

Climate Change, Environmental Racism,
Friends' Faith & Practice – What's the Connection?

South Central Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

Proceedings

Yearly Meeting 2017

Table of Contents

Business Meeting Minutes

First Session – Thursday; 6:45 – 7:45 PM	1
Second Session – Friday; 9:00 – 10:45 AM	2
Third Session – Friday; 3:45 – 5:00 PM	4
Fourth Session – Saturday; 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM	6
Fifth Session – Saturday; 2:45 – 4:00 PM	8
Sixth Session – Sunday; 9:00 – 10:30 AM	10

Epistles

Yearly Meeting Epistle	13
Young Friends Epistle	14
Junior Young Friends Epistle	15

State of the Yearly Meeting Report	16
------------------------------------------	----

Registrar’s Report	18
--------------------------	----

Youth Program Report	20
----------------------------	----

Treasurer’s Reports

FY 2017-2018 Proposed Operating Budget	21
FY 2016-2017 Balance Sheet	23
FY 2016-2017 Major Fund Balances	24
FY 2016-17 Quaker & Interfaith Group Contributions	25
FY 2016-2017 Delegate Travel Fund Disbursements	26
FY 2016-2017 Statement of Activities	27
FY 2016-2016 Year-to-Date Operating Results, and Proposed FY 2017-2018 Operating Budget	29

Committee Reports

Ad hoc Committee on Child Safety DRAFT Child Safety Policy	30
Ministry & Care	31
Nominating	31
Peace and Justice	33
Youth Program Support	34

Representative Reports

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	35
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)	35
Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC)	37
Friends Peace Teams	38
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	40
FWCC General Secretary Greeting	41

FWCC Minute on Sustainability	43
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	46
Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC)	48
Texas Impact	50
William Penn House	51

State of Monthly Meeting Reports

Acadiana Friends Worship Group, Lafayette, LA	52
Friends Meeting of Austin	52
Baton Rouge Friends Meeting	56
Caddo Area Preparative Meeting	58
Dallas Friends Meeting	59
Fayetteville Monthly Meeting	60
Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	62
Galveston Monthly Meeting	63
Green Country Friends Meeting, Tulsa, OK	63
Georgetown Friends Worship Group	65
Hill Country Friends, Kerrville, TX	66
Kiamichi Worship Group	66
Little Rock Friends Meeting	67
Live Oak Friends Meeting, Houston, TX	68
Longview Worship Group	72
Lubbock Friends of Christ	72
Lubbock Liberal Friends Worship Group	73
Friends Meeting of New Orleans	73
Norman Friends Meeting	75
Friends Meeting of San Antonio	76
Stillwater Friends Meeting	78

Memorial Minutes

Sherilyn Brandenstein, Austin	81
Richard “Rick” Brooks, Green Country	82
Lucianne Carmichael, New Orleans	82
Jude Evelyn Filler, Austin	82
Clare Crane Kearney Galbraith, Live Oak	84
Eleanor Hammond, Austin	85
(Ruth) Jane Laessle, Austin	86
Claire Loe, Live Oak	88
Margaret W. Maxfield, Caddo	89
Kathleen (Kitty) Alberta Conner Orr, Live Oak	89
Lucy Jane Tolber Saeger, Green Country	90
Ellen Stamelos, Dallas	91
Joan Cochran Terrell, Live Oak	92

South Central Yearly Meeting of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
13-16 Fourth Month 2017
Greene Family Camp
Bruceville, TX

Session I: Thursday, 13 Fourth Month, 6:45 – 7:45 PM

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

Welcome and Introductions – Clerk introduced and welcomed our visitors:

- Shelley Tanenbaum, General Secretary, Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)
- Frank Barch, Presiding Clerk, Central Committee, Friends General Conference (FGC)
- Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, Clerk, Committee for Nurturing Ministries, Friends General Conference (FGC)
- Nancy Marshall, Clerk, Boliva Quaker Education Fund
- Linda Houser, Purchase Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting

Clerks' table – Howard Hawhee, Clerk, announced he has asked Liz Yeats to serve as Associate Clerk in an interim appointment. He also shared that Shelly Angel, Recording Clerk, has asked to be released from service at this annual session. He has asked Warren Wilson-Reiner to serve as Recording Clerk as an interim appointment.

SCYM 2017.01 – Friends approve for service Warren Wilson-Reiner as Recording Clerk at this year's session of Yearly Meeting.

SCYM 2017.02 – Friends approve for service Liz Yeats as Associate Clerk at this year's session of Yearly Meeting with the understanding that she will become Presiding Clerk at the rise of yearly meeting.

Vocal Ministry – Wesley Miller, Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting, reminds 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.

Review of agenda – Clerk reviewed the agenda and asked Friends if there were additional items to come before us. He shared that the Nominating Committee report will be received in our second session.

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

- Chris Drexler, On-Site Coordinator, Live Oak Friends Meeting
- Kevin King, Assistant On-Site Coordinator, Live Oak Friends Meeting
- Edwin Campbell, On-Site Technician, Live Oak Friends Meeting
- Lidney Molnari, Assistant On-Site Technician, Live Oak Friends Meeting
- Denise Wilkinson, Registrar, Friends Meeting of San Antonio
- Val Liveoak, Associate Registrar, Friends Meeting of San Antonio

- Jasmine Zowniriw, Youth Program Coordinator, Friends Meeting of Austin
- Harley Mimura, Young Friends Coordinator, Friends Meeting of Dallas

SCYM 2017 Epistle – Clerk asked for Friends who will be willing to serve on our Epistle Committee this year. Emma Britain Caraway, Karen Takemoto and Claudia Wilson agree to serve.

Announcements

- Lon Burnham, who serves as one of our representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), shared he has copies of the pamphlet “The World We Seek” and “Love Thy Neighbor” buttons. The pamphlet is the policy statement that guides FCNL in its long-term work. Friends are asked to take copies of the pamphlet home to their local meetings to facilitate discussions to see if additions or changes to the document are needed. Meetings are asked to get in touch with FCNL by 31 July 2017 with any additions/changes. This discernment will enable FCNL staff and constituent representatives to bring the document and the focus of FCNL’s work up to date.
- Frank Barch announced he will be facilitating an open discussion tonight at 8 PM in the Staff Lounge to respond to concerns Friends may have with regards to the upcoming changes to Friends General Conference’s (FGC) governing process.

Meeting closed at 7:35 PM with a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Liz Wolff, Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the epistle received from Northern Yearly Meeting.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Friday, 14 Fourth Month, at 9:00 AM.

Session II: Friday, 14 Fourth Month, 9:00-10:45 AM

Friends gathered at the appointed time with a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Karen Takemoto, Ministry and Care Committee, read from the Friends Meeting of San Antonio State of the Meeting report.

Review of agenda – Clerk reviewed the agenda and asked Friends if there were additional items to come before us. We will also consider the report from our Nominating Committee held over from last night.

Vocal Ministry – Clerk reminds 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.

Welcome and Introductions – Clerk invited any new visitors who have arrived since our last session to stand and be recognized. No new Friends were present.

Preliminary Treasurer’s Report – Bill Wilkinson, Treasurer, presented the FY 2016-2017 Treasurer’s Report and the FY 2017-2018 Proposed Operating Budget [see Treasurer’s Reports]. He indicated the Balance Sheet and the Fund Balances information continue to

be stable. He shared that we still have \$200 in reserve in the Quaker & Ecumenical Contribution funds for FY 2017. He shared that the organizations and amounts are based on the recommendations from our Peace & Justice Committee, and that these organizations/amounts stay in place year-to-year until Peace & Justice brings changes forward to Friends for consideration. Bill reminds us that our fiscal year is July 1 thru June 30. A Friend asked what the current “recommended contribution” per member is that monthly meetings use in determining their annual contribution to Yearly Meeting. Bill indicated he uses \$72 as a guide. A Friend asked about our connection to Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC). Bill indicated we were temporarily the fiscal agent for this organization while they were applying for their 501 (c) 3 status. Now that QREC has this status, all of their funds have been released to them, and we are no longer involved with their finances.

Nominating Committee – Beverly Randolph (clerk) presented a report from the Nominating Committee [attached]. This report includes the positions of service the Nominating Committee is trying to fill at this time. Interested Friends should visit with a member of the Nominating Committee present this year: Beverly Randolph or Richard Corl.

Representative Reports:

- *Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)* – Lidney Molnari shared the report from FWCC [see Representative Reports]. He also shared a letter to SCYM from Gretchen Castle, General Secretary, FWCC, which includes the FWCC Sustainability Minute approved at the Triennial held in Pisac, Peru in January 2016 [see Representative Reports].
- *Friends Peace Team (FPT)* – Val Liveoak shared the report from FPT [see Representative Reports].
- *American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)* – John Fletcher shared the report from AFSC [see Representative Reports]. He indicated that Richard Corl and Gladys Tiffany also represent SCYM to AFSC.
- *William Penn House* – Lon Burnam shared the report from William Penn House [see Representative Reports].
- *Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC)* – Suzanne Cole shared the report from FLGBTQC [see Representative Reports]. Suzanne requests a traveling minute of concern for her ministry in this area from the Yearly Meeting. Clerks ask Suzanne to meet with our Ministry & Care Committee to discern her leadings.
- *Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC)* – Gail Fletcher and Liz Yeats shared the report from QREC [see Representative Reports]. They joyfully announce the recent publication of a pamphlet, “La reunión Cuáquera y yo / Quaker Meeting and Me”, a bilingual pamphlet to be used as a children’s guide to Quaker meeting for worship. Even though this pamphlet is geared for children, adults, too can benefit. Liz has copies available at YEARLY MEETING, and Friends are encouraged to take copies to their home meetings.

Meeting closed at 10:45 AM with a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Liz Wolff, Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the epistle received from Ireland Yearly Meeting (2016).

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Friday, 14 Fourth Month, at 3:45 PM.

Session III: Friday, 14 Fourth Month, 3:45-5:00 PM

Friends gathered at the appointed time with a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Karen Takemoto and Jan Michael, Ministry and Care Committee, read from the Baton Rouge Friends Meeting and New Orleans Friends Meeting State of the Meeting reports.

Vocal Ministry – Clerk reminds 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.

Review of agenda – Clerk reviewed the agenda and asked Friends if there were additional items to come before us. We will continue the reports from our representatives.

Representative Reports (continued):

- *Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)* – Danielle Evans and Andrea Beane shared individual reports from QEW [see Representative Reports]
- *Friends General Conference (FGC)* – Jan Michael and Liz Wolff shared their thoughts about their current work with FGC including the upcoming changes in FGC's governance and the ministries currently offered to meetings by FGC.

Jan shared that some of the ministry FGC supports now includes: Quaker Cloud, FGC Gathering of Friends, a Spiritual Deepening Program, Institutional Assessment, Yearly Meeting Visitors Program, Ministry on Racism, Christian Interfaith Relations Committee (CIRC), Youth Programs – Clerk's Training, Yearly Meeting Clerk's Consultation, Engagement Strategies (opportunities to connect with other Quakers), Opportunities to volunteer, Quaker Voluntary Service Fellows (aka interns), QuakerBooks of FGC, Programs (e.g., Faith & Play™ and Godly Play®) and Publications (e.g., *Sparkling Still*) and Yearly Meeting Book Tables.

One Friend asked what the relationship between the constituent yearly/monthly meetings and FGC might be. Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch indicated that each relationship is unique to each meeting and there is no one answer that fits all. What level of engagement do Friends have with FGC? There is the issue of what support FGC offers to individual meetings as well as what gifts/ministry Friends in individual meetings can in return offer to FGC. What is the role of the yearly/monthly meeting FGC Central Committee representative? How do they interrelate with the FGC structure? Frank Barch shared that it is his feeling that many representatives to FGC Central Committee labor in defining their individual role including what do they have to offer to FGC, and how do they communicate the individual needs of their constituent meeting to FGC?

One Friend shared his experiences of our Yearly Meeting's earliest connections with FGC. He offered how FGC helped shape our youth program. He also touched on the importance of the FGC Gathering of Friends and how this program has helped SCYM Friends experience the wider fellowship of Friends.

One Friend shared that one thing that gets lost some times is the fact that Friends span a vast distance here in North America, and that it can be difficult to fully participate in all opportunities to be in community. Even so, she expressed it is her experience that the issues we struggle with here are the same issues that Friends struggle with at many other meetings.

One Friend shared that he does not feel SCYM Friends have a clear understanding of how enriching participating in the FGC Gathering of Friends can be. It has been life changing. When we talk about how we can more fully engage in the Quaker experience, we need to think about how can we get more younger Friends to the Gathering?

A proposal was made to constitute a working group of interested Friends who would think through how we can facilitate the flow of information and communication from individual Quakers/monthly meetings within South Central Yearly Meeting to FGC and then back again to those local Friends. There was no clear sense that we are ready to move forward on this proposal. Clerk asked Friends to season this with the expectation that we would return to this concern at a later business session this weekend.

- *Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)* – A written report was submitted, but not read during meeting [see Representative Reports]. Thomas Cassidy shared about his experience these last few years at FCNL Spring Lobby weekends. As a result of these experiences, he joined the FCNL Advocacy Corp and is presently organizing around immigration reform. The Advocacy Corp is a new FCNL program, and other Corp members serve within our Yearly Meeting area. Thomas spoke about another program FCNL has started: Advocacy Teams composed of local Friends and allies who work together to build relationships with their legislators around various issues that are important to Friends. Advocacy Teams have begun in Austin and Houston. Friends are encouraged to explore this opportunity for ministry.

Meeting closed at 4:55 PM with a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Liz Wolff, Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the epistle received from New Zealand Yearly Meeting, July 2016.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Saturday, 15 Fourth Month, at 10:45 AM.

Session IV: Saturday, 15 Fourth Month, 10:45 AM – 12: 15 PM

Friends gathered after the appointed time with a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Marianne Lockard, Ministry and Care Committee, read from the Live Oak Friends Meeting State of the Meeting report.

Vocal Ministry – Clerk reminds 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.

Review of agenda – Clerk reviewed the agenda and asked Friends if there were additional items to come before us. No changes or additions were offered.

Welcome and Introductions – Clerk invited any new visitors who have arrived since our last session to stand and be recognized. No new Friends were present.

Representative Reports (continued):

- Texas Impact – Lilac Bauer shared the report from Texas Impact. [see Representative Reports]

Committee Reports

- *Ministry & Care Committee* – Jan Michael, Clerk, Ministry & Care Committee, shared the report from our Ministry & Care Committee [see Committee Reports].
- *Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee* – Wesley Miller, Clerk, Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, shared that the Committee is very happy with the way the microphone delivery system has worked this year in our meetings for worship and our meetings for worship with attention to business, and with the number of Friends who have come forward to volunteer in supporting this ministry. The Home Group ministry can use some improvement. It has been a challenge to ensure that we have enough groups established in advance so there are groups and facilitators available when a new group needs to be opened.
- *Ad hoc Committee on Child Safety* – Jan Michael shared the history of our Yearly Meeting discerning the need for a Child Safety Policy to cover our gatherings where children's programs are offered. He shared that Leada Dietz, Anne Collins and Galia Harrington are currently in service with him on this Committee. He reviewed a possible draft policy the Committee is considering that covers many of the issues associated with child care for each of the individual age groups for which we have established programs [see Committee Reports].

One Friend who serves on this ad hoc Committee indicated that this report should be considered to be a preliminary report as the full committee has not yet had a chance for final discernment.

One Friend indicated it was his understanding that current regulations in Texas require mandated individuals (e.g., psychiatrists, doctors, teachers) to report to the Child Abuse Hotline within 24 hours of a possible event. All others are required to report within 48 hours. He also shared that even though the current regulations

require child care staff be at least 18 years of age, high school staff should be at least five years older than the youth in the program (i.e., 23 or older).

One Friend shared that religious groups in Texas are not exempt from reporting or training requirements. Not all staff members in a given program are required to have training, but the primary group facilitator should have this training. Also, it never hurts for all staff to be up to date in their training.

One Friend indicated she has been involved in child care issues for many years. She feels that having a child care safety policy in place is an excellent deterrent against possible questionable staff behavior.

One Friend shared we have something unique at our Yearly Meeting. We have many Friends who are called to serve Yearly Meeting as a full-time teacher. We also have Friends willing to serve as FAPs (Friendly Adult Presences) to be present with our youth as way opens during Yearly Meeting events. This is an important way to build community as it offers adults the chance to be with our youth and learn who they are. It also offers our youth the chance to meet and build relationships with some of the adults (and elders) in our Yearly Meeting.

Clerk expressed his sense of the meeting is that we are not ready to consider a formal policy at this time. The Committee has made great progress in their work, and we encourage Friends to be in contact with the Committee between now and 2017 Representative Meeting. Clerk shared that he will be considering additional Friends to join this ad hoc Committee. We expect to hear a follow up report at the 2017 Representative Meeting.

- *Faith & Practice Committee* – John Coffin, Clerk, Faith & Practice Committee, reported for the Committee. He shared that Beverly Randolph, Emma Britain Caraway, Leada Dietz and Terry SoRelle are currently in service with him on this Committee. At Representative Meeting 2016, the Committee presented a report to the body and what they heard is that Friends are interested in the process being followed. Friends indicated they had not heard from the Committee in a while. The Committee feels a need to re-engage with Yearly Meeting monthly meetings and worship groups.

The Committee feels it is important to produce text and copy. There needs to be a way to distribute this information throughout the Yearly Meeting and allow for comments. There is an active presence of the Committee's work on our Yearly Meeting web site. There is not currently a "Table of Contents", but there is a list of suggested topics the Committee feels needs to be included in the final document.

Between now and 2017 Representative Meeting, the Committee will be in contact with monthly meetings, and will be inviting them to participate in the process and provide feedback to the Committee.

The Committee is considering polling monthly meetings and worship groups to identify any special needs with regards to Faith and Practice? A question arose as to the difference between our Faith & Practice and our Procedures Manual.

Several points were offered: (1.) our Procedures Manual does not cover practice at the monthly meeting level, (2.) some of the sections in our Procedures Manual are really a holding place for established practice until a formal Faith & Practice for Yearly Meeting can be adopted and (3.) a Faith & Practice will allow us to provide a more general description of the faith and practice within SCYM. It is acknowledged that when we have a living Faith & Practice, some information will be removed from the Procedures Manual.

Meeting closed at 12:20 PM with a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Liz Wolff, Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the epistle received from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, July 2016.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Saturday, 15 Fourth Month, at 2:45 PM.

Session V: Saturday, 15 Fourth Month, 2:45 – 4:00 PM

Friends gathered at the appointed time with a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Jan Michael, Ministry and Care Committee, read from the Green Country Friends Meeting State of the Meeting report.

Vocal Ministry – Clerk reminds 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.

Review of agenda – Clerk reviewed the agenda and asked Friends if there were additional items to come before us. No changes or additions were offered.

Welcome and Introductions – Clerk invited any new visitors who have arrived since our last session to stand and be recognized. No new Friends were present.

Committee Reports (continued)

- *Ad hoc Committee on Representative Meeting* – Jane Houser, clerk of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee & ad hoc Committee on RM, shared that the ad hoc Committee has diligently searched in our targeted area for a location that would be closer to Fayetteville and Little Rock. To date, they have not found a location that meets our needs. The location should be as affordable as Green Family Camp, offer suitable sleeping options, meeting and break out space, and provide full meal service. Jane stressed that this consideration of a change of venue applies only to Representative Meeting and that we are not considering alternative locations for our Yearly Meeting sessions. One Friend asked if the Committee feels their work is complete. Jane indicated they are open to suggestions and are willing to continue their work, but that they feel they have exhausted all possibilities known to them at this time.
- *Peace and Justice Committee* – Rex Friend, Clerk, Peace and Justice Committee shared the Committee's report [see Committee Reports].

Peace and Justice Committee reviewed our contributions to Quaker and Interfaith Groups. After due discernment, the Committee recommends that as part of our contributions to these groups from our Yearly Meeting operating budget, we add: (1.) \$300 to Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC), (2.) \$200 to Friends Ugandan Safe Transport Fund and (3.) split the \$650 earmarked for Friends Peace Teams (FPT) such that half of the amount (\$325) goes to Friends Peace Teams and half (\$325) goes to Peace Building in las Americas (PLA).

SCYM 2017.03 – Friends approve the recommendation of our Peace and Justice Committee to add to our list of ongoing contributions to Quaker and Interfaith Groups a \$300 contribution to Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC), to add a \$200 contribution to the Friends Ugandan Safe Transport Fund, and to split the existing contribution of \$650 to Friends Peace Teams (FPT) such that half of the amount (\$325) continues to go to Friends Peace Teams and the other half (\$325) goes to Peace Building in las Americas (PLA) in recognition of the years of dedicated service performed there by our own Val Liveoak.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Wilkinson reported that the Finance Committee met this morning to consider how the recommendations from our Peace and Justice Committee will affect the proposed FY 2018 Operating Budget he presented to Friends in Session II of our Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business on Friday morning. He indicated the Finance Committee was in unity in adding \$200 to our Contributions to Quaker and Interfaith Groups with the knowledge that this would increase the total amount budgeted for FY 2018 to \$23,320. He reminded us that FY 2018 begins on 1 Seventh 2017 and ends on 30 Sixth 2018.

SCYM 2017.04 – Friends approve the FY 2018 Operating Budget presented by the Treasurer as amended this afternoon to include an additional \$300 for Contributions to Quaker and Interfaith Groups to bring the total amount budgeted for FY 2018 to \$23,320.

Committee Reports (continued)

- *Youth Program Support Committee* – Anne Collins shared the report from the Committee [see Committee Reports].

Announcements

Marianne Lockard let Friends know that Thursday, 13 Fourth Month, was Dottie Warrington's 100th birthday. She also shared a letter she received from Dottie's daughter, Patricia Rocha, updating her on life changes Dottie is experiencing. There are cards to sign in the Dining Hall near the Book Table.

Meeting closed at 4:20 PM with a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Liz Wolff, Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the epistle received from Norway Yearly Meeting, June 2016.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, 16 Fourth Month, at 9:00 AM.

Session VI: Sunday, 16 Fourth Month, 9:00 – 10:30 AM

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

Vocal Ministry – Clerk reminds 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.

Review of agenda – Clerk reviewed the agenda. There was one item carried over from a previous session relating to the creation of a Working Group to discern our relationship with Friends General Conference. This work will be held over for consideration at our 2017 Representative Meeting.

Nominating Committee – Beverly Randolph, Clerks, Nominating Committee, presented the positions of service the Committee is recommending at this time.

SCYM 2017.05 – Friends approve for service the names, positions and terms of service brought forward from our Nominating Committee. [see Committee Reports]

Registrar’s Report – Denise Wilkinson, Registrar, presented her report of the count of Friends attending this Yearly Meeting session. [attached]

South Central Yearly Meeting State of the Yearly Meeting Report – Jan Michael, Ministry and Care Committee, presented the State of the Yearly Meeting Report. [attached]

One Friend raised a concern as to the distribution of this Report. It was noted that our practice has been to include this Report in our Proceedings and make it available on our web site. This Friend expressed his feelings that the Report should have the widest distribution within our Yearly Meeting. Clerks will carry this concern forward and discern how we may best address this concern.

Youth Program Report – Jasmine Zowniriw, Youth Program Committee, presented her report on the youth program. [attached]

SCYM Epistle – Emma Britain Caraway, 2017 Epistle Committee, presented the Epistle for our 2017 Yearly Meeting sessions. [attached]

Minutes of Appreciation – Beverly Randolph, Clerk, Nominating Committee shared their minutes of appreciation for Friends who are completing their service at this Yearly Meeting session.

SCYM 2017.06 – YM 2017 Thank you for your service to SCYM:

- Charles Rand, Austin Austin Tan Circa de la Frontera
- Liz Yeats, Austin Associate Clerk
- Howard Hawhee, Austin Presiding Clerk
- Shelly Angel, Dallas Recording Clerk
- Warren Wilson-Reiner, Austin Finance Committee, clerk
- Shelly Angel, Dallas Ministry & Care
- Liz Yeats, Austin Ministry & Care

- Marianne Lockard, CADDO Ministry & Care
- Beverly Randolph, Coastal Bend Nominating Committee, clerk
- Andrea Beane, Austin Quaker Earth Care Witness
- Denise Wilkinson, San Antonio Registrar
- Lon Burnam, Ft Worth William Penn House, FCNL
- Jan Michael, Stillwater Yearly Meeting Planning

SCYM 2017.07 – Minute of Appreciation for Marianne Lockard – Marianne Lockard has been a vital part of SCYM for as long as many here can remember. She has served as traveling Friend, clerk of the yearly meeting, a patient listening ear, and most recently as a member of the Ministry & Care Committee. She is now rotating off of M&C to the surprise and astonishment of some, and profound regret of others. She is now pursuing a new expression for her commitment to Ministry & Care and to the Friends of SCYM.

We want to profoundly thank Friend Marianne for her loving service to so many in our yearly meeting, and wish the best for her in her continuing travels with the Light.

SCYM 2017.08 – Minute of Appreciation for Jan Michael – South Central Yearly Meeting minutes its thanks for the 13 years of service that Jan Michael gave to Yearly Meeting as clerk of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee. Anyone who has ever worked with Jan knows that the very best things about working with him are his wonderful stories, but he also brought practical experience and a good sense of organization. Working with the Committee, he greatly improved the quality of our Yearly Meeting sessions.

SCYM 2017.09 – Minute of Appreciation for Val Liveoak – South Central Yearly Meeting minutes its sincere appreciation of Val Liveoak’s service to Friends Peace Teams for the yearly meeting over the past 13 years. Val has been not only the leading Light of FPT, but was there to strike the spark and fan the flames. We appreciate the way she has moved into new roles amongst us and is bringing the same dedication and valuable skills into her future with SCYM.

SCYM 2017.10 – Minute of Appreciation for Shelly Angel – Shelly Angel, for the last many years, has served our Yearly Meeting in many ways: treasurer, publications, Ministry & Care, and recording clerk are but a few. Our Yearly Meeting would have been much poorer if we had lacked her service.

2017 Representative Meeting – Clerk announced that the 2017 Representative Meeting will be held at Green Family Camp 17-19 Eleventh Month 2017.

2018 Yearly Meeting – Clerk announced that the 2018 Yearly Meeting will be held at Green Family Camp 29 Third Month – 1 Fourth Month 2018.

Young Friends Epistle – Brendan Loftland, Young Friends, presented their Epistle for our 2017 Yearly Meeting sessions. [attached] Brendan announced that he will serve as Clerk of Young Friends and Luke Morrison will serve as Recording Clerk of Young this next year.

Junior Young Friends Epistle – Leah Mei Guttentag, Junior Young Friends, presented their Epistle for our 2017 Yearly Meeting sessions. [attached] Ryan Loftland will serve as

Clerk of Junior Young Friends and Augie Friend will serve as Recording Clerk of Junior Young Friends this next year.

Memorial Minutes – [see Memorial Minutes for full text]

Friends Meeting of Austin

- Sherilyn Brandenstein
- Jude Evelyn Filler
- Eleanor Hammond
- (Ruth) Jane Laessle

CADDO Preparative Meeting

- Margaret W. Maxfield

Dallas Friends Meeting

- Ellen Stamelos

Green Country Friends Meeting

- Lucy Jane Tolbert Saeger
- Richard “Rick” Brooks

Little Rock Friends Meeting

- Phebe MacClelland Ripka – [no text received]

Live Oak Friends Meeting

- Clare Crane Kearney Galbraith
- Claire Loe
- Kathleen (Kitty) Alberta Conner Orr
- Joan Cochran Terrell

New Orleans Friends Meeting

- Lucianne Carmichael

Minutes of Celebration

Green Country Friends Meeting

- Birth: Alexander Tay, born 01/06/2017

Live Oak Friends Meeting

- Mark Herranan and Rosalia Vasquez, married 05/15/2016

Friends Meeting of Austin

- Robert Awkward and Ana Leticia DeLeon, married 07/31/2016
- Rebekah Falkner and Nate Ezell, married 02/19/2017

Live Oak Friends Meeting

- Jude Louis John Jager-Rubinson, born 09/14/2016

Meeting closed at 11:30 AM with a period of open worship.

South Central Yearly Meeting

*of the Religious Society of Friends in
Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, & Texas*



South Central Yearly Meeting gathered at Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, Texas on Easter weekend, April 13-16, 2017

Greetings to Friends everywhere,

This Easter, South Central Yearly Meeting, celebrated our 25th season at Greene Family Camp. Friends gather in this bucolic setting to find refuge and peace and to settle in the joyous work of our annual meeting. Our location deeply informed our experience. The camp is owned by the Union for Reform Judaism and is filled with the vibrant art of Jewish Children. The wildflowers were in full bloom, and the often-temperamental Texas weather brought sunshine, clouds, breezes and no rain. This allowed nature walks and boating to solidify our connection to the living earth. At night we could see planets and stars in the dark sky.

Our silences were punctuated with birdsong; in evenings Friends gathered in fellowship in the dining hall with instruments to bring music and song, and in daytime children's voices brought smiles to all.

Workshops, mealtimes and meetings around the spacious campus meant long treks between rustic buildings. We brought wheeled vehicles to navigate the campus from babies in strollers to elderly using walker's, younger friends on bicycles, and the wheels on everyone's luggage. Inside the theater, we saw a framed painting of the tree of life which was echoed on an attendee's body.

Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting brought us this year's theme, "Climate Change, Environmental Racism, Friends' faith and practice: What's the connection?"

This proved timely as planning progressed. Current events echoed these concerns, namely the Dakota Access Pipeline protest. Guests and speakers from Standing Rock, along with many of our own members brought their histories, their expertise and their passions to provide timely, informative and inspiring workshops, home groups, keynotes and panel discussions.

Our faith and practice must remain the foundation supporting our work, as it inspires all peoples who are called to act in community on their shared concerns.

We grow in our awareness of white privilege and its effects, and were called to use this consciousness for positive change. The urgent need to address climate change should inspire our personal choices and our activism when we return to our homes and communities. A Friend who is a water protector encouraged us to stop using plastic straws to decrease our use of plastic and protect marine life. These small individual changes can make huge collective environmental impacts.

Yearly Meeting brought together friends from across Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and

Louisiana; some traveling over 500 miles to spend a few days amongst Quakers. We heard reports from the Friends we send to 10 Quaker organizations and five ecumenical and local activist groups in the states. We saw young hipsters, hip oldsters and all sorts of Friends in between.

Intergenerational relationships are deep and essential to many of us. As mostly convinced Friends from small and isolated Meetings we value this spiritual Fellowship even when we struggle together for right protocol and procedure. Our project for writing our own Faith and Practice was reinvigorated this year, and the committee remained most concerned that we express our uniqueness.

As liberal Quakers in the mostly conservative south we struggle to maintain our presence in our communities. Questions were raised on our relationship with Friends General Conference. Programs that were utilized have faded, although we remain true to the values exemplified by FGC. For us, we need to move past the old paradigms and create new relationships among monthly meetings, our yearly meeting, and FGC that are based on mutual participation.

Seeing our youth program expand this year, as a result of more youth attending and more adults inspired to facilitate them was gratifying for all. We will be sure to take this fellowship and our role as protectors of each other and our creation home with us.

Young Friends Epistle

This year we have done many amazing things. We had a lot of fun and a great time. Some of the things we did were our epic boating adventure at Jake lake, where Ryan and Luke attempted to capsize Jordan's kayak, throughout the day we attended a variety of interesting workshops which included the standing rock lecture presented by Cheryl Angel, where she talked about her time protesting the North Dakota Pipeline and some of the protests that she lead. She described how she changed the game from being non-violent to forgiving the police for what they were doing, and how that made a huge difference in the outcome of the protest. Then we also did some team building/icebreaking games with Ben. Later that night we also played wink and spent some time in the game room hanging out.

This year we decided to start our own recycling system, by using a separate garbage bag that one of us will bring home with us. Our hope is to get a recycling system officially installed at Greene Family Camp in the near future.

On Saturday we started with a peaceful hike around the camp, where we took in the beautiful scenery and Molly got a splinter. Some of us might have taking a nap afterwards but it was necessary to our mental health. After lunch we ventured to the ropes course (which we helped pay for) and set new time records. Every year we time ourselves and try and do better. Currently the highs score is 2 min 40 sec and that was done on the hardest path possible. Some of us went swimming instead of climbing and got to "enjoy" the freezing water.

Next we'd like to recognize one of our young friends, Crystal Redfield, who ran her own

workshop titled, “the friends with different abilities in educational computer game workshop”, which is basically a workshop, where she walked through how to make educational video games. She also did a spectacular job MCing for family fun night. Nice Job Crystal!!

Yesterday we improved our skit planning by spending a few more minutes than usual preparing, which is unusual for us. Especially after the last couple of rough years we’ve had. During the show we enjoyed listening to the music and PUNS, after which we spent the rest of the night in the YF room making pizza. Unfortunately, we didn’t have any dough this year so we used tortillas instead, which were pretty good. Finally, we wrote our epistle last night with plenty of “energetic” input from everyone, and then being the teenagers we are, we stayed up “slightly” past bedtime playing games and joking around.

Next year we plan to make and sell T-shirts, inspired by the silent auction we had yesterday. The money we raise mainly goes towards helping to pay for the ropes course, which we are the ones to mainly use it. We also hope to bridge the age gap with the elementary kids by teaching them how to roller skate in exchange for the ability to skate ourselves. All in all this was a great year for reuniting with our old friends and making new ones. We all had a wonderful time and look forward to coming back next year!! :)

Junior Young Friends Epistle

We the Junior Young Friends of the year 2017, would like to thank our Friendly Adult Presences (FAPs) and everyone else who helped make this an amazing weekend. Some things we enjoyed were boating, clay, games and the rope course. However, we would enjoy this more if we had more snacks, swimming time, nap time and better movies. We would also enjoy it if we had more opportunities to gather during the year.

Sincerely, The Junior Young Friends of 2017

State of the Yearly Meeting 2017

Our Yearly Meeting finds itself at a tender time. We are acutely aware of needs in the world for peace, justice, and environmental healing. We also feel increasing challenges as social and political winds shift in our country. Our meetings face challenges of following their leadings and facing their fears in a number of ways.

- Facing fears for themselves and others they have said:
In these times, we have been especially challenged by the need to join with the broader community to protect and defend human rights. Since the presidential election, we have witnessed many unjust and dangerous attacks, immediate and imminent, coming out of the Federal and State governments, aimed against our most vulnerable neighbors. We find ourselves marching, rallying and protesting almost weekly. Among other actions, these include the Women's March, the No-Ban-No-Wall Rally, local spontaneous gatherings to protest immigration raids, and the gathering to protect Muslim participants in the Texas Capitol Muslim Day.
- Particularly in this past year, we have provided sanctuary for those struggling through difficult times including struggles and concerns for our country and world. We value differing perspectives and hold dear that each perspective adds to our own spiritual path and understanding of our world.
- Our messages tend to be spirit led, and this is needed in these difficult political times. Individually, many of us have looked for channels to resist the recent turn in political events by reaching out to the local mosque with our support, by writing letters to legislature, and by protesting in marches. Friends expressed a desire to rethink peace and social concerns, to create a structure that would help individuals enact the testimonies of peace and equality in their lives.

But fears do not define us. Many of the monthly meeting statements include hope, a vision for the future, and testify to their growth and the joy they find in service, community and service. Such statements as:

- Our numbers may be small. Sometimes we are tired and wonder how much more can we do. The answer is simple. We do what we can.
- It seems to me that we spend our energy focusing on worship and mutual support. We have neither the energy nor the inclination to "save the world." If we can be a little bit better each day, we have met our obligation to ourselves and our community. That says it all. We remain spiritually led; involved as we are able; and we try to be a little better each day.

- We noted that we do nurture one another in our individual leadings – such as various members and attenders’ involvement with the boys and girls club, interfaith work, the McElroy House Organization for Cultural Resources, Nonviolent Communications, working with a single mother to name some.
- Once a month, after a half hour of worship, we begin worship with attention to business. As a result, we have had a huge increase in participation in business meeting with many positive results, including regular business meetings and minutes, more participation in business by members, greater financial clarity, formal expression of support for our local AFSC office, and ongoing attention to our areas of concern (outreach, opportunities for social action, First Day School, religious education, investments, and our physical space).

As we have gathered together this year we have found strength in one another by sharing our fears, doubts, struggles and concerns. And more than that we have laughed, sung and joked with one another knowing the Light that leads us on does not dim. The Light shines everywhere, Love is working in the world. It is for us to clear our vision and open our hearts.

April 16, 2017

2017 SCYM Registrar's Report

Number of Registrations	100
Total Attendance	157
Adults	129
Youth	28
• Little Friends and Elementary	9
• Junior Young Friends	8
• Young Friends	11
Number of First Time Attenders	24
Day Attenders	2

SCYM Monthly Meeting/Worship Groups Represented

• Acadiana Friends Meeting	1
• Baton Rouge Friends Meeting	1
• Caddo Area Friends	1
• Coastal Bend Friends Meeting	1
• Dallas Monthly Meeting	20
• Fayetteville Friends Meeting	1
• Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	7
• Friends Meeting of Austin	38
• Friends Meeting of New Orleans	1
• Friends Meeting of San Antonio	11
• Georgetown Worship Group	4
• Green Country Friends Meeting	1
• Houston Live Oak Friends Meeting	41
• Little Rock Friends Meeting	2
• Longview Worship Group	1
• Lufkin Friends Meeting	1
• Norman Friends Meeting	8
• Oklahoma City Friends Meeting	7
• Stillwater Friends Meeting	3

Visiting Friends/Representatives

- Shelley Tanenbaum - Quaker Earthcare Witness
- Cheryl Angel – Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Water Protector
- Frank Barch – Friends General Conference/Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
- Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch – Friends General Conference/Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
- Mike Gray – Intermountain Yearly Meeting
- Nancy Marshall – Intermountain Yearly Meeting/Bolivia Education Quaker Fund
- Linda Houser – Purchase Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting

Meals Served

• Total	1,244
• Regular	793
• Vegetarian	347
• Gluten-free	71
• Vegetarian and gluten-free	33

2017 Youth Program Report to YM

Coordinator: Jasmine Zowniriw
Assistant Coordinator: Ben Corley

I've heard the words it takes a village many times to describe the child-rearing process and if ever there was a place where this phrase is lived out, it is here.

Take our two Littlest Friends: they were cared for by Joanne Go, Kirsten Dean, Joan Stewart and Jonathan Polacheck. There has never been a better student:teacher ratio. Charlotte chased bubbles, read books, and took walks in true toddler fashion: with a doll in a stroller.

Kathy Brooks joined us again as lead teacher of the Elementary group with sidekick, Donny Lofland and Terry Sorelle on strings. This team, consisting of seven 6-8-year-olds, focused on Stewardship so as to mirror the adult programming, picked up trash around the camp during their hike and depicted a trash clean-up in their skit. They are a group of true Stewards and, if I may add a pun, I will gladly follow their highly-spirited lead. As an added bonus, they discovered a hidden cache of roller skates and spent a great deal of time developing their motor skills in the Rec 2-turned roller rink.

Davis Caraway join the Youth Program full-time for the first time as a dynamic Lead Teacher for nine Junior Young Friends. He was supported in the morning by Patrick Brooks, the afternoon by Ben Corely and in the evenings and overnights we had three different volunteers so that no one person lost too much sleep. Between nature hikes, the ropes course and a rousing game of bumper boats, I am sure sleep was tremendously appreciated. I am particularly excited about their skit, which made the group's focus on the racial dynamics within environmental issues abundantly clear.

Our dozen Young Friends led themselves through a series of business meetings with the assistance of Libby Brunke-Turner and Harley Mimura. Raising and spending money from their own budget, playing Wink and a thoughtful discussion with Cheryl Angel were the highlights of this year's program. Seeing the group come together and create a positive energy over this weekend was a joy to witness.

I want to thank the Support Committee and Youth Program Coordinators of past years for all of their help in the planning process. Thank you to everyone here for marshmallow s'mores, egg dying and pizza party chaperones. With all of my heart I thank you for being the village.

South Central Yearly Meeting

FY 2016 – 2017 Treasurer’s Report

FY 2017 – 2018 Proposed Operating Budget

April 2017

CONTENTS

- Page 3** **FY 2016 - 2017 Balance Sheet**
- ✓ The Friends Fiduciary Corporation funds experienced a gain of \$1,236.91 in July – December 2016.
 - ✓ The balance sheet is stable, though receipts from member meetings are slow this year.
 - ✓ The year-to-date net income is typically negative until after the Yearly Meeting Sessions take place because of prepaid expenses associated with the sessions.
- Page 4** **FY 2016 - 2017 Major Fund Balances**
- ✓ Since July 2015 the Boeger Fund received \$687.94 from FFC and \$424.40 has been disbursed in support of ministry to small Meetings and isolated Friends. This leaves a balance of \$1,917 in the Boeger Fund.
 - ✓ The Spiritual Enrichment Fund balance has increased to \$9,213. No disbursements have been made during this fiscal year.
 - ✓ The General Fund is negative because of pre-paid expenses for the Yearly Meeting Sessions.
 - ✓ No other unusual activity to report.
- Page 5** **FY 2016 - 2017 Quaker & Interfaith Group Contributions**
- ✓ All authorized contributions for this year have been disbursed.
 - ✓ Please note that no contribution has been made to the Friends Ugandan Safe Transfer Fund because only an initial contribution was approved by SCYM. The Peace & Social Justice Committee will need to determine if they would like to recommend that this be an annual contribution. \$200 remains in the current budget that could be used for this purpose during what remains of this fiscal year.
- Page 6** **FY 2016 - 2017 Delegate Travel Disbursements**
- ✓ No unusual activity to report. It is anticipated that all funds for delegate travel in this year’s operating budget will be expended.

Page 7-8 **FY 2016 - 2017 Statement of Activities**

- ✓ Income: Member Meeting Support is approximately \$4,000 less than the same period in prior years. Thus far, five Meetings have contributed between July 1 and February 28. It is typically 10-12 Meetings that have contributed by this time. We should be receiving an additional \$8,000 - \$10,000 from member Meetings between now and June 30, 2017. This brings total operating income up to approximately \$21,000 against a budget of \$23,020.
- ✓ Expenses: There is no unusual activity. Most items are in line with the typical spending pattern of the Meeting.
- ✓ The Meeting is operating at a loss of \$444.17. As we reconcile the YM sessions, receive end of the year contributions from Meetings, we should break even.

Page 9 **2016 - 2017 YTD Operating Results and Proposed FY 2017 - 2018 Operating Budget**

- ✓ Please note the loss at the bottom of the page and that it is different from the loss noted on the Statement of Activities. Operations run at a loss in part because of the nature of fund accounting, which requires funds be shown as expensed regardless of if an expense is actually incurred or if it was over/under budget. For example, current actual spending for delegate travel is just over \$4,600; in the Operating Results it has been shown as the full fund contribution of \$8,000—even though that money has not yet been spent.
- ✓ The proposed FY 2017 - 2018 budget has been increased by \$300 over the current year to accommodate a request for a new organization to which Friends wish to contribute.

South Central Yearly Meeting FY 2016 - 2017 Balance Sheet

Through February 28, 2017

	<u>2/28/17</u>	<u>6/30/2016</u>	<u>6/30/15</u>
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
Bank of America	\$-	\$-	\$40,281.60
Texas FCU Checking	\$41,814.68	\$43,495.78	\$400.00
Texas FCU Savings	\$100.06	\$100.04	\$100.00
Friends Fiduciary Fund	\$65,972.85	\$64,735.94	\$65,514.22
Total Checking/Savings	<u>\$107,887.59</u>	<u>\$108,331.76</u>	<u>\$106,295.82</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$107,887.59</u>	<u>\$108,331.76</u>	<u>\$106,295.82</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$107,887.59</u></u>	<u><u>\$108,331.76</u></u>	<u><u>\$106,295.82</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$-	\$-	\$-
Total Accounts Payable	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>
Equity			
Opening Bal Equity	\$87,496.64	\$87,496.64	\$87,496.64
Retained Earnings	\$20,835.12	\$18,799.18	\$13,563.77
Net Income	\$(444.17)	\$2,035.94	\$5,235.41
Total Equity	<u>\$107,887.59</u>	<u>\$108,331.76</u>	<u>\$106,295.82</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>\$107,887.59</u></u>	<u><u>\$108,331.76</u></u>	<u><u>\$106,295.82</u></u>

South Central Yearly Meeting

FY 2016 - 2017 Major Fund Balances

Through February 28,
2017

Fund	2/28/2017	6/30/16	6/30/15
Boeger Fund	\$1,917.00	\$1,653.00	\$1,150.00
		\$28,000.0	\$28,000.0
Boeger Principal	\$28,000.00	0	0
		\$14,879.0	\$14,322.0
Delegate Travel Fund	\$18,277.00	0	0
Spiritual Enrichment Fund *	\$9,213.00	\$8,525.00	\$8,001.00
		\$38,389.0	\$29,263.0
Total Events	\$41,425.00	0	0
FWCC Triennial Fund	\$2,743.00	\$3,043.00	\$6,222.00
General Fund	\$(1,232.00)	\$7,534.00	\$7,995.00
Total Young Friends Fund	\$2,412.00	\$2,412.00	\$2,222.00
Adult Young Friends Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$-
QREC	\$-	\$-	\$4,191.00

* Formerly the Discretionary Scholarship Fund

South Central Yearly Meeting FY 2016-17 Quaker & Interfaith Group Contributions

	Organization	Amount
Operating Expenses		
Quaker and Interfaith Groups		
	Friends Peace Teams	\$650.00
	RSWR	\$300.00
	FWCC	\$1,075.00
	FGC	\$1,000.00
	AFSC - Southern Region - New Orleans Office	\$650.00
	AFSC	\$650.00
	FCNL	\$400.00
	Austin Tan Cerca	\$300.00
	Texas Impact	\$200.00
	Louisiana Interchurch Conference	\$225.00
	Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$250.00
	William Penn House	\$200.00
	Oklahoma Conference of Churches	\$200.00
	Arkansas Interfaith Alliance	\$200.00
	Friends Ugandan Safe Transport	\$-
		<hr/>
Total Quaker and Interfaith Groups		\$6,300.00
		<hr/>
TOTAL		<u><u>\$6,300.00</u></u>

South Central Yearly Meeting

FY 2016 - 2017 Delegate Travel Fund Disbursements

Through February 28, 2017

	Date	Amount	Note
Fund Disbursements			
Delegate Travel			
FCNL			
	11/03/2016	\$673.66	
	11/15/2016	\$1,553.80	
Total FCNL		<u>\$2,227.46</u>	
FWCC			
	02/26/2017	\$1,125.88	
Total FWCC		<u>\$1,125.88</u>	
Delegate Travel - Other			
	08/30/2016	\$500.00	QEW
	08/30/2016	\$365.00	QEW
	09/18/2016	\$296.20	QEW
	10/09/2016	\$87.61	FLGBTQC
Total Delegate Travel - Other		<u>\$1,248.81</u>	
Total Delegate Travel		<u>\$4,602.15</u>	
Total Fund Disbursements		<u>\$4,602.15</u>	
TOTAL		<u><u>\$4,602.15</u></u>	

South Central Yearly Meeting

FY 2016 - 2017 Statement of Activities

	2/28/17	6/30/16
Income		
Fund Transfers		
Delegate Travel Fund	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
FWCC Triennial Fund	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
YM Subsidy Fund	\$6,000.00	\$7,000.00
Total Fund Transfers	\$15,000.00	\$16,000.00
Interest/Dividends	\$2,627.30	\$2,022.11
Operating Income		
Member Mtg Support	\$11,284.00	\$23,114.00
Operating Income - Other	\$-	\$-
Total Operating Income	\$11,284.00	\$23,114.00
YM and RM Income		
RM Income	\$2,990.00	\$2,690.00
YM Income	\$-	\$24,850.40
Total YM and RM Income	\$2,990.00	\$27,540.40
Special (Other) Income	\$-	\$7,422.75
Total Income	\$31,901.30	\$76,099.26

Expense

Fund Disbursements		
Boeger Fund Disbursements	\$424.40	\$887.25
Coffee Sale Distributions	\$-	\$145.35
Delegate Travel		
AFSC	\$-	\$446.20
FCNL	\$2,227.46	\$3,632.40
FGC	\$-	\$1,200.19
FPT	\$-	\$493.96
FWCC	\$1,125.88	\$-
Delegate Travel - Other	\$1,248.81	\$1,670.56
Total Delegate Travel	\$4,602.15	\$7,443.31
TWCC Triennial	\$-	\$4,178.47
QREC	\$-	\$10,563.10
Simple Meal Distribution	\$-	\$953.25
Spiritual Enrichment Fund	\$-	\$963.20
Young Friends	\$-	\$-
Total Fund Disbursements	\$5,026.55	\$25,133.93
Operating Expenses		
Committee Exp	\$-	\$-
Fund Contributions		
Delegate Travel Fund	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
FWCC Triennial Fund	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
YM Subsidy Fund	\$6,000.00	\$7,000.00
Total Fund Contributions	\$15,000.00	\$16,000.00
Publications		
Directory	\$-	\$-
Mailing	\$-	\$218.02
Newsletter	\$-	\$507.94
Postage	\$-	\$300.36
Proceedings	\$-	\$-
Web	\$-	\$62.56
Total Publications	\$-	\$1,088.88
Quaker and Interfaith Groups	\$6,300.00	\$6,475.00
SCYM Administration	\$65.24	\$31.30
Total Operating Expenses	\$21,365.24	\$23,595.18
YM and RM Expenses		
RM Expense	\$2,961.85	\$2,706.85
YM Expense	\$3,087.10	\$22,627.36
Total YM and RM Expenses	\$5,953.68	\$25,334.21
Total Expense	\$32,345.47	\$74,063.32
Net Income	\$(444.17)	\$2,035.94

FY 2016 - 2016 Year-to-Date Operating Results, and Proposed FY 2017 - 2018 Operating Budget

	Actuals through 02/28/2017	2016 - 2017 Budget	% of Budget	Proposed 2017 - 2018 Budget
Income				
Operating Income				
		\$23,000.0		
Member Mtg Support	\$11,284.00	0		\$23,300.00
Bank Interest	\$14.51	\$20.00		\$20.00
Operating Income - Other	\$-			
Total Operating Income	<u>\$11,298.51</u>			
		\$23,020.0		
Total Income	\$11,298.51	0	49.1%	\$23,320.00
Expenses				
Operating Expenses				
Committee Exp	\$-	\$300.00	0.0%	\$300.00
Fund Contributions				
Delegate Travel Fund	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	100.0%	\$8,000.00
FWCC Triennial Fund	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	100.0%	\$1,000.00
YM Subsidy Fund	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	100.0%	\$6,000.00
		\$15,000.0		
Total Fund Contributions	\$15,000.00	0	100.0%	\$15,000.00
Publications				
Newsletter	\$326.94			
Postage	\$185.14			
Proceedings	\$735.12			
Total Publications	\$-	\$1,000.00	0.0%	\$1,000.00
Quaker and Interfaith Groups	\$6,300.00	\$6,500.00	96.9%	\$6,800.00
SCYM Administration	\$65.24	\$220.00	29.7%	\$220.00
		\$23,020.0		
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$21,365.24</u>	0	92.8%	\$23,320.00
		\$23,020.0		
Total Expense	<u>\$21,365.24</u>	0	92.8%	\$23,320.00
Net Income from Operations	<u>\$(10,066.73)</u>	<u>\$-</u>		<u>\$-</u>

Committee Reports

Ad hoc Committee on Child Safety DRAFT Policy

Screening

All staff for the children's program at SCYM annual sessions must have been screened and approved by their home meeting. Staffs are at least 18 years old. Clerks of home meetings or clerks of ministry and care committees (or similarly named committees) will state in writing through email or paper mail to the Youth Program Coordinator that the staffer is approved to work with children. If the staffer is not currently active in their home meeting, a member of another meeting can be a reference and screener for that staffer.

Policies on Site

For a group of children (more than one child), there will be two or more adults for each group.

If only one child is present, there may be only one teacher, but the teacher and child must remain in eye-sight and ear-shot of other adults in the meeting at all times.

Diapering and bathroom assistance

Diapering: An approved adult must be present when clothes or diapers are being changed. A parent/caregiver can also be recruited to change clothes or a diaper.

Two and Three Year Olds: An approved adult must accompany children to and from the bathroom and inform another adult when this takes place. The adult will assist the child only when necessary. If assistance is needed, the adult must leave the bathroom door open.

Preschool: An approved adult must accompany preschoolers to the bathroom. The adult will remain outside the stall. If assistance is required, the approved adult should encourage independence but can assist with minimal tasks if necessary (belts, snaps, etc.).

Elementary School Age: If the restroom for this age group is shared with others, an approved adult will accompany children to the bathroom to determine if others are present. The approved adult will stay outside the stalls or outside the restroom. Children in groups of 3 or more may go to the restroom without an approved adult.

Addressing inappropriate actions.

If someone observes actions they believe inappropriate, they address that person directly and immediately for the best interests and safety of the child. They must also report their observations and conversation to the Youth Program Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator or Clerk of the Youth Program Support Committee.

If that appears insufficient or unresolved, the issue is taken up with the Youth Program Clerk, Coordinator or Associate Coordinator.

Ministry and Care Committee Report to SCYM 2017

Over the past year the Ministry and Care Committee has not met as often as we wished, for a variety of reasons, but we have been active with conference calls, with email discussions, and have been able to address concerns that have come to us.

We have been pleased to support Liz Yeats with a small assistance from the Spiritual Enrichment Fund to continue her work and travel with the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative and to see the fruits of that work in a new small book for children also available in Spanish and now available to meetings. In a similar vein we are overjoyed to see that Tom Cassidy, who SCYM supported a year ago to the FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend, has blossomed in his work with FCNL. We have received reports from all recipients on the work or activities the support has enabled them to do.

In other activities, Marianne Lockard has continued her ministry of visiting small and struggling meetings and isolated Friends. Over several months we have talked with and been present with with San Antonio meeting in their work to heal and re-energize their meeting. Marianne and an accompanying Friend Melissa Ruof from Austin visited the meeting and listened to their hopes and concerns. More recently Marianne and Jan Michael presented a workshop on Spiritual Friendships to the Austin Meeting. We hope these efforts also will be fruitful.

We want to encourage Friends to contact M&C for possible support available from our Boeger Fund and the Spiritual Enrichment Fund to assist Friends in following their leadings. The Boeger fund was established to support individuals in SCYM in ministry, and the Spiritual Enrichment fund is the primary vehicle for supporting Friends' non-delegate travel to participate to Quaker events beyond Yearly Meeting with a focus, but not exclusively, on Young Friends.

The Ministry and Care Committee also wishes to remind Friends that we are here to support meetings and to facilitate communication with estranged or isolated Friends.

Nominating Committee Report to SCYM 2017

SCYM Nominating Committee members include Beverly Randolph, Clerk, Corpus Christi (representing Cielo Grande Quarterly); Pam Arnold, Baton Rouge (representing Bayou Quarterly); Galia Harrington (representing Friends Meeting of Austin); Tina Coffin, Little Rock (representing Oklahoma/Arkansas Quarterly); Rich Corl, Houston (representing Live Oak Friends Meeting); Ellen Danielson, Dallas (representing Dallas Friends Meeting). Val Liveoak, San Antonio, has served one year on Nominating Committee following her clerkship. Friends Meeting of San Antonio is not presently represented on Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee recommends that Friends Meeting of San Antonio and Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting forward names for Nominating Committee to Representative Meeting 2017.

Only three slots are open for service at rise of Yearly Meeting. If Friends are led to step forward, please contact Nominating Committee as soon as possible for the service to be approved at Representative Meeting. These slots are: one position for Quaker Earthcare Witness and two slots on Yearly Meeting Planning Committee.

The following list are Nominating Committee Recommendations for Service to South Central Yearly Meeting:

YM 2017 Nominating Committee Recommendations for Service to SCYM

ATCDF	2 yr	yes	Anita	DeLeon	new	2017	2019	AU
	2 yr	yes	Robert	Akward	new	2017	2019	AU
Clerk Associate	1 yr	no	Howard	Hawhee	new	2017	2018	AU
Clerk YM	2 yr	yes	Liz	Yeats	New	2017	2019	AU
Clerk-Recording	2 yr	yes	Warren	Wilson-Reiner	new	2017	2019	AU
Faith Practice	& 3 yr	yes	Terry	SoRelle	new	2017	2020	AU
Faith Practice	& 3 yr	Yes	Claudia	Wilson	New	2017	2020	FW
Faith Practice	& 3 yr	yes	Emma	Britain	new	2017	2020	AU
FCNL	3 yr	yes	Tom	Cassidy	new	2017	2020	LO
FGC	3 yr	2x	Mary	Hampton	new		2020	AU
FGC	3 yr	2x	Laura	Holliday	new		2020	LO
Finance	3 yr	yes	Carol	Redfield	new	2017	2020	SA
Finance	3yr	yes	Jimmy	Pryor	new	2017	2020	LO
Finance	3yr	Yes	Pat	Sweet	New	2017	2020	SA
FPeaceTeams	3 yr	3x	Shelley	Cotton	new	2017	2020	GE
FWCC	3 yr	3x	Carl	Drexler	new	2017	2020	CA
FWCC	3 yr	3X	Lori	Laub	New	2017	2020	GC
Ministry&Care	2 yr	2x	Chris	Drexler	new	2017	2019	LO
Ministry&Care	2 yr	2x	Marty	Calaham	new	2017	2019	AU
Ministry&Care	2yr	2x	Joanna	Vaughn	new	2017	2019	AU
Ministry&Care	2yr	2x	Melissa	Ruof	new	2017	2019	AU
Ministry&Care	2yr	2x	Lidney	Molnari	new	2017	2019	LO
Ministry&Care			Marianne	Lockard	continuing	ex officio		CA

Newsletter/Publications Committee

Content Mgr - website	3 yr		Bill	Sweet	new	2017	2020	SA
Peace&Justice	2yr	yes	Anita	DeLeon	new	2017	2019	AU
Peace&Justice	2yr	yes	Robert	Awkward	new	2017	2019	AU
WmPennHouse	3yr	yes	Claudia	Wilson	new	2017	2020	FW
Worship Oversight	2yr	2x	Dale	Bordelon	new	2017	2019	DA
YP Support	3yr	yes	Davis	Carraway	new	2017	2020	AU

Nominating Committee recommends Yearly Meeting approval of this slate of candidates, all of whom have expressed their willingness and leading to serve South Central Yearly Meeting.

Beverly Randolph
Clerk, SCYM Nominating Committee

Peace and Justice Committee Report to SCYM 2017

At SCYM approximately 30 friends gathered for Peace and Justice Forum on Friday 14 April 2017 @ 09:00 P.M.

Spirits were lifted, as we gathered, upon learning of breaking news reports that 7 executions set for the next two weeks in Arkansas were stayed by the Court: courageous acts by judges based on determined legal efforts by defense counsel. My athiest activist friend texted: It's a Passover miracle.

Specific agenda items were addressed, followed by reports of how Friends concerns had prospered in the past year. In Oklahoma, a positive note was success on Criminal Justice Reform – by reducing drug possession and non-violent crimes to misdemeanors by ballot initiatives voted on November 8, 2016. Other measures followed in the Oklahoma legislature because the popular vote sent the message that a majority preferred being smart on crime over being harsh and punitive on crime. This outcome follows work initiated over 5 years ago by Norman Friends meeting addressing Mass Incarceration and calling for solutions.

Friends were encouraged in continue to increase their awareness and readiness to respond to national efforts to target Muslims and undocumented immigrants. We must stand up and assert No Ban, No Wall, and respond to emergencies if the wall is built, deportations escalate, and Muslims are denied rights due to their religion. An example includes steps emerging toward Sanctuary which many Friends are veterans from the 1980?

Committed activists emphasized the “How” of being a religious activist of the Quaker persuasion. We seek dialogue on concerns and open ourselves to growth and positive evolution as we attentively hear perspective from our new friends whom were adversaries. Our Lights accepts no less, as we are one people, one spirit.

Youth Program Support Committee Report to SCYM 2017

The Youth Program Support Committee, composed of Kirsten Brink, Kathy Brooks (serving again as Elementary Age Lead Teacher), Jessica Arjet, Laura Bower Braunsberg, Kirsten Dean, Erika Mittag and Anne Collins (clerk), worked collectively and individually to support Jasmine Zowniriw, Youth Program Coordinator. We met by phone on two occasions, but had difficulty finding other times to meet. Jasmine turned to our collective and individual presences as she planned and prepared for this annual session’s children’s and youth programs. We are so pleased that Jasmine has served as Youth Program Coordinator this year and that she will be able to continue for the second year of her term. Jasmine has brought expertise, enthusiasm and skill to her role. We greatly appreciate the leadership and guidance she has given to SCYM children and youth and their teachers.

We are also pleased to report that Ben Corley of Live Oak Meeting was the recipient of the Playing in the Light grant to partially enable him to attend the that training, held at Pendle Hill this fall. Ben expressed deep and humble gratitude for this opportunity. He also expressed deep appreciation for the experience of being with other teachers in learning about Godly Play and Faith & Play and in their worship and sharing.

The committee would like to thank the yearly meeting for the support of teachers of children through this annual grant for Playing in the Light. We hope to identify other teachers who want to participate in this training. Please let the committee know of your interest or if you are aware of others interested in this grant.

Representative Reports

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Report

The American Friends Service Committee celebrates its 100th year anniversary this year. During those 100 years AFSC's mission has remained the same: "Promote lasting peace with justice as practical expression of faith in action. Drawing on continuing spirited insights and working with people of many backgrounds, AFSC nurtures the seeds of change and respect for human life that transforms social relations and systems.

At present AFSC has staff working in 35 U.S. cities and 17 countries. Within the borders of SCYM's four state area there is only a single AFSC office located in New Orleans. At last year's annual SCYM Dee Dee Green, the director of the New Orleans office, provided an in depth description of AFSC's youth program to develop leadership skills and the use of peaceful, nonviolent approaches to resolve conflict.

At the annual AFSC Corporation Meeting the representatives sent from SCYM continue to urge AFSC to invest more resources and personnel into our region of the US. The rationale for this position stems from awareness of the following conditions and circumstances that prevail in our region: immigration and border crossing issues, extremely high incarceration rates, healthcare deficiencies, widespread poverty, and both historical and lingering racism. At the same time SCYM representatives eagerly convey the efforts being made by individual Meetings within SCYM to address these various social justice issues. Through listening and also by conducting engaging conversations, SCYM representatives in attendance at the annual AFSC Corporation Meeting continue to build meaningful ties between AFSC and SCYM whereby both parties gain an understanding of each other's needs, objectives, and mutual means that are available for us to jointly address peace and social justice issues.

After 6 years of service and leadership Shan Cretin is stepping down as the General Secretary of AFSC. The new General Secretary will be Joyce Ajlouny starting September 2017. Joyce is presently the director of Ramallah Friends School in Palestine.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Report

#LoveThyNeighbor (No Exceptions) has been Friends Committee on National Legislation's (FCNL) call to us since the election. Not an easy practice in a country with such polarization but clearly what Quakers are called to do. It is often easier for us to love the oppressed than the oppressor but to move forward as a nation we need to love both.

This last year you charged us – Claudia Wilson, Gail and John Fletcher, Suzanne Cole, Lon Burnam and Liz Yeats – with representing SCYM to FCNL and helping bring FCNL back to SCYM. We have done that in many ways, assisted by other SCYM Friends Laura Holliday, Bill Sweet, Tom Cassidy and Mimosa Thomas along the way.

As usual, FCNL held its Annual General Committee Meeting days after the election which meant we arrived in Washington DC to lobby Congress after an election that left us all stunned. What surprised us most was how everyone in the halls of Congress, members and staff, shared our state, as though they too had just been through a natural disaster.

The Texas delegation got surprisingly honest advice from the Deputy Chief Counsel for the Republican led Senate Judiciary Committee, Carter Burwell, when he poked his head into our lobby session about criminal justice reform. He said he didn't think the Sentencing Reform bill he and his colleagues had been working on for years, co-sponsored by Senator Cornyn, would reach the Senate floor in the future. He advised we "call the White House" while Obama could still pardon those in the worst situations in federal prison. Then he left to attend an emergency caucus of staffers working on immigration reform, admitting tougher immigration policy probably would hurt Texas' and the US' economy.

His colleague, Ashley Close, remained with us, obviously in pain about the future of the bill and the outcome of the election. As we left, she admired our FCNL bags which carry the above hashtag. I gave her mine and she said she would be seeking to attend worship at Florida Avenue Friends Meeting. Belsis Romero, Legislative Correspondent in Senator Cruz's office, had advice similar to Carter Burwell – bring information supporting pardon about specific prisoners to the attention of the outgoing administration.

There was much discussion at the General Committee meeting that followed our lobbying about how FCNL could best address the new political realities. The priorities we all worked on in our meetings last spring were agreed and are available at **fcnl.org/priorities**. We went beyond to realize there are some areas, such as institutionalized sexism, that FCNL has not addressed recently. The discernment led the General Committee to approve a minute calling on Policy and Executive Committees of FCNL to address institutionalized sexism.

Recognizing the FCNL commitment to and work toward greater diversity and inclusion, and recognizing that oppression is manifest in institutional, interpersonal and internal ways, the FCNL General Committee asks the Policy and Executive Committees in the coming year to expand their work on diversity and inclusion to specifically address institutionalized sexism.

Quoting from Diane Randall's, Executive Secretary of FCNL, report to yearly meetings:

The 2016 election manifested the deep political and social divisions in our country, revealing stark differences in voters' hopes for the future. Amidst these seismic political shifts, FCNL's grounding as a Quaker lobby and our presence on Capitol Hill as a nonpartisan voice for peace and justice are needed now more than ever.

There is no question that the divisions in the American electorate — so evident in the presidential campaign — make our lobbying tougher than ever, and we are under no illusions about the challenges ahead. The threats are real. But our

relationships on Capitol Hill with both Republicans and Democrats, and the relationships that the FCNL network have established, will take on new significance. Those voices will become even more critical in the months ahead. We encourage all Friends to join us in advocacy.

FCNL has increased its presence in SCYM, and everywhere else in the US as well, as Friends and others have asked to become part of the lobbying effort. There are now FCNL Advocacy Teams in over 40 communities across the country visiting their legislators, advocating for peace and justice, and building durable relationships with members of Congress to persuade them to support key legislation. FCNL has taken on extra staff to meet the need to train Advocacy Team members. There is an Advocacy Team in Austin that has made two visits already and with so many participating there probably need to be two teams.

FCNL came to SCYM in January, visiting Austin for an event for The World We Seek: Now Is the Time Capital Campaign. Over 60 Friends and others met with Diane Randall and other staff for lunch and talk about the work of FCNL. Staff explained we can assure a future FCNL that is even more flexible and available through giving to the capital campaign before it ends June 30, 2017.

In March, three young people from Oklahoma attended FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend. All were Oklahoma University students. One, Tom Cassidy, is also an FCNL Advocacy Corps member, working for FCNL on the ground in Norman, OK. He went to Spring Lobby Weekend last year and decided this was work he wanted to continue. The two other students are native American. One, Courtland Vogeding, a member of the Muscogee Creek, made an excellent report about her time lobbying to Norman Friends Meeting after the event. Tom will be at 2017 SCYM sessions; the two women will not. FCNL supported the attendance of both women.

FCNL has asked that Friends study the Policy Statement in their monthly meetings and submit responses by July 31st. Please pick up a copy of the statement at SCYM sessions at the FCNL display table or find it at <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/the-world-we-seek-25>.

As usual, the representatives to FCNL are grateful for this chance to serve SCYM and have great thanks for the support we get for travel and attendance from SCYM. Several of us serve on FCNL standing committees. SCYM gets a lot from FCNL and gives a lot back.

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

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) has gathered twice since SCYM's last annual sessions. I continue to travel as the SCYM delegate, and I carry this responsibility with great joy.

In St. Joseph, MN, during FGC's Summer Gathering, FLGBTQC considered and approved a minute drafted by our nominating committee (including Suzanne Cole of SCYM) to celebrate a year of jubilee and let our business rest. We also had a time of worship sharing that brought up several important themes within the community including returning service on committees to be a thing of joy, creating a community of spiritual depth, and bringing our faith as queer people to the fore of every bit of work we do.

Outside of Portland, OR, during the Columbus Day holiday in February, FLGBTQC fleshed out a plan for how to create a year of jubilee as a dispersed community. We also created a framework that our community is committed to dreaming into about service to and care of our diverse, dispersed body. The details are still being worked out with co-clerks (currently Barb Rice from Madison, WI, and Rebecca Sullivan from Atlanta, GA) and nominating committee.

We continue our work of challenging our own racism and racist structures. We give a large portion of our budget to the Bayard Rustin Fund, which supports the travel of Friends of Color to FGC Summer Gathering. We are working to admit and name our own failings, but we are committed to dismantling the racist and classist structures that alienate people who seek a spiritual home and shelter with us.

We, as a body, are excited to bring new energy and a different focus on worship to FGC's 2017 Summer Gathering in Lewiston, NY. Our hope as we enter a year of jubilee is to share our joy with the wider body of Friends. We continue to be reminded that in difficult days, queer survival is resistance. Our joy and fellowship continues to be a light and a witness to persistence.

Friends Peace Teams Report

Friends Peace Teams Asia West Pacific Initiative engages with peace workers in Central Java, North Sumatra, Aceh in Indonesia; Manila, Tagbilaran City, and Davao City in the Philippines; Seoul in Korea; Kathmandu, Pokara and Bhutanese camps in Nepal; and we maintain a concern for peace workers in Palestine, Israel, Afghanistan, Chechnya, Ukraine, New Zealand and Australia. As our peace-work follows the calling of our volunteers, in 2016 we actively worked in Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines and Korea supporting nonviolence, peace, trauma healing, conflict transformation, and social justice advocacy for communities recovering from war or religious violence.

We completed earthquake relief activities in Nepal. We also provided a grant to Peace Place in Central Java to expand their training center and school. We continue to develop and support pre-schools, after-school programs, and parent, family and teacher training based on peace and nonviolence. The book, *The Power of Goodness: Art and Stories for a Culture of Peace* was published and is now available. It is a collection of short stories from the lives of real people who chose nonviolence and reconciliation and is accompanied by illustrations by young artists.

Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA) has over ten active peacebuilding and trauma healing programs in Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, Peacebuilding en Las Americas (PLA) provides grassroots solidarity, tools and hope to those most discriminated against and marginalized. 2016 marked an important year for the continued sustainability of PLA's programs. After 13 years of volunteer service, Founding Coordinator, Val Liveoak, retired, continuing as advisor to the new team: Monica Maher, Initiative Coordinator; Allie Prescott, Communications Specialist and Andy Cross, Financial Specialist. During this transition, the new team focused on growing and solidifying relationships with in-field Facilitators, Coordinators, and Volunteers who have passionately supported and facilitated workshops.

In 2016, each of PLA's programs focused work with at-risk youth, teachers, war survivors, former and active gang members, prison personnel, indigenous communities and grassroots leaders. Some program highlights include: the first ever workshop in a Mayan Language in Guatemala; trauma healing workshops in El Salvador with female war survivors who have disappeared relatives; workshops that empowered women in Afro-Indigenous and Indigenous communities defending their land rights against illegal development in Honduras; workshops that provide rehabilitation for former gang members and prisoners in a Honduran Prison; and workshops with victims of violence as well as demobilized guerrilla and paramilitary fighters in Colombia during the historic signing of the Peace Accords. For more information on our work, please visit: <http://pla.friendspeaceteams.org/>.

The African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams (AGLI) has continued its work in Central East Africa: Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of Congo. This includes Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC), Friends Womens Association's, clinic in Bujumbura, Burundi, the Alternatives to Violence Project AVP, and other work. David Zarembka, the founder of AGLI resigned in August, and was partially replaced by David Bucura, a Rwandan. AGLI will be seeking a US-based person for outreach.

FPT's office in St. Louis continues to be run efficiently and frugally by our Administrative Specialist, John Kintree. A new Communications Specialist, Hayley Hathaway, has been doing a great job updating our website and producing the beautiful new brochure available on our table. Tom Martin and Nancy Shippen continue as co-Clerks. We are grateful to the many volunteers who help us and our partners abroad continue to do this work.

Please visit our table in the display area for newsletters and more to take back to your monthly meetings, and also our website at: www.FriendsPeaceTeams.org.

Friends World Committee on Consultation Report

Friends World Committee Section of the Americas met March 23rd – March 26th in Stony Point, New York. The theme of the gathering was Virir La Paz – Living Peace and was centered on the scripture John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you so that you have peace. In this world you will have affliction; but trust, I have overcome the world.” The morning plenary worship were presented by Carl Magruder of Pacific Yearly Meeting, Kirenia Criado of Cuba Yearly Meeting, and Jonathan Vogel-Borne of New York Yearly Meeting. Just as diverse as Friends so were their messages; yet, similar in the expressing how they live in peace through God’s spirit. They were all powerful and enlightening ministries. Following the morning worship, Friends were able to move into Homegroups filled with the Spirit and were able to connect on a deeper level.

Friends World Committee Section of the Americas is settling into its recently developed strategic plan of 2015 very well. The executive committee has decided to extend the plan from five years to eight years. The Executive Committee reviewed and reaffirmed the goals of the Strategic Plan. Next, they identified the objectives and activities achieved during the first two years of operating under the Plan. Among the accomplishments are the following:

- ♣ Our new website is launched.
- ♣ FWCC Sponsored QuakerSpeak videos are produced as a resource for Friends.
- ♣ We successfully partnered with the World Office to promote World Quaker Day.
- ♣ The Clerk’s Handbook has been completed and circulated to committee clerks.
- ♣ The Traveling Ministry Corps is progressing and members are being recruited.
- ♣ The Strategic Opportunities Catalog is completed and being used as a fundraising tool.
- ♣ Most program and working groups are up and running and functioning according to their job descriptions.
- ♣ The Section successfully hosted the International Representatives Meeting in Peru.

There is a vision that working and program groups can be responsible for the activities of the Section to a much greater extent than in the past. The Executive Committee is thankful more volunteers are getting involved, but the Executive Committee acknowledged they need to more effectively engage Representatives in this work.

There were five QuakerSpeak videos produced by Friends World Committee Section of the Americas:

- Listening in Tongues
- How Many Quakers Are There In The World
- Top Ten Reasons I am A Quaker
- A Quaker Approach To Sustainability
- Are You A Quaker

All these videos are accompanied by a printed curriculum that could be used in a First Day School, workshops, or interest group and for all ages.

I cannot talk about Friends World Committee without mentioning QUNO (Quaker United Nations Office). Friends World Committee Section of the Americas has representation at the QUNO office in New York. The QUNO New York office offers an opportunity and location for representatives and leaders of countries from around the world to have dialogue and discussions that could not happen at their UN offices. Quakers are facilitating peace talks and negotiation behind closed doors in a safe and neutral environment through the Quaker United Nations Office in both New York and Geneva. Friends are encouraged to visit the newly revised website of the Friends World Committee for Consultation for more in depth information on Friends World Committee. Please contact me via email at lidneymolnari@yahoo.com or call me at 832-466-1342 if I can share more information or the QuakerSpeak videos and curriculum or to invite me to your meeting to give a presentation on Friends World Committee or on a QuakerSpeak video or host an interest group or workshop.

Now I would like to read a letter from the General Secretary of the Friends World Committee on Consultation World Office and from The Consultation on Sustainability. Before I do I want Friends to consider becoming a sustaining donor to Friends World Committee. I have forms here for you Friends.

To South Central Yearly Meeting
April 2017

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:23-24

Dear Friends in South Central Yearly Meeting,

We send you loving greetings from the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Office in London. We extend our best wishes for a full and gathered yearly meeting. We trust that God's presence among you will enrich your fellowship and open your hearts. May your gathering be blessed by visitors from other yearly meetings and other parts of the world. Understanding how our Quaker brothers and sisters in different parts of the world are carrying forward their worship and witness broadens our own sense of our work at home.

Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends together both literally and virtually, both at the local level and at the world level. "Connecting Friends, crossing cultures, and changing lives," we build understanding across cultures, languages, and theological diversity. We appreciate the yearly meeting's continuing work of strengthening the Religious Society of Friends, and likewise, FWCC brings Friends together who have similar passions in order to strengthen the Quaker voice in the world. Whether we worship in isolated or small communities or enjoy a larger yearly meeting community, we all need the wider family of Friends to nurture us. We are not alone!

Martin Luther King said in 1967, “Difficult and painful as it is, we must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future.” At this time of political unrest, we need each other and we need our faith. Being a Quaker, I take heart knowing I share the broad and insistent vision for a peaceful world. Everything has changed and nothing has changed. Our shared work for peace and justice continues, from King’s lifetime til now. From the World Conference minutes in 2012: “In moments of deep sharing of joys and grief, we find love, tenderness, and mutual understanding. Friendships form, and seeds of future partnerships are planted.”

FWCC holds the accreditation for Quaker work at the United Nations, and we appoint Friends from each Section to serve on the Geneva and New York governing committees of the Quaker United Nations Office. Quakers are represented well at the UN. Seek out your own Section appointees if you want to learn more or visit the QUNO web site. I attach the Sustainability Minute from the World Plenary Meeting in Pisac, Peru in January 2016, drawing your attention to the call for yearly meeting action. Please let us know what you are doing or considering across time. We will be putting contributions on the FWCC World Office web site to build momentum for the Quaker movement around sustainability.

With this greeting, I invite you to engage with FWCC through our web site and Facebook page. I invite you to give financially to FWCC through your Section. I invite you to support Robin Mohr in her work as Section Secretary of the Section of the Americas. And most importantly, I invite you to engage with other Friends who share your passion for life and love.

FWCC is revising the world map, *Finding Quakers Around the World*, and we are in the process of updating the book *Friends Around the World*. We also post all epistles we receive so that all Friends might see how God is moving amongst us. Please send your epistle to database@friendsworldoffice.org.

We hope that you will remember you are part of a larger family, very diverse, yet joined by its common heritage, testimonies, and faith. We enjoy unity within our diversity. We thank you, Friends, for your faithful support of our work. In loving Friendship,



Gretchen Castle
General Secretary

Attached: Sustainability Minute

IRM 16-20. Sustainability. The Consultation on Sustainability, facilitated by Jonathan Woolley (Mexico City MM/Pacific YM; Staff, QUNO-Geneva), Rachel Madenyika (Staff, QUNO-NY), and Charlotte Gordon (Aotearoa/New Zealand YM) have presented a minute for our consideration:

Living Sustainably and Sustaining Life on Earth

The Light of Christ has inspired Quakers throughout the generations. As we gather together in Pisac, Peru in 2016, we feel this light stronger than ever in our calling to care for the Earth on which we live. It is calling us from all traditions: programmed, unprogrammed, liberal, and evangelical. It calls us to preserve this Earth for our children, our grandchildren and all future generations to come, working as though life were to continue for 10,000 years to come. *Be ready for action with your robes hitched up and your lamps alight. (Luke 12:35, Revised English Bible)*

Our faith as Quakers is inseparable from our care for the health of our planet Earth. We see that our misuse of the Earth's resources creates inequality, destroys community, affects health and well-being, leads to war and erodes our integrity. We are all responsible for stewardship of our natural world. We love this world as God's gift to us all. Our hearts are crying for our beloved mother Earth, who is sick and in need of our care.

We are at a historical turning point. Internationally, the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals oblige governments to take action. Faith groups and other civil society are playing a major role. As Quakers, we are part of this movement. The FWCC World Conference approved the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice in April 2012, while the FWCC World Office was a signatory to the Quaker statement on climate change in 2014 and divested from fossil fuels in June 2015.

We recognise that the environmental crisis is a symptom of a wider crisis in our political and economic systems. Our loving and well informed environmental actions as Friends, consistent with our spiritual values, must therefore work to transform these systems.

Many of us all over the Quaker world are taking practical actions as individuals and communities. At this Plenary, a consultation of more than sixty Friends from all over the world worked to build on these leadings with further practical action. The Annex attached to these minutes shows examples of what Friends are doing already or propose to do.

We must redouble our efforts right now. We must move beyond our individual and collective comfort zones and involve the worldwide Quaker community and others of like mind. Just as Jesus showed us, real change requires us to challenge ourselves to be effective instruments of change. We can do more.

On recommendation of this Consultation, and after some discussion, we adopt the following minute:

In this effort for sustainability, and mindful of the urgency of this work, this Plenary asks the FWCC World Office and Central Executive Committee to:

1. **Invest FWCC World funds ethically.**
2. **Share Quaker experiences with other faith groups** to inspire them to action, especially through the World Council of Churches.
3. **Seek ways of connecting Friends worldwide that are sustainable.**
4. **Facilitate dissemination of training materials on sustainability issues** for Quaker leaders, pastors and teachers.

This FWCC Plenary Meeting also asks all Yearly Meetings to:

1. **Initiate at least two concrete actions** on sustainability within the next 12 months. These may build on existing projects of individuals or monthly meetings or they may be new initiatives. We ask that they encourage Young Friends to play key roles. We ask that meetings minute the progress and results, so as to share them with FWCC and Quaker meetings.
2. **Support individuals and groups in their meetings** who feel called to take action on sustainability.
3. **Support the work done by Quaker organizations** such as the Quaker United Nations Office and the Quaker Council for European Affairs to ensure that international agreements and their implementation support sustainability.

This FWCC Plenary Meeting asks individual Friends and groups (such as Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups and ad hoc groups within Meetings) to **Share inspiring experiences of living sustainably** on the new “sustainability webpage” of the Quakers in the World Website (<http://www.quakersintheworld.org/>). This webpage can be used as a source of ideas, inspiration and action.

Annex to the Minute: Possibilities for practical sustainability action from the Pisac consultation

Individuals can:

1. Dedicate personal time to nature.
2. Reduce consumption and use your consumer buying power to create change.
3. Cut down on meat consumption, be aware of energy costs in production and transport of all foods and methane from ruminant animals, and support sustainable agriculture.
4. Travel – cycle, walk, use public transport or alternatives to private cars, and keep air travel to a minimum.
5. Grow your own food and plant trees.
6. Be politically active in promoting sustainability concerns.

7. Share environmental concerns through books, publications, conversations, and electronic media
8. Reduce energy use.
9. Use less water and harvest water.
10. Make time for spiritual connection with God.

Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups and small groups within Meetings can:

1. Live in a community, share housing, and participate in a transition town movement.
2. Educate yourself and others.
3. Share transport and equipment.
4. Develop urban agriculture, community gardens, community supported agriculture, tree planting.
5. Love nature and encourage others to do so: we protect the things we love; get children out in nature; take care of nature around your meeting house (e.g., picking up trash/litter).
6. Invest ethically and divest from fossil fuels.
7. Ensure meeting houses are carbon neutral.
8. Build alliances, seek visibility, and approach legislators.
9. Share sustainability skills.

Yearly Meetings can:

1. Support the sustainability actions of Monthly Meetings.
2. Build solidarity with local people.
3. Support Quakers in politics and international work.
4. Form support networks and alliances to make more impact – we can only do so much on our own.
5. Invest ethically, including on sustainability issues.
6. Practice what we preach.
7. Discern and move concerns to action.
8. Set targets for increased sustainability.
9. Connect and share with other YMs, direct or via FWCC Sections and World Office

We recognize that different actions are relevant to different Quaker meetings in different parts of the world

Quaker Earthcare Witness Report

Andrea Bean writes:

At the rise of SCYM 2016, I became the 2nd half of the QEW (Quaker Earthcare Witness) rep for SCYM. I joined Danielle Evans and together we became co-reps. I was to attend the Spring meeting and she would attend the Fall.

Luck had it that the Spring 2016 QEW meeting followed SCYM by only a month, so I was able to immediately jump into representative work. I flew to Chicago to be greeted by a weighty and wonderful group of dedicated folks who eagerly welcomed me. I do have to say that I was a bit overwhelmed by the “weightiness” of the group as many of these reps and members at large had been working for and in their fields for decades. There were doctors, builders, architects, bankers, organizers, farmers, brokers and so much more..... and then there was me.

I found my way to QEW by way of FWCC (Friends World Committee on Consultation) and the Plenary that met in Pisac in January of 2016. It was at that gathering that I found a leading to my ever present and heart felt calling to Mother Earth, Gaia, Pachamama and all the other names that She is called by.

Within QEW, there are Working Groups and Committees. Members and Reps are encouraged to participate. (add working group and committee names)

I thought of my interests and gifts and decided that the Outreach Committee, since I liked to connect to people and the UN Working Group because I wanted to connect to a larger organization and understanding a wider perspective would be somewhere for me to explore. Both of my choices ended up being great places for me to land.

Listening became the most important skill as I acclimated myself to the work of QEW. Listening to others talk passionately about their interests, leadings, struggles and accomplishments, the processes and outcomes, I began to formulate a wider understanding of the concerns and issues that affect our Global Community.

I have put my toe in the water. While there is an ocean and depth of understanding yet to be reached, I had begun a journey with fellow Friends. With that I found a means to attend the 2016 Fall meeting in Pendlehill with Danielle. There I found more connection and contemplation and enjoyed my first-time experience at the lovely surroundings of Pendlehill Retreat Center. Workshops and speakers filled our time there, as well as, committee meetings, working groups and business meetings as we moved forward the concerns of QEW.

With tender sadness at the rise of Yearly Meeting, I will lay down my role as representative for QEW due to my recent relocation to the Los Angeles area. I have begun to attend the Santa Monica Monthly Meeting and it is my hope that in the future I can be of service to the Pacific Yearly meeting in a similar capacity.

Many Blessings and thank you for allowing me to be of service,
Andrea Beane

QEW United Nations Working Group Action

1. Commission of the Status of Women

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017>

2. Climate Change Conference

<http://cop22.ma/en/>

3. The 16th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII)

<http://sdg.iisd.org/events/16th-session-of-the-permanent-forum-on-indigenous-issues/?rdr=sd.iisd.org>

4. [High Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#) & Side Events, UNWG "Circle on the Decade" Conveners (Jack Braden, Beverly Ward, Dick Hogan, Leonard Joy, Pamela Boyce Simms) July 10-19, 2017

Support the UN Working Group side event at Crowdrise

<https://www.crowdrise.com/quakerearthcarewitne>

- **NGO Partners:**

- [The Africa Platform](#)

- *(Nairobi, Kenya)*

- [The Brahma Kumaris](#) *(UN Office, Barbados, and Washington DC)*

- [Civitas Senegal](#), *(Dakar, Senegal)*, and the [Unitarian Universalists Association \(UUA\)](#)

5. University Working Group for International Environmental Policy

<http://web.uneporg/unea>

Danielle Evans writes:

Quaker Earthcare Witness Fall 2016 Steering Committee met October 6th through 9th at Pendle Hill. QEW continues to hold meetings at Friends facilities to better support them, rotating locations (Spring 2016 found them at Ben Lomond Quaker Center). We become revitalized as we roam beneath Pendle Hills great trees. We are enriched at Meeting in the Barn. Andrea Beane, Gerald Jimmy, Jr. and Danielle Evans were all able to attend from SCYM.

Outreach was energized by Andrea's tremendous injection of carefully crafted initiatives, including the circulation of a geography spanning questionnaire that pulls us together by

water shed. Her work on this Committee has proven invaluable and QEW members repeatedly voiced their gratitude. She has additionally taken seat on the United Nations Working Group, which celebrates a new and important milestone this year – a milestone which I leave Andrea to share.

Each Yearly Meeting Representative has been given a book to circulate amongst their Meetings – a large format book depicting in amazing photographs the toll being taken on our planet Earth due to reckless use of resources by an exponentially growing populace. Please take the time to look when it heads your way.

Mini-Grants continue to be processed and allotted to wonderful projects here and abroad. Please submit any requests to QEW so that the good work may continue. My service on this committee, my participation in Spiritual Nurture, have been gifts. Along with the work these committees do, I will now hold a seat on Nominating Committee for QEW – a role I am learning to embrace.

Standing Rock took the spotlight quite often during our time together in October. It was decided that QEW would send Shelley Tannenbaum with our statement, along with Judy Lumb bringing voice from the Garifuna of Belize, and Carol Barta with supplies, to the Lakota in November. These strong women have well managed their adventure on all of our behalves. Be it at Standing Rock fighting for clean water Mni Wiconi, with Chena Ridge Friends Meeting in Fairbanks Alaska as they demand Climate Justice and Clean Energy, or with San Diego Friends Meetings new Solar Canopy, support from QEW is interesting and far reaching. Befriending Creation, the QEW newsletter, is a vehicle for important voices and a platform for shared work.

Speakers and workshops enhanced our days together in Pennsylvania. We came away with an excellent list of reads to explore Organizational Development, Systems Theory, Ecology of Mind and Reality as Process.

Thank you for making it possible for us to participate in this work.

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative Report

Dear SCYM Friends,

The Steering Circle of Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) is seeking the support of yearly meetings as we continue to grow and extend our religious education network and services. SCYM has assisted QREC in several ways in our first three years. As we go forward into our next phase as an organization, we would like to ask SCYM to contribute \$300 annually to our work and support one or two Friends in attending QREC summer collaborative gatherings.

QREC celebrates its third birthday on April 22, 2017. In those three years, QREC has grown from the four religious educators who reached out to share and support each other's work virtually that day. Recognizing others might like to join them, they planted seeds which fell on fertile soil and sprouted a tree that keeps growing. **The QREC tree**

now embraces over 300 practitioners from 20 yearly meetings joining the hands in an international community of practice.

Here are some contributions to the lives of Quaker meetings that through collaboration we have made so far:

1. Three annual collaborative gatherings, each year bringing together over 30 religious educators to share ideas and skills, and support each other and others in service through RE. In 2014 and 2015 we met at Pendle Hill. In 2016, we moved to Quaker Hill Conference Center in Richmond, IN, where we meet again this year, August 18-20. We intend to move to a new site every two years to better serve smaller yearly meetings. More information about this year's conference is at <http://quakers4re.org/QREC.Gathering.2017>.
2. A website at www.quakers4re.org for sharing religious education resources and skills, soon to be updated with an interactive resource platform that allows evaluation of materials and collaboration. The resource platform will offer a space for sharing Spanish language materials as well.
3. An active Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Quakers4RE/> and Twitter account [@Quakers4RE](https://twitter.com/Quakers4RE), where resources, questions and ideas can be shared and discussed.
4. A bilingual edition of *Quaker Meeting and Me: a children's guide to Quaker meeting for worship (La reunión Cuáquera y yo: Una guía para los niños a la reunión para la adoración)* in two versions, distributed free through yearly meetings for their monthly meetings. Copies will be distributed at 2017 SCYM sessions.
5. 6 videos about how to support the spiritual lives of children and families in our meetings. The videos can be viewed at <http://quakers4re.org/videos>.
6. An article, "Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives: A Journey of Spirit and Wonder" by Melinda Wenner Bradley that can be downloaded at <http://quakers4re.org/sites/default/files/nurturingchildren8.5x11.pdf>.
7. In collaboration with FWCC, RE materials to accompany FWCC *QuakerSpeak* videos for World Quaker Day available at <http://www.worldquakerday.org/> available in English and Spanish.

Attached is the 2016 QREC Treasurers Report. We hope you will consider helping make 2017 an even more successful year by contributing to the QREC annual budget and supporting Friends in attending our Gathering.

We also invite you to share with QREC religious education ideas and needs that you recognize in your monthly meetings. We are always looking to collaborate to better serve those in ministry through Quaker religious education for all ages. Join us in watering our tree and it will grow.

Yours in the Spirit,

The QREC Steering Circle

Beth Collea, NEYM
Joy Duncan, IYM and WYM
Marsha Holliday, BYM
Melinda Wenner Bradley, PHYM
Liz Yeats, SCYM

Texas Impact Report

In contrast to last year, when one major item absorbed our attention, the 2017 legislative agenda brought a multitude of concerns.

Good: the budget from both the House and the Senate seriously underfunds core programs and services. The House did vote to use \$2.5 billion from the Rainy Day Fund, approved shifting funding to child welfare, Zika prevention, women's health and victims of human trafficking, and approved an amendment to prohibit state funds going to private schools.

Bad: rulings prohibiting Sanctuary Cities, demanding county law enforcement work with ICE, denying fair wages to community attendants (home health), allowing state funds to be used to appeal court rulings against Texas' redistricting maps, continuing to reject federal funds for health insurance.

Some bills are still in Committee that we need to support. These can be found on the Texas Impact website (www.texasimpact.org). Please call, write, e-mail or visit your representatives.

Support good bills in Committee:

HB 1533 by Farrar – exclude certain savings and family vehicles for SNAP eligibility
HB 3151 by Sheffield – streamlining Medicaid and CHIP eligibility
HB 3080 by Rose – prohibit the death penalty for individuals with serious mental illness
HB 3285 by J. Rodriguez – requiring a report by the Secretary of State on voter education activities
HB 209 by Canales – ensuring voter registration forms are available in high schools
HB 3175 by Reynolds – would establish a “greenhouse gas emission fee” and use the proceeds to fund low-income energy efficiency program
SB 725 by Miles/SB 755 by Menendez – donating leftover school cafeteria food to students

Keep these bills moving:

HB 1535 by Farrar – protecting honeybees
HB 1927 by Rodriguez – toxic alert system
HB 239 by Collier – save drinking water

William Penn House Report

The SCYM representative to the William Penn House consultative committee, Lon Burnam reported good news regarding William Penn House.

Over the past year William Penn House celebrated the transition of service of leadership from long serving (and Texas native) Byron Stanford to Andrei Israel. As is often the case, transitions like this are fraught with both concerns and opportunities. Israel has been on the job for 15 months and seems to have made a successful transition.

In addition to celebrating various staff transitions at William Penn House, the larger community celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of William Penn House (1966).

This past year William Penn House has finally been able to resolve the too long pending property tax difficulties caused by a change in its status by the District of Columbia. The settlement, as well as the very unsettling outcome of the 2016 presidential election has inspired generous contributions and interest free loans from many Friends and Quaker organizations.

These events have left WPH in the best economic and organizational position it has been in years.

It should also be noted that the various work camps continue to prosper and that Friend Mike Gray is an integral part of their success.

State of Monthly Meeting Reports

Acadiana Friends Worship Group, Lafayette LA

Acadiana Friends information is in the Baton Rouge SOM.

Friends Meeting of Austin Annual State of the Meeting Report

Friends Meeting of Austin State of the Meeting for SCYM 2017 Annual Sessions

Submitted *April 3, 2017*

The following is the state of the meeting report from Friends Meeting of Austin to be submitted at the South Central Yearly Meeting annual sessions to be held April 13, through Sunday, April 16, 2017. Answers to the queries are based on forums we held on January 29th and February 26th, 2017 with subsequent discussion and review by the Worship and Ministry and Care and Counsel committees as well as review in meeting for worship with attention to business.

Queries Worship: *How does the spirit illuminate our meeting's worship? How do we encourage ministry and seek to deepen the spiritual life of the meeting and of individual Friends?*

During our state of meeting discussion forum, a Friend commented that spirit works through respectful and deep silence and that, in our meeting for worship, silence is rich and supportive. Although some worship times pass in complete silence, ministry is plentiful on other days.

Despite some ambivalence, we continue the practice of afterthoughts, a time for Friends to share messages that did not mature during worship time. Some Friends feel that afterthoughts provide a time of transition between deep worship and the more mundane activities of life.

The mix of Friends joined in worship includes experienced and seasoned Friends, who are at ease with spoken ministry, alongside many very new attenders who may be more reticent and more uncertain about how to give spoken ministry in the most appropriate manner.

We wonder how we may encourage ministry. We provide guidance through pamphlets such as 'Silence and Speech' and through the occasional forum. We mostly try to teach through the spirit and by example.

We hope for more balance between ministry given by men and by women. Many times, men seem to predominate but this may even out over time.

We remind ourselves that all our meetings including committee meetings and meetings for business are also meeting for worship and strive to focus in the well-spring of spirit on all these occasions.

Meeting Community: *How does our meeting's community reflect its corporate spiritual strivings? How do Friends care for one another in time of spiritual or material need What role do children play in the meeting community?*

Our community is growing and is blessed with more diversity than we have experienced in the past. We are invigorated by the increasing participation of adult young Friends. They are encouraged to take increasing responsibility for committee work and have risen to the occasion.

Some Friends are confronting challenges of infirmity and disability. There are several active support groups and we see this as an important and ongoing mission. We visit and worship with Friends who are unable to attend meeting for worship.

A Muslim group, the East Austin Community of Al Islam, continues to meet for worship at the meeting house on Fridays. We consider them part of our community too. Personal and spiritual ties have deepened between us and we strongly intend to stand beside these brothers and sisters at a time which must be very frightening for Muslims.

The Radicle Roots Community School as well as the Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera project use our facilities and we consider them more than 'tenants.' They too are embraced as part of our community.

We are planning a spiritual retreat focusing on 'Spiritual Friendships.' In the past, such retreats have contributed to community building in the spirit and we have such expectations for the coming one.

The attendance of children and parents varies during the year. We almost always have two or three kids join us for the last quarter hour of worship and some days we have a dozen or more. They brighten our worship and our fellowship.

Religious Education: *How has study deepened our faith and our understanding of what it means to be a Quaker? How have we explored issues of faith with newcomers, seasoned Friends, and children?*

Adult religious education activities have included forums held twice a month. These occasionally focus on topics of Quaker history, belief and practice. We have not held a formalized Quaker study course as we have in previous years, but we are looking forward to instituting twice-monthly sessions called "Quaker Q&A" where we will explore these topics as guided by the interests of the participants.

Our library committee has made a huge effort to reorganize and expand our collection. We provide a good selection of Quaker books for sale as well.

Over the summer and early fall, we experienced some decline in attendance by parents and children but in more recent weeks things have picked up in an encouraging way. We are especially encouraged by the active involvement of parents in supporting the first day school program. Currently we are presenting the Quaker history series “Quakers on the Move.”

Testimonies: *How have we, as a meeting, witnessed to Friends testimonies? How has our meeting stood, by faith, against injustice and helped those in need?*

The meeting remains constant in our witness against the death penalty in Texas. Such activities include regular correspondence and visitation with death row inmates, letters to the board of pardons and parole on behalf of inmates nearing their execution date, and holiday cards sent to all such inmates. We have supported the artistic expression of inmates through art exhibition and poetry sessions.

We work toward racial healing in both the broader community and in our own. We explore the dynamics of racism and racial misunderstanding through dialog within our meeting. We also explore this concern through study using books and resources such as “Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship”

We continue to support the work of Paul Stuckey and Carol Byler in Bogota, Colombia through our Colombia Support Ministries committee.

As individuals and as a meeting, we support the work for Friends Peace Teams in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the middle east.

Through the work of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and the commitment of individual friends, we work to address a variety of concerns including, but not limited to:

- Earth-care witness: climate change and resource exploitation such as support for the Dakota Pipeline resistance.
- US Mexico border issues in collaboration with Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera.
- Defense of the rights of immigrants and refugees. Especially in collaboration with the Austin Sanctuary Network.
- Opposition to the growing pressure and prejudice against Muslim communities.
- Support for Women’s rights and reproductive rights.
- Support for human rights in Palestine and a just and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Support for the rights of LGBTQ community.

In these times, we have been especially challenged by the need to join with the broader community to protect and defend human rights.

Since the presidential election, we have witnessed many unjust and dangerous attacks, immediate and imminent, coming out of the Federal and State governments, aimed

against our most vulnerable neighbors. We find ourselves marching, rallying and protesting almost weekly. Among other actions, these include the Women's March, the No-Ban-No-Wall Rally, local spontaneous gatherings to protest immigration raids, and the gathering to protect Muslim participants in the Texas Capitol Muslim Day.

Our annual presence in the Martin Luther King march took on added importance at a time of growing violence against African-American youth and attacks of voting rights.

The meeting has been strongly supportive of and involved with the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). We participated in delegation visits to Senator Cornyn concerning judicial sentencing reform and to support the BRIDGE act (S. 3542) which helps some young immigrants to remain in the United States.

We helped to organize and participated in Diane Randall's meeting with potential FCNL donors and are helping to form a 'Legislative Advocacy Group.'

Decision Making: *How is the good order of Friends used among us? How does the Light illuminate our meetings for worship with attention to business? How does our meeting deal in love with the inevitable differences that arise from diverse leadings and points of view on issues of faith and practical matters?*

Our meeting for worship with attention to business continues to meet with a full agenda and very attentive participating Friends. Business and committee meetings are held in the power of the eternal light.

We are, however, concerned about the low number of Friends who regularly stay for business meeting, typically around a dozen Friends.

Intervisitation and Outreach: *How has intervisitation and involvement with Friends outside our meeting affected our meeting's spiritual growth? How have we reached out to seekers and the community around us?*

The meeting itself has not initiated any formal intervisitation but has taken part in the activities of the SCYM Ministry and Care committee in their outreach activities. Most weeks we have visiting Friends from other parts of the U.S. and other countries including the UK and Australia.

The Austin community seems to be doing a pretty good job of finding us, as we have many visitors who remark in appreciation that Meeting for Worship helps satisfy their need for spiritual nurture and comfort.

Membership Changes: *How has our membership changed? How has this affected the life of our meeting?*

We grieve the loss of dear Friends Eleanor Hammond, Jude Filler Sherilyn Brandenstein and Jane Laessle. Some of our most active and reliable members such as Tom Martin

and Andrea Beane have moved away. Turnover has created some strains on our processes. We have had three monthly meeting clerks since the last annual sessions of SCYM.

But meanwhile attendance is burgeoning. In fact, our House and Grounds Committee is starting to think that we better start planning improvement and expansion of our parking facilities.

Some committees which had been at a low point are now experiencing the pulse of renewal. New attenders are eager to get involved. So, how can we not be optimistic?

Concerns: *Does our meeting have concerns that have not been adequately explored in answering the queries above? How have these concerns affected our meeting's spiritual and community life?*

We continue to be perplexed by some questions of right order among Friends. We wonder if we give clear signals and guidance to Friends concerning the importance of membership. We wish to respect our friends who choose to remain attenders and treat them as full members of the community. At the same time, we want to encourage membership. The process of membership offers an opportunity to examine one's commitment to the meeting and broaden knowledge of the Society of Friends.

Over the past few years we have been blessed with unexpected increases to our reserves. For example, a Friend who was not a frequent attender passed away and bequeathed her house to the meeting. Because of this and similar events in the past, we have solid reserves and resources for investment. Meanwhile we have real trouble raising sufficient funds through contributions from members and attenders to match our annual budget. We are laboring to understand the right and best approaches to stewardship.

Baton Rouge Friends, Baton Rouge LA
Pam Arnold...info about SOM
State of the Meeting Report
Baton Rouge Friends Meeting
Year of 2016 – 2017 SCYM

In the tradition of Quakers around the world, we take this time to look at and report on the state of our Meeting. We are a small faith community with no families or children in our midst and we have not done big and great things in our past year. However, we have remained faithful to one another and to our Quakerism.

It is through our faithful attendance that we have deepened our spiritual life, both corporately and individually. Our connections to one another are strong even though we seldom get together outside of our time on First Day. Some of us are already retired, some of us are still working, some of us live close to our rented worship space, and some

live farther out in the metro area. These diverse locations make it challenging for us to get together during the week so we try to make the most of Sundays.

Each month, in addition to our weekly worship, we have a meeting for worship with attention to business, a pot luck lunch, and a First Day School (FDS) session. Attendance to these activities is always high, with everyone who comes to worship staying almost always for what follows. We have a solid commitment to our FDS, sharing the responsibility for facilitating topics from month to month.

During this past year, no one person has been led to serve our meeting as clerk so we have been sharing the responsibility. We rotate every three months or so. Although some may not think this proper Quaker practice, we find it to be a good solution with so few people in our meeting. We continue to pray “Dear God, please help our meeting grow” and we continue to marvel at the ways that happens, even when more people do not flock to join us.

Horrendous floods hit the Baton Rouge/Denham Springs areas in August of 2016. We immediately began to receive financial gifts from Quakers around the country and were tasked with distributing approximately \$6000. After seasoning this responsibility, we were led to share these funds in \$100 “morale booster” checks to individuals we knew or folks who knew someone we knew. Recovery work is ongoing, even seven months after the floods, and we are continuing to share the bounty from Friendly generosity. Their thank you notes are so heartwarming. While our numbers haven’t increased through the sharing of these gifts, we have been able to increase public awareness of Quakers through this ministry.

One of our members, Ralene Hearn, lives in Sebastopol, California. She became a Quaker in our meeting in 1972 and after traveling and living in many places with her husband, asked us to place her back on our active rolls. Several of us maintain written and telephone connection with her. We use email for most of our inner-meeting communication and maintain a website and a Facebook page. We currently have several attenders who are joining us for worship while they are wintering in the south. Our core group remains the same.

Acadiana Friends Meeting, under our care, continues to remain inactive due to lack of a meeting place. However, our ministry and care committee travels monthly to worship with several Friends in Lafayette and some Acadiana folks attend both Friends Meeting of New Orleans and Baton Rouge Friends Meeting fairly often. The Gathering of Southern Quakers has taken a rest after four years of annual weekends over on the Gulf Coast. Deep friendships formed during those gatherings continue to enrich our lives. Our own Bayou Quarterly now meets twice a year and those opportunities continue to keep our extended Quaker family close at heart.

We are again pleased to report that the state of Baton Rouge Friends Meeting is GOOD!

Caddo Area Preparative Meeting

State of the Meeting Report for South Central Yearly Meeting - 2016

The Meeting of Caddo Area Friends is held in Texarkana, TX as small meeting of Friends from Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana. Six attendees live in Texarkana, two in Hope, AR (although one travels from Arkadelphia at times), one in Shreveport, LA and last, but not least, is our Friend who worships with us from prison in Rosharon, TX (outside of Houston).

Discussion continues to be a critical aspect of the meeting. Each week, Friends spend an hour in discussion prior to Worship. During this time, Friends support each other's spiritual path and help each other make sense of events (personal, political and so on). While queries often come from the head (events, readings, poetry, etc.), the meeting strives to lay the discussion on the altar and respond from the heart. After discussion, we move into Silent Worship – often initiated by a thought, poem or reading related to the discussion – where we experience the light together to “come out differently” - ready to live our testimonies with renewed strength and purpose.

As a meeting, we care for those who cannot be with us by remembering their presence and providing support as they continue their spiritual path. We do so by ensuring they continue to receive the *Carillon*, as well as visiting and writing. As a meeting where several Friends live outside of Texarkana, we work to support each other's ministries, including travel and prison ministries, as well as efforts to stand against injustice and help those in need. Particularly in this past year, we have provided sanctuary for those struggling through difficult times including struggles and concerns for our country and world. We value differing perspectives and hold dear that each perspective adds to our own spiritual path and understanding of our world.

With newcomers, we share our testimonies and experiences as Quakers. We listen to newcomers' stories and personal experiences that have led them to our door. We provide newcomers Quaker literature and respond to their questions. We reach out to others by advertising on our local NPR station. This past year, we have spent time in fellowship with the Methodist church where we meet by participating in their “Be the Church” day, a day in which the church participates in service projects in the community. Worship with Attention to Business has focused on how the meeting might partner with the Methodist church in a manner that would support our meeting's spiritual growth and the spiritual growth of members at St. Luke's. As a meeting we appreciate the “messiness” of conducting business as a group and strive to respect other's ideas and values.

Over this past year, our membership has grown. As a meeting, we understand we too need to grow to meet the spiritual needs of our newest members. While this is of concern, it is a concern we wholly embrace. We continue to grapple gently with our relationship with St. Luke's and how to continue to grow as a meeting.

Dallas Friends Meeting

STATE OF THE MEETING 2016

Our meeting for worship does not seem dull or routine or just “something we do”. It is valued by our members and attenders as vital to our life in the Spirit. We don’t have frequent vocal ministry, but when we do it seems to be bubbling up from the Spirit for our benefit. We communicate with one another regarding how the silence pushes and inspires us, individually and as a whole group, to do things in service for others. Our early morning discussion group has focused on the study of Lucretia Mott for all of 2016. This study sometimes leads to an extended discussion and thoughts leading to vocal ministry in Meeting for Worship.

Ministry and Oversight seeks to assist individual Friends with the needs they bring to be addressed. We have Friends who are dealing with grave sickness within their family and the Meeting reaches out to them with constant contact. We are not blessed with many children, but seek to treat them on a level of equality with the adults, even our youngest attender, who is 7. We have a couple of adolescents, and strive to fill them up with our spiritual understanding, with the intention that with time and growth the water of the Spirit will sink in to nourish them.

We have nurtured individuals to provide more opportunities to learn and grow. Over the last couple of years, we have had a gathering before Meeting for Worship where we study and discuss the lives of prominent Quakers or other materials of interest to us. Our early morning discussion group is currently pondering ways in which our meeting can be more visible to the greater community and how we can reach out to other communities that may feel like they are on the fringes or are being treated with hostility. We are also pondering how we can be of more help to those around us who may be "exploring something different" in their lives. This has become a cherished time for many of us and is well attended. We are blessed with many visitors and reach out to them in welcome and for conversation. We have written a new pamphlet for first time attenders to familiarize them with Quaker worship and have translated it into Spanish. We have started a monthly Friendly Bible Study and people attend with open minds to explore scripture from a Quaker perspective.

We have several individuals with a particular interest in issues of our day, such as the death penalty and the criminal justice system. We have held a neighborhood event on the system of warrants and also reached out to the elementary school across the street to learn about a progressive, restorative discipline program. We have also made ourselves available for mentoring and provided financial help to the school. We are continuing that effort and becoming involved in a pilot program at Tasby Middle School. We were able to make a financial contribution to Paz Montessori School in Oaxaca, Mexico, which one of our members started a couple of years ago. We also sent a minute of support to the Standing Rock Sioux in their fight to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline. Some friends

protested at the corporate headquarters of Energy Transfer Partners located in Dallas. One attender expressed that the meeting is like a rock to stand on as he goes about taking action in the world.

We believe we are open and honest about our different leadings and points of view. We are receptive to hearing and accepting of differences. Our Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business do not usually involve a lot of major differences in opinion and we are able to see ourselves forward in business.

We were blessed in this past year to receive a visit from Joshua Lilande of Kenya who is the Clerk of the Africa section of Friends World Committee for Consultation. It was enlightening to hear how the Spirit is working among Friends on another continent. Some members and attenders described their own outreach to individuals in their personal lives. Attendance at our Meeting continues to grow as there seems to be new seekers each week who are looking for a community that is committed to caring for those who are afraid and unsure of what will happen over the next few years, a community who will speak out against injustices.

We have gained new regular attenders, but no new members in the past year. Some of these are young adults, which is refreshing to us. These newcomers have breathed new life into worship and ministry.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting Report to SCYM for 2016

Meeting experiences times when Spirit moves easily among us during Meeting for Worship, and at others it feels blocked. Silent worship is respected. We don't feel required to speak, but when it happens, often the vocal ministry has resonated with one or more other worshippers. We will sometimes have fresh flowers brought to meeting and placed at the center of our circle. We enjoy them because they help us to focus and they lift our spirits. We have monthly Worship Sharing that enriches our experience and deepens our connection. The Spiritual Friendship Groups encourage spiritual deepening and connection, and so do spiritual friendships outside of Meeting. We hold respect for our differences: some worshippers are Christ-centered and some are not.

2016 saw a Wedding under the care of the Meeting, which was a blessing to all. One Friend has been moved to a senior care facility, and family has expressed appreciation for the visits and cards from Meeting. We had one new member in 2016, and had several people who have stopped coming or cut back on attendance because of moving away or life changes. Overall our sense is that 2016 was a year of decreased energy, but we feel that 2017 will see a spike in participation and attendance. Meeting has begun scheduling First Day School one day each month and we have seen children attend more frequently. The spiritual contribution of children to our meeting will be such a joy for us to experience!

Education Committee has continued to arrange fabulous and informative second hour presentations. Book Study group read “Healing the Heart of Democracy.” Meeting held a few Movie Nights with discussion time afterwards. Our library moved to expanded space, with shelves added to accommodate more books, and with the catalog now online. The Life Writing Group, which includes Quakers and non-Quakers, continues to meet.

Peace and Justice Committee works collectively and/or individually with Climate Change Lobby, and prison work with the Alternatives to Violence Project and Decarcerate, and have published several letters to the editor on issues of concern. Meeting has supported refugee resettlement in our area through the Canopy program. Meeting supports OMNI Center for Peace Justice and Ecology, and Cooperative Emergency Outreach. We adopted a family for Christmas. Our support for equality extended to the same-sex wedding under care of the Meeting, as well as writing to the mayor and city council of Fayetteville about a case of discrimination.

We maintain that Meeting for Business is a Meeting for Worship, and begin each one with the reminder to keep that worshipful space. Even so, we still need at times to be called back to worship. Clerks are encouraged and supported to attend clerking workshops. Our attendance at Quarterly Meetings is down, and participation has been encouraged as it is a vital support to other meetings as well as a chance to connect with other Quakers. Quaker practice is essential to the health of our Meeting, and a need has been identified for continuing education in Quaker Process, with concern that newer attenders may misunderstand procedural corrections and take them personally.

Meeting continues its outreach through its Monthly Newsletter, Facebook page, website, and notice in newspaper. We held an informational table at the Fayetteville Farmers’ Market, and continue to participate in the Ministerial Association of Fayetteville. We participated in interfaith dialogue such as hosting the Muslims and our visit to their mosque, and having a table at Interfaith Harmony Day. Several of us visited St. James Baptist, a predominantly Black church, during times of increased racial tensions. A large part of our budget is money given to Quaker and non-Quaker groups, including a local man, Sam Totten, who does humanitarian work in the Nuba Mountains of South Sudan.

Our Archivist informs us that next year we will celebrate our 20th anniversary of being a Monthly Meeting. There has been a recommendation that we review our Procedures for revision. Our weekly Meeting for Healing has stopped, and some have expressed a wish for it to resume. We have identified a need for finding a way to make the contemplative side of Quakerism more apparent to newcomers, and to clarify how social activism and contemplation work together.

Deirdre Phillips, Clerk. Submitted March 2017

**Fort Worth Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
State of Meeting Report for 2016, Fort Worth Monthly Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends, Inc.**

In June of 2016 Shannon Kincaid and Brian Toncray married under the care of Fort Worth Monthly meeting. They held the meeting for worship for the wedding in a beautiful outdoor setting at the Botanical Gardens. This brought us together as community to take on the joyous responsibility of the wedding. There, over 50 people experienced a Quaker meeting for the first time including the photographer who asked, "What do you mean a Quaker wedding—do you dress like Quakers?"

Lack of a meetinghouse meant the wedding visibly brought us out into the community, as did our move to University Christian Church in mid-2015. Because of this we took on two discernments with similar themes. Where is our home, or are we at home?

Owning a building became more viable this year. We formed an ad-hoc committee for a property search. They visited or reviewed some well-placed locations, but none seemed suitable or affordable. The search may prove to be a valuable lesson itself. Meanwhile being at UCC's building made "sampling" Quaker worship more accessible to a new community, and several new attenders began worshipping regularly with us.

Should Fort Worth Monthly Meeting join a quarterly? Three Friends (Lon Burnam, Shannon Kincaid-Toncray, Claudia Wilson) visited the Cielo Grande quarterly meeting in Austin in September. This was a meaningful experience and opportunity to deepen our worship with some neighbor meetings in Texas. In January 2017 the same three Friends visited the Oklahoma-Arkansas winter quarter at Dwight Mission, near Sallisaw OK and felt very energized by the session. We plan to attend the spring quarterly meeting in May, possibly adding Tom Taber to our party. We now hold in the light two more queries—where do we belong, and where are we needed? Both these questions will require further thoughtful discernment in 2017.

At 2016 end, we chose Shannon Kincaid-Toncray as clerk, and added Claudia Wilson as corresponding clerk. Other servants of meeting remain the same, Lois Way as recording clerk and Tom Taber, treasurer.

Service to Friends Committee on National Legislation for YM continued for Lon Burnam & Claudia Wilson. Additionally Lon worked as a visiting Friend for FCNL, bringing information and awareness to Friends meetings over the last year including Austin, Fayetteville, Dallas and OK-AR QM. He looks forward to visiting other meetings this year.

Representing FWCC's Friends' Committee on Scouting, Tom Taber sits on the Religious Relationships Support committee for the Boy Scouts of America. During his years there on the subcommittee for Awards & Emblems, he reports that the organization approved new awards for both Christian and non-Judeochristian religious communities.

This year we responded to a call to aid Syrian refugee families coming here. Friends Lon Burnam and Nancy Stevens began regular weekly visits to one family, bringing food, material goods, money and our concern. Nancy and Judy Oetting each visit weekly and work with the school-age children and their preschool siblings to help them learn more English. Pantego Bible Church also actively supports the family.

Our numbers may be small. Sometimes we are tired and wonder how much more can we do. The answer is simple. We do what we can.

STATE OF THE MEETING -2016 GALVESTON MONTHLY MEETING

Galveston Friends Meeting meets most First Days at the East End Historical District Association cottage at 1501 Post Office Street in Galveston. Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., often preceded by discussion or fellowship starting about 10:30 a.m. At rise of meeting, Friends often eat together at local restaurants. Business meetings are held as needed. The first meeting of the month we occasionally meet at Rob Lyle's house.

Galveston Friends Meeting currently has 4 active members and 3 inactive members. Active members are Gerald Campbell (clerk), Charles Holzer, Robert Lyle, and Alethea Drexler. We also continue to be blessed by having Bette and Chris Drexler, Jean Holzer and Bi-Hung Peng as frequent attenders. We would like to encourage Friends to consider a visit to Galveston Meeting when possible.

Green Country Friends Monthly Meeting (Tulsa)

State of the Meeting report to SCYM 2016

1. Worship: How does the spirit illuminate our meeting's worship? How do we encourage ministry and seek to deepen the spiritual life of the meeting and of individual Friends? Our meeting benefited from the temporary residence of a seasoned Friend for about a year, who shared additional experiences and perspectives, as well as keeping up with current affairs and keeping the meeting apprised. We have had a new attender in the past year who frequently asks us questions that remind us of our privilege and encourages us to explore our blind spots. Meeting in homes has allowed us a connectedness that naturally encourages open discussion about a variety of issues, which in turn frees up our worship to be open to the leadings of the Spirit. We have engaged in spiritual enrichment activities during our second hour on a near monthly basis, and we have enjoyed an increase in vocal ministry in recent months.

1. Meeting Community: How does our meeting's community reflect its corporate spiritual strivings? How do Friends care for one another in time of spiritual or material need? What role do children play in the meeting community? Our meeting has grown in number and in a sense of community in the last year, and we have had a number of Friends struggling with health, family issues and losses this year. We have visited former members and attenders who had become home bound or were in nursing facilities. We have sent cards and emails, stayed in touch and held each other in the Light. We held a baby shower for a young couple who had a baby. We held a potluck to say goodbye to a Friend who was moving out of state, to express our best wishes and appreciations for her time with us. As we have met in homes, we have benefitted from being in different locations, sometimes even different towns, for our meetings, which enables some to attend in their local or regional area when they wouldn't otherwise be able to travel to Tulsa. We discontinued our outreach programs at the library temporarily, to allow our meeting to grow in familiarity and relationship with one another, given the significant change in size.
1. Religious Education: How has study deepened our faith and our understanding of what it means to be a Quaker? How have we explored issues of faith with newcomers, seasoned Friends, and children? At the request of new attenders, we began having a "Quaker 101" program on a monthly basis, including providing information about how we do Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, testimonies, famous Friends and their ministries, and the "alphabet soup" of Friends' organizations. We have shared both spiritual and educational information on our Facebook page, which now includes 74 members (many from other states), including links to articles on AFSC, FGC and FCNL websites. Several of us have enjoyed the FGC series Quaker Speak.
1. Testimonies: How have we, as a meeting, witnessed to Friends testimonies? How has our meeting stood, by faith, against injustice and helped those in need? Friends have continued to contribute monthly to Friends Ugandan Safe Transport, a program of Olympia (WA) Friends Meeting, to facilitate safe passage for LGBTQ individuals out of Uganda. A Friend brought to the meeting's attention that an African-American Baptist Church in a nearby small town had been vandalized and racial slurs had been written on their building. Friends tried to offer to help with the clean up, but they got it done very quickly, before we were able to reach them. We took up a collection for them and sent them a letter of support, and visited their service about a month later. Friends shared with each other their experiences and warm welcome they received, as well as admiration for how this church continues to thrive in love and joy despite their hardships. Correspondence was exchanged between the two groups, and Friends plan a return visit in April. The meeting has subsequently felt led to take up the cause of

racism, and Friends have individually become involved in various local groups, including AWARE Tulsa (part of Standing Up for Racial Justice, or SURJ), and the Groundwork program through the YWCA. These programs are designed to assist white persons in discovering and facing their own white privilege, perceptions of power and subconscious biases. They bring content back to the meeting and share it with Friends, who engage in lively discussions about ways we might be active on this issue in the community.

1. Decision Making: How is the good order of Friends used among us? How does the Light illuminate our meetings for worship with attention to business? How does our meeting deal in love with the inevitable differences that arise from diverse leadings and points of view on issues of faith and practical matters? Friends have agreed on the major concerns brought to the Meeting without any major conflicting views. The everyday nuts and bolts of the Meetings business items have been handled in the manner of Friends and no major disagreements have been brought for consideration.
1. Intervisitation and Outreach: How has intervisitation and involvement with Friends outside our meeting affected our meeting's spiritual growth? How have we reached out to seekers and the community around us? Friends acting as SCYM's representatives to FCNL came to visit and spoke with us about the process for defining FCNL's legislative priorities. The Arkansas Oklahoma quarterly has been a tremendous source of support throughout the struggles of our meeting and continue to rejoice with us in our new Friends and attenders.
1. Membership Changes: How has our membership changed? How has this affected the life of our meeting? As of the last Annual Sessions, our meeting had two members in the local area. We now number three members in the local area, including one new member who is serving the meeting as treasurer, and a group of 10-12 regular and semi-regular attenders. We have not had children in our meeting in a number of years, but we are thankful and blessed to now have a baby as a regular attender. One member has moved out of the area but has kept her membership with Green Country Friends.

Georgetown Friends Worship Group (under care of Austin)

Hill Country Friends

To Friends in South Central Yearly Meeting,

I am reporting the status of the Hill Country Friends Meeting, Kerrville Texas. The meeting remains small and we continue to meet at the Shreiner University Ministry Center. We are often called away for life events or family care. Never-the-less, there is strong spiritual and mystical connection between the members. We are active and spiritually healthy with members sharing silent worship as often as possible.

‘Travelers’ have not worshiped with us this year and we miss their unexpected callings. ‘Seekers’ continue to bless us. Their stay may be long or short. But, curiosity satisfied, they continue their seeking with our blessings. Since January 2017, we have been graced by the attendance of several ‘seekers’ who continue to attend Meeting. We appreciate their presence and their contributions. We learn from them.

We welcome the daughter of a passed-on member who meeting when she is in the area. One of our members is currently on a Rhodes scholarship in China.

We continue to be individually involved in social & justice issues with each member engaging as they are led. On occasion, Meeting unites behind an initiative.

This year has become a time of ‘inward reflection and support’ for our small community. As families grow older and less able, support and care for each other has become more important. One member said:

It seems to me that we spend our energy focusing on worship and mutual support. We have neither the energy nor the inclination to “save the world.” If we can be a little bit better each day, we have met our obligation to ourselves and our community.

—
That says it all. We remain spiritually led; involved as we are able; and we try to be a little better each day.

In Faith and Friendship,
Jim Myers, Clerk
Hill Country Society of Friends

Kiamichi Worship Group

Our group has been steady at six members this year. We continue to meet for worship once a month in one another’s homes, in rotation. We are almost all past retirement age and facing the attendant difficulties of advancing age. Only one of our members has a really active social concern, for incarcerated persons, while others content themselves

with signing petitions and making financial contributions. Meanwhile, mired in a rural southern milieu where one rarely meets another liberal, we find our monthly gatherings enormously sustaining.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Pyle [*ad hoc* and *de facto* Recording Clerk]

Little Rock Friends Meeting 2016 State of the Meeting Report to SCYM

We considered the request for our response to the yearly theme, which will be Climate Change, Environmental Racism, Friends' Faith and Practice—What's the Connection? We noted that our Meeting has not been particularly engaged with first two prongs of this query, at least not corporately. However, the topic caused us to reflect on those themes during our session

We noted that we do nurture one another in our individual leadings – such as various members and attenders involvement with the boys and girls club, interfaith work, the McElroy House Organization for Cultural Resources, Nonviolent Communications, working with a single mother to name some. Corporately we sponsor the AVP Ministry at an Arkansas prison and the Carillon, a publication for Friends in Arkansas and beyond. But in some respects we admit to complacency. We can see room for improving our support for individual leadings. We struggle with the question of individuals coming to the meeting house seeking financial assistance. We have attempted to respond by offering Kroger cards– but we still find it a struggle to meet these requests and to evaluate the basis for them.

However, we also reflected on concerns over increased air pollution in the state and the future of the US EPA, dangerously high carbon emissions and coal-fired plants in our state, and the DAPL pipeline being moved to native American lands

We reflected on the difficulty at times in acquiring enough information about these and many other issues of concern. We do acknowledge that we could rely more on information we receive from QEW on environmental issues. In our state, we have seen immigration raids that create hardships on immigrant families and children. Our meeting does express its concerns for social and environmental issues through financial support for Quaker and other organizations. But we ask ourselves if that is sufficient – should we be more active as a meeting? Our dormant Peace and Justice Committee is showing new life, and has led us to address the Governor and statewide newspaper in a letter opposing a rash of executions of prisoners on death row.

We reflected on the common association of the word “environment” with nature, though the word itself means the context in which we find ourselves, including the cognitive and cultural environment, who holds power, from the head of the EPA head to local governments. How do we responsibly seek to change others' minds on these issues.

We have been blessed with new attenders this year, but also note that our average age is somewhat high, and feel a concern for reaching out to potential Friends of a younger age.

In the past year we have been enriched by our first hour sessions, including review of Faith and Practice, worship sharings, and discussion of a variety of spiritual and social topics.

The children in our meeting provide a special blessing and enrich our lives. We welcome their presence during the last portion of our worship time and celebrate their presence in the life of the meeting.

We note that we have been operating without a Ministry and Care committee, having thought due to our small size that we would ask the meeting clerk to be sensitive to such needs. But perhaps it is time to readdress the need to have a functioning M&C Committee.

We are grateful for our small but blessed community of Friends. Worship grounds us and takes us deeper into the life of the Spirit, pouring out into meeting activities and our daily lives.

Live Oak Friends Meeting , Houston, Texas

CLERK: Lidney Molnari

ASSOCIATE CLERK: Kevin King

MEETING: 1318 West 26th St., Houston, TX 77008

Spiritual Health of the Meeting

Our Meeting has three ongoing and successful periods of worship, two on First Day and one Wednesday evening. The First Day worship is blessed with many visitors. The Wednesday Night Worship remains small (8 to 10) but vital for those who attend. They are discussing a query once a month to supplement their worship. Worship for Healing continues once a month and is being supported by Worship and Ministry Committee members, as is Meeting for Business; members of Worship and Ministry have begun a practice of sitting near the Clerk in worship to hold the Meeting in the Light.

The Worship and Ministry Committee has become more active and engaged, resulting in more questions and concerns coming to the committee for consideration than in the recent past.

This year the Meeting gave the clerk discretion to invite joys and concerns during the final minutes of Meeting for Worship as we used to do. Friends voiced that separating joys and concerns from introductions, announcements, and the voices of children, helps Friends hold them in the Light.

Re-establishing a Candle Lighting Service in December is under consideration. The past several years, a Candle Lighting Service has been held by Wednesday Night Worship, but with dwindling participation, the future of this ongoing holiday tradition seems uncertain.

Struggling With The Open Carry Law

The Texas State Law that took effect on January 1, 2016, allowing citizens to carry licensed guns anywhere that it is not expressly prohibited, has been a real challenge to our community, but something good has come out of it. In preparation for the law's implementation, we passed a Minute in December, 2015, that clearly states our position on weapons in our community.

Minute 2015-12 #02: Consistent with our Quaker Testimonies, Live Oak Friends Meeting seeks to maintain our places of worship and grounds free of weapons of all kinds.

Feelings run so high against the law itself that it has been hard to focus on which aspect of dealing with this new situation is most important. It has brought two dearly held precepts of our community clashing together: our need to witness for our utter rejection of violence and symbols of violence, and our need to be open and welcoming, and to expect the best of all God's children. This dilemma has made us face the imperfection with which we are able to act in optimism and acceptance. We know that our response to this issue will signal our faith, and can change the outcome if ever we are tested.

Dealing with the legal and practical requirements precipitated by this law has been just as hard as struggling with our consciences. The legal signage required to make the LOFM premises a gun-free zone is frightening in itself, not to mention unsightly in our peaceful space. If we unlock more than one door in the meeting house, do we need greeters at every door to welcome visitors - and check for guns? We did achieve unity on our desire to keep the building and property free of guns, although how to implement that policy is an area in which conflicting views emerged. This Minute was a start:

Minute 2016-03 #02: Live Oak Friends Meeting approves the production of the presented sign stating "We invite all people to join us in worship. If you bear arms, kindly secure them elsewhere before entering".

Signs with the approved wording are set outside the meeting house on Sunday mornings. We have trained greeters who volunteered to directly address an individual who may be carrying a visible weapon. Small cards that can be handed to someone when the need arises were printed with the legal language prohibiting open and concealed weapons on one side and quotations relevant to the issue on the other side.

We continue to struggle with fundamental questions: What is the correct thing to do if faced with an armed visitor? Suggestions have included everything from getting up and leaving to continuing worship without reacting. No matter how we try to calm ourselves

and practice our belief in a peaceful and accepting manner, there is a strong undercurrent of doubt. Are we doing enough to provide a safe haven for worship for our children? Over time, the formal scheduling of second greeters and procedures regarding locked doors have relaxed, but we remain sensitive to this issue and open to leadings regarding our policy and practices as time and circumstances evolve.

Annual Live Oak Friends Retreat on Oct. 21-23, 2016

The Annual Live Oak Friends Retreat sponsored by the Worship and Ministry Committee was held October 21-23, with themes focusing on "the Quaker Experience." The retreat began with a potluck dinner, giving all a chance to meet the retreat facilitator, Deborah Fisch, and her spiritual assistant, Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch. We met again throughout the day on Saturday, beginning and ending in silent worship. We explored the history of LOFM, sharing stories of our meeting's early years, its colorful collection of characters, and highlights throughout the years. We produced a timeline of events and actions from this session. We also focused on queries designed to help us listen more deeply to one another. Deborah gently explored past hurts Friends still harbor, and suggested ways to extinguish them.

Community Building Among Friends:

The Outreach Committee is preparing a new pamphlet designed to enhance community building with those new to our meeting. New initiatives include considering/living into a testimony each month. Friendly 8's groups continue to meet. Friends use Facebook and Twitter to continue to reach out to the community with posts on Quaker issues.

Friends gather in the Post Function room on First Day School to socialize over snacks arranged by the Hospitality Committee. Often they ask questions or talk about blessings and concerns to the Hospitality hosts that they may not feel able to share at Meeting.

Community Building to the Wider World:

Live Oak Friends have been active in improving outreach to the community by improving the public sections of the website, proffering information at tables at three events, supporting two Barter Fairs, and hosting several Compassion Week events. Additionally, we are improving the Greeter process and involving everyone in welcoming newcomers.

The Hospitality Committee arranged overnight hospitality for Friends from out of town. Two students from Central America stayed with a member while they attended a conference. Others hosted a member of the Friends meeting of Austin during her medical treatment at M.D. Anderson.

LOFM was a sponsor for the showing and discussion of the film "On the Side of the Road" by filmmaker Lia Tarachansky in October. The Peace and Social Action

Committee also organized a prayer vigil at the home of the SVP, General Counsel and Secretary of ETP, Todd Carpenter, in November.

Use of the Meeting House:

LOFM continued to welcome visitors every Friday and the first Sunday of each month to experience our James Turrell Skyspace. Many of the people who use the property, including our neighbors who use the green space, express their joy and thankfulness for the gift of the property. A wide variety of groups are using the space for many different kinds of events and meetings. It seems that the use of our space adds to the beauty and peace and spiritual health of all who use it.

Children's Religious Education:

The Children's First Day School has been organized along age groups.

We have been blessed with many little ones this year. They learn how to respect others, clean up after themselves, and interact with love and compassion.

The preschoolers have listened to stories about the specialness of each person, how to be a friend, and Bible stories. They have also practiced community by making cards for Friends who are ill. Along with developing listening skills through games and stories, every Sunday they practice being kind, taking turns, and sharing.

The Elementary First Day School followed the topics in the Sparkling Still curriculum, reading a book or Bible Story illustrating a value, followed by discussion linking the reading to the testimonies, with an art/craft project or other relevant activity. Service included making get-well cards for Friends and assembling hygiene kits using donated supplies for Health Care for the Homeless.

The Young Friends helped make a new Little Free Library specifically for children's books. They also helped package donations for Healthcare for the Homeless. They are getting to know individual adults in the meeting by visiting together. The teens have also advocated for issues about which they feel passionate by writing letters to their government officials and representatives.

LOFM Finances:

The Meeting received more in donations and rental income than expenses for 2016 and has a strong reserve. Property Insurance is the preeminent question. We are looking toward improving the policy to fully provide replacement coverage with an exception for the movable roof.

Longview Worship Group

How the Spirit Moved in the Longview (Texas) Worship Group in 2016-17

We worship the 1st & 3rd Sundays, 2pm at 2301 Alpine Rd., Longview, TX 675601, in the small building behind the Unitarian Universalists (their RE building).

Our contact person is Susan Hughes, 817-313-6431, sbhughes@me.com.

Virginia and Ellen are the only members. The rest of us are attenders (between 4 & 8 per meeting). We have not lost or gained any regulars in the past year. Six new people have attended once or twice. I need to start getting email addresses, so I can encourage people to come back or find out why they aren't.

I send out emails about once a month to send on info (that is sent to me as the contact person) or from QuakerBooks or Friends Journal that might be of interest. We do not have a weekly newsletter like Dallas or a web site, but it would be good if we did.

We do not have Meetings for Business, but if there is something we need to discuss or decide, we do so after worship. We have books and Friends' Journals available for those who want to deepen their spirituality and we encourage QuakerSpeak. Most of us like being a Group rather than having the responsibilities of Meetings.

I am attending SCYM, and doing the book tables. Jerry and Marcia went to DC for a lobbying weekend with FCNL. Ellen went to Friends World Committee for Consultation in New York in March. Many of us donate to FCNL and AFSC. Some also donate to FCG, FWCC, and UNHCR.

We have had no births, deaths, marriages, or adoptions.

Lubbock Friends of Christ Quaker Meeting

Lubbock Friends of Christ Quaker Meeting is experiencing a change in its spiritual climate. A couple of years ago, we began a process of intervisitation and exploration with Great Plains Yearly Meeting ("GPYM") that has richly blessed us. During its annual sessions in 2016, GPYM accepted our meeting into its care as a preparatory affiliate. We look forward to the new opportunities our dual-affiliate status may bring.

We are also experiencing a change in the climate within the meeting. We have grown in our ability to trust one another enough to be open and vulnerable about our personal struggles. Several Friends encountered difficult challenges this year, during which the meeting provided loving support and friendship. One Friend characterized the meeting as an "anchor" during times of trial.

Our weekly gatherings for Friendly Bible Study and unprogrammed worship often remind us how much further we have yet to go in our journey of discipleship. May we be ever more faithful to the Spirit of Christ that works within us and among us.

Sent by Sara Scribner

Lubbock Liberal Friends Worship Group

- January 17, 2017 · 5:00 PM
- Metropolitan Community Church
- (Shelly has sent to Miriam to see if she wants to give us a little more information.)

Miriam Mulsow, last posting

I try to get there by 5 to unlock. It is fine to arrive any time between 5 and 5:30. We visit a bit, then have some time for silent worship. We are happy to explain unprogrammed Friends meetings to those who are not familiar. We also have some books that you are welcome to borrow.

Friends Meeting of New Orleans

New Orleans Meeting of the Society of Friends
State of the Meeting Report to South Central Yearly Meeting
April 1, 2017

Greetings from the New Orleans Meeting of the Society of Friends!

During the past year, we see that our Meeting has drawn closer as a community of Friends and friends, constantly on an upward swing, despite the challenges we face individually and in society.

The Presidential election, results, and new administration's rhetoric and actions had and continue to have a profound effect on members and attenders. We struggle with "loving our enemy," seeing "that of God in everyone," and in discerning what each of us can do to make our community and the world a better place. The increases in expressions of intolerance, acts of incivility, and incidents of flagrant disregard for the truth deeply sadden and anger us. The Presidential displays of untruthfulness, name-calling, and bullying dismay us. One member, a teacher, has seen a drastic increase in bullying at her school; some migrant children and their families have silently disappeared. Feminists, our LGBT friends, and many others feel bewilderment, frustration, and fear. We find solace in our worship.

As a group, we spent several months penning the following Minute:

Minute 01182017 (Minute for Equality): Friends Meeting of New Orleans

Members and attenders of the Friends Meeting of New Orleans re-affirm the equality of all persons. We affirm that there is a Light within that is common to all people and that the humanity, integrity, and sanctity of all persons are to be upheld and respected. Therefore, our Meeting is explicitly anti-racist and anti-misogynist. We welcome and affirm people of all genders and sexual orientations. We will speak and act in solidarity with people of all races and beliefs, regardless of ability or immigration status, who are seeking a more peaceful and perfect world.

We have had a significant uptick in attendance at weekly and monthly meetings; attendance of a dozen or more adults and up to six children is typical. The quality of meeting for worship is deeper and more gathered. Equally, or perhaps even more importantly, care for one another has deepened as has our sense of community, and we reach out to connect with and support each other.

One expression of this deepening is a commitment to regular business meeting. To that end we have tried and adopted the habit of incorporating business meeting into our regular meeting for worship. Once a month, after a half hour of worship, we begin worship with attention to business. As a result, we have had a huge increase in participation in business meeting with many positive results, including regular business meetings and minutes, more participation in business by members, greater financial clarity, formal expression of support for our local AFSC office, and ongoing attention to our areas of concern (outreach, opportunities for social action, First Day School, religious education, investments, and our physical space).

Our Meeting is literally a more comfortable space. The attention to the physical space can be seen and felt. We have spruced up by simplifying our surroundings, changing furnishings, and creating child-friendly areas in both our worship room and hospitality room. We have games and toys and songs for young and old. We have begun to prep for painting our space.

In closing, we report with sadness that one of our members, Lucianne Carmichael, passed away in late November after a long illness. Lucianne and Joe Carmichael were married under the care of this Meeting in 1971. We admire and acknowledge her contributions to the New Orleans community. She is recognized as an educator, artist, author, and supporter of the arts. She was the founder and principal of McDonogh #15, one of the earliest child-centered public elementary schools in New Orleans; she describes the school in her book *McDonogh 15: Becoming a School*. She and Joe co-founded A Studio in the Woods, a 7-1/2 acre refuge for artists in New Orleans. This legacy of support for artists continues under the stewardship of Tulane University. We ask all to hold her husband Joe in the Light.

Norman Friends Meeting
2016 State of the Meeting Report
Norman Friends Meeting

1) Worship: Although our numbers are small we take joy in knowing that a core group of us gather throughout the year for spiritual enlightenment and comfort. Our understanding and appreciation of each other grows stronger each year as we each move forward on our spiritual journeys with the understanding and nurturing offered by fellow Quakers.

2) Meeting Community: Open and truthful exchange of ideas, experiences, and feelings among attendees of our Meeting have been very useful this year in working through disappointments and despair that have tarnished many of us with regard to future developments regarding, health care, immigration, public education, and the environment. A “Fellowship Breakfast” held once each month, routine service projects, coffee and cookies after each meeting for worship, and our criminal justice teach-in booth all provided opportunities for us to enjoy and develop Quaker community.

3) Religious Education: A cornerstone of our Meeting is the First Day School provided twice a month. A second cornerstone of the Meeting is the support and participation the Meeting receives from the parents of the children participating in Meeting events. As a part of our “Fellowship Breakfasts” this year, four presentation/discussions were held covering: 1) Quaker beliefs, 2) putting Quaker beliefs to practice inside the Meeting, 3) putting Quaker beliefs to practice outside the Meeting, and 4) historical review of Quaker beliefs and practices placed into action by various individuals.

4) Testimonies: Norman Meeting completed its sixth year of promoting criminal justice reform by staging a teach-in booth at civic events.

5) Decision Making: A conscientious effort is made to incorporate our Quaker beliefs and testimonies in the manner in which we conduct business and make decisions. We recognize that this is a learning process that benefits from our attenders participating in regional and national Quaker gatherings.

6) Intervisitation and Outreach: A public presentation and discussion on Quakerism was held at Norman Public Library.

7) Membership Changes: During 2016 Norman Meeting added 6 new adult attendees and 2 children.

8) Concerns: There may always be some concern that all members of the Meeting bear some measure of the Meetings’ operational needs, and in like fashion also step forward to support those who volunteer to take on challenging and/or time consuming tasks. Of course, as perhaps as in all Meetings, what a person can contribute to a Meeting is largely governed by time consuming responsibilities and commitments outside the Meeting that persons are obliged to honor.

Friends Meeting of San Antonio

State of the Meeting Report

Approved February 19, 2017

This has been a difficult year, though not unremittingly. On the one hand, we continue to have trouble staffing our committees, have had several break-ins and acts of vandalism at our Meeting-house, and have experienced some interpersonal tensions that we have not figured out how to resolve. On the other hand, Friends have stepped forward to help, we have new attenders who have quickly become valued members of our community, and our Meetings for Worship seem to many to be deeper at year's end than they were at its beginning. We cherish our Friends, celebrate our newcomers, and strive to follow the testimony to spread love to all.

This year was a particularly difficult one for committees. During the first half of the year, Ministry and Oversight lost key personnel to illness and to distant work and family responsibilities, attending mainly to needs of members and attenders, membership applications, and monthly queries and Forums. It revived during the second half, but is again short-staffed for the new year as those work and family responsibilities have returned. Peace and Social Concerns was reduced to two active members, both of whom travel, so most meetings took place by phone and email. A resignation reduced the Property Committee to two members and by year's end, problems of vandalism made their task overwhelming, added to the care they had taken over the grounds during the year. Religious Education and Outreach remained clerkless, though individuals took over specific tasks and kept us functioning. The Nominating Committee strove to fill these gaps. As one member noted, however, we have a demographic problem: too few members and attenders at a stage of life when they have time and energy to devote to Meeting's collective well-being. We have depended for too long on a small circle of Friends. We need to broaden this circle so that we do not overburden anyone.

Vandalism and break-ins have been a continuing problem, though they seem to come in waves. This fall, Property Committee asked for assistance finding solutions, and several have been explored. We have repaired doors, installed better locks, and painted over graffiti. We have reached out to local homeless people, and are now considering installing more prominent signs indicating that we are a religious organization. We have not, however, had the time to consider all of the suggested solutions in the depth they deserve.

In part, this is because we have also had to deal with interpersonal tensions. There have, however, been some differences over procedures. We sometimes forget that each of us is given a piece of wisdom, which is why we are called to listen to all voices before moving forward. Some of us need to be more ready to discuss these differences and have at times been short with each other, causing hurt to the concern of others. This fall, several such instances led our Clerk of four years to step back from Meeting. After some discernment, two experienced Friends agreed to take up a joint Clerkship for the rest of the year and

for the year to come. We need to learn how to better cope lovingly with conflict and disillusionment.

Fortunately, we have also had happier times. We hold regular potlucks at which we get a chance to know each other as people and build our community. We had a very successful Fair in the spring, which raised money to aid immigrant families fleeing Central American violence. This also built community. We have taken to celebrating Friends' significant birthdays (those ending in 0 and 5); this included a celebration of Ruth Lofgren's 100th birthday at an after-meeting potluck. It proved a wonderful time for people to enjoy each other's company. Individuals continue to step forward to nourish our collective spiritual life. Members have taken positions in Yearly Meeting and a Friend who moved here two years ago brings us a new contact with Friends General Conference.

As was true last year, Friends have opened their homes for Quaker study groups, and one couple has sponsored monthly mid-week Meeting for Worship in theirs. Silent retreats held in Spring and Fall, nurtured the depth of Meeting. A Friend continues to faithfully produce an 8-page monthly newsletter. Friends have stepped forward to develop a small but regular children's program using materials from FGC. We have maintained our twice-a-month Forums, either discussing social and spiritual issues among ourselves or inviting members of the wider community to speak with us about their work for social betterment. Many of these have involved topics that address the issues raised above – from a spiritual perspective and not just from a practical one. We have seen a growth in our support for RAICES and the Interfaith Welcome Committee in their work with refugee families. This has become a very meaningful part of several Friends' lives and a Quaker contribution to this work.

As noted above, we have been pleased to welcome new attenders to Meeting, and we already feel their positive contribution. We mourn the passing of Janet Wenholtz, a member who moved to Mexico a year ago to be near family. We are sad to have to say farewell to Fabian Juarez, who has moved back to Albuquerque to take a new job and be closer to his family. He continues to be a member of our Meeting as he explores spiritual homes there.

As we did last year, we held a special forum to begin preparing this report. At it, we posted large sheets of paper in the Meetinghouse and asked Friends to write on them their sense of Meeting's strengths and challenges, and also any adjectives that they thought described aspects of our life together. The "strengths" poster included comments like *diverse views, deep worship, our mature Friends, happy to be among a group of seekers, people step up, welcoming community*, and some positive comments about our first First-Day children's program, which has several attenders. Our *challenges* included *making our Quaker voice known in the community, developing and Maintaining a children's program, dealing with problems between/among us, [lack of] spirited business process, fear to be honest, and [lack of] open sharing of needs and weaknesses*. The adjectives ranged from *welcoming, Peaceful, nurturing, and mutually supporting to tight-lipped, burdened, and prideful*.

This range of responses captures our situation, albeit inarticulately. We are still seeking how to proceed and how we can build on our strengths while addressing our challenges. We are trying mightily to manifest the loving spiritual community that we are capable of being. We continue to celebrate our spiritual life together.

Stillwater Friends Meeting

State of the Meeting Report

Friends gathered on 3/19/17 to discuss the State of the Meeting, using the traditional queries as their guide. Ron Brooks, Christine Garbutt, Keith Garbutt, Bailey Norwood, Cynthia Stevenson, and Anne Collins were present.

1) Worship: How does the spirit illuminate our meeting's worship? How do we encourage ministry and seek to deepen the spiritual life of the meeting and of individual Friends?

Our messages tend to be spirit led, and this is needed in these difficult political times. We encourage ministry by being present to each other in meeting and when we are not in meeting. Next year, we hope to do a better job of reaching out to individual Friends who are not attending meeting regularly.

2. Meeting Community: How does our meeting's community reflect its corporate spiritual strivings? How do Friends care for one another in time of spiritual or material need? What role do children play in the meeting community?

We spent some time discussing our corporate spiritual strivings and decided that "seeing that of God in everyone" most reflects who we are as meeting. Friends struggle with being busy, but find times of joy when getting to be together. We do wonder why sometimes people visit and then leave. Therefore, we continue to look for ways that we can nurture new people. How do you spread attract more people without evangelizing in Oklahoma? We wonder if we should be less shy in asking newcomers if they would like to join committees.

The meeting is very happy to have four children regularly attending. The teachers find it a blessing to prepare spiritually for classes in godly play and practicing the presence of the spirit.

3. Religious Education: How has study deepened our faith and our understanding of what it means to be a Quaker? How have we explored issues of faith with newcomers, seasoned Friends, and children?

Friends commented on the readings in adult religious education--the care that emerges around these readings. We also expressed appreciation for the teachers participating in religious education for our meeting's children. Children's religious education connects the teachers and everyone else in the meeting to spiritual principles. Friends pointed out

that the meeting once did Friendly bible study and studied the journals of George Fox & John Woolman. We wondered if there was a desire to do more of this kind of more in-depth study.

4. Testimonies: How have we, as a meeting, witnessed to Friends testimonies? How has our meeting stood, by faith, against injustice and helped those in need?

Friends participate monthly in providing a meal to the community and have found this to be meaningful ministry.

Individually, many of us have looked for channels to resist the recent turn in political events by reaching out to the local mosque with our support, by writing letters to legislature, and by protesting in marches. Friends expressed a desire to rethink peace and social concerns, to create a structure that would help individuals enact the testimonies of peace and equality in their lives.

5. Decision Making: How is the good order of Friends used among us? How does the Light illuminate our meetings for worship with attention to business? How does our meeting deal in love with the inevitable differences that arise from diverse leadings and points of view on issues of faith and practical matters?

There have been few conflicts in our meeting this year, so our meeting has run smoothly. It is possible that the lack of conflict in our group has led to less growth among us, but we are not at a place where we wish to invite conflict. We do wish, however, to continue to seek growth in our spiritual lives in order to address inevitable differences when they do emerge.

There was a desire expressed for more silence in business meeting, and Friends wondered if encouraging people to speak only once about matters of business might allow for deeper reflection. It was noted that this may be harder to do in a small meeting.

6. Intervisitation and Outreach: How has intervisitation and involvement with Friends outside our meeting affected our meeting's spiritual growth? How have we reached out to seekers and the community around us?

The majority of Friends have not been engaged in a great deal of intervisitation, though some members recently traveled to Hominy to spend time with the FUM meeting there. One of our members is regularly involved in SCYM and quarterly meetings and travels to other Friends meetings a great deal. Stillwater Friends are grateful for the connections that he brings to our meeting, and many of us believe we should make a more concerted effort to be part of the larger Quaker Community.

7. Membership Changes: How has our membership changed? How has this affected the life of our meeting?

There have been no changes in membership this year.

8. Concerns: Does our meeting have concerns that have not been adequately explored in answering the queries above? How have these concerns affected our meeting's spiritual and community life?

The meeting continues to look for ways to let interested people know about who we are and what we do.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ron Brooks, Clerk
Stillwater Monthly Meeting

Memorial Minutes

Sherilyn Brandenstein

Sherilyn Ruth Brandenstein was born in Philadelphia, PA on September 25, 1949 to Robert L. and Virginia R. (Meckel) Brandenstein, and her untimely passing came on June 6, 2016. She carried her passion for life, peace, justice, equality, nature, creativity and education into the many forms of service within the circles of family, friends, workplace and spiritual community. She is preceded in death by her father and mother, and is survived by sister, Dawn (Everett) Davis, Crawfordsville, IN, brother, Norman R., Indianapolis, IN, other extended family and many friends in Indiana, Texas, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada and beyond.

Sherilyn was an eternal student and impacted many lives with her experience and knowledge in things spiritual, artistic and healing, and through varied initiatives in the pro-peace/anti-war, social justice and women's movements. She completed her undergraduate degree at the Community College of Denver (CO), a Masters in American Studies at the University of Texas, Austin, course work including pastoral care at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and in chaplaincy training at Methodist Hospital, Houston.

When living in Austin, among other endeavors, she served as a statewide intake specialist for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and as a chaplain for the Specialty Hospital of Austin [Cornerstone Hospital Group]. She was a war-tax resister, active member of the Nominating Committee and offered workshops on end of life issues. Sherilyn's spiritual life was formed in childhood in the American Baptist Church, and focused in her adult life in the traditions and communities of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) with the Friends Meeting of Austin, TX and the North Meadow Circle of Friends, Indianapolis.

She had a passion for pastoral care. Her ability to be present, listening, reflecting and sharing empathically provided rich opportunities across the spectrum of faith, race, gender and age. Sherilyn offered pastoral care workshops and coordinated visitation teams to minister to those in our community who had difficulty coming to worship or who were experiencing rough spots in their lives.

During her memorial service in Austin on July 23, 2016 friends spoke of her spiritual depth, deep grounding, and playful spirit. Sherilyn believed God married couples. One member shared that in his clearness committee for marriage Sherilyn asked him "How is God present in your relationship as a couple?" Another member with a painful illness expressed gratitude for Sherilyn's impromptu visits. When she felt well enough for company they enjoyed each other. When times were hard, Sherilyn offered help. Sherilyn also shared her own challenges seeking insight in regard to difficult situations in her own life. At the end of one of these conversations, it was remembered that she said, "I think I just need to attend to what bubbles up."

Richard M Brooks – “Rick”

Born: April 3, 1963 in Nowata, OK.
Died: December 2, 2016 in Tulsa, OK.

Rick attended Green Country Friends Meeting when possible several years ago before family obligations and health issues demanded all of his time. When he could no longer attend Green Country Friends he occasionally logged in to the online Quaker Meeting. Rick brought Cherish, one of his twin daughters to Meeting with him several times. Cherish and her sister Cyleste are teenagers now. Both are autistic and Cyleste requires 24/7 care. Rick and Lynnette are a wonderful example of unconditional love. They have shown love and devotion to each other and the girls over the many difficult and blessed years. Both Rick and Lynnette have had several major health issues. When Rick was asked by a friend how he and Lynnette managed to meet the challenges they have experienced Rick replied, “It rains on the just and the unjust”.

Two of the things that come to mind when thinking of Rick are the Old Testament character Job and the Quaker saying “Let your lives speak.”

Rick lived his life after the manner of Friends at home, at work and in the community. While carrying his own burdens the only complaint I heard him speak was to lament that he was not able to do more in the Meeting. Rick was truly an amazing person and an example for everyone around him.

Lucianne Carmichael

We report with sadness that one of our members, Lucianne Carmichael, passed away in late November after a long illness. Lucianne and Joe Carmichael were married under the care of this Meeting in 1971. We admire and acknowledge her contributions to the New Orleans community. She is recognized as an educator, artist, author, and supporter of the arts. She was the founder and principal of McDonogh #15, one of the earliest child-centered public elementary schools in New Orleans; she describes the school in her book *McDonogh 15: Becoming a School*. She and Joe co-founded A Studio in the Woods, a 7-1/2 acre refuge for artists in New Orleans. This legacy of support for artists continues under the stewardship of Tulane University. We ask all to hold her husband Joe in the Light.

Jude Evelyn Filler

January 14, 1949- September 17, 2016

Jude was the daughter of Louis and Shulamith (Burstein) Filler. Born prematurely in Ohio, Jude grew up in Yellow Springs, where her dad was a professor at Antioch College. While she was in high school, her parents divorced, and she and her mother moved to

Israel for a few years. After returning to the US, Jude attended and graduated from Antioch College.

She traveled in Latin America, all the way to the southern tip of South America, and taught English in Brazil. She married, earned an MBA at Simmons College in Boston, and worked in New York City as an executive for CBS and American Airlines. This enabled her to travel widely. Single again, she moved to Dallas, still with American Airlines. In Dallas she found her calling, organizing for social change as a volunteer with Amnesty International, focusing on abolishing the death penalty. To better understand conditions on Death Row, Jude began visiting inmates and forged deep friendships with several of the men.

Moving to Austin, she became executive director of Texas Alliance for Human Needs, a coalition of grassroots groups working for social justice, and continued working against the death penalty. This work was one of the great passions of her life. David Powell, a long-term resident of Death Row, became one of her best friends. His 1999 re-conviction and 2010 execution were terrible blows to her. Diagnosed with neuro-endocrine, or carcinoid, cancer after David's re-conviction, her health took a turn for the worse after witnessing his execution.

Unable to work, she went on disability, yet continued to lend practical, moral and emotional support to others. In 1997 she had invited her elderly father to come and live with her in Austin, and cared for him until he died. She ran a bed-and-breakfast in her home, and an online bookstore, having inherited thousands of her father's books. She organized carcinoid cancer support groups in Austin and San Antonio, led a Jungian Dream group, taught English in Spain, cooked and gardened and participated in an ongoing book group.

Jude became a member of the Friends Meeting of Austin in 2004, and was deeply involved and active in the life of the Meeting for about 10 years. Peace and Social Concerns, Death Penalty Abolition, Community Life, Circle of Light and Nominating were all committees that she served on. Attending FGC Gathering several times, she led a weeklong workshop on Dreams at one session. She spent a semester at Pendle Hill, where she especially enjoyed Sally Palmer's Creativity classes. She welcomed David Price, an elderly single attender, into her home as a housemate, where he stayed as long as he was able to live on his own. Another longterm housemate, Gray Blanchard, became active with Quakers as well. For many years Jude was part of a "Friendly Sixes" supper group. Quietly, she connected with and helped many new attenders learn about Friends. Lillian Fredrickson, an elderly Friend, once commented that Jude's cooking was keeping her alive. Jude also helped her neighbors.

For many years, Jude had a support group, mostly made up of Friends, led by Terri English. She was deeply grateful to the members of her support group and to others who provided transportation and helped with other needs. Two Friends traveled with her to New Orleans to Carcinoid Cancer conferences, and others supported her in various ways. She did her best to learn about and understand her cancer and treatment options, and we

tried to do likewise. In early 2014 she was diagnosed with acute leukemia, which explained why she felt so tired when walking her beloved dog, Grace. Deciding to go to MD Anderson in Houston took her away from her Austin support group and friends, and her dog, but Jude's cousin Jasmine Zowniriw and her daughter Vivien had moved to Austin and kept the household running. Members of the Live Oak Friends Meeting in Houston were generous and caring.

She endured five rounds of chemo, cut off all her hair and sent it to Locks of Love, aced a bone marrow transplant, and returned to Austin in time to celebrate her birthday at home. Sadly, she was not well enough to travel to Ohio for her 50th high school reunion this past summer. In September, after a valiant battle to regain her health and strength, she died quietly in the hospice at Christopher House, with her brother Jem and half-brother Stephen present. Her brother Vic and his wife Stella came from California and were with her for several days before she died. She chose to be cremated, and a plaque will be placed on the wall of the memorial garden at the Friends Meeting of Austin. At her memorial service, many told how she had inspired them and changed their lives.

In addition to the above-mentioned family members, Jude is survived by half-siblings Abigail Crome, Helen Filler, Jonathan Filler, Graham Filler and Emily Filler, and by her many friends. World traveler, connoisseur, gardener and cook, book and movie lover, spiritual seeker, animal lover and tireless advocate for the poor and marginalized--although she could be difficult at times, Judith Filler made a positive difference in countless lives.

Clare Crane Kearney Galbraith

July 28, 1919 to May 2, 2016

Clare was born July 28, 1919 in Alameda, California but moved to Dallas, Texas as a child. She was the mother of Sky Kathleen, Tom, Dick and Carol Galbraith. She lived and taught elementary school in many different places over her middle years. As a teacher in California she published a book for young English learners, called Victor. She loved hiking especially in forests and for a time lived in a remote cabin in northern California without running water or electricity.

After moving to Houston, she transferred her membership from Delta Friends Meeting in Stockton, California and was accepted into membership in Live Oak Friends Meeting on August 23, 1998. During the decade she was active in LOFM, she clerked the Outreach Committee for two years, served as editor of the Acorn (meeting newsletter.) and attended the Quaker Writers' Group. Clare also hosted the Wednesday evening worship group at her apartment. She was a valued member of the planning committee working on fundraising for our new meeting house. Clare was very interested in alternative construction techniques and materials such as geodesic domes and straw bale construction.

Beyond the meeting, Clare was active in The World Affairs Council, held season tickets to the opera and continued her interests in crafts, especially weaving. She was an avid and expert Scrabble player, even beating two Mormon Missionaries during her final weeks in the hospice facility.

After a stroke, Clare Galbraith died May 2, 2016. Two memorial services were held, under the care of Live Oak Friends Meeting. The first was on May 20, 2016 at Brookdale at West University (formerly The Terraces) where she had lived for about ten years. That was attended by three of her children (Sky Kathleen, Tom and Carol) as well as a nephew and other relatives. The meeting held a second memorial service on May 21, 2016 at the meeting house. Sky and Carol were able to attend. Many Friends offered fond remembrances. A long term member of LOFM said that "Clare was a good friend to our family."

From Marianne Lockard:

My one strong memory of Clare came early in our acquaintance. I was new to Quakers – excited about my new spiritual home – more than a bit nervous. I had been asked to be a representative to Friends General Conference for our YM. I knew little about FGC, but was eager to learn. Clare was the other – wiser – representative. She promised me that we could travel together – I felt relief. To that point in my life I had not flown, or made my way around in a large city. Claire never left my side. I managed the flight, the long walk to find our night time accommodations she had made in a “hippy hostel” and locate where our FGC sessions would be held. I was accompanied by Clare every step of the way. There is a quote, that sadly I cannot remember the writer, who said: “You might not remember what another person did, but you will always remember how they made you feel.” Clare’s giftedness helped all of us to feel accompanied, never alone or abandoned.

Eleanor Hammond

On April 30, 2016, we lost one of our oldest and dearest friends, Eleanor Hammond. Eleanor passed away in Round Rock, Texas on April 30, 2016 at the age of 94, after a long life of love and contribution. Eleanor was well known presence in South Central Yearly Meeting since the beginning.

Eleanor grew up in the Brooklyn suburb of Lynbrook, New York, then traveled extensively with her husband Harvey, who was an engineering instructor in the Merchant Marine.

After the Hammonds arrival in Texas in 1952, Eleanor found her life-long spiritual home with the Society of Friends. She held membership in Dallas Monthly Meeting then Friends Meeting of Austin and sojourned with Friends in several other meetings and worship groups.

In the wider world of Friends, Eleanor took part in Quaker study tours and sojourned at the Pendle Hill Quaker study center. She longed for world peace, and she gave generously of her time and financial contributions to further the work of Quaker peace groups and other organizations.

Eleanor an early advocate of civil rights. In 1963 as president of the United Church Women of Garland, she led the group to pass a resolution calling for Garland churches to open their doors to all races. She also actively advocated for desegregation in Garland schools and participated in a movement to eliminate the practice of giving used textbooks to students at the segregated all-Black schools when the all-White schools received new ones.

For a time, Eleanor lived on a ranch outside of Elgin, Texas, in an old trailer house, while helping two friends in their early efforts to establish Down Home Ranch – a place for persons with intellectual disabilities to live and work. At age 78, she and other Friends in SCYM begin an experiment in sustainable housing in the hill country near Kerville, Texas, where she and others constructed and lived in houses of straw bale and adobe. Eleanor was a great music lover. She loved to swim and kept it up to a very advanced age. And, of course, she took joy in her large family. She is survived by her fine children, twelve grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

We fondly remember Eleanor's great friendship with Margaret Hoffman. This pair of Quaker woman were and are still a great inspiration to us. We were sustained by Eleanor's good humor, her infectious laugh and sparkling, mischievous eyes, as much as we were encouraged by her example of steadfast commitment to peace and social justice.

(Ruth) Jane Laessle

Ruth Jane Laessle, artist, teacher, political activist and life-long Quaker, died December 4, 2016 at her home in Austin, Texas. She was 93.

Jane was born in 1923 in Moorestown, New Jersey, a quiet town ten miles east of Philadelphia where her parents were also born. She lived a bike ride away from her grandparents and great aunt and attended Moorestown Friends School for 12 years, graduating in 1941.

Jane attended Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, and graduated from Philadelphia University of the Arts in 1946. She worked as a fashion illustrator in New York for Women's Wear Daily and in Dallas for Neiman Marcus and A. Harris. She was an accomplished painter, sculptor, potter and quilter.

While Jane worked for an ad agency in New York in 1948 she attended a party in Greenwich Village where she met Edward Alexander Butts. Jane and Ed were married in 1949 and later moved to Dallas and had four children: Nina, Michael, David and Sarah (Sally) Butts. While raising her family in Dallas, Jane eventually returned to fashion

illustration work. The family attended the Dallas Unitarian Church, which served as the center of its social life.

After her divorce from Ed in 1978, Jane moved to Fredericksburg, Texas, in 1981 to start a new life. She liked the Texas hill country town because it reminded her of her hometown in New Jersey. She reconnected with the Quakers (the Religious Society of Friends) and worked as a member of the Friends World Committee and the Quaker UN Office, traveling all over the world. As a clerk for Right Sharing of World Resources, another Quaker organization, she attended triennial meetings in Kenya, Mexico and Tokyo. She also began monthly meetings of Hill Country Democrats, helped establish the Fredericksburg Peace Coalition, and helped to organize the Peace Garden behind the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg.

Jane moved to Austin in 1986 where she made quilts, read extensively and spent hours at work in her tidy backyard landscape garden. She joined the Friends Meeting of Austin, and was deeply involved in the life of the meeting for many years, faithfully attending business meeting, and serving on the Oversight Committee and on numerous clearness committees. Quakerism was an integral part of Jane's life. She identified deeply with Friends' testimonies, and relished the silent worship of Friends, and that business was conducted within the context of worship. She brought people together. When people spoke, she gave her quivery, rapt, respectful attention. When she was upset with you, you would know about it. But as strong as her feelings might be, she rarely judged or criticized. Jane deeply cherished family members and friends, nurturing relationships over many years.

Jane was an artist at her core. She had skill, persistence, curiosity and an exacting nature which led to creations that were not only beautiful, but meaningful and expertly done. Jane's sense of humor, wit and storytelling ability made her fun and insightful to be with. Jane loved to write, and in 2003 she published her autobiography, "A Builder's Daughter". Jane will also be remembered for her inquiring mind. She read extensively, and was curious about literature, politics and culture. She never stopped learning and opening her mind to new ideas. When she moved to The Summit senior living facility (now Brookdale Westlake Hills) in 2007, Jane embraced getting to know the residents, and sharing their stories. She took pictures for and later edited the monthly newsletter, The Focus, for several years. When Jane reached her 90's, and people would inquire about her health, she'd cheerfully say, "I'm deteriorating right on schedule!" Throughout her life, she faced changes with curiosity and an openness to what this new experience would bring. Living fully in the here and now, she was vivacious, demanding, elegant, creative, and loving. Her spirit will continue to inspire those who loved her!

Jane was preceded in death by her mother, Alice May Roberts, her father, Charles Laessle Jr., and her older brother James Roberts Laessle. In addition to her four children, Jane is survived by two daughters-in-law Kazuyo Takagi and Amelia Marie Butts, Paul Percy, Brian East, four grandchildren: Christopher Takagi Butts, Chloe Noelle East, Erik Takagi Butts and Meredith Jordan Butts, and her two great granddaughters Maya Takagi Butts and Sun Takagi Butts. She was fiercely loyal to her family, and relished

time with her children and grandchildren. She was delighted to meet her great-granddaughters.

She said, "As an artist, I thought there was nothing as creative as making a person."

Claire Loe

March 13, 1964 to November 3, 2016

Claire Loe, born on March 13, 1964, in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, grew up in Houston, one of four daughters of Lee and Hardy Loe. She graduated from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in 1982, received her B.A. in Latin American Studies from University of Texas Austin, and then a Masters of Public Health from the University of North Carolina. After a stint at Houston's Rusk Elementary School Clinic, she moved to Austin and helped create Community Health Education Consultants (CHEC) and Sage Words, a nonprofit committed to developing targeted, culturally appropriate materials that promoted healthy behavior. As part of this work, Claire created materials addressing issues from addiction to depression that were translated into languages including Spanish, Navajo, and Hopi.

In 2006, Claire returned to Houston for doctoral studies at the University of Texas School of Biomedical Informatics, where she was a Fellow of the Schull Institute. It was then that Claire began attending Live Oak Friends Meeting and became active in the Children's First Day School. In 2012, she helped LOFM Young Friends create an art car out of her 2002 Prius entitled "Peace Portraits". It was painted in the style of Pakistani truck art and celebrated notable women who have worked toward a more peaceful world, including agricultural activist Vandana Shiva, author Arundhati Roy, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai, abolitionist Harriet Tubman, and Claire's mother Lee, a peace and social justice, and code pink activist.

Having moved to Atlanta, Georgia, in 2013, Claire became a Fellow with the Center for Disease Control while completing her Ph.D., which was awarded in 2015. She became a Senior Informatics Analyst at Public Health Informatics Institute of the Task Force for Global Health in nearby Decatur. The organization received the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize, the highest award in the world for a humanitarian organization. The day before she died, Claire received her individual medal as recognition of her part in earning that prize.

Claire took peace and justice personally. In June of 1989, she joined the Women's Convoy to Central America to deliver 13 tons of humanitarian aid. In 1999, she was a key leader of the International Youth Friendship and Development Program led by Omowali Luthuli-Allen. Claire was part of their first travel seminar in the Republic of South Africa, teaching youth leaders about their role in the prevention of the spread of HIV-AIDS. While in Austin, she also participated in Code Pink Women for Peace.

Claire passed away December 16, 2016. She touched many lives and the world is a better place because she lived. She is missed by family and friends, colleagues, and her beloved cat Smudge.

The Claire Loe Doctoral Student Fund has been created at the UT School of Biomedical Informatics (SBMI).

excerpted from Claire Loe's Memorial Program

Margaret W. Maxfield

Margaret W. Maxfield, age 90, who lived at Eskaton in Placerville, CA died on Tuesday, December 20, 2016. Margaret was a loving wife, and mother, as well as an accomplished mathematician, university professor, and author. Margaret had five children: Fred, Daid, Elaine, Nancy, and Daniel, and one grandson, Bryan. Her son Fred, and her husband John, preceded her in death.

Margaret was one of the first Friends that helped in creating the Caddo Area Meeting. Our geography was large, the corners of AR, TX, OK and LA, so we decided to meet once a month, but for a full day, rotating our locations to a different home and state each month. At that Margaret and her husband were living in Ruston, LA, and both were professors at the University of Louisiana, in Monroe. Meeting at their two-story home always felt special as it was originally a hospital that served wounded Confederate soldiers. We also met in the large barn on their farm where they raised Christmas trees.

Margaret was known for her generosity of spirit. She sought out the good in people, and nurtured that spark. Many benefited from her love and encouragement. Her children wrote "Margaret lived a terrific life – one that was made better by all the people she encountered along the way."

Margaret enjoyed her last several years at Eskaton Village, a loving and supportive community she called home.

Kathleen (Kitty) Alberta Conner Orr

August 1, 1923 – December 16, 2016

Kathleen Alberta (Conner) Orr was born on August 1, 1923, along with her twin brother Kenneth. Kathleen, who went by Kitty most of her life, was the daughter of Alberta Bronson Conner and Alexander Cleveland Conner. Born in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia, she was the second-youngest of six children. She loved word games and puzzles of all sorts, maple sugar candy and ginger snaps, novels, orange tabby cats, and all things Scottish.

Kitty graduated from Lower Merion High School in Pennsylvania in 1941, where she was a varsity swimmer and the tennis manager. After graduation, she wanted to go to college, but there was a war on and money was tight. Instead, she earned a registered nurse certificate from Cooper Hospital School of Nursing in Camden, New Jersey, graduating in 1944, and later, took a class in operating room technique from Duke University. Her first jobs out of school were at Wills Hospital in Philadelphia and then Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida. She later went back to school for her B.A. in education from Dominican College in Houston in 1969.

Kitty married Robert Orr in the Second Presbyterian Church of Houston on November 12, 1949. For many years, they lived in Bellaire, Texas, a suburb of Houston, where Robert worked as a geophysicist at Shell Development Research Laboratory and Kitty worked Saturdays at a pediatrician's office while raising their children, daughters Bonnie and Maryann (Polly), and son Bruce. When the children were older, she worked full time in the operating room at Southwest Baptist Memorial Hospital.

Though she grew up Presbyterian, Kitty became a Quaker as an adult. In 1954, she began attending a worship group that later became Live Oak Friends Meeting in Houston, and became a member of the meeting in 1970. She was Associate Clerk in 1972, and served on the LOFM Hospitality Committee. Kitty was also involved in the Houston Audubon Society, where she served as the vice president of environmental affairs in the late 1970s. For many years, she and Robert went to Scottish Country dancing weekly, and she enjoyed bridge, dominoes, and other games. She sewed many of her daughters' dresses and enjoyed smocking and knitting. Even after moving to the Hill Country, Kitty was a regular attender of Bayou Quarterly and South Central Yearly Meeting, where she enjoyed visiting with friends.

Kathie, as she was called in her later years, died on December 16, 2016, in a family home surrounded by loved ones. Barbara Connor of Acadiana Friends in Louisiana is Kathie's niece, the daughter of her twin brother Kenneth.

Lucy Jane Tolber Saeger

Lucy Jane Tolbert Saeger died on January 20, 2017.

She was born in Hobart, Oklahoma, in 1934, and graduated from The University of Oklahoma. While married to Richard Davidson, Lucy had three children: Jane, Sarah and Miles. She worked as a caseworker for the Oklahoma City Welfare Department. Lucy received a Masters of Social Work from OU and began working at the Tulsa Psychiatric Center in 1970.

Lucy married Armin Saeger, Jr., in 1977, and they were happily married for 35 years, until Armin's death in 2012. Armin and Lucy often hosted the Green Country Friends Monthly Meeting in their Tulsa home. In 2002, she and Armin moved to Inverness Village.

After Lucy retired, her creativity flourished. She wrote her memoirs and made stained glass. She sang in Sweet Adelines, Hyeckka Chorus, and the Inverness Village Chorus. She played the guitar, piano and ukulele, and wrote many songs.

Lucy will be remembered as a compassionate person, a talented songwriter, and a unique wife, mother, stepmother and grandmother. Her sense of humor and ability to bring others great joy were treasured traits that will be especially missed. There was a Celebration of Life for Lucy on Saturday, February 4, at Inverness Village.

Ellen Stamelos

The Dallas Friends Meeting celebrates the life of Ellen Stamelos, who will be greatly missed and was such a cherished member of our community.

Ellen Stamelos was born in Pasadena, California on September 21, 1941. Her family moved to Michigan when she was in the fourth grade and she completed elementary, junior high and high school there. She had begun piano lessons at the age of four and she continued with her lessons. She also learned to play the flute in the school orchestra and sang in the choir.

She attended the Michigan School of Music and earned her bachelor's and master's degree in music theory. She worked as a Professor of Music at the University of North Dakota. She married a man from Greece and they lived in various places, including Greece for eight years. While in Greece she taught private piano lessons.

They moved to New Jersey, and Ellen returned to school and earned a master's degree in Library Science. She worked for a library in a small town and then at William Patterson College. After she divorced, she moved to Oregon with a man who became her long-time companion. After a year, she still had not found library work so they moved to Dallas where she got a job as Manager of Technical Services at the Dallas Public Library. She was a fair manager, treating everyone equally. She was a conscientious, hard worker. For many years, she spent her lunch hour sitting outside with people experiencing homelessness to engage in conversation. In Dallas, she had many friends outside of work and Quaker meeting. She was a member of the French Group, a group of people from many different countries that gathered once a week for a meal and conversation in French.

Ellen retired from the library after 20+ years. She got her credential to teach English as a Second Language and taught at El Centro College. With what she earned teaching ESL, she traveled to many places, including France, Germany, Australia and Scotland.

Ellen was a long-time member of the Dallas Friends Meeting. She served on many committees, including kitchen committee and Ministry and Oversight, where she last served as convener. Ellen valued peace and simplicity. She tried not to have more than

she needed and made sure what she did have was used to its fullest. Peace was important to Ellen. Whenever visiting her sister in the DC area, she always set aside a Saturday afternoon to participate in the Quaker peace vigil outside the capitol. She was a good steward of the environment. She shrunk her carbon footprint by setting thermostats high in the summer and low in the winter. She also always line-dried her clothes. She often had some rescue animals around and fed the birds. When Ellen moved to Maryland, her presence, insight, and Quaker experience in meeting was greatly missed.

Joan Cochran Terrell

March 10, 1927 – December 26, 2016

Joan Cochran Terrell, born on March 10, 1927, was the daughter of Alice Elizabeth Hanchett and Nehemiah Cochran. She was a mother, a mentor, and a source of counsel to many women.

A 1948 alumna of the Rice Institute, Joan went on to endow the Alice Hanchett Memorial Family-Endowed Scholarship at Rice, which provides support for gifted students at the Shepherd School of Music. During her forty-year career at St. Joseph's Hospital, she was Director of St. Joseph's School of Medical Technology and Director of Quality Control in St. Joseph's Laboratory. Her primary area of expertise was hematology. Over the years, she mentored hundreds of medical technologists, exhorting her students to "always remember the patient." She received her master's degree in education from the University of Michigan in 1985.

Joan and her late husband Dailey Burnham Terrell touched countless lives through their memberships in St. Joseph's Catholic Church and the Live Oak Friends Meeting, their work with the Houston Food Bank and the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and in the generous friendship they extended to everyone they met.

Joan passed away on Monday, December 26, 2016, at her home in Houston, Texas. A friend posted this prayer in response to the publication of her obituary: "Joan Terrell; may she rest in peace. Her calm devotion to her Christian principles of justice and mercy will always inspire those of us who knew her."

A vigil was held on Monday, January 9th, 2017, and a funeral mass the following day at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Houston. A Meeting of Worship was also held in her honor at Live Oak Friends Meeting, Houston, on January 8, 2017, where she was a faithful attender with her husband D. Burnham. In memory of Joan, Live Oak Friends served her famous tuna and egg salad curried sandwiches after the worship.

- excerpted from the Houston Chronicle obituaries on legacy.com