

The Friendly Line

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

Ninth & Tenth Months 2018 Vol. 3 & 4



Three Friends follow leadings to travel in ministries of witness

This past summer three Friends, Peter Clay, Gordon Bivens, and Fred Nelson, were led to travel in ministries of witnessing on behalf of others, in three very different ways.

Peter Clay joined eight-day 90-mile march

After careful discernment and with encouragement from friends Peter made a commitment to join in the eight-day (9/01 to 9/08), 90-mile First Nation-Farmer Climate Unity March organized by [Bold Iowa](#), [Indigenous Iowa](#), the [Sierra Club Iowa Chapter](#) and [Seeding Sovereignty](#). A core group of marchers completed the march and many others joined for whatever time they were able. Their purpose was to show unity among the opponents of the Dakota Access Pipeline (also known as the Bakken Pipeline) and draw public attention to the continuing fight.

The first couple of nights campers had the opportunity to experience tenting in very heavy rain, impressive thunderstorm and high winds. Though not experiences most marchers wanted, the rains likely got a few more press out to see how they were doing. And of course, that created Opportunities for marchers to share what was so important that they were willing to keep walking. Before it was over marchers experienced more rain, heat-indexes of 90 + degrees, blisters, and fatigue. But, they also were successful at draw attention to the Pipeline, visiting with new marchers and those out to see them march, giving interviews. And though they started the march in small groups from the sponsoring organization or as individuals, in just eight days they really got to

know each other's strengths and weaknesses, learned how to offer and how to accept help learned to work and play together and give

thanks...to be a community. Maybe they/we should offer more marches!

Gordon Bivens joined members of Plymouth Congregational on trip to Mexican border

As reported in a piece on the Plymouth Congregational Church website, "a delegation of seven members from Plymouth United Church of Christ and one Quaker from Des Moines, Iowa, embarked on a Witness for Peace experience in Mexico" That one Quaker was Gordon Bivens!

Gordon and the Plymouth UCC group traveled to Arizona on 8/26 and returned on the 30th of the month. Their purpose was to bear witness to the pain and injustice of family separation at our border. the SW Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCCO and the Justice Witness Ministries of UCC.

The trip was a combination of humanitarian aid (Gordon and others collected a large number of needed toiletries to be given to asylum seekers as needed), witness, and education. They visited the court where parents whose children were taken appear in hopes of finding their kids. They also visited a Border Patrol Station and had a vigil at the detention center. They were very closely watched by police and border patrol. They also the opportunity to converse with some of the families there. Gordon and others went to the Border Wall where they had a communion service and into Mexico where they saw some of the shelters for those who have come from

Central American countries seeking asylum in the US and have no place to go when denied, since it is not safe to return to their homes. The group also was able to go into the desert and meet some of the Good Shepherds who take water in containers for those trying to make it across the desert to get into the U.S. If those containers are found by US border patrols they often shoot holes into the containers to keep people from benefitting and perhaps even surviving their journey.

Additionally, Gordon and his group also received education on how to better work as a congregation to welcome immigrants into our communities and our churches, and to advocate for their humane treatment at the hands of the U.S government.



Fred Nelson (L) and Peter Clay (R) share with Bob Henderson and Jean Sandstrom during Social Hour prior to each leaving on separate travels in ministry. Gordon Bivens was already in the middle of his travels.

Fred Nelson joined a three week medical mission trip to Tibet sponsored by Above and Beyond Cancer

Over the course of three weeks, the group hiked the Himalayas and did mission work at two hospitals in Kathmandu. Above + Beyond Cancer is a public charity with a mission to elevate the lives of those touched by cancer, to create a healthier world. Above + Beyond Cancer takes survivors and caregivers on transformative journeys. Participants inspire the public by devoting themselves to a life of advocacy and leading an example for healthy living and cancer prevention in their communities. We hope to hear more from Fred about this incredible trip!

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 9/9/2018

Present: Andrea Holveck, Pam Blackburn, Virginia Smith, Jack Holveck, Mikel Johnson, Bill Howard, Joe Howard, Cindy Winchell, Deborah Fisch, DJ Newlin, Owen Newlin, Dick Douglass, Charlie Day, Jim Dietz-Kilen, Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Peter Clay, Charlie Brown.

-Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business began with a period of silent reflection.

09.18.01 Approval of 08/12/2018 Minutes – Meeting's 08/12/2018 minutes were distributed and ***approved pending editing changes*** necessitated by computer glitches. Thanks to Deborah Fisch and Katie Jacoby for rising to the challenge of *Friendly Line* editors and publishers.

09.18. 02 Budget Committee – Owen Newlin reported on behalf of the committee.

- Proposed Budget for FY 2019
(7/01/2018 to 06/30/2019) = **\$36,935**
 - **Expenditures** –The FY2019 budget will remain the same as the FY2018 budget except for an increase of \$5 in the Utilities Expenditures Line item. Affiliated contributions will remain the same. Thus, expenditures will be totaled at **\$36,935**.
 - **Income** – The income side of the proposed budget = **\$36,935** and divides out as follows:
 - **Regular Receipts** will be \$31,311;
 - **Property anagement** \$3,500;
 - **Interest**, \$24;
 - **Use of meetinghouse** \$2,100.
 - **Designated Funds** are proposed to include the following changes:
 - **Basement Flooring Fund \$100** – The fund will be closed, and monies transferred to the Property Management Fund;
 - **Kathy Day Memorials \$375** – On recommendation from Chuck Day, the designated fund will be closed and moved to General Fund Reserve;
 - **Sherry Hutchison Memorials \$595** – The memorial fund will be closed and moved to Peace and Social Concerns Committee to decide appropriate distribution.

The FY 2019 Budget was approved as proposed.

09.18.03 Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Pam Blackburn reported that we are 17% of the way into our new fiscal year. Expenditures are at 13% with income at only 7%. This is relatively normal for summer income, but as noted for several months, General Fund receipts are down. **We are presently carrying a deficit of \$2,271.31.** *The treasurer's report was accepted.*

09.18.04 IYM(C) Clerk's Letter – The IYM (C) Clerk's Letter has been received and the IYM (C) **allocation for Des Moines Valley Meeting will remain as last year – at \$15,500.** Cindy Winchell, a DMVFM representative to IYM (C) annual sessions this past Seventh Month, reported that she informed IYM(C) Representative Committee members that DMVF might not always have the funds to be able pay what we presently commit to IYM(C.) It is important for the representatives from our meeting to have a good understanding of what Meeting as a whole feels comfortable contributing. This issue is raised in light of our income receipts being down for several months, necessitating drawing from DSVM's General Reserve Fund. A suggestion was made to bring this issue to meeting for business early next summer prior to the 2019 IYM(C) annual sessions, so as to give good counsel to the Friends serving as representatives.

09.18.05 Library Committee Report – Co-convener Virginia Smith shared that *Selections from the Epistle of George Fox* has been added to the library. She thanked Jean Sandstrom for making this recommendation to the Library .

09.18.06 Ministry and Counsel Report– Co-convener Peter Clay submitted a written report submitted by Co-convener, Dorothy Lifka.

M&C Report for 09/02/2018

We began with silence.

- **Articles of Incorporation and By-laws** – *We considered the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Meeting. The sense of the committee was to recommend approval of the Articles and the Bylaws with several small corrections and to forward these documents on to Ninth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for approval. We appreciate the work of Claire Cumbie-Drake in writing these documents.*
- **Cost of Incorporation** – *The committee suggests that the cost of incorporation be taken out of the General Funds of the Meeting rather than from the M&C's budget.*
- **AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project)** *The AVP Support Committee met and concerns were shared. There will be a Second Hour discussion of the AVP in Eleventh Month.*
- **Concerns**– *We shared concerns about our Friends in Meeting.*

Meeting concluded with a time of worship.

The report was approved including these specific requests or suggestions:

- **09.18.06.a Reinstatement Fee** – The treasurer suggests that the \$50 reinstatement fee for the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws come out of the clerk's and treasurer's Expenditures line.
- **09.18.06.b Required Bi-annual Reporting and Fee** – In the future a \$25 fee will be collected with the bi-annual

reporting once we regain our status with the Secretary of State's Office.

- **09.18.06.c Consideration for Approval Tenth Month Business Meeting** – Meeting will take the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws up for consideration of approval in Tenth Month Meeting for Business.
- **09.18.06.d. Registered Agent** – The treasurer will be the registered agent listed on the Articles for the Secretary of State with the meetinghouse address given so all notices will be received by the meeting – preventing a lapse in the registering process going forward. The meeting agrees that for a variety of reasons it is important for DMVF's be recognized as a legal entity in Iowa.

09.18.07 New Lease for Meeting – The new lease has been finalized and signed by clerks of both DMVF Meeting and Friends House Board.

09.18.08 Religious Education/Child Care Committee – Cindy Winchell, convener of the committee shared there is still need for one more First Day School teacher to step forward. At this point Andrea Holveck has volunteered along with Dorothy Lifka and Lynne Howard.

09.18.09 Buildings and Grounds Committee (B&G) – Dick Douglass, convener shared that the Building & Grounds Committee will be meeting to review the bids for the window replacements in the lobby. Bids have been varied and the situation is surprisingly complicated. The committee will be giving a recommendation at the Tenth Month meeting for Business.

An offer for 12 to 24 more stackable chairs has come in and the committee will assess the need.

09.18.10 Property Management Committee – Owen Newlin shared that the only thing to report is that we have the funds available to address the issues in B&G's report.

09.18.11 Hospitality Committee – Bill Howard, co-convener of the committee reminded Friends that Hospitality Committee will host a Talent Show/Show and Tell Second Hour on Ninth Month 30! Friends are encouraged to sign up to share a talent or something else they do or in which they are interested.

09.18.12 Old Business – The clerk moved to the old business of the meeting.

- **Thank you sent** – A thank-you letter has gone out to WILPF for the benches in honor of Sherry Hutchison and for their donation of monies to assist Meeting in correcting the water flow and heating issue in the basement kitchen sink.
- **Pendle Hill clerking seminar** – It appears road blocks might keep Friends Jean Sandstrom, Ann Robinson and Dorothy Lifka who had each expressed interest in attending for getting to the fall seminar. Peter Clay states that he, too, would be interested in the clerking seminar. Jean had expressed mixed feelings about moving forward for the Eleventh Month Pendle Hill seminar – citing the expense as well as timeliness issues for her work schedule. Jean proposed that Deborah Fisch's expertise in clerking could be called upon to give guidance at this time. Deborah would be happy to provide a formal training or informal mentoring as needed. Pam Blackburn reminded Friends that the meeting always finds a way to send Friends to seminars or conferences. A clearness committee consisting of Peter Clay, Deborah Fisch, Pam Blackburn, Dorothy

Lifka, Ann Robinson was proposed to assist Jean in finding way forward.

09.18.12 Yearly Meeting committee appointments – The IYM (C) Clerk's Letter has arrived and it includes these following assignments to IYM Committees: Book Table, Mikel Johnson (2019); Entertainment, DMVF (2020); Interim, Cindy Winchell (2019); Jr. Yearly Meeting, Jean Sandstrom (2019); Jr. Yearly Meeting, Mid-Year, Ann Robinson, Mikel Johnson, Jean Sandstrom (2021) Cindy Winchell (2019); Mid-Year Planning, Cindy Winchell (2019); Ministry and Counsel, Ann Robinson (2019), Deborah Fisch and Peter Clay (2021); Website, Katie Jacoby (2021); Peace and Social Concerns, Jack Holveck (2020), Patty Wengert (2021); Nominating, Cindy Winchell (2019); Scattergood School, Ann Robinson (2020); Yearly Meeting Reps to Friends Agencies, Iowa Peace Network, Patty Wengert and Quaker Earth Care Witness, Peter Clay.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business closed with a period of silent worship.

Clerk: Jean Sandstrom.

Recording Clerk Pro Tem: Lynne Howard.

Minutes for Eighth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
08/02/ 2018

Present: Andrea Holveck; Pam Blackburn, treasurer; Virginia Smith; Ann Robertson, clerk; Dorothy Lifka; Jack Holveck; Fred Nelson; Claire Cumbie Drake; Jean Sandstrom, co-clerk; Bill Howard; Lynne Howard, recording clerk pro tem; Jan Falb; Carol Spaulding-Kruse; Cindy Winchel; Deborah Fisch; DJ Newlin; Bob Henderson; David Drake; Dick Douglass; Charlie Day.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business began with a period of silent reflection.

The clerk shared these words from *Fred Rogers*, “I believe that appreciation is a holy thing – that when we look for what’s best with the person we happen to be with at the moment, we’re doing what God does all the time. So, in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we are participating in something sacred.”

Treasurer’s Report

Pam Blackburn, treasurer, shared handouts of the balance sheet and expenses for this past month and for the fiscal year to date and then reviewed them with F/friends. She pointed out that we are 8% of the way into the fiscal year which started 07/01/18 and will go through 06/30/2019. Expenditures are at 7% with income at only 1%. This is relatively normal for Seventh Month income. But as noted, by the treasurer, for several months General Fund receipts have been down, causing draw down from the General Fund Reserve. *The General Fund Reserve sits at \$6,143.60*

The treasurer also pointed out that the Budget Committee has not yet met, so we continue using the 2017-2018 budget. The IYM(C) clerk’s annual letter to monthly meetings, which includes approved apportionments for monthly meetings, has not yet arrived. However, IYM(C) representatives present at this business meeting stated that they believe the apportionment for Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting will remain the same as last year. [Editor’s note: According to the 2017 IYM(C) Minute Book, DSMV’s apportionment in 2017 was \$15,500. (p. 96)]

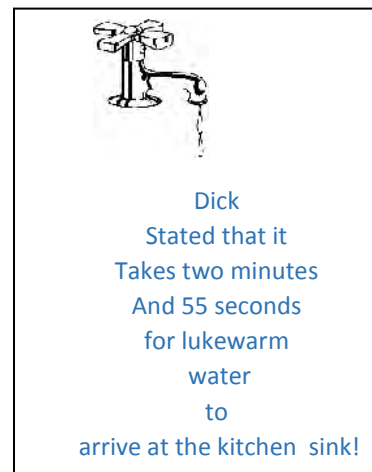
The Finance Ad Hoc Committee, that was approved last month, will be convened by Ann Robinson within this coming month.

Meeting gives approval for the treasurer to borrow \$185.62 from the General Fund Reserve to pay Friends House for our share of the lawn and water bill.

Meeting accepted the report.

Property Management

Claire Cumbie-Drake, our representative from the Buildings and Grounds Committee to Property Management, reported that we have the funds available to address the issues in Building and Grounds Committee.



Building and Grounds Report

Dick Douglass, convener of Building and Ground, gave the report. Building and Grounds Committee (B&GC) is in

the process of getting three or four bids for replacement of the windows in the lobby. The committee is also beginning the assessment needed to address the long-standing concern about the lack of water pressure and hot water in the kitchen. [The treasurer noted that the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) friends made a \$150 donation to assist in repairs and she has begun a line item fund – Kitchen Plumbing Fund. Dick noted that Pella Windows is making a replacement window for a cracked window in the meeting room.

Peace & Social Concerns Report

Bill Howard, co-convener, gave the P&SC Committee report. He said they brainstormed together seeking to identify priorities for P & SC for the next year. The following rose for them:

Continue to support the work of the Iowa Sanctuary Coalition by, among other things, continuing to put pressure on our elected officials to support family, our state, and our country;

- 1) *See how we might work with other groups to bring in speakers to address the need to halt interventions by our military in various parts of the world;*
- 2) *Continue to support the work of members on the issue of climate change.*

P&SC approved a donation of \$25 for the Hiroshima/Nagasaki memorial service; and a donation of \$100 to Creative Visions (P&SC has a separate budget for such purposes.);

The committee will continue to consider what to do with part of the \$200 in the Conscientious Objection Fund.

Library Committee Report

Virginia Smith, co-convener of the Library Committee reported they have added *The Gathered Meeting*, a Pendle Hill pamphlet, to the meeting's library.

Child Care & Religious Ed Report

Cindy Winchell, convener, reported we are still in need of two more First Day School teachers for the start of First Day School in September.

History and Records Report

Lynne Howard reported on behalf of the committee. She continues to update *The Friendly Lines* and organize information which is brought in by committee as ongoing.

Ministry & Counsel (M&C) Report

A written report (which follows) was submitted by Peter Clay and Dorothy Lifka, co-convener of M&C.

We gathered at the appointed time on First Day, 08/05/2018 to consider the spiritual health of our meeting and the needs of the individuals in our community, opening with several minutes of Silence.

Staying in touch with Friends who live far away – We reviewed how best to keep up with Friends who need extra support from the meeting and how best to match resources with needs.

Request for support committee – The Committee received a request for a support committee and M&C will be following up on this.

Thank you letter – We will confirm that a thank you letter for the benches donated by WILPF in Sherry Hutchison's honor was sent.

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) – The AVP Support Committee met last month. There was no further report at this time.

Announcements at the end of Meeting – We (members of M&C) discussed how to better manage the time. It was decided to remind people to be as brief as possible with their announcements, as well as with their joys and concerns. In addition, we will ask people to place information with more details about upcoming events on the piano bench.

Outreach for our meeting – It is difficult as we watch our young people grow and leave us. What new ways could we consider to be more inviting to families with young children? We closed with some minutes of silent worship.

Hospitality Committee Report

Lynne Howard, co-convenor reported that Friendly Eights are scheduled at three host sites. There was a smaller turnout for the events due to low summer attendance to meeting.

On Ninth Month, 30 the Hospitality Committee will host a Talent Show/Show and Tell Second Hour!

Old Business

Lynne Howard and Jean Sandstrom presented Old Business.

Ad-Hoc Records Committee

The Ad-Hoc Records Committee met and discussed several important issues including:

1) Safety Deposit Box – What is in the *Safety Deposit Box*? – Who has access? How do we add or change names for access? Is it possible to secure a larger box for more documents such as originals of historical/legal papers?

2) Separating historical documents –We want to review the historical documents those specific to DMVF and those specific to IYM and the wider Quaker community.

3) Accumulating legal documents and securing them for the future – Claire Cumbie Drake volunteered to do the work necessary for the meeting's articles of incorporation I to be reinstated in the Secretary of State's office. Those documents will be reviewed by M&C, and then be brought to the next business meeting with a recommendation concerning their approval. . keep up with ongoing necessary record keeping – such as *The Friendly Line*, scrapbook type items and Meeting photo albums.

Pendle Hill Clerking Workshop

Friends Jean Sandstrom, Ann Robinson and Dorothy Lifka have expressed interest in attending a Pendle Hill clerking workshop.

Meeting approves the expenditure of registration fees and airfare for Jean Sandstrom to attend (possibly) this coming November's workshop.

Jean will look into the possibility of getting some financial aid provided by Pendle Hill and/or IYM(C) for such enrichment, and report back to Ministry and Counsel. Dorothy and Ann will look into attending future clerking workshops.

Closing Worship

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business closed with a period of silent worship.

Jean Sandstrom co-clerk
Lynne Howard recording clerk pro tem

Laughter and Tenderness in the Fall Talent/Show & Tell Show

Second Hour on 09/07 Hospitality Committee hosted the Fall Talent/Show & Tell Show. Billed that way by Hospitality Committee, their hope was the name would encourage more to share. It was a nice way to broaden the meeting's definition of talent. As the afternoon progressed it became more and more clear that all of us have some "talent." According to Google, talent is "a natural aptitude or skill." It doesn't confine it to music, art, acting, etc. Of course what we do with our talents, whether we practice them and get better or keep them to ourselves, that is our part in receiving the gift. The Friends brave enough to share Second Hour may have inspired more of us to be willing to participate next year, or take up something we've always loved but for whatever reason

never tried, whether it is break dancing, playing a musical instrument, reading a Dr. Suess book, or talking about your favorite topic in the world (corn), hopefully some are encouraged to start now for the next DSM Valley Talent & Show & Tell Show. Someone might even be brave enough to enter the IYM(C) Family Night Talent Show. Sharing with each other in this way helps members and attenders get to know more of each other than can be learned by simply worshipping together. And that is a part of growing the Beloved Community.



**Cindy Winchell shares a story
of missed connections**



**Anne Robinson shares her grandmother's
braille book**



Des Moines Valley singers share favorite songs

Down the Line

Meeting Hosts

October 21-28 Henderson/Reynolds

November 4-11 Howards

November 18-25 Johnson/Munro

Child Care

Adult volunteers will provide child care during

Meeting for Worship and second hours.

Children are always welcome to attend meeting!

October 21 Bob Henderson/Patty Reynolds

October 28 Andrea Holveck/Charlie Brown

November 4 Bill & Lynne Howard

November 11 Jim & Catherine Dietz-Kilen

November 18 Fred Nelson/Virginia Smith

November 25 Dorothy Lifka/Cindy Winchell

Meeting for Worship First Day, 10 a.m.

Meeting for Query First First Day of each month,
11:30 a.m.

Meeting for Worship/Business Second First Day of
each month, 11:30 a.m.

Meeting for Music Third First day of each month, 9:15
a.m.

Hospitality Committee

If we are running low on kitchen or bathroom supplies
or you see a housekeeping problem that needs
attention, please contact the Hospitality Committee
member on duty or Charlie Brown at 689-6470.

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Fourth First Day Second Hours

Contact person in parentheses.

Oct 28 Ed Fallon from Bold Iowa will discuss his recent
Climate March across the state (Carol)

Nov 4 Alternatives to Violence Project (Andrea
Holveck)

Nov 25 Query discussion (switched from Nov 4)

Building & Grounds Concerns

Any questions about the building or grounds of the
Meeting House can be direct to committee convener
Dick Douglass at 864-1119

I expect to pass through this world but
once. Any good, therefore, that I can do
or any kindness I can show to any
fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me
not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass
this way again. - Stephen Grellet

Deadline for November Friendly Line is October 8th.
Send info to dsfquaker@gmail.com (please include
FRIENDLY LINE in the subject line) or give to Deborah or
Katie. Please include FRIENDLY LINE in the subject line.

The Friendly Line
Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting
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Des Moines, Iowa 50312