

Peace and Social Concerns Meeting – June Report

June 21, 2026

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee (P&SC) met a week early on June 7, 2026, with all members in attendance. Our frequent guest was otherwise engaged with another committee meeting, which we held in our worship as we opened and closed our own meeting.

This report includes the work of the committee during the June 7 committee meeting and an Appendix with selected Peace & Social Concerns work carried out outside the committee meeting.

After opening with worship, we spent our hour considering:

- What is growing from the Forum on climate (held May 24, 2026),
- A community outreach program about filing for conscientious objector status.
- Further responsibilities to the body around AI with a focus on local AI data centers
- Topics noted for future meetings
 - South Central Yearly Meeting (SCYM) Peace & Justice Committee Meeting
 - An action from the May 27, 2026 call was to prepare a draft to address the need for a holistic view
 - A draft will be circulated to the committee
 - Peace & Social Concerns Committee scope – review current P&SC section of the Friends Meeting of San Antonio (FMSA) document.

Climate Forum Follow-up

As we reflected on the climate forum, the following topics were suggested during the Forum:

- Develop a Meeting climate statement (relates to there being no recent statement by Meetings or by Yearly Meeting on climate)
- Respond to limitations in regional climate plans (e.g. comment on the Alamo Area Climate Plan)
- Forming a climate interest group (e.g. could be a specific topic)
- Sign on to the Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) Vanguard S.O.S. initiative was suggested
- Data Centers was also a suggested topic

'AI and data centers' were selected as a topic for further discussion during the meeting (see section below).

Conscientious Objection (CO) Community Outreach Program for San Antonio

Suzanne presented the opportunity to extend the CO work with our Meeting to the external San Antonio community. P&SC was in unity to take this work on as a project. Suzanne will lead the project and coordinate with the Meeting CO initiative.

The current program content includes a two-part program made available to anyone in our wider San Antonio community about filing for conscientious objector status. The plan would be

to present one evening of stories from F/friends who served as COs and a second evening going over the more technical requirements of building a portfolio and filing. There are conversations with Quaker House of Fayetteville, NC, about their programs and how we could use their expertise in our work. The current thinking is to offer this program in-person and on Zoom to allow current service members to attend without revealing their presence. As Bill Wilkinson has noted, it is easier to file as a conscientious objector after you join the military.

Collaboration is planned with the property rental coordinator and speakers to schedule the CO conversations in July. Collaboration with the Meeting CO activity will also be important.

AI and Data Centers

AI and data centers were discussed. The committee shared different views on AI and data centers. The committee shared multiple views on the general topic of AI that included negative uses of AI (e.g. people relying on AI to respond to questions that removes critical thinking) vs constructive uses of AI. There was recognition of the need for legislation for AI and data centers. There was unity on the need to address local data centers and giving further thought to a Forum on the issues with a focus on local data centers. The committee is led to hold a Forum on the local data centers and will coordinate with the RE Committee.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be First Day, July 12, at 8:30a in the library. We adjourn in time for Friends to join early worship or socialize before worship begins. All are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale, Angela, Luz, and Suzanne

APPENDIX

Conscientious Objection References

Selected Conscientious Objection References with links to documents (note references 1-4 illustrate Quaker resources)

- 1) Building Documentation as a Conscientious Objector (part of FGC's [Conscientious Objection resources](https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcresources/minutes-of-conscience/building-documentation-for-conscientious-objector-status/)) (<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcresources/minutes-of-conscience/building-documentation-for-conscientious-objector-status/>)
- 2) Conscientious Objection to Military Service – QUNO (<https://quno.org/areas-of-work/conscientious-objection-military-service/>)
- 3) Conscientious Objection Resources (https://quakerhouse.org/co_resources/)
- 4) Why Talk about Conscientious Objection with Youth? Friends Journal, October 1, 2017 By [Curt Torell](https://www.friendsjournal.org/military-draft/) (<https://www.friendsjournal.org/military-draft/>)
- 5) The Guide for Conscientious Objectors in the Military (<https://centeronconscience.org/mil-co-guide-2024-2/>)
- 6) Selective Service System Conscientious Objectors (<https://www.sss.gov/conscientious-objectors/>)

- 7) <https://www.facebook.com/FOX7Austin/posts/learn-the-latest-2026-us-military-draft-disqualifications-and-exemptions-includi/1436220238544227/>
- 8) Federal Government To Automatically Collect Draft-Age Men's Data, Who Knew?
By ARNIE ALPERT April 21, 2026 (<https://www.facebook.com/FOX7Austin/posts/learn-the-latest-2026-us-military-draft-disqualifications-and-exemptions-includi/1436220238544227/>)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) / Data Centers

There are over 3,000 operating data centers in the U.S. The electrical capacity ranges from < 1 MW to ~ 800 MW. The primary issues are associated with the hyperscale campuses which contain > 5,000 servers and have electrical, water, and social issues that need to be addressed. There are many useful Quaker references addressing the positive and negative dimensions of AI and hyperscale data centers. The work carried out by quaker schools on AI has been one valuable resource.

Quaker schools (e.g. Abington Friends School) provide examples of addressing trade-offs of AI. Rather than fearing or banning the technology, students defined their own guardrails, discovering how AI mimics human capabilities while evaluating appropriate ethical boundaries.

Legislative needs for AI and data centers include managing the electrical grid, addressing excessive water and power consumption, resolving local land-use conflicts, addressing residential utility bills. Risks associated with the June 2, 2026 Executive Order on Promoting Advanced AI Innovation and Security. The committee is aligned with the need to address the multiple issues associated with local large scale data centers.

FMSA Actions

The important work with SA Stands and Nuevos Vecinos.

P&SC Activities with Quaker Organizations

FCNL, AFSC and other Quaker organizations are active in carrying out many initiatives that are relevant. We want to acknowledge the many individuals who respond to the requests. FCNL's June 2026 article on the cost of the Iran War that speaks to migration, climate, and peacebuilding illustrates the resources (<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2026-06/price-war-iran-conflict-reveals-true-cost-militarism>)

Climate

Individual members are engaged in climate issues. Examples include a recent brief note by Bill Sweet on the cancellation of the Oceans Observatory (a National Science Foundation program) that appeared in the June 16 issue of Express News . The action represents a major loss of weather and climate data. Others are engaged in addressing EPA and the Endangerment Finding and actions to address significant cuts in R&D projects.