

Friends Meeting of San Antonio  
State of the Meeting, 2025

After a year of spirit-led growth and change, Friends gathered in February to share their thoughts about our Meeting and the past year. People reported that they experienced a strong sense of connection with each other, a welcoming atmosphere, and an appreciation for our renewed efforts to care for people in need, both locally and around the world. Meeting was enriched by the presence of newcomers each week, many of whom became regular attenders. We experienced conflict among Friends, but in general we were able to see our way to unity in the Light, and the bonds that connect us were tightened. We drew comfort and strength from one another during a year of national turmoil.

Friends struggled with giving and receiving vocal ministry from different perspectives and experiences. Forums have aided our understanding of ministry, and we continue our occasional Ask-a-Quaker series to help Friends understand Quaker traditions.

The perpetual issue of a small number of people carrying the majority of the work of Meeting is easing as we've made others aware of opportunities for service. The connections that nourish us are deepened when we come together in the Light to care for our community, and it has been deeply satisfying to witness younger Friends as well as newer people serving on committees and in positions long held by a small and static group. Our committees have been newly energized; for example, several members and attenders felt led to reform the Peace and Social Concerns committee, which reflects the Meeting's desire to engage more deeply with that work.

Friends looked forward to our monthly potlucks, a time for relaxed fellowship and a chance to get to know each other better. Some blended stewardship with fellowship while working side by side during the Meeting for (Not Just) Weeding sessions each month. A monthly mid-week worship at the home of Friends was a chance for us to be together in the Spirit, and a Friday morning Zoom worship had small but steady attendance.

We celebrated with joy the new memberships of Denise Wilkinson, Suzanne Cole Sullivan, and Judy Grant, and welcomed with pleasure the transfer of membership for Rebecca Cole Sullivan. Val Liveoak, our most recent clerk and a pillar of our Meeting, moved to Austin to be near family; we will miss her strong sense of justice and drive to make the world a better place. We mourned the loss of Carol Balliet, a longtime Friend.

Our children bring a lively energy to the community, and the growth of our children's program has been deeply satisfying. Several adults share in presenting lessons to the young Friends in our First Day school, strengthening connections. Our paid children's caregiver has also offered stability and continuity, increasing children's comfort in the First Day school program.

Friends supported work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, both directly through volunteer work and through financial support. We developed relationships with SA Stands, which advocates for the safety, protection, and inclusion of all immigrants, and Nuevos Vecinos, which provides shelter and support for immigrants. Friends participated in wider Quaker world meetings and forums and brought ideas and actions home. Our twice monthly forum series was well attended; programs such as the function of the meeting, conscientious objection, the immigrant community, white culture in Quakerism, Quaker practice, Gaza, and activism in the Spirit engaged people throughout the year.

Caring for one another, for our wider community, and souls everywhere have been the heart of our Meeting, as we lift up the love that connects us all.