Friends Meeting of San Antonio
Meeting for Worship for Attention of Business
September 20, 2026

Attendance: Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, Angela Starnes, Denise Wilkinson, Bill Wilkinson, Suzanne CS, Wendy Green, Lisa Craig, Carol Redfield, Joe Redfield, Pam Spurgen, Judy Grant, David Novogrosky and Rebecca Cole Sullivan (Clerk, acting Recording Clerk). Two visitors stayed for some of the meeting.

The Meeting started with open worship.

Accept the Minutes of July Minutes

MINUTE 2026-09-01: Friends approves the July 2026 Minutes.

Committee Reports:

Ministry and Care: Denise Wilkinson reported on behalf of the committee. (Full Report See Appendix A)

We were saddened to learn of the passing of three Friends: James Goslin, David Bristol, and Mark Fishman. There will be a memorial for David on Saturday, November 7 at 2pm. The memorial for Mark Fishman, who attended meeting some time ago, will be Wednesday evening, September 30 at 7pm. We have also received a request that Mark's ashes be spread on the Meetinghouse grounds and are pleased to honor it. There was a relatively impromptu memorial for James September 3 while his family was in town; we are planning a memorial for sometime in the next few months.

With South Central Yearly Meeting approving a new Faith and Practice this past April, San Antonio Meeting will minute our acceptance of this new book of discipline. This is mostly an administrative action since previously each meeting in the yearly meeting got to decide which book of discipline they wanted to use.

MINUTE 2026-09-02: Friends Meeting of San Antonio adopts the new South Central Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice. This supersedes previous Faith and Practice adoptions.

Friends accepted the report and approved the proposed minute above.

Religious Education Committee: Lisa Craig reported on behalf of the committee. (Full Report See Appendix B)

This past month Religious Education Committee has worked with Property Committee on some pest control in the Children room, talked about their hopes for the redesign of the courtyard and prepared Forums over the next 6 weeks.

We are also exited to announce the date of the Intergenerational Worship will be October 25. Rebecca will open the time with a Faith and Play Story on Worship before we enter into traditional open worship.

Nominating Committee: Bill Wilkinson, clerk, reported on behalf of the committee. (Full Report See Appendix C)

Nominating met for the first time this cycle so their time was focused primarily on organizing themselves. The committee discussed general issues regarding the role of the committee. The committee lifted up that service to the Meeting can be viewed as an act of faithfulness in our community, and that sometimes the nominating committees responsibility is to understand that they may see gifts in others that people may not see in themselves. As such, the committee may be led to approach people for a type of service they may have not previously considered.

The committee discussed Friends currently under appointment and their terms. The committee also received a request from a Friend asking to lay down some of their current work along with some suggestions for how that work is organized moving forward. Additionally, they spoke about a number of priorities for the committee.

1. Nominating would like to split the Religious Education Committee into a First Day Committee and Adult Education Committee each consisting of three people. Nominating would like to recruit people as if there are two committees, and if successful, ask the Meeting to Minute the creation of these two committees.
2. Nominating want to engage in leadership development in the Meeting by placing individuals in positions in which they can observe good clerking that is grounded in Quaker process at the committee level.
3. It is critical that we find a Recording Clerk to assist the Clerk.
4. The committees need to locate someone willing to serve on the Finance Committee and possibly rise to the position of Treasurer.

The Meeting has been in this position before, particularly at times of generational shift. We know that if Friends sincerely sit with the Spirit, the realization that service can be a blessing personally and in our community will become evident. The still, small voice can be and is persistent.

After the report one friend asked who would be responsible for writing the job description for the adult and children's religious education committees. Nominating will work on this so people understand the different roles and can discern if they want to join either committee.

There was a lot of discussion around if the nominating committee felt like there was capacity and energy behind splitting the adult and children's religious education into two different

committees. Not only is there energy, it feels like a faithful split into living into the way the combined committee has been working for the last two years. People have separate leadings so this will help the Meeting fill a committee that has ebbed and flowed with the needs of the meeting. We were reminded that James Goslin had a great leading to run adult education for years and maybe this work will allow us to find the next committee who wants to hold this work for us.

Friends accepted the nominating report.

Property Committee: Bill Wilkinson, clerk, reported on behalf of the committee. (full Report See Appendix D)

In the past two months, the Property Committee and Kenny (our lawn guy) met and bought him a new lawn mower. He will charge us 50% of his going rate as a way to pay us back for the lawn mower he now owns to run his business. Property committee has also worked with the Religious Education Committee to deal with some pest issues in the Children's room. They are now monitoring that situation after some deep cleaning and basic pest control. If it persists they may need to look at working with an exterminator, but for now they are monitoring the situation. Lastly the committee is aware that the timer for the outside lights has been struggling since the big storms knocked power out. The committee is working to see if they can get the timers to work, otherwise we may need to replace the timers in the next month.

The Primary focus on the committees in-person meeting this past month was to focus on the courtyard remodel. The committee reviewed the summary of their various discussions since February (attached below), and determined they are ready to start thinking about landscape architects that might be able to help us move forward. The committee agreed that they would search out or seek recommendations for these professions. Members of the committee provided suggestions. There seems to be some interest in two specific designers. Bill W. provided them with our summary document (attached below in full report) and some photographs of the space. Initial meetings were held with each firm. Both of these folks had some interesting insights and thoughts about next steps that will be discussed at the next meeting of the committee once we identify a date.

Property Committee is taking it time to do some research from design firms about what might be able to do and what its cost will be. In the meantime, they might start preparing the space. During discussion, one friend raised the concern about benches and if we are going to put in benches that are welcoming or not welcoming to the homeless population in the neighborhood. This continues to be a concern and tension with the meeting. Another Friend named that the benches the committee described wanting to put in are called "Hostile Architecture" and asked if that is the type of architecture we want to install on our meeting grounds? We need to make sure we are aware of the statement we are making with the choice of architecture we put in.

Friends accepted the Property report.

SA Stands Report: Angela Starnes (Full Report See Appendix E)

SA Stands continues to work on local policy issues such as the Bexar County Immigrant Legal Defense Fund and the San Antonio city budget process. They also provided a new opportunity for regrants to local organizations engaged in direct support of immigrants through legal aid clinics and other means.

SA Stands is supporting the March for Freedom and Justice on Saturday October 3rd, gathering at Davis Middle School at 8am and marching toward the planned Eastside detention center and back. The march is 2.4 miles round trip.

The Texas ACLU is asking SA Stands member organizations to sign on to a letter written by Vera Institute of Justice. The letter asks state legislators to oppose mandatory pretrial detention based on immigration status or criminal history. This letter would be sent to Texas state representatives and Texas state senators.

> **MINUTE 2026-09-03:** All people, including immigrants and people with prior charges or convictions, should have the same right to due process in our criminal legal system. No one should be removed from their community without a fair hearing of their case. Friends Meeting of San Antonio signs on to the letter by Vera Institute for Justice opposing proposals in the state legislature to mandate pretrial detention of predefined groups of people.

Friends accepted the SA Stands report and approved the above minute.

Peace and Social Concerns: Angela Starnes reported on behalf of the committee. (Full Report See Appendix F)

The committee continues to meet on Second Sundays at 8:30 am so have met twice since our last business meeting. At their first meeting they spent time reflecting on the Data Center Forum they let in July, reviewed continuing activities and spent time discussing the scope and purpose of the committee.

The second committee meeting focused primarily on contributions to Quaker and Local Organizations and a recommendation prepared for review at the September Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The committee is proposing and asking people to discern if the meeting is okay increasing the local organization amounts from $100 to $200 increasing the spend from the $2000 budgeted to $3000. The committee is asking for this increase based on an assessment of the current economic situation, the local needs, and the Meeting's ability to support the needs. The Committee mentioned that they are not including SA Stands or Nuevos Vecinos in the local organization recommendation since they have both gotten money outside of this budget line item this year.

In the attached report you will find more information about everything mentioned above as well as some additional information on Artificial Intelligence (A.I.).

During discussion, a member mentioned their frustration with lots of unbudgeted requests throughout the year and hopes we might return to normal budgeting of our expenses. The increase in local organization is just one such example. From this committee, another Friend requested Finance Committee to work with Religious Education to see if we could hold an Interactive Budgeting Forum so that we know what normal order looks like and how to do it?

QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS	2026 P&SC Recommendation
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)	150
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	100
Friends Journal	100
Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS)	100
Friends Peace Teams - PLA	150
Friends General Conference (FGC)	100
Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC)	100
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	100
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	100
TOTAL	1000

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS	
Esperanza Peace & Justice	200
P.E.A.C.E. Initiative	200
COPS/METRO	200
Interfaith Welcome Coalition	200
Catholic Worker House (San Antonio Location)	200
Thrive Youth Center	200
Christian Assistance Ministries	200
RAICES	200
Housing First Community Coalition	200
SW Worker Union	200
TOTAL	2000

Friends accepted the Peace and Social Concerns report.

Treasurers Report: Bill Sweet, Treasurer, reported on June' financials. (Full Report, See Appendix G – July and Appendix H - August)

In July and August we brought in $3067.42 and $2450 in general donations bringing us to 82.7% of the annual budget for 2026 at 66.7% of the year (August Close). In August we brought in $1603.41 in Rental Income which totals 90.2% of annual budget.

Nothing else of major significance has happened in our financials over the last two months.

Clerk's Items

Emily Provance's Visit: Friends Meeting of San Antonio hosted traveling minister Emily Provance from August 3, 2026, to September 3, 2026, for a residency focused on election violence prevention. She presented a series of ten programs centered around three themes: Why should we talk to our neighbors? How do we talk to our neighbors? Can peacemaking and change making co-exist?

She led Bible studies, academic discussions, and speaker events including two events with speakers from Northern Ireland. All events were presented in-person and on Zoom.

Every event had a keyholder, Zoom support, and an elder for the space. We are grateful for everyone who attended or participated. We are especially grateful for Dale and Von Keairns, Gary Whiting and Viv Rule, Bill and Denise Wilkinson, Rebecca and Suzanne Cole Sullivan, Bill Sweet, Jillian Randles, Gwen R, David Novogrodsky, and Lisa Craig for the logistical support and care provided for Emily during her residency here in San Antonio.

Trinity College Faith Fair: Rebecca and Suzanne Cole Sullivan tabled at the Trinity College Faith Fair August 23, 20026 on behalf of the Friends Meeting of San Antonio.

Newsletter Update: Our Newsletter Editor (Denise W.) has asked us all to think about the role of the newsletter. Is this something we want on a monthly basis, or might we look at other ways to communicate with each other? Do you read it?

Meeting closed with a time of worship.

Appendix A:

Ministry and Care Report
September 2026

Ministry and Care met on September 3, 2026 on Zoom. Jillian, Judy, Denise, Rebecca, and Julie took part.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of three Friends: James Goslin, David Bristol, and Mark Fishman. There will be a memorial for David on Saturday, November 7 at 2pm. The memorial for Mark Fishman, who attended meeting some time ago, will be Wednesday evening, September 30 at 7pm. We have also received a request that Mark's ashes be spread on the Meetinghouse grounds and are pleased to honor it. There was a relatively impromptu memorial for James September 3 while his family were still here; we are planning a memorial for sometime in the next few months.

We discussed concerns for Friends, outreach to newcomers, membership inquiries, and a few administrative matters.

Queries are a tradition that asks us to look inward and helps guide the way we are called to interact in the world. The Ministry and Care committee welcomes submissions of spirit-led queries and advices; Friends can email ministry@saquakers.com. September's query is from Whitman and Suzanne:

> How do you like to prepare for meeting? How often do you give yourself time and space to do so?

South Central Yearly Meeting has completed its Faith and Practice. Until now, Friends Meeting of San Antonio has used Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice. Ministry and Care presents this minute:

Proposed Minute: Friends Meeting of San Antonio adopts the new South Central Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice. This supersedes previous Faith and Practice adoptions.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 8, 2026 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Appendix B:
Religious Education Report
September 2026
Presented by Lisa Craig

Religious Education Committee met Saturday August 29th at 9am. Lisa, Rachael, and Roberta were in attendance.

The committee discussed our concerns regarding the use of space and ongoing pest control issues in the children's religious education room. Religious Education Committee and Property Committee will be collaborating to monitor and address these problems.

The committee discussed our hopes for the anticipated changes to the courtyard. We recognize the value of outdoor space for children's learning and play. We hope that any planned changes will include child-friendly space, with a design that is both safe and inviting.

We are thankful for all volunteers for Children's Religious Education. We welcome any additional substitute and one-time teachers as Friends are led.

We plan to hold intergenerational worship on October 25th. Further information will be provided in the October newsletter as well as in a direct email to parents. Children's Religious Education teachers have been working to prepare Young Friends for this event. Rebecca will begin worship with a Faith and Play lesson on worship before we settle into quiet worship. Quiet materials will be available for anyone who wishes to use them, and Friends are welcome to bring quiet materials from home.

Adult Religious Education continues with monthly study of the newly approved South Central Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice. Friends can find the PDF of the approved Faith and Practice on the front page of scym.org. Upcoming forums are:

Sept 27th What is Quaker Leadership? with Rebecca

Oct 11th Quaker United Nations Office with QUNO Director Sarah Clarke via Zoom

Oct 25th SCYM Faith and Practice-Testifying to the Life of the Spirit, continued

Appendix C:
Nominating Committee Report
09/20/2026

Nominating Committee met on September 3, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the meetinghouse. In attendance were Lisa Craig, Rob Flinn, Pat Sweet, and Bill Wilkinson. The meeting began with silence.

This gathering was primarily an organizing meeting for the committee. We discussed general issues regarding the role of the committee. We lifted up that service to the Meeting can be viewed as an act of faithfulness in our community, and that sometimes our responsibility is to understand that we may see gifts in others that they may not see in themselves. As such, we may be led to approach people for a type of service they may have not previously considered.

We discussed Friends currently under appointment and their terms. We also received a request from a Friend asking to lay down some of their current work along with some suggestions for how that work is organized moving forward. Additionally, we spoke about a number of priorities for the committee.

5. We would like to split the Religious Education Committee into a First Day Committee and Adult Education Committee each consisting of three people. We would like to recruit people as if there are two committees, and if successful, ask the Meeting to Minute the creation of these two committees.
6. We want to engage in leadership development in the Meeting by placing individuals in positions in which they can observe good clerking that is grounded in Quaker process at the committee level.
7. It is critical that we find a Recording Clerk to assist the Clerk.
8. We need to locate someone willing to serve on the Finance Committee and possibly rise to the position of Treasurer.

The Meeting has been in this position before, particularly at times of generational shift. We know that if Friends sincerely sit with the Spirit, the realization that service can be a blessing personally and in our community will become evident. The still, small voice can be and is persistent.

Faithfully submitted for the committee,

Bill Wilkinson, Clerk

Appendix D:

Property Committee Report
09/20/2026

The Property Committee met in person on the evening of August 11, 2026 to discuss the courtyard remodel. Those in attendance were Von K., Pam S., Julia H., Josh R., and Bill W. The meeting began with silence.

Update on Other Issues:

- ✓ Our lawn person, Kenny, picked up the riding mower the Meeting purchased and things being as they are (hot & dry) has cut the lawn once. He seems grateful for our assistance. He will discount his rate by 50%, which will result in him paying back $250 of the $3,599 cost every time he services the property.

- ✓ There have been issues with roaches in the children's bathroom. Current approaches have not been effective, and we are looking at some alternatives.

- ✓ We had a storm-related power outage that has resulted in the timers on our exterior lights being reversed. (They come on during the day and go off at night.) We are trying to correct this problem but have been unsuccessful thus far. We may need new timers. In other storm-related news, we lost a tree at the corner of Eisenhauer and Vandiver and large branches of a tree along the walkway. These have been cut and are awaiting pickup. Thanks to those Friends who cleared part of the tree by the walkway so that Emily Provance could continue her session.

As stated previously in this report, the primary purpose of the August 11 meeting was to focus on the courtyard remodel. We reviewed the summary of our various discussions since February (attached), and determined we were ready to start thinking about landscape architects that might be able to help us move forward. We agreed that we would search out or seek recommendations for these professionals. Members of the committee provided suggestions. There seemed to be some interest in two designers and Bill W. provided them with our summary document (attached) and some photographs of the space.

An initial meeting was held with Jean Robinson (https://www.jeanrobinsondesign.com/) on September 11 with Bill W., Bill S., and Pam S. in attendance and Kaidan Nguyen of Coral Studio (https://www.coral-studio.com/) on September 16 with Bill W. in attendance. Both of these folks had some interesting insights and thoughts about next steps that will be discussed at the next meeting of the committee once we identify a date.

The meeting ended with silence.

Faithfully submitted for the committee,

Bill Wilkinson, Clerk

FMSA Courtyard Feedback Summary
Over the course of 2026, the Property Committee has had both formal and informal discussions about the courtyard and consideration of an updated design. Much of this has been accomplished by providing images of what possible modifications could look like and reactions to those images. During this time several themes have emerged and are summarized here.

Broad Agreement
Friends generally envision the courtyard as:

- ✓ A welcoming and peaceful space.
- ✓ Functional for multiple uses rather than designed around a single purpose.
- ✓ Reflective of Quaker values of simplicity and stewardship.
- ✓ Attractive without becoming difficult to maintain.
- ✓ More inviting than the current courtyard.

Many comments suggest the design should balance beauty with practicality rather than maximize landscaping.

1. Flexibility and Open Space

Strong Agreement
This was one of the strongest recurring themes.
Friends consistently expressed a desire to preserve:

- ✓ room for circles
- ✓ outdoor worship
- ✓ community gatherings
- ✓ tables and chairs, when needed
- ✓ children's play

Many felt that flexibility is one of the courtyard's greatest assets and should not be compromised.

Representative comments include:

- ✓ "More open space for possible gatherings."
- ✓ "People could use the courtyard for events."
- ✓ "Forming circles and setting up tables and chairs."
- ✓ "Space to run through and gallop about."

Some Disagreement
Some concepts included:

- ✓ outdoor classroom
- ✓ children's discovery areas
- ✓ additional seating
- ✓ pollinator gardens

Others worried these elements would create clutter and reduce usable space.

2. Landscaping

Strong Agreement
There is overwhelming support for:

- ✓ native plants
- ✓ xeriscaping
- ✓ drought-tolerant species
- ✓ pollinator habitat
- ✓ wildlife-friendly landscaping

Many comments specifically mention stewardship of water resources.

Plant Suggestions Receiving Positive Comments

- ✓ Frog Fruit
- ✓ Horseherb / Straggler Daisy
- ✓ Native Portulaca
- ✓ Pollinator plants
- ✓ Wildlife habitat plants

Concerns
Non-native plants were a concern for Friends as well as making sure proposed plants actually perform well in San Antonio conditions.

3. Maintenance
This was perhaps the strongest practical concern.

Strong Agreement
Friends repeatedly emphasized:

- ✓ low maintenance
- ✓ realistic volunteer capacity
- ✓ avoiding designs that require intensive upkeep

Representative comments include:

- ✓ "We cannot keep up with what we have."
- ✓ "Ground cover should be low maintenance."

Suggested Maintenance Strategies

- ✓ mulch
- ✓ cardboard instead of landscape fabric
- ✓ raised beds
- ✓ planters instead of in-ground beds
- ✓ minimizing total garden area

4. Garden Beds

Significant Disagreement
View A
Reduce garden beds.
Reasons:
- ✓ maintenance burden
- ✓ preserve open space
- ✓ reduce clutter

View B
Keep gardens but improve them.
Suggestions:
- ✓ raised beds, though they can create maintenance issues
- ✓ brick edging
- ✓ larger but fewer beds
- ✓ pollinator gardens
- ✓ educational gardens

Areas of Agreement
If gardens exist, they should:
- ✓ be attractive
- ✓ be manageable
- ✓ not overwhelm the courtyard

5. Ground Cover

General Agreement
Ground cover should be:
- ✓ drought tolerant
- ✓ low maintenance
- ✓ attractive
- ✓ compatible with Texas climate

Options Discussed
Support for:
- ✓ Frog Fruit
- ✓ Horseherb
- ✓ mulch
- ✓ small lawn
- ✓ flagstone with living ground cover

Less support for non-native species

6. Lawn

Mixed Opinions

Some Support
A small lawn:

- ✓ gives children room to play
- ✓ is easier to maintain than many garden beds
- ✓ provides functional gathering space

Concerns
Traditional lawns:

- ✓ require water
- ✓ require mowing
- ✓ are less consistent with xeriscaping goals

7. Seating

General Agreement
Seating is important.
Desired characteristics:

- ✓ Chair/benches need backs for older adults
- ✓ comfortable
- ✓ permanent seating

Additional Ideas

- ✓ folding chair storage
- ✓ stump seating for children
- ✓ benches around perimeter
- ✓ circular gathering space

Concern
Too many benches could reduce flexibility.

8. Accessibility

Suggestions include:

- ✓ supportive benches
- ✓ avoiding unnecessary steps
- ✓ maintaining accessibility

9. Shade

General support exists for additional shade.
Ideas included:

- ✓ shade sails
- ✓ preserving tree shade

Concerns
Shade sails:

- ✓ collect water
- ✓ require substantial supports
- ✓ may be difficult to install correctly

10. Educational Features

Several Friends liked:

- ✓ outdoor classroom
- ✓ pollinator gardens
- ✓ children's nature spaces
- ✓ butterfly, bee, and bird habitat

Others worried these features could limit flexibility.

Conclusion

Major Areas of Consensus
The strongest points of agreement appear to be:

✓ Use native, drought-tolerant plants.
✓ Design for realistic maintenance.
✓ Preserve significant open space.
✓ Make the courtyard flexible for worship, gatherings, and community use.
✓ Provide comfortable seating with backs.
✓ Use water wisely.
✓ Reduce unnecessary hardscape while limiting softscape maintenance issues.
✓ Create a welcoming and beautiful space.

Possible Design Considerations Emerging from the Discussion
Rather than focusing immediately on individual design elements, the Meeting might find unity around a set of guiding principles such as:

1. **Maintain flexibility** so the courtyard can accommodate worship, community events, children's play, and informal gatherings.
2. **Practice stewardship** through native plants, water conservation, and sustainable landscaping.
3. **Design within our capacity** by choosing features that volunteers can realistically maintain.
4. **Create a welcoming space** that is comfortable, accessible, and inviting to visitors of all ages.

5. **Balance beauty with simplicity**, avoiding unnecessary clutter while providing visual interest.

Appendix E:
SA Stands Representative Report
September 2026
presented by Angela Starnes

SA Stands continues to work on local policy issues such as the Bexar County Immigrant Legal Defense Fund and the San Antonio city budget process. They also provided a new opportunity for regrants to local organizations engaged in direct support of immigrants through legal aid clinics and other means.

SA Stands is supporting the March for Freedom and Justice on Saturday October 3rd, gathering at Davis Middle School at 8am and marching toward the planned Eastside detention center and back. The march is 2.4 miles round trip.

The Texas ACLU is asking SA Stands member organizations to sign on to a letter written by Vera Institute of Justice. The letter asks state legislators to oppose mandatory pretrial detention based on immigration status or criminal history. This letter would be sent to Texas state representatives and Texas state senators. The deadline to sign on is September 30th.

I propose the following minute:

MINUTE 2026.09.xx All people, including immigrants and people with prior charges or convictions, should have the same right to due process in our criminal legal system. No one should be removed from their community without a fair hearing of their case. Friends Meeting of San Antonio signs on to the letter by Vera Institute for Justice opposing proposals in the state legislature to mandate pretrial detention of predefined groups of people.

Appendix F:

P&SC Meeting – September Report

September 13, 2026

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee met August 9 and September 13, 2026, from 8:30 to 9:30 am prior to morning worship. Angela Starnes, Luz Perez Prado and Dale Keairns attended and were joined by Rachael Cundey. The way was not clear for Suzanne to attend. The meetings were opened and closed with worship.

August 9, 2026 Committee Meeting

The August 9 meeting included reflections on the Data Center Forum held July 26, reviewed continuing activities, and spent time discussing the scope and purpose for the committee. There was unity to focus on education with action. This led to an approach for the committee select 'topics', to inform and review the scope with the Meeting Community, to invite the Meeting Community to engage, and to implement action. An action from this meeting was to review the Meeting P&SC committee purpose and tasks, and to review the contributions made by the Meeting to Quaker and Local Organizations in October of 2025.

September 13, 2026 Committee Meeting

The Committee Scope included in the Meeting Procedures document (Attachment A) and the October 2025 Minute on Contributions (Attachment B) were submitted to the Committee prior to the September 13 Meeting.

The challenges associated with A.I. (Artificial Intelligence) were discussed. This topic relates to the Data Center Forum and, given the concerns, may be a candidate for an educational Forum.

Contributions to external Quaker and Local Organizations were discussed and a recommendation prepared for review at the September Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The recommendation is presented in Attachment C. The local organizations increase was based on an assessment of the current economic situation, the local needs, and the Meeting's ability to support the needs. Current activities by the committee were reviewed and are summarized in Attachment D.

Attachment E was prepared after the Meeting to provide additional perspective on the A.I. challenges.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be the Second First Day of October; October 11, at 8:30a in the library. We adjourned in time for Friends to join early worship or socialize before worship begins. All are welcome to the committee meetings.

Respectfully submitted by the committee.

Attachment A
Peace & Social Concerns Committee Purpose and Tasks

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Purpose: To give consideration and focus to the peace and service concerns of the Monthly Meeting.

Tasks include:

- receiving, seasoning, and recommending actions to the Meeting in response to concerns of Meeting members,
- giving regular attention to reports and requests of the Friends Committee on National Legislation and the American Friends Service Committee,
- advising Monthly Meeting on possibilities for cooperation with other organizations furthering the causes of peace and justice,
- making recommendations to the Finance Committee in October for the financial support of other organizations,
- maintaining contact with groups supported by Meeting, and
- approve F/friends to represent FMSA in community activities, including marches, protests, religious meetings and observances.

The FCNL Contact is an ex-officio member of this committee.

FCNL Contact

Purpose: To serve as Meeting's point of contact with the Friends Committee on National Legislation for outreach and action.

Tasks include:

- passing on to the Meeting information from Action Alerts and the weekly action update, encouraging Friends to read and subscribe to the FCNL Washington Newsletter,
- informing the Meeting of FCNL events such as Annual Meeting or a special conference,
- promoting participation in the selecting of FCNL priorities (every two years) and revising Statement of Legislative Policy, and
- working in close cooperation with, and in support of, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

Attachment B
October 19, 2025 Meeting for Business

CONSIDERATION OF FMSA 2025 CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS: *presented by Carol Redfield*

Thomas Yee, Carol Redfield, and Rebecca Cole Sullivan met and reviewed everyone's input using a spreadsheet. The ad hoc committee tried to align these suggestions using the principles of simplicity and honoring our existing relationships to organizations. After much discussion, the group decided to give $150 to FCNL and FPT-PLA and $100 to all other organizations on our list.

DISCUSSION: Friends were informed that RAICES is still operational, although it has lost almost all of its federal funding and is in serious need of donations. We gave them $20,000 when they started in 2005 but had stopped giving in recent years since they had less need.

The ad hoc committee checked whether organizations were still active.

Friends were reminded that the Southwest Workers' Union is a community organizing group in San
Antonio that brings together communities in the poorest area of the city for housing assistance, community gardening, and other programs. Individual Friends have had a long relationship with this organization, but this is the first time our Meeting is donating to them.

Our donation to Catholic Worker House will go to the San Antonio location, not the national organization.

We have intermittently given to Right Sharing for World Resources and Housing First in the past.

Friends agreed that we do not want to give less than $100 to any one organization.

We are continuing to give to all organizations we donated to last year.

MINUTE 2025.10.01 FMSA approves the distribution of funds to Quaker and local organizations as proposed by the ad hoc committee.

Friends approved this minute with thanks to the ad hoc committee.

QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS	Committe Recommendation
Friends Committee on Natl Leg $ 200	150
American Friends Service Comm $ 70	100
Friends Journal $ 75	100
Quaker Voluntary Service $ 75	100
Friends Peace Teams - PLA $ 350	150
Friends General Conference $ 70	100
Friends World Comm. Consult. $ 70 (Section of Americas)	100
Quaker United Nations Office $ 100 (NY Office)	100
Right Sharing of World Resources	100
TOTAL	1000
LOCAL ORGANIZATION	
Esperanza Peace & Justice $ 100	100
P.E.A.C.E. Initiative $ 225	100
COPS/METRO $ 125	100
Interfaith Welcome Coalition $ 185	100
Catholic Worker House $ 100	100
Thrive Youth Center $ 165	100
Christian Assistance Ministries $ 100	100
Migrant Center $ - RAICES $ -	100
Housing First Community Coalition (https://housingfirstsa.org/)	100
SW Worker Union (https://www.swunion.org/)	100
TOTAL	1000

Attachment C
P&SC Recommendations

QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS	2026 P&SC Recommendation
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)	150
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	100
Friends Journal	100
Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS)	100
Friends Peace Teams - PLA	150
Friends General Conference (FGC)	100
Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC)	100
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	100
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	100
TOTAL	1000

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS	
Esperanza Peace & Justice	200
P.E.A.C.E. Initiative	200
COPS/METRO	200
Interfaith Welcome Coalition	200
Catholic Worker House (San Antonio Location)	200
Thrive Youth Center	200
Christian Assistance Ministries	200
RAICES	200
Housing First Community Coalition	200
SW Worker Union	200
TOTAL	2000

SA Stands and Nuevos Vecinos (Dianne Garcia) are not included in these organizations

Attachment D
P&SC Activities

Ongoing Activities

- **Conscience Objection to War**
  - Meeting and San Antonio
- **Climate** – Sierra Club, NASEM Reference Guide to Climate Science
- **SCYM Peace & Justice Cmte**
  - Unity to request the Texas State Board of Education to oppose the proposed TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) Social Studies standards. Statement was approved:

        - We are concerned that the new proposed standards do not meet our testimonies. The proposed standards insinuate that it was Christian values – always referred to positively – that founded our country yet the Doctrine of Discovery, slavery, and the genocide of numerous native American tribes can hardly be associated with loving your neighbor as yourself. Similarly, the standards negatively misrepresent Islam, as if terrorism and slavery were Islamic inventions.
- **Quaker Call to Action**
    - Sept 20, Oct 18 calls
    - Focus on spiritually grounded actions to protect our democracy
- **Quaker Organizations (FCNL, AFSC, QUNO, RSWR)**
    - QUNO Forum - October 11
    - FCNL Annual Meeting – November 12-14
    - FCNL Advocacy calls
    - AFSC Quarterly Quaker Liaison Calls
    - AFSC Palestine Hour (Friday calls)
    - AFSC 110 yr Anniversary (April 24, 2027)
    - RSWR 2027-32 Strategic Plan
    - QEW (Sept 19 Day of Action considered)

Recent Activities

- Emily Provance – 11 sessions plus individual exchanges
    - 11 sessions; themes on Neighbors, Change, Division, and Peace
- Data Centers – July 26 Forum
- Quaker Call to Action
    - Aug 30 Call (~ 180 attended)
- The Circle School – class on Peace – Sept 11

Attachment E
Brief Post-Meeting Reflection on A.I.
(Dale Keairns)

Anthropic and OpenAI, (developers of Claude and ChatGPT) are two of the major A.I. developers that have called for a slowdown and have reportedly asked the government to regulate A.I. This is not typical. There have been concerns for years focused on data privacy (security), job displacement, and similar concerns. While concerns about runaway A.I. are not new, the current concerns are based on experience (e.g. the person who resigned from Anthropic and shared experiences).
Stephen Witt recently wrote an opinion piece in the New York Times where he discusses four ways to regulate A.I.: 1. Shut it all down now, 2. Take an air crash investigator approach, 3. Monitor the situation, and 4. Flip the kill switch.

It is important to understand there are many U.S. State legislative actions and there is federal legislation being proposed (e.g. Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Greg Casar (Texas) are reported to be preparing legislation that calls for a temporary pause in advanced A.I. development). As we know, it is not enough for the United States alone to regulate A.I. The E.U., China, and others have regulations, but they are not comprehensive.
This is viewed as an area in need of education.

Appendix G – July and Appendix H - August