

South Central Yearly Meeting of Friends

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

17 Fourth Month – 20 Fourth Month 2025

Greene Family Camp

Bruceville, TX

Session I: Thursday, 17 Fourth Month, 6:45 – 8:00 PM (In-person & Online w/chat)

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

Out of the silence the Clerk welcomed Friends and recognized that we were meeting on unceded lands of indigenous people both at Greene Family Camp and for all of SCYM.

This year's theme for these sessions is creating collective integrity through personal experience.

Cathy Ivash from the Ministry and Care Committee read from the Little Rock Friends Meeting, April 2025 State of the Meeting report which is [online here](#).

Clerks' table – serving at the clerk's table: Richard Corl - Presiding Clerk, Bill Wilkinson - Associate Clerk; Jessica Arjet - Recording Clerk.

Welcome and Introductions – Clerk introduced and welcomed our visitors:

- David Haines - Piedmont Friends (NC),FGC
- Jacob Flowers - AFSC
- J.E. McNeil - Keynote Speaker
- Wayne Finegar - Quaker House
- Tracy Hjelt Sullivan - Right Sharing of World Resources
- Nancy Haines -Piedmont Friends (NC)
- Anne Collins - Saratoga New York Meeting

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

- Larry Kelly-Mahaffey, On-Site Coordinator
- Scott Carmack, Associate On-Site Coordinator
- Edwin Campbell, On-site Technician
- Davis Carraway, Assistant On-site Technician
- Denise Wilkinson, Registrar

Introductions of Tech Support

-Kevin King, Edwin Campbell, Chris Drexler, Liz Wolff, Leada Deitz are the ones making sure that Friends can participate on Zoom and navigating the breakout rooms.

-Friends online can ask questions using the chat feature in Zoom, they will be read out by a Friend onsite.

SCYM 2024 Epistle – Clerk asked for Friends who will be willing to serve on our Epistle Committee this year. Liz Yeats volunteered to help start the process and to edit. Reba Atkinson from Fort Worth offered to help out. Clerk will invite other Friends to join this ministry at our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Nominating Committee - Galia Harrington-clerk, Pat Sweet, Karen Takemoto, Rich Corl

The Preliminary Report was read by Galia Harrington:

The report is [online here](#).

The Nominating Committee is looking for Friends to serve in the following open positions:

American Friends Service Committee

Content Manager - Website

Faith & Practice Committee

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Friends General Conference - Three Friends are needed in this position

Friends World Committee for Consultation

Nominating Committee- three friends needed, one each from Austin, Dallas, and Celio Grande

Onsite Coordinator - Associate

Peace & Justice Committee

Treasurer

Quaker Earthcare Witness

The following are all part of the Youth Program Support Committee:

Senior Young Friends Coordinator

Youth Program Coordinator

Youth Program Assoc Coordinator

Youth Program Support

There are currently 18 vacancies

Several positions were recently filled - this is the first reading of those positions:

Friends Peace Teams - Paula Keeth - 3 years

Friends World Committee for Consultation - Rebecca Cole Sullivan - 3 years

Ministry and Care Committee - Amanda Moore - 2 years

Nominating Committee - Kevin King - Live Oak- 3 years

Nominating Committee - Suzanne Cole Sullivan - San Antonio - 3 years

On-site Coordinator - Scott Carmack - 2 years

SCYM Co-Registrar - Tom Taber - 2 years

Texas Impact - Alex McDonald - 2 years

Yearly Meeting Associate Clerk - Kevin King - 1 year

Yearly Meeting Worship Committee - Tracy Carmack and Kathleen Gumbly - 2 years

Youth Program Support - Gailia Harrington - 3 years

Preliminary Treasurer's Report & Budget Presentation -

Currently there is no treasure, instead Bill Wilkinson who is a member of the Finance Committee gave this report. The report is [online here](#).

Representative Reports -

- **Louisiana Interchurch Conference** – Rebecca Edwards gave the report for Arkadia Friends and the Louisiana Interchurch Conference detailing the support they have offered for people who have been incarcerated by ICE. - The report is [online here](#). Friends accepted this report.
- **Right Sharing of World Resources** – Paula Keeth read this report, which will be posted and linked online here when received.

-Tracy Hjelt Sullivan added that they realized they needed to be in a longer relationship with the women they are working with if they want to make an impact. Now they have 4 year relationships with these women.

Friends accepted this report.

Discussion of the FGC Lawsuit -

Clerk reported on recent activities in which Friends General Conference had reached out to ask if SCYM would join a lawsuit denying ICE entrance to our meeting houses because we had standing. Several organizations have joined that suit. The judges ruled that they would allow our meeting houses to be exempted while the lawsuit went

forward. This is because people might be afraid to come to Meeting for Worship if they are afraid of an ICE raid.

The text of the letter from FGC is [online here](#).

Clerk was asked to join the support within only 1 week's notice. He reached out to all the monthly meetings and asked if we should join this suit, and all of the clerks said that they would be willing to join.

FGC went to court on Friday, and the injunction was denied. ICE will not be barred from offering enforcement operations in our meeting houses while the lawsuit is making its way through the courts. The judge felt the fear was only speculative and was not enough to demonstrate harm.

The implications are unclear at this point in time and the clerk was advised not to speculate on this.

FGC lobbied at many congressional offices. They were advised that the HR 1061 (protecting sensitive locations acts) was unlikely to pass in this climate. There was concern that things were getting worse quickly.

Many of the people being lobbied were worried about immigration and reduction of resources, there was general agreement that we need to cooperate with our faith partners to work on this issue.

-It was asked what was the difference between the two suits. - The first one was just Quakers and a smaller group, the second was for a larger group that was interfaith.

-A friend wanted us to talk about what our meetings were doing. Friends Meeting of Austin had a press conference. It was a powerful time for everyone. Maybe it's important to get some more press about this.

There is not a mechanism for Clerks to act outside of the SCYM yearly meeting. Philadelphia had an executive meeting that could meet in only 4 days and have a decision. We were worried a bit about the Quaker process being followed.

-One Friend said that the clerk of the Friends Meeting of San Antonio called a business meeting to facilitate the discussion and discernment.

-Another Friend said she was thinking about how this issue is getting more and more important as this is not just undocumented but now legal residence and even citizens are being threatened. She felt maybe we should have an ad hoc group, maybe Peace and Social Justice.

-An online friend asked if we should have guidance for monthly meetings if ICE shows up at their door.

Announcements:

Pam Arnold asked that the members of Ministry and Care meet online so that they can address some issues.

Epistle Reading- Liz Wolf from Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the 2025 Epistle received from the Ohio Yearly Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8:40 PM with a period of open worship.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will continue on Friday, 18 Fourth Month, at 9:00 AM.

Session II: Friday, 18 Fourth Month, 9:00-10:15 AM (In-person & Online w/chat)

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

Out of the silence Larry Trombatore from the Ministry and Care Committee read from the Live Oak Friends Meeting State of the Meeting report ([which is online here.](#))

Clerk let us know that we are allowed to bring water into the PAC, just no other drinks and no food. He also pointed out where the restrooms are.

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

Representative Reports - (cont.)

- **Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC)** - Reba Jay Atkins, Liz Yeats

Liz Yeats read the report which is [online here.](#)

-Anne Collins spoke about the conversation circles that happen on Tuesday and Thursday - which is a great way to connect with people around the world. These have presenters and conversations.

-There is also a parental mutual support group.

-Kevin King expressed appreciation for the Walking in the World as a Friend. He got very excited about that series, which was shared through Live Oak Friends meeting adult religious education. There is a book and links to the videos which are on the QREC website.

-Anne Collins let us know that the annual meeting is online and everyone is welcome - she warned that you might get involved if you join the meeting.

Friends accepted this report.

Welcome and Introductions – Clerk introduced and welcomed our visitors:

- David Haines - Piedmont Friends (NC),FGC
- Jacob Flowers - AFSC
- J.E. McNeil - Keynote Speaker
- Wayne Finegar - Quaker House
- Tracy Sullivan - RSWR

- Nancy Haines -Piedmont Friends (NC)
- Wendy Cooler from Sandy Spring Meeting- traveling ministry among Friends. She will be giving a workshop on Ministry.
- Kendal Coppel - FCNL - Planned Giving Director - He will have a table and table time later.

SCYM 2025 Epistle – Clerk extended an invitation to Friends to join our Epistle Committee this year. We already have Liz Yeats and Reba Atkinson so far. Pat Hoerth volunteered to join the committee.

Representative Reports - (cont.)

- **Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns** - Jay Wilcox read the report, which will be posted and linked online here when received.

Friends accepted this report.

- **Friends Peace Teams** – Val Liveoak and Kevin King gave the report which is [online here](#).

-Friends expressed appreciation for the work of Friends Peace Teams, and for Val in particular for her 32 years of service.

-A Friend let us know that Friends Peace Teams has a wonderful yearly gathering filled with enthusiasm and people sharing experiences of building peace abroad.

-Val Liveoak wanted to remember Friend David Hartsough, who passed away recently. The meeting took a moment in remembrance of him.

Friends accepted this report.

- Clerk reminded us that there is even more work being done around the meeting, for example Paula Keith provided research on the Native American Boarding Schools which was given to the former president Biden and may have facilitated his apology for the policies leading to native American children being torn away from their communities and sent to boarding schools.
- Paula Palmer went to Conro to do two workshops, one on boarding schools for native American children and one on the doctrine of discovery.
- Erika Mitag is creating peace literacy libraries in Africa and Asia for younger children learning to read.
- **Friends World Committee for Consultation** – Lori Laub, Rebecca Cole Sullivan, Shannon Kincaid-Toncray

Rebecca Cole Sullivan gave the report which is [online here](#).

- Kevin King appreciated the FWCC friends connect. Live Oak has had its first day school creating an event which was inspired by the FWCC event.

Friends accepted this report.

Committee Reports (cont.)

- **YM Worship Committee** – Liz Wolff, Neil Redfield, Galia Harrington, Will King. Liz Wolff presented the report which is [online here](#).
- **Ad hoc Procedures Manual Coordinator** - Bill Sweet presented this report. There is not a committee, Bill Sweet is the coordinator and this position is permanent. There has been little done on this in the past year. Faith and Practice will be taking over some of the tasks of this position. There were some good responses, and some people did not respond, which was discentivizing for Bill.
 - Jon Coffin let us know that he was sorry for the lack of communication with Faith and Practice.
 - Liz expressed appreciation for Bill Sweet for his through work.
- **Tech Events Committee** - Kevin King, Edwin Campbell, Chris Drexler, Liz Wolff, Anne Collins, Leada Deitz, and Scott Carmac. Kevin King gave the report - which is [online here](#).
 - Kevin wanted to make sure that we knew WHICH tech committee this was - this is for hosting the zoom and setting up break out rooms for the online portions during the SCYM yearly meeting sessions.

Announcements

Kevin King let us know that during the Ice Cream social there will be representatives from various organizations available for discussion.

Liz Yeats let us know there is a large pile of red cards in the dining room that explain your rights regarding interactions with ICE in English and Spanish. There is a URL on the card where you can get a mockup of cards in multiple languages and where you can order the red cards.

Liz Wolfe let us know that worship groups are not assigned so if you want to be part of you you'll need to sign up.

Val Liveoak has a red card and put it in her car. She feels that we should all carry these for ourselves and in solidarity with the people who are more likely to be affected.

Bill Wilkinson talked about the headline this morning; there is a law in Florida that an illegal immigrant is not allowed to go into the state from anywhere. A man was in a car full of people driving into Florida. This car was pulled over and law enforcement turned this man over to ICE, friends showed ICE a valid birth certificate, yet ICE continues to detain him.

Kevin promoted the workshop on detention to everyone.

Clerk encouraged friends to go into the staff lounge to see all of the information that Friends have provided, including Memorial and Birth Minutes.

Epistle Reading- Liz Wolf from Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the 2025 Epistle received from the New England Yearly Meeting.

Friends entered a period of open worship which ended at 10:16am.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Friday, 18 Fourth Month, at 6:45 PM.

Session III: Friday, 18 Fourth Month, 6:45 - 7:45 PM (In-person & Online w/chat)

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

Chris Drexler from the Ministry and Care Committee read from the Fayetteville State of the Meeting report, [which is online here](#).

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

Committee Reports (cont.)

Ministry & Care – Pam Arnold, Cathy Ivash, Howard Hawhee, Chris Drexler, Jimmy Pryor, Val Liveoak, Larry Trombatore, Vicki Griffin. Cathay Ivash gave the report which is [online here](#).

Representative’s Reports (cont)

- **Friends Committee on National Legislation** – Suzanne Cole-Sullivan, Claudia Wilson, Liz Yeats, Larry Kelly-Mahaffey, and Will King.

-Liz Yeats, Lon Bernum, Rebecca Edwards, Kendall Cockrell, and Paula Keith gave a verbal report about their experiences with FCNL

-Rebecca Edwards attended the spring workshops teaching young people how to lobby and giving them different tools for lobbying. They lobbied against the budget reconciliation that would necessitate cutting funding to SNAP.

-Paula Keith is involved with the advocacy teams which work all year round lobbying on Quaker values. There is a team in every state, and sometimes there are multiple advocacy teams. In Texas there are teams in all the major cities.

-If they want a meeting with a Senator they can invite people from any team to be at the meeting. Individuals can lobby, as long as they are from the area. The theme this year is Aid not Arms. They will continue to schedule meetings.

-Friends can join teams by reaching out to a team in your area.

-Kendal Cockrell is the staff member. They lobby for Quaker values on a national level, but they do that locally as well as in DC. He is happy to connect people with the advocacy teams. He is excited to worship with people in Dallas. They are finalizing their budget, which had to be right sized and they had to lay down some positions, and those people went lovingly and full of care. They are across the street from the Heart building and they make sure to represent our values in those buildings.

-This month they are focused on the environmental tax credits. They are focused on aid this month.

-Lon Burnum let us know that Claudia Wilson and Liz Yeats told him to serve on FCNL and he serves on many committees. They are getting more donations now and increased attendance is happening in many meetings.

-There are openings for FCNL and they need people to join if possible.

-The FCNL office often has resources - such as No ICE signs to hang at the meeting house.

-Scott Cormack recognized how much work is done and thanked them for all they do.

-The FCNL report to yearly meetings is [online here](#).

Friends accepted this report.

- **Friends General Conference** – Jan Michael, Gretchen Haynes.

David Haynes gave a verbal report:

FGC has raised money during the pandemic and now they are trying to figure out what to do with that money. They are currently looking at restructuring the organizations. Normally every yearly meeting has many representatives from each meeting, but these positions are not being filled. There are questions as to why this is and what this means. The central committee is asking for 2 representatives from each yearly meeting. That will mean we only have 75 people at the central committee. Currently SCYM has no one on the list, but we do need two people to join in. They'll be on the Central Committee and available for other committees.

FGC has a new vision for the Gatherings and they are now in a two year cycle. There will be a totally virtual gathering in the spring (February.) Spread over 9 days.

The week of July 4th there is a young adult and youth gathering which will meet in person in Detroit. Youth up to 25 years old. This will be youth and their sponsors. This is oriented towards community and fun. Registration is open - there are 250 positions open.

Next year there will not be an online gathering, but instead it will be in Burlington, Vermont Tuesday-Sunday July 5- 10, similar to the Gatherings in the past. It is good to hear from all sorts of different friends and different perspectives. For example the Three Rivers Meeting is totally online and is primarily LBGTQ. We want to understand that different types of meetings can happen. There will be workshops and plenary speakers.

Friends accepted this report.

American Friends Service Committee – Alex McDonald, Les Brelsford, Cassie Harty.

Alex McDonald read the report from the AFSC last corporate meeting which is [online here](#).

Jacob Flowers - Regional Director for the South for AFSC told us that AFSC works in many other nations as well as in local areas around the US.

On Saturday at 1:30 they will screen a film about life savers in Gaza.

There are also yard signs - “Quakers welcome immigrants with dignity” in the little dining room.

They want to make sure every Monthly Meeting has an AFSC coordinator to facilitate communication.

They will have an Epistle coming out soon.

Yearly Meeting Committee Reports (cont):

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee – Denise Wilkinson, Gretchen Haynes, Gilda Rixner, Suzanne Cole-Sullivan. Denise Wilkinson presented the report which is [online here](#).

Windy Cooler is an embraced Friend from Sandy Spring. She came to discuss her research. She is under a concern from Sandy Spring for how we support ministry in the Friends. Her traveling ministry is attached to the end of these minutes.

She and Sandy Spring believe we are all ministers. How we might discern and lift up ministries. She will be doing a workshop tomorrow about ministry and discernment of call in the Yearly Meeting.

A friend mentioned that Sandy Spring is an interesting property with a school. We should not forget that one of our SCYM Friends is a presence in one of their new apartments -Byron and his wife live there and are doing well.

Epistle:

Liz Wolfe from Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee, read from the Western Monthly Meeting Epistle.

Meeting closed at **7:54** PM after a period of open worship.

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

Session IV: Saturday, 19 Fourth Month, 9:00 – 10:45 AM (In-person & Online w/chat)

Friends gathered at 9:00 - Jack Alley asked friends to consider that this is the 30th anniversary of the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. 168 people were killed and many others affected including Jack's wife. Jack informed us that the bombing happened at 9:02 and asked us to reflect on this as we settled into silence.

Val Liveoak from the Ministry and Care Committee read the Dallas Friends Meeting State of the Meeting report which is [online here](#).

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

Committee Reports (continued):

Communications- Terry SoRelle, Bev Randolph, Bill Sweet, Liz Yeats. Liz Yeats and Terry SoRelle presented the report which is [online here](#).

-Liz asked if Friends had thoughts about where to post to social media as she is getting concerned about the politics of posting on Facebook.

-Pam Arnold asked how to get a list of each meeting's members. - Terry thinks there is a download page which is filterable by meeting. Tom confirmed that this is the best option.

-Sarah has some interest in joining a team.

-Jessica Arjet said that Blue Sky might be the best option for social media, but also newsletters are very good for getting information out to those who want it. She also has an interest in joining a team.

-Bill Sweet asked that we think about the procedures and making sure everything is documented and run, but Bill would like us to have the system documented and put into the procedures manual.

-Terry said that much of what we are doing is based on the manual things we used to use. And it might be good to think about these systems and maybe update them.

-Kevin King sent a lot of love to Liz and Terry. For social media he felt that these groups add to the enrichment of some individuals. The pulling of attention due to social media is a worry for him, and he is unable to continue supporting those apps.

-Liz asked that people come to her. She will convene a meeting on zoom of interested parties, but saying it here might not be the correct place.

Peace & Justice Committee Report – Gladys Tiffany, clerk; Paula Keeth, Andrea Beane, John Coffin, Lois Way, Mac Lemann, Paul Pierce, Jim Kuhn, Kevin King, and Val Liveoak.

Alex McDonald presented the report.

They've been meeting almost monthly.

SCYM Minute 2025.01

As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, we are guided by the Light within, seeking to live our testimonies of peace, integrity, equality, stewardship, simplicity, community, and sustainability.

Our faith leads us to uphold the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to act with compassion, justice, and nonviolence in all areas of life, regardless of race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, or immigration status.

We are moved to speak plainly at this time as we witness policies and rhetoric from the Trump administration that contradict our most deeply held religious beliefs. When a government disregards Constitutional norms and the rule of law, attacks the legitimacy of elections or acts with impunity, it breaks the sacred trust between citizen and state.

We are called by the Spirit to witness against such abuse with steadfast love. We affirm that:

- ✓ Peace is not compatible with the glorification of military force, the erosion of diplomacy and cooperation, or the targeting of marginalized communities through rhetoric or action, whether through foreign policy or within our own borders.
- ✓ Integrity cannot flourish in an environment where falsehoods are routinely disseminated, public trust in democratic institutions is undermined, and accountability is disregarded.
- ✓ Equality is denied when policies promote the discrimination of people of color, intolerance of religious diversity, restrict immigration and asylum, and marginalize LGBTQ+ individuals, women, and the poor.
- ✓ Simplicity is intentionally replaced with chaos and confusion when officials use inflammatory rhetoric, barrage us with contradictory statements, engage in outright lies, and rely on social media and executive fiat to willfully bypass the deliberative processes that are the cornerstone of our democracy.
- ✓ Community is broken when leaders sow division by implicitly and explicitly bullying and threatening those with whom they disagree, scapegoating vulnerable groups, and rejecting collective responsibility for public health, climate stewardship, and the common good.
- ✓ Stewardship is abandoned when we fail to nurture all that has been entrusted to us — not for personal gain, but for the well-being of all, including generations yet to come. The failure to uphold this responsibility reflects not care, but consumption. Not service, but self-interest.

We recognize that no political administration perfectly reflects our values.

However, we find the words and actions of the Trump administration cruel at its core and its disregard for truth, embrace of violence, and the dehumanization of others purposefully egregious and harmful.

We speak from a place of profound religious conscience, not from partisanship.

We call on all people of faith and goodwill to examine the spiritual cost of complicity and silence. We seek to live out our testimonies not only in worship, but in public witness, advocacy, and loving resistance. We reaffirm our commitment to justice, compassion, and nonviolence, and we invite others to join us in building a more just and peaceful world.

-Sarah - will there be a chance to read this out

-We will ensure that the grammar and voice is correct before we send it out.

-Chip Block - Wonderful statement. He wonders if we consider having something in there recognizing that of God in the power. He feels we need to hold them in the light.

-Val Liveoak - last paragraph - *we hold everyone in the administration in the light recognizing that of God in each of them and urge them to seek that in their work.*

-Liz - ask that we change Stewardship to Sustainability, as that is more reflective of our values.

-Rachel Conge - wording suggestion for Equality - to change it to being more direct.

-Suzanne Cole Sullivan - Is uncomfortable with begging for the rule of law. She feels we should appeal to the internal kingdom to bring forth a justice world.

-Reba Joy - She felt that Stewardship is the correct word for this document as coming from faith. Adding something about that of God feels like it is simplifying the theological underpinnings. She feels like "That of God" is the way we approach people and that referencing that will undermine the rest of the documents.

-Terry pointed out this document has had an opportunity for review. Are these suggestions improvements or are they fatal flaws. Today we are deciding if we will release it or not today.

Friends approved the minute as written above.

Friends considered but did not yet pass this minute:

Because of our testimonies of integrity and equality and our commitment to peaceful resolution to conflicts, Quakers from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas call on our US government to end American complicity in what appears to be a genocide according to the international Genocide Convention. We know that many of our elected officials support the Trump administration's and Israel's actions but we feel a need to

Speak up because to be silent in these horrific times is to be complicit in genocide ourselves.

We call on our president, senators and representatives to:

Stop all attempts to cancel visas and deport people who are in the US legally and whose only supposed crime is their speech, whether expressed orally, in writing, or through peaceful protest.

We need our government officials to act in accordance with our constitution they have sworn to uphold, including the First Amendment.

We also call on our president, senators and representatives to follow, rather than violate, US and international law by:

- Ensuring the immediate delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza and cease providing offensive weapons to Israel as long as Israel interferes with humanitarian aid.
- Condemning US and Israeli statements and actions relating to ethnically cleansing Gaza of Palestinians.

-Catherine said it seems like there are two rhetorical things in this minute -1 an argument against Genocide. And another argument against the revocation of visas- as that is horrible, but it is not genocide.

-Maybe move the two final points up and move the rest to the bottom.

-It would help to have this in advanced documents.

-Leada asked if we could clarify the subject by having two minutes.

-Rebecca agreed with Reba.

-Liz has trouble not being able to read a minute.

-Clerks discussed this issue and asked that we put it up on the website so friends can read it and bring it back this afternoon to pass the minute.

-Mark Craig said that way to coordinate the people who are promulgating the genocide are also suppressing the protest against it.

-Chip said that the minute speaks to him. He made a suggestion- instead of potential, strike that and leave it as genocide.

-Jason thought we might replace peaceful protest with non-violent protest.

-Liz can't figure this all out without seeing the minute, asked if we can please put this aside and come back after everyone can look at it.

-Terry says we are looking at a genocide in progress - and deporting people for their views are part of the genocidal process.

-Suzanne said it would be a better process if we send this minute to be worked on and bring it back this afternoon.

-This document will be put up on the website and Alex will talk with people this afternoon and we'll bring it back at the afternoon sessions.

-Val spoke about how important the Quaker process is, even when we are feeling excited about things.

Treasurer's Report with proposed budget for approval: Bill Wilkinson from the Finance Committee presented and explained the report which is [online here](#).

-Friends wanted to make sure that we spell out some of the acronyms so it is more clear.

-A Friend's asked what the preparative meetings mean and how that relates to the budget. Bill explained that meetings give to SCYM based on the number of people under their care - they need to also include the people in the preparative meetings.

SCYM Minute 2025.02 The Meeting accepted the Treasurer's report and the FY 2024-2025 Operating Budget as stated.

-Bill reminded us that Faith and Practice is going to need a budget to finish their work, so they proposed using the General Operating Fund to pay for these expenses up to \$6,000. This does not include printing, but it might include layout.

-Jane let us know that what they can foresee right now is just hiring a copy editor.

-Bill let us know that this budget is specifically vague so that it can be used for anything they need.

-This can also be used for years to come, not just this year.

SCYM Minute 2025.03 - SCYM authorizes the Faith and Practice Committee to spend an amount not to exceed \$6,000 for services necessary to prepare the Faith and Practice manuscript in its final form. Funds from the General Operating Fund will be used for this purpose.

Announcements

The Gaza minute is up on the website.

Tom Tabur of Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee read from the Religious Society of Friends Britain's Epistle.

Meeting closed at 10:48 with a period of open worship.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will continue on Saturday, 19 Fourth Month, at 2:45 PM.

Session V: Saturday, 20 Fourth Month, 2:45 – 5:15 PM (In-person & Online w/chat)

Friends gathered at the appointed time with lively conversation, but then settled into a period of open worship until 2:56.

Larry Trombator of the Ministry and Care Committee read from the Fort Worth State of the Meeting report which is [online here](#).

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

Committee Reports (continued) -

- **Archivist** – Howard Hawhee gave this report verbally.

This report is just to remind everyone that we do have a physical archive that is kept in the Friends Meeting of Austin Meeting House. They keep the physical records for SCYM and occasionally other meetings will send things to the archivist.

-The archivist will print out a copy of the SCYM yearly minutes and keep them there.

-There was a question around the photos taken at the Yearly Meeting Sessions.

Friends accepted this report.

Representative Reports (cont)

- **Texas Impact** – Joanna Vaughn gave the report which is [online here](#).

Friends accepted this report.

- **Austin Tan Circa de la Frontera** - Joanna Vaughn read the report from this organization which is [online here](#).

Friends accepted this report.

- **Quaker Earthcare Witness** – Andrea Bean gave this report from the zoom account - the report is [online here](#).

Committee Reports (cont.)

- **Registrar’s Report** – Denise Wilkinson, Registrar, presented the report of the count of Friends attending this Yearly Meeting session which is [online here](#).

Friends accepted this report.

Review of action items from previous sessions -

- **Continuation of the Peace and Justice Discussion-**

Alex McDonald presented the minute on Gaza. He took the feedback that had been provided before and created a minute that was posted online and in the Dining Room.

[The full report is here.](#)

-Howard Hawhee stood aside from this minute because of the use of “offensive” weapons.

-A friend felt that any weapons are not acceptable, offensive or defensive.

-A friend talked about our peace testimony and how we are not okay with any weapons, whether offensive or defensive. She felt that we are writing this minute for ourselves not to convince anyone.

-Another Friend said she didn't think this was for convincing politicians, but having this on the website to let others know who we are and will allow others to find us.

-Does it set a dangerous precedent for us to make our ideas more palatable for others.

-Another Friend said that we might write a letter to President Trump and he will throw it into the garbage, but others might see it. Even if they don't agree they hear it.

-Another Friend thanked the committee. She had gone to lobby with Alex and he said that he would go and build a relationship built on integrity and continue to speak with consistency regardless of who was in office.

-A Friend asked if maybe we just say to provide humanitarian aid and not say the point about weapons. However, it was stated that we'd like to keep the idea of saying no to weapons.

-Perhaps we should say what we want rather than what we don't want.

-Deliver aid and promote healing on both sides, one of those steps would be to stop supporting the weapons and fighting.

Everyone has a right to exist and getting rid of the iron dome might endanger the -existence, which she doesn't feel comfortable with.

-There are people who would read this minute and feel that Israel does not have the right to continue their existence as individuals and as a people. This issue is exceedingly complex and everyone is in the wrong and right.

SCYM Minute 2025.04

Because of our testimonies of integrity and equality and our commitment to peaceful resolution to conflicts, Quakers from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas call on our US government to end American complicity in genocide as defined by the international Genocide Convention. We know that many of our elected officials support the Trump and Netanyahu administrations' actions. To be silent in these horrific times is to be complicit in genocide ourselves.

We call on our president, senators and representatives to follow, rather than violate, US and international law by:

- Ensuring the immediate delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza and cease providing the equipment, materials, and supplies that are used in the support of the genocide.
- Condemning US and Israeli statements and actions relating to ethnically cleansing Gaza of Palestinians as we do for any people anywhere.

We also denounce the Trump administration's tactic of supporting the genocide by punishing Americans, students and others for their speech critical of the genocide.

We therefore call on our president, senators and representatives to:

- Stop all attempts to cancel visas and deport people (who are in the US legally and) whose only supposed crime is their speech, whether expressed orally, in writing, or through non-violent protest.

-We ask our monthly meetings to share this minute with the president, their senators and representatives, and our communities as a call to action.

South Central Yearly Meeting State of the Yearly Meeting Report – Cathy Ivash and Chris Drexler from the Ministry and Care Committee read the SCYM State of the Yearly Meeting Report. That report is online here.

First Reading of the 2024 SCYM Epistle – Reba Atkins, Kevin King, and Pat Hoerth are currently in service as our 2025 Epistle Committee. Reba Atkins shared the first draft of our Yearly Meeting Epistle with Friends.

Discussion on the Epistle:

- One thing that Bill Wilkinson has noticed is that friends are speaking more directly in ways that we haven't done recently. Our yays are our yays and our nays are our nays.
- Alex McDonald asked if we can print this. Reba suggested that we also put this into advance documents.

Other Business:

Clerk spoke - He was asked to be part of an Apartheid Free Gathering. There were two Palistenians who spoke and told their stories. Their main tool was working with organizations withholding support for anything around the apartheid and genocide. That is a non-violent tool that is actually starting to work and stop some of the things that are going on there. The Palestinians asked that we support this Apartheid Free organization. There are currently more than 500 organizations signing up to support the organization.

-Baton Rouge agreed to become an Apartheid free zone. Some people have issues with signing on to this organization. Rich felt that it was very eye opening, and he took it to FGC as well and there were some good discussions there as well.

-This is both faith communities and secular as well.

-Are we able to see if our Funds are invested in BDS compliant funds. - Bill said all of our funds are invested through Friends Fiduciaries which are BDS compliant.

-There is a website where you can check companies before you invest.

-Alex said that he was happy to answer any questions about BDS as well. He said that there are apps where you can check the barcode of things to buy to ensure that they are also BDS compliant.

Announcements -

Fireside chat will be in the PAC tonight after the variety show.

Buy books! The book store doesn't want to take any home.

The road from empire to democracy - Rich brought them and is offering them for free. It is faith based way of looking at the transition.

Neil Redfield of the Worship Oversight at Yearly Meeting Committee read the 2024 Epistle from Intermountain Yearly Meeting.

Meeting closed at **5:06** PM after a period of open worship.

We will continue our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Sunday, 20 Fourth Month, at 9:00 AM.

Session VI: Sunday, 20 Fourth Month, 9:00 – 10:30 AM (In-person & Online w/chat)

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

Chris Drexler from the Ministry and Care Committee read from Coastal Bend State of the Meeting reports which is [online here](#).

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

Nominating Committee – Galia Harrington, Nominating Committee, presented the final Nominating report.

Galia read out the names and positions of new appointees which are [online here](#).

Clerk brought forth the name of Bill Wilkinson as interim treasure for one year until we can find someone to take that position permanently.

Rebecca Cole Sullivan will be the interim associate treasure for one year so she may train during this year.

Gailia Harrington read out the names of the many people who are leaving their service. The Meeting extends their thanks to these Friends for their service.

SCYM Minute 2025.05 – Friends approve for service the names, positions, and terms of service brought forward from our Nominating Committee as updated.

SCYM Minute 2025.06 - Friends extend their thanks to the many people leaving their service at this time.

SCYM Epistle – Reba Atkinson, on behalf of our Epistle Committee, presented the Epistle for our 2025 Yearly Meeting sessions [which is online here](#).

-Denise Wilkinson asked that we include how many Adult Young Friends attended and participated this year.

-Bill Sweet recommended spelling out Immigration And Enforcement. This is longer than he feels accustomed to.

-Claudia online said Thank You to the committee.

Friends approved this Epistle with the corrections noted.

Youth Program Report –Galia Harrington from the Youth Program Support Committee presented the report which was written by Erika Mittag and can be found online here when it is received.

Erika was asked to add J.E. McNeil for her activity and Josh Randals for the health and safety.

There were 17 young Friends who attended.

Friends accepted this report.

Memorial Minutes – [see [online Memorial Minutes](#) for full text]

Friends remembered

Carol Balliet - Friends Meeting of San Antonio

John Michael Bell - Fort Worth Monthly Meeting

Michelle DiGiacomo - Friends Meeting of San Antonio

River Jackson-Paton - Dallas Friends Meeting

James Mize - Friends Meeting of San Antonio

Jean Sizemore - Little Rock Friends Meeting

Ken Southwood - Friends Meeting of San Antonio

James Michael (Mike) Wright - Live Oak Friends Meeting

Minutes of Celebration

Marriages:

Rachel Cundey and McPherson Newell - October 26, 2024 - Friends Meeting of San Antonio

Bryn Jenkins and Jackson Vincent - March 29, 2025 - Live Oak Friends Meeting

Thomas McDonald and Maile Hooten - Live Oak Friends Meeting

Evan Mistur and Eli Shupe - April 8, 2024 - Fort Worth Friends Meeting

Noah Pryor and Jessica Steffl - July 6, 2024 - Live Oak Friends Meeting

[The full report with pictures is online here.](#)

Births:

Willow Thea Pryor - March 2, 2025 - born to Noah Pryor and Jessica Steffl - Live Oak Friends Meeting

Arayah Rose October 11, 2024 - born to Donovan and Victoria Plumber - Dallas Friends Meeting

[The full report with pictures is online here.](#)

Addendum to Epistle: Liz Yeats read this addendum to the Yearly Epistle regarding the Young Friends.

-Rebecca asked if we could change the pronoun to “we” to make sure it was obvious that they were in the room for all of the major events of the Spring Sessions.

-Friends approved Liz and Rebecca and Reba working on the language to make sure it was inclusive.

Announcements:

-If you have linens please just take them off your bed.

-Simple Meal will benefit the World Central Kitchen.

-Please take all your stuff with you when you leave the camp.

-Denise Wilkinson stood to thank the camp staff, the maintenance people and coordinators, etc.

-We should be out by 1:00

2025 Representative Meeting – Clerk announced that our 2025 Representative Meeting will be held online on 21-22 Eleventh Month.

2026 Yearly Meeting – Clerk announced that the 2026 Yearly Meeting will be held online 29 Third Month - 1 Fourth Month, 2025 and at Greene Family Camp 2-5 Fourth Month 2026.

At 10:54 meeting moved into open worship.

Traveling Ministry letter for Windy Cooler:



SANDY SPRING MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
1771'S MEETING HOUSE ROAD
SANDY SPRING, MARYLAND 20860
301-774-1792
e-mail: office@sandysspring.org
web site: www.sandysspring.org

The Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House

Eighth Month 25, 2024

Dear Friends,

Windy Cooler, a member of Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, has been engaged in public ministry under our care since May 2019. An excerpt from the minute recording this approval states, "Windy brings the gifts of love, energy, experience, relationship, building, moral courage, introspection, hearing, communicating and administering to this work." We introduce Windy to you and commend her to your care in areas she is called to serve.

The ministry began with a call to right relationship around interpersonal violence. Currently the larger call is to right relationship with the Religious Society of Friends regarding identification, support, and nurture of public ministers. Right relationship is a term that Quaker public minister John Woolman used in the 18th century. Today it is often used to describe a simplified, truthful, and respectful relationship with the natural world, the economic world, and our relationship with the Divine. Windy's ministry with Friends is part of a larger call to right relationship in the world, a call that is provided by and informed by the Spirit.

Ongoing projects in service to this call to right relationship include the Quaker Ministry Incubator, Life and Power: Quaker Discernment on Abuse, doctoral work entitled The War for and Against Quakers: Public Ministry and The Call to Right Relationship in the Religious Society of Friends, as well as various supporting initiatives of those projects that involve teaching, speaking, facilitating, and writing published essays on the topics of trauma, power, Quaker culture, interpersonal violence, and public ministry.

We trust that you will experience Windy's gifts of love, wisdom, moral courage and relationship building as you engage with Windy on one of the major and sub-projects associated with this ministry.

In Faith,

Jonathon Glass
Jonathon Glass
Presiding Clerk

It was a true pleasure to meet Windy and get to know her during the South Central YM held April 17-20, 2025. Windy generously offered her help, asking how she could be constructive, and graciously stepped into the role of mic runner during ~~the~~ business meeting. Her willingness to serve was greatly appreciated. Beyond her support, Windy generously shared
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her insights both with me personally and with the yearly meeting during business meeting season. Her contributions - whether through her service, her engaging workshop, or her thoughtful interactions with attendees - were deeply valued by everyone. It was a privilege to connect with her, and we extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes as she continues her journey.

Warm regards,

Richard Coe
Scym Presiding Clerk