

**South Central Yearly Meeting of Friends  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
25th Ninth Month – 27th Ninth Month 2020  
Virtual Meetings  
Via Zoom**

**Session I: Friday, 25 Ninth Month, 9:00AM**

Friends gathered at the appointed time with a period of open worship - Friends were asked to hold our Clerk Gerald Jimmy in the light as, after clerking our session last night illness overnight has meant he is in the ICU in the hospital this morning receiving treatment.

Clerks' table—Serving at the clerk's table were Karen Takemoto, Associate Clerk, sitting in as Presiding Clerk; Val Liveoak, serving as acting Associate Clerk; Jessica Arjet, Recording Clerk. Gerald Jimmy Jr., Presiding Clerk, was unable to join due to illness.

Recognition of Indigenous Lands for all of SCYM—Clerk expressed gratefulness for our ancestors and asked each of us to know and explore the history of the lands that we each sit upon.

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

Virtual Ministry—Clerk reviewed our best practices for the meeting in a virtual space; Use of Raise Hands feature to be recognized by clerk; keep muted unless speaking, then re-mute; thumbs up under Reactions tab for approval when needed.

Introduction of Friends in service—Clerk introduced those Friends in service at this year's Yearly Meeting Session as the tech team:

- Edwin Campbell, Live Oak Friends Meeting
- Anne Collins, Stillwater Meeting
- Kevin King, Live Oak Friends Meeting
- Scott Carmack, Norman Friends Meeting
- Liz Yeats, Friends Meeting of Austin

Nominating Committee—Galia Harrington, clerk, reported for our Nominating Committee. We have some positions filled and some positions still open. Nominating has need of more members as well. We will express appreciation to Friends who are leaving service at the final SCYM session.

The Nominating Committee forwards the following names to serve in the following positions for a first reading:

Faith and Practice - Mac Lemann  
Ministry and Care - Lizzie Leshner  
Quaker Earth Care Witness - Cathy Ivash  
Youth Program Support - Cheryl Husband

Nominating has 24 vacancies:

Archivist Co-Clerks - 2 positions  
Finance Committee  
Friends General Conference Representative  
Friends World Committee for Consultation Representative  
Ministry and Care Committee  
Nominating Committee- 4 positions (Dallas, San Antonio, Live Oak, Cielo Grande Quarterly)

Peace and Justice Committee  
Sr. Young Friends Coordinator  
Texas Impact Representative  
Worship Oversight Committee - 2 positions  
Yearly Meeting Planning Committee - 5 positions  
Youth Program Coordinator  
Youth Program Associate Coordinator  
Youth Program Support Committee - 3 positions

Nominating requested to have more Friends on the committee who come from different meetings because that makes it easier to reach out to people in the different meetings to fill vacancies. They would like members from Dallas, San Antonio, and maybe some others.

John Coffin pointed out that the quarterly meetings should be nominating people to serve on Nominating Committee. Liz Yeats asked that we thank the members of Nominating Committee for all their hard work. Clerk asked us to think about our gifts and to reach out to Nominating rather than wait until they come to us, either now or in the future. Galia Harrington offered that she would be available during the lunch break for discussion of this.

Lizzie Lescher asked if maybe we could do more meeting over zoom, even after we are able to meet in person again.

SCYM 2020 Epistle—Clerk asked Friends to consider volunteering to create an epistle for these sessions. Will King, from Baton Rouge Friends Meeting, stepped forward.

Preliminary Treasurer's Report—Lori Laub, Treasurer, spoke from the lands of the Muscogee Creek reservations and the lands of the Osage and Sioux. She presented the FY 2019-2020 Treasurer's Report and the FY 2020-2021 Proposed Operating Budget. ([attached](#))

John Coffin reminded people that the contributions to the different groups is a living process. If there were different needs or a need to change the level of contributions the Peace and Justice committee would be the one to reapportion these contributions.

The meeting accepted the Treasurer's Report.

### **Representative Reports:**

Friends World Committee for Consultation of Americas (FWCC)—Lori Laub and Scott Carmack presented. ([report attached](#))

Arkansas Interfaith Alliance—John Coffin presented about this organization with which he is active.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business adjourned until Friday, 25 Ninth Month, at 1:30PM.

### **Session II: Friday, 25 Ninth Month, 1:30PM-3:30 PM**

Friends gathered at the appointed time with a period of open worship. Jan Michael served as Associate Clerk for this session. Out of the silence Clerk let people know that we are recording these sessions.

Virtual Ministry—Use of Raise Hands feature to be recognized by clerk; reminder to keep muted unless speaking, then re-mute; thumbs up under Reactions tab for approval when needed;

Review of agenda—Clerk reviewed the agenda for this afternoon session.

## **Representative and Committee Reports Continued:**

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC)—presented by Anne Collins.

A friend asked for examples of working across the different streams of Quakerism. Anne Collins and Liz Yeats shared how teaching principles are similar even though theological ideologies might be different. For example: FMA did videos of stop motion Legos. The Friends in Bolivia took this up and taught this type of video to their children.

Anne shared that the Friends in Bolivia had a water crisis and then other Friends were able to help directly and by educating different people on the needs of water conservation.

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)—presented by Richard Corl. ([report attached](#))

Friends General Conference (FGC)—presented by Mary Hampton and Jan Michael.

The FGC Long-Range Conference Planning Committee works to plan the FGC Annual Gathering each year. FGC is an association of yearly meetings and a few monthly meetings, and was organized to support yearly meetings. Many people have very little connection to FGC. Jan is looking for ways to let Friends in SCYM know of the resources they offer for deepening individual's spiritual practice.

FGC is working on becoming an actively anti-racist organization and helping others achieve that as well. Anne Collins pointed out that there are children's programs as well on the spiritual deepening website, as well as a book club and other resources.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)—presented by Liz Yeats. ([staff report attached](#))

In the last 5 years FCNL has organized many advocacy teams across the US that are busy creating relationships with the staff of the congressional representatives and senators.

Bobby Trice, FCNL staff attending our sessions, told us that action continues during the pandemic. The committee is active on COVID relief, especially working to make sure there are more food distributions. They are also working on issues of police brutality.

FCNL has a spring lobby day where they bring in young people to lobby the representatives and senators.

John Coffin asked about the new FCNL Priorities for the 2021-22 Congress. All meetings were asked to have Friends meet and discern what their priorities for federal direction. Liz Yeats responded that FCNL has received many responses, many of which are similar across the country. The General Committee will approve the final Priorities at their annual meeting in November. Recent online discernment about the Priorities raised the concern that the needs might have changed with pandemic, which came after most Friends got to put input into the Priorities. This is an ongoing discernment, and this change will be taken into account in future drafts.

Bobby Trice says that based on the concerns of Friends they have built out staff positions to focus on Immigration and Gun Violence.

We do have delegate funds for SCYM Representatives to attend FCNL Annual General Committee Meetings and other funds for young people to attend Spring Lobby Weekend. Friends are encouraged to use these should they have need.

Ministry & Care Committee—Jan Michael, Clerk, Chris Drexler, Karen Takemoto, Cathy Ivash, Pam Arnold, and Joanna Vaughn.

The committee has struggled. Last year they had a hard time getting together. They have not been asked for any support by Monthly Meetings during this time. They will be meeting soon via Zoom.

They have funds that are to support Friends to attend events that are spiritually uplifting and to assist Friends to meet with outside Quaker organizations.

Friends Peace Teams (FPT)—Presented by Val Liveoak. ([report attached](#))

Friends Peace Teams is growing and changing in unexpected ways. They are developing new peace ministries; Right relationships with Indegenious People and Literacy for Peace and Justice. They encourage anyone who has other ideas of ways to encourage peace to reach out for support.

Friends agreed to accept the reports that have been submitted so far.

Faith & Practice Committee—John Coffin presented. ([report attached](#))

Austin tan Cerca de la Frontera—presented by Joanna Vaughn. ([report attached](#))

### **Other Business:**

Betty Drexler has been having a stuffed bear reach out to kids in her meeting. She ended up creating a book for the children. It was a reminder for the children about the meeting and trying to keep them connected. The video of this will be shared on the SCYM website.

Publications—presented by Liz Yeats.

Publications did not do a paper directory this year. Cathy Guttentag updates the online directory. Please send updates to her so that she can update it.

Liz Yeats posts to the SCYM website and SCYM Facebook page; she enjoys this work even though the work has increased. The system sometimes sends emails to the spam folders. Please update your information with Cathy Guttentag if you have not been getting emails. Liz Yeats has been managing the Zoom account. The SCYM tech helpers are also adjunct members of the committee.

The procedures manual updated by Bill Sweet is up to date so you can use that to find out about how SCYM committees and work is organized. He submitted a brief written report. ([attached](#))

Anne Collins said that it is hard to find the proceedings on-line. She thinks keeping the minutes online might be good, but maybe the newsletter could continue. Val Liveoak was unclear if the committee is going to work on this issue. She feels it would be better to season this in the committee. John Coffin agreed with this. He also pointed out that it is easier to read a longer document in a hard copy. Also, that having a newsletter is a way to have something to give to new attenders at the different meetings.

Lori Laub points out that the cost of printing has gone up significantly in the last few years and feels this should be considered. Will King encourages us to also consider the environmental impact.

Pam Arnold points out that as an ageing community and what is comfortable for younger people, might not be comfortable for older members. She said that she would be willing to make a designated contribution for this. Val Liveoak asked what if the bulk copies of these minutes were sent to the monthly meeting, so that the cost was less. And perhaps others could opt in rather than opt out.

Lizzie Leshner wondered if perhaps the newsletters could be printed out by each meeting. That way they could have the amount printed for when they are needed. Perhaps the new fund for technical support could help meetings get a printer to cover this difficulty. Galia Harrington said Friends could easily print a hard copy because on the website they could have a pdf print version.

Liz Yeats spoke her appreciation for this conversation. However, there really isn't a "publications" committee. It's a group of people who do different jobs. So, it might not work to have the committee

season this decision. John Coffin looked at the idea that we might only print a smaller number of the copies of these. He feels sending out a publication to Friends is part of inclusiveness.

Meeting closed at 3:30 with a period of open worship.

### **Session III: Saturday, 26 Ninth Month, 10:30AM-12:00 PM**

Friends gathered at the appointed time with a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Jan Michaels read from the Lubbock Friends of Christ State of the Meeting report. Val Liveoak served as Associate Clerk.

Clerk asked us to hold our clerk Gerald Jimmy, Jr in the light. He is currently in the hospital and we miss his Light.

Clerk asked that other Friends step forward to help with the writing of the epistle. So far Will King and Joni Thibault Mize have stepped forward to join.

Clerk asked Friends interested in the talent show to contact Jessica Arjet. Clerk asked that any celebrations be shared so that we could write a minute of celebration.

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

Virtual Ministry—Use of Raise Hands feature to be recognized by clerk; reminder to keep muted unless speaking, then re-mute; thumbs up under Reactions tab for approval when needed;

### **Representative and Committee Reports Continued:**

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)—report prepared by Danielle Evans and it was read by Jessica Arjet. ([attached](#))

Finance Committee—Pat Sweet presented the report. ([attached](#))

The Committee recommends: \$25 registration for this meeting, \$25 registration for Representative Meeting, \$50 registration for Yearly Meeting if it is held in person. There would be an extra fee for people staying in the motel rooms, as has been our practice. There should be a space for donations on the registration page.

Jimmy Pryor said that there has been an accumulation in the fund for Yearly Meeting Sessions from the General Operating fund. There is enough to cover most of the fees. This would be an encouragement and a celebration to bring people back together when we can gather in person.

Val Liveoak wondered what the plan is for knowing when it is safe to have an in-person meeting. How do we determine that and when? Anne Collins felt that we could bring in a committee consisting of Planning, and the Heads of Committees. Bette Drexler asked if she could send in a registration check that was larger than required to apply to the events budget to support a less expensive Yearly Meeting. Lori Laub said it would be helpful to send a note so that she could apply it to the correct budget.

Clerk asked that we move back to the discussion of the Finance Committee report and approve that first.

Lizzie Leshner reiterated the need for safety in deciding on the meeting next year. Pat Sweet suggested that it could be a hybrid meeting for different safety needs. John Coffin talked to the point of expenses and how expensive it feels like to come to SCYM. He felt that the \$50 would be really helpful in renewing interest in coming events.

*SCYM Minute 2020.1—Friends approve the new 2020-2021 finance fee structures for the upcoming SCYM meetings, \$25 for the fall SCYM online sessions, \$25 for the online representatives meeting, and \$50 for the Spring Sessions if the Spring Sessions are held in person. If the annual SCYM sessions are held solely on-line, then the fee structure will be redetermined.*

Pat Sweet let us know that 2019 representatives meeting had asked to relook at the fee structure for representatives meeting. However, with the current situation it seemed reasonable to wait on this issue.

*SCYM Minute 2020.2—Friends approve the 2020-2021 Budget.*

(The budget is on page 7 of the Treasurer's Report.) ([attached](#))

Clerk led us back to the discussion of where and when to hold the 2021 SCYM sessions.

There was a proposal to ask the Planning Committee, Representatives Meeting, the heads of committees, and a representative from each meeting to discuss how to ensure inclusive and safe Yearly Meeting sessions in spring 2021 and if we should move it to a later time. Friends decided to move the discussion to Representatives Meeting.

Thoughts brought up:

- Easter is April 4 and 60 days before that is February 4.
- We might need to meet more closely to the time to be sure we are being safe.
- There is a great deal of planning that doesn't have to do with just doing the YM or not.
- It is unlikely that there will be in-person sessions given the current scientific evidence.
- It would be good to just meet in November to get things in place.
- If the sessions are online, we might look at changing the date to a later date
- We will take this discussion up at Representatives Meeting.

*SCYM Minute 2020.3—Friends agree to have Representatives meeting online on November 21, 2020.*

Meeting closed at 12:06 PM with a period of open worship.

#### **Session IV: Sunday, 27 Ninth Month, 9:00 – 10:30 AM**

Friends gathered after the appointed time with a period of open worship. Clerk welcomed Friends and explained that Gerald Jimmy, Jr. is still in the hospital, so Karen Takemoto will continue as the presiding clerk and Val Liveoak will continue as the acting associate clerk. Jessica Arjet remains the recording clerk.

Review of agenda—Clerk reviewed the agenda for this morning's session. Friends asked to read the Epistle after the Peace & Justice Committee Report. Friends were easy with this suggestion, so the rearrangement was made.

Virtual Ministry—Use of Raise Hands feature to be recognized by the clerk; reminder to keep muted unless speaking, then re-mute; thumbs up under Reactions tab for approval when needed.

Nominating Committee—Galia Harrington presented the positions of service the Committee is recommending at this time.

*SCYM Minute 2020.4—Friends approved the following Friends for a term of service on the following committees:*

- *Faith and Practice - Mac Lemann - in service through 2023*
- *Ministry and Care - Lizzie Leshner - in service through 2022*
- *Quaker Earth Care Witness - Cathy Ivash - in service through 2022*
- *Youth Program Support - Cheryl Husband -in service through 2023*

#### **Minutes of Appreciation –**

*SCYM Minute 2020.5—Friends expressed thanks and appreciation to the Friends who are leaving their service.*

Galia read out the open positions and asked Friends to consider stepping forward to fill these roles.

Registrar's Report—Val Liveoak presented the report.

There were 114 registrations.

There were 85 adults who are part of SCYM attending.

There were 29 visitors, 9 of whom were workshop facilitators.

The other 20 were guests, visitors or undeclared.

There were 10 additional attendees (who shared a device with another attendee) 9 adults and 1 child.

South Central Yearly Meeting State of the Yearly Meeting Report—Presented by Jan Michaels. (*report to be posted at [www.scym.org](http://www.scym.org) when it is available*)

Peace & Justice Committee Report—presented by Paula Keeth

The Peace and Justice committee suggested that SCYM send \$200 to the Ugandan Safe Transport to help with helping Ugandan LBGTQIA people go to safety.

Warren Wilson Reiner pointed out that the Peace and Justice committee has discretionary funds to use for this purpose. Other Friends helped us with correct procedure. Lizzie Lescher expressed how urgent this matter is and how important it is for Friends to support this work. Alex McDonald pointed out that much of this hatred comes from US missionaries and others from the US going over to Uganda to foment this hatred.

Will King expressed how grateful he was that the Peace and Justice committee had decided to make contributions to this cause. Don pointed out that there is a meeting in Uganda that is LBGTQIA friendly and they are suffering.

***SCYM Minute 2020.6**—Friends approved the reintroduction of our support for the Olympia Washington Friends FUST program. The FUST program financially supports moving LBGTQI individuals out of Uganda in response to the reintroduction of the “Kill the Gays” bill. As of 9/6/2020 FUST has assisted in getting 2281 individuals out of the country. SCYM understands the urgency of this need and supports the Peace and Justice committee’s use of their discretionary fund to send \$200 to FUST.*

*Also SCYM encourages individuals and/or Monthly Meetings send donations directly to the Olympia Meeting at the address below or donate through the website.*

Olympia Friends Meeting  
F.U.S.T. program  
3201 Boston Harbor Road NE  
Olympia, WA 98506-2800  
FUST in the memo line of the check  
360-888-5291  
<http://friendsugandansafetransport.org>  
[info@friendsugandansafetransport.org](mailto:info@friendsugandansafetransport.org)

Epistle Reading—Will King read the 2020 Epistle Draft. Anne Collins and Joni Thibault Mize also supported the writing of this.

***SCYM Minute 2020.7**—Friends approved the 2020 Epistle for forwarding to Friends everywhere. [\(attached\)](#)*

Minutes of Celebration

Austin -

- Milo Aram Kiureghian was born on September 6, 2019 to Leah Kiureghian and Raffi Kiureghian, Note: Milo took his first step yesterday, September 26, 2020
- Magnolia Fullerton McNiel was born on May 18, 2020 to Katharine Hope Fullerton McNiel and David McNiel
- Adrian Quereau Briggs, grandson of Tobin Quereau was born on May 19, 2020 to Jennifer and Eamon Briggs

Memorial Minutes— (the memorial minutes will be posted at [www.scym.org](http://www.scym.org) when they are available)

Coastal Bend Friends Meeting

- Mimosa Catherine Thomas

Fort Worth Friends Meeting

- Jean Baggerly

Live Oak Friends Meeting

- MaryBeth Smith
- Darrell Austin Hutto
- Ortrud Maria Sonnenburg Hauwert
- Robert D. Stecker Jr. (Dr. Bob)

Georgetown Worship Group

- John Moorman

2020 Representative Meeting—Will be November 20-22, 2020 via Zoom

2021 Yearly Meeting—Will be April 1-4, 2021, location pending COVID situation

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

**Session V: Sunday, 27 Ninth Month, 2:45PM – 3:45 PM**

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

Celebration:

Sammy Husbands of Barbados and Norman Monthly Meeting member Cheryl Paizis (now Cheryl Husbands) were married in the manner of Friends, and under the care of the Norman Monthly Meeting at our regular meeting place, St. Anselm of Canterbury Episcopal Student Center in Norman, Oklahoma on January 5, 2020. Their marriage celebration was a “capacity crowd” and the Norman Monthly Meeting feels great joy for the happy couple. This is the first marriage to be held under the care of the Norman Monthly Meeting. We will continue to hold them in the light and be at their disposal in any way possible.

COVID Memorial Minute:

Friends approved the following minute on COVID.

***SCYM Minute 2020.8***—As we find ourselves experiencing an unprecedented pandemic, we acknowledge the profound state of mourning in our nation and our world for those lost to the coronavirus. As we meet in late September 2020, the official count of deaths nationally has passed 200,000 and the worldwide death count approaches one million. We hold in the Light all those who have died and their loved ones; their friends and family who may have been unable to be present while they were ill or unable to mourn together afterward. We mourn as well with those whose losses may include

*employment, healthcare, support services, even homes, and acknowledge that these losses may complicate or prolong their grief.*

*And we are all the more grateful, more joyful and inspired, to have fellowship with our loved ones, both friends and family.*

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

Virtual Ministry—Use of Raise Hands feature to be recognized by clerk; reminder to keep muted unless speaking, then re-mute; thumbs up under Reactions tab for approval when needed;

Peace & Justice Committee Report (cont.)

**SCYM Minute 2020.9**—*Friends approved a minute on Responding to White Supremacy and Police Violence.* ([attached](#))

Val Liveoak suggested that these action steps be added when this minute is sent to be used by Friends:

- Send the Minute to Monthly Meetings with a request that they take this concern up and report to the Peace and Justice committee by February 2021 regarding their leadings in this matter.
- Send this Minute to local, state and national media for publication, including Quaker media, our website and social media. Send to local, state and national legislators and officials and report back to the Peace and Justice committee.

Bette Drexler stood aside from this minute.

Will King spoke and asked that we publish the minute as a whole so that we had the full meaning of the text. Val Liveoak said that we might send this out on our letterhead to send to newspapers, etc. A friend felt that the final paragraph, especially the portion about foreign policy seemed out of place. Liz spoke to the need for minutes like this and said that when she spoke in the Texas State Legislature to the laws of same sex marriage. The full minute was important to testify to our values widely.

There was discussion surrounding the foreign policy, some friends thinking that our foreign policy was an outgrowth of white supremacy, and so felt that this needed to remain.

**SCYM Minute 2020.10**—*Friends approved a minute on the Indigenous Crisis.* ([attached](#))

Peace and Justice Committee introduced a minute on children's fundamental human rights and protections. ([attached](#))

It was decided to postpone discussion of this minute until Representative Meeting because we lacked the time to give it our full attention.

**SCYM Minute 2020.11**—*Friends approved a minute on our opposition to capital punishment.* ([attached](#))

**SCYM Minute 2020.12**—*Meeting accepts, with gratitude, all the reports from our Friends in service as representatives to outside organizations and SCYM committees received in our previous sessions this weekend. We thank these Friends for their service in representing and serving our Yearly Meeting and greatly appreciate the information they bring back from these outside organizations.*

Meeting closed at 4:45 with a period of open worship.