

Friends Meeting of San Antonio
Meeting for Worship for Attention of Business
May 17, 2026

Attendance: Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, Von Keairns, Dale Keairns, Angela Starnes, Denise Wilkinson, Suzanne CS, Judy Grant, Gretchen Haynes, Rachael Cundy, Ed Conroy, Michelle Brodesky and Rebecca Cole Sullivan (Clerk, acting Recording Clerk)

The Meeting started with open worship.

Clerks opening foundations: “All contributions to the process of discernment – using intellect, emotions, prayer – to judge what is right and how the Spirit (and/or energy) is moving in the meeting. Decisions are arrived at by deep listening to those present and also to Spirit to arrive at what is known as “sense of the meeting.” Sense of the meeting hears the opinions and concerns of those present and also moves beyond those verbal expressions to hear the spirit of the concern. It is the result of seeking what is right for the group.” South Central Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (Final PDF) page 54-55

Accept the Minutes of April

MINUTE 2026-05-01: Friends approves the April 2026 Minutes as corrected.

Committee Reports:

Ministry and Care – Denise Wilkinson reported on behalf of Ministry and Care (Full Report See Appendix A)

The Committee met on May 14. They discussed the care of worship and recommend that we take a break from the monthly Wednesday midweek meeting for worship during the summer.

Ministry & Care will support Bill W in his work around conscientious objection with young people and their families.

M&C also discussed the possibility of offering CPR training again. We ask that Friends speak to a member of Ministry & Care if you are already certified or interested in getting certified.

Naming Committee – The Clerk read the following minutes and the body approved each of them.

MINUTE 2026-05-02: On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, Friends Meeting of San Antonio approves Rob Flinn as a member of Nominating Committee for a 3-year term starting May 2026 through April 2029.

MINUTE 2026-05-03: On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, Friends Meeting of San Antonio approves Lisa Craig as a member of Nominating Committee for a 3-year term starting May 2026 through April 2029.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee – Dale Keairns, Clerk, reported on behalf of Peace and Social Concerns (Full Report See Appendix B)

Peace and Social Concerns met on Second Sunday before meeting for worship. They continued to talk about the Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns minutes from yearly meeting.

The committee talked about the Immigration forum from last month and it is clear that the meeting wants to continue to strengthen the local Immigration initiatives and our connection with them, but not take on any of our own work at this time.

Most of the committee meeting was spent preparing for the forum next week (May 24) on Climate Change. They will focus on the Quaker Testimony of Stewardship and how our testimonies support our actions in the world. The forum will focus on some of the opportunities we have to take action as a Monthly Meeting.

The Committee also reminded people that elections are important ways for us to get our voices heard. Texas primary runoffs are next week (May 26) but early voting is this week (May 17-22). Don't forget to get your voice heard via the ballot box.

A friend rose to remind us to keep moving forward even if we don't won't ever see the world. She quoted from the song *Marching* from Suff's The Musical. It was a wonderful reminder that the work we do does have an impact even if we never see it. Friends settled into a moment of covered worship.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Sweet, Treasurer, presented the March Finances (Full Report See Appendix C)

In April we brought in \$2495 in undesignated contributions, a third of the year we are about 50% towards our budget, but this was due to one person giving their annual

contribute early this year. San Antonio Water System charge was higher than in months past. The Treasurer reached out to SAWS to understand why and the city has imposed a storm water fee on commercial accounts that was added to the SAWS bill as a pass through. This month included part of previous months' charges which were not included on the bills. This will continue for a few more months but afterwards they think it will round out at roughly \$70-75 increase so roughly \$110 month to \$175, or an annual increase of \$870 roughly.

Announcements:

Property committee will meet via the meeting zoom on June 3 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting closed with a time of worship.

Appendix A:

Ministry and Care Report May 2026

Ministry and Care met on Zoom on Thursday, May 14. Rebecca, Pat, Denise, Jillian, and Judy attended. Julie was there briefly at the beginning of the meeting.

Query for June:

Do I respect that of God in each person, though it may be expressed in discomfoting ways or may be difficult to discern?

The committee recommends taking a break from the monthly Wednesday midweek meeting for worship during the summer.

Ministry & Care will support Bill W in his work around conscientious objection with young people and their families.

The committee will hold another "Ask-a-Quaker" forum on Sunday, May 31, 2026.

We hope to meet with the Religious Education committee in June to discuss a proposal for intergenerational worship to bring to Meeting for Business.

We discussed the possibility of offering CPR training again. We ask that Friends speak to a member of Ministry & Care if you are already certified or interested in getting certified.

We are applying to HEB for another batch of gift cards that we can share with people in need.

We discussed concerns for Friends. If you think there is someone who could benefit from consideration or contact from M&C, please let a member of the committee know.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, June 12 at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

Appendix B:

Peace & Social Concerns: Committee Fifth Month 2026 **The report incorporates the Cmte Meeting on May 10 (8:30-9:30 am) and follow-up exchanges**

Dale Keairns, cmte clerk, Angela Starnes, Suzanne CS
Guest: Rachael Cundey; Bill Sweet was copied on a committee follow-up email

Worship: The May 10 meeting began with a period of silent worship

May 10 Meeting Topics

- SCYM follow-up: P&SC collaboration with other meetings is on-going; we will be invited to the monthly YM Peace & Justice call.
- Immigration Forum follow-up: the Meeting's direct support work (SA Stands, Nuevos Vecinos) was supported; the committee was not led to explore new initiatives based on the Forum discussion. Thanks to Rachael for leading the Forum.
- FCNL and AFSC: the FCNL advocacy work and the planned AFSC Love in Action worship sessions were discussed. No further current action.
- Climate Forum: the format for the Forum was discussed and the current framework follows. The committee remains open to comments.

Climate Forum (May 24)

The May 10 committee meeting had a constructive discussion on the climate forum. There was unity to begin the discussion on climate change grounded in Quaker faith. This would be followed by a need to think beyond traditional views and candidate actions.

An updated approach led to the following candidate sequence:

- Quaker testimonies – the foundation for addressing climate change
- The need for a holistic view
- Candidate actions
 - Develop a Meeting climate statement
 - Respond to climate plans

Quaker Testimonies – the foundation for addressing climate change

A fundamental belief has been being in the right relationship with the creation that is based on the core testimonies of simplicity, equality, and stewardship / sustainability. The Peace, Integrity, and Community testimonies are also important and are key values

related to more recent response to climate change: Peace (e.g. climate migration related to war and conflict), Integrity (e.g. align actions with spiritual belief), and Community (e.g. build community strength to address climate change issues).

Examples of prior witness

- George Fox in the 1600s warned against destroying the earth to fulfill human greed.
- Quakers frequently focused on local conservation. Quakers actively used the testimonies to address environment and climate issues.
- 21st Century Examples
 - The British Yearly Meeting 'Canterbury Commitment' in 2011 called for Quakers to act in new ways that included individual and political responses; focus to work for an economic system based on human equality and respect for the planet.
 - FCNL, QEW, and QUNO developed a statement for the UN Climate Summit in 2014. The statement (Facing the Challenge of Climate Change, A shared statement by Quaker groups, January 2015) was a witness to our Quaker role in climate change and was signed by over 75 international Quaker groups and Meetings.

There is need for a holistic view

- Addressing climate change holistically requires moving beyond simple emissions targets to integrate economic transformation, biodiversity protection, and social equity.
- Estimates of human migration due to climate change:
 - 200 million to over 1 billion in next 20 years
 - Climate drives floods, drought, temperature, sea level rise, storms, wildfires, erosion, salinization

Candidate Actions

- Develop a Meeting climate statement; submit to Nov Representative Meeting
 - Background on SCYM actions
 - 2026 Faith & Practice includes one reference to climate change (p.22 – notes that the YM has approved minutes over the years calling for action on addressing climate change)
 - The last climate change minute was RM 2019.5 at the Representative Meeting in Nov. 2019

- No reference to climate change in the last three YM Epistles.
- Comment on climate action plans (select a specific topic)
 - An option is to focus on the need for a holistic view with Scope 3 emissions¹
 - State and region climate plans – frequently do not address **Scope 3 emissions**; excludes the largest portion of a region's climate impact (e.g. source of fertilizer for ag, source of natural gas for power)
 - Specific plan options: select local Alamo Area Climate Plan or SA Climate Ready 2035 Implementation Plan

Committee Operation

- Committee meetings are open and others are welcomed to attend; let the clerk know if there are specific concerns of interest.

The May 10 meeting closed to attend Meeting for Worship

¹ Scope 3 emissions are all indirect greenhouse gases (GHG) generated in a company's value chain, including upstream (suppliers) and downstream (customers) activities

Appendix C: