P&SC Meeting – November Report
November 15, 2026

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee met November 8, 2026, from 8:30 to 9:40 am prior to morning worship. Angela Starnes, Rachael Cudney, Rebecca Cole Sullevin, Von Keairns, and Dale Keairns attended. The meeting opened with worship and closed with a brief period of silence prior to attending Meeting for Worship. The way was not clear for Luz Perez Prado to attend. Angela, Luz, and Dale are cmte members.

The report presents a summary of the agenda topics discussed at the November 8 meeting. The attachments provide additional details including exchanges separate from the meeting.

Reflections (primary focus on the mid-term elections)
There was recognition that the election effects all our initiatives. While there was consensus on the joy for the rejection of the Administration; there was also recognition that there are significant challenges. A message of change has many dimensions. The discussion reflects this assessment.

Initiative Updates and Actions (these are the four areas selected by the committee)

- Immigrants (Cmte focus is actively supporting SA Stands and Nuevos Vecinos)
    - SA Stands – Rachael
        - Actions continue opposing ICE detention facilities and demanding transparency around local police cooperation with federal immigration enforcement
        - Rachael noted that the November SA Stands action included advocacy that led to the San Antonio City Council to pass a resolution calling for independent environmental and community impact assessments and to file a federal lawsuit against DHS for failing to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
        - Related to an immigration raid on the city's North Side involving ICE and local police, SA Stands publicly called for transparency and urged the City Council to hold oversight hearings regarding the San Antonio Police Department's (SAPD) involvement and data-sharing practices.
    - Nuevos Vecinos (Dianne Garcia) – Von
        - The Meeting continues to provide valued materials
        - Von maintains contact with Dianne. A summary of various opportunities are presented in Attachment A (versions are included in the weekly bulletin).
    - General
        - Related to the Reflections comments, congressional actions may lead to determining priority needs – e.g. actions may be limited to the future and not address existing needs. Trump could veto any Democratic attempts to restrict ICE enforcement. It is also noted that the agency received $75 billion in funds through 2029 that the president signed into law last year.

- Data Centers (local issues)
  - The data center industry was a significant topic in the election with a focus on data center industry accountability. It is also recognized Texas will remain a leading market for data center investments based on renewable resources, natural gas infrastructure, and current regulatory autonomy from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
  - On October 29, 2026, the San Antonio City Council voted 9–2 to pass stricter regulations on data center construction by amending the United Development Code.
- International Diplomacy (QUNO)
  - A divided U.S. government that may alter foreign policy dynamics. While the administration retains strong control over trade and security, a shifting Congress opens windows for re-engaging with global social policy, international aid, and rights frameworks. The alignment with FCNL may provide an opportunity to pivot the focus—lobbying for peace, global justice, and humanitarian funding from the ground up while mitigating the fallout of administration-led international disengagement.
- Climate
  - COP31 Nov 9-xx in Turkey (UN climate talks); the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement created a leadership vacuum. No significant decisions are expected. U.S. congress will have ~ 19 members attending. "Fossil Fuels" is expected to be a challenging issue.
  - Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA): election likely leads to no action in November / December (An overview of this bill and Quaker organization actions is presented in Attachment B).

Quaker Organizations

- FCNL annual meeting: Nov 12-14 (On-line participation options in Attachment C)
- AFSC 110th anniversary: April 14, 202
- QEW (Quaker Earthcare Witness) and their connection to climate was also discussed.

Quaker Call to Action (~ 4000 invited)

- The recent focus has been on the election. A call was held Oct 18; the steering committee is meeting to discern the focus of the next call.

SCYM

- The YM Peace & Justice committee meets once a month; the October meeting focused on the breadth of the Quaker Peace Teams work.
- Information was provided on the Representative Meeting scheduled for Nov 20 (6-10pm) and Nov 21 (9:00 am – 6:30 pm). The meeting will be virtual.

P&SC Meeting time

- An agenda item was to review the committee meeting time to assess what best serves our need.
- There was a desire to meet in person for our monthly meetings.
- **The current Sunday morning time from 8:30 to 9:30 on the second First Day prior to the 10:00 am morning worship was viewed as constructive.** While some viewed this to be an early start, there was unity to continue with this time. It was noted that an attractive feature of this time was that the 30 minutes prior to Meeting worship allowed the option for extending our discussion if necessary.
- The discussion also included the option for additional specific topic meetings between the once-a-month committee meetings.
- There was recognition that zoom meetings could be an effective topic meeting.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be the Second First Day, December 13 at 8:30a in the library. We adjourn in time for Friends to socialize or join early worship before worship begins. All are welcome to the committee meetings.

Respectfully submitted by the committee

P.S. We welcomed Rebecca, Von, and Martha and valued their participation at our November 8 meeting. Von and Martha were referred to the nominating committee as they expressed interest in the P&SC committee.

Attachment A

Nuevos Vecinos Opportunities

Regular items (Included in Bulletin)

Rice, pasta, oil, sugar
Toilet paper, cleaning supplies, all kinds

Christmas Gifts for Kids (Included in Bulletin)

We will be collecting gently used toys and other gifts for the children from the immigrant families involved with the program we support. You can bring items to our regular collection on the first Sunday of each month. Information from Pastor Dianne: "We are looking for help with Christmas gifts for our community. Our hope is to be able to create a free Christmas gift shop for families on that list so that parents could come pick out a gift for their children, parents could come pick out a gift for their children, wrap it, and bring it home. For families that aren't able to come to the shop, we are hoping to deliver donated gifts or Walmart gift cards to their homes. There are so many families, we are happy to accept any toys. Specifically
for older teenagers, we have right now 10 boys and 16 girls in the 13-18 age range."

ESL Opportunities

We have a number of different volunteer groups working on ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, direct service needs, gathering and distributing donations, filling out documents, and more. Join the "General Info" group as a starting point and/or join one of the subgroups to get more involved in a specific area

Upcoming Projects and Opportunities

- We are organizing a **dinner on Thanksgiving day** for our community.
- We are also looking for groups to help us organize a free **gift shop and delivery for families** in December.
- We continue to plan events for the spring highlighting the injustice of family separation and detention.
- We are beginning to put together a **Truth and Witness Project**, collecting and recording stories of our community.
- We are also working on a project to **gather and honor the prayers of people in detention**.
- Our **annual report and yearly holiday cards** will go out at the beginning of December. If you haven't given your address to us and would like to receive the report and card by mail, please send us your information.

Attachment B

Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA) and FCNL Response

The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA) is a broad permitting and energy infrastructure package that would significantly change federal environmental review and project approval processes. Building on many elements of earlier permitting proposals, BAAJA's reforms would affect both the energy system and other aspects of the environment if the bill were to be signed into law. BAAJA was introduced to the US Senate on September 30, 2026, by Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Mike Lee (R-UT) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM).

Positive features of the Bill include:

- Long-distance transmission infrastructure that would enable more efficient development and use of additional clean energy.
- Decrease in the average annual costs of the electric system (based on external system analyses)
- Deploy additional new clean energy (displace higher emitting options)the
- Reduce emissions by improving the grid and increasing the use of clean energy.

Sen. Whitehouse has stated he will add a manager's amendment (which is an opportunity to address concerns), and the bill will need to pass both houses in this congress (i.e. Nov/Dec) or it dies.

The midterm election creates doubt the bill can advance during the lame-duck session. Democrats have stated they would oppose the bill in its current form. Sheldon Whitehouse has stated the bill represents a balanced compromise and this could leave the Democrats not getting the President to sign the bill.

FCNL opposes the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act because it undermines Tribal sovereignty and guts critical environmental protections to favor corporate energy expansion. FCNL's opposition includes:

- Undermining tribal sovereignty by limiting the ability of Tribal nations to participate in federal permitting decisions.
- Environmental protections including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act.
- Fossil Fuels development is fast-tracked.

Attachment C
FCNL Annual Meeting – online options only

Events marked with an asterisk (*) are available to both onsite and online attenders.

All times are Eastern

Thursday November 12

11-11:45 a.m. Unprogrammed worship *

1-2 p.m. Opening program *

2:15-3:45 p.m. Meeting for business *

Business includes the Executive Committee report, a report from the General Secretary and Deputy General Secretary, and the introduction of draft priorities for the 120th Congress

4:15-5:30 p.m. Affinity groups meet *

Groups will gather around a shared identity:

- LGBTQIA+ - Decatur Room
- People of color - Terrace Room
- Young adult - Library and Parlor
- People with disability - Bridge Room
- White accountability - Quaker House Living Room

7:30-9 p.m. Plenary: What Now? Looking Toward a New Congress *

How is FCNL working effectively on Capitol Hill today? What do the midterm election results mean for our work ahead? Amelia Kegan leads this program to inform and inspire, joined by Director of Domestic Policy Anika Forrest and featuring Chris Kang, Executive Director of the Coalition on Human Needs.

Friday November 13

12-1:45 p.m. Lunch with lobbyists (lunch provided): Hear timely policy updates on the issues you care about, directly from our lobbyists. *

- Session 1: 12:15-12:55 p.m.
- Session 2: 1:05-1:45 p.m.

Rooms:

- **Environment and economic justice -** Terrace Room
- **Peacebuilding** - Library and Parlor
- **Justice reform and election integrity** - Bridge Room
- **Middle East policy and Pentagon spending and nuclear disarmament** - Quaker House Living Room
- **Migration and Native American program updates** - Decatur Room

2-3:30 p.m. Meeting for business *

Business includes reports from standing committees and a memorial meeting for worship.

4-5 p.m. Listening sessions on draft legislative priorities *

7-8:30 p.m. Justice Calls, Love Unites: Building Inclusive Democracy Campaign *

Saturday November 14

10-10:30 a.m. Unprogrammed worship *
10:45-11:45 a.m. Affinity groups meet *

Groups will gather around a shared identity: LGBTQIA+, people with a disability, young adults, people of color, white accountability. See Thursday schedule for groups and locations.

1:30-3 p.m. Meeting for business *