

Minutes
FMSA Meeting for Business
Oct 19th 2025

Attending:

- In Person: Judy Grant, Cheryl Mitchell, Stephen Shearer, Jim Spickard, Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, Meredith McGuire, Rebecca Cole Sullivan, Suzanne Cole Sullivan, Lisa Craig, Julie Crum, Angela Starnes, Von Keairns, Dale Keairns, James Goslin, Denise Wilkinson, Bill Wilkinson, Rachael Cundey
- On Zoom: Carol Redfield

The meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerk's Comments: We received a card in the mail:

Dear Friends,

My name is Emily Provance, and my home faith community is 15th Street in New York City. For some time, I've been working on writing to each of the Quaker meetings in the United States. My letter does not necessarily require a response.

I've been looking today at a query from Pacific Yearly Meeting: "How do we attend to the suffering of others in our local community, in our state and nation, and in the world community?" I was talking about this just yesterday with a group of Quaker women. It wasn't that we couldn't figure out how to pay attention to the suffering or how to know what we were each called to do to help. That much was clear. No, instead, the question was about how we are aware of the degree of suffering and manage not to become hopeless. We talked about prayer, about singing, about taking breaks. But what seemed to resonate the most with all of us was the necessity of connection with other people, just talking and spending time together. It's something about the way we are created... We can handle so much more in the company of people we care about.

How do you think about these questions?

In friendship, Emily

What an awesome ministry to write to every Quaker meeting in the U.S.!

PRIOR MINUTES

Friends approved the Minutes from the Sept 21st Meeting for Business with corrections.

The original text of the minute was:

MINUTE 2025.09.02 Friends Meeting of San Antonio is in unity to endorse the statement. However, there are Friends who do not feel it is comprehensive.

Friends agreed that this minute lacked clarity without the context of the preceding discussion, and that "unity" was not clear given that some Friends did not feel the statement was comprehensive.

The minute has been edited to read:

MINUTE 2025.09.02 Friends Meeting of San Antonio endorses the statement of 8 major Quaker organizations about the genocide in Gaza [<https://tinyurl.com/mpddkryf>]. However, there are Friends who do not feel it is comprehensive.

TREASURER'S REPORT: *presented by Bill Sweet*

Balance Sheet

- ✓ Checking account balance: \$59,897.14. Savings account balance: \$75,699.35.
- ✓ \$3344.31 from Immigrant Aid and \$5,000 from Relief Fund remains "parked" in the savings account. Thus, the available balance in Immigrant Aid is: \$3,611.81 (\$3,344.31 plus \$267.50).
- ✓ In the investment accounts with Friends Fiduciary Corporation, the Quaker Growth and Income Fund gained \$21,641.11 since \$25,000 was taken from the account at the end of June by Minute 2025.06.02. The Short Term Investment Fund gained \$712.56 in the third quarter.
- ✓ There are no other items of note.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Undesignated contributions of \$1,491.30 in September brought total to 88.0% of the annual budget for 2025.
- ✓ Income for Facilities Use in September is \$945.00, which totals 147.2% of annual budget.
- ✓ Minor Repairs, completion of the steps between the two parking lots was \$600.00. This is 223.5% of the 2025 budget.
- ✓ The CPS bill in September is \$303.43 (\$297.80 last month) for 2.337 MWh (2.298 MWh last month) of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave a credit of \$221.04 (\$190.34 last month). Expense for electricity in 2025 is 78.8% of the 2025 budget.
 - Since inception, payment for solar-generated electricity totals \$11,755.07, which averages \$172.87/month. The amortized capital cost is \$131.40/month.
- ✓ Expense for telephone and internet in September is \$115.99
- ✓ San Antonio Water System charge in September was \$104.85, which is typical
- ✓ The Emerging Issues item was for the purchase of "Red Cards" presenting rights under the 4th and 5th Amendments to the Constitution.
- ✓ Coffee and sparkling water, totaling \$173.67, was expensed from the Janet Southwood Hospitality Fund.
- ✓ Purchase of upgraded accounting software (QuickBooks) of \$80.00 was charged to Other Types of Expenses 65610 Miscellaneous.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine.

DISCUSSION: Due to software and hardware issues, we have only an interim report despite significant effort.

Friends have received the Treasurer's interim report.

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

Image: proposal of contributions by the ad hoc committee

MINISTRY & CARE REPORT: *reported by Julie Crum*

Ministry and Care Report

October 13, 2025

Ministry and Care met via Zoom on October 13; Pat Sweet, Denise Wilkinson, Julie Crum, Bill Wilkinson, and Val Liveoak attended. Rebecca Cole Sullivan attended the first portion of the meeting.

- The November query is adapted from the words of John Woolman; a brief note will be published along with the query in the newsletter.

How are we cultivating a life of "quiet habitation"—both inwardly and outwardly—so that we may be more faithful to the guidance of the Spirit when there are "great stirrings and commotions in the world?"

- There is an informal plan for keeping Friends, especially the children, safe in the presence of a threatening or potentially dangerous person on the grounds. We intend to develop and formalize such a plan for the Meeting's consideration.
- As part of our charge to protect and nurture the spiritual health and practice of the Meeting, Ministry and Care presented our thoughts on the need for vocal ministry to rise from the Spirit. We clearly did not communicate this well, and as a committee are troubled that Friends were greatly disturbed by what we wrote.

We are working on a vocal ministry forum to be held on November 23 to explore Spirit-led vocal ministry in an open and loving manner.

- We offer this Ministry and Care minute:

We have received the request from Atlanta Friends Meeting to transfer the membership of Rebecca Cole Sullivan to Friends Meeting of San Antonio. Ministry and Care joyfully approves this transfer.

- Ministry and Care requests \$100 for our budget in 2026.
- We discussed concerns for Friends.

We will meet again over Zoom in early November.

DISCUSSION: A Friend shared concern for Meeting for Worship potentially being diminished by political expression and called for all Friends to move towards a gathered Meeting once a week that may transform us.

MINUTE 2025.10.02 FMSA joyfully approves the transfer of membership of Rebecca Cole Sullivan from Atlanta Friends Meeting to Friends Meeting of San Antonio.

Friends approved the minute.

The committee would like their requested \$100 to be recorded in whichever line item of the budget it was recorded last year.

Friends accepted the committee's report.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: *reported by Stephen Shearer*

Nominating - 2026 Preliminary Report			new or renewing nominees are in red		
Trustee [1 year]			Nominating Committee [3 years]		Ministry, Care and Guidance Committee [3 years]
Clerk Carol Redfield 2026			Member Julie Crum 2026		Clerk Julie Crum 2027
Secretary Pat Sweet 2026			Member Stephen Shearer 2026		Member Jillian Randles 2028
Treasurer Bill Sweet 2026			Member Denise Wilkinson 2026		Member Pat Sweet 2027
Member Bill Wilkinson 2026			Member Bill Wilkinson 2027		Member Denise Wilkinson 2027
			SCYM [2 years]		Member Vacant
Monthly Meeting [2 year]			Member Vacant		
Clerk Rebecca Cole Sullivan 2027			Member Bill Sweet 2026		Religious Education [2 years]
Rec. Clerk Vacant			FCNL [2 years]		Clerk Lisa Craig 2025
Treasurer Bill Sweet 2026			Member Suzanne Cole Sullivan 2026		Member Roberta Russell 2027
Recorder Jim Spickard 2026					Member Vacant
			Property Committee [2 years]		Member Gretchen Haynes 2026
Finance Committee [2 years]			Clerk Bill Wilkinson 2027		
Clerk Pat Sweet 2026			Member Jim Spickard 2027		
Member Carol Redfield 2026			Member Julia Hitz 2027		
Member Bill Wilkinson 2026			Member Von Keairns 2026		
			Member Vacant		
			Resource Pam Spurgeon 2026		
Property Usage Coordinator Jim Spickard			Communications Coordinator Denise Wilkinson		Librarian Greg Koehler
S.A. Stands Coordinator Rachael Cundey			Tech Coordinator Jim Spickard		Newsletter Frances Frey & Denise Wilkinson

DISCUSSION: Jim will be moving early in 2026 and will need someone else to serve as Recorder, Property Usage Coordinator, and Tech Coordinator after the first quarter of 2026.

The Recorder position can be easily learned. The Property Usage Coordinator must have the skill of politeness. The Tech Coordinator position can be more complex, currently including hardware and the website, but could be split into multiple positions if desired.

Jim is willing to stay on as a trainer for all of these tasks until his departure but would like to start training as soon as possible to ensure a smooth transition.

Friends were encouraged to start training for their positions for next year early as they are led.

Friends were reminded that early experiences of committee work and other positions in the Meeting help to prepare us for the future. In particular, Friends were asked to consider if they are interested in Finance Committee/Treasurer roles and if so to start becoming familiar with Meeting finances.

Friends were encouraged to speak to those not in attendance at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business to help them get involved.

Suzanne will be listed as a resource for Religious Education Committee.

Lisa is still discerning whether to renew her term as Clerk of Religious Education Committee.

The committee will also list Suzanne as our representative to South Central Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee on this list so that the information is easily accessible. This position is approved at the SCYM level.

Nominating Committee will advertise vacancies in the newsletter. This report is preliminary. We will have the first reading of nominations in November and the second in December so everyone can start their work in January.

Committee meetings, except some parts of Nominating Committee and Ministry and Care meetings, are open to all by Quaker principle. Committee members do not have to carry out all work of the committee but rather are those entrusted to coordinate the work. The same is true of coordinator positions.

Friends received the committee's preliminary report.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT: *presented by Jim Spickard*

— **There is no formal report this month.**

— We have had to replace our Zoom computer because of continued troubles with video.

— We are tracking the development of the property on the other side of the gully to make sure that it does not create additional erosion

DISCUSSION: We are now having trouble with the new computer.

Security cameras have been replaced.

We received a note in the mail from the zoning board asking for a zoning change from multifamily apartment airport hazard overlay district to with specific authorization for supportive housing campus.

Supportive housing is a type of housing environment that allows for requirements of residents such as therapy attendance, abstinence from drugs, etc.

The housing will not be in view from our property, but we are within 200 ft of the property and thus have been asked for input.

MINUTE 2025.10.03 FMSA supports the zoning change to allow a supportive housing campus on the neighboring property and authorizes the Clerk of Property Committee to communicate with the city about the project.

Friends approved the minute.

We have been receiving letters only shortly before hearings about property concerns. Our drainage concerns are on record with the city but may or may not be communicated to the drainage board.

We have requested to be contacted with the plans so engineers can walk us through the specifics.

The city has to provide notice 72 hours before a meeting, but this period starts when letter is post-marked rather than when it is received.

Friends were asked to give Jim the exact text and desired location of information to be added to the website. Friends were asked to be similarly specific in requesting fixes on the property.

Property Committee has been comfortable with spending on tech as needed and sees no need at present for additional authorization. Finance Committee has agreed that replacing hardware as needed is acceptable as our budget serves as a guideline and not a hard rule.

Some Friends expressed ambivalence about technology spending falling under Property Committee.

The Treasurer and Finance Committee will take under consideration the concern that Property Committee needs a budget line item for technology and return to Meeting with a recommendation.

SA STANDS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: *reported by Rachael Cundey*

Arrests of our immigrant neighbors have continued at the courthouse, at immigration check-in appointments, and on the street.

SA Stands has received a grant to fund events responding to the increase in ICE activity such as Know Your Rights trainings, family preparedness workshops, and legal observer trainings. Funds are also available for direct assistance to community members who are negatively affected by the increase in immigration enforcement. Member organizations of SA Stands are invited to apply. The application and reporting requirements are simple. All funds must be spent by May 15, 2026. Are Friends interested in proposing an event or assistance program?

SA Stands is also working to support the Looking Out for Vulnerable Impacted Neighbors (L.O.V.I.N.) ordinance which seeks to expand the existing enhanced library card program to further protect transgender, immigrant, and unhoused neighbors in San Antonio. This proposed ordinance would enshrine the existing enhanced library card program in city policy, allow for residents to use their chosen names and gender markers on the cards, and protect the data of San Antonio residents. There will eventually be opportunities for public comment. Please let me know if you would like to sign up as a supporter of this ordinance.

I will be attending the SA Stands annual retreat on November 1. Is there anything Friends would like me to lift up at this event?

The 3rd Cafecito community safety event will be November 6th 6:30-8pm at St. Paul United Methodist Church. We will be engaging in de-escalation training. Everyone is welcome.

DISCUSSION: One Friend asked if we wanted to offer more money for the grant that SA Stand received to help extend their reach of training and programming. The Meeting is proposing that we grant them an additional \$15,000 to be used for trainings and more assistance. This money could be used past the May 15, 2026 deadline of the original grant.

Friends were clearly excited to support SA Stand with our financial wealth, both in cash and in-kind use of our property when needed. We will season this idea for next month.

A few questions came up about who will directly receive the money and who is the fiscal sponsor for grants. The SA Stands Representative was asked to gather further information about the existing financial arrangements, the ways the money is being used, and the current need for additional funds and to return to the Meeting with either a written description or a speaker from the coalition.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Reports have been arriving late in the week preceding Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business and sometimes not at all. Friends were asked to send reports at least a few days in advance so that they can be posted on the website and read ahead of Meeting. Word documents are preferred. Friends can send reports to clerk@squakers.org. If your committee usually sends in a report but does not have one this month, please send an email so we are not expecting one.
- Friends were asked many times to review the information on contributions to Quaker and local organizations in advance, but it was evident at last month's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business that many had not. Friends were encouraged to review advance materials when they are available so that we may make the best use of our time together.

Meeting Announcements:

- Please send information for the newsletter to newsletter@squakers.org.

The meeting closed with silent worship.