebe Andersen, SEYM representative to FUM from Connie Ray

Halifax

To SEYM Friends:

Halifax Friends Meeting appreciates the request of SEYM that we consider the request of St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting stating that they do not wish to maintain affiliation with FUM and continue to labor over Minute 88-GB-52.

Halifax is emphatically not in unity with Minute 88-GB-52. We find that this policy does not follow the testimony of Friends to “speak to that of God within each person.”

Sarasota Friends Meeting

FUM Policy on Same Sex Relationships

Friends United Meeting, with which our Meeting is affiliated has develop a formal policy on same sex relationships which deeply disturbs us. That policy specifies that Friends who engage in sexual relations with a member of the same sex, even within a committed relationship, may not serve as a paid or volunteer staff member of FUM.

In threshing sessions and several Meetings for Worship with Concern for Business, Sarasota Monthly Meeting has gone over all aspects of this matter, striving to discern in the Light.

We easily reached a sense of the meeting that the FUM policy is in error: we feel that it is contrary to the respect which Friends generally accord to all loving relationships and to all children of God. We therefore felt that we must express clearly and caringly to FUM our disagreement with their policy.

We were not able, however, to reach a sense of he Meeting in regard to whether our Meeting should continue the relationship with FUM.

Some Friends expressed the strong view that we must terminate the relationship, in order to make clear that we cannot be party to a policy which we find discriminatory and contradictory to Quakerly tenets. Speakers of this persuasion felt that staying united with FUM dilutes our disagreement with their policy and undervalues the strength of our judgment.

Other Friends felt that it is better, after making our view known to FUM, to continue the relationship, to maintain and strengthen our dialogue with FUM Friends in order ot make clear our strong view of the validity of all loving, committed relationships among Friends and our conviction the FUM policy must be changed.

Those who wish to stay in union with FUM stressed the desirability to carrying on a dialogue with them in order to be sure they understand the depth of our position. Some also felt we should withhold our annual payments to FUM, but no sense of the meeting was reached on this suggestion.

The gravity of this issue and the desire of members to strive for the clearest discernment and most agreement led to agreement that we should continue threshing during 2006.

Space Coast Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Statement regarding FUM Personnel Policy

1/29/06

Friends United Meeting's (FUM) personnel policy, and apparent unwillingness to change that policy, are deeply troubling to members of Space Coast Monthly Meeting. This policy strains our sense of spiritual unity, and runs counter to historical Quaker testimonies. We understand and appreciate the long-standing personal/spiritual ties that some Friends may feel toward FUM but wish to express our support for the equality of Friends regardless of sexual orientation.

Some of us expressed concern over suggestions that SEYM withdraw from FUM in haste, and have offered support for suggestions that SEYM maintain its affiliation with FUM for the purpose of keeping the way open for as long as FUM is willing to labor on this issue. **This is somewhat different from remaining affiliated in hopes that they will.** *The difference, to us, is that FUM is seemingly saying they are not willing to labor on their policy, and seemingly have taken this concern it off "the table", so to speak.* Some of us express a preference that SEYM should withdraw affiliation until such time that they are willing to resume active consideration of the equality of Friends, and wish to state that Friends do not discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Regardless of a preference for either suggestion, we recognize that SEYM's membership in FUM is, by comparison and percentage, relatively small, and that SEYM representatives and members have relatively few opportunities to interact with FUM members (e.g., visits by FUM members, FUM Annual Meetings, and Triennial Gatherings are limited when compared with opportunities in the past such as those opened purposefully by Traveling Friends). Thus, in the tradition of Traveling Friends, we recognize the need to broaden opportunities for SEYM members to interact and labor with FUM representatives/members over the acceptance of those affiliated with FUM who are of "different" sexual orientations.

In summary, Space Coast Monthly Meeting cannot, at this time, provide a clear directive to SEYM regarding this issue.

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**YM 2006
 Documents in Advance (DIA)**

for Plenary Sessions

during

**Meeting for Worship
 with Concern for Business**

4/12-16/2006

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

Register by mail

Register on-line
www.seym.org

*Please bring this with you; save trees.
 Thanks, SEYM Youth
 (and secretary and QEW)*