

South Central Yearly Meeting of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
21-22 Eleventh Month 2025
Virtual Meetings
Via Zoom

Session I: Friday, 21 Eleventh Month 2025, 7:45 pm

Friends gathered online for open worship at 7:00pm. At 7:45pm Clerk welcomed Friends to Meeting for Worship with attention to business.

Clerks' table – serving at the clerks' table were Clerk - Richard Corl; Associate Clerk - Kevin King; Recording Clerk - Jessica Arjet.

Welcome & Introductions -

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 we 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.

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

Clerk's Report/Committee & Representative Reporting Obligations - Given by Rich Corl. [Online here.](#)

The clerk discussed AFSC affinity groups with resources for responding to the Gaza crisis. He also spoke of the FGC gathering, which is in Vermont this year.

FGC litigation - the courts are moving slowly; there are now 3 different lawsuits. You can find more info at the website.

Spring Quakers submitted information for the website so that they could be added as a worship group.

Please turn in your reports ahead of the yearly sessions. For this RM session we are focusing on issues that are affecting us for this time, anything larger should wait for the larger SCYM spring sessions.

Quarterly Meeting Reports

Arkansas and Oklahoma -Jan Michael presented this report.

They have a large quarterly and usually have representatives from all of their member meetings. They decided on the theme and the speaker for the SCYM spring sessions. They met at a new location in Oklahoma, it was very nice and was more accommodating to their needs.

Bayou -Members of the quarterly meeting pieced the report together.

Pam Arnold said that they've needed to make a change of where they meet, but now the new one is not as comfortable as the old meeting spot. They are now meeting at the Uskichitto retreat center, a Methodist camp near Kinder with bunk beds and such, however it is not as convenient. At the retreat the staff do the cooking, which makes the cost more and they miss making the meals together.

June Conti the clerk this year.

They have a show and tell on Saturday evening which is an enjoyable tradition. They meet twice a year and they are a close group, who enjoy each other. Because their numbers are small they have to pay for 20 people whether they come or not. So they asked the monthly meetings to help support the quarterly budget so they can encourage more people, especially families to come. They have had some children attending from time to time.

Chris added that members and attenders also donated to the Bayou Quarterly.

Chris let us know that Live Oak is considering putting up a little pantry for food and diapers and such.

Pam says that they rent their space from a place called the red shoes and they run a pantry on their property, which the meeting helps to support.

Cielo Grande - There was no official report. That quarterly only meets when they have to discuss the SCYM theme.

Instead, people from the different meetings reported on their activities.

Austin:

Chip Bach reported that FMA has been pretty vibrant with lots of children. They prepare food for people who are food insecure with the ATX free fridge. Through this they have seen the need increase substantially.

Terry reported that they have a strong young adult meeting. They've been talking about what their response would be if they are visited by ICE both as a meeting house and in the community. They had 13 kiddos in first day school.

Liz Yeats - Austin did a press conference in the manner of Friends - they asked other religious societies to join them to speak about the impending lawsuit. They invited the press to attend as well as Austin Sanctuary, and invited friends to participate out of the silence - some read statements and there were some personal statements, but the silence was maintained. The press seemed very interested, especially the TV, and many of them stayed after and interviewed participants. Attenders included a Rabbi, a UU church member, someone from the Zen Center, Catholics, Baptists and more.

They thanked the yearly meeting for helping them become part of that suit so that they could bring it to the local community. FMA is part of the sanctuary movement.

Terry wonders if there is a way that FMA might be able to support the other meetings in SCYM children's programs.

San Antonio:

Val Liveoak reported they have many attenders, but fewer people have been stepping up to be part of the committees and such.

Rachael Cundey let us know about the San Antonio immigrant rights committee.

Bill Wilkinson said there is also a Mennonite group that they are supporting. But they don't want any publicity around it.

Denise says that there are more children in the first day school, upwards of 10 on a Sunday.

Val reported that they collected grocery cards for the needy.

More of the younger people have started stepping up more frequently. There have been a number of somewhat more regular attenders.

Bill Sweet - Having a meeting house means lots of work and they have some people who come to help out for "meeting for weeding," but there is a lot of work that doesn't get done.

Liz regrets that Cielo Grande quarterly is not meeting. She wonders what would make that more possible. It might be a way to bring more people in to meeting in general

Tom Taber said that Fort Worth would like to join, but Celio Grande has not met, so it can't let them join. They are in a transition year, but they'd love to meet with Celio Grande if possible.

Bill Wilkinson let us know that it will be Celio Grande's duty to figure out the theme and speaker for 2027 and 2028

Pepper Haynes from Dallas Friends Meeting says that their meeting has been having more children coming to meeting. They are struggling with having one big house and how to respect the kid's needs as well as the needs of the meeting. They have had good discussions around that. They now have a nominating committee to help fill committee positions. She would also like to be able to join a quarterly meeting.

Jan Michael suggested having a retreat meeting with a program that would be fun and with lots of time for people to hang out.

Karen Takemoto would like more people to be involved not only as a monthly meeting, but also in the yearly meeting. This topic will be addressed in the worship sharing that will follow this meeting. Nominating committee has only 4 people and they don't have representation from all the meetings. But they know they want a vibrant yearly meeting with lots of representation, hence the worship sharing.

Liz asked that maybe we could have time at the spring sessions for Celio Grande to discuss this issue and how to join together.

There were no announcements.

Worship Sharing for visioning our Yearly Meeting Future - led by Karen Takemoto

As this was worship sharing, no notes were taken.

Queries:

What is your vision for SCYM?

What would it take to make that happen?

How can you or others you might know, contribute to building that vision?

How are children part of your vision for SCYM?

What ways can we improve the process of educating and promoting opportunities to serve?

How do we broaden the reach of the Nominating Committee beyond our own individual Meetings/ Quarterlies?

Should we reconfigure the way YM Nominating Committee is comprised?

Meeting closed at 9:43.

Break out rooms were opened so that Friends could enjoy social time.

Session II: Saturday, 22 Eleventh Month 2025, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Friends gathered for open worship at 10:00 am. Clerk welcomed Friends to Meeting for Worship with attention to business at 10:10 am.

Clerks' table – serving at the clerks' table were Clerk -Richard Corl; Associate Clerk - Kevin King; Recording Clerk - Jessica Arjet

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

Proposed Theme and Speakers for Yearly Meeting Spring Sessions: Jan Michael clerk of AR-OK Quarterly presented this report.

The proposed theme for this year's SCYM is: **Be the Change: Contemplative Action in the World.**

The proposed speaker is Christopher Salmon.

Some links that will help friends be more familiar with him.

<https://www.schoolofthespirit.org/participating-in-gods-power/>

<https://quakerbooks.org/products/living-out-the-kingdom-while-living-in-the-world-4004>

<https://quakerspeak.com/video/where-we-touch-god/>

Discussion:

Christopher is from New York Yearly Meeting.

John Coffin spoke to us of the thoughts of the Quarterly meeting. The idea was that the direct action of “BE” and then the contemplative is a nod to the idea that we need to hold ideas and actions in the light and think deeply before we move.

Val Liveoak - it's also important to have an anchoring committee or support to hold them in the community even as they move to action in the world.

RM 2025.01 - Friends approved the theme *Be the Change: Contemplative Action in the World*; and the speaker: Christopher Salmon for the spring sessions of SCYM 2026.

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee: Denise Wilkinson, clerk, presented the report, including a draft of the schedule for the spring sessions which is [online here](#).

The committee had not yet met, so the draft was a copy of last year's schedule.

At this point we don't have confirmation from the Youth Program Support group about the youth sessions.

We will have a Faith and Practice forum again this year to discuss the final draft.

The schedule is jam packed, because we want to do a lot.

Val Liveoak - Perhaps the quarterlies could have a room set aside for them to have dinner or lunch together.

Jan Michael - For the keynote speaker, we want to make sure they have time to speak and that we can have the largest number of people available to take advantage of the speaker. The Friday spot seems reasonable for that.

Pepper Haynes- asked about worship sharing and workshops. The adult program planning committee puts those together. Most of them are one off workshops. They usually have about 4 different workshops available. They could be continuous, but they usually are not.

Kevin King - wanted to know if we will ask the representatives to give a summary of the reports, but we want a way to share our light and excitement with others. How do we add in these conversations without taking them out of the schedule. One thought he had was to have a button on his clothes that says "ask me about Friends Peace Teams."

Bill Wilkinson - maybe tabling is not the right concept. Maybe instead it should be more like a poster presentation like they do at conferences. It could be a smaller thing with informal conversation and then friends can discuss these items casually. He wants to remind everyone that their committees can meet before the yearly meeting and have their reports done before the meeting starts. Everybody has to look at the schedule in advance, so they know when they are delivering their report so that they come in at the correct time. It helps things move smoothly.

Jessica Arjet pointed out that what has happened in the last few years is that Peace and Social Concerns has come in with big minutes regarding big and thorny concerns. This has taken time away from our time of getting to know what has happened with each other and work on the main function of SCYM which is to be a support to the meetings.

Val Liveoak says that we do take up a lot of time with the minutes from Peace and Social Concerns - that these are not actions, but more like proclamations. And hopefully this wrestling has helped people decide what actions they have taken. She would like more time talking about

action and how it fits into our spiritual life than laboring into minutes. Maybe a way to carry over the labor to the monthly meetings.

Liz Yeates discussed how the things that bring us closer together are actions, rather than just minutes.

Rachel Cundey asked if the fireside chat could also be online.

Denise Wilkinson feels a little up in the air about the planning and how to best move forward. She suggested that Adult Programming could work with Yearly Meeting Planning to try to figure it all out.

Liz Yeates points out that the business meeting is under the care of the clerks rather than the program committee.

John Coffin said that so many of these issues are signs of the growth that the yearly meeting has undergone. He's very thankful for all the programming and work that goes into it.

Bill Wilkinson said it sounds that the present schedule as presented is probably just fine with some minor tweaks.

Karen Takemoto concurs with Bill that it seems like the schedule looks very good and that the quarterly meetings will help to support the planning committee.

Pepper Haynes is grateful for having these conversations. She values how the our struggling together shows how the quaker process works.

Denise Wilkinson thanked us for taking the time to work on the schedule as it is about trying to find a way to meet Friend's needs.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Wilkinson presented this report which is [online here](#).

We might be able to remove the RM income and expenses.

The event of SCYM is expected to support itself. Last year we didn't quite cover the expenses. We do subsidize a lot - like the room and board costs for the kids. With financial aid if people express a need when they apply then they just get that covered so that everyone can join.

In terms of Faith and Practice costs and expenses, as we are hiring editors they will be spending between \$5000 and \$8000. If we print the books there will be more expenses. Finance committee will add this as a budget item. We will probably take funds out of the general account to pay for these.

There was a bit of an overpayment of some groups, but it was minor.

The bottom line is that we only had a loss of \$606.13, which was better than we thought it was going to be.

The meeting is in good shape. We did have a little less at the end of the year, but that is mostly because of Greene Family camp not invoicing us until the next fiscal year.

We are back at the normal level of just above \$200,000.

The Boger principle is a restricted fund, everything else is unrestricted.

We have not gotten any of the monthly meetings member contributions as of yet.

There is a new address to send contributions to: Bill Wilkinson, SCYM Treasurer, 9003 Vista West Drive #116, San Antonio, TX 78245 or you can email Bill at billwilk3@gmail.com.

The finance committee is considering eliminating the adult young friends fund, but it's not really a fund situation, the finance committee will consider how to deal with this.

We can move and change any of these funds except the Boger Fund.

There is a fair amount in the travel fund. If you would like to be supported by the meeting to attend quaker activities you can reach out to the Ministry and Care.

Funds have been dispersed to the organizations that were agreed on in the Spring, there is still some left if Peace and Social Concerns would like to use that to support an organization.

There has been some travel, but not everyone has sent in those receipts. Please send them in as soon as possible after the travel so that they can be processed quickly. You can email them to billwilk3@gmail.com.

Liz let us know that it's good to know these amounts even if the person doesn't need to be reimbursed so that we know for the future.

RM 2025.02 - Friends approved the Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee Report: presented by Pat Sweet which can be found [online here](#).

RM 2025.03 SCYM authorizes the Greater Texas Federal Credit Union to remove Shannon Kincaid Toncray as signatory on all of its accounts.

We are doing this at Representatives Meeting because it is a security issue and we'd rather not wait until the spring sessions. This is proper order according to Bill Wilkinson.

RM Minute 2025.04 - Friends accepted the Finance Committee report.

Nominating Committee: Karen Takemoto, clerk, presented this report, which can be found [online here](#).

Karen Takemoto let us know that there are still several positions for nominating that need to be filled.

Between Nominating and Youth Program Support Committee there is a proposal to create a paid Youth Program Coordinator position, we will need to consider how this will be created.

Erika Mittag reported about how difficult it's been to bring in volunteers for this position and who has done this before.

Suzanne says that she feels this is a big change, maybe consider this as a first reading. Then bring it back to the spring sessions so that we can get the feedback from the parents.

Pat says that we need to do something for this year. Maybe someone could work with Erika to make this happen.

Liz Yeats says that we are at the point of experimenting and we should consider this an experiment at this point. But she does feel this should be done this year.

Bill Wilkinson let us know that we'll "contract" not hire. If we pay more than \$600 we'll have to file a 1099 with the IRS. We consider this as an expense item for the SCYM event fund.

Karen asked who would pick out and screen this person for the meeting. Erika said that it should be the Youth Programs Support Committee because they also need to define the role.

Denise feels that \$500 would not be enough, but maybe YPS would coordinate with the Finance committee to come up with the appropriate form of payment.

Liz feels we would pay the onsite expenses and travel. But we could set a limit for the stipend above the travel. We should put in the minutes that the Youth Support Committee would create the position.

Friends decided to adjourn for lunch and asked Erika to develop a proposal for the position.

Meeting closed at 12:28. The next session will be at 1:30pm.

Session III: Saturday, 22 Eleventh Month, 2025 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Friends gathered with socializing at 1:30. Clerk welcomed Friends to Meeting for Worship with attention to business at 1:37 pm.

Erika Mittag with Youth Programs Support brought back a minute for the meeting.

RM 2025.05 - The Meeting approves contracting a Youth Program Coordinator to coordinate and oversee the youth programs at the 2026 Annual Sessions. The Youth Program Support Committee will develop a job description, and they will screen, contract, and oversee this position. The person will be compensated with travel expenses, all SCYM fees, and a stipend commensurate with experience not to exceed \$1500. Following the annual sessions, the meeting expects a detailed report from the Youth Program Support Committee so that we may assess how this position worked out.

Pam Arnold let us know that a representative from the Charlotte Friends Meeting called to let us know they are holding us in the light as the national guard is leaving Charlotte and going towards Louisiana. Pam asked that they also hold the Texas meetings in the light as well.

Faith & Practice Committee - John Coffin, presented this report. The committee has hired a copy editor, Jason Grigamin who is a member of the Friends Meeting of Austin. He estimates that it will take about 5-6 weeks to complete the work. He will start in January. But that raises the concern that friends might want to make more corrections or additions, even after the editing is done. The committee wants to make sure friends know that it's okay to still make corrections and revisions. That process can be ongoing. However, wait until the draft is done before you make any more changes.

Val Liveoak feels there should be a deadline. John said they are keeping that in consideration.

Friends are urged to read the entire draft before the Spring Sessions of the Yearly Meeting. Friends will be asked to approve this draft after the working session at Yearly Meeting Spring Sessions.

Liz would like to do a special E-news just on the Faith and Practice manual so that we can get as many people there as possible. She pointed out that other yearly meetings have approved it section by section, so if we have trouble approving this practice then maybe we should take this section by section.

Denise let us know that the Faith and Practice workshop will be online so more people can participate.

Bill Sweet points out that the document will never be perfect in any single person's mind, much less in the entire body's mind. So at this point, is there anything so egregious that it can't be approved. He pointed out that it is revisable. We should strive for good enough.

What is the revision process for after the document is approved? Most practices say that they quickly start looking at doing subsequent ones. It's important to keep it alive and relevant.

RM 2025.06 - Friends accepted the Faith & Practice Committee's report.

Peace & Justice - Val Liveoak presented the report which is [online here](#).

RM 2025.07 - Friends accepted the Peace and Justice report.

Tech Events Committee -Pepper Haynes presented this report.

Pepper will be working on the website content with Liz as she transitions into the role.

RM 2024.08 Friends accepted the Tech Event Committee report.

Organization Representative Reports:

AFSC - Cassie Hardee, Alex McDonald, Les Brelsford - Alex McDonald, the clerk, read the report, which is [online here](#).

FCNL - Liz Yates and Claudia Wilson are the representatives. But several other people from this meeting were there as well. There will not be a written report at this point, but instead they will have a report at the annual sessions. They meet every other year online and then the other year they meet in person.

Discussion -

Suzanne let us know that FCNL is advocating for thoughtful policy and environmental issues around AI.

There were questions about radio programs. Suzanne said that there are resources for town halls which might be helpful.

Friends accepted the FCNL report.

FCNL Advocacy Team – presented by Paula Keeth. The report is online here. ([link needed](#)) Bill Sweet says that there is no group in San Antonio. Paula gave examples of things that could be done to make these groups more active.

Friends accepted the FCNL Advocacy Team report.

Right Sharing of World Resources - Paula Keeth, clerk, presented this report, which can be found online here.

Friends accepted the RSWR report.

Friends Peace Teams - Paula Keeth presented this report which can be found [online here](#). Kevin King shared his perspective as well.

Friends accepted the Friends Peace Teams report.

Texas Impact - Alex McDonald gave this [report which is online here](#).

Friends accepted the Texas Impact report.

Quaker Earthcare Witness - Andrea Beane read the report which is [online here](#).

They had a wonderful weekend meeting at Powell house. They were just given the Schumacher grant for \$92,000 over the course of 2 years to create an earth care action map.

Friends accepted the QEW report.

New Business:

Alex McDonald brought forward a minute asking the meeting to stand in solidarity with CAIRS and organization that Abbot has declared a terrorist organization. This minute is online here.

Friends felt this was an important issue.

Some felt the minute was not seasoned well enough - and suggested starting with the Live Oak meeting and then once that has been approved moving to the SCYM Peace and Justice Committee.

Alex was worried that this might be a threat to Friends Meeting and that it would be better to go through SCYM because SCYM doesn't have property and so would not be as affected by the 501c3.

Alex felt we should have a process to address these issues quickly from SCYM.

Claudia felt that maybe the individual meetings who are nearby to a CAIRS office should figure out how to respond individually.

Terry felt that the yearly meetings are here as a governing body for the yearly meetings, not as a body to give rapid responses.

Pam said she felt we needed to acknowledge that Alex has brought this forth for consideration. However, this is not quite the right place or time.

Friends felt that we might need to make sure there is a process for having a rapid response.

Previous incidences were discussed and how we dealt with those.

The meeting agreed that it may be necessary to develop a system to respond to urgent issues that seem to be arising out of the present moment. There are some problems, like it's hard to get a list of all the monthly meeting clerks.

We might need our communications to be in a better place so that these can happen.

At 4:50 the meeting moved into closing worship.

Attenders:

Kevin King

Bill Wilkinson

Rachael Cundey

Val Liveoak

Jessica Arjet

Lois Way

Suzanne Cole Sullivan

Rich Corl

Pat Sweet

Bill Sweet

Liz Yeats

Pam Arnold

Karen Takemoto

Jan Michael

Terry SoRelle

Chris Drexler

Denise Wilkinson

Larry Trauburg

Leada Dietz

Pepper

Chip Bach

Edwin Campbell

John Coffin

Tom Taber

Claudia Wilson

Rebecca Cole Sullivan

Tom Ivash

Erika Mittag

Alex McDonald

Paula Keeth

Andrea Beane