South Central Yearly Meeting of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
18 – 21 Fourth Month 2019
Greene Family Camp
Bruceville, TX

Session I: Thursday, 18 Fourth Month, 6:45 – 7:45 PM

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

Clerks’ table – serving at the clerk’s table are Liz Yeats, Clerk, and Warren Wilson-Reiner, Recording Clerk. Clerk invited Howard Hawhee to join the clerks at the table as acting Associate Clerk for the beginning of this session.

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

Vocal Ministry – Clerk reminded 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. She also asked Friends to identify themselves and their home meeting when speaking.

Clerk shared with Friends that we now meet on lands that once belonged to Native American tribes. This was Waco Indian Territory with the Tawakoni to the east and the Naishan Dene (Plains Apache) to the west.

Welcome and Introductions – Clerk introduced and welcomed our visitors who have arrived so far:

* Jacob Flowers, South Region Regional Director, American Friends Service Committee (not present)
* Maya Flowers-Glass, youth (not present)
* David Nachman, Tempe Monthly Meeting, Intermountain Yearly Meeting, Friends General Conference Yearly Meeting Visitor

Nominating Committee – Galia Harrington for our Nominating Committee presented a preliminary report recommending Gerald Jimmy, Jr. from Dallas Monthly Meeting for service as Associate Clerk.

SCYM 2019.01 – Friends approve for service Gerald Jimmy, Jr. as Associate Clerk for this year’s session of Yearly Meeting with the understanding that he will become Presiding Clerk at rise of this Yearly Meeting session.

By approval of Gerald’s nomination, Howard was released from service at the clerks’ table and Gerald joined Liz and Warren at the table.

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
* Val Liveoak, Registrar, Friends Meeting of San Antonio
* Denise Wilkinson, Associate Registrar, Friends Meeting of San Antonio
* Jasmine Zowniriw and Jonathan Clauss, Co-Youth Program Coordinators

SCYM 2019 Epistle – Clerk announced she had invited Gretchen Haynes (convenor), David Nachman, and Almeta Smith to serve as this year’s Epistle Committee. Clerk asked other Friends who may have an interest in joining this ministry to contact her.
Suzanne Cole Sullivan from our Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee asked Friends to consider serving as either mike runners or epistle readers during our business sessions this weekend. Friends should get in touch with either Suzanne or Dale Bordelon if they are interested in participating in this ministry.

Clerk invited Friends of all ages to take time to drop in on one of our youth program groups over the course of the weekend.

Meeting closed at 7:40 PM after a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Suzanne Cole Sullivan read from the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) 2018 Epistle.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Friday, 19 Fourth Month, at 9:00 AM.

**Session II: Friday, 19 Fourth Month, 9:00-10:45 AM**

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

**Vocal Ministry** – Clerk reminded 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. She also asked Friends to identify themselves and their home meeting when speaking.

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

Clerk asked the Recording Clerk to read excerpts from our previous business session.

**Welcome and Introductions** – Clerk introduced and welcomed our visitor who was unable to attend our opening session last night:

- Jacob Flowers, South Region Regional Director, American Friends Service Committee

**Preliminary Treasurer’s Report** – Bill Wilkinson, Treasurer, and Lori Laub, Assistant Treasurer presented the FY 2018-2019 Treasurer’s Report and the FY 2019-2020 Proposed Operating Budget [attached]. Bill indicated that he and Lori are in the process of transitioning and handing over the Treasurer responsibilities to Lori as she will become the Treasurer at the rise of this Yearly Meeting and Bill will be released from service. Lori reminded Friends that our fiscal year is July 1 – June 30. Bill indicated we were able to fund additional travel to support the planning process for the 2019 Friends General Conference Gathering since we have a surplus in the Delegate Travel Fund. Bill raised a concern with regards to the expenses Yearly Meeting incurs with our publications. Is it appropriate for us to continue spending around $1200 a year to print copies of our Yearly Meeting Newsletter, Proceedings and Directory? Clerk indicated there will be time on this weekend’s agenda to begin a conversation about print publishing with the expectation that the conversation will continue at the 2019 Representative Meeting.

A Friend raised a concern as to whether or not our Operating Budget covers all the miscellaneous expenses Friends incur to support the operations of Yearly Meeting. Bill indicated it can be difficult to track actual expenses as some Friends consider their expenses as In-Kind donations to the Yearly Meeting and do not actually forward receipts for reimbursement to the Treasurer. Bill indicated that the Operating Budget is a framework for our fiscal operations; he does not reject reimbursement requests for any reasonable expense. Clerk indicated it is important that Friends know that our Yearly Meeting will support everyone in service to our Yearly Meeting. Friends are encouraged to visit with a member of our Finance Committee before the 2020 Operating Budget is brought back for final approval on Saturday if they have any concerns or questions.

**2019 Friends General Conference Gathering Planning Committee Report** – Jan Michael and Liz Yeats are in service as co-clerks for the 2019 Friends General Conference Gathering to be held 30 Sixth Month through 6 Seventh Month 2019 at Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA. Jan presented a report on behalf of the Gathering Planning Committee.

A year ago, South Central Yearly Meeting was invited to consider hosting the 2019 Friends General Conference Gathering. Jan was not sure what this might entail, but Yearly Meeting did agree to host the event
at last year’s Yearly Meeting session. Many Gathering sub-committees have been working over this last year to make the 2019 Gathering a reality. Many South Central Yearly Meeting Friends – some who have never attended Friends General Conference Gathering in the past – have joined the process by working with one of the planning sub-committees. Jan shared that financial assistance to attend the Gathering is available: Friends General Conference offers some financial assistance, and financial assistance is available from our Ministry & Care Committee. Ministry & Care is also open to receiving contributions to support this financial aid.

Many Yearly Meeting Monthly Meetings have supported the planning process including Live Oak Friends Meeting, Little Rock Friends Meeting, Friends Meeting of Austin, and Dallas Friends Meeting.

Representative Reports

- **Texas Impact** – Emily Northrop presented a report for Texas Impact [attached]. Emily indicated she would be interested in travelling to any meeting in Texas who might be interested in having her present a program related to the work of Texas Impact. Texas Friends are encouraged to contact Emily if this is of interest to them. In response to Emily’s request for feedback and direction, Clerk reminded Friends that the Yearly Meeting website <scym.org> is a perfect tool for getting information out to monthly meetings and worship groups. Clerk also indicated that the Publications Committee tries to maintain a current contact list for all meetings and worship groups within the Yearly Meeting. This list can help facilitate communications between Yearly Meeting representatives and those meetings.

- **Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Gay Concerns** – Suzanne Cole Sullivan presented a report for FLGBTQC [attached].

- **Quaker Earthcare Witness** – Danielle Evans presented a report for QEW [attached].

Meeting closed at 10:45 AM after a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Dale Bordelon, Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the Britain Yearly Meeting 2018 Epistle.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Friday, 19 Fourth Month, at 3:45 PM.

**Session III: Friday, 19 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, Ministry & Care Committee, read from the Galveston Friends Meeting State of the Meeting report.

**Vocal Ministry** – Clerk reminded 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. She also asked Friends to identify themselves and their home meeting when speaking.

**Review of agenda** – Clerk reviewed the agenda for this afternoon’s session. We will continue the reports from our representatives. Clerk informed Friends that she would like to begin a discussion related to printing of Yearly Meeting documents: SCYM News, Directory, and Proceedings. She expects this conversation to carry over and continue at our 2019 Representative Meeting.

Representative Reports (continued)

- **Quaker Religious Education Collaborative** – Anne Collins presented a report for QREC [attached]. Anne requests that the epistle from QREC-East Africa be included in this year’s proceedings [attached].

- **Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)** – Lori Laub presented a report for FWCC [attached]. Our Associate Clerk read a letter from Gretchen Castle, General Secretary, FWCC [attached].

- **Arkansas Interfaith Alliance** – John Coffin presented a report for the Arkansas Interfaith Alliance [attached].
• American Friends Service Committee – Sisca and Rex Friend shared a report from AFSC [attached]. The Recording Clerk read a report received by the Yearly Meeting from Jacob Flowers, Regional Director, South Region, AFSC [attached].

• Friends General Conference – Mary Hampton presented a report for FGC [attached].

• Friends Peace Teams – Val Liveoak presented a report for FPT [attached].


• Friends Committee on National Legislation – Suzanne Cole Sullivan presented a report for FCNL [attached]. A report received by the Yearly Meeting from Bridget Moix, Clerk, FCNL General Committee, will be included in our Proceedings [attached].

• Oklahoma Council of Churches – Rex Friend presented a report for the Oklahoma Council of Churches [attached].

Meeting closed at 5:15 PM after a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Suzanne Cole Sullivan, Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the Quakers in Belgium & Luxembourg 2018 Epistle.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Saturday, 20 Fourth Month, at 10:45 AM.

Session IV: Saturday, 20 Fourth Month, 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Friends gathered after the appointed time with a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Joanna Vaughn, Ministry & Care Committee, read from the Longview Worship Group State of the Meeting report.

Vocal Ministry – Clerk reminded 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. She also asked Friends to identify themselves and their home meeting when speaking.

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

Representative Reports (continued)

• Austin tan Cerca de la Frontera – Joanna Vaughan presented a report for ATCF [attached].

Committee Reports

• Ministry & Care Committee – Jan Michael shared a report from our Ministry & Care Committee [attached].

• Peace & Justice Committee – Paula Keeth shared a report from our Peace & Justice Committee [attached]. Paula also shared a minute on immigration from the Santa Fe (NM) Monthly Meeting dated 18 November 2018 [included in attached report from Peace & Justice].

SCYM 2019.02 – Meeting endorses the minute on immigration approved by the Santa Fe (NM) Monthly Meeting dated 18 November 2018. A copy of the minute will be forwarded to clerks of all monthly meetings/worship groups within South Central Yearly Meeting with a suggestion that they share this minute with their local, state and federal officials responsible for enforcing immigration issues. Clerk will notify Santa Fe Monthly Meeting and Intermountain Yearly Meeting that we endorse this minute.

A minute from Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting on climate change was reviewed by the Committee [attached]. It was decided that this minute was written by Quakers for other Quakers, and that it would not be useful for further action by our Yearly Meeting as written. The Committee
recognizes that this minute does have value as it sparked a deep and meaningful conversation within the Committee. The Committee feels called that work be done between now and our 2019 Representative Meeting to craft a minute that reflects the concerns and possible action points for/byst South Central Yearly Meeting. Bill Sweet, Jimmy Pryor, Cathy Ivash, Paula Keeth, and Alex McDonald – with other Friends – have agreed to take on this task.

Bayou Quarterly Meeting recognizes that racism and xenophobia have been a part of United States culture from its very beginning. Bayou Quarterly invites monthly meeting/worship groups within South Central Yearly Meeting to gather information about what they are doing to challenge racism and share it both within the Yearly Meeting and with the larger Quaker community via Friends General Conference “Yearly Meeting Work on Racism” page and in other ways.

SCYM 2019.03 – Yearly Meeting charges our Peace & Justice Committee to contact monthly meetings/worship groups within South Central Yearly Meeting to gather information about what they are doing to challenge racism and xenophobia. We ask the Committee to report to our 2019 Representative Meeting about their progress in this ministry.

The Committee considered additional financial contributions to Quaker organizations. The Committee recommends the following contributions from this year’s FY 2019 Operating Budget: $100 to the Quaker Institute for the Future, and an additional contribution of $100 to Texas Impact.

Meeting closed at 12:20 PM after a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Suzanne Cole Sullivan, Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the North Pacific Yearly Meeting 2018 Epistle.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Saturday, 20 Fourth Month, at 2:45 PM.

Session V: Saturday, 20 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 & Care Committee, read from the Fayetteville Friends Meeting State of the Meeting report.

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

Vocal Ministry – Clerk reminded 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. She also asked Friends to identify themselves and their home meeting when speaking.

Committee Reports (continued)

• Treasurer’s Report with proposed budget for approval – Lori Laub and Bill Wilkinson brought back the proposed FY 2020 budget they shared during their report yesterday morning. They indicated the proposed budget is almost identical to the FY 2019 Operating Budget; they anticipate an additional $5.00 in interest income. A Friend asked under what conditions can the budget for a line item be increased. Lori invited Friends to get this kind of a request to the Treasurer in advance of Representative Meeting where it can be seasoned by the Finance Committee prior to the following Yearly Meeting session.

SCYM 2019.04 – Meeting accepts the Treasurer’s report for FY 2018-2019 as presented in our business session II and approves the FY 2019-2020 Operating Budget for $23,325.00 as presented by our Treasurers.

• Archivist – Mary Hampton, Yearly Meeting Archivist, shared her report [attached]. Mary shared that Glenna Balch, Friends Meeting of Austin, is in service as co-Archivist with Mary. Friends ask our Archivist(s) to make available to Friends in the Yearly Meeting, a list of which of our yearly meeting documents are on file with the Quaker Historical Library at Swarthmore College.

• Faith & Practice – John Coffin shared a report from our Faith & Practice Committee [attached].
• **Nominating Committee** – Galia Harrington shared a preliminary report from our Nominating Committee that reflects open positions of service:
  o Faith & Practice Committee – one position
  o Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) representative – one position
  o Louisiana Interfaith Conference representative – one position
  o Ministry & Care Committee – three positions
  o Nominating Committee – one position
  o Associate On-Site Technical Coordinator – one position
  o Peace & Justice Committee – four positions
  o Associate Registrar – one position
  o Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee – two positions
  o Yearly Meeting Planning Committee – three positions
  o Youth Program Support Committee – two positions
  o First Day School for Monthly Meetings Committee – two positions

A final nominating report of all positions of service – continuing and new appointments – will be brought back to our Sunday morning session for approval.

• **Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting** – Suzanne Cole Sullivan shared a report from our Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee [attached].

• **ad hoc Procedures Manual Committee** – Bill Sweet shared an update from our ad hoc Procedures Manual Committee [attached].

**Printing of Yearly Meeting Documents** – We currently spend around $1,200.00 each year to produce printed copies of our Proceedings, Yearly Meeting Directory, and our newsletter, *Yearly Meeting News*. Clerk invited Friends to begin a discussion about the consequences of reducing the amount of material we print on an annual basis with the understanding that this conversation will continue at our 2019 Representative Meeting.

**First Reading of the 2019 SCYM Epistle** – Joni Mize shared a first reading of our 2019 Epistle. One Friend asked if text about our Family Fun Night will be included in the final document. Gretchen Haynes said there will be text about the Family Fun Night. She also indicated the working group intends to include and expand on the information related to the American Friends Service Committee.

**Report on the 2018 Representative Meeting venue and discussion of future sites** – Clerk indicated a discussion began at our 2018 Representative Meeting about possible venues for our Representative Meeting. Clerk indicated that a Friend of Color attending the 2018 Representative Meeting felt very uncomfortable driving the back roads of Texas to get to the Camp. Clerk indicated there is not enough time on today’s schedule to continue this discussion, but that we will continue this conversation at our 2019 Representative Meeting. Clerk invited Friends who have questions/concerns to e-mail them to <clerks@scym.org> in advance of our 2019 Representative Meeting to be held at Greene Family Camp, 22-24 Eleventh Month 2019.

Meeting closed at 4:10 PM after a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Suzanne Cole Sullivan, Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the Intermountain Yearly Meeting 2018 Epistle.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Sunday, 21 Fourth Month, at 9:00 AM.

**Session VI: Sunday, 21 Fourth Month, 9:00 – 10:30 AM**

Friends gathered at the appointed time with a period of open worship. Out of the silence, Jan Michael, Ministry & Care Committee, read from the Hill Country Society of Friends (Kerrville, TX) State of the Meeting report.

**Vocal Ministry** – Clerk reminded 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. She also asked Friends to identify themselves and their home meeting when speaking.
Review of agenda – Clerk reviewed the agenda for this morning’s session.

SCYM Child/Youth and Staff Protection Policy – Jasmine Zowniriw and Jonathan Clauss, co-Youth Program Coordinators, shared that the Youth Program Support Committee is completing work on a Child/Youth and Staff Protection Policy for South Central Yearly Meeting. They shared that even though work is progressing on the completion of this policy that they are uncomfortable with there being no policy in place this weekend. As such, they presented a Temporary Child Safety Policy [attached] that they would like Friends to approve for the remainder of our Yearly Meeting sessions this weekend. They shared that their first priority is the safety of all youth who participate in any and all Yearly Meeting activities.

SCYM 2019.05 – Meeting approves the implementation of the Temporary Child Safety Policy for the remainder of the year’s Yearly Meeting sessions as presented by our co-Youth Program Coordinators.

Clerk invites any Friend who may have questions and/or concerns related to child/youth protection issues to be in touch with a member of our Youth Program Support Committee so that those concerns can be addressed by that Committee while they complete their work on the final draft of this Policy. Clerk requests that, if possible, the complete text of this draft document be sent to all monthly meetings/worship groups within South Central Yearly Meeting by this Committee prior to our 2019 Representative Meeting so that Friends attending Representative Meeting will be prepared to continue work on adopting such a policy.

Nominating Committee – Galia Harrington, Nominating Committee, presented the new positions of service the Committee is recommending at this time:

- Clerk of Yearly Meeting: Gerald Jimmy, Jr. 2019-2021
- Associate Clerk: Liz Yeats 2019-2020
- Recording Clerk: Jessica Arjet 2019-2021
- Faith & Practice: Robin McCart-Morris, Danielle Evans, Jim Weber, Mitch Richardson 2019-2021
- Finance: Bill Wilkerson, 2019-2022
- FWCC: Scott Carmack 2019-2022
- Louisiana Interfaith: Jim Johnson 2019-2021
- Ministry & Care: Pam Arnold, Kathy Ivash, 2019-2021
- Website Content Manager: Liz Yeats 2019-2022
- Peace & Justice: Crystal Redfield, Mac Lemann 2019-2021
- Treasurer: Lori Laub 2019-2024
- Worship Oversight: Neil Redfield, Tracy Carmack, Joni Mize 2019-2021
- Yearly Meeting Planning: Victoria Griffin and Denise Wilkinson 2019-2021
- Quaker Religious Education Collaborative representative: Anne Collins 2019-2021

SCYM 2019.06 – Friends approve for service the names, positions and terms of service brought forward from our Nominating Committee.

Positions of service that are still open include: Ministry & Care (one position), Nominating Committee (two positions): one from Friends Meeting of San Antonio and one from Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting, Associate On-Site Technical Coordinator, Associate Registrar, Yearly Meeting Planning Committee (two positions, including the clerk), Youth Program Support (two positions).

Galia indicated the Committee needs to know if Friends want to lay down the First Day School for Monthly Meetings Committee? Do we wish to add a Quaker Religious Education Collaborative representative?

SCYM 2019.07 – Friends approve laying down the First Day School for Monthly Meetings Committee and approve the creation of a Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) representative.
Clerk requested that the Nominating Committee produce a roster of all positions of service to the Yearly Meeting including all current and newly appointed Friends in service [attached].

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

Youth Program Report – Jasmine Zownirw and Jonathan Clauss, co-Youth Program Coordinator, presented their report on the youth program [attached].

SCYM Epistle – Joni Mize, on behalf of our Epistle Committee, presented the Epistle for our 2019 Yearly Meeting sessions [attached].

SCYM 2019.08 – Friends approve the Epistle for our 2019 Yearly Meeting sessions as presented.

Elementary Friends Epistle – Liam Randles, Vivian Risdorfer, Griffin Jager-Cash, and Sophia Crawford-Vargas presented the Elementary Friends Epistle for our 2018 Yearly Meeting sessions [attached].

Junior Young Friends Epistle – Karel Friend, Augie Friend, and presented Erik Ivash presented the Junior Friends Epistle for our 2019 Yearly Meeting sessions. [NOTE: no copy of this epistle was submitted for publication]

Senior Young Friends Epistle – [NAME], Young Friends, presented their Epistle for our 2019 Yearly Meeting sessions [attached]. Eliza Dean-Polacheck will continue service as the Clerk of Young Friends and Haley Ferryman will continue as Recording Clerk of Young this next year.

Memorial Minutes – [see Memorial Minutes for full text]

- Doug Balfour – San Antonio Friends Meeting
- Richard Barchfield – SCYM
- Sharon Booton – Galveston Friends Meeting
- Phyllis Mildred Calhoun Byerly – Oklahoma City Friends Meeting
- Willie Ferguson – Little Rock Friends Meeting
- Ralene Hearn – Baton Rouge Friends Meeting
- Gene Ivash – Friends Meeting of Austin
- Joan Libby – Live Oak Friends Meeting
- Ruth Lofgren – San Antonio Friends Meeting
- May Mansoor Munn – Live Oak Friends Meeting
- Lori Segura – San Antonio Friends Meeting
- Pete SoRelle – Dallas Friends Meeting
- Marlee Turner – Dallas Friends Meeting
- Gayle Twiname – Georgetown Friends Meeting
- Dorothy Warrington – SCYM

Bette Drexler shared that Friends Meeting of Live Oak learned this week that Audrey Hauwerd had passed away. Bette indicated they had not had time to prepare a memorial minute for her, but wanted SCYM Friends to know of her passing.

Terry SoRelle shared that Friends Meeting of Austin recently lost a dear f/Friend, JW Wostal. A memorial minute for her will be brought to next year’s Yearly Meeting sessions.

Minutes of Appreciation – Galia Harrington, Nominating Committee expressed their appreciation for Friends who are completing their service at this Yearly Meeting session:

- Clerk of Yearly Meeting: Liz Yeats
- Recording Clerk: Warren Wilson-Reiner
- Faith & Practice: Bev Randolph, Terry SoRelle
SCYM 2019.09 – Friends express appreciation to the Friends named by our Nominating Committee who have completed their terms of service to our Yearly Meeting.

SCYM 2019.10 – Friends minute appreciation to longtime member Marianne Lockard who has served South Central Yearly Meeting with compassion, acceptance, patience, and frequent good humor. She took on hard jobs such as clerking Yearly Meeting business sessions through difficult discussions and also assisted discernment with a monthly meeting laying itself down.

She was faithful in pursuing a calling and an appointment as traveling minister to visit every monthly meeting/worship group, worship with them, listen and care about them, and help them become more loving individuals and communities. She took joy in skits, songs, and parodies for Family Fun Night, and readily shared amusing stories about herself.

We deeply miss her as she finds herself less able to continue the activities for which she is so love.

2019 Representative Meeting – Clerk announced that our 2019 Representative Meeting will be held at Green Family Camp, Bruceville, TX, on 22-24 Eleventh Month 2019.

2019 Yearly Meeting – Clerk announced that the 2020 Yearly Meeting will be held at Green Family Camp, Bruceville, TX, on 9-12 Fourth Month 2020.

Meeting closed at 12:05 PM with a period of open worship.
South Central Yearly Meeting
FY 2018 – 2019 Treasurer’s Report
FY 2019 – 2020 Proposed Operating Budget
April 2019

CONTENTS
Page 3  FY 2018 - 2019 Balance Sheet
✓ The Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC) funds experienced a loss of $6,170.62 in July – December 2018. These should rebound somewhat in Q1 of 2019.
✓ Aside from the fluctuations in the FFC account, the financial position of SCYM remains steady.

Page 4  FY 2018 - 2019 Major Fund Balances
✓ The Boeger Fund experienced an increase of $674.04 thus far from funds received from FFC and no disbursements been made during this fiscal year.
✓ The Spiritual Enrichment Fund received $674.05 from FFC and disbursements of $150.00 have been made during this fiscal year.
✓ The General Fund is negative because of prepaid expenses for the Yearly Meeting Sessions and operating expenditures in excess of revenue.
✓ No other unusual activity to report.

Page 5  FY 2018 - 2019 Quaker & Interfaith Group Contributions
✓ All authorized contributions for this year have been disbursed.
The $200 balance in the budget is for the PSJ Committee to use at its discretion.

Page 6  FY 2018 - 2019 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.
FY 2018 - 2019 Statement of Activities

✓ **Income**: Member Meeting Support is slightly ahead of the same period last year. Thus far, eight Meetings have contributed between July 1 and February 28. We should be receiving an additional $8,500 from member Meetings between now and June 30, 2019. This brings total operating income up to approximately $21,600 against a budget of $23,320.

✓ **Expenses**: Committee expenses are higher than budget to cover the cost of transitioning Treasurers. Additionally, Web costs are higher because we paid for a three-year extension of our domain name/web services. Most other items are in line with the typical spending pattern of the Meeting.

2018 – 2019 YTD Operating Results and Proposed FY 2019 – 2020 Operating Budget

✓ The Meeting has had income equal to 56.3% of its budget and expense equal to 99.8% of its budget with 8 months (66.7%) of the fiscal year remaining. This is typical as the Meeting spends more in the early in the fiscal year and less later in the year. Additionally, the Meeting received about one-third of its income during the last 4 months of the fiscal year.

✓ The proposed FY 2019 – 2020 budget is identical to the FY 2018 – 2019 budget except that we expect to earn an additional $5.00 of interest.
# South Central Yearly Meeting

## FY 2018 - 2019 Balance Sheet

Through February 28, 2019

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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
<td>$ 93,589.12</td>
<td>$ 93,589.12</td>
<td>$ -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted Net Assets</td>
<td>$ 28,000.00</td>
<td>$ 28,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>(8,972.57)</td>
<td>$ 11,414.76</td>
<td>$ 12,558.71</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td>$ 122,669.33</td>
<td>$ 131,641.90</td>
<td>$ 122,492.48</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2/28/19</th>
<th>6/30/2018</th>
<th>6/30/2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 122,669.33</td>
<td>$ 131,641.90</td>
<td>$ 123,289.30</td>
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</table>
South Central Yearly Meeting  
FY 2018 - 2019 Major Fund Balances  
Through February 28, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>2/28/2019</th>
<th>6/30/18</th>
<th>6/30/17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boeger Fund</td>
<td>$3,340.00</td>
<td>$2,666.00</td>
<td>$2,570.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boeger Principal</td>
<td>$28,000.00</td>
<td>$28,000.00</td>
<td>$28,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delegate Travel Fund</td>
<td>$18,468.00</td>
<td>$15,747.00</td>
<td>$14,763.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Enrichment Fund</td>
<td>$10,636.00</td>
<td>$10,112.00</td>
<td>$9,866.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Events</td>
<td>$51,577.00</td>
<td>$49,161.00</td>
<td>$45,485.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>FWCC Triennial Fund</td>
<td>$6,043.00</td>
<td>$5,043.00</td>
<td>$4,043.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$(7,031.00)</td>
<td>$3,465.00</td>
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<td>Total Young Friends Fund</td>
<td>$3,235.00</td>
<td>$3,235.00</td>
<td>$2,712.00</td>
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<td>Adult Young Friends Fund</td>
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<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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</table>
South Central Yearly Meeting
FY 2018 - 2019 Quaker & Interfaith Group Contributions

Operating Expenses

**Quaker and Interfaith Groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friends Peace Teams</td>
<td></td>
<td>$325.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends Peace Teams - PLA</td>
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<td>$325.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSWR</td>
<td></td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FWCC</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,075.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGC</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFSC - Southern Region</td>
<td>New Orleans Office</td>
<td>$650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFSC</td>
<td></td>
<td>$650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCNL</td>
<td></td>
<td>$400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin Tan Cerca</td>
<td></td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Impact</td>
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<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana Interchurch Conference</td>
<td></td>
<td>$225.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quaker Earthcare Witness</td>
<td></td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Penn House</td>
<td></td>
<td>$200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Conference of Churches</td>
<td></td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas Interfaith Alliance</td>
<td></td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QREC</td>
<td></td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Quaker and Interfaith Groups**

$6,600.00

**TOTAL**

$6,600.00
## South Central Yearly Meeting
### FY 2018 - 2019 Delegate Travel Fund Disbursements

Through February 28, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/23/2018</td>
<td>$1,320.76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/23/2018</td>
<td>$1,297.94</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total FCNL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,618.70</strong></td>
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**FGC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/25/2018</td>
<td>$203.00</td>
<td>Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/25/2018</td>
<td>$947.09</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/23/2018</td>
<td>$352.68</td>
<td>Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total FGC</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,502.77</strong></td>
<td>**        **</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Delegate Travel - Other**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/30/2018</td>
<td>$745.00</td>
<td>QEW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/04/2018</td>
<td>$228.65</td>
<td>FLGBTQC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/09/2018</td>
<td>$183.87</td>
<td>QEW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Delegate Travel - Other</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,157.52</strong></td>
<td>**        **</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Delegate Travel**

$5,278.99

**Total Fund Disbursements**

$5,278.99

**TOTAL**

$5,278.99
## South Central Yearly Meeting
### FY 2018 - 2019 Statement of Activities

#### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Transfers</th>
<th>2/28/19</th>
<th>6/30/18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delegate Travel Fund</td>
<td>$8,000.00</td>
<td>$8,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FWCC Triennial Fund</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YM Subsidy Fund</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fund Transfers</strong></td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest/Dividends</td>
<td>$(4,804.08)</td>
<td>$6,974.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Income**

| Member Mtg Support                      | $13,112.00| $22,567.00|
| Total Operating Income                  | $13,112.00| $22,567.00|

**Special Income**

| Simple Meal                             | $275.00   |
| Hurricane Harvey                        | $1,020.00 |
| **Total Special Income**                | $1,295.00 |

**YM and RM Income**

| RM Income                                | $3,675.00 | $3,653.00 |
| YM Income                                | $24,130.50| $27,783.50|
| **Total YM and RM Income**               | $3,675.00 | $27,783.50|

**Total Income**

| $26,982.92                               | $73,620.25|

#### Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Disbursements</th>
<th>2/28/19</th>
<th>6/30/18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boeger Fund Disbursements</td>
<td>$ -</td>
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<td>Coffee Sale Distributions</td>
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<td>$ 200.00</td>
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<td>Delegate Travel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AFSC</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 593.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCNL</td>
<td>$2,618.70</td>
<td>$4,988.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGC</td>
<td>$1,502.77</td>
<td>$ 853.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPT</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 440.96</td>
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<td>FWCC</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delegate Travel - Other</td>
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<td>$ 139.24</td>
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<td>$ 7,016.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>TWCC Triennial</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvey Relief</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 1,020.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simple Meal Distribution</td>
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<td>Spiritual Enrichment Fund</td>
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<td>$ 400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Friends</td>
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<td>$ -</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fund Disbursements</strong></td>
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<td>$ 9,461.40</td>
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</table>
Operating Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Committee Exp</td>
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<td>$ 221.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate Travel Fund</td>
<td>$ 8,000.00</td>
<td>$ 8,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FWCC Triennial Fund</td>
<td>$ 1,000.00</td>
<td>$ 1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YM Subsidy Fund</td>
<td>$ 6,000.00</td>
<td>$ 6,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fund Contributions</strong></td>
<td>$ 15,000.00</td>
<td>$ 15,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directory</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 235.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mailing</td>
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<td>$ -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
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<td>Postage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quaker and Interfaith Groups</td>
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<td>$ 6,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCYM Administration</td>
<td>$ 237.15</td>
<td>$ 149.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>YM and RM Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>RM Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>YM Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total YM and RM Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>$ 29,368.54</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>$ 35,955.49</td>
<td>$ 62,205.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>(8,972.57)</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,414.76</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
South Central Yearly Meeting

FY 2018 - 2019 Year-to-Date Operating Results, and Proposed FY 2019 - 2020 Operating Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Income</td>
<td>$13,112.00</td>
<td>$23,300.00</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Income - Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Operating Income</td>
<td>$13,130.45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Total Income                 | $13,130.45                  | $23,320.00         | 56.3%                | $23,325.00                  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>$620.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Contributions</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate Travel Fund</td>
<td>$8,000.00</td>
<td>$8,000.00</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>$8,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FWCC Triennial Fund</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YM Subsidy Fund</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fund Contributions</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
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<td>100.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Publications</td>
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<td>Quaker and Interfaith Groups</td>
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<td>97.1%</td>
<td>$6,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCYM Administration</td>
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<td>$220.00</td>
<td>107.8%</td>
<td>$225.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expenses</td>
<td>$23,266.87</td>
<td>$23,320.00</td>
<td>99.8%</td>
<td>$23,325.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Expense                | $23,266.87                  | $23,320.00         | 99.8%                | $23,325.00                  |

| Net Income from Operations   | $(10,136.42)                |                    |                      | $-                          |
Representative Reports

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

April 11, 2019

Plenary #1; Presented by Pedro Rios
AFSC Director at the San Diego Border Relation.

He presented on the border situation, and how the President wrongly directed the officers to treat the people on each side of the fence so inhumanly. AFSC is working together with other faiths organizations, to show that “Love have No Border.” He gave the quote by Gloria Anzaldúa “The U.S.-Mexico Border es una herida abierta (an open wound) where the world grates against the first and bleeds …”

Plenary #2; Presented by Dr. Marc Lamont Hill
A professor Temple University

In his presentation, he mentioned that we need to not be so comfortable in our nest. We need to speak up on what is wrong, looking out for the other people regardless of their country, language, skin color.

AFSC is doing lots of amazing programs in our society and communities. The focus of the weekend corporation meeting April 11-13, 2019 included Immigration, Climate Change. These are what Quakers on AFSC corporation value. We can’t do all programs that address our values as Quakers, without more financial support. We need to help and support each other. We count on each to stand in solidarity with others to build for peace, justice, and a clean environment, etc. We can’t stand just AFSC on one side without strong Quaker support on the other side to keep the boat balanced and not sink in the middle of the sea, but we can sail the boat together and not sink. AFSC needs your support financially and spiritually to keep the light shining for the world around us. Please give even if it is $10 a week, $500 a year or month. Let’s feel good to contribute to Quaker organizations like AFSC, where we keep working on Quaker values.

American Friends Service Committee, Southern Region Report

As the American Friends Service Committee has lived into its 101st year of service towards a lasting peace through justice, we have celebrated some amazing resistance to the current social and political environment, while devoting significant time and energy to a deep discernment on the next 100 years of the AFSC.

Our work continues onward with daily actions towards the creation of what Dr. King called the “beloved community” by attempting to create lasting peace through the presence of justice; this is in line with AFSC’s mission. The examples of this work are too numerous to name with any sort of equanimity in a short report.
such as this one. But the depth and breadth of the current work of the AFSC is personified by looking at the example of our response to the exodus of many migrant caravans moving north towards our southern border.

It’s important first to know that the AFSC has worked in Central America and along the border with Mexico for many decades. Our current programs work in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Chiapas-Mexico, Tijuana-Mexico and San Diego. This history of our on the ground work all along the migrant caravan route, from start to finish, allowed the AFSC to have the trusted relationships and existing partnerships that were necessary to move quickly to respond to the needs of the multiple waves of migrants as the exodus started to build. Then once it was evident that there was a concentration in Tijuana of individuals being denied the ability to seek asylum in the US, AFSC utilized its position as a trusted faith leader in this country and its history of work on the ground to call for a national week of action that would provide people the opportunity to stand with the migrants across the border. The Love Knows No Borders mobilization brought more that 400 faith leaders to San Diego to pray that our nation changes direction and begins to welcome those that come to our country seeking refuge from violence. These faith leaders were met by militarized police and over 30 were arrested. This action was amplified by almost 80 solidarity actions across the country this past December. Thousands of individuals across the country were mobilized to take action, and millions more were impacted.

Currently, we are taking that same energy to launch a campaign to shut down the Homestead Child Prison in Florida, where our nation is housing thousands of children who have been separated from their families and locked up for seeking asylum in this country. Join us as we work to take concrete actions to end this violence and oppression.

In addition, our eight programs in the South are working diligently to protect, defend and envision a future where peace is made possible through the presence of justice. In Miami and Greensboro, we continue to accompany immigrants in their struggle to rebuild a broken immigration system. In West Virginia and Atlanta our economic justice initiatives are organizing from community centers to state capitals to ensure that the economic futures of our most vulnerable communities are protected. While our youth organizing programs in New Orleans, Washington DC, Baltimore, Atlanta, Miami and West Virginia continue their work to nurture future generations of active, educated and empowered leaders through their youth organizing activities.

This is only a part of current AFSC work in 17 countries and 35 cities across the United States. Every day, courageous individuals are coming together to demonstrate the transformative power of love to overcome violence, discrimination, and oppression. AFSC is honored to partner with communities around the globe in pursuing Peace & Justice. We hope you enjoy these highlights of our accomplishments from the past year as well as the opportunity to meet some of the constituents, volunteers, partners, staff, and supporters who make our work possible.

We are also excited to report on a new round of direct engagement between AFSC staff and Friends in Piedmont Friends Fellowship. The AFSC South Region has launched an ongoing Speaking Tour that brings AFSC staff to Friends Meeting for conversations, updates and dialogue about future work. The first phase of this tour included a distinct focus on re-connecting with Friends in North Carolina and South Carolina. We have enjoyed making new connections and rekindling old relationships and look forward to much more future engagement.

We encourage friends to learn more by visiting our website at www.afsc.org or pulling someone form the AFSC aside during this weekend’s gathering.

We also invite Friends to join us in utilizing the following resources and opportunities to become active in their meeting and community:

- Support the effort to Shut Down the Homestead Child Prison: www.afsc.org/homestead
- Learn the different ways to create sanctuary for people in your community with our Sanctuary Everywhere webinars: www.afsc.org/sanctuaryeverywherelive
• Further your self-study through the Changing Systems Changing Ourselves online course: www.afsc.org/csco
• Read Acting in Faith regularly: www.afsc.org/friends
• Visit our Friends Engage pages with many ways for Quakers to get involved: www.afsc.org/friendsengage

Thank you for all that you do! The AFSC stands ready to work with you to achieve the needed change in our country and in our world. Please do not hesitate to ask us how you might get further engaged.

Contact Information for the South Region’s leadership:

Jacob Flowers, Regional Director jflowers@afsc.org - 404-586-0460
Anyango Reggy, Associate Regional Director areggy@afsc.org - 404-586-0460

Arkansas Interfaith Alliance

The Alliance has been helpful during our celebration of “Arkansas Peace Week,” an event built around the United Nation’s annual International Day of Peace, which takes place on Sept. 21. In Little Rock, we’ve turned this into a week of peace and justice events, meetings, forums, lectures, public-square kinds of things; a coalition of non-profits in the county come together to pull this off. The Alliance has been helpful in fostering the increased participation from several of the three Mosques in town, encouraging their involvement in certain of the public events we are able to schedule.

The Alliance holds regular meetings during the year, many of which we have been unable to attend so far this year. It was helpful during the recent Legislative Session of the Arkansas General Assembly, which just recently adjourned. One of the hot-button issues, a bill purporting to be adding something “new” to personal defense options, a “Stand Your Ground” proposal, was in the end defeated because of many groups advocating against it, including faith-based groups and citizen-oriented peace and justice groups. In the end, even the governor expressed a view that such a bill was not needed in the state. Self-defense was already “pretty-well taken care of,” was the common sentiment. And fortunately so; several other gun proposals were left on the sidelines this year.

Meeting continues to enjoy and learn from its exposure to the Alliance.

John Coffin, Little Rock Friends Meeting

Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera

In 2018 Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera had:

- 3 delegations to the border: January, May and October. Approximately 20 people attended over the year. This includes interpreters, facilitators and drivers.

- 6th annual School Supplies Project: Raised funds to send to the border vs. asking for in-kind donations this year. Surpassed our goal of $700, bringing in $1,670!

- 1st Border Talk Series: Will become a semi-annual event (hopefully). Round table discussions about what free trade means and how it has affected workers, our environment, etc. Consisted of former and prospective delegates. 30-50 people attended. This was an Initiative of the May 2018 delegation.

- 15th Annual Women and Fair Trade Festival - Quinceañera celebration. Honored Josefina Castillo, former AFSC staff person and co-creator (with Judith Rosenberg) of Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera. Also had vendors give mini-presentations about who they are, what they do. Held in the Ironwood Hall, a downtown venue sponsored by FAIRE.
- Hired a new Executive Director, Leona Calvo—a longtime volunteer, interpreter and previous Board Member. Leona went on her first delegation in 2000, with her parents.

- ATCF Education Coordinator left at the end of 2018. Currently have an intern in her place but a new EC has been secured and contracted, ready to start May 1st, 2019.

- First Birthday Celebration of ATCF - organized by Miguel Rodriguez, a former long time board member. Great turnout and very successful in bringing in funds. Will become an annual event.


- Our Conectando Hilos de la Justicia project is in its 10th year. Discussed creating a document that captures all that this project has accomplished over the past 10 years during the Women and Free Trade (W&FT) meeting. This is still in the planning stages.

- Volunteers: Many! Not sure what the total is: 2-3 per delegation, 15 or 20+ for W&FT, plus many more for event planning and execution.

I personally have volunteered in the kitchen at two ATCF public events. I was very impressed by the cooperative spirit in action. Much of this report is from Leona Calvo, now ATCF executive director. Her contact information follows. Joanna Vaughn

**Leona Calvo**  
**Executive Director**  
Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera  
3707 E. MLK Jr Blvd Austin TX, 78721  
(512) 474-2399

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**Friends General Conference (FGC)**

Want to introduce representative, Dave Nachman a Friend from Tempe, AZ. He is here as our FGC rep and is a member of Central Committee, FGC. He brought the 7 minute video on FGC shown at 1 in the Lounge by the dining room. How many of you saw that?

I serve you as a Representative to FGC Central Committee. Our second Representative is Jan Michael who also serves on the Executive Committee. SCYM should have a third. Please see Nominating Committee or talk to Jan, Dave or myself if you are interested.

Central Committee meets once a year, in late October. I have attended 2 Central Committee meetings in 2017 and 2018. The focus last October was very much on working for Racial Healing and specifically on the Institutional Assessment performed by outside consultant, Crossroads. The majority of our time was spent in hearing and dialoguing with the report.

Executive committee meets twice a year in addition to the Central Committee session. The following is summarized from their most recent meeting this year which Jan attended on behalf of SCYM.

The good news from FGC is that we have a balanced budget. The gloom and alarm of two years ago is passed. We are no longer spending down our endowments at a dangerous rate. We are also studying how raise funds for the future which might include an endowment to support the Gathering program. A example of this good news is the anonymous donation of $25,000 to Gathering. This will make it possible for children from infants through high school to attend this coming Grinnell Gathering without paying program fees. (With parents or adult sponsors, of course.) FGC staff and officers report to us. currently they are looking at how to be more responsive in governance. I take sending Central Committee members as representatives rather than staff or officers to be a start in a new direction The spiritual deepening program is providing a resource library and has several on-line programs. Details are online. The changed bookstore arrangement with a fulfillment company seems to be working. They can still do arrangement such as sending books for Yearly Meeting Book table. The institutional Assessment on racism brought their report to Central Committee and an implementation committee has been set up to implement recommendations and encourage
Yearly Meetings to engage in this work. An aspect of this has been using a pointed question to review all Minutes about how they move FGC toward being an anti-racist organization. To paraphrase the video, we want to confront racism and white supremacy in ourselves and model antiracism to others so we can co-create accessible, equipable and transformational community.

**Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**

Gail Fletcher (Norman, OK), John Fletcher (Norman, OK), Claudia Wilson (Fort Worth, TX), Liz Yeats (Austin, TX), Suzanne Cole Sullivan (New Orleans, LA), and Mimi Thomas (Texas) joined Friends from around the country in Washington, DC, from November 29 to December 2, 2018 for a weekend of lobbying, governance, and skill-building at Friends Committee for National Legislation’s annual meeting and policy summit.

On Thursday and Friday during the Public Policy Institute, Friends went on 193 lobby visits, representing 45 states, and met with 39 members of Congress. Your SCYM delegation and other attenders lobbied the delegations of Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas about protecting SNAP provisions in the new federal budget. Each delegation was larger than in years past, and each of our state lobby groups included citizen lobbyists who did not serve on SCYM’s General Committee delegation. The presence of current and former Advocacy Corps members from each state was a powerful boost to the engagement of lobbying. Many of the Congressional offices we visited were receptive to our ask, which was heartening.

Being in Washington and walking the halls of Congress weeks after the midterm election was electric, and the sense of hope about the new working session was palpable for both Congressional staffers and FCNL attenders. Presentations and workshops from FCNL staff and local presenters invited us to examine our relationship with stamina and the role of racism and white supremacy in our lobbying work.

On Saturday and Sunday, the General Committee gathered in worship with attention to business to approve nominations to subcommittees, set the budget, and discern legislative priorities for the 116th Congress. After holding worship and lifting up concerns from around the country including a more just immigration system and the burgeoning opioid crisis in more rural parts of the country, the priorities were edited and approved. Some highlights of this list include:

- peacebuilding, diplomacy, and the peaceful prevention of violent conflict with an emphasis on the Middle East.
- reduction of military spending and armed interventions.
- a criminal justice system that is just and equitable, eliminates mass incarceration, and promotes law-enforcement that is community-oriented and demilitarized.
- witness and advocate on Native American concerns. Honor the treaties.
- economic justice and equity; strengthen programs that meet basic needs including universal access to quality, affordable healthcare.
- sustainable solutions to climate change.

These priorities govern how FCNL staffers spend their time and energy to best represent Quakers from all three US branches on the Hill. They are not the sole focus, but they help the FCNL staff do internal discernment when there are multiple relational priorities on the table.

FCNL celebrated their 75th year in May of 2018 in Richmond, IN, where they were founded. The anniversary celebrations continued through the annual meeting in DC. Many members of the General Committee were deeply invested in the mission of FCNL to build the world we seek by building relationships and being faithfully diligent.

All Friends are welcome to join us in Washington from November 14 to 17, 2019 to engage in powerful lobbying and coalition building.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Cole Sullivan
Dear Friends,

As Quakers, our Faith & Practice convince us to work for the peaceful, just, equitable, and sustainable world we seek. We are ordinary people called to accomplish the extraordinary. Founded in 1943 in Richmond, Indiana, FCNL has been bringing the concerns, experiences, and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation’s capital for over 75 years. This work continues with your support and engagement, and with the ever-present grounding of Spirit.

Friends, in the last year your advocacy and financial contributions have helped ensure food is not taken away from families struggling with hunger, push to end the disastrous Saudi-led war in Yemen, prevent genocide and atrocities across the globe, and reform our criminal justice system.

Setting the Legislative Priorities for the 116th Congress

One of the distinctive features of the Friends Committee on National Legislation is our practice of asking Quakers around the country to help shape our collective work. Every two years, FCNL asks Friends and their meetings, churches, and worship groups to discern which public policy issues they feel are most pressing for the next Congress.

The core question as part of this process is, where is the Spirit leading us? How are Friends called to influence government today? Friends discernment is the foundation for the lobbying priorities that FCNL establishes for each congress. We were heartened to see robust participation by Quakers across the country in this process in 2018 (an increase of 20% from 2016). The legislative priorities recommended by Friends were approved by FCNL’s General Committee on December 1, 2018 and are included in this report.


FCNL’s Quaker Public Policy Institute and Lobby Day drew 400 people to Washington, DC to lobby to protect SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Attendees went on 193 lobby visits representing 45 states with 39 different Members of Congress. One third of the participants were first time attenders.

More than 300 people stayed for FCNL’s Annual Meeting which celebrated FCNL’s 75th Anniversary, affirmed the direction of the Forward Plan as outlined by staff, and conducted the business of the organization. FCNL awarded the Edward R. Snyder Award for National Legislative Leadership in Advancing Disarmament and Building Peace to Rep. Ro Khanna (CA-17) for his steadfast work to prevent war with North Korea, to end U.S. support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen, and to strengthen U.S. diplomacy abroad.

We Get Heard by Listening – The Growth of Advocacy Teams

FCNL’s Advocacy Team network is made up of more than 1,500 Quakers and friends from across the country who use their power as constituents to make change in Washington, D.C. Our success comes from our commitment to building relationships with Congress grounded in mutual respect and listening. 2018 brought tremendous growth in this program, as we launched 26 new Advocacy Teams. FCNL currently supports 113 teams around the country, an increase of 30% from just a year ago. In 2019 new Advocacy Teams are forming. To see current locations, visit fcnl.org/advocacyteams.
One of the greatest values in the community-building work done by FCNL’s Advocacy Teams is that we are making a conscious decision to stay focused on a single topic for a long time, even when it’s out of the headlines. This relationship-based approach to constituent advocacy has a unique value in a noisy time. We find that our steady, focused, and calm approach makes a difference when it comes to influencing policymakers. For members of Congress, meeting with us is a more pleasant experience than being yelled at in a town hall meeting.

**The Critical Role of Young Adult Friends**

FCNL is committed to growing our lobbying power both here on Capitol Hill and across the country.

Central to all that we do is FCNL’s recruiting and training of young adults across the country to be advocates for peace, justice, and a sustainable planet. Eighteen Advocacy Corps organizers – who work part-time in their home congressional districts -- lobbied on police demilitarization in 2018-19. Five summer Interns, 10 full year Program Assistants, and 450+ participants in the 2018 annual Spring Lobby Weekend...young adults are taking the lead — and pressing Congress to pass key legislation.

For more than a decade, Spring Lobby Weekend has been a cornerstone of FCNL’s commitment to training new generations of advocates for Peace & Justice. In March 2019, more than 500 young advocates gathered in Washington, DC to learn, build community, and lobby Congress on the immigration crisis. Visit fcnl.org/youngadults to learn more about these opportunities.

In the year ahead, please join Friends in your community, and in Washington DC as we work for a world free of war and the threat of war, a society with equity and justice for all, a community where every person’s potential may be fulfilled, and an earth restored.

With gratitude for your partnership,

Bridget Moix
Baltimore Yearly Meeting Clerk, FCNL General Committee

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**Legislative Priorities for the 116th Congress**

Approved by FCNL’s General Committee on December 1, 2018

Since the early days of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), God’s spirit has led Friends to be a prophetic witness and to take action in the world. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) brings Friends’ spiritual values and testimonies to bear on U.S. public policy decisions. FCNL solicited the views and concerns of Quaker meetings, churches, and organizations around the country to help discern the following priorities for our lobbying and public education work during the 116th Congress (2019-2020):

- Peacebuilding, diplomacy and the peaceful prevention and resolution of violent conflict with an emphasis on the Middle East.
- Reduction of military spending and armed interventions.
- Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- A criminal justice system that is just and equitable, eliminates mass incarceration and promotes law-enforcement that is community-oriented and demilitarized.
- An immigration system that promotes and respects the rights, safety and dignity of all immigrants, refugees and migrants.
- Equitable access for all to participation in an open and transparent political process.
- Ending gun violence including through the support of policies informed by public health best practices.
- Witness and advocate on Native American concerns. Honor the treaties.
• Economic justice and equity; strengthen programs that meet basic needs including universal access to quality, affordable healthcare.

• Sustainable solutions to climate change, including reducing fossil fuel use, increasing renewable energy, strengthening environmental protections, promoting international cooperation, and protecting vulnerable populations.

Friends are called to promote genuine equality of opportunity and communities in which everyone can safely live, learn, work, worship, and love. In each priority we will identify, expose and work to eliminate institutional racism, institutional sexism and other forms of systemic discrimination. We are mindful that our nation has a special responsibility to redress the consequences of its long history of slavery, race-based discrimination and oppression.

FCNL seeks to collaborate across the political spectrum to advance these priorities. FCNL’s work will be based on legislative opportunities, specific expertise, leadings, and available resources. In addition, The World We Seek (FCNL’s Policy Statement) gives FCNL the Flexibility to respond to crises and to import legislative opportunities, as Way opens.

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

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns (fondly known as FLGBTQC) has gathered twice since SCYM’s last annual sessions. In July of 2018, we gathered in Toledo, OH, under the wider umbrella of Friends General Conference. Worship was robust and offered a lot of depth, even if the space we shared presented challenges. Our business meetings are often a source of both joy and gentle leadership, even when there are difficult conversations unfolding.

As a body, we wrestled with how to create relationships and offer opportunities for growth when not everyone had the same base of knowledge. Recognizing kinship as we hear language that excludes or offends is an ongoing work, and we were reminded of the labor of forging new relationships.

The fellowship at Gathering was enriched by our first-time attenders, including several from SCYM.

Despite a week with record-breaking heat and some campus oddities, FLGBTQC closed the week with a rousing cabaret and auction. Funds raised went towards future FLGBTQC travel scholarships and FGC’s Bayard Rustin Fund, which supports the travel of Friends of Color to Gathering.

Rather than our traditional Mid-Winter Gathering, there were several regional events held in the Pacific Northwest, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Madison, WI. Friends gathered for fellowship, food, trainings, singing, and even a variety hour in one city that turned into a spontaneous celebration of absurd folk songs.

As a body, we continue to discern how to create Mid-Winter Gatherings that meet both the social and financial needs of our community. Sharing space and hosting events brings us joy, but there are many difficult considerations around geography, financial responsibility, and physical barriers to access that contribute to the continued feasibility of having a mid-year event.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne W Cole Sullivan
Since our beginning in 1993, we have relied on Quaker Yearly Meetings, Monthly Meetings, and many individuals, for our financial and volunteer support. This support has allowed us to achieve remarkable results on the ground; we have grown; and now we have opportunities beyond our current scope of operations. Our great work that you have heard about before continues. Look for the new PeaceWays on our table in the display area to learn about it. SCYM has long supported this work, and as a co-founder of Friends Peace Teams, I deeply appreciate it.

Now, we need your help to respond to the work that is calling us. Each initiative has exciting prospects:

**Asia, West Pacific (AWP)** has partners in Chechnya who have been working on developing peacebuilding curriculum to accompany the stories in the Power of Goodness collection. This curriculum is a unique way to provide vision and tools to create peace. AWP is raising funds for Culture of Peace Trainings in Chechnya, as well as an eight-day Creating Cultures of Peace training in Georgia this spring. Gathering and training participants from Russia will allow them to return home and start Cultures of Peace Training locally, where it is desperately needed. A participant in AWP’s January Peace Training in Indonesia was excited to learn that she could bring these workshops to the Catholic Worker Movement.

**The African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI)** has grassroots partners in Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. Their work is ongoing and has the capacity for expansion with more funds. There is great need for their training in Alternatives to Violence, Transformative Mediation, Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities trauma resiliency training, Peer Mediation and Peace Dialogues. Friends Women’s Association in Burundi provides comprehensive health care for women and their families, and promotes women’s leadership and autonomy. Children’s Peace Libraries in Rwanda provide literacy support and peace training.

**Peacebuilding en Las Americas (PLA)** has opportunities to expand trauma training and Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Workshops in prisons, and with human rights defenders, youth, women, and indigenous groups. A Mennonite facilitator expressed a strong spirit-led call to be a peacebuilder and felt that our training has allowed her to put the call into effective action. Additional funds are needed for this new work.

The FPT Council recently formed the new **Peace Ministries Committee**. Any Friend with a concern for peacebuilding is welcome to join this committee. We will consult with anyone called to peace work who needs a home for oversight and support. We stand ready to share our learning and best practices and to listen, offer feedback and support as appropriate.

All of these projects can and will flourish and grow if we can provide the funds and human resources needed. We are delighted that many contributors have chosen to support specific projects. Moving forward we need unrestricted donations to sustain the administration and infrastructure that makes all the work possible—the ongoing programs and the expansion of our peacebuilding. FPT has recently setup a Fundraising Committee to extend our fundraising reach and thus to help set us upon a firmer financial
foundation into the future. Please note FPT does not have any paid fundraising staff. If you are led to join us in our work, please speak to me—I can help connect you to it.

Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC)

SOUTH CENTRAL YEARLY MEETING
FWCC Representative Report
April 13, 2019

I have spent an enjoyable year as a representative to Friends World Committee for Consultation. I have visited Stillwater, Norman and Fayetteville Meetings to share what I am learning about FWCC; and took the opportunity to attend one day of Great Plains Yearly Meeting as a means to familiarize myself with FUM. I attended the FWCC Section of the Americas Meeting in March, 2019, at Lake Doniphan Conference Center near Kansas City. This was an especially powerful experience for me, to be present with Friends of all kinds from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, El Salvador, Bolivia, Peru, Costa Rica and Belize. Friends stood in silence in a moment of protest on behalf of Friends who were unable to attend because they were denied visas. We worshipped together daily in semi-programmed worship and enjoyed a variety of moving testimonies. We engaged in Bible study to explore the question, “Who is my neighbor,” and unprogrammed Friends enticed programmed Friends to visit unprogrammed worship by offering the visitors a cup of coffee and a hug. Programmed Friends expressed feeling moved by the experience. The theme of the section meeting was “Come and See,” a reference to the gospel story in which Philip encourages Nathaniel to come and meet Jesus, to which Nathaniel replied, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip told him, “Come and see!” We were all asked to come to section meeting with our perceptions and expectations of other kinds of Friends, and to “come and see” things as they are. I have a completely different understanding of our Quaker “cousins” now, and look forward to serving as a Representative Coordinator on the Representative Engagement Committee.

Lori Laub

Friends World Committee on Consultation, Report from General Secretary

To South Central Yearly Meeting
April 2019

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

Dear Friends,

We send you loving greetings from the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Office in London – and from Friends across the world. As we rejoice, we send you love and hope for a gathered yearly meeting. May God bless your being together!

At this important time of challenge, we treasure our love of God and our being Quakers! These give us hope when we need it. We know that God loves us and will help us continue to love the world, just as God does.
The Friends World Committee for Consultation celebrates the many ways we come together – for fellowship and worship – sensing the unity of joyful hearts. We come from many different countries and cultures, we speak different languages, and we worship God in different ways. This diversity, even as we speak the shared language of the heart, is indeed our strength.

We share a longing for the healing of all creation. We share a broad and insistent vision for a peaceful world. We share a love of God, with the hope of being made new, again and again. It is this transforming love that helps us see each day with new eyes. It is this deep understanding that overcomes all difference. We are equal in the sight of God.

FWCC brings us together and gives us hope: FWCC joins our passions and strengthens the Quaker voice in the world. FWCC ensures that Friends are represented at the world level at the Quaker United Nations Offices, the World Council of Churches, and among global Christian Communions.

FWCC is working on several initiatives:
- Sustaining life on earth as a spiritual imperative, engaging yearly meetings and Young Adult Friends
- Opening dialogue on issues of injustice and privilege, exploring new ways of being together
- Building bridges across the theological spectrum
- Considering stewardship of our resources to support Quaker work
- Strengthening ministry and leadership through the Young Adult Friends Development Fund

With this greeting, I invite you to engage with FWCC through our website and Facebook, to give financially to FWCC through your Section, and to support and pray for your Section Secretary. And most importantly, I invite you to engage with other Friends who share your passion for life and love.

We hope you are all planning for World Quaker Day October 6, 2019 with the theme: Sustainability: Planting Seeds of Renewal for the World We Love. We also post epistles we receive so that Friends might see how God is moving amongst us. Please send your epistle to database@friendsworldoffice.org.

As we enjoy unity within our diversity, we thank you for your faithful support of our work.

In loving Friendship,

Gretchen Castle, General Secretary

Oklahoma Conference of Churches (OCC)

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES (OCC) REPORT
BY REPRESENTATIVE, REX D. FRIEND

John and Gail Fletcher serve on OCC committees that address Criminal Justice Reform Legislation.

2018 has involved a succession in Executive Director leadership which brings with it challenges and opportunities. A very significant recent development is OCC’s contract with the state to provide emotional and spiritual care to those impacted by the opioid crisis. This more than replaces the loss we experienced when our staff and program to serve persons impacted by disasters moved to a different not profit.

Among our six program areas, the most active have been Criminal Justice Reform and Immigration. Significant in 2018 was implementing of state questions, to establish user quantity drug offenses as misdemeanors, thereby minimizing prison time and addressing treatment needs.

Despite Quakers not having leaders, much less “Bishops”, Rex has attended the meetings of denominational leaders and accepted a request to serve as convener of the denominational leader’s council.
The Religions United committee of OCC has been active in fostering interfaith dialogue, Cooperation, and engagement. Rex and Sisca are active members and represent OCC to interfaith events. Our relationships are close, warm and productive, mutually. Our well-attended Interfaith Youth Tour provides 200 plus teenagers a session in three houses of worship, to serve as an exposure to the faith of the other; Muslim, Bahai, Christian. The evaluations are rewarding Horizons of Oklahoma’s youth are broadened.

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)

The 2018 Fall QEW Steering Committee Meeting was held at the Dumas Bay Centre nestled upon a bluff on a bend edging the Salish Sea, holding an unimpeded view of the Olympic Mountains just down the road from SEA-TAC. Since 1993 part of the City of Federal Way’s Parks and Recreation Department, it was run previously for 40 years as a Convent and Women’s Retreat Center by the sisters of Visitatio. Tall pines, lush moss and flowering fruit trees foster an abundance of life to be witnessed walking along paths or through panoramic glass encased meeting areas. Our meetings were punctuated by raptor, raven, eagle, bunny and hummingbird sightings. Following sustaining fresh, green, wooded pathways, walks to the waters edge brought us fruits of the sea.

Presenters included Jeff Smith, Makah, formerly the American Friends Service Committee’s Pacific Northwest Indian Program Director, intrinsic in the revival of The Tribal Canoe Journey with Healing Power, also known as Canoe Way; The Sacred Journey (handbook). Several clips of previous journeys are available on-line for viewing (e.g. Paddle to Muckleshoot). He is now a Committee Member of the Nakani Native Program, a non-profit that took off where the AFSC left off, grounded in the 60 year legacy of service to Native American Indians of the Pacific Northwest and governed mostly by members of those Native Tribes.

The gathering was peppered with good use of Worship Sharing Sessions – something new for QEW. Much work was accomplished via Business Meetings. Creative discourse and important sharing moved us all forward. Feeling the healing power of it’s work among members, I gladly serve on QEW’s Spiritual Nurture Committee. On Nominating Committee my service helps keep vitality in key positions that come available in QEW. My working group participation is on Mini-Grants, where – with matching funds – we aid in the implementation of a broad range of sustainability projects with a Quaker connection for which Friends are encouraged to apply. Thanks to SCYM for the opportunity to represent.

Some 2018 highlights of QEW’s work include the sponsoring of a forum on water and the African diaspora in New York City, affiliated with the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent, the hosting of an Earthcare Center at FGC’s Gathering and the updating of their Earthcare for Children curriculum for First Day schools. QEW joined the Friend of the Court Brief for the Landmark Youth Climate Action Case (Juliana) in 2017 and continues to be pleased and honored to publish articles about and to participate in this historic case, where 21 youth plaintiffs are challenging the United States Government to take much more significant action addressing climate change. One of the plaintiffs, Nathan Baring, is a Friend from Fairbanks, Alaska.

Best stated in an excerpt from QEW’s own report, in the face of “terrifying realities of climate disruption . . . the urgency of our committed action . . . we reaffirm the power of our vision ‘to search for that life which affirms the unity of all Creation,’ and ‘to participate in the healing of the Earth.’”

Danielle Evans (TX), Co-SCYM Representative beside Eric Fuselier (AR)

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC)

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC), formed in August 2014 by Friends “holding a sense of stewardship for life-long Quaker faith formation through religious education,” held its 5th Annual Conference at Powell House, Old Chatham NY in August last year. Liz Yeats, Austin MM, serves on the Steering Circle and is a founding member. Anne Collins, Stillwater MM, served on the 2018 Conference Planning Circle and serves on the 2019 Conference Planning Circle. Anne has been nominated by SCYM to serve as the
SCYM Representative to QREC. Gail and John Fletcher, Norman MM, are active members. John was a panelist in August, speaking to the theme, Religious Education in Action: Activism, Outreach and Parenting. Other SCYM members have attended conferences and are members.

QREC thanks SCYM for being an Association member of QREC and for paying $300 in dues. These funds are significant to the functioning of QREC. QREC has members from 49 US states and several countries, including Mexico, El Salvador, Bolivia, and Kenya. QREC-East Africa was recently founded after two Kenyan Quakers attended the 2018 conference and two QREC Steering Circle members led workshops for Kenyan Friends in 2019. [See attached Epistle from East Africa].

QREC offers an annual conference, monthly Conversation Circles open to anyone, an online Resource Library where religious educators can upload and share lessons, articles, videos, instructional policies and other support for religious educators across the life-span, and a bi-annual newsletter. Conversation Circles vary each month and are offered twice, once in the morning and another in the evening. April 23rd and 25th Conversation Circles will address “Quaker Parenting: Supporting parents and other caregivers on the spiritual journey of child-rearing.” Harriet Heath, child psychologist and parent educator, will facilitate the conversation. Marsha Holliday will facilitate May 14th and 16th Conversation Circles on “Quakerism for Teens: Coming of Age in the Society of Friends.” All these resources are available to anyone.

The 2020 and 2021 QREC annual conferences will be held in North Carolina. This is the closest to Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas that the annual conference has been held. Previous conferences were held at Pendle Hill, Philadelphia PA; Quaker Hill, Richmond IN; and Powell House, Old Chatham NY. QREC hopes that SCYM religious educators for any age-group across the life span will want to attend the NC conferences. We request the yearly meeting to dedicate funds to support those RE educators needing financial assistance to register for and to travel to the conference. Fees to attend the conference this year are $300. Travel costs vary. Child care is provided but is an extra expense.
Dear Friends,

We send sunny greetings from East Africa Sunday Church School Teachers (Quakers) who gathered in the serenity of the place where Quakerism started in East Africa, and where the 76 year-old Friends Theological College (FTC) is located.

We had 24 active teachers from the following Yearly Meetings: Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya (Chavakali, EAYM-Kaimosi, Kakamega, Lugari, Malava, Musingu, Nairobi, EAYM-North, Tului, Chebuyusi, Vokoli

Our Facilitators from the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) came from New England Yearly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We developed a community of equality among all.
During the Plenary and Group Sessions we looked at emerging issues affecting the Sunday Church School Ministry in Africa, and sorted out possible suggestions to consider about these issues. Facilitators also shared about the Godly Play method of Sunday School Teaching, and Faith & Play, Quaker stories that have been developed for Friends who use Godly Play. Printed materials about these religious education resources can be accessed in the FTC Kaimosi Library.

It is our resolve that the records of these proceedings be shared across the world.

In our deliberations, we reiterated that the Sunday Church School is a dynamic and vibrant Ministry that should be nurtured and respected. Thus we urge the Yearly Meetings to give space and support to this very delicate and vital Ministry (the Congregants: the Children and their Teachers).

As we learned about the Faith & Play stories, we realized the sad fact that Quaker history in Africa is not properly documented. We want to collaborate with the FTC Kaimosi, Marian Baker, and the Earlham College Archives to document the histories of Quakers in Africa so that we can write the stories of important African Quakers, to share with our children and the rest of the world.

We, Teachers in Africa, in collaboration with QREC resolved to set up a Steering Committee. We suggest that FTC Kaimosi might act as our coordinating centre temporarily. We also suggest an exchange program to expose our Teachers and Children from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean to cross cultural experiences. This workshop appeals to the Leaders of the Friends Church in Africa to fund the operations of the Sunday Church School Ministry. We further appeal to the Quaker Leadership to urgently create specific space for Children’s worship that will run concurrently with the main Church service.

Conclusively, we had moments of refreshment and spiritual nourishment of this important form of ministry.

We appreciate the immense efforts of the facilitators, the kind reception of the hosts, FTC, and those who made this gathering possible, Obadiah Brown’s Benevolent Fund.

Prepared by:

ERICK SIFUNA (Friends Church of Uganda Yearly Meeting (Quakers))
JUDITH NANDIKOVE (Nairobi Yearly Meeting)
MILLYCENT MBAKAYA (Kakamega Yearly Meeting)
DEDAN KATAKA (EAYM-North Yearly Meeting)
COLLINS OCHIENG (Tanzania Yearly Meeting)
ALFRED WASIKE (FTC Kaimosi/Uganda)

God bless you all
Texas Impact

Hi. Don't know if this is an appropriate report, but here's what I've got:

- Emily Northrop joined the Texas Impact Board in May 2018 as the representative of SCYM.
- At our prompting Texas Impact coordinated its first-ever Climate Lobby Day that was held on April 3.
- Emily represented SCYM in three legislative events. She lobbied on legislation pertaining to discrimination, education finance, immigrant detention, Medicaid, SNAP, climate change and disaster preparedness.
- Emily requests guidance on how to directly contact monthly Meetings in Texas on matters related to Texas Impact. Communications would include opportunities to participate in the legislative process.
- Emily requests that SCYM increase our annual gift from $200 to $300. Texas Impact asks each board member to contribute $600 annually. Emily will match the $300 from SCYM.

Thanks!

Emily Northrop

William Penn House

As many of you know, William Penn House is a Quaker hostel on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Their motto is “Hospitality, Education & Activism since 1966.”

My service is on the Consultative Committee, which meets annually during the weekend of the FCNL’s General Committee meeting. Consultative committee members advise Penn House and act as liaisons to their yearly meetings. A local board meets during the year to help guide its operation.

Friends can stay there in modest accommodations—dorm lodging with bunkbeds & shared bathroom—with Quaker worship & cold breakfast in the morning. Those worship sessions in the second-floor living room can really energize the start of your day.

The price is very affordable, but it’s best to see if there will be space available when you plan to visit DC. Penn House is often fully booked with groups of young visitors in town for projects and events, or for volunteer groups at Penn House work camps.

As it is with many Friends’ endeavors, we always struggle for money. I donated $52 for their 52 years of operation. The letter they sent in December lists how it helped:

[reading from letter dated 20 December 2018]

“Thanks to your contributions, we have recently hosted:

- A group of young leaders from Tennessee, mostly from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, exploring the connections between faith, citizenship and social justice;
- Eighth-grade students from Norwood School for service and learning with the DC Central Kitchen and East Capitol Urban Farm;
- A class from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro examining global political and economic systems;
- Citizen-activists with Veterans for Peace participating in the Reclaim Armistice Day efforts, which work to make Veterans Day a day of & for peace, not war;
- F/friends from across the country lobbying for food justice within FCNL’s Quaker Public Policy Institute.”

Andrei Israel is the executive director. I know he’d welcome your donations to Penn House at 515 E Capitol St SE, Washington DC.

Submitted by Claudia Wilson
Committee Reports

Archivist

April 2019

You are served by two archivists, myself and Glenna Balch.

I am happy to report that we will send a substantial deposit to the Quaker Historical Library of Swarthmore College within the next week.

We also have a printed list of what Swarthmore has for SCYM and for our Monthly Meetings.

After appealing to Friends, we have received several reports we did not have on paper and printed these for our file and for Swarthmore. To my knowledge, the following are not in our current records.

- Representative Meeting 2011 and Yearly meeting 2012
- Representative Meeting 2015
- Representative Meeting 2016

Any help in obtaining these would be appreciated.

We continue to have questions on caring for our “other” archives beyond proceedings and reports. We have the Carillon, photo albums, children’s drawings, insightful state of the meeting reports and letters. During this Yearly Meeting I have been asked about “archiving” a SCYM quilt and past treasurer’s records to our collection. We currently file items with the Proceeding closest in date.

What else should we do with these Items.

Deciding to reduce paper publications will have obvious impact on our archives.

Faith & Practice

The committee has met twice since last summer; once in person at the Dallas Meeting House, and once in a phone conference call. Members of the committee are: Claudia Wilson (Fort Worth), Almeta Smith (Dallas), Leada Dietz,(Live Oak), Jane Houser (Live Oak), Kirsten Brink (San Angelo) and John Coffin (Little Rock), clerk.

At Dallas, we discussed at some length how we were relating to the monthly meetings. We determined that another letter needed to be sent this year, since the response to our last letter as a committee about our charge and our work was so modest. Actually, the best sign of interest and encouragement probably came from the workshop held at the 2018 Yearly Meeting. We had a room full of people who listened intently at several of our draft documents, and who had good things to say and few recommendations to make. During this session we also remarked upon how we were beginning to see value in using selected texts already in use in established Faith & Practice booklets from other yearly meetings. Also, the challenge is to continue to remember our differences, our uniqueness as a Yearly Meeting, and that this spirit finds expression in any final document.

Attention was given to statements of draft texts developed by committee members; this is always a major emphasis of our meetings. Attention also was given to the use of language and context that would speak to young-friends; John raised this based on his experience at Netherlands Yearly Meeting in 2018. They, too were doing a Faith & Practice and were considerably farther along; but it was noticed that the participation of Dutch young-friends in the process only had been added towards the end, apparently, and this fact was causing concern now that they were ready to “go to final printing.”
Both committee meetings have spent most time on considering text and drafts, using the “List of Topics” for
the eventual F&P that were discerned in the early years of the committee, and which were back then made
available on the YM website, along with a number of draft documents. The topic concerning Quakers and
human sexuality was discussed as a topic of import for our consideration. Concern also was voiced about
permissions and crediting, where appropriate, if texts were to be used from extant F&Ps from other Yearly
Meetings. Working with the integration/inclusion of certain select topics taken from our SCYM Procedures
Manual remains a topic that we will continue to address.

In conclusion, there are a handful of important points for the continued oversight of the committee, in addition
to its text-drafting:

  a. To reach out more “fervently” to our monthly meetings and worship groups, inviting them to review
draft documents, and to inform us of their wishes in terms of how they view a finished document
and its content. What are their desires and discernments? Have they explored our list of topics
mentioned above? The committee will be asking. They also are encouraged to send in their thoughts
or criticisms now, while our process is ongoing and when feedback is so valued.

  b. To determine how the committee is being lead in terms of its time-table for completion. This will
be the 8th year of the committee’s existence, and we are proposing that by or before the end of 2021,
our first completed draft for an entire document will be concluded. We are now discerning if that
is a goal both feasible and reasonable.

  c. To hold workshops about the work of the F&P committee at Yearly Meeting sessions each year;
these are important opportunities for communication and listening.

  d. To develop further counsel on the matter of seeing how SCYM Young Friends may be included in
the committee’s labors going forward.

  e. Since often the inclusion of historical excerpts, statements, letters and other documents from past
members of the RSOF are of deep meaning to those who use and appreciate Faith & Practice
documents, the committee will be exploring how all SCYM members and attenders might make
such contributions to the committee.

For the committee,

John Coffin, Clerk

Ministry & Care

The Ministry & Care Committee has not met as often this past year as much as we would have liked. There
have been scheduling conflicts and other affairs that have taken time and energy. However, there have not
been problems coming to our attention either.

The spiritual health of our monthly meetings seems to be good, judging from state of the meeting reports
with some monthlies noting energy in their communities.

Two tasks the committee has undertaken this year are managing financial support requests for attendance at
FGC Gathering and support for a young person to attend the FCNL Spring Lobbying Weekend. With the
yearly meeting deciding to make a portion of the Spiritual Enrichment Fund available for Gathering
support, the M & C Committee agreed to process those requests. And we were pleased to offer support to
Ansel Pendley-Griffin from Norman for his participation with FCNL.

We sincerely appreciate the work of volunteers who discerned how the Spiritual Enrichment Fund could
assist yearly meeting members to attend Gathering, who solicited additional support, and publicized the
opportunity to encourage those with financial needs to apply for support for attending.

We note that Marianne Lockard’s traveling ministry has been laid down. We deeply appreciate her many
years of service, sadly regret she is no longer able to serve and honor her longtime calling which helped
build and strengthen connections among SCYM monthly meetings.
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Peace & Justice

Peace & Justice Forum met on Friday, April 19th. Approximately 25 were in attendance.

The agenda included:

1. A request for support of a minute on immigration from Santa Fe, New Mexico Friends Meeting
2. A request for support for a minute on climate change from Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting.
3. A request concerning anti-racism efforts by meetings from Bayou Quarterly
4. Contribution requests from the Quaker Institute for the Future and Texas Impact

1. Minute on Immigration Approved by Santa Fe Monthly Meeting of Friends (Quakers) November 18, 2018:

   Equality, community and integrity are foundations of Quaker belief. Therefore, as immigrants and refugees in our community encounter trials such as family separation, incarceration, internment and deportation, Santa Fe Monthly Meeting is called to put these beliefs into action. We will support these neighbors in their daily lives, providing aid, companionship, friendship and safety in whatever ways we are able. We affirm the right of refugees from all types of violence to apply for asylum in this country, including those whose lives are threatened by gang violence, rape, and domestic violence and abuse. We affirm the right of those seeking asylum to be treated with respect, dignity, and due process during the application procedures. We call upon the government of the United States to honor its legal obligations under the Refugee Act of 1980 and the 1967 United Nations Protocol on Refugees to provide protection to those who qualify as refugees. We recognize that our national immigration system is in dire need of attention, funding and fixing. We advocate for local, state and national policies calling for meaningful, lasting immigration system reform.

   Forum members recommend endorsing the statement of the Santa Fe, New Mexico Friends Meeting with a minute of support from SCYM.

2. There was much discussion of the climate change statement from Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting [attached below]. It was decided that. Although it has value, it was meant for other Quakers and would not be conducive for other uses, such as legislative efforts. It was recommended that a minute on climate change be developed between now and Representative's meeting in November by members of SCYM that is programmatic, multifaceted and focused on effective action. Three Forum members volunteered to be on this committee, if approved. We would like for there to be more.

3. Request from Bayou Quarterly

   Racism and xenophobia have been part of the United States culture from its very beginning, and its effects permeate both our personal attitudes and every level of policy making. The Civil Rights movement began a process that is still far from finished. Subsequent efforts by the Latino community and Indigenous groups called our attention to other effects of this problem.

   Friends General Conference has been engaged in their own internal process to discern and address unrecognized racist culture and communicate that to its member meetings. Part of that includes a “Yearly Meeting Work on Racism” page https://www.fgquaker.org/resources/yearly-meeting-work-racism which is described thus: “Many of our Yearly Meetings are engaged in the work of challenging racism. This resource provides documents describing work around racism and diversity currently being undertaken by Yearly Meetings.”
Bayou Quarterly requests that South Central Yearly Meeting gather information about what member meetings are doing to challenge racism and share it both within the Yearly Meeting and the larger Quaker community via Friends General Conference “Yearly Meeting Work on racism” page an in other ways.

Example from Live Oak Friends Meeting, Houston: Once a month First Day School presentation/discussion on White Privilege and 2019 Spring Retreat facilitated by Cherry Steinwender, Executive Director of Houston’s Center for Healing of Racism [http://www.centerhealingracism.org/](http://www.centerhealingracism.org/)

Forum members supported the request of Bayou Quarterly that meetings share with SCYM their anti-racism efforts and add these to the FGC page for that purpose.

4. After a presentation on The Quaker Institute for the Future and learning that SCYM has supported this organization for a few years but not financially, we agreed to give them $100 of our $200.00 discretionary fund with the understanding that we will revisit this amount next year.

Forum members agreed to add a one-time contribution of $100 to the already allotted $200 for Texas Impact with the understanding that we will revisit the amounts given to interfaith organizations next year.

Respectfully Submitted, Paula Keeth, Clerk of Peace & Justice Committee

**Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Minute on Climate Change**

We acknowledge the grave and worsening crisis of all the interacting variables included in the phrase “climate change.” Another part of our concern is awareness of the consciousness that has created the problem. We recognize the urgency of a response from our Friends’ community.

We come to this moment grounded in the testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends. The testimonies of community, equality, stewardship and integrity call us forward in our work. We recognize that, both globally and locally, peace is increasingly linked to climate justice.

With deep concern for Earth and all the life it supports, we are motivated by our love of our children, recognizing that their futures are in our hands. We affirm the Native American advice: “In all our deliberations, let us consider to the seventh generation.”

We know that there is much about these times that can cause us to feel fearful, angry and helpless. We will be gentle with ourselves and take time for our feelings as we continue the work, knowing that we are a part of the rising tide of thousands around the world, who, in the words of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, “seek an earth restored.”

We, the Friends of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, commit to the following:

1. We continue to seek the Light through worship and prayerful consideration. We shall be led by the Spirit in the face of climate change.
2. We seek to understand the role we play as humans, and the dangers unfolding through climate change. We continue to educate ourselves rigorously on these matters.
3. We commit to act on our responsibility, both in personal use of resources and in the management of our meetinghouse resources. We ask: How can we have greater integrity in these matters?
4. We commit to learning about and engaging in collective action and advocacy at the local, state, national and global levels.
5. We seek to be examples and patterns, carrying this message forward to other Friends communities and to others who carry a concern and love for Earth.

We are grateful for the many in this yearly meeting who carry our concern forward. Thank you, Friends.

--- Approved 31 March 2018 in Annual Sessions
Procedures Manual

Procedures Manual Coordinator Report

I have received hard and electronic copies of the Procedures Manual from the previous Procedure Manual Coordinator. I found in the Proceedings of the 2018 Yearly Meeting sessions no changes or additions. A very few copy edits were made. Inconsistencies and ambiguities between the paper and electronic versions of the Annex are to be resolved in the coming year.

Bill Sweet

Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting

Your worship oversight committee is currently Suzanne Cole Sullivan and Dale Bordelon. We continue, although offering the full gamut of intended services has been challenging this year. We eagerly anticipate the support of nominating committee to cultivate a more robust worship oversight committee.

As a committee, we coordinate the following for both annual sessions and representative meeting:

- finding and reading the epistles from around the world that are shared at rise of worship
- running the microphones around the room to support auditory accessibility placing the signs and symbols on doors and chairs that allow us to calm our hearts and bring good queries to worship
- holding the business meeting in prayerful care.

The work is enriching. We wish we could do more of it.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Cole Sullivan

Youth Program Support

The YPSC met on Friday night, March 30, at 9:00 p.m. in the Canteen at Greene Family Camp. Members present were Anne Collins, Davis Caraway, Erika Mittag, Jasmine Zownirw, Jessica Arjet, Kathy Brooks, Kirsten Brink, and Kirsten Dean.

We agreed to prepare a draft Child Safety Policy for SCYM programming for presentation to Representatives Meeting in November. We will use the Zoom subscription to hold virtual face-to-face meetings.

We considered the support of SCYM over the past ten years in helping multiple members obtain training to share Godly Play® and Faith & Play™ stories in our monthly meetings and in the children’s program at annual sessions. We want to express our deep appreciation to SCYM for this support. We affirmed how powerful these stories are for our children and youth and how expensive it is and how hard it is to learn to tell these stories. The support of the yearly meeting for training has been critical in making training available. The Committee plans to contact persons that SCYM supported in obtaining training to see what support the committee can offer them as they develop their practice.

We happily report that Annie Farmer of Friends Meeting of Austin very much wants Playing in the Light training but that her schedule this year does not match the two trainings being offered. Lindsay Gibson of Norman OK Monthly Meeting wants to attend the Playing in the Light to be held at Pendle Hill, August 24-26, this summer. Lindsay Gibson currently serves as the central First Day School teacher at Norman MM.

The committee is active in programming for 2018 annual sessions. Four members of the committee are serving as teachers this year, another is instrumental in obtaining, storing and transporting supplies to camp from Friends Meeting of Austin and one serves as Youth Program Coordinator.

Submitted by Anne Collins
April 20, 2019

2019 SCYM Registrar’s Report

Number of Registrations 81
Total Attendance 142
Adults 111
Youth 27
  ● Little Friends 4
  ● Elementary 13
  ● Junior Young Friends 3
  ● Young Friends 11
Service dog 1
Number of First Time Attenders 16
Day Attenders 7

SCYM Monthly Meeting/Worship Groups Represented
  ● Acadiana Friends Meeting 1
  ● Baton Rouge Friends Meeting 2
  ● Dallas Monthly Meeting 14
  ● Fayetteville Friends Meeting 1
  ● Fort Worth Monthly Meeting 3
  ● Friends Meeting of Austin 27
  ● Friends Meeting of New Orleans 6
  ● Friends Meeting of San Antonio 18
  ● Galveston Friends Meeting 1
  ● Georgetown Friends Meeting 4
  ● Green Country Friends Meeting 1
  ● Houston Live Oak Friends Meeting 42
  ● Little Rock Friends Meeting 3
  ● Longview Worship Group 1
  ● Midtown Oklahoma City Friends 5
  ● Norman Friends Meeting 2
  ● Stillwater Friends Meeting 3

Visiting Friends/Representatives
  ● Joyce Aljouny - American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
  ● Jacob Flowers - American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
  ● Maya Flowers-Glass (youth) - guest
  ● David Nachman - Friends General Conference (FGC)
  ● Jasmine Zownirw - Durham Friends Meeting
  ● Vivien Risdorfer - Durham Friends Meeting
  ● Mike Gray – Fort Collins Friends Meeting
  ● Rebecca Cole Sullivan – Atlanta Friends Meeting

Meals Served
  ● Total 1088
  ● Regular 690
  ● Vegetarian 326
  ● Gluten-free 47
  ● Vegetarian and gluten-free 25
My name is Jasmine
And I’m Jonathan
And we are: THE COORDINATORS

From the Tobacco Trails of Durham, North Carolina.
And the Old Bay of Maryland
We came to coordinate.
All the fires we did mitigate,
Our inner lights did emanate
Responsibilities that we delegate
The Young Friends stepped up.
Taking on setting up classrooms and clearing water jugs.
Improving efficiency for years to come and
Napping
Attending various workshops shows our maturity.
Wishing to go on High and low Ropes Course shows our proclivity for
Napping
Good food and better Capital F Friends.
The blissful bonfire keeping us safe and warm, while
Napping

The JYFs were
Also Napping
JYF
The Experience
So trippy I thought I was
Stumbling!
Through a labyrinth of games.
Bundling!
Curled up like caterpillars in sleeping bags.
Can he breath in there?
Blooming like butterflies as we fly away on kites
What Flair!
The evolution of origami falling from the sky
Is that hair?
Mari’s presentation left us with no cares
Calculation in pairs?
Singing Pi to 50 digits, while solving for slopes
No Limits!
Don’t Worry the JYFs got their Cheez-its

(softly) The Elementary Friends were...
Boo! No Pool!
It’s been FOREVER!! (Hug)
MISS! SHE’S TOUCHING ME!!
I wanna boat!
I’m new… who do I talk to?
Tag your it! (happily playing)
Make new friends but keep the old.
One is silver and the others gold.
Joanna how’s my sculpture look? (happily)
More snacks please!
Presenting the Stupendous Elementary Circus!
We would like to thank Libby Brunke-Tuner and Harley Mimura for working with the 9 Young Friends. The YF Program has requested that we do the low ropes course and high ropes course on alternating years, has offered to assist Coordinators with setting up the Youth Programs on Friday, and appreciate the continued freedom and encouragement to attend various workshops throughout the weekend.

We would like to thank Donny Lofland and Howard Ward Hawhee for working with the three Junior Young Friends. The JYF Program has requested more activities and, as always, more snacks. We will address staffing concerns for the JYF programing in the future to provide more leadership, guidance, and structure to the program.

We would like to thank Kathy Brooks and Brendan Lofland for working with the 13 Elementary Children. We would also like to express special thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who assisted with the large group of kids this year. It warmed our hearts to see such a large group. I have to remember to be good to them. They'll be writing my memorial minutes.

We would like to thank Joanne Go and her team of volunteers for working with the four Littlest Friends. Every year that this group grows larger, so does my heart.

Temporary Child Safety Policy
Presented to Business Meeting at SCYM April 21, 2019

Our proposed Youth and Staff Safety Policy has a few edits remaining, however, we are uncomfortable with their being no policy in place this weekend and as we move forward. As Youth Program Coordinators, our biggest priority is the safety of youth attending SCYM. As such, we feel it is our moral obligation to ensure that youth are protected from harm, not just during the Youth Programming, but during all of Yearly Meeting. We feel it is imperative to have a youth/child safety policy in place in order for the program to continue.

Until the Child and Staff Safety Policy is reviewed during Representatives Meeting, we, as Youth Program Coordinators, agree to follow the procedures for acquiring Staff as noted in the Child and Staff Safety Policy draft and ask that the following be put into practice effective today:

- Youth/Children should not wander the campus alone. They should either be with their parent/guardian/sponsor, two unrelated Youth Program Staff members, or in groups of 3 or more children.
- Youth/Children are the responsibility of their parents outside of the Youth Program Hours. Parents should respect the above policy and ensure that children are not on campus without supervision.
- Parents/guardians/sponsors of Elementary and Littlest Friends should sign their children in and out of their Youth program for each session.
- Junior Young Friends and Young Friends should always inform their group leader of their whereabouts. They should always travel the campus in groups of 2 or more.
- If any member of SCYM has concerns about the safety of the youth/children, they should contact the Youth Program Coordinators, who will then take appropriate action.

When we meet for Representatives Meeting, we plan to present a Youth and Safety Policy that outline expectations and procedures within the Youth Program AND policy that outlines procedures and expectations in regards to Youth/Children within spaces of SCYM.
2019 South Central Yearly Meeting Epistle

To Friends everywhere,

We began our gathering on Easter weekend by honoring the original inhabitants of the land: this was Waco territory, with Tawakoni people to the east and Naishan Dene (Plains Apache) to the west. The glorious fields of bluebonnets and Indian paintbrush, green rolling hills, chilly lake, and wide open setting of Greene Family Camp was an inspiring location for our time together.

The voices, faces, handshakes and embraces among Friends at South Central Yearly Meeting evidenced a sense of sincere and spontaneous delight in one another’s presence. In meetings for business, workshops and worship/sharing home groups, in songs and solving jigsaw puzzles, and in conversations with old friends and new acquaintances, we found the deep joy that arises when human souls resonate to the fundamental vibration of the divine.

Our theme – Knowing, Being, Doing – was manifest as we heard comprehensive reports presented by representatives to, and visitors from, a range of local, national, and international Quaker organizations and interfaith groups. These showed how thoroughly South Central Friends are woven into the broader fabric of Quaker life and service. The Yearly Meeting’s annual budget revealed that 68% goes to direct support or delegate travel for advocacy and action in this wider world of Friends.

Our keynote speaker – Joyce Aljouny, General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee – brought us words of uplift, challenge, and encouragement. She offered her personal experiences which characterized why activism is not merely a choice – oppression must be resisted. She went on to describe the work of AFSC as it enters its second century. A new global strategic plan is in progress, addressing climate justice, migration, conflict, and the rise of authoritarianism.

Our Peace and Justice Committee brought several issues into focus. Without hesitation, South Central Yearly Meeting endorsed a minute on immigration from Santa Fe, New Mexico Monthly Meeting, committing us to affirm the rights of immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers in our communities, to provide aid, companionship, friendship and safety, and to advocate for humane immigration policies and legal reform. At the urging of Bayou Quarter, we recognized a need to acknowledge and support our ongoing work challenging racism and xenophobia. The Yearly Meeting will collect information about each monthly meeting’s specific efforts to confront these immoralities. We will share these examples through the Friends General Conference website. We also committed to create an actionable, multifaceted proposal to address climate change.

Our annual Quaker Variety Hour was the occasion of some serious fun, with Friends across the age spectrum sharing their talents for the entertainment of all. They performed feats of skill and daring, imagination, magic, music, and belly dancing.

On a sobering note, we received fifteen memorial minutes for Friends who departed this life in the past year. In a more hopeful vein, we celebrated the largest number of youth and children at yearly meeting in many years.

When a question arose during business meeting about how the AFSC and FCNL cooperate in their work, we heard the metaphor of making a rice cake: how one applies heat from above, and the other applies heat from below. We also recognize the need to generate light from within.

On the first day of our meeting, a tousle-headed three-year old walking along a path caught up with a bent-backed white haired Friend, reached up and took his hand. They continued up the path.
Senior Young Friends 2019 Epistle

Hello, Friends! The young friends would like to thank everyone for our opportunity to share our voice. We began our weekend helping to set up the youth programs. The rest of our weekend has consisted of napping and enjoying food and snacks (particularly Harley’s cinnamon buns and individual pizzas.) Also the popcorn that was quickly devoured. The majority of us attended workshops, thanks to outside encouragement which opened our eyes. We also were present at keynote in hopes of better understanding this year’s theme and worldly issues. We participated in telestrations which served as inspiration for our puppet-themed skit. We had a great time bonding at the campfire on Friday night. The elementary skit especially touched our hearts. We spent lots of time enjoying the sun and weather. Last night, we carried tradition and played games through the night. We revised the manifesto for the first time in a long time. We had few grievances about the inability to participate in regular camp activities, like swimming, boating, and the ropes course. Next year, Eliza Dean-Polacheck will continue to be clerk, and Haley Ferryman will be our recording clerk. Thank you, again, for listening to the youth voices.

Junior Young Friends 2019 Epistle

[NOTE: This epistle was not received for publication]
Thank you for letting us use this building for the elementary class so we can have fun and play. Our favorite things were the talent show, the tennis courts, the campfire, lunch and the game room. We learned how to be kind and we made new friends, and played with old friends.

Vivien

Love,
Thomas, Kloe, Griffin, Autumn, Sophia, John, Maya, Pers, Teddy
Friends Meeting of San Antonio mourns the passing of Doug Balfour – a long-time Friend, former Clerk, and caring member of our Ministry and Oversight Committee. He died unexpectedly, though failing eyesight had prevented regular attendance in recent years.

Doug was born in Tyler, Texas, and spent his early years in nearby Athens. His family moved to Austin when he was about 5 or 6, and Doug lived there until he went away to college. Music was a big part of his life both in school and at the Congress Avenue Baptist Church. In his senior year of high school, he participated in the All State Choir, Band, and Orchestra performances in Dallas.

Doug went to Johns Hopkins University to study medicine but soon transferred to the University of Texas at Austin, where he graduated with a B.A. in Philosophy. He briefly attended the UT Law School. He and his first wife, Sandy, moved to San Antonio in 1972, where Doug entered the UT Medical School. This sustained his interest for about two years. He then worked for the State Department of Long-Term Care. While there, he completed a M.A. in Public Health. He worked with medical and nursing home services as an inspector and as an administrator in San Antonio and in St. Louis.

Doug was the proud father of his two sons, Matthew born in 1974, and Nathan born in 1976. He enjoyed coaching them and others in baseball and soccer when they were very young.

In the early 1980s Doug began attending the Friends Meeting in San Antonio. He was Clerk of the Meeting in the late 80s and was an active member until he remarried and moved to Floresville, Texas, with his second wife, Rose. He was a fine step-father to her children. In Floresville, he began a new career designing septic systems. When he retired, he moved back to San Antonio, and enjoyed being able to once again be present and participating in the Friends Meeting. There, he reconnected with old friends, met new ones, and was truly grateful for the faith and fellowship, the intellectual stimulation, the exchange of ideas, and the kindness that he experienced. He repaid that kindness many times over with his loving care of Friends.

We remember his caring, nurturing attentiveness to all he met – including many who found themselves disconnected from ordinary life. He was particularly skilled at deep vocal ministry in our Meetings for Worship. A true mystic, he was able to capture the spirit of the moment and deepen worship for all present.

Doug is survived by Sandy, Matthew, and Nathan and by Rose and her children. He will be missed by all.

Richard Donald Barchfield was born on December 2, 1948 in Summit, New Jersey, to parents Carl Fredric Barchfield and Winifred Christophersen Barchfield. Rich passed away on September 25, 2018, at age 69 in Tucson, Arizona.

Rich spent his childhood in Chatham, New Jersey. His siblings were Nancy Barchfield Kay of Tucson, Elizabeth “Bitsy” Barchfield Lutton of Manhattan Beach, California, and Carl “Bud” Frederic Barchfield, Jr. of Dallas, Texas (deceased, 2009).

Unfortunately, Rich came down with severe asthma when he was a child. At age 8, Richard was sent to boarding school at the Fenster Ranch School in Tucson, Arizona for health reasons. Later, in 1960, the entire family relocated to Arizona.
During his undergraduate years at the University of Arizona, Rich studied History and Spanish. He later received his Masters degree in History at the University of Arizona.

Following school, Richard traveled widely. He spent time in Asia (specifically, India and Afghanistan), Europe (Great Britain), and South America.

In the late 1970s, Rich started a job as an engineer on the railroad, first working on freight trains and then landing a job running Amtrak's Sunset Limited. The railroad transferred him to Alpine, Texas in the late 1980s. Although his health issues forced him to take a disability in the early 1990s, he stayed in Alpine until 1994, when he returned to Tucson.


Richard was a man of wide interests. Rich had a passion for baseball, born of listening to ball games on the radio while at boarding school. His favorite team was the Los Angeles Angels. Another passion, astronomy, developed while he was working on the railroad, looking at starry nights. He taught himself about stars and faraway solar systems. Rich started volunteering at Kitt Peak in 1996 as a docent doing guided tours. Then, he got a “nightly observing technician” job in 1997. He worked there until 2015, when his lung disease (COPD) kept him from continuing. He even started writing a book about astronomy.

Richard Barchfield was admitted to membership in Pima Meeting June 8, 1997 by transfer from Friends Meeting of Austin, Texas. He served on the Clemency Committee and participated in other anti-death penalty activities. Towards the end of his life, he could not attend Meeting much but his wife Linda reports that he was always a Quaker at heart.

In 1997, Richard was told he could expect to live 10 more years. The world actually got to enjoy his presence for an additional 21 years. We are grateful for the life of Richard Barchfield.

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Frances Sharon Booton

December 23, 1935 - August 30, 2016

Galveston Friends Meeting, Galveston, Texas

Frances Sharon Booton, known to all as Sharon, was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa on December 23, 1935, to parents Carl Oscar and Frances H. Boyce Booton. She was the youngest of five children, with three older brothers and an older sister. Some of her brothers were married and gone by the time she was born.

Sharon lost her mother to illness when she was only seven years old. For the next dozen years, she was moved around from relative to relative, living in many different places, including Iowa, Washington State, Michigan, Virginia, and Maryland. She remembered traveling alone on the train across the country at about age 8 and stopping to explore a little of Chicago by herself.

She was married not long after high school to a man in the army and traveled many more places with him: Germany, Florida, Mississippi, and Canada. They had four sons: Stewart, Michael, Patrick, and Jeffrey.

Later in life, Sharon went to Union College and graduated in 1973, Phi Beta Kappa. After that, she earned an MSSW at the University of Texas Arlington in Dallas, Texas, and became a psychiatric social worker. Ever the traveler, she practiced in New York, Texas, Florida, New Mexico, and Alaska. Finally landing in Texas, Sharon married Frederick A. Lawrence in 1981.

Sharon considered traveling to Antarctica and kayaking among the ice floes at the age of 73 to be one of her greatest accomplishments.

Although Sharon was a member of Galveston Friends Meeting, she attended the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Galveston regularly. A memorial service in the manner of Friends was held in her honor on
September 11, 2016, at the Unitarian Church. We remember her for her spirit of adventure, her irrepressible humor, her beautiful sense of style, and always, her loving kindness.

Phyllis Mildred Calhoun Byerly
August 2, 1921 – October 24, 2018
Oklahoma City Friends Meeting

Phyllis Mildred Calhoun was born on August 2, 1921 in Stamford, Connecticut to her parents, Frank S. and Mildred B. Calhoun. She graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1944 with honors. Phyllis began working for the YWCA in Lewiston-Auburn, Maine in 1944, and continued her work with the YWCA when she moved to Honolulu, Hawaii in 1948. She then worked for the Bank of Hawaii from 1952 to 1959. In 1960 she returned to the YWCA, this time in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She earned her Masters in Clinical Psychology from University of Tulsa in 1967. While in Tulsa, she became involved with the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Oklahoma City, and met Bill Byerly, who became her beloved husband on September 17, 1967. Phyllis worked as staff psychologist for the Guidance Division of State and County Health Departments from 1966 until her retirement in 1987.

Phyllis was an active member of the Oklahoma City Friends Meeting, and was deeply committed to a myriad of peace and justice concerns. She was newsletter editor for her neighborhood association, the Shields-Davis Neighborhood Watch Association, and freely helped her neighbors in many ways. She was a regular participant with PVS, the Prisoner Visitation and Support program. She enjoyed writing, including poetry, and also helped write a sixth grade curriculum entitled "Beyond Violence." An organic gardener, for decades, Phyllis placed a high value on good nutrition and enjoyed excellent health right up to her final days. She took a great delight in life itself. She loved to play games, she loved her cats, she loved her family and friends and those who needed a friend. Phyllis lived her values on a daily basis, and was a profound inspiration to many people.

In 2008, she wrote, "My passion has been to learn to love unconditionally in the hope and expectation that others will do the same, for it is my expectation that life on earth is changing. It is on the brink of making an evolutionary change in the direction of a kinder and gentler life where compassion, unconditional love and justice are the "bottom line" rather than violence, greed and self-centeredness."

Phyllis is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Ruth and Mike Podolin of Medford, New Jersey, her son and daughter-in-law, Lou and Edichi Byerly of Altadena, CA, and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband, William Byerly, her daughter, Frances Ann Byerly, her brothers, David Brannon Calhoun and Francis Goddard Calhoun, and her sister, Gertrude C. Oakman.

Wilma (Willie) McKissick Ferguson
1917 – March 6, 2019
Little Rock Friends Meeting

Wilma McKissick Ferguson was born in Hamburg, Iowa in 1917 and died March 6, 2019 in Georgetown, Texas at the age of 101. Members of Little Rock Meeting were both saddened and surprised at the news of her death because her vibrant love of life and passionate commitment to social justice made her seem ageless.

In Hamburg she married Dudley Ferguson; they had three children, Kaye, Cliff, and John. When Dudley died suddenly Willie became a widow at age 49. She soon set her sights on obtaining a degree from the University of Iowa in Iowa City. In her first semester she proved her determination by surviving an Iowa winter living in a small travel trailer. Later, with a degree in hand she commenced her life as a dedicated social activist by joining VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), working in small towns in the impoverished Arkansas Delta. Ultimately, she was largely responsible for establishing the first Food Stamp Program in Arkansas.
She became a Quaker late in life when she joined the Little Rock Meeting. In the 1970's and '80's, after moving to the picturesque town of Eureka Springs in Arkansas, she hosted the annual weekend gatherings for scattered isolated Friends in Arkansas and Friends from the small Little Rock and Fayetteville meetings. Willie by then had a small historic home in town and a cabin that she had built at a nearby lake where she loved to swim. The cabin had a single faucet, a wood stove and an outhouse she had proudly constructed from scrap lumber.

Once, in a group discussion about a somewhat conservative book, she explained in her outspoken way "I thought Quakerism was a way of life not a set of doctrines!".

Simple living was part of Willie's DNA, reminding us of the freedom to be attained by living life on the scale of a VISTA volunteer or life in her cabin.

Little Red Truck was a vital part of her retirement years. Each winter she set out with her dachshund “Doglein” for adventures in Texas and Florida. Upon return she recounted humorous stories of their adventures in warmer climes, including sitting out a hurricane playing scrabble in a women’s restroom at a state park.

Willie seemed to know how to adapt, with grace, to the inevitable stages of old age. She knew when to give up Little Red Truck. She knew when it was time to move from the tiny house to which she had retired in downtown Little Rock and which was surrounded by old fashioned flowers. She moved into a high-rise apartment building for the elderly. She told us “when you can no longer garden you should move to a place without a garden.”

When diagnosed with skin cancer in 2007 she told her doctor to keep her alive long enough so she could vote for Obama.

In 201 she knew it was time to move to Texas to be near her daughter Kaye. From then on, she lived in Georgetown, TX, where Friends from Little Rock would visit her after yearly and representative meetings.

Willie used to say, “I’ve always believed in cooperating with the universe”. For those of us who loved her, the universe seems smaller without her presence.

**Ralene Reeves Hearn**

February 12, 1949 – March 15, 2019

Baton Rouge Friends Meeting

Ralene Reeves Hearn, born February 12, 1949, found peace on March 15, 2019. She was born and raised in Mississippi, married her true love, Roger, in 1968, and moved to Willits, California in 1976 with her husband and daughter.

Music flowed through Ralene’s heart and soul. At two years of age, she began playing piano, and as a youth, played for the First Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. She played guitar and piano, and sang all around the country. She was well known in Northern California for leading both “Ralene and the Redwood Band” and “Ralene and Sweetwater.” During the last several years, she found joy performing at the Sebastopol Senior Center. Throughout her whole life, Ralene shared her gift of music with others.

She was passionate about equality and justice. In their earlier years, Ralene and Roger worked in the Civil Rights Movement, sacrificing their own safety for the cause. In 1979, in Louisiana, the KKK threatened Ralene’s life after she invited a young black man to play tennis on the white tennis courts. During that time, segregation was illegal, but many places still openly practiced both segregation and discrimination. The brave young man accepted Ralene’s offer and an angry crowd surrounded them, shouting death threats. After she contacted the Carter adminis-tration, she and her daughter received federal protection. This memorable act of bravery was just one example of Ralene’s commitment to Civil Rights for all people. She was a proud member of the NAACP and supported all causes promoting equality and justice.
Throughout the years, Ralene was a life-long learner. She attended many colleges while traveling and received her Master’s Degree from San Francisco State University in 1991. She taught Speech and Communication courses at Mendocino College and also at other colleges in Northern California and in Hawaii. Over the last few years, Ralene took classes at the Sebastopol Senior Center. While attending a writing class, she wrote over 40 stories about her life and shared the lyrics to a number of her original songs.

Ralene always showed commitment to her family. Her husband, Roger, was her best friend, soul mate, and caregiver later in life. They lovingly and adventurously journeyed this life together, and she missed him every day after his passing. She instilled the values of integrity, hard work, and equality in her daughter and showed her only child the country as they traveled with Roger’s work. Some of their best times together were collecting shells along the beach and body surfing in the Gulf of Mexico. Ralene loved her two granddaughters dearly. She taught them to play the piano, shared her love of gardening with them, enjoyed cooking a “southern breakfast” when they visited, and always had fun playing cards with them.

Ralene was a beloved member in good standing of the Baton Rouge Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) since 1974. She worshiped with Quakers whenever possible as she and Roger traveled and, in her last years, regularly worshipped at Apple Seed Friends Meeting in Sebastopol, California. She believed that one day she would be reunited in The Light with her “Dear Roger.” She always stood strong in her convictions, her love for family and friends, and her ability to make connections wherever she lived. Ralene’s truths will be carried forward through her daughter and granddaughters as she rests in peace in The Light.

Ralene is preceded in death by her husband (Roger Hearn), her mother (Mrs. Rae Reeves), her father (Mr. Gordon Reeves), her brother (Gordy Reeves), and her grandmother (Grandma Johnnie). She is survived by her daughter (Ralanya Hearn Smith), her son-in-law (Clint Smith), her granddaughters (Alisa and Jada Smith), her sisters (Julie Hamlin and Robin Mayfield), her brother (Johnny Reeves), and numerous other family and friends. Ralene’s family gives a sincere thank you to Jojo Blancaflor and Lheta Yumul for their love and care of Ralene during the last several years of her life at Las Palmas in Sebastopol.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) or The Council on Aging at the Sebastopol Senior Center. A small graveside farewell was held on March 21, 2019. Friends and family are invited to a celebration of Ralene’s life at 11am on June 8, 2019 at the Willits Kids’ Club Building.

Eugene V. Ivash
July 24, 1925 – June 8, 2018
Friends Meeting of Austin

Eugene Vasily Ivash was born July 1925 in Windor, Ontario, Canada to Vasily and Sophia “Sonia” Ivash. Vasily was an officer in the Russian Army when the Russian Revolution began. He and Sonia, a teacher, lived in Vladivostok, in the Far East. After the Czar’s Army finally fell, Communist leaders created a list with Vasily’s name on it and asked him to report. Previous individuals on the “list” had disappeared, so Vasily and Sonia escaped to China. There they lived for several years, and lost their first child Galina in an accident. Vasily made his way to Yokohama, Japan and then to San Francisco. He and Sonia then settled in Windsor, where Eugene and his beloved sister, Claudia “Clara”, were born. When Gene was three, they moved to Detroit, bought a farm, and Vasily obtained work as an engineer for Ford Motor Company.

Gene recalled having an interest in science as early as age five. He was quite bright, skipping two grades in school, and he had a voracious appetite for knowledge and a keenly inquisitive nature. His mischievousness and sense of humor sometimes got him into trouble as a boy, such as when he thought it was fun to put his sister into his father’s car and released the brake, “driving” her down a steep hill. (They were both fine though the car didn’t fare as well).

When time for college came, Gene entered the engineering science program at the University of Michigan. He became a U.S. citizen at the age of 18 and was drafted. He entered the V12 naval officer program and completed his BS degree while in the program. After a short time with the U.S. Navy, the war ended and he entered graduate school. He was awarded his PhD in 1952 and joined the physics department at The
University of Texas to provide theoretical support for the Accelerator Laboratory and the Center for Nuclear Studies. He also collaborated with groups at Oak Ridge, but soon realized that his conscience would not allow him to work on weaponry and that at heart he was a pacifist. He taught for several semesters at General Atomic in La Jolla, and in Berkeley, California. Gene took half-time retirement in 1987 and totally retired in 2002, marking a career of 50 years at the University of Texas.

While studying in Ann Arbor, Gene met and fell in love with an intelligent, artistic, and independent-minded student named Edna Alberta Russell. He married Edna in 1953, and they made their lives together from that point on, inseparable until Edna’s death in 2009. Gena and Edna traveled extensively, in part due to his strong interest in encouraging the development of physics education abroad. He lived and consulted in Bangkok in 1958-1959 at Chulalongkorn University and as a participant at the Summer Science Institute at the University of Baroda in India. Edna loved their travels and the time abroad brought them closer. Together they found common interests in learning about philosophies and spiritual practices in the East.

Gene and Edna had three children: Carol, Catherine, and Thomas. In addition to raising the children, Edna was an avid painter and reader. She earned a Master’s degree in psychology and worked as a social worker, among other occupations. Gene pursued interests which included piano, classical music, and meditation. They instilled deep-rooted interests and values in their children, as well as in their grandchildren Kevin, Alexandra, and Erik, whom they loved deeply.

Gene is most cherished and remembered for his deep love of God and for helping others along their spiritual paths. He was an early member of the Friends Meeting of Austin, serving as Clerk and working on a number of committees and concerns throughout the years. In the 1960s, Gene and Edna started following the path of Sant Mat (Teachings of the Saints), becoming vegetarians, living simply, and meditating daily in order to practice inward loving devotion. Gene served as a regional representative, instructing others about the path and meditation for many years.

Gene shared that “even now we have only had partial glimpses of what is a very fascinating, and still largely mysterious world!” He was known to quote Einstein: “Logic will get you from A to Z, but imagination will get you everywhere.”

Joan A. Thompson Libby
July 18, 1931 – April 26, 2018
Live Oak Friends Meeting

Joan A. Thompson Libby was born on July 18, 1931, to Lorin Andrew Thompson Jr. and Dorothy Elizabeth Wright in Columbus, Ohio. She was a very proud alumna of the college of William and Mary and the University of St. Thomas. Joan was on the founding team that helped create and implement the Vanguard program and the SIGHTS program in the Houston Independent School District [two different gifted and talented programs].

Joan became a member of Live Oak Friends Meeting in 1970, and served as the meeting clerk in 1979 and 1980. In the 1970’s when Friends were exploring the possibilities for starting a Friends School in Houston, Joan played a key leadership role and amassed an extensive collection of related materials, which is now part of the archive of LOFM. She loved to work with small children, and her career as an elementary school teacher had well prepared her for her role as a First Day School teacher at Live Oak Friends. However, her true ministry was in service to the community as a member and clerk of the Oversight/Care and Concern Committee, on which she served for many years.

Joan passed away on April 26, 2018, at the age of 86. A celebration of Joan’s life was held on August 4, 2018, at Live Oak Friends Meeting in Houston, Texas. She was pre-deceased by her husband, Philip Nason Libby Jr. and is survived by her children, Andrew Libby, Pennell Libby Ackermann, Margaret Libby, and grandchildren, Nicholas, Benjamin, and Lauren. She was a loving mother and grandmother whose generosity extended far beyond her own family.
Dr. Ruth Lofgren
November 25, 1916 – October 31, 2018
Friends Meeting of San Antonio

Friends Meeting of San Antonio mourns the passing of Ruth Lofgren – a long-time Friend who spread Quaker Light and wisdom to our Meeting and to the wider San Antonio community. She died after a short illness a few weeks short of her 102nd birthday, surrounded by friends and Friends.

Ruth led an extraordinary life. She was born near Salt Lake City, Utah, where she spent her early years on a small fruit farm and was home-schooled by her parents. She was brought up in the Church of Latter Day Saints, and she referred to some of the beliefs she gained from that experience, especially being thankful to the care of her guardian angels. She learned to explore, study, observe and assimilate the natural world around her. Her sharp and curious mind led her to the University of Michigan, where she obtained a Ph.D. in Microbiology in 1944. She was a pioneer in electron microscope research. After post-doctoral work at Michigan, she moved to New York and taught at the City University of New York’s Brooklyn College. She was active in Friends Meetings in New York, where she sponsored a young Cambodian refugee, Bo Tep, with whom she remained close all her life. On her retirement in 1976, Ruth moved to San Antonio to provide science enrichment at a local school. She was very active among San Antonio Quakers, serving as Meeting Treasurer for many years.

Ruth was also active in the San Antonio community, promoting science, justice, education, and the environmental awareness. She supported the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center from its very beginnings. In 2008, she was made the first San Antonio Peace Laureate. She worked to restore the wetlands of Mitchell Lake wetlands and was instrumental in establishing an Audubon center there. For that, she received the Texas Audubon Society’s 2017 Terry Hershey Award. She served on the Alamo Area Council of Governments’ Criminal Justice Advisory Committee for 25 years and received their lifetime achievement award in 2014. She was inducted into the San Antonio Women’s Hall of Fame in 2017, shortly after her 100th birthday.

Ruth enjoyed the world, gardening, photography and sewing, and her soprano voice was lovely. Ruth’s beautiful spirit will be dearly missed. She was buried in Salt Lake City Cemetery. San Antonio Friends were joined by many others to celebrate her life on December 2nd, 2018.

May Mansur Munn
December 22, 1934 – August 18, 2018
Live Oak Friends Meeting

May Mansur was born in Jerusalem, Palestine, on December 22, 1934, to Dr. Jiries Mansur and Ellen Audi Mansur. Her family lived in Jerusalem’s Katamon quarter. Soon after the bombing of the Semiramis Hotel in 1948, the family moved to Ramallah, ten miles north of Jerusalem, to avoid the escalating danger. She attended Ramallah Friends Meeting and was a student at the Girls’ School of Ramallah Friends’ School.

To be born Palestinian meant a life of upheaval—changing homes, losing homes. Home is a central theme in May’s stories. She carried an underlying grief all her life for the pain and injustice that resulted from the uprooting of so many fellow Palestinians. Fear that the reality of Palestine is being erased was an abiding influence in her writing.

At age 15, May came to America on her own to attend William Penn College, and, subsequently, to earn degrees in English and Theology from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. She told the story of having been a young woman away from home attending college in the United States. Her father wrote letters to her filled with lavish descriptions of her mother’s cooking. “It was the grape leaves and squash that reminded me who I was.” It was then May realized that, by writing, she could recreate something that she didn’t want to lose.

After college, May returned home to Palestine and taught at the Ramallah Friends’ School. In 1955, she married Isa Mansoor and they moved to the United States, first living in Dalton, Georgia, then settling in
Houston, Texas. After her husband’s passing, May earned her teaching certificate in history at the University of Houston, and taught at Memorial Senior High School for ten years. While working there, she co-founded the Houston-area Model United Nations [HAMUN], an organization seeking to teach students about our national government and global politics.

When Albert Munn began attending Live Oak Friends Meeting, May was a young widow with two teenage children. He noticed her right away. In December, 1973, they were married under the care of the Meeting at the Rothko Chapel in Houston. Together, they became the beloved “May and Albert”, practically its own phrase in the Live Oak Meeting lexicon.

As a member of Live Oak for 45 years, May was a mentor to many Friends, especially to untold numbers of younger women in the meeting. She was a devoted attender at Bayou Quarterly Meeting, and an enthusiastic yearly meeting participant. Ask any of the late night musicians at yearly meeting if they knew May! She was their most devoted fan.

Singing songs from Rise-Up Singing may have been May’s favorite Friendly activity, but writing was her passion. She never failed to encourage others to write down their interesting thoughts and experiences. Ever the teacher, she helped establish a Writers’ Group, chiefly made up of Friends from Live Oak, that encouraged and supported each other’s artistic writing efforts.

In 2013, May published an historical novel about the events leading up to the 1967 Six-Day War entitled Ladies of the Dance. Over the years, she wrote numerous essays and short stories about Palestine and life in the States that were published in regional and national newspapers and magazines. Where Do Dreams and Dreaming Go?, a compilation of these essays and short stories, was also published in 2017.

“Sometimes I just have to write. Very often, the words do not just flow; I have to find the beginning. Then, I get in touch with my inner self. That’s when I discover who I am.”

May passed on Saturday, August 18, 2018, at the age of 83, after a difficult battle with Parkinson’s disease. She leaves behind her husband Albert Munn, her daughter Ellen Mansoor Collier and husband Gary Collier, her son Jeff Mansoor and wife Christy Fiehn-Mansoor, younger sisters Noel Mansur, Limy Mansur, and Emily Shihadeh, and her brother-in-law Donn Hutchison. May’s youngest sister Sina preceded her in death. Two cousins, Reima Bishara and Elias Audi, who live in Houston, were very close to May and are among the family that miss her dearly.

In tribute to her father, who was a physician, May donated her body to the Texas Medical Center to further the study of Parkinson’s disease.

A memorial service was held at the Live Oak Friends Meeting in Houston, Texas, on Sunday, September 16, 2018. May is sorely missed by her family and F/friends.

**Lori Segura**  
*August 10, 1954 – [n.d.]*  
Friends Meeting of San Antonio

Lori was born on August 10, 1954 in Washington, D.C. to Dr. H. Robert and Patricia Unger. She grew up as the oldest sibling with a brother Robert, Jr. and two sisters, Cynthia and Kimberly. Growing up in a military family, they traveled throughout the United States and later throughout Western Europe.

They arrived in San Antonio when their father took joint command at Brooks Air Force Base. She attended the University of Texas Health Sciences, San Antonio where she received her B.S.N. degree in nursing. As a registered nurse, she worked in emergency rooms in Dallas, San Antonio and Houston area mostly.

She married her husband Stephen on June 7, 1986 in San Antonio. They lived mostly in the Houston area. Five years ago, they returned to San Antonio to help their siblings with the care of their parents. Lori began attending the Friends Meeting of San Antonio soon after arriving. She enjoyed the camaraderie with Quakers. They helped her to understand and helped her navigate her life’s journey. She enjoyed attending Quaker meetings. Lori worked with Quakers with families of immigrants seeking asylum at the Karnes Detention
Center as part of the Interfaith Welcome Coalition. She served on the Peace & Social Concerns committee. She and Steve both helped with the Annual Friends Fair and her nurses’ training was invaluable when a Friend was scalded. She was devoted to the care of her sister, Kim, as she battled cancer. Her endless work as a nurse, and helping others, will forever be a sign of her legacy of being a good Christian and as a testament to her faith. Lori will be missed by family and friends alike.

**Pete SoRelle**
May 21, 1956 – May, 10, 2018
Dallas Friends Meeting

Pete spent the last four years of his 62-year life attending the Dallas Friends Meeting. He had an unusual capacity to relate to people on a one-on-one basis, and the neurological and emotional limitations of his ALS disease did not interfere with this ability.

Pete had an encyclopedic knowledge of many genres of music which he accumulated by growing up in a musical family. He could interject substance, depth and provenance to whatsoever piece of music or artist was being discussed. He played on a left-handed guitar and quickly surpassed the skill of his two older brothers as he grew up. He gave of himself graciously, both as a guitar teacher and as a friend.

He liked to walk over to a thrift store and find treasures that he would give to friends, often wrapped in brown paper, or children’s books that were appropriate for their age and on topics they were interested in. Pete was thoughtful and generous. By nature, he had a very giving Spirit that held out so many very special gifts for any who were willing to receive them.

As a person, he was very much an open and “no holds-barred” kind of guy, while also being someone who was ever-striving to be amenable, courteous and responsive to all. One friend has said that she realized that she was in the casual presence of a very rare kind of person, one who had known a relatively full measure of sorrow, despair and disappointment in their life, but who had also discovered the wondrous, uplifting and transcendent power of music.

Pete is missed by all of us who knew him.

**Marlee Turner**
[n.d.] – November 28, 2018
Dallas Friends Meeting

Marlee Turner of Raymond, Maine died peacefully on November 28th, 2018 in Enchanted Oaks, Texas at the age of 85. Marlee was born in Bronxville, New York to parents Henry Chandlee Turner, Jr. and Virginia Ann Turner, and was raised in the Quaker family tradition. She went to Swarthmore University and Stanford University, where she received her Bachelor’s degree in Education. She began with a career in teaching, then married John “Jay” Whitcraft and together raised their 3 boys, John, Steven, and David. Never content with staying at home, she was active in League of Women Voters, and co-founded a public relations consulting firm and later became an owner of Northern Pines Health Resort and Bed and Breakfast in Raymond, Maine. She ran for the office of State Representative for her district in Maine, and although not elected, she met many new people who became friends. Even as her bout with Multiple Sclerosis took its toll on her ability to walk later in life, she remained active in her B&B business for many years, always ensuring that her guests’ needs were met. They felt welcome, they enjoyed conversation, and she made cooked-to-order breakfasts through the past summer season. She also enjoyed seeing friends at Rotary, swimming at the pool, going to the Senior Center, playing bridge, and Meeting on Sundays. She was a member of the Portland, Maine meeting.

Marlee came to the Dallas Meeting when she started spending her winters with her family at Cedar Creek Lake, running the bed and breakfast in Maine during the summer. The Meeting was glad to have her gracious and spirit-filled presence with us. We held an adult discussion group before Meeting for Worship and she was appreciated her wise participation. We looked forward to Thanksgiving every year because we knew that Marlee was coming. She also came to Yearly Meeting several times, usually taxied around by Dale
Bordelon. It was hard for her physically to get around, but she often made it to meeting on Sunday. If she couldn't attend the Meeting, she would attend the Catholic Church in Mabank, which she said was inspiring.

Marlee enjoyed spending time at the senior center in Mabank. Many people she met had different views than hers, but she made a point of saying she would listen to them and respected their opinions. When she did speak, she was gentle and respectful. She did not argue.

Marlee had a sense of fairness and balance. Her many years of Quaker experience helped us many times to come to decisions. We miss her presence with us very much.

**Gayle Twiname**
Georgetown Friends Meeting

Georgetown Friends Meeting minutes its appreciation of the many gifts that Gayle Twiname brought to our Meeting community. As one of the founders of the Georgetown Friends Meeting, her wisdom guided our Meeting, both in worship and business. Gayle was a member of Live Oak Friends Meeting in Houston and when she and her life partner, Peggy, moved to Georgetown, she was moved to start a Meeting. Gayle did so much to make all feel welcome at Meeting, from providing coffee and snacks, to sending cards to Friends. She served as Clerk of the Meeting from 2010 – 2015. During that time, she initiated a monthly Discussion Forum, a yearly Celebration Meeting picnic and the Quaker 101 series. Gayle also wrote the content of our website which then led to our Facebook page. Gayle shared with us her keen intellect, her sense of humor, and her faith. She often shared how much she valued the silence of Meeting for Worship. When Gayle and Peggy moved to Beaumont in 2015, our Meeting continued to rely on Gayle’s wise advice for several years.

**Dorothy Warrington**
April 13, 1917 ~ March 6, 2019
South Central Yearly Meeting

Dorothy Candlin Warrington, Dottie to her friends in South Central Yearly Meeting, died on March 6, 2019 at 101, just short of her 102nd birthday. She is remembered among us for her long service as registrar at SCYM sessions, especially her warm, welcoming smile to each of us when we arrived.

Dottie was born to Dr. George Candlin, (who treated Poncho Villa when Dottie was a child) and teacher, Myrtle Dean Candlin in Presidio, Texas. She grew up first in Presidio, then Laredo and earned her BA in Spanish at Texas Christian University.

From 1946 to 1948 Dottie served the American Friends Service Committee in Shanghai, China, during the Chinese Civil War, as a volunteer with the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) and associated model village programs established there. There she learned Mandarin, married Donald Warrington (a member of Ardmore Meeting, PhYM) and had her first child. Upon returning to the US they spent two years at Black Mountain College in North Carolina.

In 1950 Dottie and Don moved to Pennsylvania where Don began his lifelong work with the YMCA. Dottie was kept very busy raising their three children, Tom, Patricia and Nancy, in Reading and Tarentum, PA and later in Costa Rica and Colombia while Don worked to set up a Y facility. In all these settings, Dottie made a welcoming home for her family and visitors from around the world. Her children spoke at her memorial service of the special birthday parties she arranged for each of them and how she regularly read to them as they ate lunch every day.

All these years the family came back to Blanco regularly to visit Dottie’s family. Her children remember these times fondly as they were full of visiting with loving family and romping with cousins in the Hill Country meadows and woods. In 1981 Dottie and Don retired to Blanco to a home which Don designed and built with many environmentally sensitive features. Dottie began her many years as a volunteer at the Blanco Library where she was still working well into her 90s. They became attenders at Hill Country Worship Group and helped to encourage those Friends to become a monthly meeting in 1982.
The Warringtons became steadfast attenders of SCYM. Dottie shared her gifts of warmth and welcome by serving as SCYM registrar for about 20 years. Friends remember her ready smile and deep laugh as she stood behind a table full of carefully organized envelopes containing name tags, keys and schedules for each session. It didn’t matter who you were or where you came from, she was happy to welcome you into the SCYM family. Along with other Friends, the Warringtons were central to development and building projects at Quakerland, a yearly meeting project to develop an intentional, environmentally sustainable community near Kerrville, TX.

A true daughter of Texas, Dottie had a fiery, inquisitive, spirit. She loved Texas Hill Country nature, birds and flowers, especially painted buntings and bluebonnets. She welcomed Friends from all over the world into her home in Blanco for international meals and conversation. Dottie loved music, often singing at home whatever she was doing. With her family and friends, she was famous for her yearly Christmas letter, hand colored specially for each person; her love of music; and her fruitcakes.

Friends from SCYM visited Dottie while she was living at the end of her life in a care facility. They reported Dottie was still very present to the world around her and loved looking out the window at the birds on a feeder a relative had provided.

Six Friends attended Dottie’s memorial service arranged by her children at the Blanco Library, along with many who worked with her regularly in the library and those who cared for her in her last years at Live Oak Medical Center, Henry House, and LBJ Medical Center. They celebrated her life with stories about to Dottie’s firm but steady, loving manner, the joy they felt being in her presence and the positive affect she had on their lives.

Dottie is survived by her three children, Tom, Patricia and Nancy, her granddaughter, Sarabella and eleven nieces and nephews.
State of Meeting Reports

Friends Meeting Of Austin

The following is the state of the meeting report from Friends Meeting of Austin to be submitted at the South Central Yearly Meeting 2019 annual sessions. Responses to the queries are based on forums held on February 10, 2019, March 3, 2019 and March 24, 2019.

Worship: How does the spirit illuminate your meetings worship? How do you encourage ministry and seek to deepen the spiritual life of the meeting and of individual Friends?

During discussion regarding how FMA encourages ministry several friends mentioned that they thank those who have spoken at the rise of meeting. FMA also provides a booklet (Silence and Speech) in our benches in the hope that this information will put newcomers at ease and possibly encourage them to attend to urgings from the Spirit within.

Discussion of how and why to encourage Vocal Ministry included questioning the need to encourage it if ministry rises from within. One friend mentioned the internal struggle over whether or not to speak as one hallmark of what might be a message. Reference was made to Quaker sources for guidance on deciding when to speak.

At the beginning of Meeting for Worship With Attention for Business, a spiritual statement is read and followed by silence to encourage the presence of Spirit.

We noted the current First Day School programs which seem to be successfully encouraging Spirit in our children. Children now participate in reporting on their learning at the rise of meeting. Also of note is the Nativity themed freeze-frame film produced by First Day School children.

Several of our Committees have undertaken specific actions to deepen the spiritual life of meeting. Those mentioned include the monthly Beloved Lunch and Book Club. One friend mentioned that singing puts her in a spiritual place.

A friend asked have we discussed how worship in the meeting deepens the spiritual life of individuals because it seems that we do a better job of caring for pastoral vs. spiritual needs. For example, as a member of Care and Counsel committee he saw that we have formal process for caring for people emotionally, psychologically, materially. As a member of Worship and Ministry committee, he did not see that we have a way of addressing spiritual needs in the same way.

A friend responded that if people asked for that type of spiritual support, a clearness committee would be appointed. The suggestion was made that as part of closing of worship an announcement about individual spiritual support be included.

Efforts have been made to increase spiritual life of individuals including the Spiritual Friendship program, mid-week worship service, Quaker Q & A sessions and small group worship. It was observed that people find it hard to ask for help, especially in their spiritual life. Again the suggestion was made that we announce at rise of meeting that we are available for spiritual guidance.

We have improved our focus on spirit this year with more frequent Quakerism 101 sessions, which are well attended. Perhaps we could add study groups around short articles and such when we aren’t doing Quakerism 101.

There was discussion as to the roles of Worship and Ministry and Adult Religious Education in providing programs to support this growth of individual spirituality.

As we try to visualize the overall state of meeting we should recall that we’ve had to respond to many Friend’s personal struggles this year. We’ve put a lot of energy into these efforts, and this is indicative that we’re growing older. However, we’ve recently had a tremendous infusion of young people. Putting both together should make us feel pretty good.
**Meeting Community:** How does your meeting’s community reflect its corporate spiritual strivings? How do Friends care for one another in times of spiritual and material need? What role do children play in the meeting community?

We have recently replaced afterthoughts with sharing Joys and Sorrows at the rise of meeting as a way to bring people together and in connection with each other and community.

There are growing efforts to help children be part of our worship life and get grounding in Quaker history and scripture as a basis for going forward. FMA is really working to integrate children as part of the meeting for example, speaking about what they’ve done in First Day School at the rise of meeting.

Our children also enjoyed the experience of being in charge of the Biblical Feast, That event was a good beginning towards developing an appreciation of service. The children appreciated giving personal versus impersonal service.

The Young Adult Friends group monthly luncheon is another way that FMA is building community. And we are pleased that we have had some success at attracting younger Friends to our meeting.

Our meeting continues our longstanding programs committed to Prison Ministry, Colombia Ministry, and border issues via Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera which provide opportunities for everyone to participate. Caring for our buildings and property is another way that we develop our community; e.g. cleaning meeting and Saturday workdays.

The Care and Counsel committee provides ongoing support groups for several Friends in need and makes a significant difference for those concerned and the people closest to them. C & C also has provides specific issue Clearness committees. Care and Counsel has also introduced activities to deepen meeting’s spiritual life.

We wondered if the broader membership is aware of the things they can ask for pastoral care about? Do we all know that if you have a life issue you can come to Care and Counsel for help? We hope to make Friends more aware that clearness committees are available to them so that everyone can participate in the Meeting’s spiritual life in that way.

Care and Counsel have made efforts to develop a Beloved Community with things like book club, beloved lunch, and Spiritual Friendships. We also canvassed Friends married under care of meeting and are open to other ideas that might arise.

We have recently begun a renovation of our Kitchen and meeting space that will make our space more available, functional, and welcoming. This effort is a very practical way this is helping the spiritual life of the community.

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

FMA’s Adult Religious Education committee facilitates 2-3 forums a month that take place an hour before meeting for worship. These forums primarily address spiritual matters. Facilitators often report learning a great deal via the preparation and presentation of various topics. These forums generate a lot of energy, enthusiasm, and discussion.

We have also seen energy and enthusiasm for our Quakerism 101 series that consists of six two-hour sessions after worship on second and fourth Sundays. Participation in the most recent Quakerism 101 series includes new and seasoned Quakers as well as a significant number of Young Adult Friends.

Our First Day School has been successful engaging the children in a variety of activities, many which are focused on Christian perspectives.

Our Young Adult Quakers group have grown in number and activity this year. They have monthly luncheons and help with First Day School especially teaching from the Bible.
We also have an active Library committee, which is improving the variety of books available to our members and attenders. A good selection of Quaker reading materials is also available for sale in our meetinghouse.

Our Care and Counsel committee also provides financial support for growth opportunities outside FMA including travel to Quaker gatherings and special purpose groups.

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

As Quakers "we strive to make every action a testimony" and FMA has many ongoing programs to put our testimonies into our everyday life.

Our meeting continues our longstanding program committed to Prison Ministry. Approximately fifteen members participate in activities such as correspondence with parole board and inmates (e.g. Christmas cards). Also, several members visit death row inmates on a monthly basis.

We continue to support the work of Paul Stuckey and Carol Byler in Bogota, Colombia through our Colombia Support Ministries committee. We also have a fund that provides loans to Columbians for personal needs and the formation of small businesses.

FMA members actively engage with US Mexico border issues in collaboration with Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera. The meeting also provides permanent space for Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera in one of our buildings.

The Peace and Social Concerns committee has also been involved in a concert provided by Peter Blood and Annie Patterson which was attended by many non-Friends and was a joyful experience.

We have also held meetings for improving racial relations as well as protecting the status of immigrants.

Our earth care committee has been involved with public information about climate reality. This concern has also been addressed at the federal level with advocating different types of legislation.

Peace and Social concerns has begun a new program called "Monthly Movies". Movies that address current social issues are shown on Friday evenings followed by discussion.

We also have a clothing and food box and provide food for members in need.

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

Both our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business and our various committees are usually make decisions in a loving and respectful manner. However there is a continuing need for better attendance at Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business.

The meeting has been able to discern and decide on major projects following Quaker good order. We are currently renovating our kitchen and social area and this project is moving forward smoothly to provide an improved space for our community activities.

The process for renting space for a preschool was accomplished in good order and was led by our School Support committee.

During this year we have formed an ad hoc committee devoted to finding exploring the best ways FMA can utilize all of our resources to further Quaker testimonies. This committee organized a day-long retreat which was very helpful in furthering this work.

We have had some success in following Quaker Faith and Practice at our monthly business meetings. However, we sometimes feel the lack of a faith and practice manual and look forward to forthcoming SCYM manual. We have found that "Faith" (quotes) are easier to follow than Quaker practices.
Intervisitation and Outreach: How has intervisitation and involvement with Friends outside your meeting affected your meeting’s spiritual growth? How have you reached out to seekers in the community around you?

Our meeting supports the Georgetown Worship group. That is one form of outreach to other seekers in the area. One of the Georgetown members has been coming to FMA for Quakerism101 and some FMA members have occasionally visited and worshiped with the Georgetown group. Georgetown has become self-sufficient for quite a while and have several people with experience in the Society of Friends as members.

Another form of outreach is our provision of space to East Austin Community of al-Islam for Friday prayers. We continue our support and provision of space to of ATCF which includes members of our Hispanic community. We also provided space for events such as the journey of hope, which brings many to the Meeting House for the first time and is a way of attracting others.

Also our racial healing group continues to try and figure out how to connect with the surrounding African American community.

With regard to direct outreach into the broader community, most of what we do is through peace and social concerns activities. People probably go to St. Andrews and the Unitarians because of sanctuary work, and that attracts people. We’re not as obvious in our support of that work.

A friend mentioned that about a month ago he attended a lecture at St. Edwards’ university by a Sikh religion scholar. There were two professors from the religion department there and they didn’t know that there was a Friends Meeting in Austin. They knew there was a Mennonites church but not us.

It was noted that people who are looking for us find us easily. The people who aren’t don’t. The way people know we’re around is through our involvement in causes and community projects. At some of these events we bring our banner such as at the MLK day. It doesn’t mean that a massive number of people know about us, but those active in religious and social change circles do.

It was suggested that our local colleges and universities might have activities on campuses where we can be represented. Maybe some of our Young Adult Friends might have some ideas on that. Someone noted that the young adults’ activities are more organized in the last year, and they have taken it upon themselves to meet regularly monthly.

Some of the work of the Ad Hoc Resources committee is reaching out to nearby religious and social organizations to potentially partner with. This committee is also exploring ways to share space resources with more of the non-profit community in Austin.

There was discussion of the vibrancy of other meetings located in university towns with regard to young families and youth. While we have quite a few graduate students participating at FMA, we would like to attract additional younger families.

A friend wondered if Austin American Statesman newspaper still has a church-related page with descriptions of activities in the community? Perhaps we could use that section of the paper to let people know we’re here.

In summary the group thought that we should be doing more in terms of community outreach, specifically to the younger population in Austin and are looking for ways to do that.

Membership Changes: how has your membership changed? How has this affected the life of your meeting? (Among other changes, please state information on births and adoptions for the Minute of Thanksgiving: the child’s name, birth and/or adoption date, parents’ names and grandparents’ names (if they are SCYM friends or if this information would be of interest to SCYM Friends). If you like, please include a brief statement about the child’s life, spirit, or personality to give Friends a better understanding of the life we are celebrating in the minute.)

We are pleased to have two new members join during the past year. One of these new members attends the Georgetown Worship group but also participates in worship and activities at FMA.

Andrea Beane has transferred her membership.
Erika Mittag has a new grandchild.

Recorder Report
April 7, 2019

New Members since last Yearly Meeting:

- Emily Northrup
- Jen Brown

Membership Ceased:

- B. Gayle Twiname, death
- Eugene Ivash, death
- Andrea Beane, transferred her membership to Santa Monica Friends Meeting in California

Deaths:

2 for stats; 3 for memorial minutes (J.W. Wostal was released from membership at her request in 2006, remained active in the Meeting and passed away 1/23/2019)

Births/Adoptions:

Miriam Mirth Carter was born to Hilary Andersen and Samuel Day-Woodruff on January 16, 2019. It is with great joy that Sam and I share the news of the birth of our daughter, Miriam Mirth Carter. Miriam took her first breath with a robust set of lungs on January 16, 2019 at 10:48 a.m. at IU Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis, IN. She was born a month early, but she is thriving and in excellent health.

Membership statistics:

Total number of members: 153 of which

- Members of FMA living locally: 56
- Members of FMA living locally that are not active: 38
- Members or FMA not living locally: 54
- Children of FMA members who are members: 5
- Members of other meetings living locally: 2

The recorder* keeps an accurate record of the membership and provides membership statistics to the yearly meeting. Monthly meetings pay a donation each fiscal (calendar) year to the South Central Yearly Meeting**. Generally a monthly meeting’s amount is determined by the number of active adult members living locally (56 FMA members + 2 members of other meetings = 58), times the assessment rate of $72 each = $4,176.

Meetings can decide a different amount to donate.

*See page 83 of the 1993 edition of the North Pacific Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice for the description of the duties of the recorder.

**Unprogrammed monthly meetings from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and one meeting in Missouri belong to SCYM.

by Glenna Balch
Baton Rouge Friends Meeting  
State of the Meeting Report 2018-2019

It is in right order that we review and report annually on the state of our meeting. These reports are submitted to our yearly meeting for inclusion in the proceedings of our annual sessions. And so, we look back over the past year and share these observations with Friends…

We are happy to tell everyone that after a years-long dry spell, we are again having a Children’s First Day School at BRFM. We only have one little girl, Ingrid Bordelon (age 3) and we only meet with her twice a month but her presence has added much joy to our community. Various Friends are sharing the teaching tasks.

After worshipping with us for two years, Jack Randolph (Randy) Harelson was led to request membership in our meeting. At the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business following his Clearness Committee, we welcomed him into the Religious Society of Friends. As Clerk of the Adult First Day School, Randy has already begun to serve in leadership responsibilities. Not only do we thank him but we also look forward to having his spirit and gifts enrich our faith family for years to come.

With deep sadness, we report the death of Ralene Hearn, who became a member of BRFM in 1974. Ralene and her husband, Roger, moved from Baton Rouge shortly after her membership was accepted. After a long absence and following a severe auto accident, Ralene contacted us to be placed on our membership roll as an active-but-distant member. We enjoyed a rich long-distance friendship with her and, though no one from Meeting ever managed to meet her personally, our faith community was strengthened by her presence.

Our Adult First Day School has been very well attended throughout the year. Randy Harelson began his service to our meeting when he stepped into the position vacated by Ralph McAuary. Ralph had inspired us for several years, encouraging even the shy people to facilitate an occasional study. We meet once a month. With several new people now attending our worship, it seemed timely to offer a “Quaker Study – 101” and we have all grown in our Quaker knowledge from this endeavor.

After a three year hiatus, worship is again taking place in the Lafayette area. Acadiana Friends Meeting is a preparative meeting under the care of Baton Rouge Friends Meeting. Three years ago, the location for their worship was sold and Friends had great difficulty finding a replacement. Worship is now taking place twice a month (same as before) in a small building in Scott, LA (immediately adjacent to the Lafayette city limits) being offered by a friend of a Friend. Check them out at their Facebook page, “Acadiana Quakers.”

Baton Rouge Meeting also has a Facebook page, “Baton Rouge Friends Meeting” and a website through the Quaker Cloud (fgcquakers.org). We continue to maintain a listing in the Saturday Church Directory of THE ADVOCATE (Baton Rouge’s daily newspaper). Though none of us currently have great strength in modern technology, we are managing to keep up a basic presence in the 21st century!

We have been blessed this past year with many visitors. Dave French, from Menalled Monthly Meeting of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting, stopped by for his second summer visit to worship with us. He spends his winters traveling throughout the South visiting Quakers along the way. Eileen Flanagan, a Quaker writer, spent several days with the Arnolds and worshipped with us on First Day during her stay. She was in town doing research for a book she is writing about the environment. Danny Arnold, retired from Exxon/Mobil, took her on a private tour of the area around the BR Refinery and added his perspective as an employee in the oil industry for 38 years. Eileen commented that his perspective gave her an entirely different twist to the story she is writing…in a good way. Jacob Flowers, from AFSC, stayed with us while on a speaking tour to Quaker meetings across the south. And our final visitor was Joshua Ponter, a young Quaker from New Jersey who is spending a full year traveling across the United States visiting Quakers. He drives a Jeep pulling a small energy-efficient travel trailer. He stayed a week, managing to attend Bayou Quarterly with Pam Arnold, tour New Orleans with Robin McCarrt-Morris from Friends Meeting of New Orleans, and eat more samples of Cajun cooking than the average Cajun! With each visitor, we felt strengthened in our extended Quaker family.
As a Meeting, we have offered financial assistance to a man from Cameroon who has lived in the United States for almost twenty years. He is stuck in limbo with his Cameroon passport not being renewed and his appeal for asylum being lost in the system. It is another tragic situation that points to the weaknesses in our government’s immigration policies. We have aided two members of our meeting who do not live locally and so cannot regularly attend worship with us. Maintaining a close relationship is challenging when there are 50 miles between folks but from notes and cards to occasionally providing transportation to medical appointments, we do what we can to keep in touch with these folks. Also as a Meeting, we wrote a letter of protest to the NYC Friends School when they dismissed their only Quaker teacher without appropriate Quaker Spirit-led deliberation. We continue to be involved in the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge.

Thus we are pleased to report that Baton Rouge Friends Meeting is alive and well. We are strengthened by our studies and enriched by our monthly eating meetings. Though still relatively few in number, our faith community is on solid ground and growing in spirit and love.

Dallas Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report 2018-2019

The Dallas Friends meeting has experienced tremendous spiritual growth this past year. We started weekly conversations and discussions on Quaker spirituality and other aspects of Quaker faith and are encouraging more vocal ministry. Both seasoned friends and newcomers attend the weekly meetings.

We started a series of discussions based on queries to explore issues of membership, leadings, stewardship of the property, faith, and legal and social justice.

Our membership is aging, and it has affected our meeting in that it is more difficult to actively participate in events that require walking long distances, driving long distances or staying overnight. We faced the challenge of experiencing waning energy by increasing opportunities for community, education, and witness to those who visit our meeting. An effort is being made to attract younger members and attendees through social media; we post regularly to Facebook and upgraded our meeting website to the Quaker Cloud. We had no new members this year but were richly visited by newcomers and traveling Quakers from all over the US.

We work to maintain a hospitable worship space, to encourage people to use their gifts in different committees and to inspire spiritual growth through different conversational activities; both before and after our hour of worship.

In a spirit of care and concern, we reached out to all members and attenders of record, mid-year, to invite them back to the meeting and to generally offer support, if needed.

As George Fox stated, “Enunciation of the principle of equality among human beings in the sight of God is important and necessary, but it is not sufficient”, therefore the Dallas Friends Meeting stands in faith and solidarity with the peace testimony through financial support of the Dallas Peace Center, attends the Peacemakers Banquet and supports TCADP – Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty both financially and through activism. We have members who are active participants with the Peace and Justice Forum of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff, and we have members who actively perform outreach in both the Muslim and Native American Indian communities. We continue to seek other interfaith connections in our community.

This year we offered our building to our community and provided hospitality to fellow Quakers. We hosted the SCYM Faith and Practice Committee meeting in September and also provided hospitality to the FGC Planning Committee in November. We now have a group of sacred harp singers that use our building once a month, and the local DRA Meeting (Dual Recovery Anonymous) group uses the meeting house three times per week. A conversation was started in November with the U.U. Church concerning an interfaith exchange. We did not get to visit until January 2019 and are working to find a date shortly for them to visit our meeting house.

Respectfully submitted
Almeta Smith-Clerk Dallas Friends Meeting
In Meeting for Worship, during 2018, Fayetteville Friends created a space for Spirit, a place of renewal and nourishment. Friends felt a strong love among those gathered together and were energized by the presence of two young families with children who have greatly enriched our meeting. We were gratified to start a First Day School, meeting one Sunday a month, with five children attending regularly.

In addition to Meeting for Worship, members sought enrichment of Spirit through the continuation of the Healing Circle, and Second Hour discussion of Quaker history, social movements involving justice and equality, and other religions and the spirit aspect of art, with three artists in the meeting giving presentations. One Sunday a month, the Peace and Justice Committee brings social activism concerns to the meeting. We support a very active Quaker Earthcare Committee that has planted native plants around the meeting house and made that area a designated Wildlife Habitat.

We supported Quaker Testimonies in several ways by actively reaching into the wider community. We supported Community Emergency Outreach with donations and volunteering, by having a Quaker table at the Farmers’ Market and by adult education presentations on Quakerism in the Fayetteville adult education program. We instigated and took part in a weekly vigil in front of the court house supporting family unity and deploring the separation of parents and children at the Mexican border. We wrote letters to our congressmen, met with the local sheriff to object to his voluntary working with ICE to deport undocumented immigrants and alms met with Congressman Womack to discuss immigration.

Out Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business has been deliberate, with care for differences among our group. Theologically we are diverse but accepting of one another’s views, and we leave our egos behind when we come together.

We are connected with other Quaker meetings in our geographic area, but it’s a small group who attend Quarterly or Yearly gathering. Karen Takemoto is one of the planners of FGC Gathering this year.

We welcomed Emily McCoy and Nancy Bunting as new members to the meeting and are pleased to have three new regular attenders. Deidre and Richard Phillips moved to Wales last year and we continue to miss their voices: Deirdre had been clerk and Richard would have held that position this year.

We do have a concern about the sparseness of vocal ministry in our meeting and intend to hold a Second Hour on vocal ministry soon to discuss this.

The Fayetteville meeting feels optimistic about 2019, ready to follow Spirit wherever it leads.

LaDeana Mullinix, Clerk, 3-17-2019

In 2018, Fort Worth Monthly Meeting saw changes and challenges in membership and attendance. We are resolved to ensure those who want to worship are present and welcome among us. On 5th First Days, some members have gathered for Meeting for Worship at the home of Jean Baggerly, who no longer drives. Friends have been picking up other members who have car issues or no transportation. We continue to welcome occasional visitors seeking genuine experience with young children, but they only attend once and do not return. An active teenage attender and her family joined us for a few months; however, they too have stopped coming. Nevertheless, our intimate gatherings continue to be graced with the Spirit, including powerful testimonies and heartfelt fellowship.

Our longtime treasurer Tom Taber moved to Houston, TX in the Spring of 2018. Tom's presence has been missed in our meeting for worship, but we were pleased to provide him a letter of transfer to the Live Oak Meeting where we know his presence will be a blessing. Active attender Jim Shaver took over the responsibilities of treasurer and we are grateful for his service.
Fort Worth Monthly Meeting was busy attending to peace and social concerns in 2018. Members and attenders joined the weekly protest against forced family separation outside of Rep. Kay Granger's office. A letter to the editor was published in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on March 30, 2018 stating our support of the March for Our Lives rally. At the request of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, our clerk hosted a screening of the documentary True Conviction on May 12, 2018, with two Dallas Friends making the trip to Azle, TX to watch it with Fort Worth Friends. One of our members began a conversation with the Friends Committee on National Legislation about forming a Fort Worth advocacy team which has resulted in a series of trainings and workshops in 2019. Yet even with all that we do, we have had to come to terms with our limitations as a small meeting. We are saddened that we can no longer financially support the Syrian refugee family we have been helping for the past two years and are working to connect them with resources closer to their new residence in Keller, TX.

The life of our meeting has benefited greatly from our Adult Education sessions, held once a month, usually every third First Day. The knowledge and teaching skills of member Jim Webner have enriched our spirits. Over the past year our topics have included God’s love and justice as spoken through the 8th Century Biblical prophets and The Prophetic Stream pamphlet by William Taber, as well as an experiential series on prayer practices drawing from Daniel Wolpert’s Creating a Life with God. Each month we also discern queries as individuals and as a meeting. It is a great reminder of what being a Quaker means for our daily lives and in worship.

We held our yearly fellowship/holiday party in a new location this year, since Tom Taber, our host for many years, relocated before the year's end. We were grateful for the hospitality of our clerk and her family, and for the chance to reconnect with old friends. We also finally got our books out of storage and into our rented room. It is wonderful to have our Quaker library at hand.

We continue to discern if we should own a meetinghouse. We recognize that our presence at University Christian Church is a reminder of our fellowship with the outer world and enjoy sharing the same building. The Disciples of Christ can be heard in the halls referring to us as “Our Quakers.” Yet, having our own space remains an important goal for many in our meeting.

Towards the year's end, we started discerning whether we should switch our bank account to a credit union in furtherance of our Quaker values. In this process, we have had to consider many questions, including proper stewardship of our resources, convenience, and the financial security of our meeting. We ask to be held in the Light as we have not yet reached unity on this matter. May this process be done with patience and grace.

As we prepare to gather together at the 2019 Yearly Meeting, we find ourselves deeply grateful for the spirit that unites and sustains us as a community of seekers and Friends. We are looking forward to the work that awaits us and are hopeful for the future of our meeting.

Galveston Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report 2018-2019

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. This year Friends have been plagued with health problems that have interfered with our peace of mind and our ability to get together.

All Friends are welcome. We enjoy both the friendship and the enrichment of our worship when visitors bless us with their presence.

Galveston Friends Meeting currently has 4 active members and 2 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.
Sharon Booton, an inactive, but long time member of our meeting, passed away on August 30, 2016, but we did not celebrate her life that year with a Memorial Minute. We are including her Memorial Minute in our State of the Meeting Report this year.

Clerk: Gerald Campbell 123 Albacore Ave Galveston Tx 77550
Place Of Meeting: 1501 Postoffice Galveston Tx 77550
10:30 A M First Day—Fellowship
11:00 Am First Day – Meeting For Worship

Georgetown Friends Meeting
SCYM State of the Meeting Report 2018-2019

Georgetown Friends Meeting was founded eight years ago and is presently under the care of Austin Friends Meeting. We continue to meet the first and third Sundays for Worship and fourth Sundays for “Forum” discussions. In addition, on second Saturdays we meet for coffee and fellowship at the local BIG coffee shop, a place that supports local adults with learning issues. At the rise of worship, on third Sundays we conduct Meeting for Business on an as needed basis. Often our considerations of matters for business carry through multiple business sessions.

We have had many new attendees the past year with total attendance each meeting averaging six to twelve people. One attendee has completed a Clearness Committee with Austin Friends and has been accepted into membership. After Meeting, we have coffee and conversation which is a good way to share thoughts and experiences with each other. We continue to offer new attendees a selection of reading materials concerning Quakerism. Each new attendee is offered the opportunity to be on our e-mail list.

Our Forum discussions for the past few months have examined the Quaker SPICE Testimonies. These have been popular discussions and have been beneficial to both seasoned Quakers and newer attendees.

We look upon our time of worship as a time of reflection and peaceful solitude as well as a time of spiritual connection.

We continue to support Food for Friends, a local rural food program, with both volunteer efforts and monetary contributions.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of our founder, Gayle Twiname, this past summer. Our gratitude for her efforts in founding our meeting is boundless. A memorial gathering prior to one of regular worship sessions was held to share memories and honor Gayle. A memorial minute honoring Gayle is attached.

Respectfully submitted,
Karin Cobb
Robin Mueller
Co-clerks, Georgetown Friends Meeting

Green Country Friends
State of the Meeting Report 2018-2019

Green Country Friends have been following the practice of beginning worship with the reading of Query from various Faith & Practice books. We have also at the rise of worship begun a time of sharing what is happening in our personal lives.

Our Meeting and community have had challenges this year with health problems, burn out and attenders moving out of the area. On going health problems prevented our treasurer from attending Meeting except occasionally and we initially had another person offer to assist her. Eventually they agreed that Ann Marie would resign as treasurer and that Glenn would become the full-time treasurer. The Meeting expresses our thanks for the outstanding effort by Ann Marie in spite of severe health issues. We also greatly appreciated
Glenn stepping up and becoming our treasurer. In addition, our mainstay in the Meeting, Lori Laub, needed to back out of several tasks that she had been doing and take a sabbatical for a few months. Lori’s 92-year-old mother is requiring more of her time especially on weekends. Meeting has felt the huge impact of their absence. Also, Chris, one of our regular attenders moved to W.VA. We miss the many occasions when Chris contributed greatly to Meeting especially in decision making by keeping us “on track”. On a bright note a new baby was born recently and we are eagerly waiting for him to come to Meeting. Leon Ryan Wolfgang was born Feb 27, 2019 at 7pm. He weighed 9 lbs. 4 oz and was 22 in. in length. The parents are Lucy Jane and Jonathan Breathnach.

We have been adjusting to our present Meeting location. It has been a year now that we have been meeting in the Center of Light facilities. We had an unexpected baptism of our guest book right after moving in and after considering having it rebound, we decided to save the information in it and obtain a new guest book.

We initially met in the large room where the Center of Light attenders held their worship services. Often there was another group meeting in an adjoining room that only had a curtain separating the two groups. This room was also on the front side of the building and the street noise was loud at times. We considered paying part of the expense to add a solid door between the two areas. The Center then decided to repurpose one of the smaller rooms into a meditation area. This has worked great for our Meeting. It has a door, is not as close to the street and the chairs are already arranged in a circle. It is very pleasant and fits us well.

This year we have put together introduction packets for first time attenders.

We have been trying to have programs during the 2nd hour that vary from week to week. On the first Sunday of the month we ask for someone to volunteer to give a presentation on a historical Quaker figure. Our library is a great resource for this as it is online now and contains about 700 books. We are in the process now of changing the second Sunday of each month from the meeting for worship with attention to business to having a guest speaker on a topic of interest/concern. The third Sunday is set aside for a Quaker 101 presentation. Now our meeting for worship with attention to business will be on the fourth Sunday. The fifth Sunday is left open for visitation.

Lori has done much of the visitation to other Meetings. She wears her FWCC hat since she is the representative to FWCC from SCYM. One of the highlights of her visits was a trip to Ramona, OK which is about 35mi North of Tulsa on highway 75. The Ramona group had just started on a quest to see what other Quakers were in OK when Lori walked through the door. (I think they still think she has found a way to hide her wings.) Karen Tucker the clerk in Ramona came to the FWCC presentation by Julie Peyton and Debbie Humphries from Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) in Hominy. We are excited to see what path Ramona will take in the coming year. We hope to see more of them and they are planning a potluck toward the end of April and inviting their new found Friends.

GCF has been working in areas of concern both internationally and locally. Glenn & Stacy Craig volunteered to go on a work trip to a school in Guatemala sponsored by All Souls Unitarian Universalist church in Tulsa. GCF donated some funds for the trip. Locally we have been working with the New Sanctuary Network in Tulsa to assist people caught up in the immigration issue since the Tulsa County Jail is being used by ICE. We held a potluck with four families impacted by chaos caused by the jailing and deportations. The families told us their stories and how the impact touched the entire community. Twenty-seven people attended the potluck including children.

The Friends Ugandan Safe Transport project was laid down by the Olympia Meeting due to the hardships and risk on the conductors operating on the ground in Uganda. Soon after FUST was laid down GCFs heard about a pre-school in Uganda and we were led to send them a monthly donation. Banking and transfer problems have seemed unending but it looks like we are now ready to do the transfers. We are still open to the possibility of changing banks or using a credit union.

One of our original members passed away the week before Christmas. Jay McGirt had not attended for many years but still had his membership with Green Country Friends. Jay would have been 66 on March 23, 2019. Jay was Creek and Cheyenne. He was well known for his textile and beadwork. He had items in many museums including the Smithsonian. He had also done repair work on some of the older items the Smithsonian had that had begun to deteriorate. He had attended GCF for many years before he stopped
attending after he and his partner, Don Satterthwaite, separated. Friends always held a special place in Jay’s heart. He kept in touch with Don and asked about many of you over the years especially after Yearly & Quarterly meetings.

**Hill Country Society of Friends**  
State of the Meeting Report 2018-2019

Dear Friends,

We take comfort that the Spirit continues to illuminate our Meetings by providing individual and gathered Leadings. We continue to seek a more complete and caring spiritual life for our very small Gathering and attenders. The evidence is clear. Although we are fewer in number this year than last, we maintain, sustain and remain in the Presence. We continue to be open, inclusive and accepting of Seekers.

We continue to care for one another, our families, friends and others regardless of their need. This has become a near constant issue as we and our families and friends grow older and have more health issues, aches and pains.

Our Meeting is ‘mature’, meaning that we are solid in our Faith and Practice. We deepen our understanding by Listening in Silence in the manner of Friends and other venues. We explore issues of faith and practice with ourselves, newcomers, seekers and others when opportunities happen. We witness the testimonies of Friends and others inside and outside of Meeting. We do what we can as individuals to speak out against the many forms of injustice and support some Friends initiatives.

Thankfully, we continue to meet in an adult living and care facility. This gift affords us the opportunity to talk with residents, family members, and care givers. Hopefully, we bring some of the outside world into their lives. Two Friends bring their dogs to Meeting and that is always a great event. The residents are cheered by seeing and petting them. Also, they carry on great conversations with the dogs. And, the dogs love the attention!!!! This is Outreach. This is ‘Testimony’.

We have had, over many years, a relationship with the Unitarian-Universalist (UU) Church and the UU Fellowship. That relationship has strengthened this year as a UU member frequently visits with us and we visit UU services from time to time. We expect that this relationship will continue to grow.

The SCYM Leading concerning ‘Decision Making’ opens a path to discuss our ‘business process’. Years ago we have set aside the formal ‘Meeting for Business’. Simply put, we are so small and of generally alike (but differing) minds that it has become a very rare formalized experience. Being ‘un-programmed’ we very often address important issues before or after Silent Worship. We are keen, despite having differing opinions, on arriving at a Sense of the Meeting. Perhaps, we have been together so long that we know, understand, appreciate and accept the thoughts of other Friends. As Clerk, I think that is the case.

We understand that other Meetings struggle for many months trying to come to a Sense of the Meeting over so many issues. Big Meeting. Many thoughts. Many Words. Lots of Time. Little progress. We get that. But we have a hard time understanding it. Process is important. Conversation is important. Hearing is important. Timeliness is important. Many issues are difficult and complex. Most are not. It should not take months, years, decades or centuries to resolve among ourselves issues like inclusion; acceptance; injustice; unfairness and disparate treatment; social and environmental justice. Or, even a person’s ‘fitness’ to be a Friend. These issues, as complex as they may be, are not “BREXIT”.

Meeting for Business need not be overly complex or lengthy. No decision is still a decision. Some decisions are enduring. Some are not and will become unserviceable in time. Clearness is important. Simplicity is a highly valued Quaker Testimony and Practice. Simplicity and Clearness are intertwined like the woof and weft of woven cloth. They are one. Clearness is Simplicity. Simplicity is Clearness.

Peace!

Jim Myers, Clerk
The flowers appear in the earth: the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. Song of Solomon 2:12 1599 Geneva Bible (GNV)

Live Oak Friends Meeting, Houston, Texas
State of the Meeting Report 2018-2019

Hurricane Harvey echoes in Houston two years after hitting southeast Texas. We are all mindful of our neighbors’ recovery efforts both in our everyday lives and in our worship. Friends from LOFM who had helped muck out homes of Friends from Friendswood Friends Church went to visit and worship at Friendswood Friends Church on World Quaker Day October 8th, 2018. They were graciously welcomed by Friends.

Worship and Spiritual Health at Live Oak Friends Meeting

We continue to hold three meetings for worship weekly. The attendance for Meeting for Worship has been consistent. The Wednesday Meeting for Worship is a congenial group of 5-7 Friends who have a discussion hour before worshipping together. The Meeting for Worship held at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning tends to be a quiet meeting with 2-10 Friends in attendance. The 10:30 am Meeting for Worship on Sunday morning has an attendance of 25 to 65 members and attenders. This meeting attracts the most visitors and families. Children attend the first 20 minutes of worship and then go out for First Day School.
The quality of worship is often difficult to measure. Silence in worship without any vocal ministry is not uncommon, but not necessarily unwelcome. Many members and attenders find solace in the silence - a respite from their busy week. However, to enhance the communal experience, the Worship and Ministry Committee has been presenting a query for mutual reflection each month. This practice has sometimes stimulated spoken ministry.

We continue allowing a short period of time at the end of worship in which the clerk invites all to share their “blessings and/or concerns”. Friends prefer the prayerful time this allows for consideration and empathy for those things shared, as opposed to having them shared after worship during introductions. It also allows Friends to hear more about important things happening to one another, thereby supporting and building community.

The Meeting’s spiritual health seems to be good and many new attenders of 2018 have become regular attenders. Regular offerings of Quakerism 101 has also provided a pathway to discovery that has encouraged Friends to explore membership in meeting.

Though we have many members and attenders, our meeting is small in the number of F/friends available and/or led to serve as a clerk of a committee or participate in a committee. This has made it difficult for our nominating committee to fill positions of service in the meeting.

**Children Religious Education and Adult Religious Education**

Adult First Day School and Children’s First Day School continue. The Adult First Day School has two recurrent monthly discussions. “Journey to Elderhood” and “Seeker’s Gathering” both help Friends explore their lives and spiritual journeys. Beginning in the summer, we added a monthly series on white privilege. On the remaining Sundays, discussions or presentations on a variety of topics are offered.

During introductions and announcements after the 10:30 a.m. worship, Children’s First Day School always describes their wonderful activities to the adults, allowing regular connection to the children of the meeting.

**Community Activities**

The grounds of the meeting house have become a place for rest and recreation for small children and their parents, dogs and their owners, Girl Scouts, and other groups. The year saw the construction of an information kiosk on the Meeting’s property that contains racks for the flyers with descriptions of Live Oak Friends Meeting and the James Turrell Skyspace along with two cork boards to post announcements and such. As LOFM has the unresolved issue of the open carry law, there is the intention to post a statement that our meeting house and grounds are free of firearms.

Barter Fairs on Earth Day and on National Buy Nothing Day on Friday after Thanksgiving are a witness to our testimonies of simplicity, stewardship, and community. Although they do not draw large numbers of people, there is always someone who drops by to inquire further about the event or about Quaker meeting.

We continued to open every Friday and first Sunday of the month for viewing of the Skyspace until the retractable roof overshot its stop in the fall of 2018. The contractor found there were multiple mechanical and electrical faults in the mechanism, and so began the long process of repair that extended into 2019. The importance of this James Turrell work to the Houston community and its spectacular collection of religious architecture continues to be a significant avenue of ministry for the Meeting.

In addition, the meeting house is often used for music events, weddings, HOA meetings, etc.

We were honored to host “Rise Up and Sing--Hope & Courage-Houston Concert” with Peter Blood and Annie Patterson when they were in the area to be keynote speakers for South Central Yearly Meeting.

LOFM also hosted several events in collaboration with other organizations that share our values:

- Compassion Week Opening Ceremony
- Fundraiser by Houston NVC (Nonviolent Communication) and Latinas Rising to raise scholarship money for a 9-day nonviolent communication immersion training in Port Aransas, Texas
• “Greening Your Event” by the Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston.
• Sponsoring and planning the Houston “Love Knows No Borders-AFSC” Vigil held at City Hall.

Several of us were inspired by AFSC’s Changing Systems, Changing Ourselves: Anti-Racist Practice for Accompaniment, Sanctuary, and Resistance” webinar series that began in May. That experience was influential in deepening awareness of conditions both inside and outside meetinghouse walls and stimulating participation in other community events such as organizing the Love Knows No Borders-AFSC event. It also inspired the focus for the meeting’s 2019 retreat.

Clerk of the Meeting, Kevin King

TOTAL LOFM MEMBERS: 111

62 Local members
   1 Members of another meeting
49 Non-local members
14 Associate Members

Births: none

Deaths:
Joan Thompson Libby died on April 26, 2018.
May Mansoor Munn died on August 18, 2018.

Weddings:
Clara Goodwin and Dani George May 12, 2018.

New Members:
Kathy Jenkins was received into membership by transfer from Orange County Friends Meeting in Irvine, California, a member meeting of Pacific Yearly Meeting, on May 17, 2018.
Steve Jenkins was received in membership by transfer from Orange County Friends Meeting in Irvine, California, a member meeting of Pacific Yearly Meeting, on May 17, 2018.
Gordon Buford was received into membership on October 21, 2018.

New Associate Members:
Live Oak Friends Meeting welcomed into Associate Membership Bryn Jenkins, the daughter of Kathy and Steve Jenkins, on May 17, 2018.
Live Oak Friends Meeting welcomed into Associate Membership Meredith Jenkins, the daughter of Kathy and Steve Jenkins, on May 17, 2018.

Transfers from LOFM
Marcelle LaFlamme transferred his membership to University Friends Meeting, Seattle, Washington, a member meeting of the North Pacific Yearly Meeting, on July 15, 2018.

Records Clerk, Bette Drexler

Little Rock Monthly Meeting
State of the Meeting Report 2018-2019

Dear SCYM Friends,

Little Rock Monthly Meeting looks back on the year 2018 with gratitude for the opportunity it has provided us for deep worship and reflection. We find and appreciate that we have a theological openness to Friends and attenders with different approaches and feelings about religion. We notice the Spirit working through
each of us, often in different ways, sometimes through theological reflection and prayer, often through working to create a just and peaceful world.

We hope, and sometimes experience, that the Light we encounter in Meeting for Worship works through us in unanticipated ways with the people we encounter beyond our Meeting. Our midweek Meeting for Worship on Wednesday evenings continues to be a source of spiritual support and fellowship. In addition, we began a weekly “Collective Art” program, a way of worshipfully making art together.

Our "first hour" program continues to be a source of enrichment and inspiration. At the suggestion of a newer attender, we have been studying the book, “Silence and Witness” by Michael Birkel. Other first hour programs include singing, discussions, and other topics.

Little Rock Meeting's ongoing ministries include The Carillon, a publication that appears seven times a year, for Quakers in Arkansas (and beyond). It is now in its 17th year. In addition, the Meeting continues to support one of our members who brings the Alternatives to Violence (AVP) program to the Tucker Unit prison outside of England, AR. This program has progressed to the point that there are now prisoners capable of leading AVP sessions. Our relationship with a single mother with several children, now in its ninth year, continues as we offer support at Christmas and other times of the year. We also provide Kroger cards and at times other means of assistance to members of our community who come to the Meeting House requesting aid. Finally, we have implemented a monthly “simple meal” -- in addition to monthly potlucks -- in order to raise money for our Help in Need fund. This also helps make it more affordable for Friends to “do lunch” without the expense of eating out.

Our Children’s program is small but active and a source of joy for our Meeting. We have been gladdened to welcome in particular one new child to the program, and celebrate her friendship and participation.

A member of Caddo Meeting, which is under the care of Little Rock, has begun working on a history of Caddo Meeting. This Friend is currently incarcerated at a prison in Texas. We appreciate his efforts and look forward to the fruits of his labors.

We have labored to reach out to the community to let them know of our presence. During “Peace Week” in Arkansas, an annual event in September tied to the UN’s International Day of Peace, we displayed signs on our meeting house fence encouraging passers by to study, work, and pray for peace. We currently have banners inviting the public to join us for Quaker Worship, displaying meeting times more prominently than our small sign permits. We have also developed flyers to post in coffee shops and other locations around town.

We recall that intervisitation with other Meetings has not occurred for several years. However, we continue to value the opportunities to meet with other Friends in our area through the Arkansas/Oklahoma Quarterly and Yearly Meetings.

We feel blessed to have Marianne Lockard worshipping with us after her move to Little Rock. In addition, we have welcomed new members and attenders who have added new life and growth to our Meeting.

We have shared in each other's joys and sorrows. Some of our members have lost family members and friends and we grieve for their loss. We note with sadness the passing of Willie Ferguson, a long-time member of Little Rock Meeting who had moved to Texas to be near her daughter.

We also take note of areas where we would like to improve. We feel we can do more to reach out to people in crisis. We would like our Meetings for Business to stay more firmly grounded in following the leadings of the Spirit. One Friend expresses a desire for more connections with one another beyond Sunday mornings.

In short, Little Rock Monthly Meeting remains active and vital, along with the many challenges inherent in a small religious community. We manage to muddle through, yet still the Light often provides opportunities for spiritual growth and revelation.
In Friendship,
Little Rock Monthly Meeting, David Schoen, Clerk

Longview (TX) Worship Group  
State of the Meeting 2019

Our group met for 30 years in Tyler, TX. We moved to Longview in 2010. At that time there were only two of us. Since then we have grown to 7 regulars. We regulars attend whenever we are home. Five of us travel often. I come home every other week from Colleyville, where I stay with my brother and his family.

I attend the Dallas Meeting most Sunday’s when I am in town. The others travel to the east and west coast or out of the country. One of us came every time until she started a Bed and Breakfast. One of us only misses on the Sunday she helps feed the homeless. We are a stable group with an attendance of between 3 and 8. We had been meeting every other Sunday until September of 2017 when we began meeting every Sunday (2 pm). Jerry arranged for us to have a web site.

We pay the Unitarian Universalists $40 a month to meet in their education building at the back of their parking lot. We pay $74 to Yearly Meeting for our two members (the rest of us are attenders). We pay $70 a year for a listing in Friends Journal. We try to keep our expenses simple.

Ellen attends the conference of Friends World Committee for Consultation most years and brings Friend's Journal to share with us. I received an email from a New York inmate who saw our listing in Friend's Journal. Since then I have been corresponding with him and helping him pay tuition. I texted for Beto for Senate and am texting for Beto for America. Several of us belong to FCNL and AFSC.

I will be the only one of us attending Yearly Meeting, but we all share the desire to Be, Know and Do. We know there is even more for Quakers to do in the current state of the union. Life has been challenging this year. We have been depending more on our relationship with our higher power.

I ordered our consignment books from QuakerBooks.org. They sent 200 to me, and I will bring them Thursday morning. There are children's books and many recently published books. Several speak to our theme of to Be, Know, and Do.

Lubbock Friends of Christ Quaker Meeting  
State of the Meeting Report 2018-2019

Fourth Month 2019

Lubbock Friends of Christ Quaker Meeting continues to gather regularly for Friendly Bible Study and unprogrammed worship. We were blessed with Knowing that God is at work restoring relationships as Jock Cameron and Sally Hockley reunited in marriage after two decades apart. The wedding, held in Tenth Month, was the first in the thirty-year history of our meeting.

During Second Month, our consideration of a query helped us realize that our primary work is Being spiritual companions to one another as we each seek to draw closer to God. It is truly a blessing to belong to a community that provides encouragement and support along the way.

We strive to be faithful at Doing what we have been called to do: maintaining a witness to the beauty, power, and simplicity of traditional Quaker Christianity. May we continue to experience the presence of the Living Christ among us.
We call ourselves Lubbock Liberal Friends Worship Group. I suppose, if we have a clerk, then I am. I am
the contact person for the group.

We meet weekly at a coffeehouse. We have 4 of us who almost always attend and 4 or 5 others who
sometimes attend. Even the ones who don't often attend stay in touch with the others one way or another.
This is nice because we all met through the group.

We will occasionally have a movie night or game night, and then we sometimes have others who attend in
addition to the 4-9 semi-regulars. We dropped “Meetup.” We had a whole bunch of people who signed up
through Meetup, a few who attended once or twice, but nobody who became a regular participant. It was a
lot of money for something that didn't bear fruit.

When we get together, if the weather is nice, then we may go out back to the patio where we have enough
privacy to hold worship. Most of the time, though, we just talk. Depending on who attends, the discussions
range anywhere from very deep exploration of spiritual issues to where we'd like to travel some day.

Miriam Mulsow

Friends Meeting of New Orleans
State of the Meeting Report 2018-19

April 14, 2019

Greetings to SCYM from the Friends Meeting of New Orleans. We are thankful for our Meeting and for
the greater community of Friends across the country, as well as for this opportunity to reflect and share.

The focus of our meeting is worship on Sundays. One attender notes that our worship is “a quiet place
where the circle of Friends is given space, greeted warmly, and can leave nourished physically and
emotionally.”

We ourselves are quite thankful that we have been able to not only survive as a meeting during the last
decade, but also grow as a meeting. The number of attenders continues to increase. Additionally, adult
members and attenders often find that we are outnumbered either by visitors and/or by our children, which
now are eight in number.

We are so thankful for the children. They bring joy and life to the meeting. This year we have established
regular child care and weekly First Day school for the children, and are working toward the development
of a more comprehensive approach to our children’s education. A grandparent notes:

My six year old granddaughter looks forward to playing (and ‘breaking bread’) with the other
children she has grown with and considers her friends. Over her short lifetime, her exposure to
Peace, Quiet, and Prayer have been instrumental in providing her with a spiritual foundation.

We thank those from Baton Rouge and Live Oak Meetings for guidance in this area and welcome
suggestions from all.

We have continued to incorporate worship with attention to business within our regular worship, beginning
the business meeting 30 minutes into our silent worship on the second Sunday of each month. We have
found that this practice has deepened worship and attention to business AND increased participation, and
we have adopted this practice on a permanent basis. We find that we pay closer and more focused attention
to our business.

This year monthly meeting began to provide some monthly financial support toward the housing costs of
two immigrant women, and completed a number of outreach activities. Outreach included updating
information online and on signage, advertising our meeting through additional signage, and contracting for
announcements on our local NPR station. We have active clearness committees addressing new
membership and ministry. We give regular attention to our monthly schedule: “Bring a friend” to meeting on the first Sunday of each month, hold business meeting on the second Sunday, share a potluck dinner after third Sunday’s worship, and have adult education after fourth Sunday’s meeting. Education has included speakers from AFSC, Peace by Piece/AFSC New Orleans, FCNL, a local prisoner mentoring program, and members of our own meeting who shared Quaker faith and practice.

A small group of us have been meeting for a mostly once-a-month Wednesday night potluck. This group not only shares a meal, fellowship, and Quaker thought, but also has found that thoughts rise which we are led to bring as items to our business meeting for its attention. Recently our small group considered the needs we perceive in our meeting: to follow up with visitors and faces we have not seen in a while, a more formal structure to provide greeters and support our weekly hospitality at the rise of meeting, and more discussion regarding Quakerism and ministry.

Our work toward two of our major goals (building community and welcoming others) continues. One new attender shared:

It was telling this morning that before Meeting a visitor who was brand new to Quakerism was asking questions such as “What do you believe?” and “Why can’t everyone just do this on their own?” Another visitor, who belongs to another meeting, was answering these questions, with at least one regular member of our meeting listening and witnessing. Once some of the questions were answered, everyone in the circle that had formed with the questioner, including the questioner herself, filed into the meeting room and sat down. The whole thing was very organic.

Our visitors also chimed in during the business portion of our meeting, again attesting to the wide-ranging perspective that comes from having lots of visitors. The presence of so many visitors enriches the dialogue in this meeting and gives it a broad perspective.

In short, a guest came in with zero awareness of Quakerism, was welcomed “as you are,” and others felt free to participate and share. This is an example of the organic welcoming to visitors that we are striving for. Our meeting is creating an environment that encourages strangers, attenders, and members to freely speak, question, and participate.

In closing, we are thankful for our meeting and for our wider circle of Friends. We work to be friendly as well as Friendly. We are glad we have received positive feedback regarding our efforts. One attender who moved out of the city gave us this farewell:

While I was in New Orleans I really appreciated being able to come on Sundays. Though the meeting is small, it has a presence which I found powerful. And though the meeting was often silent, I found the messages transmitted to be strong. I enjoyed meeting everyone and felt welcomed by the group.

We invite you to join us when you are in our city and worship with us.

Midtown Oklahoma City Worship Group
State of the Meeting Report 2018-2019

In 2018, our 3rd year, the Spirit prospered, both corporately and individually with Friends and friends of Friends. Worship has been primarily silent, with a follow-up time of sharing what was present for each during worship.

As a group we have had a visible presence with Quaker banner at March for Our Lives, Pride Parade in OKC and Norman, and MLK Parade.

Members have shown up for solidarity with sister organizations at their events: CAIR Awards Banquet, Oklahoma Conference of Churches and NAACP annual dinners.

Member, Tom Gallagher, received the OK Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Lifetime Achievement Award.
Rex and Sisca Friend serve SCYM as representatives to AFSC Corporation, and as Clerk and Host of the FGC 2019 Evening Program Planning.

Member, Randall Smith, married Rosa.

Our dearest Quaker Mentor and friend, Phyllis Byerly, died peacefully, at the age of 97. The deeply touching memorial was clerked by Rex and was well attended by friends of all ages, and from Phyllis’ many and various connections.

This celebration was hosted by the OKC Monthly Meeting: the long-established central Oklahoma Quaker presence.

Friends Meeting of San Antonio
State of the Meeting Report 2018-2019

February 2019

What a difference a few years makes! San Antonio Meeting has become a growing, vibrant community, blessed by new members and attenders who are finding ways to contribute to our corporate life. There is a new, palpable energy. We understand that we are changing and that this will require us to leave behind some of our accustomed ways. We are, however, hopeful that we can follow the Spirit, nurturing each of our strengths while caring for each of us in our travails.

We can highlight three aspects of our corporate life that have contributed to our current state.

1. We have focused on maintaining a deep, meaningful weekly worship, typically followed by either fellowship or by meaningful forums. More Friends are led to vocal ministry than in recent years. More have stepped forward to lead forums. We now have two midweek worships each month, each of which attracts about ten participants. More Friends now attend our monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. We are, in short, nurturing our Quaker core. We shall continue to do so.

2. We are hosting more public events. We have had two movie nights, a couple of concerts, a Spring Fair, a book and media exchange, a community yard sale, twice a month yoga classes, and a Christmas Eve worship and tamale party. We have held several work days maintaining our property, followed by communal food; we advertise these as “Meetings for Weeding” followed by “Meetings for Eating”. Last year’s wish “To have the whole Meeting come alive with laughter, joy, and community” seems to be on our permanent agenda. We have also participated corporately in several marches for human equality. We continue to work with other groups on justice for immigrants and asylum seekers. Several members are also involved in addressing climate change through Climate Action San Antonio, an umbrella group that is focused on climate change.

3. We have changed the way that we conduct our corporate business. Rather than bemoan our inability to fill existing committees, our Nominating Committee has approached its task from the other end. “What would you most like to do for the Meeting? What will bring you joy?” Many people have stepped forward to work on their areas of interest. For example, we have an active Community Engagement group, an enhanced Facebook presence, a new website, and an evolving newsletter/announcement system. A revived Religious Education Committee has taken up some of the tasks that fell to Ministry and Oversight these last few years. We still lack a Treasurer (though we are in the process of reconfiguring that post), and our Property Committee is still overburdened with a building that needs more maintenance than before. But more people are stepping forward to find ways to share their Light.

We once again have a small children’s program, as several families with children now worship with us. We have committed ourselves to giving parents time off to attend Meeting for Worship. We are still working out how not to overburden those who feel a calling to help guide the children while they do so.
Contributing to our renewal, we welcomed five new members to our Meeting. Joni Mize, Peggy Dial, Stephen Shearer, Kellie Price, and Greg Casillas have felt called to choose us as their spiritual home. We appreciate the energy and skills they bring.

We have, however, also had losses. Ken and Janet Southwood moved to Minneapolis to live near their daughter. We miss them but correspond when we can. (There are photos from their going-away party on our website: http://bit.ly/2IA3SY3.) Long-time Friends Doug Balfour and Ruth Lofgren died last fall, and Lori Segura, a steady attender, died suddenly this winter. We also miss several Friends who have taken time off from attending Meeting. In several cases, we recognize that we overburdened them with work. We dedicate ourselves to welcoming them back as the Spirit leads them and to not overburdening others.

This is an important matter. Our annual forum on the state of our Meeting raised several concerns about how much we have depended on a relatively few people. Though attendance at Meeting for Worship is higher than in years past, not everyone is led to be involved in the full life of the meeting. This is as it should be. Yet we need to find ways to let Friends’ enthusiasms feed our community while not depending so much on them that enthusiasm turns to drudgery. One Friend used a farming metaphor in a forum last summer on envisioning our future: We have to build the barns that will keep the farm working, but doing so results in more barns to maintain. We are seeking the right balance as we move forward.

In short, we are a growing community, centered in hope, attempting to live in the Spirit, and caring for one another as best we can.

In Peace,

signed by the Clerks of Meeting

Stillwater Oklahoma Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report 2018-2019

April 2, 2019
PO Box 94
Stillwater, OK 74076

This letter constitutes the State of the Meeting for the Stillwater OK Friends Meeting. We chose to follow the Knowing, Being, Doing format.

Knowing—knowing the Quaker way: Religious education in 2018 was often focused on reconnecting with Quaker principles. In our Children’s Religious Education (CRE), only two children attend regularly but they are cherished by all members, and roughly half of all adult members teach them at some point. This year a goal was to help the children—both girls, one eight and one eleven years old—better understand some of the traditional Quaker testimonies like simplicity, social justice, and equality. This was accomplished by giving both girls some background on Quaker history, with an emphasis on Quakers who helped vulnerable people. Two teachers have developed a unique program of linking Dr. Seuss books with scientific experiments to better help them understand their world, and especially other people, in order for them to see the Quaker way in the world. With Quakers having their roots in Christianity, one teacher utilizes the Godly Play method to help the girls better understand the Bible and what its stories can teach us. In Adult Religious Education the Meeting elected to spend most of its sessions studying writings from early Quakers, including George Fox and Isaac Pennington, and reading an essay titled Rediscovery of Primitive Quakerism. This has given us a renewed appreciation for why the Religious Society of Friends was established, and the inspiration to continue their legacy.

Being—being Quaker in the community: In 2018 we sought to increase our visibility in the community, as we suspect there are other Quakers in the community ready to be found; they just don’t know what Quakers are. For the second year we held a booth at Lights on Stillwater, a festival intended to help the city citizens and university students better understand the organizations open to them. We reaped great reward, as it attracted a college student who now attends regularly (we are a small meeting, so one new regular attender is a triumph!). We also made t-shirts, with a dove on the front surrounded by the testimonies: peace, simplicity,
equality, and truth; on the back is a link to Quaker Finder so that people can search for the nearest Quaker meeting.

Doing—doing the Quaker way: This refers to helping others in the community, nurturing our own Meeting, and contributing to quarterly and yearly meetings. We continued our tradition of participating in Love Feast, where we feed the food insecure a hot meal every two months. One of our members maintains a garden at the local food pantry where the food insecure can pick their own fresh fruits and vegetables, and the Meeting purchased some blackberry, strawberry, and grape plants to add to the garden. Our Meeting has only grown by one person but all members continue to be close friends: what we lack in quantity we gain in quality. This friendship is reinforced not only through worship but other Meeting activities like visits to the botanical garden, our yearly Christmas party with singing, and our monthly potluck lunch. It is worth noting that a number of individuals who do not participate in worship do come to these events regularly.

Knowing, Being, Doing: These three words describe our efforts to nurture of the spirit of early Quakers and understand how to bring that spirit into the modern world. This requires knowing what God asks of us, being that person, and doing the actions that God calls upon us to do. It requires us to know the Quaker way, be the Quaker way, and do the Quaker way, and we look forward to continuing this tradition in 2019.

Thank you for the opportunity to reflect on 2018.

Sincerely,
F. Bailey Norwood

Waco Worship Group
State of the Meeting Report 2018-2019

The Waco Worship Group has a regular attendance of six people. This year, the group has changed locations and is very happily meeting at the Good Neighbor House in Waco, a local settlement house. The move has been mutually advantageous and has allowed the group to KNOW we are in a caring, loving, accepting place, to BE partners with the house outreach to the local community, and to DO (including workdays at the house, community events held there, free library, etc.).

One of our former regular attenders has had health concerns this past year and we were all very glad when she was able to travel back to Texas from the northwest for a visit in December. Another attender’s mother recently had a fall and will probably be unable to return to her home. As we face and share these and other concerns, joys, and everyday life events with one another, we become closer to the spirit within and to one another.

We have participated with local groups and events, such as the interfaith alliance and members are active in other groups to promote health, love, tolerance, and understanding.

Sincerely,
Waco Worship Group
2019 SCYM Attenders

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