

South Central Yearly Meeting of Friends

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

28 Third Month – 31 Third Month 2024

Greene Family Camp

Bruceville, TX

Session I: Thursday, 28 Third Month, 6:45 – 8:00 PM (In-person & Online w/chat)

Friends gathered at the appointed time with a period of open worship.

Welcome and Recognition of Indigenous Lands for all of SCYM –

We are gathered on the unceded land of the Indigenous peoples of our region and on whose land we now live. I ask you to join me in acknowledging these Indigenous communities, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. South Central Yearly Meeting also acknowledges that it was founded upon the exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous peoples, beyond those on whose land live. We further acknowledge our commitment to participate in the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism wherever and whenever called upon to do so.

Out of the silence, a member of the Ministry and Care Committee, read from the Live Oak Friends Meeting State of the Meeting report.

Clerks' table – serving at the clerk's table: Bill Wilkinson, Presiding Clerk, Richard Corl, Associate Clerk; Jessica Arjet, Recording Clerk.

Review of agenda – Clerk reviewed the agenda for this evening's session.

Vocal Ministry – Clerk reminded us to use a microphone when speaking during our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business so that all can hear the vocal ministry that is shared. He also shared the specifics of this new space.

Welcome and Introductions – Clerk introduced and welcomed our visitors:

- Chuck Esser - Central Philly Monthly Meeting
- Pamala Haines - Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting
- David Haines - Piedmont Friends (NC), FGC
- Nancy Haines - Piedmont Friends (NC), FGC
- Nathan Kleban - Iowa City Friends, RSWR

Introduction of Friends in service – Clerk introduced those Friends in service at this year's Yearly Meeting Session:

- Larry Kelly-Mahaffey, On-Site Coordinator
- TBD, Associate On-Site Coordinator
- Edwin Campbell, On-site Technician
- Davis Carraway, Assistant On-site Technician
- Warren Wilson-Reiner, Co-Registrar

- Denise Wilkinson, Co-Registrar

Introductions of Tech Support

Kevin King, Edwin Campbell, Chris Drexler, Liz Wolff, Anne Collins

Friends online can ask questions using the chat feature in Zoom

SCYM 2024 Epistle – Clerk asked for Friends who will be willing to serve on our Epistle Committee this year. Will King agrees to serve. Clerk will invite other Friends to join this ministry at our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Nominating Committee - Preliminary Report - Galia Harrington-clerk, Pat Sweet, Karen

Takemoto, Rich Corl, Kimberly Nelson

Galia Harrington reported for the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee recently filled positions:

- Directory Coordinator - Tom Taber instead of Karen Takemoto
- FWCC - Rebecca Cole-Sullivan and Andrea Beane
- Peace and Justice - Kevin King and Val Liveoak
- Right Sharing of World Resources - Paula Keeth
- Treasurer - Shannon Kincaid-Toncray
- Youth Program Support - Daniel Butler
- Youth Program Support - Ileagh McIvers
- Youth Program Support - Jay Wilcox
- Quaker Earthcare Witness - Noel Osborn
- Content Manager Assistant - Nathan Bitgood - working with Liz Yeats.
- Onsite Coordinator - Danielle Evans

The Nominating Committee is looking for Friends to serve in the following open positions:

- Book Sales
- FGC conference
- Friends of LGBQTC
- Sr. Young Friends Coordinator
- Tech Event Committee
- Yearly Meeting Planning
- Youth Program Assoc. Coordinator
- Youth Program Coordinator
- Youth Program Support

And perhaps Website Technical Manager (in-training) - this will depend on the feelings of the current Website Technical Manager.

Nominating brought forth two minutes regarding laying down positions that are no longer necessary.

SCYM Minute 2024.01 - Following the Nominating Committee's recommendation, Friends agreed to discontinue the position of Content Manager - Publications.

SCYM Minute 2023.02 - Following the Nominating Committee's recommendation, Friends agreed to discontinue the position of Co-Archivist.

Friends would like to ensure that we include Bev Randolph in our minute appreciation for all the years of service writing the SCYM newsletter.

Preliminary Treasurer's Report & Budget Presentation - Lauri Laub, Treasurer; Shannon Kincaid-Toncay, Assistant Treasurer

Shannon presented the report which is [online here](#). Friends accepted this report.

Representative Reports:

Louisiana Interchurch Conference – Pam Arnold gave the report for Jim Johnson - The report is [online here](#). Friends accepted this report.

Texas Impact – Andrea Beane, Joanna Vaughn - Andrea Beane gave the report which is [online here](#). Friends accepted this report.

Quaker Earthcare Witness – Danielle Evans, Andrea Beane - Danielle Evans gave this report which is [online here](#). Friends accepted this report. Friends thanked Danielle Evans for her years of service in this position.

Right Sharing of World Resources – Paula Keeth gave this report which is [online here](#). Nathan Kleban of RSWR supported this report and answered questions.

A Friend thanked Paula for reading the report slowly. Another Friend asked if RSWR still collected stamps - they collect used postage stamps to sell and raise money. Friends can cut those stamps off envelopes and send them to RSWR. There needs to be a half an inch border around the stamps. They will check on the address for this. Friends accepted this report.

Announcements:

Peace and Social Justice will be meeting tonight at 8:15 PM in the dining room. If you are from Oklahoma and know of Senator Markwayne Mullins please reach out to Gladys Tiffany as you might be helpful in affecting a change on some important matters.

It was announced that Ministry and Care will meet at 8:15 PM.

Liz Yeats thanked everyone for sending the reports ahead of time. If you have not yet done so, please send them as soon as you can.

Erica Mittag asked for help with setting up the children's program.

A Friend asked to go back to the FWCC report and wondered if the Friends in different places have the same concerns that we have. The representative from FWCC let us know that, yes, they have similar concerns.

One Friend mentioned that a Guatemalan Friend said as part of his ministry "he never learned to fight, and he thanked God for that."

Another Friend let us know he is hosting people from South America and they are concerned about finding safe schooling for their child. So, the concerns were similar here as well.

Nominating meeting will be in the health house.

Epistle Reading - A member Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting read from the 2024 Epistle received from the first Central European Gathering.

Meeting closed at 8:04 PM with a period of open worship.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Friday, 29 Third Month, at 9:00 AM.

Session II: Friday, 29 Third Month, 9:00-10:45 AM (In-person & Online w/chat)

Friends gathered at the appointed time with a period of open worship.

A member of the Ministry and Care Committee read the Fayetteville State of the Meeting report.

Review of agenda – Clerk reviewed the agenda for this morning’s session.

SCYM 2024 Epistle – Clerk extended an invitation to Friends to join our Epistle Committee this year. Will King has already agreed. Clerk will invite other Friends to join this ministry at our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Representative Reports - (cont.)

- **Friends Committee on National Legislation** – Suzanne Cole-Sullivan, Bill Sweet, Claudia Wilson, Liz Yeats, Larry Kelly-Mahaffey, and Will King who read the report which is [online here](#).

A Friend asked what kind of response they get when they visit representatives or senators. FCNL wants to build a relationship and tell a story about how an issue affects you. It can be surprising to hear some of the responses. They are able to make positive relationships.

Another Friend asked about the reproductive justice decision that FCNL took. They have changed their initial neutral policy.

Will King read out the specific passage on this issue which can be found [online here](#).

- **Friends General Conference** – Jan Michael, Gretchen Haynes. They would like one more member. Jan Michael read the report which is [online here](#).

Information about the upcoming Gathering which will be from June 30-July 6, was provided.

Anne Collins is on the Gathering Together Campaign Committee for FGC. She let us know that FGC is creating an endowment to make the cost for attending less expensive. There will be an appeal later to contribute to this campaign. The

campaign is ending early due to a bequest. There will be an FGC celebration on April 17th online. FGC is increasing online retreats. In 2 weeks, there will be a spiritual retreat online. The next in-person Gathering will be in 2026.

The YM was advised that there will be a virtual FGC Gathering and an in-person youth gathering next year.

Friends asked how much we are asking to contribute to the endowment. Anne told us it was \$500. The Finance Committee has determined that we do have \$500 in savings that we could use for this.

Proposed Minute - SCYM 2024.03 - Friends approved a \$500 donation to be sent to Friends General Conference.

One Friend wanted to know if SCYM had the ability to fund this request. Another Friend asked that we ask for these financial requests all at the same time.

Clerk let us know that this request was not considered by another committee. In the correct order of things, this request would normally have come through a committee. Because of turnover and other issues, these procedures are not followed as closely as they have been in the past. Because of that, this issue was brought up now during the FGC report to be considered by the full meeting rather than during the budget discussion.

The funding for this request is outside of the budget we have allocated for the support of other institutions.

A Friend mentioned being in favor of this, however wonders if we can postpone this decision until later to ascertain if this is the correct way to do this.

Friends asked to move this minute to tomorrow and take it up during the Finance Committee report.

It was asked if we could support other Friends initiatives in the same manner.

Clerk let us know the correct order when requests for financial support come in:

The clerks receive the request and send it to a committee that is related to the request, often that is Peace and Social Justice. If that committee discerns a leading to support the request, they will send the issue to the finance committee for advice on how this request will affect the budget. With that information the committee will determine if they still support the request and to what extent. If the committee discerns their leading to support the request continues, they will bring the matter to the Meeting as a whole to be considered and acted upon.

Usually we approve our support for outside organizations in a block during our discussion of the yearly budget. If Peace and Justice doesn't make any changes during the year, we continue to commit to the same amount each year.

Friends accepted this report.

The minute will be brought up for consideration tomorrow during the Finance Committee report.

- American Friends Service Committee – Alex McDonald, Les Brelsford, Will King. Alex McDonald noted that there was not a report from last year and Friends in Houston were thrilled to host AFSC a couple of weeks ago.

Clerk encouraged Friends to bring up issues to carry to the AFSC Corporation Meeting.

One Friend asked to hear from the AFSC friends who are in Gaza and to let them know that we are holding them in the light. There are still people from AFSC in Gaza who are actively working. They are able to get some humanitarian supplies in. We know they were safe as of two weeks ago.

One of our representatives said the world is so filled with conflict that AFSC is needed now more than ever. He feels that Friends in this area are concerned with immigration and would like to make sure AFSC is aware of our needs around this issue.

Clerk suggested that we'd like to have an AFSC presence in Texas, preferably at the border to help address immigration issues.

Another Friend let us know that Friends Peace Teams is undertaking a mission of anti-war, and asked if she could be connected to the people at AFSC who were working on this issue.

Friends accepted this report.

- Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns - No report was given because SCYM does not have a current representative to this organization.
- Friends Peace Teams – Val Liveoak and Kevin King gave this report which is [online here](#).

Friends accepted this report.

- Friends World Committee for Consultation – Lori Laub, Shannon Kincaid-Toncay this report is [online here](#).

Keynote Speaker Pamela Haines is connected with the Friends Indo-Pacific Peace Teams - she gets news reports from many interesting places and feels Friends might enjoy these newsletters. You can find out how to sign up for this newsletter on the table in the dining hall.

One Friend let us know that the stories from the Friends Peace Teams are powerful and amazing.

Other Friends are supporting FPT work including Anne Collins and Erika Mittag who are working with FPT to build a peace library and a literacy initiative in Central America. Paula Keeth is part of Toward Right Relationships with Native

Peoples which is affiliated with Friends Peace Teams and will bring up an issue about boarding schools during the Peace and Social Justice discussion.

Another friend commends Friends Peace Teams. There is an effort to build peace libraries in Rwanda and elsewhere. Quakers Uniting in Publications is online at quakerquip.com. If you are interested you can ask Liz Yeats or Nancy Haines.

Friends accepted this report.

Friends listened to the FPT video epistle together.

- YM Worship Committee – Liz Wolff, Neil Redfield, Galia Harrington, Will King - Liz Wolff presented the report which is [online here](#).

Friends accepted this report.

Announcements

Clerk let us know that some of the Memorial Minutes are more lengthy than usual. He asks if possible to summarize or to find a way to continue the spirit of the Minute while being mindful of our limited time together.

The Peace and Social Justice video Two Rivers viewing will be at 9:15 PM in the staff lounge tonight.

A Friend from Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting read from the 2024 Epistle received from the Ohio Yearly Meeting - Conservative.

Meeting closed at 10:29 AM after a period of open worship.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Friday, 29 Third Month, at 6:45 PM.

Session III: Friday, 29 Third Month, 6:45 - 7:45 PM (In-person & Online w/chat)

Friends gathered at the appointed time with a period of open worship.

A member of Ministry and Care Committee read from the Stillwater Friends Meeting State of the Meeting report.

Review of agenda – Clerk reviewed the agenda for this afternoon’s session. We will continue the reports from our representatives.

SCYM 2024 Epistle – Clerk extended an invitation to Friends to join our Epistle Committee this year. Will King has already agreed. Clerk will invite other Friends to join this ministry at our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Welcome and Introductions – Clerk invited any new visitors who have arrived since our last session to stand and be recognized:

- Jacob Flowers from AFSC - he let us know that AFSC has an online Action hour at 11:00 am each day. Friends write letters and support each other in action calls.

- Amy Gottlieb from FCNL - Director of Migration for the US at AFSC in New York

Representative Reports (cont.)

- **Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC)** – Liz Yeats and Anne Collins gave the report. Liz is one of the founders of QREC in 2014. Now people around the world share these resources.

Walking in the World as a Friend is a resource for meetings, they have several series of meetings online for discussions on different topics. They also have monthly conversation circles and spiritual companion groups. Friends can go to QREC online and learn and become friends with others. There is also a resources library on the website- you can find children's and adult's resources.

Anne and Liz are appreciative that SCYM is a supporter of the QREC.

Friends accepted the report.

Yearly Meeting Committee Reports

- **Ministry & Care** – Pam Arnold, Cathy Ivash, Howard Hawhee, Chris Drexler, Jimmy Pryor, Val Liveoak, Larry Trombatore, Vicki Griffin - Pam Arnold gave the report which is [online here](#).

Andrea Beane gave her report around her attendance at The Gathering which is [here online](#).

Friends accepted this report.

- **Communications**- Terry SoRelle, Bill Sweet, Liz Yeats. Liz Yeats presented the report. Karen Takemoto and Tom Taber worked on our directory list. This increased the ability of the committee to communicate with SCYM friends.

Now Friends are much more in touch between email and a zoom account. There is a weekly Wednesday worship on zoom as well as committee meetings and Representatives and Yearly meetings.

Liz is able to put any event or announcement in the newsletters. She tries to make the newsletters monthly.

They are constantly trying to reorganize and make sure the new procedures end up in the procedures manual.

Newsletter@SCYM.org

There is also a SCYM YouTube Channel.

Friends accepted this report.

- **Tech Events Committee** - Kevin King, Edwin Campbell, Anne Collins, Erika Mitag, Liz Yeats, Chris Drexler, Liz Wolff. Kevin King gave the report which is [online here](#). This is a new committee.

Friends accepted this report.

- **Yearly Meeting Planning Committee** – Denise Wilkinson, Gretchen Haynes, Gilda Rixner, Suzanne Cole-Sullivan. Denise presented the report which can be found [online here](#).

Friends accepted this report.

Representative Reports (cont.)

- **Austin Tan Circa de la Frontera** – Joanna Vaughn gave this report which is [online here](#). Howard Hawhee is on their board.

Friends accepted this report.

Yearly Meeting Committee Reports

- **Archivist** – Howard Hawhee gave a verbal report. SCYM paper records have been kept in the Friends Meeting of Austin library going back to the beginning of the yearly meeting to a time when we began to produce materials mostly online. Recent years we are keeping documents on our website, not printing and filing them. A friend had a concern about electronic records because they go out of date and become unreadable rapidly. We'd like to be clear about what the plans are to keep the records available in a readable format.

Howard Hawhee feels that there should always be a paper copy somewhere so that there is a backup copy somewhere. Questions need to be answered about documentation sent to Swarthmore.

Friends accepted this report.

- **Ad hoc Procedures Manual Committee** - Bill Sweet presented a verbal report. There is not a committee only Bill, and it is permanent. At some point there needs to be a discussion on what will remain in the procedures manual and what will be in F&P.

Friends accepted this report.

Announcements -

Friends noted that the sound quality has been excellent tonight and thank the onsite tech support.

It was announced that all reports have been received with thanks at this time. Memorial minutes, births, and celebrations will be posted after they have been read into Meeting.

Youth Programs end at dinner time each evening. It is up to parents to supervise their children after that.

A member of Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting read from the Australian Yearly Meeting 2023 Epistle.

Meeting closed at 7:54 PM after a period of open worship.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Saturday, 30 Third Month, at 9:00 AM.

Session IV: Saturday, 30 Third Month, 9:00 – 10:45 AM (In-person & Online w/chat)

Friends gathered after the appointed time with a period of open worship.

A member of the Ministry and Care Committee read excerpts from the Little Rock Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting report.

Review of agenda – Clerk reviewed the agenda for this morning’s session.

SCYM 2024 Epistle – Clerk extended an invitation to Friends to join the Epistle Committee.

Committee Reports (continued)

- **Peace & Justice Committee Report** – Gladys Tiffany, clerk; Paula Keeth, Andrea Beane, John Coffin, Lois Way, Mac Lemann, Paul Pierce, Jim Kuhn, Kevin King, Val Liveoak, and Alex McDonald.

Gladys, Paula, Andrea, and Alex presented the report which can be found [online here](#).

Discussion of the Truth and Healing Commission minute:

A Friend mentioned that we need to include who we are in letters to representatives. Clerk let us know that we already do that when we send out these types of letters.

Jan Michaels will be meeting with Senator Markwayne Mullin and a few other Friends might also be meeting so that they can speak with him as he is on the Indian Affairs Committee. He may be persuaded to support the proposed Commission.

Another Friend felt like there are more people in Oklahoma Meetings who will be interested in speaking to Senator Mullin as well.

SCYM Minute 2024.03 - South Central Yearly Meeting reaffirms its support of the “Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act” as reintroduced in the 118th Congress and endorses the actions of FCNL in support of this legislation.

Discussion of the minute regarding homelessness:

A Friend asked if we could look at the language to say the “unhoused” to take the focus off of the people and instead focus on their situation.

SCYM Minute 2024.04 - SCYM unites with the concerns of Fayetteville Friends Meeting on the issue of unhoused people and will disseminate its concern and queries to Monthly Meetings throughout its region.

Discussion of Minute regarding the war in Gaza:

Friends commented widely and expressed numerous concerns regarding this minute. The discussion was passionate and at times required the meeting to settle into silence.

Clerk let the meeting know that the final Minute would be sent in a letter to the President, Vice President, Senators and Representatives on the appropriate committees as well as the Secretary of State, and others. In addition to the minute, the letter would include some paragraphs of information to contextualize the minute.

We were reminded that the root of the problem is weapons trafficking. The US has been sending weapons to Israel for years, and the US has been vetoing UN resolutions regarding Israeli human rights violations. The Canadian Parliament has asked their government to stop sending weapons to Israel. Friends wondered if the US could send aid directly given the minor children and civilians suffering in Gaza and the delays caused by Israeli inspections of all incoming aid.

A Friend reported that one of the members of her meeting strongly feels we should call this genocide. Another Friend feels it is very important that we take a firm stand against anti-semitism. Her meeting approved a minute against apartheid as well as a minute against anti-Jewish hatred. Friends expressed frustration with the situation in the Middle East and that it is so complex that we cannot get it totally right after more than 50 years of occupation. Someone else felt that the horror of what Hamas did has almost been swallowed up by the horror of the current war. Another person spoke to the large number of underlying issues that we need to identify and tease apart. Anti-semitism is on the rise at an alarming pace as well as Islamophobia. Both are cancers. As Friends, we have to make a stand for peace from Hamas, Israel, Russia, Ukraine, everywhere.

A Friend implored that when it comes to peacemaking being able to acknowledge the pain on both sides of the war is important. In the current conversations we are focusing on the harm done by Israel. But we need to be aware that profound violence was done by Hamas. That does not excuse retaliation. But we have to be careful that we are not choosing sides and we are not vilifying the people of Israel. We can hold the government responsible, but we need to be careful we do not slide into anti-semitism. The threat is profound and something Jewish people cannot escape. We should refrain from choosing sides. Particularly one as entrenched as the Middle East. They deserve our sensitivity as much as others. All of those lives matter and we should be concerned with all of those lives.

A concern was raised that this statement feels incomplete. It talks about the loss of life and short-term strategy, but there is a larger question of the strategic vision of peace in the Middle East for all people that might have the foundation of creating a peaceful Middle East. One Friend suggested that we are trying to approve two minutes disguised as one. One for approving the FCNL statement and another which complicates the support of the FCNL minute, perhaps even questioning it. Maybe we can split them up.

Clerk asked that we pause the discussion. Friends who are interested in this minute are invited to work together with the clerks after this session to revise the minute and bring it back this afternoon. Friends approved.

- **Faith & Practice**— John Coffin, clerk; Leada Dietz, Jane Houser, Danielle Evans, Mac Lemann - unofficial member,

John Coffin read the report which can be found [online here](#).

The draft of SCYM Faith and Practice can be found [online here](#).

It was explained that the blue type in the draft means it is new, corrected, or changed text.

There is an afternoon workshop about Faith and Practice. Friends accepted this report.

Announcements

Lon Burnum shared his experience from the 1980s - a journalist used the words Jew and Israeli interchangeably. So he has experience in explaining the difference between people and the Israeli government. He feels we need to keep governments accountable. He also feels that we are responsible for our government's actions.

Friends who wish to help can stay after Meeting for Business to work on the minute regarding the war in Gaza.

A member of the Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee read from the 2024 North Pacific Yearly Meeting Epistle.

Meeting closed with a period of open worship.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will continue on Saturday, 30 Third Month, at 2:45 PM.

Session V: Saturday, 30 Third Month, 2:45 – 5:15 PM (In-person & Online w/chat)

Friends gathered at the appointed time with a period of open worship.

A member of the Ministry and Care Committee read from the Friends Meeting of San Antonio State of the Meeting report.

Review of agenda – Clerk reviewed the agenda for this afternoon's session.

Registrar's Report – Warren Wilson-Reiner, Registrar, presented the report of the count of Friends attending this Yearly Meeting session which is [online here](#).

A Friend asked what are the numbers compared to pre-pandemic numbers? Warren will need to pull up the pre-pandemic numbers. However, there are about 16 more people this year than last year - 2023. Some people didn't come because of health reasons.

Friends accepted this report.

SCYM 2024.05 - Friends express appreciation to Terry SoRelle, “our web guy” who wrote the registration system and maintains it, and Liz Yeats, our communications master, for all their good work supporting SCYM registration. Registration could not have happened without them.

Committee Reports (continued) -

- **Finance Committee** – Pat Sweet, clerk; Jane Houser, Carol Redfield, Jimmy Pryor, and Bill Wilkinson.

Pat Sweet presented the report which can be found [online here](#).

SCYM MINUTE 2024.05: SCYM approves the following changes to its signatories with Greater Texas FCU, effective April 1, 2024. Remove: Howard Hawhee and Val Liveoak. Retain: Lori A. Laub (Immediate Past Treasurer) and William F. Wilkinson III (Associate Clerk) Add: Shannon Kincaid-Toncay (Treasurer) and Richard S. Corl (Clerk)

Discussion of the Finance Committee Proposal about moving balances:

A Friend asked if we would have access to this account. The answer is yes, we would.

A Friend asked where this money in Friends Fiduciary Fund goes. Clerk let him know the fund picks the bonds, etc.

SCYM Minute 2024.06: Friends approved the SCYM Finance Committee proposal that we move an amount from SCYM checking to Friends Fiduciary to leave not less than \$65,000 in said checking account.

SCYM Minute 2024.07: Friends approved the Finance Committee proposal that the YM offer \$500, above our usual donation and taken from funds outside the Yearly Meeting Operating Budget, to support The FGC Gathering Together Campaign.

Discussion of the Finance Committee Proposal regarding Keynote Speakers.

A Friend wants to clarify - we will give them the honorarium and transportation and the room and board. It is a flat \$2,000 to pay for travel and the honorarium.

SCYM Minute 2024.08: Friends approved the Finance Committee proposal that \$2,000 be allotted for the Honorarium and Transportation of the Keynote Speaker. Aside from that, Room & Board will be provided at the Yearly Meeting. This Minute will be revisited every 3 years

Friends accepted the report.

Treasurer’s Report with proposed budget for approval: Lori Laub, Shannon Kincaid - Toncay, Assistant Treasurer presented the report which is [online here](#).

It was confirmed that the \$500 we just approved would not be listed in this report.

A Friend asked if delegates are reimbursed for all their travel expenses. Some delegates just ask for air fare, some ask for the registration expenses. They are all different depending on what is required for these events and what the individual needs.

Another Friend let us know that people doing work for the meeting should turn in all of their expenses, even if they might only be asking for some reimbursement. We don't keep track of in-kind donations, but it is helpful for the meeting to know what is actually spent, so when we have to fully support someone we know what that cost might be.

Another Friend asked do you really want us to take the time to report this stuff, or does it not really matter. At this point it doesn't really matter because we have few requests and sufficient funds to cover any that come in. But it might be important if more travel is being requested in the future.

The treasurer added that there are still some FCNL expenses not shown in this report and not shared with the treasurer. Turning in receipts on time is helpful to the treasurer.

A Friend suggested that we might have a delegate form to help make this happen more easily.

SCYM subsidizes the Yearly Meeting Sessions to defray the cost of scholarships, speaker fees, etc.

Meeting accepts the Treasurer's Report for FY 2023-24.

SCYM 2024.09 – Friends approve the FY 2024-2025 Operating Budget as presented by our assistant treasurer.

Committee Reports (continued)-

- **Peace and Social Justice (continued) -**

The recording clerk read the proposed minute as revised.

Discussion on the proposed minute regarding the war in Gaza.

Several friends thanked the group that worked on the revision of this minute based on previous discussions. The nuances of the minute and Friends' reaction to them were as complex as the situation in the Middle East. After another passionate and thoughtful discussion, one Friend seemed to touch on the sense of the Meeting:

We can't solve this today and a minute is not a policy statement. What we can do is to express our peace testimony. Jesus wants us to find peace. We shouldn't take sides or have a political agenda. She is mindful of a man she knew who had his bar mitzvah at 82 because he had grown up in the ghetto. These Jews who were fleeing death went to Israel and they displaced other people who had no place to go and then they fought. But the underlying question is about death. 6 million people died and their descendants live in Israel. Our peace testimony states there is that of God in every one of us and all of us matter. The worst thing that is happening is that there is a war and people are being murdered. Not that we have a position, but that we hate war and we utterly reject all wars and strife.

A Friend responded that this Friend speaks his mind very eloquently. It's okay to not be in unity. It is important to express our Peace Testimony and reject all war. It's a deep and deeply intractable issue. I look forward to holding in the light Friends who work to create a more just system - but none of this can happen while there is active war.

Some Friends were concerned that the minute was "watered down" and wished we could be more specific and press our position more assertively. Other Friends were led in their belief that SCYM must act now and were appreciative that the minute does not take sides and simply lifts up the notion that war is never the answer.

One Friend thanked everyone for all of their discussion as opposed to all of the churches she grew up in. She feels we picked the side of peace and is grateful for that.

SCYM 2024.10 South Central Yearly Meeting stands for long term peace and justice in the Middle East. We oppose all war. We oppose all forms of discrimination, including based on religion and ethnicity. We believe that lasting peace requires the honoring of human rights of all people, including equality and self-determination. We hold the leadership of Hamas, the government of Israel, and the US government responsible to the same high standards of international humanitarian law and call for de-escalation, humanitarian access in Gaza, and a ceasefire throughout the region.

The minute was approved.

In addition, Peace and Social Justice will develop queries to send out to meetings to assist them in wrestling with these issues. Friends are reminded that they can also lift up this issue to their own monthly meetings for further spirit-led discussions.

First Reading of the 2024 SCYM Epistle – Will King, Cassie Hardee, and Katharine Jager-Rubinson are currently in service as our 2024 Epistle Committee. Will King shared the first draft of our Yearly Meeting Epistle with Friends.

Discussion on the Epistle:

It was pointed out that the Faith and Practice committee is not as old as was read out, he will talk with the committee directly to correct that matter. He offered thanks to the committee. One Friend would like to acknowledge the deep and difficult work that we just undertook in creating the peace testimony minute. The committee said they will work on that tonight. Another Friend felt overjoyed about how the yearly meeting is moving into the territory of reflecting on oppression and other issues, and is grateful that work is reflected in the epistle.

Announcements -

Sunday morning is a rich and busy time for business and worship, so we encourage Friends to arrive on time at 9:00 am so we can have more worship.

A member of the Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee read the 2023 Epistle from the Alaska Friends Meeting.

Meeting closed at 5:14 PM after a period of open worship.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Sunday, 31 Third Month, at 9:00 AM.

Session VI: Sunday, 31 Third Month, 9:00 – 10:30 AM (In-person & Online w/chat)

Friends gathered at the appointed time with a period of open worship.

A member of the Ministry and Care Committee read from Acadiana Friend's Meeting (Preparative) and Baton Rouge Friend's Meeting State of the Meeting reports. The Acadiana Meeting is under the care of the Baton Rouge Friend's Meeting.

Review of agenda – Clerk reviewed the agenda for this morning's session.

Clerk let us know that the simple meal may or may not have a basket to accept funds. The donations will go to Red Nations Rising. Please be aware that you might have to wait to make your donation.

Clerk reminded Friends that memorial minutes are usually read out by a Friend from their meeting. Chris Drexler read out the names of the memorial minutes.

Nominating Committee – Galia Harrington, Nominating Committee, presented the final Nominating report.

Galia read out the names and positions of new appointees which are [online here](#).

SCYM Minute 2024.11 – Friends approve for service the names, positions, and terms of service brought forward from our Nominating Committee as revised, [online here](#).

Friends accepted this report.

South Central Yearly Meeting State of the Yearly Meeting Report – Pam Arnold from the Ministry and Care Committee read the State of the Yearly Meeting [online here](#).

Friends accepted this report.

Youth Program Report – Jay Wilcox, Youth Program Coordinator, presented the report which can be found [online here](#).

Howard Hawhee let us know that there are more names of people who helped out with the kids.

Friends accepted this report.

SCYM Minutes of Appreciation 2024.12 – Galia Harrington of the Nominating Committee shared a minute of appreciation for Friends who are completing their service at this Yearly Meeting session. [The full list of names is online here](#).

SCYM Epistle – Will King, on behalf of our Epistle Committee, presented the Epistle for our 2024 Yearly Meeting sessions which is [online here](#).

One Friend asked that we also acknowledge the visiting Friends.

The working group will add this acknowledgement. With that addition Friends accepted this Epistle.

Minutes of Celebration

Marriages: [[see online photos](#)]

Coyote Shook Balderrama and Estevan Balderrama were married under the care of Friends Meeting of Austin

Haley and Randi Woodward were married under the care of Friends Meeting of Austin

Gwendolyn Bradford and Grand Wiedeneld are going to be married under the care of Live Oak Friends Meeting

Births: [[see online photos](#)]

Daria Rose Synhorst (March 9, 2024) - Live Oak Friends Meeting

Hugo Bradford Wiedenfeld (Date) - Live Oak Friends Meeting

Francesca Kirby Trombatore (March 12, 2024) - Acadiana Friends Meeting

Fritz Cummins - Friends Meeting of Austin

Ellis Smith - Friends Meeting of Austin

Memorial Minutes – [[see online Memorial Minutes](#) for full text]

Jesse Paul Duer (December 1984 - February 1, 2024)- Friends Meeting of Austin

Tom Bauer (May 31, 1940 - June 19, 2023) - Friends Meeting of Austin

Dale Bordelon (April 12, 1952 - November 13, 2023) - Dallas Monthly Meeting

Marian Carter (February 17, 1930 - Aug 22, 2023) - Friends Meeting of San Antonio

Barbara Cowan - (May 29, 1931 - November 27, 2022) Live Oak Friends Meeting

Rex Friend (October 13, 1954 - January 7, 2023) - Oklahoma City Friends Meeting

Sue Garzon (July 1950 - May 2023) Stillwater Friends Meeting

Hank Lee (1947 - 2023) - Live Oak Friends Meeting

Rodney Mayfield (April 16, 1982 - October 6, 2023) - Live Oak Friends Meeting

Sally Merrill (died March 23, 2023) - Friends Meeting of Austin

Betty Richardson (Oct 13, 1950 - April 15, 2023) - Live Oak Friends Meeting

2024 Representative Meeting – Clerk announced that our 2024 Representative Meeting will be held online on 22-23 Eleventh Month.

2025 Yearly Meeting – Clerk announced that the 2025 Yearly Meeting will be held online 13-16 Fourth Month, 2025 and at Greene Family Camp 17-20 Fourth Month 2025.

Meeting shared a period of open worship.

2024 Youth Epistle

Out of the silence a young Friend read the Youth Epistle for First Day School:

Dear SCYM firstday for CH Was fishing.

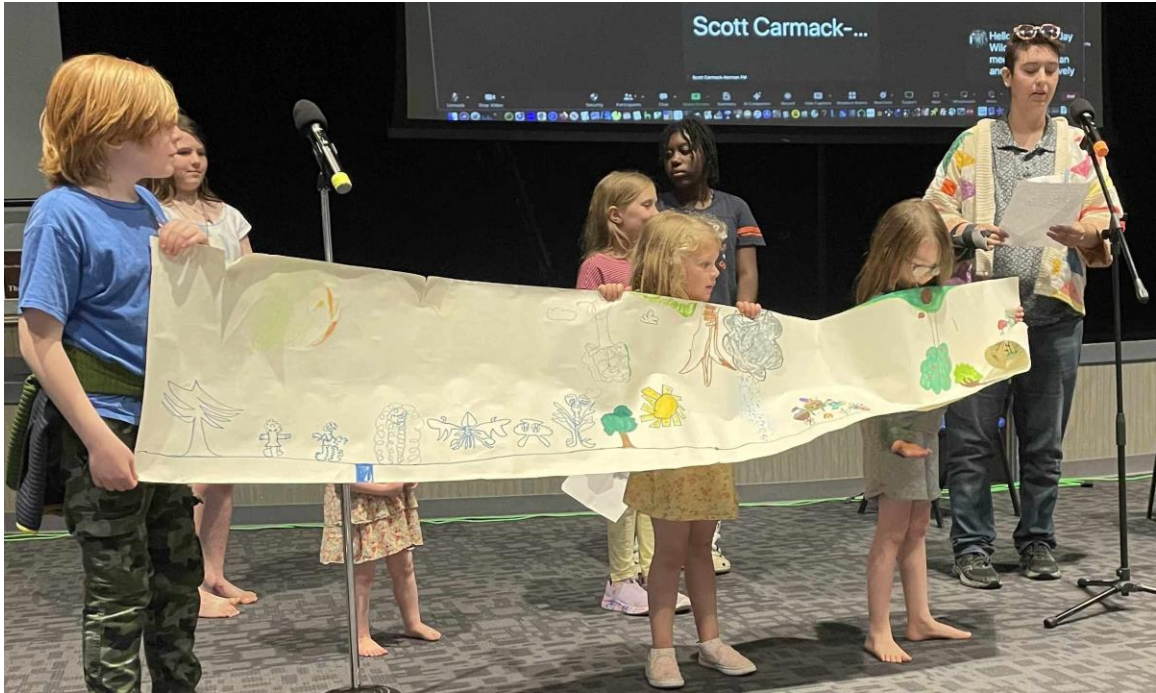
Friday we did a campfire with S'mors, and peanut butter cookies with ice cream and candy. Art -> peaceable Kingdom.

Saturday, we did clay, fishing, spring (fountain with iorn hot water, smelled bad.)

No led alumia and insoluble, material, chalk and bubbles faimily metting, singing fluting, gutiring, bangoed and pianos. Decuraed baskets, eggs and did an egg hunt.

Sunday follsil hunt found some. Silk worms a millaped.

WOOHOO!



Meeting ended at 12:00.