

**Minutes**  
**FMSA Meeting for Business**  
**Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 2025**

**Attending:**

- In Person: Rebecca Cole Sullivan, Suzanne Cole Sullivan, Jillian Randles, Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, Judy Grant, Gretchen Haynes, Bo Mendes, Stephen Shearer, Gary Whiting, Pam Spurgeon, John Jones, Von Keairns, Dale Keairns, Angela Starnes, Michelle Brodesky, Cathy Watren, Greg Koehler, Luz Perez Prado, George Feden, Meredith McGuire, Jim Spickard, Denise Wilkinson, Bill Wilkinson, Rachael Cundey
- On Zoom: Carol Redfield

**The meeting opened with silent worship.**

**Clerk's Comments:**

The annual meeting of Friends Meeting of San Antonio, Incorporated, will take place at the Rise of Meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Bo Mendes from the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) visited and shared about QUNO's work:

QUNO is the only faith-based organization with observer status at the UN with the goal of presenting a unified vision of Quaker values to the international community. QUNO does not have a vote but has unique access to UN deliberations. QUNO works closely with the American Friends Service Committee and Friends World Committee for Consultation as well as Unitarian Universalist, Mennonite, and Church of the Brethren groups. QUNO staff engage in dialogue with local Quaker groups to determine their priorities and provide a space for diplomats to speak with each other privately. Their work is a long-term effort to affect international policy.

QUNO has had an integral role in negotiating the Treaty of the Seas, mitigating land mines, and now in working on the sustainable development goal of peace. QUNO sees peace as something we build through institutions and frameworks that change living conditions rather than simply the absence of war. Friends are encouraged to visit [quno.org](http://quno.org) to learn more.

**PRIOR MINUTES**

Friends approved the Minutes from the November 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting for Business without corrections.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** *presented by Bill Sweet*

***Balance Sheet (attached to the end of these minutes)***

- ✓ \$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).
- ✓ There are no other items of note.

**Statement of Activities (attached to the end of these minutes)**

- ✓ Undesignated contributions of \$3979.26 in November brought the total to 103.5% of the annual budget for 2025.
- ✓ The contribution from Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting was deposited in Designated Contributions: Miscellaneous and passed on to relief efforts in Kerrville / Kerr County, as specified by the donor.
- ✓ Income for Facilities Use in November is \$1,355.00, which totals 155.3% of annual budget. This unusually large increase is due to payment in arrears, April 2025, and prepayment through March 2026 by one organization.
- ✓ Purchases for Religious Education activities totaled \$322.74.
- ✓ The CPS bill in November is \$106.75 (\$163.02 last month) for 0.871 MWh (1.254 MWh last month) of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave a credit of \$179.47 (\$203.80 last month). After charges for additional services, there was a credit of \$16.39 (\$16.13 last month). Because this credit is not money received, the expense for the month is recorded as \$0.00 (zero dollars) on the Statement of Activities. Expense for electricity in 2025 is 71.6% of the 2025 budget.
  - Since inception, payment for solar-generated electricity totals \$12,138.34, which averages \$173.40/month. The amortized capital cost is \$131.40/ month.
- ✓ Expense for telephone and internet in November is \$116.07.
- ✓ San Antonio Water System charge in October was \$29.93.
- ✓ Contributions to others were completed in November. The contribution to the entity specified as "Migrant Center \$ - RAICES \$" in the Minutes was sent to RAICES as the Migrant Center to which a contribution was previously sent could not be found at that address. An online search for the "migrant center san antonio" returned several different organizations. Because of this ambiguity, RAICES was selected.
- ✓ Other Types of Expenses, Miscellaneous was for purchase of updated software used to assemble this Treasurer's Report, \$27.06.
- ✓ The 2025 contribution of \$3,500.00 to South Central Yearly Meeting was sent.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine.

**DISCUSSION:** We sent Swannanoa Friends \$5,000 when their Meetinghouse was flooded. They heard about the flooding in Kerrville and wanted to return the favor to our region. We connected with a UU pastor in Kerrville who advised that the best distribution method for funds would be via HEB gift cards.

We do not know why the water bill has decreased so steeply from the usual ~\$100.

Friends accepted the Treasurer's report.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: presented by Pat Sweet**

**Second reading of the 2026 Budget (attached to the end of these minutes)**

**DISCUSSION:** Under Religious Education: Supplies and Miscellaneous, \$50 was corrected to \$750 as previously agreed.

This year we have increased wages for our childcare provider and adjusted our estimates for liability insurance and other expenses to follow expected trends.

We would need about \$3100/month in income to make this budget. If we estimate approximately 20 giving units (individuals/couples/families), that would be about \$155/month per giving unit. This is information, not an expectation. Friends are encouraged to give what they are both able and led to give.

Friends approved the 2026 budget.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:** *presented by Denise Wilkinson*

**Nominating Report for 2026 as of 12/20/25 First reading of new or renewing nominees are in red second reading in blue**

Trustee [1 year]		Nominating Committee [3 years]			Ministry and Care Committee [3 years]		
Clerk	Carol Redfield	2026	Member	Julie Crum	2026	Clerk	Julie Crum
Secretary	Pat Sweet	2026	Member	Stephen Shearer	2026	Member	Pat Sweet
Treasurer	Bill Sweet	2026	Member	Denise Wilkinson	2026	Member	Denise Wilkinson
Member	Bill Wilkinson	2026	Member	Bill Wilkinson	2027	Member	Jillian Randles
						Member	Judy Grant
Monthly Meeting [2 year]		SCYM [2 years]			Religious Education Committee [2 years]		
Clerk	Rebecca Cole Sullivan	2027	Member	Bill Wilkinson	2027	Clerk	Rachael Cundey
Rec. Clerk	Vacant	2027	Member	Bill Sweet	2026	Member	Roberta Russell
Treasurer	Bill Sweet	2026	FCNL [2 years]			Member	Lisa Craig
Recordkeeper	Suzanne Cole Sullivan	2027	Member	Suzanne Cole Sullivan	2026	Member	Gretchen Haynes
			Property Committee [2 years]			Peace & Social Concerns Committee [2 years]	
Finance Committee [2 years]		Clerk	Bill Wilkinson	2027	Clerk	Dale Kairns	
Clerk	Pat Sweet	2026	Member	Jim Spickard	2027	Member	Angela Starnes
Member	Carol Redfield	2026	Member	Julia Hitz	2027	Member	Suzanne Cole Sullivan
Member	Bill Wilkinson	2026	Member	John Jones	2027	Member	Josh Brodesky
Member	Vacant	2027	Member	Josh R.	2027	Member	Luz Perez Prado
			Member	Von Kairns	2026		
			Resource	Pam Spurgeon	2026		
Property Usage Coordinator Jim Spickard/Vacant		Librarian Greg Koehler			Communications Coordinator Denise Wilkinson		
S.A. Stands Coordinator Rachael Cundey		Tech Coordinator Carol Redfield			Newsletter Frances Frey & Denise Wilkinson		
FMSA rep to SCYM Nominating Committee Suzanne Cole Sullivan		Webmaster Joseph Montano					

**MINUTE 2025.12.01:** Friends Meeting of San Antonio approves the second reading of the Nominating Committee report.

## Minute of Appreciation

Friends call our communities to faithfulness through shared service, and we are deeply grateful for those who have offered their time, gifts, and steady presence in this past term.

We wish to record our appreciation for the Friends whose appointed service has now come to a close. Throughout their time of care and commitment, they have helped nurture the spiritual life and practical functioning of our meeting. Their willingness to listen, labor patiently, seek unity, and hold our community in the Light has strengthened our community.

We recognize that such service is an offering of love and faithfulness. As these Friends lay down their roles, we give thanks for the grace they have brought to their work, the responsibilities they have dutifully carried, and the ways they have helped our meeting to flourish.

With gratitude, we release them from their terms of service and hold them in the Light as they find new leadings and ways to serve.

Val Liveoak: Clerk, SCYM Representative

Rachael Cundey: Recording Clerk

Jim Spickard: Recorder, Clerk of Property Committee, Tech Coordinator, Webmaster

Rebecca Cole-Sullivan: Property Committee

Lisa Craig: Clerk of Religious Education Committee

James Goslin: Ministry & Care Committee

Bill Wilkinson: Ministry & Care Committee

Dale Keairns: Religious Education Committee

Suzanne Cole-Sullivan: Religious Education Committee

**DISCUSSION:** Rebecca has a plan in lieu of a Recording Clerk, but please contact Nominating Committee if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for the position.

We are also still searching for a Property Usage Coordinator. This position monitors the [renters@squakers.org](mailto:renters@squakers.org) email and communicates with those interested in renting the property. This position is not a lot of work as we only receive inquiries occasionally.

Jim will be ending his service on Property Committee when he moves next year.

Friends approved the names on second reading.

Friends offered corrections to the proposed minute of appreciation.

**MINUTE 2025.12.02:** Friends call our communities to faithfulness through shared service, and we are deeply grateful for those who have offered their time, gifts, and steady presence in this past term.

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Val Liveoak: Clerk, SCYM Representative

Rachael Cundey: Recording Clerk

Jim Spickard: Recorder, Clerk of Property Committee, Tech Coordinator, Webmaster

Rebecca Cole Sullivan: Property Committee

Lisa Craig: Clerk of Religious Education Committee

James Goslin: Ministry & Care Committee

Bill Wilkinson: Ministry & Care Committee

Dale Keairns: Religious Education Committee

Suzanne Cole Sullivan: Religious Education Teacher

Friends approved the minute as corrected with gratitude.

**MINISTRY & CARE REPORT:** *presented by Denise Wilkinson*

Ministry and Care met on Zoom on December 4. Val Liveoak, Denise Wilkinson, Pat Sweet, Bill Wilkinson, and Julie Crum attended.

Query for January:

As we open our doors and our hearts to all who come among us, how  
do we stay rooted in the spiritual grounding that makes us Friends  
and speak plainly about our Quaker faith?

1. Recent forums have centered on welcoming new friends and explaining Quaker traditions and practices. We will continue to offer “Ask-a-Quaker” on fifth Sundays (roughly every three months), in addition to more formal discussions of Quaker topics, and encourage anyone with curiosity about our ways to participate. Perhaps gatherings outside of the usual forum time might be helpful—evenings or after potluck, or via Zoom.
2. The Christmas Eve worship and potluck will be as usual: worship at 6:30 with the meal to follow. Beans and tamales will be provided, and friends are welcome to bring a dish to share.
3. We discussed concerns for friends.
4. Ministry and Care thanks James Goslin and Bill Wilkinson for their service to Meeting on our committee. Their insights and contributions enriched our work.
5. Our next meeting will be on Zoom on Wednesday, January 7 at 7 pm.

**DISCUSSION:** Friends accepted the committee’s report.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT:** *presented by Jim Spickard*

The Property Committee did not meet formally this month, and there is no formal report. We replaced, fixed, or arranged to have fixed:

1. The previously fluorescent (now LED) lights in the Community Room and Children's Room. (The Library still has fluorescents; spare bulbs are in the loft.)
2. The Community Room coffee maker.
3. Problems with the website that caused our hosting service to earn its keep (finally!).
4. Whatever we could fix at the December 20<sup>th</sup> workday.

**DISCUSSION:** The refrigerator has a problem that will need to be addressed soon. Bill Sweet has experience resolving a similar issue in years past and will investigate.

Friends accepted the committee's report.

**LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:** *presented by Greg Koehler*

Please contact Property Committee with any questions if the librarian is not around.

We will be gradually curating our collections of books and items. Please contact the librarian with any suggestions of locations in town accepting donations other than Goodwill.

Contact the librarian or Property Committee if you would like to claim the glass cabinet in the library which was originally donated to the Meeting by Mark Hickman. In its place we will have a children's library that Young Friends can choose to visit during Meeting.

**DISCUSSION:** Friends were reminded that Haven for Hope is always in need of books for adults, although they have many books for children.

Friends considered placing a bookshelf in the community room. We currently have a shelf of free books in the library, but most Friends rarely enter the library. Friends were also concerned about the limited space in the community room. Denise volunteered to discuss this issue further.

**SA STANDS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT:** *presented by Rachael Cundey*

SA Stands mobilized San Antonio residents to call and email their Bexar County Commissioners and the Bexar County Judge and encourage them to approve the extension of Immigrant Legal Defense Fund funding that was not spent this year.

These funds support legal representation of immigrant community members in court. Previously, RAICES provided legal support funded through this program. RAICES was unable to continue this work after losing their grant funding earlier this year. American Gateways has attempted to fill the gap, but they were not able to scale up quickly enough to spend all appropriated funds by the end of the year.

The extension was approved by four votes, including one commissioner who previously abstained from voting for the fund.

SA Stands will be asking for full community support when renewal of the fund comes up for a vote next year.

Diana from Southwest Workers Union/Centro por la Justicia joined us December 14<sup>th</sup> to share about SA Stands's work this year, from policy advocacy to rapid response. SA Stands has coordinated legal clinics, monitored enforcement activity at the courthouse, and supported large- and small-scale community education programs. Interns have been integral to event planning, in-person outreach, and countering online misinformation. SA Stands's grant funding supporting rapid response efforts and infrastructure (including internships) will end in May 2026.

We are again considering a proposal to give \$15,000 to SA Stands to allow their work to continue beyond the end of the current grant. If given, these funds would be managed by Centro por la Justicia as the fiscal sponsor.

**DISCUSSION:** Friends discussed the financial issues faced by RAICES and determined that we do not have the resources to meaningfully impact their capacity at this time as we cannot fund salaried positions to reverse the recent layoffs.

Friends were unclear on what our money would support given the wide range of functions of SA Stands. The proposal we have been considering is to effectively extend the current grant for rapid response work so that programming can be extended past May 2026. Friends wanted our money to go toward this work in the community rather than general infrastructure. Friends emphasized the importance of giving the money before the current grant runs out to allow for planning but did not want to attempt a large financial transaction in the last weeks of 2025.

**MINUTE 2025.12.03:** Friends Meeting of San Antonio approves the disbursement of \$15,000 to SA Stands to help extend their current Rapid Response programs (including program staff overhead) past May 2026. Funds to be awarded outside of the annual budget in February or March 2026.

Friends approved the minute.

**OTHER BUSINESS** *presented by Rebecca Cole Sullivan*

The Clerk's email inbox received the following email:

Dear Friends,

My name is Dann Pell, I'm a musician and a member of Exeter Quaker Meeting in Douglassville, PA. I am traveling March 4th - 22nd 202[6], sharing my music ministry under the care of Exeter Monthly Meeting of Friends.

I offer a monthly gathering in our meetinghouse, approx 1 hour of my music followed by a potluck for fellowship. The intention is to support the spiritual life of the meeting and connect to the wider local community. I am seeking Quaker communities where I can share in a similar fashion, gathered, open to the movement of the spirit.

I call my offering Songs to ground and uplift. Embracing the fleeting, we ground in the present moment, Acknowledging the Beyond we are lifted in the Spirit. Each session begins and ends with gathered silence.

The size of the gathering is unimportant, attendance has ranged from 3 - 40+.

Typically I accept a free will donation from attenders in support of the offering.

I'm including a link to video for an introduction to my sound <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI57r8FXEJw>

and an article on my music offerings at home and abroad

<https://www.pottsmec.com/2025/04/04/south-coventry-native-shares-folk-music-to-help-others-step-back-and-exhale/>

further recorded music can be streamed here

[dannpell.bandcamp.com](http://dannpell.bandcamp.com)

Please get in touch If this sparks an interest within, and there's the possibility your meeting would consider hosting me. My target date window for the area is **3/11-3/15**

As I am in the preliminary stage of planning I have flexibility with the date. (other dates maybe possible) A traveling minute will be provided by Exeter Meeting for this trip.

In Friendship,

Dann Pell

610 256 1627

<https://bio.site/dannpell>

<https://www.instagram.com/dannpell/>

Is this something we want, and do we have someone willing to coordinate with him?

**DISCUSSION:** This period includes a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business and no forum dates.

Denise volunteered to contact him and attempt to coordinate but is unavailable on the dates suggested.

Some Friends were interested in a large gathering outside of our normal schedule, but others were concerned about the logistics of such an undertaking, both for their own schedules and Meeting's capacity. Some Friends suggested gathering at 8:30 or 9 am before Meeting to listen.

Friends were encouraged to listen to some of his posted offerings while Denise reaches out to Dann about possible dates.

**The meeting closed with silent worship.**