

May 2026



The Friendly News

Friends Meeting of San Antonio (Quakers)

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Our Meeting house is built on the Payaya People's land.

SCYM Faith & Practice Approved

By Rachael Cundey

After many years of work, South Central Yearly Meeting has approved our very own Faith and Practice! This document will be a resource to help the Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meetings, and individual Friends to understand how our faith translates into our lives and the lives of our Meetings. With sections on Quaker testimonies, Monthly Meeting procedures, Quaker history, and more, Friends can find deep reflection and practical advice within its 119 pages.

The approved draft of the Faith and Practice is linked below as a pdf. Now that the text is approved, the committee is considering layout and printing.

<https://scym.org/qnut/documents/944>

We will begin our Meeting's consideration of the SCYM Faith and Practice with a "birth party" on May 10th during forum time at 11:30 . Please join us as we discuss the (very short) opening section of our Faith and Practice over cake.

Advice for May

May's advice arises from ministry offered during worship recently.

In these times of earthly turmoil, many people of faith often look to heaven for solace. But in looking up they may miss the suffering of those to the left and right. May I never spend so much time inside of myself that I lose sight of the mission on the outside.

May 2026 Calendar

Regular Activities

- **Sunday Meetings for Worship**, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
 - In-person in the Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **First Day School Children's Program**, every Sunday, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
 - Childcare is available during forums and Meetings for Business
- **Midweek Meeting for Worship** - 1st Wednesday, 7:00 PM at Gretchen's
- **Potluck Lunch** - 1st Sunday, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **Sunday Forums** - 2nd & 4th Sundays, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
 - In-person in the Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **Meeting for Worship with Attention To Business**; 3rd Sunday, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
 - In-person in the Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **Friday Meeting for Worship**, 8:00 - 8:30 AM, Zoom only
- **"Meeting for Weeding,"** 3rd Saturday, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- For ALL Zoom Meetings:
 - [CLICK HERE](#) to join by Zoom; ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
 - by telephone at +1 346 248 7799, then enter ID#

Special Events

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 6 | Midweek Meeting for Worship at Gretchen's, 7:00 PM - Email newsletter@squakers.org for the address if you are interested in attending. |
| May 10 | Forum: Birth Party for SCYM Faith & Practice - with cake! |
| May 16 | Meeting for (Not Just) Weeding, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM |
| May 24 | Forum: Climate |

SCYM 2026 Annual Sessions

Friends from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and quite a few other places across the US recently gathered together for South Central Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, with the theme of ***Be the Change: Contemplative Action in the World***. The event began with online sessions from Sunday, March 29-April 1, followed by an in-person gathering at Greene Family Camp in Bruceville from Thursday April 2-Sunday, April 5, with some activities also offered online.

The SCYM website provides the following **Highlights of the 2026 Sessions**:

- We explored the theme with keynote speaker Christopher Sammond, in worship sharing groups, and in workshops, always keeping in mind Thomas Merton's words: *There is a way of ordering our mental life on more than one level at once. On one level we can be thinking, discussing, seeing, calculating, meeting all the demands of external affairs, but deep within, behind the scenes at a profounder level, we may also be in prayer and adoration, song and worship and a gentle receptiveness to divine breathings.*
- We approved the [SCYM Approved Faith and Practice](#) with some edits. This is the final version. A printed version will be available soon.
- We gathered together in workshops and worship sharing, deepening our relationships with each other, our understanding of our faith, and of the actions we could take together to share our testimony in the world.
- The Youth Program was warmly received, with many adult helpers learning and having fun along with the youth.
- The Variety Show included gymnastics, poetry, music, and a wonderful new song about John Woolman sung by Terry SoRelle and many youth.
- Sunday morning worship was preceded by hearing final reports, including the State of Society of SCYM, our Epistle to Friends Everywhere, and celebrating memorials, marriages and births.

Links to all the documents can be found at [Advance Documents](#), including the [2026 SCYM Epistle to Friends Everywhere](#) and the [2026 SCYM Roster of Friends Under Appointment](#).

A grand total of 149 Friends attended, with 136 attending in-person (including 23 youth!) and 13 people online only. Friends Meeting of San Antonio was well-represented, with 15 of us attending in-person and 2 online.

Our thanks to these San Antonio Friends for sharing the following reflections:

Rachael Cundey

I was moved by the workshop led by Paula Keeth (Dallas Friends Meeting) and Paula Palmer (Boulder Friends Meeting). They shared their experience joining the Arapaho and Cheyenne peoples for the funerals of twelve Cheyenne and four Arapaho children who died at Carlisle Industrial School, a boarding school of assimilation far from their

home, over one hundred years ago. Their bodies were returned to the tribes just last year. Seven of the children were sent to Carlisle by Quaker Indian agent J.D. Miles. I was struck by the juxtaposition of the enduring grief of the Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples and the gracious welcome they offered the two Paulas. They were met with love because they have worked to reckon with our Quaker past, and that research helped to bring these children home. I encourage everyone to read the full article in Friends Journal for more information.

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/a-homecoming-for-the-arapaho-and-cheyenne/>

Angela Starnes

As a first-time attender, I enjoyed meeting Friends from across Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma and learning about other meetings. I joined a worship sharing group and found a lot of merit in hearing from Friends across generations and locations, united by common goals and ideals. Intergenerational activities like campfire s'mores, a variety show, and Meeting for Business with Attention to Legos provided opportunities for us to share in one another's joy and remain grounded amongst a myriad of valuable committee reports and workshops. It was especially significant for me to meet with members of other Peace and Social Concerns committees in Texas and connect for the purpose of continued joint action to unite our efforts beyond SCYM.

Rebecca Cole Sullivan

I supported the middle and high school age youth in their first business meeting. I read them *Approved* by Nancy Haines, which walked them through the roles and processes of a business meeting. I then asked who would like to be clerk and recording clerk. I had prepared an agenda and the lone agenda topic (writing an epistle). I enjoyed seeing the kids interact and our own Gwen and Whitman take on the two roles. They came up with who would write and who would present the final epistle. They also spent some time brainstorming what they wanted to include. It was cool to see the youth take on this practice.

Secondly, what a powerful experience to be in the room when we finished our last two edits and were ready to approve the Faith and Practice. Seeing this project come together and the incremental drafting process has been really powerful. I look forward to studying it together and learning how to live into it. It has been an honor to participate in and witness the last several years of the process. I am excited to make it a part of our practice as monthly meetings and a yearly meeting.

And from the younger set:

Gwen R clerked the junior Young Friends business meeting. They described it as "interesting" and would consider clerking the junior Young Friends business meeting again.

Liam R said, "It was nice. I would go again. No comment on my choice of hide and seek location."

If this all sounds enticing, please join us for **2027 SCYM Annual Sessions - March 21-28, 2027**. Add these dates to your calendar!

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Workshop

An AVP Workshop will be held May 22-24, 2026 - Friday evening, Saturday morning till evening, and Sunday times TBD, ending Sunday afternoon around 5 PM. It will take place at Friends Meeting of Austin, 3701 E. Martin Luther King Dr, Austin, TX 78721.

The workshop is designed to empower you to resolve conflicts nonviolently - at home, work, the community, and beyond.

More information about the workshop and how to register can be found in the flyer - <https://www.scym.org/qnut/documents/943>.

From *A Quaker Book of Wisdom*, p.24 - Robert Lawrence Smith

As a child [in meeting for worship], I was acutely aware that there was nothing to look at, and that most of the time nothing seemed to be *happening*.

What was happening, I came to understand, was something akin to a spiritual potluck. Each person brought something personal, simple, and sacred to the table in the belief that out of the silence, the voice of truth might be heard.

Advices and Queries

You may have noticed that we offered an Advice for the month of May, rather than a Query. The following information about Advices and Queries comes from the new SCYM Faith and Practice, page 28:

“Advices in this section are based on experiences of Friends from SCYM and elsewhere trying to live faithfully according to the Light they have been given. Queries direct us toward the Source of guidance as we consider how they apply to our current condition, both as individuals and as a meeting. Their value lies in the process of considering them rather than in finding definite answers. Responses may be based on our current condition or on our aspirations and how we are progressing toward them.

Advices and Queries may be used by the group as a whole or as part of personal devotional practices or self-examination. Advices or queries may be read at the beginning of meeting for worship or meeting for business as part of the centering process. They may also be used in worship sharing where Friends can speak their thoughts and personal experiences during a period of worshipful listening.”

Singing Resistance

Singing Resistance SATX is a group of people who gather together to learn songs of resistance, then share those songs at protests, rallies, and other gatherings. They are having a Community Sing on Friday, May 15th, 7:00-8:00 pm at the San Antonio Mennonite Church. All are welcome. You can see more about them on their Instagram page, [singingassistancesatx](#).



19 4 8

singingresistancesatx We're so excited to host our second Community Sing.

Humans are meant to sing together, not only for performance but for community, belonging, and justice.

Mark your calendars for a warm, inspiring, and musical evening.

Just for Fun...



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We welcome input for newsletters. Please email newsletter@saquakers.org
if you have any news, articles, poetry, etc. to share. Photos are great, too!

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