

# Numbered Minutes from Yearly Business Meeting 2015

- 15YBM01 – All of the minutes recorded during the 2014-2015 Executive Committee and Interim Business Meeting Gatherings were brought before the Yearly Meeting body and were accepted by Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.
- 15YBM02 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approved the Treasurer’s Report as provided and explained by the Treasurer.
- 15YBM03 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends establishes the new position of Field Secretary for Earthcare. The purpose of the Field Secretary for Earthcare will be coordination, inspiration, and communication within SEYM and facilitation of interaction with others to encourage Friendly, Spirit-led action for the caring of the Earth. The Field Secretary will be working under the guidance of the Spirit, energized by the person’s individual leadings. Description of the duties, responsibilities, and supervision will be provided by the Earthcare Committee of SEYM in concert with the Executive Committee as Personnel Committee through its clerk, and grounded in the loving interest and care of the Yearly Meeting.
- 15YBM04 – Duties for the position of Field Secretary for Earthcare in SEYM:
- Provide focus and coordinate efforts on environmental work in the SEYM region.
  - Perform visits to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups within SEYM to help them discern their leadings in care of the Earth, and to provide information and coordination among Meetings.
  - To be a Quaker Presence at specific events, including those arranged by others.
  - To assist the Youth of SEYM in their Earthcare projects, to be an inspiration and model for them; to be a presence and resource for Young Adult Friends.
  - To communicate and collaborate our regional concerns with national organizations including Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Friends General Conference (FGC).
  - To serve as SEYM’s public presence for Earthcare and to serve as a liaison with other like-minded organizations at the direction of the Earthcare Committee of SEYM in concert with the Executive Committee as Personnel Committee through its clerk, and grounded in the loving interest and care of the Yearly Meeting.
- 15YBM05 – Funding Plan for the position of Field Secretary for Earthcare in SEYM:
- Southeastern Yearly Meeting establishes a restricted fund within the SEYM accounts for the Field Secretary for Earthcare position. All donations received will be sent to the Yearly Meeting so that they may be recorded and placed in that restricted fund for the committee’s use and to ensure right ordering for 501(c)3 tax accounting.
- A total of \$500 will be included in the SEYM 2015-2016 budget for the Earthcare Committee operations to provide for administration of the work of the Field Secretary for Earthcare, and to continue the Committee’s business between sessions of the Yearly Meeting.

The implementation plan, including financing, will be a working document subject to improvement once funds have been received.

- 15YBM06 – Donation of Support from SEYM Trustees: Southeastern Yearly Meeting requests that the Yearly Meeting Trustees donate \$10,000 for initialization of the position of Field Secretary for Earthcare in SEYM. This would be a one-time donation in the 2015-2016 fiscal year into the restricted fund.
- 15YBM07 – Minute for Field Secretary for Earthcare Program Evaluation – The Field Secretary for Earthcare will have goals and objectives that are established in conjunction with the Earthcare Committee and the Executive Committee of SEYM. These goals and objectives will serve as the basis for continuing evaluation of program progress. The Field Secretary for Earthcare will submit a report of attainment of goals and objectives and other unanticipated activities and accomplishments for SEYM’s discernment at the annual gathering.
- 15YBM08 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the 2015-2016 budget as presented by the Finance Committee in the second reading.
- 15YBM09 – During 2015, Southeastern Yearly Meeting commits to read the pamphlet Living our Testimony of Equality – a White Friend’s Experience by Patience A. Schenck.
- 15YBM10 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends recognizes the gifts and inherent worth of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) individuals around the world. We recognize, in particular, how the current climate of extreme homophobia in many African nations puts LGBTQ people and those who help them at risk. We detest all forms of violence, especially those perpetrated against people solely because of their identity. We support the Friends New Underground Railroad project of Olympia Monthly Meeting (North Pacific Yearly Meeting) to aid LGBTQ Ugandans who are fleeing their homeland for their lives.
- 15YBM11 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends seeks to formally sponsor the work of the Friends New Underground Railroad project of Olympia Monthly Meeting (North Pacific Yearly Meeting) by committing a contribution from the 2015-2016 budget in the amount of \$200.
- 15YBM12 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approved the Nominating Committee’s second reading of the new positions being filled. Friends express deep gratitude for the faithful work of this committee in listening and responding to the Spirit.
- 15YBM13 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends accepts the Gathering Committee Report with joyful thanks.
- 15YBM14 – Friends approved the 2015 SEYM epistle, which will be posted on the SEYM website and distributed widely among Friends.
- 15YBM15 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends accepted the SEYM youth program and YAQ epistles. These will be posted on the SEYM website and distributed to “Friends Everywhere.”
- 15YBM16 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends recognizes and celebrates our SEYM Youth for their work and witness with the Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) in

2014. Young Friends and EQAT called our Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meetings, and SEYM Friends to action witnessing to PNC Bank against their financing of mountain top removal (primarily being done for coal mining). Actions held in Florida are credited with helping push PNC Bank to the tipping point resulting in their divestment from companies engaged in this environmentally destructive practice. We appreciate our Youth's leadership, are grateful for EQAT's educational and training programs, and thankful for all who rose to participate in witness in our communities.

- 15YBM17 - Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Southeastern Yearly Meeting sees a need for Friends to have a deeper understanding of immigration issues in Florida. We ask that SEYM Monthly Meetings invite Lucio Perez-Reynoso of the AFSC's American Friends Immigrant Services office in Miami, Florida, and the "Dreamers" - a coalition of activists, primarily young, many immigrants - to share with Friends and like-minded community members on the work to be done to honor the human rights and due process rights of those members of our community who are immigrants.
- 15YBM18 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends expresses their deep and abiding love and appreciation to Susan Taylor for the many years of faithful service she has given as clerk of Nominating Committee. Her depth of Spirit has nurtured the process of discernment of gifts within the corporate body and her gentle eloquence in tending the fires in Friends' souls has opened way forward for so many to respond in service to the Yearly Meeting.
- 15YBM19 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends expresses their profound gratitude to Ann Jerome for the years of enduring and faithful service she has given as clerk of Executive Committee and Interim Business Meeting. She has been an inspiring and Spirit-filled presence, shining Light on the path of the work of the Yearly Meeting and guiding us with her wisdom and gentle care.
- 15YBM20 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is grateful to recording co-clerks Jan Dahm and Lisa Erasmus for their dedicated recording in the Christ-Spirit, of minutes for Executive Committee and Interim Business Meeting during their three-year term. We also deeply appreciate their crafting of the quotations and queries for worship sharing during our Gathering, which helped us center into community.
- 15YBM21 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is grateful to Carl Hersh for his efforts in the sound booth year after year, providing excellent audio capability for the Yearly Meeting sessions. SEYM also thanks Peter Crockett and Richard Frechette for their assistance as microphone providers to the body.
- 15YBM22 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is deeply appreciative of the work of Warren and Andrea Hoskins as representatives to the Historic Peace Churches gatherings over the last several years. Blessed be the ties that bind all to peace work in this world.
- 15YBM23 - Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is joyfully appreciative of the gift of time and effort that all outgoing clerks and members of committees have given to the Yearly Meeting. We simply would not exist without your presence and Light. Take some

time to rest from your duties; you all deserve it. Please remember your family of SEYM extends an open invitation and welcome back at all times. So don't be a stranger!

We thank:

- Dustin Lemke for his service as convener of the Youth Committee, Half-Yearly Meeting clerk, FGC representative, and Florida Council of Churches representative.
- Wendy Clarissa Geiger for her service as Worship and Ministry co-clerk.
- Nancy Triscritti for her service as co-clerk of Worship and Ministry.
- Peter Crockett and Davida Johns for serving as SEYM Gathering co-clerks.
- Kathy Hersh and Johannes Werner for their service on the ProNica board.
- Sarah Hernandez for her service as FWCC representative.
- Elaine Martin for her service on the Finance Committee.
- Rebecca Miles for her service on Worship and Ministry.
- And all others we failed to mention. The gifts of your time and effort have helped SEYM find way forward in the Spirit. Thank you.

15YBM24 – Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends expresses their sincere thanks to the Florida United Methodist Life Enrichment Center for their gifts of hospitality and care during our annual sessions.