

**South Central Yearly Meeting of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
29th of Third Month to 4th of Fourth Month 2021
Meeting Online Via Zoom**

Session I: Monday, 29 Third Month, 7:30 - 9:00

Friends gathered after the appointed time. Karen Takemoto introduced herself as clerk and welcomed everyone to the first session. Clerk asked us to reflect in our minds and hearts about the Indigenous peoples whose land we reside on.

Val Liveoak read the following excerpt from Coastal Bend Friends Meeting's Stat of the Meeting Report.

Since beginning Zoom meetings in late spring/early summer of 2020 during the pandemic, we have been meeting more often than we have in many years. It is strange to meet this way, but good to gather in Meeting.

Friends settled into worship.

Clerk acknowledged that Gerald Jimmy Jr. was originally going to be the associate clerk, however he fell ill. He spent months in the hospital, now he is in a rehabilitation facility getting stronger. At this point Howard Hawhee is serving as associate clerk in his stead. Jessica Arjet continues to be the recording clerk.

Clerk introduced and expressed gratitude for the Tech Support volunteers. Clerks asked visitors to introduce themselves.

Call for Friends to create the SCYM 2021 Epistle: Will King and Claudia Wilson are the current volunteers and would appreciate one more volunteer.

Nominating Committee Preliminary Report: Galia Harrington, Clerk of Nominating Committee, presented the preliminary report (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/corrected-04.01.21-proposed-for-1st-reading.pdf>) and explained we have 21 open positions (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-nominating-vacancies-3.29.pdf>). The committee will continue to work on filling these roles during these sessions.

One Friend pointed out that our youth programs really need help now. A Friend asked if this number of openings was common at the start of annual sessions, but Galia was unsure. She did feel that there were a number of openings for our youth programs again. Friends requested the report to be posted online.

Treasurer's Report and Preliminary Budget Presentation: Lori Laub talked through the 2020-2021 year to date balance sheet and statement of activities and the proposed budget for 2021-2022. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-treasurer-report2.PDF>) Friends expressed appreciation for Lori and her work.

Representative Reports

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC): Anne Collins presented the report. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-qrec-report-rep.pdf>) Friends accepted the report.

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW): Danielle Evans presented the report. Befriending Creation continues to hold worship sharing groups through FGC on the last Wednesday of the month. These have been fruitful and sustaining for attenders. There have been many virtual workshops that people have found very useful. Those workshops are available to our meetings via zoom. Danielle read out the way forward statement by the Earthcare Witness. Friends accepted the report.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): Lori Laub presented the report. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-fcni-report.pdf>) Friends accepted the report.

Arkansas Interfaith Alliance: John Coffin presented the report. Because of the pandemic the group was more passive than usual. Also, the executive was about to retire. John requests that we suspend our annual contribution until we know more about the future plans of the Alliance. Friends accepted the report.

Meeting closed at 9:00 with a period of open worship.

Session II: Thursday, 1 Fourth Month, 7:30-9:00pm

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

Joanna Vaughn read an excerpt from the State of the Meeting report from Fayetteville, Arkansas. All the State of the Meeting Reports can be found at <https://scym.org/2020-monthly-meeting-som-reports-to-2021-annual>.

Clerk reminded Friends that we are recording the sessions for our archives. She welcomed Friends from far and near.

Representative Reports (continued)

Louisiana Interfaith Conference: Jim Johnson was not available to give the report. Pam Arnold explained that Jim has had difficulty attending this conference this year. Pam may try to get us a report later.

Texas Impact: No report was available as SCYM did not have a representative to Texas Impact this year. A friend spoke to the need for this position to be filled. We were assured that nominating would fill this position.

Austin tan Cerca de la Frontera (ATCF): Joanna Vaughn presented the report. Friends accepted the report. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-atcf-report-rep.pdf>)

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): Richard Corl presented the representative and AFSC Strategic Plan reports. Friends accepted the reports. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-afsc-report-rep.pdf>) (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/AFSC%20Strategic%20Plan%20rev%20spreads%20w%20links%2011.17.20.pdf>)

Friends General Conference (FGC): Jan Michael presented the report. Friends accepted the report. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-fgc-report-rep.pdf>)

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): Liz Yeats stated that SCYM representatives to FCNL did not create a written report this year. However, she wanted to let Friends know that much work lobbying with FCNL was being done, by Friends and others throughout SCYM. Several cities in Texas have Advocacy Teams which meet with representatives and senators regularly. Some all-Texas Zoom meetings have been done in preparation for senator visits.

FCNL is growing into a greater maturity. Claudia Wilson let us know that there is a YouTube video called *Fierce Love* that highlights what FCNL is doing. Bobby Trice, FCNL staff, gave us an overview of what has been happening and what the current issues are. Friends accepted the report from FCNL staff with gratitude. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-fcnl-report.pdf>)

Friends Peace Teams (FPT): Val Liveoak presented a report from our representatives and the Friends Peace Teams Spring 2021 Epistle. Friends accepted the reports. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-fpt-report-rep.pdf>) (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/FPT-Spring2021-Epistle-web.pdf>)

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer and Transgender Concerns (FLGBQTC): The report from will only be in written form this year. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-FLGBQTC-report-rep.pdf>)

Yearly Meeting Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: Galia Harrington read out the names of people being considered for service to different committees. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/corrected-04.01.21-proposed-for-1st-reading.pdf>) These names will be brought forward for consideration to be approved on Sunday. There are 22 openings this year, but the Nominating Committee continues to work to fill these vacancies. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-nominating-vacancies-3.29.pdf>)

Ministry & Care: Jan Michael presented the report <https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-scym-state-meeting-report.pdf>) Friends accepted this report.

Finance Committee: Pat Sweet let us know that we have no report this year.

Archivist: No report will be given this year.

Faith & Practice Committee: John Coffin gave the report. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-faith-practice-report.pdf>) It is unlikely the

Committee will have a draft available in 2021 but will is now working to have a draft ready by 2022. This report was accepted by the body.

A friend asked us to save the “theater space” for worship space after this meeting for business ends. Friends were encouraged to use the “Fellowship Hall” breakout room to socialize.

Epistle Reading - Liz Yeats read from the New England Yearly Meeting Epistle. Meeting closed with a period of worship.

Session III: Friday, 2 Fourth Month, 1:30-3:00pm

Friends gathered at the appointed time with a period of open worship. Clerk reviewed of Agenda and action items from previous session.

Committee Reports (continued)

Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting: Liz Wolff presented the report (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-worship-oversight-report.pdf>) Friends accepted this report.

Youth Program Support: Anne Collins presented the report (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-youth-program-report2.pdf>) along with the proposal for a “Child Abuse Prevention Policy”. (https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/SCYM-Abuse_Prev_Policy%20Proposal.pdf)

A question was asked about background checks. It was determined that background checks would need to happen every three years, even for well-known friends.

A Friend suggested that after accepting this policy, we might want to look at a wider policy on how to treat people with respect and what to do if someone feels unsafe.

Child refers to anyone under the age of 18. It was agreed to bring this back to the next session of Meeting for Worship with attention to Business so that Friends have time to read over the policy.

Publications - Liz Yeats presented this report. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-pub-committee-report.pdf>)

The committee has been discussing whether SCYM needs to print the Annual Proceedings for distribution to Friends as has been the practice. Printing and distribution of copies is expensive, especially during a time when we are not meeting in person so they suggest we suspend this practice.

SCYM Minute 2021.1 - Friends approve suspending printed versions of the SCYM sessions proceedings for the members and meetings within the yearly meeting. We will continue to create a few printed versions of our proceedings to send to our archives and the archives at Swarthmore. The proceedings will continue to be available online.

After much discussion it was agreed that a change in the structure or the name of this committee might be needed. The current members who are working on the directory will consider this topic and bring back a proposal to the Representatives meeting in the Fall.

Peace & Justice Committee Report: Paula Keeth presented the report including the proposed minute “No Way To Treat A Child”.

There was discussion that we might need to delineate who SCYM is in the minute. There was discussion of how to clarify issues in the minute.

Clerk asked that we move to worship and continue the discussion at tomorrow’s meeting. Friends ended with a period of open worship.

Session IV: Saturday, 3 Fourth Month, 4:45-6:00pm

Friends gathered after the appointed time with a period of open worship. Out of the silence Clerk opened the meeting with a review of the very full agenda.

Jan Michael, from Ministry and Care Committee, read from the Fayetteville Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report.

Committee Reports (cont.)

Peace & Justice Committee Report (Continued)

Paula Keeth, clerk of Peace and Justice moved us through the consideration of the following minutes:

SCYM Minute 2021.2 - Friends approved the “No Way To Treat a Child” minute brought forth by Peace and Justice Committee. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-scym-minute-no-way-treat-child.pdf>)

SCYM Minute 2021.3 - Friends approved the “Ban on No-Knock Warrants” minute brought forth by the Peace and Justice Committee. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-ban-no-knock-warrants-min.pdf>)

One friend asked about next steps implementing these minutes. One FCNL representative let us know that they will help to send this information out to our lawmakers.

Peace and Justice committee recommended continues sending \$200 to Friends Uganda Safe Transport in Olympia, Washington. This is part of their discretionary fund. Friends expressed approval.

Youth Program Support Committee Report: The committee brought back the Child Abuse Prevention Policy for approval.

SCYM Minute 2021.4 - Friends approve the Child Abuse Prevention Policy as brought forth by the Youth Programs Support Committee. (https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/SCYM-Abuse_Prev_Policy%20Proposal.pdf)

Treasurer's Report: Lori Laub returned with the proposed operating budget for financial year 2021-2022. There was a question about whether SCYM will have the necessary funds for the technical needs of next year's Yearly Meeting sessions. It was clarified that we could address this at the Representatives Meeting in the Fall. This was confirmed by a reading of the procedure manual.

A Friend asked if it was acceptable to have a budget with a negative final balance in expenses. The Treasurer explained that there would likely be more donations, and also that there is money in the account to cover expenses if necessary.

It was brought up that there was a portion regarding the financial needs of Faith and Practice Committee and where they might be brought up missing from the procedures manual. It was agreed to carry this over to the Representatives Meeting. It was agreed that the Procedures Manual Coordinator should look for the text to see if it was there. If it is not, then the Representatives meeting could take this up and create text that could be brought to the Yearly Meeting Sessions in spring 2022.

SCYM Minute 2021.5 - Friends approved the 2021-2022 South Central Yearly Meeting Operating Budget as brought forth by the Treasurer.

The 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget can be found on page 8 of the Treasurer's Report attached here. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-treasurer-report2.PDF>)

Technology Committee (ad hoc group): Kevin King presented a report from this group and brought forth a proposal to create a standing committee to address technical needs.

A Friend asked if this would release Liz Yeats as the person who schedules the zoom meeting. Liz said she was happy to continue scheduling but ready to release it if the Tech Committee wanted to take it over. A Friend asked if Edwin would continue to provide audio/visual services. Edwin would be happy to stay on in this role, until a suitable replacement would be found.

It was explained that this committee would be a subset of the Planning Committee as they work to plan the event of SCYM sessions. Another Friend felt that this would not be underneath the Planning Committee but instead it would work with the Planning Committee. The hope was to get more support for this committee. Another Friend from the Nominating Committee asked if she could get a job description so that they could look forward to filling this committee. She would also need to know how many positions would be on the committee.

The question of funds was brought up. Kevin relayed that at this point they only needed funds to increase the capacity of the zoom account for annual sessions, about \$50. [These funds, as well as our annual subscription to Zoom, have been coming out of the administrative budget.] However, if it is decided to go with a hybrid meeting for our next year's Spring Sessions there would be a need for capital expenditures. Another Friend felt that this committee should evaluate their needs and then come to the finance committee to discuss those needs.

It was pointed out that the clerks can appoint members of committees in between meetings and then those can be approved by the wider meeting at the next representative or annual meeting. This might be a way to populate this committee.

The Treasure let us know that Greene Family Camp has been upgrading their space, so that there might be more equipment already in the space that we could use.

***SCYM Minute 2021.6** - SCYM creates a standing Technology Committee to provide technology services including: audiovisual services during in-person meetings, video conference services for virtual meetings, and the resources needed for hybrid meetings if both in-person and virtual meetings are combined. SCYM directs it to be supported by the Nominating Committee. It directs a Tech Committee representative to liaise with the YM Planning Committee.*

It was brought forward that the Yearly Meeting could just approve the current volunteers who are already serving on this committee. This is a standard practice. The friends who are currently serving are: Anne Collins, Edwin Campbell and Kevin King. Those brought forward for a first reading are: Chris Drexler, Liz Wolff and Leslie Coston. It was decided to bring these names back in the Nominating report for tomorrow.

Registrar's Report: Warren Wilson-Reiner, Registrar, reported the final statistics.

(<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021%20SCYM%20Registrar%27s%20Report-FINAL.pdf>)

***SCYM Minute 2021.6** - Friends express their sincere gratitude to Warren Wilson-Reiner, Registrar.*

Friends closed at 6:22pm with open worship.

Session V: Sunday, 4 Fourth Month, 9:00-10:30am

Friends gathered after the appointed time with a period of open worship. Clerk welcomed us out of the silence.

Jan Michaels read an excerpt from the Live Oak Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report.

Nominating Committee Report - Galia Harrington brought back the Nominating Committee report for approval. (<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-nominating-roster-final-4.4.21.pdf>)

***SCYM Minute 2021.7** - Friends approved the names brought forth by the Nominating Committee for service in the Yearly Meeting.*

Tina Coffin from Nominating Committee suggested that the term “oversight” in the name of the Worship Oversight Committee, is offensive as it is a term used for those who. She explained the historical connotations associated with this word. Her suggestion was to change the name to Worship Committee. It was suggested to change it to Yearly Meeting Worship Committee.

***SCYM Minute 2021.8** - Friends approved changing the name of the Worship and Oversight committee to now be Yearly Meeting Worship Committee.*

Discernment around our meetings in the next year: Clerk brought up the question of how we decide how to meet next year, both for Representative Meeting and for Yearly Meeting Sessions.

The suggestion is that the Planning Meeting will take the lead, inviting others to join this process as advisable. Clerks will give the final approval. Committees and Friends who need to be involved in the decision include the Site Coordinator, Treasurer, Tech Committee, Youth Programs Support Committee, YM Planning Committee and Worship Committee, as well as anyone who would have an interest.

Would we need to have a deadline to make a decision by? The camp might have a deadline. Perhaps we could set a date now for us to gather to make this decision. Lori, our treasurer, reported that the camp has not been setting deadlines, but currently the camp is taking it as it comes. Right now we do not have a contract. A contract usually has deadlines in it. It is unknown when it would be the time to sign the contract. It was asked that Lori reach out to the camp as soon as possible to ask about next year's dates. We would also need to know about the technology needs.

Denise Wilkinson, clerk of the YM Planning Committee mentioned that she planned to have their first meeting in June, but they are willing to move this around to make sure that more people could be involved in this meeting. Lori has assured us that we have our dates for next year reserved at this point in time. A friend asked if there was a minimum number that we would have on-site. That might affect us if we decided to go hybrid.

Representatives Meeting is usually in November because they want to give the quarterly meeting time to look for speakers and such. The date for 2021 Representative Meeting is November 19-21. Another friend pointed out that the weekend before Thanksgiving might cause a problem. Perhaps we could get a different date. FCNL usually meets the weekend before. [In 2021 FCNL will meet the same weekend.]

A friend who is a scientist let us know that we need to remain flexible because it is impossible to know what might happen with the virus in that time. Perhaps we will allow the Planning Committee to set these dates. A Friend asked that we avoid the use of deadlines because it is still quite possible for things to change and change quickly.

A Friend asked that we give the decision for a hybrid meeting to Planning Committee for discernment. There are so many questions around this at this time, it might be better for the committee to spend the time necessary to work on this. Another Friend pointed out that things might still be significantly different from before.

SCYM Minute 2021.9 - Friends approved that Yearly Meeting Planning Committee and other representatives from relevant committees, as well as interested Friends, be given the charge of deciding when and how to meet in the coming year.

South Central Yearly Meeting State of the Meeting Report: Jan Michaels of the Ministry and Care Committee read this report. A Friend asked to add how important having worship over zoom has been.

SCYM Minute 2021.10 - Friends approved the SCYM State of the Meeting Report.
(<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-scym-state-meeting-report.pdf>)

South Central Yearly Meeting Epistle: Will King read the document. A Friend brought forth the concern that the word “God” is used only once at the end. She lifted this up as a concern and not

necessarily as something that needs to be corrected. Friends brought forth concerns about word choices and phrases.

SCYM Minute 2021.11 - Friends approved the SCYM Epistle as amended.

(<https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-scym-epistle.pdf>)

Memorial Minutes:

The following memorial minutes were read for Friends who had died since 2020 Yearly Meeting. All these minutes can be found at: <https://scym.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-SCYM-Memorial-Minutes-complete.pdf>

Wainwright Copass from Little Rock Friends Meeting-read by John Coffin

Donna Jane Kelly from Little Rock Friends Meeting-read by David Schoen

Phillis Sanders of Little Rock Friends Meeting-read by LaDeana Mullinix

Marianne Lockhard of Little Rock Friends Meeting and Caddo Friends Meeting-read by Tina Coffin

Michael Benjamin Buonaiuto of Fayetteville Friends Meeting-read by Karen Takemoto.

Dr. Ralph Leon McLaury, Jr. of Baton Rouge Friends Meeting-read by Pam Arnold

Margaret “Peg” Ann Nosek of Live Oak Friends Meeting-read by Jane Houser

Roger “Dale” Garretson of Live Oak Friends Meeting-read by Bette Drexler

Warren Seaman Stutts, Jr. of Live Oak Friends Meeting-read by Bette Drexler

Minutes of Celebration:

The following children were born into our meetings since 2020 Yearly Meeting.

Magnolia McNeil born in May her parents are Katie and David McNeil - Friends Meeting of Austin

Felix Panagiotis Shaw, born January 30, 2021 to Patrick Shaw and Alexandra Bassiakou Shaw of Friends Meeting of Austin. Everyone is doing well, and we got to welcome Felix at our online meeting for worship on January 31.

A **third child** was born to Mac Lemann, Clerk of New Orleans Monthly Meeting, about a month ago.

Onyx Fox Andrews was born to a grandchild of Kathleen Gunby making her the great grandmother of 6 great grandchild.

SCYM Minute 2021.11 - Friends approved a Minute of Appreciation for SCYM Friends completing terms of service.

At this point Friends are unsure when and how we will meet for Representatives Meeting and our Spring Sessions. We will announce these as soon as they are known.

Liz Yeats read an excerpt from the Epistle of Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends.

Friends moved into Open Worship promising to meet again at Representative Meeting at a date yet to be determined.