

South Central Yearly Meeting of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
29th Third Month – 4th Fourth Month 2022
Virtual Meetings
Via Zoom

Session II: Thursday, April 14, 6:45-7:45 pm (In-Person & streamed)

Friends gathered at the appointed time. Karen Takemoto introduced herself as clerk and welcomed everyone to the first session.

Clerk asked us to reflect in our minds and hearts about the Indigenous peoples whose land we reside on.

At the clerk's table are Karen Takemoto - Clerk, John Coffin- acting associate clerk, Jessica Arjet - recording clerk.

Howard Hawhee read an excerpt from Little Rock Monthly Meetings state of the meeting report.

Friends engaged in a period of opening worship

Clerk welcomed us and expressed appreciation for all the good work that allowed us to meet this weekend.

Clerk asked for volunteers for the Epistle committee - Howard Hawhee volunteered.

Review of Agenda and action items from the previous session

Visitors:

Linda Houser from Purchase Meeting was welcomed.

Introduction of SCYM staff:

Kevin King On-Site Coordinator

Larry Kelly-Mahaffy, Assistant On-Site Coordinator

Edwin Campbell, On-site Technician

Davis Carraway, Assistant On-site Technician

Warren Wilson-Reiner, Registrar

Denise Wilkinson, Associate Registrar

Many Friends were not yet in attendance. We asked for reports as they became available.

Committee Report:

Archivist Report - Howard Hawhee - Howard requested someone join him on the committee. They need to be people in the Austin area because that is where the archives are stored. The committee had a request for some early history of the Fayetteville meeting, so the archivists

looked through the meeting notes from 1960 and were able to put together a small report for that meeting.

A Friend asked which meetings had an archivist - Little Rock, Houston, and several others.

A Friend asked if the records were sent to Swarthmore. Officially, our records are kept at Swarthmore.

Representatives Reports:

Friends Committee on National Legislation - Istra Furman expressed appreciation for the Yearly Meeting. Istra read excerpts from the report that is online. Here is the letter of introduction: <https://scym.org/qnut/documents/660>

Larry Kelly-Mahaffy presented the report from our advocacy team -

<https://scym.org/qnut/documents/672>

The Fletchers also submitted a report although they were not present to read this report -

<https://scym.org/qnut/documents/671>

Arkansas Interfaith Alliance—John Coffin - no report because they have not been meeting

Committee Reports:

Ad hoc Procedures Manual Committee—Bill Sweet submitted the report;

<https://scym.org/qnut/documents/669>

Announcements:

Liz Yeats requested that Friends sign up to play with and supervise the children during business meetings and workshops.

Galia Harrington encouraged people to sign up for our home groups. She pointed out that some of the chairs were for people who want to explicitly hold the meeting in the light. We also have chairs that are saved for those who need comfy chairs or to be closer so that they can hear better.

Epistle Reading - Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions read by Will Taber.

Friends ended with a period of worship.

Clerk closed meeting at 6:45.

Session III: Friday, April 15, 9:00-10:45am (In-person & streamed)

Friends gathered at the appointed time.

Johanna Vaughn read an excerpt from the Fayetteville Meeting of Friends.

Friends settled into a period of open worship.

Karen Takemoto welcomed everyone to the session.

At the clerk's table sat Karen Takemoto - Clerk, John Coffin- acting associate clerk, Jessica Arjet - recording clerk

Howard Hawee read an excerpt from the Little Rock Monthly Meeting.

Representatives Reports:

Friends Peace Teams—Val Liveoak and Kevin King - shared a video. The report is online In that report, there is the video that was shared. <https://scym.org/qnut/documents/663>

Friends General Conference—Jan Michael read from the report.

<https://scym.org/qnut/documents/656>

Austin tan Cerca de la Frontera—Joanna Vaughn read the report. It is online at:

<https://scym.org/qnut/documents/674>

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns—Suzanne Cole-Sullivan. There was no report this year.

We do not have a report from Right Sharing of World Resources.

Friends took a moment to accept all the reports as they have been given.

Clerk asked Friends to consider joining the Epistle committee to write the state of the meeting report for SCYM.

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Care—Pam Arnold, Joanna Vaughn, Cathy Ivash, Liz Lesher, Val - Read by Joanna Vaughn. The report is online. <https://www.scym.org/qnut/documents/681>

Faith & Practice— John Coffin, clerk; Claudia Wilson, Leada Dietz, Kirsten Brink, Jane Houser, Robin Morris, Danielle Evans, Almeta Smith, Mac Lemann - John Coffin read the report. It is online; <https://scym.org/qnut/documents/665>

Finance Committee— Pat Sweet, clerk; Bill Wilkerson, Jane Houser, Carol Redfield, Jimmy Pryor - Finance Committee did not have a report at this time. The clerk expressed appreciation to the finance committee for making the decision to keep the cost of attending the Yearly Meeting to only \$50 per attendee.

Youth Program Support—Anne Collins, Jessica Arjet, Erika Mittag, Kirsten Dean, Cheryl Husband, Renee Kaplowitz f. - Jessica gave the report.

Communications- Terry SoRelle, Bev Randolph, Bill Sweet, Cathy Guttentag, Jan Michael, Liz Yeats - Liz gave a summary of the report which can be found here:

<https://scym.org/qnut/documents/673>

Discussion:

- Can we print the directory? Liz Yeats answered, if we can get it corrected, we can make a PDF so individuals or Monthly Meetings can print it off.
- The E-newsletter is your newsletter, so please send information about things that are going on in the Quaker groups you are involved with.
- The committee will work on making sure that the address list is correct.
- Can the Monthly Meetings help with updating the address list? Cathy Gutentag is the person who updates the information. Please send updates to her. We have printed out a list for each monthly meeting so that they can review it and then get the changes back to the committee.

Representative Report:

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative—Anne Collins - read the report.

<https://www.scym.org/qnut/documents/683>

Committee Reports:

Yearly Meeting Worship Committee—Liz Wolff, Neil Redfield, Joni Mize, Dal Bordelon, Tom Taber - Galia Herrington gave a brief report - found here:

<https://scym.org/qnut/documents/661>

Technology Committee- Kevin King, Edwin Campbell, Anne Collins, Chris Drexler, Leslie Coston, Liz Wolff - Anne Collins presented.

It was noted that during the Wednesday meetings one of the Friends meets from his pasture. Clerk expressed deep gratitude for the Technology Committee.

The Planning Committee has also been working very hard this year and we express gratitude to that committee for figuring out how to meet safely together.

Representative Report:

Texas Impact—Joanna Redfield Vaughn, Andrea Beane - read by Joanna Vaughn.

<https://scym.org/qnut/documents/658>

Announcements:

Anne Collins let us know about Friends General Conference and encourages Friends to let her know how FGC met you. This will be on July 6-July 10 at Bradford University in Virginia.

Val Liveoak let us know that there will be crafts in the cafeteria for sale.

Liz Yeats let Friends know that there are books for sale from FGC.

Joanna Vaughn let Friends know that Friends Meeting of Austin is looking for pen pals for inmates on death row. You can find them in the lounge.

Dale is giving rides up and down the main road for anyone who wants or needs a ride.

Kevin King let us know that to help with being heard in this room and reduce feedback - when you talk, please talk into the microphone and be close to it.

Friends to hold in the light:

Tom Ivash - is having surgery today.

Gerald Jimmy Jr. is still in rehab.

Warren Wilson Reiner is also still struggling with his health.

Joni Mize is recovering from surgery and recently lost her mother.

Epistle Reading: Tom Tauber read from the 2021 Illinois Yearly Meeting state of the meeting report.

Meeting closed with a period of open worship at 10:50.

Session IV: Friday, April 15, 6:45-7:45 pm (In-person & streamed)

At the clerk's table sat Karen Takemoto - Clerk, Almeta Smith - associate clerk, Jessica Arjet - recording clerk

Howard Hawhee read from Georgetown Friends group State of the Meeting report.

Opening Worship

Representatives Report:

Friends World Committee for Consultation—Lori Laub, Scott Carmack, Nell Warnes, Andrea Beane. The report was presented by Andrea Beane. <https://www.scym.org/qnut/documents/657>

Committee Report:

Peace & Justice Committee Report— Paula Keeth, clerk; Rex Friend, John Coffin, Gladys Tiffany, Lois Way, John Fletcher, Cathy Ivash, Crystal Redfield, Mac Lemann, Paul Pierce, Jim Kuhn. Paula Keeth read the report which is online; <https://scym.org/qnut/documents/652>

YM Minute 2022.1 - South Central Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) stands concerned for the people of Ukraine who are suffering from the invasion by Russia. We stand resolute for the human rights of all people across the world and against violence toward civilians as we are seeing occurring in Ukraine. Yet as we criticize Russia for its military incursions, we must recognize our own country's military actions, killing of civilians, and operations to overthrow democratically elected governments from Asia to Central and South America. We cannot be in integrity when we ask the International Criminal Court to pursue Russia while not allowing it to pursue the US for our crimes in Afghanistan and the humanitarian

crisis left behind. We cannot condemn Russia for its mass destruction in Ukraine without remembering our "Shock and Awe" campaign against Iraq. We cannot consider ourselves virtuous by passing supplementary funding for Ukraine when the same bill increases funding for Israel, funding that supports the violation of human rights and a more than fifty-year occupation of the Palestinian people. And we cannot turn a blind eye to our recent support of Saudi Arabia and its bombardment and blockade of the people in Yemen and other areas in our hemisphere where the US has intervened militarily and with military aid. It is therefore a time for reflection for us as we discern what we can do to promote our testimonies of Peace, Community, Integrity, and Equality in both our country and across the world. Quaker testimony for over 350 years has affirmed the value of life while actively seeking to build peace among all nations and addressing root causes of violence. As Quakers, we grieve the loss of life from the senseless aggression we are seeing in Ukraine and elsewhere. We know there are people in Russia and Ukraine and throughout the world working tirelessly for peace and reconciliation. We uphold and stand in solidarity with them and call on our elected officials to find the courage to join all peacemakers in the Ukrainian and other conflicts. A

To whom do we send this? - The president, or the state department, put each minute that is approved on our SCYM Facebook so that friends may share it. Send to FCNL, send to representatives and senators.

YM Minute 2022.2 - South Central Yearly Meeting supports the "Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act" - S.2907 — 117th Congress (2021-2022), that was introduced to the U.S. Senate on September 30, 2021, by Senator Elizabeth Warren, at the request of U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Debra Haaland. The purpose of the bill is to set up a Truth and Healing Commission to address the historical trauma experienced by Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children who were forcibly removed from their homes between 1869 and the 1960s and placed in Indian Boarding schools. The children were taught to reject their Native languages, cultures, and spiritual practices and adopt Euro-American culture. Native Americans continue to suffer multigenerational trauma caused by this policy of forced assimilation and cultural genocide. Quakers were among the strongest supporters of the Indian boarding school policy and operated some 30 Indian schools (some in collaboration with the federal government) for varying periods of time. Further, the commission must develop recommendations on ways to (1) protect unmarked graves and accompanying land protections; (2) support repatriation and identify the tribal nations from which children were taken; and (3) discontinue the removal of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children from their families and tribal communities by state social service departments, foster care agencies, and adoption agencies. SCYM urges Friends to watch for this bill and give it their support. SCYM further urges Friends to learn the history of the Quaker Indian schools and consider ways to support indigenous-managed healing processes, including programs to teach indigenous languages.

Write your senators to request it be passed. It has been read twice and we need to encourage it to move forward. Encourage them to cosponsor the bill. The Oklahoma senator, Jane Langford is on the committee that covers Indian Affairs.

Announcements

Val Liveoak took twisted her ankle outside. She is being taken to the hospital to have it checked out.

Claire from Quaker Earth Care Witness expressed gratitude for the SCYM and the support we have shown.

State of the Meeting reports from all of our Meetings have been laid out so that friends may read them.

There is a list of people with soon execution date and the addresses of the board of parole that you can contact.

Epistle Reading - Liz Wolf read from North Pacific Yearly Meeting Epistle.

Friends entered a period of open worship and closed Meeting at 7:45.

Session V: Saturday, April 16, 9:00-10:45am (In-person & streamed)

At the clerk's table sat Karen Takemoto - Clerk, Alameda Smith, Associate Clerk, Jessica Arjet - Recording Clerk.

Joanna Vaughn read from the Friends Meeting of New Orleans state of the meeting report.

Friends entered a period of open Worship.

Clerk reviewed the agenda and action items from the previous session.

Treasurer's Report with the proposed budget for approval presented by Lori Laub. This report is online: <https://scym.org/qnut/documents/664>

Discussion followed:

- Do we have space in our budget to send aid to Ukraine? The Peace and Justice Committee has \$6800 to send to different organizations. They do not need approval from the Yearly Meeting. We are not boxed into these amounts and organizations. Peace and Justice can ask for an increase from the Finance Committee.
- Will inflation affect this budget? The event costs might go up, but the current operating budget isn't affected. Costs are rising, but we'll know more before Representatives Meeting.
- We might need more infrastructure to support these young activists that have been visiting this weekend. For example, Quaker Volunteer Service. If young friends within SCYM are interested in activism, we do have funds that might be helpful for these activities. Ministry and Care are the ones who administer these funds.
- Could we consider legacy contributions? The yearly meeting is not ready for that.
- It is possible to designate a donation to spiritual enrichment funds to support individuals to come to Yearly Meeting or go to Gathering. These opportunities need to be more widely known.
- There are funds available for spring lobby weekend, fgc, etc.
- Monthly Meetings also often have funds for travel.

YM Minute 2022.4 - Friends approved the budget as presented.

Committee Reports (continued)

Peace and Justice (continued)

Many people equate criticism of the State of Israel with antisemitism. This minute is only about the government and is not aimed at any religion.

YM Minute 2022.3 -

As a community of faith, we believe in the intrinsic value of all people. We, South Central Yearly Meeting (Quakers from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana), seek to nurture peace, health, and justice for all Palestinians and Israelis living in the Middle East and in the diaspora.

We honor all Holy Land faith traditions, including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Druze, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), and all others that have contributed to the rich cultural diversity of the region. We stand with and hold in the Light our fellow Quakers who continue to suffer through the daily violations of their human rights imposed by Israeli military for more than half a century. Quakers established a school in Palestine, more than three quarters of a century before Israel became a state, the only school in the West Bank that offers the International Baccalaureate degree today.

We encourage discussion about Israel's current military occupation of and human rights violations in Palestine.

We challenge ourselves and others to ask thoughtful questions of those who support the military occupation, being especially mindful of the need for all peoples to have:

- resources of food, water, and sustainable farms,
- infrastructure of electricity,
- access to ancestral fishing grounds in the Mediterranean Sea along the entire coast, especially Gaza,
- safe housing, including new homes and those of ancient ancestry,
- freedom to worship safely in churches, mosques, and synagogues,
- safe education of all children,
- revitalization of hospitals,
- free access for everyone to roads and towns to bring goods to market and businesses throughout Palestine/Israel.

As Friends (Quakers), we are committed to helping to bring awareness of and an end to military occupation and human rights violations within Palestine/Israel.

We seek to divest ourselves of any investments in companies supporting military occupation and human rights violations, including companies that:

1. Provide products or services that contribute to violent acts that target either Israeli or Palestinian civilians,
2. Provide products or services that contribute to the maintenance of the Israeli military dominance of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem,
3. Provide products or services that contribute to the maintenance and expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories,
4. Provide products or services that contribute to the maintenance and construction of the Separation Wall.

As members of the Religious Society of Friends who believe that all women and men are our sisters and brothers, we are led to take effective actions like the above responding to the suffering of the Palestinian people until the Occupation has ended and the basic human rights of those living under the intolerable conditions of this Occupation are secured.

A guide to a guide for investments; <https://investigate.afsc.org/>

Paula presented a letter to the Governor and government leadership in Michigan asking them to drop any charges against the protestors and journalists who were protesting to protect the drinking water of the area from the Line 3 construction.

YM Minute 2022.5 Friends agreed to sign on to the letter asking the Governor, County Prosecutors, and the government leadership of Michigan asking to have the charges against the water protectors who protested against the Line 3 construction to be dropped. This letter is online. <https://www.scym.org/qnut/documents/678>

- QEW and Friends Meeting of Austin has signed on to this letter.
- Friends discussed what the fracking process is that is disrupting the water supply.
- Is there a legal defense fund for this group? We might contribute individually and as a meeting.
- We felt we should pass this on to the Monthly Meetings so that they might also be able to sign on to this letter.
- Pristine water that is used to gather wild rice was polluted.
- We will get the address to donate to the relief fund. And there is also a place to write your own letter. We will put that on the minute and then in a newsletter.

Announcements -

Because we have completed the business of taking and approving reports from SCYM representatives and committees, we do not need to have meeting for business this afternoon. From the bookstore - We are packing up books after dinner. So please come get them right away. Galia let us know the priority list and asked Friends to consider in their hearts if they might be able to fill any of these committees.

Istra will be holding a chat during lunch about reducing nuclear proliferation.

Shannon cautioned us to be careful of how to word your legacy gifts.

Epistle Reading - Lousie Presley read excerpts from the Epistle from Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Friends settled into a period of open worship.
Meeting ended at 10:50.

Session VII: Sunday, April 17, 9:00-10:30 am (Hybrid)

Karen Takemoto - Clerk, Almeta Smith, Associate Clerk, Jessica Arjet - Recording Clerk, sat at the clerk's table.

Clerk welcomed us into Meeting.

Cathy Ivash read an excerpt from the Friends Meeting of San Antonio's State of the Meeting Report.

Friends then settled into open worship.

Clerk let us know that this was our first hybrid yearly meeting and expressed gratitude for the technology team who allowed participation between the online friends and the in-person friends.

Clerk reviewed the agenda and action items from the previous session.

Nominating Committee Report - Galia presented this report.

<https://www.scym.org/qnut/documents/654>

The registrars asked that we change their titles to co-registrar. Make their positions for 2 years on a rotating basis and that we alternate the years these terms start.

YM minute 2022.6 - Friends approved the change of the title of our Registrar and Associate Registrar to become two positions of Co-Registrar. The terms of these positions will be for two years each and they will start on alternating years.

There are a few positions still open. You can find those in this document:

<https://www.scym.org/qnut/documents/666>

YM minute 2022.7 - Friends approved the positions in the nominating committee roster:

<https://www.scym.org/qnut/documents/654>

YM minute 2022.8 - Friends expressed appreciation and gratitude for the friends who are laying down their service.

Scott Carmack – FWCC
Glenna Balch – Co-clerk Archivist
John Fletcher – FCNL, Peace and Justice
Will King – Peace and Justice
Renee Kaplowitz – FGC

Renee Kaplowitz – Youth Program Support
Howard Hawhee – Interim Associate Clerk
Cathy Ivash – Quaker Earthcare Witness
Davis Caraway – Yearly Meeting Planning
Leslie Coston – Online Tech Committee
Tina Coffin – Nominating
Jessica Arjet – Youth Program Support
Liz Leshner - Ministry & Care
Karen Takemoto - SCYM Clerk
Tom Ivash - Yearly Meeting Planning Clerk
Alameda Smith - Associate Clerk

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee - Denise Wilkinson presented. This report is not yet online but will be soon.

YM minute 2022.9 - Friends gratefully accept the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee report and appreciate all of the hard work of the committee.

Registrar's Report - Denise Wilkinson presented. This report is online at <https://scym.org/qnut/documents/679>

YM minute 2022.10 - Friends accepted the Registrar's report.

Cathy Ivash read the South Central Yearly Meeting State of the Meeting Report.
<https://www.scym.org/qnut/documents/682>

YM minute 2022.11 - Friends approved the South Central Yearly Meeting State of the Meeting report.

Youth Program Support Committee Report - Jessica Arjet read this report. Online at <https://scym.org/qnut/documents/697>

YM 2022.12 - Friends accepted the Youth Programs Support Committee report.

Howard Hawhee read the proposed and not quite finished Epistle - The final version is online at <https://scym.org/qnut/documents/675>.

YM 2022.13 - This report is not finished, however Friends approved the spirit and trust that the document will be finished appropriately.

Minutes of Celebration

From Liveoak Friends Meeting -
Kirsten Brink and Andrew Demsky were married under the care of the meeting on March 12, 2022.

Nika Sage June Sukula was born on December 1, 2021. Born to Cary Sukula and Laura Vanderpool.

Memorial Minutes

Genevieve Benson - From Friends Meeting of Austin read by Liz Yeats

Christopher Dye - From Little Rock Friends Meeting read by Tina Coffin

Rosalind Abernathy - one of the founding members of the Little Rock Meeting has also passed away. We hope to have a minute for her next year.

Mark Hickman - From San Antonio Friends Meeting read by Bill Wilkinson.

Chuck Holzer - From Liveoak Friends Meeting, read by Chris Drexler.

Albert Munn - From Live Oak Friends Meeting, read by Richard Coral.

Harrison Scott Coral - Son of Richard Coral of Live Oak Friends meeting.

Janet Southwood - From San Antonio Friends Meeting, read by Gretchen Haynes

Robert Bob Lockhart father to Carol Redfield, member of San Antonio Friends Meeting.

Announcement - Evaluations forms are online, please fill them out.

Announcement of 2022 RM: November 18-20, 2022

Announcement of 2023 YM: April 6-9, 2023 at Greene Family Camp

The meeting ended with brief open worship.