

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	Committee 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.