

JULY 2020

FRIENDLY LINE



Ad Hoc Committee on Health/Safety and Transition

Date: May 22, 2020.

Present: Dorothy Lifka, David Drake, Andrea Holveck, and Deborah Fisch.

The committee was in unity that DMVF should not resume in-person worship at this time. We were also in unity that a second hour to discuss re-opening DMVFs for indoor, in-person worship would not be helpful at this time. The committee will meet again at the end of June.

We also suggest that the cleaning company be paid in full even though we're not present in person at this time with cleaning taking place monthly rather than weekly. Andrea will contact Clean Des Moines. We began to consider a list of possible actions, based on suggestions from our insurance company, Guide One. We are interested in feedback from others. Please send comments to Dorothy Lifka at: dmlifka@yahoo.com.

1. Form a Reopening Team

The four of us are willing to become the Reopening Team and invite any others who wish to join this committee.

2. Review guidelines from governmental agencies such as the CDCP and state and local health departments. We identified the following documents that might be helpful:

1. The longer re-opening guidelines document from the CDCP

2. State and county guidelines

3. Consultation with other Quaker meetings in Iowa

4. Consultation with other faith communities in the Des Moines area

We would appreciate others' help in reaching out to these groups or reading and summarizing guidelines from various governmental entities.

5. Gather feedback from members and attenders about their willingness and interest in attending in-person services

Please contact one of the committee members with your thoughts on this question.

Discuss which DMVF's activities might begin to meet in person

Outdoor meeting for worship

Possible meeting times at DMVF meeting house outside could include other times on Sunday (we don't want to conflict with the 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. meeting for worship) and Wednesday evening.

We suggest the following guidelines:

1. A designated host who would be responsible for unlocking and locking the meeting house (in case someone needs to use the rest room) and ensuring that sanitation and safety guidelines are followed.

This could be handled like our traditional hosting with people taking turns as host.

2. Bring your own chair

3. Practice social distancing guidelines

4. Wear a mask

5. Sanitize after any indoor use (with materials located right inside the meeting house door)

Discuss use of the meeting house by other groups

42nd Street Reconstruction Limits Access to DMVF Meeting House Beginning July 6

The City of Des Moines has provided notice to the Meeting that the 42nd Street reconstruction project will extend south, affecting Ingersoll Avenue to Grand Avenue, beginning Monday, July 6. A full street closure for asphalt and paving is anticipated to last 14-days (or longer, depending on the weather). During that time, 42nd Street will be closed to all traffic and access to the driveway will be limited. Please find alternative parking on adjoining city streets. For questions, contact the contractor: Grimes Asphalt and Paving, 515-266-5173.

YEARLY MEETING

July 24, Friday, thru Sunday Lunch, July 26, 2020

Go to <https://www.iymc.org/> for more information or to register.

We recommend that the meeting house not be open to outside groups until DMVF agrees to resume in-person worship. We would expect outside groups to follow any guidelines we ourselves were following.

Talk about what to do about First Day School and other children's activities

We recommend continuing with First Day School and other children's activities on zoom through the summer.

Consider how to continue providing online opportunities even once in-person worship is available

We recommend exploring how to continue virtual worship even after we resume in-person worship.

Questions to be addressed at our next meeting in June:

1. Think about how to handle weddings, funerals and other special events
2. Develop a safety plan to address:
 - a. Social distancing requirements
 - b. The need for personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves and the availability of hand sanitizer at entrances and other key places
 - c. Whether there is a need to conduct health screenings for those entering the meeting house
 - d. How to replace physical contact with contactless options
 - e. Cleaning and disinfecting the meeting house including frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, railings and light switches
 - f. Possible increased risk of violence due to higher levels of stress in the community

DES MOINES VALLEY FRIENDS STATE OF THE MEETING 2020

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting has taken on even deeper meaning as our spiritual home this year as we face a pandemic, racial

injustice, deaths, and declining health among some of our members and attenders. At the same time, we enjoy the blessing of families with young children joining us as we strive for greater understanding of our grounding as Friends.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been having worship and other activities on Zoom. Overall, we are pleased with the experience. While virtual meetings lack the intimacy of person-to-person exchanges, it has been a pleasant surprise how rich our sharing of joys and concerns after worship has been. Being on Zoom has allowed Friends from a distance to join us. First Day school is also being offered virtually.

Our spiritual grounding has moved the Meeting to minister to those whose health is declining and/or who may be confined to their homes. Members of Ministry and Counsel and others in the meeting have offered help with errands and frequent contact through phone calls, emails, and cards and letters.

This year we mourned deaths of seasoned Friends and the children of Friends. We have offered spiritual and practical support including food and companionship to those who are ill and to the families and friends of those who died. The Meeting felt blessed to be able to provide support and comfort by coordinating memorial services for Friends and members of Meeting families, including the family of a beloved co-clerk.

Members and attenders of DMVF Meeting felt enriched by mid-year meeting. Although different because of the virtual format, the presentations and discussions were thoughtful and enriched our spirits.

Our Peace and Social Concerns committee and other Friends have been active in community and national affairs. Members and attenders have taken part in demonstrations, written newspaper opinion pieces, and worked in other ways to move us toward a society more reflective of our basic Quaker principles.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

June 14, 2020

Clerk: Ann Robinson
Recording Clerk: Dorothy Lifka
Present: Andrea Holveck, Jack Holveck, DJ Newlin, Dick Douglass, Michael Luick-Thrams, Virginia Smith, Pam Blackburn, Jan Falb, Deborah Fisch

Began with a quote from song, Peace Train: (Cat Stevens) followed by a period of silence:

*Now I've been happy lately
Thinking about the good
things to come
And I believe it could be
Something good has begun
Oh, I've been smiling lately
Dreaming about the world
as one
And I believe it could be
Someday it's going to come.
'Cause I'm on the edge of
darkness
There ride the Peace Train
Oh, Peace Train, take this
country
Come take me home again.*

Minutes: The minutes from May 17, 2020 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report (Pam): The treasurer had no formal report due to continuing computer problems which are in the process of being resolved. She thanked Friends for donations and said that it looks as if we will break even for this fiscal year. She will check to make sure everyone has been reimbursed for expenses. She will have the year-end report for the July meeting for business. A concern was raised about contribution checks not being cashed. The treasurer will look into this. Checks should be sent to the Meeting House. Pam and Ann are checking the mail regularly. The donation box should only be used for checks; other mail for the treasurer can be placed in her mailbox on the landing.

Our apportionment to Iowa Yearly Meeting (IYM) -Conservative has been paid.

Finance Committee (Ann): We are in the process of transitioning the meeting's bank account to a new bank.

Library Committee (Virginia): No report.

Ministry & Counsel Committee: Report attached as draft State of the Meeting report to IYM. The report was approved.

Religious Education Committee: First day school and child care have been meeting weekly in different Zoom sessions

Building and Grounds Committee (Dick): All projects are on hold until meeting re-opens and until next year's budget is determined.

Property Management: No report.

Peace & Social Concerns: No report.

Hospitality Committee: No report.

Nominating Committee: The report is almost completed and will be sent out by email before the next meeting for business.

Ad Hoc Committee for Health & Safety (Dorothy): The committee report and related Friends General Conference (FGC) Advice and Queries on reopening are attached. The committee will send out a survey monkey based on the FGC materials and including questions about meeting outdoors.

It was suggested that Friends could gather at Greenwood Park for meeting for worship, preferably not during our regular Sunday worship time.

Friends House Board (Pam): Friends House Board met via Zoom for their Quarterly Board Meeting June 12. The Agenda dealt with how the tenants of Friends House

are dealing with Covid-19 pandemic and the imminent easing of restrictions on businesses and meeting places.

All present expressed concerns about the lack of science-based guidelines (or actually any clear guidance) on how to proceed with safely reopening the business premises to the public. All tenants have taken precautions including using the internet for meetings and restricting in-person office visits. AFSC's work-from-home directive has been extended through August 31st.

The Board affirmed the following recommended practices for Friends House:

Wear masks in common areas, including kitchen, bathrooms, conference room, lobby

continue to wipe down all surfaces we have touched

We remain closed to in-person appointments with very occasional exceptions due to emergency situations.

When those situations do arise, we will try to limit contact or make them no-contact

If Berenice is in the office, we need to consider the location of her desk and what she needs from other tenants in order to feel safe

The situation is constantly changing. Friends House staff and tenants will continue to monitor the situation, review guidance, and adopt practices consistent with assuring the safety of Friends House tenants and the public.

Old Business

1. Mid-Year Meeting -Video recordings were made of each 2020 Midyear Meeting session. Sessions are still available online through June 30, 2020. Click on the following links and enter the password MYM2020! for all sessions.

Saturday, Seventh Day, afternoon: <https://vimeo.com/417234571>

Saturday, Seventh Day, evening: <https://vimeo.com/41725267>

Sunday, First Day, morning: <https://vimeo.com/417217019>

2. Other Old Business: None.

New Business

1. Update on 2020 Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative): It is scheduled for July 24-26 on zoom with a theme of Finding Home in Troubled Times. There will be business and worship sessions. The Entertainment Committee that includes DMV Friends has planned a revised virtual program that includes:

Friday evening collection: worship sharing and connecting the community, lead by Shirley Scritchfield, Penn Valley Friends.

Saturday evening collection: A virtual chance to meet and greet John Zimmerman, new head of school for Scattergood; with introduction to new head of the middle school and the middle school program. Alumni and donors will be invited.

Sunday morning: Pre-Meeting Collection TBA. More information and the procedure for registration will be available soon. DMVF will be responsible for programs next year; it is expected that the programs planned for this year will, in large part, rotate to next year. This includes a John McCutcheon concert.

2. Other New Business: Request to host Buseum from Michael Luick Thrans. Due to concerns expressed, Michael is planning on moving the exhibits to the outside of the bus and will encourage social distancing. Videos and books would be inside the bus. Discussion of Michael's proposal included: concern about hosting a public event during a pandemic, especially with both Friends House and DMVF currently closed, the limited availability of volunteers, and the need to train volunteers in the face of possibly violent responses by others. The sense of the meeting was that this is not the right time to host the

Buseum and that we might consider a date later in the year. Deborah offered to help Michael find an alternate site, possibly at a park. - Hosting for Zoom sessions – Dorothy asked for help. It was suggested that it could be similar to hosting with Friends committing for two weeks at a time to open the meeting and facilitate joys and concerns and announcements. -Cleaning Service: It was agreed that we will pay half our usual monthly rate for half the cleaning frequency at least until we approve a budget for next year. Andrea will contact Clean Des Moines.

We ended with a period of silence.

Meeting Hosts:

SUSPENDED MEETING AT MEETING HOUSE DUE TO CORONA VIRUS

Child Care:

SUSPENDED AT MEETING HOUSE DUE TO CORONA VIRUS.

Find us online at:

www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org

Check out our Facebook group for members/attenders. If you'd like to be added, email Jan Falb, at jfalb0326@yahoo.com

Building & Grounds:

Any question about the building or grounds of the Meeting-house can be directed to Building & Grounds Committee Convener, **Dick Douglass, 515/864-1119.**

Hospitality Committee:

If we are running low on kitchen or bathroom supplies or if you see a housekeeping problem that needs attention, please contact

the Hospitality Committee Co-Conveners, **Cindy Winchell, 515/720-5516 & Charlie Brown, 515/689-6470**

Meeting for Worship, 10 a.m.
Worship by Zoom via email invitation from clerks, in-person meetings temporarily suspended due to corona virus

Meeting for Worship/Business, 11:30 a.m. second First Day each month - currently not being held due to corona virus.

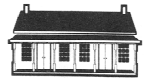
Meeting for Music: Third First Day of each month, 9:15 a.m. - currently not being held due to corona virus.

Friendly Line:

Please send info for next Friendly Line to Ann Robinson and Sandie Nelson no later than July 31, 2020, last Friday of month, at sandiebnelson4416@gmail.com anny@mediacombb.net

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends
(Conservative)

Program for
ANNUAL SESSIONS
144th Annual Session
Seventh Month 24-26, 2020
Virtual Gathering



DRAFT 7-2-20

Finding Hope in Troubled Times

Sixth Day/Friday

8 a.m. Bible Study – Elizabeth O'Sullivan
Friday 9:30-11:30 Meeting for Worship with
Attention to Business
12:00-1:00 Break for Lunch
1:00-4:15 Meeting for Worship With
Attention to Business
4:30-5:30 Time with Friends
Friday 7 p.m. – How Does Your Life Speak?
Small Groups – Shirley Schnittfeld

Seventh Day/Saturday

8 a.m. Bible Study
9:30-11:30 Meeting for Worship with
Attention to Business
12:00-1:00 Break for Lunch
1:00-4:15 Meeting for Worship With
Attention to Business
4:30-5:30 Time with Friends
7 p.m. – Hope for the Future: Getting to
Know Scattergood's New Leadership –
John Zimmerman

First Day/Sunday

9 a.m. – Pre-Meeting: Faith & Action
in Troubled Times – Jose Woss
10:30 Meeting for worship

During this unprecedented year, IYM/C will be
conducted remotely via Zoom to stay connected,
conduct the business of IYM/C and stay inspired,
while keeping our community safe. We hope you
will join us.

PRESENTERS/ DISCUSSION LEADERS

Elizabeth O'Sullivan attends seminary and
raises organic chickens and hogs with her
husband and children near Northfield,
Minnesota. Author of the new Pendle Hill
pamphlet "Building Bridges: Four Stories from
the Bible," she attends Laughing Waters
Preparatory Meeting.

Shirley Schnittfeld retired from academia in
2015, after a 40-year career as a professor
and administrator at five universities. Her
sociology training often proves useful in her
many Quaker service roles, including as clerk
of Penn Valley Meeting in Kansas City.

John Zimmerman joined Scattergood Friends
School as its Head of School, starting July 1,
coming to Iowa from New Jersey where he
worked at Princeton Friends School, both as a
teacher and in administration. There, as director
of admissions and director of events and
auxiliary programs, he developed after-school
activities and summer camps incorporating
Quaker education in creative, place-based
programming.

Jose Santos Woss serves as Legislative
Manager for Criminal Justice and Election
Integrity for the Friends Committee on National
Legislation, leading IYM/C's work on criminal
justice reform, election integrity and policing. He
also helps lead the Interfaith Criminal Justice
Coalition, an alliance of more than 40 national
faith groups advocating to end mass
incarceration. Jose is a member of Friends
Meeting of Washington.