South Central Yearly Meeting of Friends

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
2nd Fourth Month – 5th Fourth Month 2026
Greene Family Camp
Bruceville, TX

Session I: Thursday, 2 Fourth Month, 6:45 – 8:00 PM (In-person & Online w/chat)

Friends gathered at 6:45 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 we live. We acknowledge our commitment to participate in the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism wherever we see it. We affirm Friends who are active in restitution, reparations, or repairing right relations with those who took care of this land before us.

Some time was spent ensuring that online Friends could hear what was being said by those in the in-person meeting.

Pam Arnold, from the Ministry and Care Committee read from the Friends Meeting of Austin State of the Meeting report.

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

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

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

- Scott Carmac, On-Site Coordinator
- Edwin Campbell, On-site Technician
- Tom Taber, Co-Registrar
- Denise Wilkinson, Co-Registrar
- Sean Passes - Camp Contact
- Alysa Moore - Kitchen Manager

Introductions of Tech Support

Pepper Haynes (co-clerk), Chris Drexler (co-clerk), Edwin Campbell, Leada Dietz, Kevin King, Leslie Coston.

And helpers in the On-site meeting were Rebecca Cole-Sullivan and Liam Randles.

Friends online can ask questions using the chat feature in Zoom.

Welcome and Introductions – Clerk introduced and welcomed our visitors:

- Ben Chambers - Quaker House
- Zoe Jannuzi - AFSC

SCYM 2026 Epistle – Clerk asked for Friends who will be willing to serve on our Epistle Committee this year. At this point no one stood up to serve. Clerk will invite other Friends to join this ministry at our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Nominating Committee - The Preliminary Report (online here) was read by Karen Takemoto-clerk. The committee is composed of Rich Corl (Bayou QM), Kevin King (Live Oak MM), Suzanne Cole-Sullivan, (San Antonio MM) and Karen Takemoto (AR-OK QM), clerk.

Proposed minute - In order to be good stewards of the talent faithfully given to this yearly meeting, Nominating Committee proposes a revision of the Procedures Manual that begins at rise of annual sessions 2026 and concludes at rise of annual sessions 2027. We request the formation of a self-nominated ad hoc committee that will be convened by Suzanne Cole Sullivan and supported by Bill Sweet from his role as the Procedures Manual Coordinator. We charge this committee with openly and faithfully working to remove duplicate information that also appears in Faith and Practice, to rewrite committee descriptions to better fit the yearly meeting we are now and aspire to be in the next decade, to collect feedback and information from those whose service would be affected by any alterations, and to hew to the timeline laid out in this minute.

It was decided to season this minute and bring it back later in the weekend when we have more participation.

Proposed minute - In light of the challenges mentioned by following current procedures for Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, Nominating Committee proposes that the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee be laid down. In this place, we request a Yearly Meeting Coordinator position. A full description of this position will be written by the current clerk of YM Planning Committee, the On-Site Coordinator and Co-Registrar. The description for this new position will be submitted to the body for approval at Representative Meeting 2026.

It was decided to season this minute and bring it back later in the weekend when we have more participation.

The Nominating Committee presented the current slate of positions which are online here.

The Nominating Committee is looking for Friends to serve in open positions (online here):

Rebecca L. Cole Sullivan is being put forth as Treasurer. This is the first reading of her name for this position. If approved she will take this position at the rise of the Spring Sessions.

Friends accepted this report.

Preliminary Treasurer's Report & Budget Presentation - Bill Wilkinson, treasurer, presented the report which is online here.

Friends accepted this report.

Question: Do we need to close the Adult Young Friends Fund. Answer: The Finance Committee will take up this matter and bring back a recommendation.

Question: Can we put the change of the investment funds on the income portion of the sheet. Answer: That it is simply moving from one asset to another, and is not necessary in the type of Fund Accounting that we do.

Announcements:

Finance Committee is meeting in the small dining room following the close of Business Meeting.

Ministry and Care is not meeting tonight.

Clerks have the chairs set in more of a circle so that we can see each other.

Friends approved this change.

Epistle Reading- Kathleen Gunby, Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the Friends World Committee of Consultation Europe and Middle East Section Annual Meeting April/May 2025 Epistle.

Meeting closed 8:19 PM with a period of open worship.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Friday, 3 Fourth Month, at 9:00 AM.

Session II: Friday, 3 Fourth Month, 9:00-10:15 AM (In-person & Online w/chat)

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

At 9:09 Pepper Haynes spoke to our technical difficulties. We ask that Friends speak loudly so that the online friends can hear. The online friends reported that they could hear the discussion so far.

Pam Arnold, Ministry and Care Committee, read from the Fayetteville Friends Meeting State of the Meeting reports.

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

Representative Reports -

- **Louisiana Interchurch Conference** – Robin M. Morris created and read the report which is online here.
- -A clarifying question was asked about the podcast.

  -Question: Is this conference Christian only. Answer: It is. Pam Arnold let us know that there are other groups that have wider participation beyond christianity, but the Louisiana Interchurch Conference was specifically a Chrisitan conference.

  Friends accepted this report.
- **Right Sharing of World Resources** – Paula Keeth gave this report which is online here.

  -Kevin King participated in the Thursday conversations and has been humbled by the learnings.

  Friends accepted this report.
- **Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) -** There is no report at this point in time. If one is written, then we will post it to the advanced documents online.
- **Friends Peace Teams** – Paula Keeth/ Kevin King gave this report which is online here.

  -Jessica Arjet asked about having the FPT come to organizations outside of Quakers. It might be something that could happen, but with discernment.

  -Val Liveoak let us know that the AVP training might be the correct place to look for this type of training. And perhaps we can publicize this on the web page. They are doing an AVP workshop in Austin in May.

-John Coffin said that it does matter who and where we work with people. He felt that the presentations might need to be different depending on which groups you are working with. Specifically, he wanted to hear stories about working with the Black churches speaking around gun violence.

- Kevin responded - There is a case in South Philadelphia where there has been tremendous success with AVP programs.

- Liz let us know that there will be an AVP workshop in Austin.

Friends accepted this report.

- **Friends Committee on National Legislation** – Claudia Wilson, Larry Kelly-Mahaffey, Liz Yeats, Suzanne Cole Sullivan, Rebecca Edwards. Suzanne Cole Sullivan read the report which is online here.

  -Liz Yeats - The Austin group has now been reborn thanks to Larry Kelly Mahaffey.

  -Jim Nicklos - There is an advocacy team in Norman Oklahoma. There have been a number of visits to Langford office, but they found him difficult to work with.

  -Paula Keith - If you have an advocacy team of meeting and community members, get on the Mobilize Advocacy Team app because they give you ideas of actions to do. We have teams in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

  - Leida Dietz- just delivered 21 letters to Ted Cruze around ICE activities around sensitive areas.

  Friends accepted this report.

Welcome and Introductions – Welcomed our visitors:

- Zoe Jenusie - AFSC

Announcements

We need to move the visualizing Palestine exhibit to a place that is lighter so people can see it. Please take a moment to look at it.

Nominating committee - if you are feeling led to join a committee please talk to them. Also, there are also Minutes online that the meeting is considering, please take a moment to look at those.

Pam Arnold - please look at the State of the Meeting Reports that are taped up on the back wall. Liz let us know that they are also online in the "Advanced Documents" section.

Pepper Haynes let us know that if reports are submitted early then they can be placed online and can be displayed during Meeting.

SCYM 2026 Epistle – Clerk extended an invitation to Friends to join our Epistle Committee this year. Liz said that Emma Brittain would be interested in doing this.

Clerk invited other Friends to join this ministry at our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Epistle Reading- Jillian Randles, Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the Britain Yearly Meeting May 2025 Epistle.

Meeting closed at 10:09 AM after a period of open worship.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Friday, 3 Fourth Month, at 6:45 PM.

Session III: Friday, 3 Fourth Month, 6:45 - 7:45 PM (In-person & Online w/chat)

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

Out of the silence Pam Arnold of the Ministry and Care Committee read from the Norman Friends Meeting State of the Meeting report.

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

- Ben Chambers - Quaker House
- Patricia Park - New Orleans Meeting

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

Representative Reports (cont.)

- Quaker Earth Care Witness **-** Andrea Beane gave this report which is online here.

  Friends accepted this report.

- Texas Impact – Joanna Vaughn and Alex McDonald created the report and Alex gave the report which is online here.

  Friends accepted this report.

- American Friends Service Committee – Alex McDonald, Les Brelsford, Will King. Cassie Hardie wrote the report and Alex McDonald presented the report which is online here.

  Friends accepted this report.

  AFSC is asking people to do "Love is Action." This is an action weekend which is April 25 and 26, May 16-17, and June 13-14. This is a silent vigil, find a public space to do this and hold signs in a silent vigil. Live Oak did this earlier and people seemed to appreciate this. This information will be sent out via email to all the meeting clerks.

SCYM 2026 Epistle – Clerk extended an invitation to Friends to join our Epistle Committee this year. Rachael Jessup said that she'd be happy to learn more and help out. Julian Coke also volunteered. Liz Yates and Rebecca Cole Sulivan said they would help mentor these friends. Clerk will invite other Friends to join this ministry at our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Representative Reports (cont.)

- Austin Tan Circa de la Frontera **-** Joanna Vaughn read their yearly report which is online here.

  Friends accepted this report.

- Friends General Conference – Jan Michael, Gretchen Haynes. They would like one more member. June Conti read the report which is online here.

  John Coffee asked if June was going to continue for a few years. June said that she was excited to help this work continue.

  Bill Wilkinson let us know that the Friends Meeting House Fund was laid down, it was FGC adjacent - so they turned over about $95,000 of funds to FGC.

Question: What is the participation from SCYM in these gatherings? June said that she attended the young adult gathering and it was beautiful and moving. We know of two others who attended in person as well as at least one friend who attended online.

We have scholarships through Ministry and Care to help people go to the gathering. They will ask you to submit a written report explaining exactly what you want, how this will enrich your spiritual life, and if you will bring some of this enrichment back to the meeting.

Friends accepted this report.

- Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns - Jay Wilcox read the report which is online here.

  -They are asking for Friends to send any minutes on Transgender concerns to the FLGBTQC committee.

  -Norman's Friends Meeting has a minute on Transgender individuals.

  -Julian asked why they have had trouble meeting for the last few years? Jay responded that it was due to a lack of attendance and a restructuring of the committee.

  Friends accepted this report.

  Announcements -

- Nominating would like to talk to friends about leadings for service. They also have two minutes that are coming for approval later in the meeting, so they asked that people read those so that they are prepared.
- We will have a session on Saturday where we will decide on the latest text of Faith and Practice.

Kathleen Gunby from Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the Black, Brown, Indigenous and People of Color Friends gathering on May 3, 2025 Epistle.

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

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will continue Saturday, 4 Fourth Month, at 9:00 AM.

Session IV: Saturday, 4 Fourth Month, 9:00 – 10:45 AM (In-person & Online w/chat)

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

Pam Arnold from Ministry and Care Committee read excerpts from the Longview Worship Group State of the Meeting report.

Welcome and Introductions – Clerk invited any visitors to stand and be recognized:

- Ben Chambers - Quaker House

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

SCYM 2026 Epistle – Clerk extended an invitation to Friends to join the Epistle Committee.

Committee Reports

Faith & Practice— John Coffin, clerk; Leada Dietz, Jane Houser, Danielle Evans, and Mac Lemann an 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.

There was a proposed amendment to the document:

The original stated:

Non-members may marry in the meeting, subject to the laws of the respective states and the considered judgment of the monthly meeting and according to the good order of Friends

Suggested Change:

Non-members may marry under the care of the meeting, and according to the good order of friends.

A civil marriage may be added, subject to the laws of the state in which it transpires, and the desires of the couple.

(Non-members may be married by the meeting, in the considered judgment of the monthly meeting and according to the good order of friends.)

-Question: Is this related to non-attenders, or just attenders. It was explained that this specifically refers to members and attenders. This point is made more clearly in the context of the whole document.

-Question about taking out "the good order of friends." Response: This was a deliberate choice.

-Question: Can anyone walk off the street and ask to be married. Response: This decision should be left to the individual meetings to decide what they feel comfortable taking under their care.

-Clerk reminded us that we should be looking at this document as a whole.

- Note: Not all meetings are monthly meetings.

- Note: The section title is "Married under the care of the meeting." That phrase takes the other pieces into consideration.

- Another friend said that this change made sense to him.

- From chat online one friend noted that using "non-member" might be better to say attender. But they were okay, if it needed to stay.

"Added" is changed to "recorded." **Friends approved this change.**

The proposed edit is:

Non-members may marry under the care of the meeting, and according to the good order of friends.

A civil marriage may be recorded, subject to the laws of the state in which it transpires, and the desires of the couple.

(Non-members may be married by the meeting, in the considered judgment of the monthly meeting and according to the good order of friends.)

Second Edit:

ORIGINAL:

The committee should see that the couple has obtained a marriage license and a wedding certificate, attend the wedding and see that it is properly conducted and that other requirements of the law are

fulfilled, make sure that the necessary information is delivered to the recorder for recording, and report to the monthly meeting.

The proposed edit is:

The committee should see that the couple obtains a wedding certificate, attend the wedding to see that it is conducted in the manner of Friends, and make sure that the necessary information is delivered to the recorder and reported to the monthly meeting. In the past, Friends did not obtain marriage licenses, but in this day and age many couples do so. If the couple does wish to formalize their civil marriage with the state, the committee can support them in the process.

Friends Approved this edit.

- A friend expressed gratitude for the perspective of those who do not have the privilege of a standard marriage. She expressed that as a person of privilege it is a grace to be shown the perspective of people who do not have this privilege.
- A friend expressed appreciation for the equality of genders in Quaker meeting. They highlighted that this is a spiritual union, rather than a civil one.
- John Coffin expressed appreciation to the friend and to the body of the meeting for supporting and engaging with this process and the final booklet. He wanted to make sure we understand that this might change and evolve over time.
- An online friend said the good order took care of some of the concerns and asked to remove a comma.

A further addition - In support of what is written Kevin King proposed an addition to Page 232 or 33 in the advices and queries section.

- Question: Was this to add not just individual, but also corporate integrity? Response: The intention was to make it inclusive.
- Comment: This is the kind of thing that ties in with the light and the overall statement.
- A friend feels as if this sentiment is part of “laboring together as a monthly meeting.” And maybe the current addition is way too late and unseasoned. It also feels punitive. She feels it would become a weapon, and so she is uncomfortable adding this in at this point of time.
- Another friend had a negative reaction to the line “implicated.”
- John suggests that we bring this back again later with more time for reflection.
- Kevin was willing to stand aside as he felt that it wasn’t seasoned sufficiently.
- Another friend suggests that this be withdrawn at this time.

Friends agreed to lay this amendment aside.

- Comment: We can’t make revisions to something that doesn’t exist. So it’s important to make sure that we have a document so that we can revise it later.

From the Faith and Practice Committee: Friends have labored long and faithfully in the discernment, drafting, and seasoning of this Faith and Practice. Through many years of worshipful attention, listening, and revision, we believe this document reflects our collective experience of the Spirit's guidance among us.

This Faith and Practice does not stand as a fixed or final statement, but as a living expression of who we are at this time: a people gathered in the Light, seeking to be faithful in our worship, our witness, and our life together. It gathers our testimonies, our understandings of community and discipline, and our practices of care and accountability, offering guidance to present and future generations.

We are mindful that no document can fully capture the movement of the Spirit. Yet we trust that this work has been undertaken in humility, prayer, and deep love for the Religious Society of Friends and for the wider world we are called to serve.

Therefore, we bring forward this first edition of the SCYM Faith and Practice for approval. We ask Friends to receive it in the same spirit in which it has been prepared: with openness, tenderness, and a willingness to continue growing together in Truth.

SCYM Minute 2026.01 - Friends Approved the first edition of the SCYM Faith and Practice as presented with the above approved edits. Friends give the committee the ability to make non-content changes.

Proposed SCYM Minute 2026.02 - We express our deep gratitude to those who have served on the Faith and Practice Committee. This work, often quiet and largely unseen, asks for patience, discernment, and a tender listening to the Spirit moving among us.

Through careful attention, prayerful consideration, and faithful labor, you have helped to shape and articulate the ways in which our community understands its life together. You have held both tradition and continuing revelation with care, seeking words that are both grounded and alive for this time.

We recognize that you gave time and effort, and showed humility, openness, and clarity to simplify the chatter. Your faithfulness strengthens the spiritual foundation of South Central Yearly Meeting and supports Friends now and in the generations to come. In particular, we acknowledge John Coffin, who has served as the committee's clerk since this iteration of the committee was established in 2011.

With grateful hearts, we thank each of you for your dedication and for the spirit in which you have carried this work.

Almeta Smith
Beverly Randolph
Bill Wilkinson
Bruce Crauder
Carol Balliet
Claudia Wilson
Danielle Evans
Emma Britain
James Fuller
Jane Houser
John Coffin
Kirsten Brink
Leada Dietz
Liz Yeats
Mac Lemann
Mitch Richardson
Robin Anderson
Robin Morris
Susan Schoen
Terry SoRelle
Tom Martin

- One friend expressed that we should thank the entire body of SCYM for the work they did.
- Another friend asked that we include thanking Live Oak and Edwin Campbell for the use of their zoom.

- Another friend expressed that they actually used the SCYM's zoom.
- A friend expressed that the body is implied in every minute of thanks.
- Another friend asked about Aaron, a man who helped out with this in the years before 2011.
- A friend told a story of the Onondaga prayers that often go 45 minutes or longer and offer thanks to many, many people.
- A friend expressed that they would have preferred a very simple minute that expressed excitement over the completion of the document.

Clerk proposed that we season this minute a bit longer and bring it back to a later session. Friends agreed.

In the interest of time the Recording Clerk read out the minutes from Peace and Justice that would be discussed at the afternoon session.

Announcements -

There were no announcements -

Karen Takemoto of Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee read from the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools Research Group May 2025 Epistle.

Meeting closed at 10:48am.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will continue on Saturday, 4 Fourth Month, at 2:45 PM.

Session V: Saturday, 4 Fourth Month 2:45 – 5:15 PM (In-person & Online w/chat)

Friends gathered at 2:45pm with a period of open worship.

Pam Arnold of the Ministry and Care Committee read from the Spring Quakers Worship Group's State of the Meeting report. She also read from the Georgetown Worship Group's State of the Meeting report.

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

Committee Reports (cont.) -

Treasurer's Report with proposed budget for approval: Bill Wilkinson, Treasure, presented the report which is online here. The proposed budget is contained within this report (page 6.)

Meeting accepts the Treasurer's report for FY 2026-27.

SCYM Minute 2026.02 – Friends approve the FY 2025-2026 Operating Budget as presented by the Treasurer.

Finance Committee – Bill Wilkinson, clerk at rise of meeting; Pat Sweet, Carol Redfield, Jack Alley, and Jessica Arjet.

Pat Sweet presented the report which can be found online here.

SCYM Minute 2026.03 - While gathered at its annual meeting from April 2-5, 2026, it was resolved that:

1. SCYM appoints Rebecca L. Cole Sullivan as its treasurer to replace William F. Wilkinson III.

2. SCYM authorizes the Greater Texas Federal Credit Union to remove Lori Laub as a signatory on all of its accounts.

3. SCYM appoints the following individuals as signatories to all accounts with the Greater Texas Federal Credit Union, effective April 6, 2026: Rebecca L. Cole Sullivan, Treasurer; William F. Wilkinson III, Member; Richard S. Corl, Member, Kevin C. King, Member.

SCYM MINUTE 2026.04 - SCYM authorizes the Faith and Practice Committee to spend an amount not to exceed $8,000 for services necessary to prepare and publish a print edition of the SCYM Faith and Practice. Funds from the General Operating Fund will be used for this purpose.

Ministry and Care Committee - Pam Arnold (clerk) read the report, (online here)

Friends accepted this report.

Peace & Justice Committee – 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 Tiffany presented the report, which was first reported at Representative Meeting and can be found online here.

Proposed minute - In situations where Friends feel a need for SCYM to respond more promptly than waiting for the next SCYM annual session or Representative Meeting, SCYM offers the following process: SCYM Peace and Justice Committee or a Monthly Meeting may bring an approved minute to the SCYM Clerk for SCYM consideration that needs a timely response. The SCYM clerk would communicate via the SCYM newsletter and Monthly meetings / Worship groups to call SCYM together as a called meeting via a video conference call to discern a spirit-led response.

- Question: When this might be used. Response: Recently there was a lawsuit brought by FCNL regarding Meeting houses being used as a sanctuary.

-Question: Is there or was there a procedure for doing this type of meeting. Response: There is a process for Monthly Meetings, and it's assumed that the Yearly Meeting would follow those procedures.

-A friend said that she liked this minute and that with zoom and newsletters, it makes this type of meeting more possible.

-A friend asked for a timeline, perhaps 5 days might be useful.

- Another friend responded that in Texas any board member can say that a timeline was not provided so then they can eliminate this decision. Perhaps 3 days instead of 5. Also, maybe some of the Monthly Meetings could also affirm this so that we are covered legally.

- The committee said that they had considered a timeline but were unsure what it should be. A Friend responded that 72 hours seemed reasonable.

- A friend said that they felt that if it was immediate then it's not an emergency. She was unsure if 72 hours would be enough time. Response: This is talking about something that only affects the Yearly Meeting.

- A friend suggested having a mechanism by which the decision is reviewed by the full Yearly Meeting during the Yearly Meeting Sessions so that we can review and affirm any decision that was made during a called meeting.

- A friend noted we are glad that we have a way to move through Quaker process at it's finest.

- There would be a question about how to handle issues brought up to the clerk directly.

- Recording clerk read a proposed revision.

- A friend feels that the revision clarifies what we do if there is a call from a Friend's Organization.

SCYM MINUTE 2026.05 - In situations where Friends feel a need for SCYM to respond more promptly than waiting for the next SCYM annual session or Representative Meeting, SCYM offers the following process:

If Clerk receives a request for immediate action from the SCYM Peace and Justice Committee, a Monthly Meeting, or a Quaker Organization, they may consider a need for a called meeting. The SCYM clerk would communicate via the SCYM newsletter to Monthly meetings and Worship groups to bring SCYM together in a called meeting. This meeting would take place no sooner than 72 hours after the notice has been sent. The meeting would take place via video conference.

Any decision determined in this manner would be reviewed by the wider SCYM body at the next Annual Sessions.

- Friend Suzanne Cole Sullivan stood aside from this minute without explanation.

Proposed Minute: South Central Yearly Meeting calls for an end to the mass deportations of migrants and all other people without due process and for an end to the confinement of migrants and others in concentration camps such as Dilley Family Detention Center and other detention centers in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. We are holding the victims of these atrocities, their families and the perpetrators in the Light and we commit to advocating for just and humane immigration policies and procedures that follow God's commandment to love our neighbors. We ask other people of faith to join us in this interfaith commitment to this work.

- Wording suggestion: "Victims and their families," and change "brothers and sisters" to siblings.
- Question: What is the action on this minute. Who will we send this to?
- Suggestion: Instead of siblings could we say other faith leaders?
- We ask other people of faith to join us in this interfaith commitment to this work.
- Suggestion: Ask that we hold in the light not just the victims but also the perpetrators.
- Response: We need a minute that is dedicated to the people who are experiencing violence, not the perpetrators.
- Suggestion: This proposal should go quickly, with speed. Adding so much will add weight that will burden the minute.
- Question: Is holding the perpetrators in the light about the victims and their families?
- Comment: It feels like bringing the perpetrators in dilutes the minute as it stands. Ignoring the people at the top of the food chain. The workers in these detention centers are victims of economic violence as well with few options. We should discuss types of violence that are different from physical violence. That is where the perpetrator/victim dynamic lies. However, there is no time for this now, but maybe P&J can bring a new minute at a later date.
- Friend said she could approve the minute without the "perpetrators" language in it.
- Action Suggestion: Send to national and state legislators.
- Action suggestion: Bring this minute to groups such as Texas Impact and Louisiana Interfaith.
- Wording response: Stay focused on the families and not mention communities.
- If we are interested in learning about Spirit led activism the QEW website has an 18-month training.
- This conversation about the minute touches on something very deep - are we crafting a piece of rhetoric designed to convince others, or are we crafting something for ourselves that we allow others to see.

SCYM MINUTE 2026.06 - South Central Yearly Meeting is holding the victims of mass deportation and confined migrants and their families in the light. We commit to advocating for just and humane immigration policies and procedures that follow God's commandment to love our neighbors.

South Central Yearly Meeting calls for an end to the mass deportations of migrants and all other people without due process and for an end to the confinement of migrants and others in concentration camps such as Dilley Family Detention Center and other detention centers in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

This minute will be sent to national and state legislators and other organizations that are associated with SCYM.

Proposed Minute: We believe it is important in these times to reaffirm Quakers' long-held objection to war. We invite Friends and Friends Meetings to seek spiritual guidance and find ways to publicly stand in the way of our nation's expansion of war.

Please share Minutes your Meeting produces to inform and inspire others in SCYM of your actions.

- One friend has a problem with saying "we believe."
- Suggestion: We should talk about how this Peace Testimony is important to us. It should not just say what we are against, but should also say what we are for.
- Suggestion: One friend feels this is not a minute but an entreaty to all of the monthly meetings asking them to share what they are doing so that we can lift up and support those monthly meetings.
- Suggestion: We could just receive this request, instead of using it as a minute.

Instead of offering this as a minute, it was decided that Peace and Justice can just carry out this invitation on their own.

> The report is online here- it is the same as the report given at Representatives meeting.
>
> Friends accepted this report.

Communications - Liz Yeats and Pepper Haynes brought forth a report which is online here.

- Suggestion: Use Testimonies, instead of Testimony. The committee preferred Testimony.
- A friend said that in Arkansas they have decided to move forward using social media so they can bring in more younger people.
- Liz and Pepper would like to have this charge to make sure they are engaging in this discussion and discussing it deeply with those who feel called to join.
- Suggestion: The communications team will annually evaluate "Who?" Who will evaluate this?
- Suggestion: Maybe have an annual communications forum so we can keep up with changes.
- Question: Who will be our new influencers? Response: Whoever wants to join the discussion annually.
- Note: This is an invitation, we welcome friends and we would love to consider more. We need help and we want everyone to see how we are proceeding and what this looks like.
- We are all influencers- just as we are all ministers.

SCYM MINUTE 2026.07 - We affirm the concerns of Friends who fervently disagree with the unethical decisions of various social media giants while also acknowledging social media's value as a tool for communication.

The communications team will facilitate an annual evaluation of our existing social media presence for the Yearly Meeting to see if it is carried out in a manner consistent with Friends' testimonies as well as our commitment to users' privacy and will report to the Yearly Meeting the results of that evaluation.

We welcome Friends to join in our discussion, which will take place on Zoom between sessions to further discern the direction of our social media presence.

Registrar's Report – Denise Wilkinson presented the registrar's report of the count of Friends attending this Yearly Meeting session which is online here.

Highlights:

136 persons attended in person

13 persons attended online

149 people attended in total

22 youth

8 visitors in person

4 online visitors

In the interest of time, the Meeting agreed to not read, but instead post online any reports that did not have an action component to it.

Yearly Meeting Worship Committee - online here

Technology Events - online here

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee - Online here

Archivist – No Report Available

Procedures Manual Coordinator - No Report Available

First Reading of the 2024 SCYM Epistle – Emma, Julian, and ?? are currently in service as our 2024 Epistle Committee. Will King shared the first draft of our Yearly Meeting Epistle with Friends.

Karen Takemoto of the Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee read the Epistle from the South Africa Yearly Meeting 2025.

Meeting closed at 5:23 PM after a period of open worship.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Sunday, 5 Fourth 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.

Pam Arnold from the Ministry and Care Committee read from the New Orleans Friend's Meeting State of the Meeting report.

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

Nominating Committee – Karen Takemoto, Nominating Committee, presented the final Nominating report which is online here.

SCYM MINUTE 2026.08 - In order to be good stewards of the talent faithfully given to this yearly meeting, Nominating Committee proposes a revision of the Procedures Manual that begins at rise of annual sessions 2026 and concludes at rise of annual sessions 2027. We request the formation of a self-nominated ad hoc committee that will be convened by Suzanne Cole Sullivan and supported by Bill Sweet from his role as the Procedures Manual Coordinator. We charge this committee with openly and faithfully working to remove duplicate information that also appears in Faith and Practice, to rewrite committee descriptions to better fit the yearly meeting we are now and aspire to be in the next decade, to collect feedback and information from those whose service would be affected by any alterations, and to hew to the timeline laid out in this minute.

- A friend expressed thanks for the minute.
- Question: is there a website so that people can comment on the final product, allowing an ongoing review process? Something similar to the process for our Faith and Practice discussions.
- Friends offered their names for participation in this committee.
- Question: How would this committee work - they would work hand in hand with the Faith and Practice manual.
- Note: This is a self nominated committee so all interested friends can join the committee.

Friends approved this minute as written.

SCYM MINUTE 2026.09 - In light of the challenges mentioned by following current procedures for Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, Nominating Committee proposes that the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee be laid down. In its place, we request a pair of Yearly Meeting Co-Coordinators with two-year terms that expire in alternate years. A full description of this position will be written by the current clerk of YM Planning Committee, the On-Site Coordinator and Co-Registrar. The description for this new position will be submitted to the body for approval at Representative Meeting 2026.

- Question: Why did this come about? Response: The current Registrar is overburdened and tired. They felt this change would create a better system going forward.

- A Friend said they liked it.
- Note: This takes out another step in the process so that they don't have to wrangle 16 people for a meeting before they can even start the planning.
- A clarification was made so that we understood the timeline around Representatives meeting.
- Note: Taking a task away from a committee and giving it to only 2 people allows for less discernment in the process.
- Note: The practical effect of how the committee is set up is that the members of the committee are co-opted from other committees. Each of those committees do have a responsibility to discern and create their own aspect of the yearly meeting sessions. The group discernment will happen at Representatives Meeting going forward.
- Note: If you've been nominated then you should look to see if you have a role to play in yearly meeting planning. Each committee should make preparations for the Yearly Meeting spring sessions.
- Note: This minute was written so that the Yearly Meeting Sessions can be planned the best way possible for right now. However, there is a new committee that we just approved. They can discern a better way to make Meeting happen, but for this year, this might be the best way.
- Note: In the 90's we didn't have the ability to communicate the way we do now. We are an all volunteer body and yet are able to make it all work. This friend feels that the minute will enable us to have better discernment.
- A friend who had both roles said that there is not a lot of discernment. But the hardest part is finding someone to do a particular task at a particular time. She is in favor of this minute.

Friends approved the minute.

SCYM Minute 2026.10 – Friends approve for service the names, positions, and terms of service brought forward from our Nominating Committee as revised. (online here)

-Clarification: Who sends the information of who is on which committee to the representative bodies. Nominating will continue to do this, although the procedures manual now says it is the Recording Clerks duty.

-Question: For Texas Impact, are there quakers being sent to this from other states. Response: No, Texas Impact is a group of faith, there used to be other groups in Arkansas and Oklahoma. The Arkansas version was laid down several years ago. The Oklahoma Faith Network continues, as does the Louisiana Interfaith.

-Note: We have a database that tracks present and past appointments. This is useful for historical documents, and for email addresses. For an interim time, Terry will make sure this database reflects this current roster, but in the future others should be appointed to take care of this.

Friends approved this minute.

SCYM Minutes of Appreciation 2026.11 – Karen Takemoto 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.

- Erika Mittag should be added for her service on Youth Programs Support.
- On QREC is it Reba Joy, or Reba Jay?
- Danielle moved her membership to Baton Rouge.

Emails to directory@scym.org goes to Tom who is keeping an eye on changes.

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 which is to be posted.

Friends accepted this report.

SCYM Epistle – Emma Britain, on behalf of our Epistle Committee, presented the Epistle for our 2024 Yearly Meeting sessions which is online here.

- Registrars note - final number of attenders was 136 in person and 13 attenders online. There were 41 new attenders on site, but also 4 new attenders online.
- Note: a friend was happy that the report included the guest speaker. It's important that this is included because the people who were responsible are grateful that he came. When they worked on creating the theme and figuring out the speaker they hoped the speaker would come, and he not only came, he brought others. It was warming to see him sitting in this session.
- Is there a number for youth and children - 23 total.
- Appreciation: The meeting for worship with attention to legos.
- Suggestion: Can we change "increase" to "continued" for the number of young adults.
- Note: Our success in making it possible for more friends to come because of our online option. A friend who has been attending since they were a small child wasn't able to attend in person, but was able to attend online. This friend feels like the youth program was the heart of the meeting. Even though the cost is going up, its still important to have youth. With the help of yearly and monthly meetings the cost has been defrayed so that more friends can join.
- Christopher is a member of Popular Friends meeting in NY.

Friends accepted this epistle

SCYM Young Friends Epistle - Emma Britain, on behalf of the youth in attendance, presented the Epistle for our 2026 Yearly Meeting sessions to be posted.

-Note: The kids held a business meeting to discuss how to create an epistle, what is included, and who could read it.

- Note: The game of sharks was fun and the highlight of the spring sessions for her was when we all sang Baby Shark together at the variety show.

Friends accepted this epistle.

Youth Program Report - Galia Harrington of the Youth Programs Support Committee read this report which is online here.

SCYM Minute 2026.13 - We express our deep gratitude to those who have served on the Faith and Practice Committee. This work, often quiet and largely unseen, asks for patience, discernment, and a tender listening to the Spirit moving among us.

Through careful attention, prayerful consideration, and faithful labor, they have helped to shape and articulate the ways in which our community understands its life together. They have held both tradition and continuing revelation with care, seeking words that are both grounded and alive for this time.

We recognize the following friends who gave time and effort, and showed humility, openness, and clarity to simplify the chatter. Their faithfulness strengthens the spiritual foundation of South Central Yearly Meeting and supports Friends now and in the generations to come. In particular, we acknowledge John Coffin, who has served as the committee's clerk since this iteration of the committee was established in 2011.

With grateful hearts, we thank each of you for your dedication and for the spirit in which you have carried this work.

Almeta Smith
Beverly Randolph
Bill Wilkinson
Bruce Crauder
Carol Balliet
Claudia Wilson
Danielle Evans
Emma Britain
James Fuller
Jane Houser
John Coffin
Kirsten Brink
Leada Dietz
Liz Yeats
Mac Lemann
Mitch Richardson
Robin Anderson
Robin Morris
Susan Schoen
Terry SoRelle
Tom Martin

Clerk read through a minute of appreciation from the Quaker House.

The report from Quaker House is online here.

Denise Wilkinson spoke out of the silence and asked that we create a minute of appreciation for the staff at Greene Family camp.

A minute was hastily created, however, the meeting did not feel it was seasoned sufficiently. They also agreed that they would want this minute to be created. So it was agreed that Denise Wilkinson and Kevin King would work together to create a minute of appreciation after the close of Business Meeting. The Meeting would trust that the resulting minute would reflect the values and sincere appreciation of the Yearly Meeting.

This is the resulting minute, submitted on April 6, 2026.

SCYM Minute 2026.14 -The South Central Yearly Meeting expresses appreciation to Sean Passes, retreat center manager, Alysa Moore, kitchen manager, and all of the Greene Family Camp staff for their sincere commitment to providing the best possible experience for SCYM Friends with their exceptional service, responsiveness, flexibility, and friendliness, both prior to and during the SCYM annual sessions.

Minutes of Celebration

Marriages:
There were no marriages recorded this year.

Births:
Eleanor Lynn Fairbank (June 23, 2025) - Dallas Friends Meeting
Solis Michael Boe (November 14, 2025) - New Orleans
Eleanor Fay Clark (December 2025) - Live Oak Friends Meeting

Memorial Minutes – [full text and photos will be posted as they are available at]

Byron Sandford - Jan 10, 2026 - Formerly Friends Meeting of Austin
Daniel Butler - Sept 5, 1975 - Oct 11, 2025 - Friends Meeting of Austin
Genia Simmons - Dec 28, 1954 - Dec 25, 2025 - Friends Meeting of Austin
Williona Tayne Bear Robe - March 13, 1990 - Jan 31, 2026- Friends Meeting of Austin
Sherron Russell Gunby - Sept. 20, 1944 - Oct 26, 2025 - Fayetteville Monthly Meeting
Peter Benjamin Schenck - March 30, 1938 - April 30, 2025 - Friends Meeting of Washington, sojourning in New Orleans

2026 Representative Meeting – Clerk announced that our 2026 Representative Meeting will be held online on 20-21 Eleventh Month, 2026.

2027 Yearly Meeting – Clerk announced that the 2027 Yearly Meeting will be held online March 21-24, 2027 and at Greene Family Camp, and March 25-28, 2027.

Announcements - Kevin King shared that there will be an AVP workshop over Memorial Day weekend.

The children joined at 11:50 and Meeting shared a period of open worship.

Meeting ended at 12:30.