Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting April 2021 FRIENDLY LINE



Query #10 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021

ADVICE:

All of creation is divine and interdependent: air, water, soil, and all that lives and grows. Since human beings are part of this fragile and mysterious web, whenever we pollute or neglect the earth we pollute and neglect our own wellsprings. Developing a keen awareness of our role in the universe is essential if we are to live peacefully within creation.

The way we choose to live each day— as we manufacture, package, purchase and recycle goods, use resources, dispose of water, design homes, plan families and travel — affects the present and future of life on the planet. The thought and effort we give to replenishing what we receive from the earth, to keeping informed and promoting beneficial legislation on issues which affect the earth, to envisioning community with environmental conscience, are ways in which we contribute to the ongoing health of the planet we inhabit.

Preserving the quality of life on Earth calls forth all of our spiritual resources. Listening to and heeding the leadings of the Holy Spirit can help us develop qualities which enable us to become more sensitive to all life.

QUERY:

What are we doing about our disproportionate use of the world's resources?

Do we see unreasonable exploitation in our relationship with the rest of creation? How can we nurture reverence and respect for life? How can we become more fully aware of our interdependent relationship with the rest of creation?

To what extent are we aware of all life and the role we play? What can we do in our own lives and communities to address environmental concerns.

To be discussed on April 7, 2021, Wednesday, at 6:30 pm led by Claire Cumbie Drake.

CONFRONTING ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE FROM AFSC

Confronting anti-Asian violence
Anti-Asian attacks and
harassment are once again on the
rise, ranging from xenophobic
rhetoric to several cases of
physical violence. Mary Zerkel of
Chicago recently joined AFSC
colleagues Joan Marshall-Missiye
and Joelle Lingat for a
conversation about what has been
fueling the uptick in racist hate
and what we can do to intervene.
Click for updates on
peacebuilding work in Chicago,
and register for our April 8
webinar on Policing and
Surveillance.

https://www.afsc.org/story/midwest-digest-april-2021?
ms=EMA21EM0403MW&emci=a3718c9c-9a8d-eb11-85aa-00155d43c992&emdi=a989d483-7c94-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&ceid=897901

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

03/14/2021

Present: Dorothy Lifka, clerk; Deborah Fisch, recording clerk; Ann Robinson; Katie Jacoby; Kelsea Gillespie; Claire Cumbie Drake; David Drake; Dick Douglass; Catherine Dietz-Kilen; Jim Dietz-Kilen; Cindy Winchell; Charlie Brown; DJ Newlin; Jack Holveck; Andrea Holveck; Bob Henderson; Peter Clay; Carol Spaulding-Kruse; Virginia Smith; Jan Falb; Billie Wade; Fred Nelson

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business opened near the appointed hour. The clerk shared the following quote from Rufus Jones before inviting F/friends to join her in a period of waiting worship.

I pin my hopes to quiet processes and small circles in which vital and transforming events take place.

Review of 02/14/2021

Minutes - The minutes of the 02/14/2021 meeting for worship with attention to business, printed in the March 2021 Friendly Line, were reviewed. No additions or corrections were given. The clerk suggested that if Friends had not yet read the minutes, they could email the recording clerk any suggested corrections within the next week. If there are major changes requested, they will be reported at the next business meeting and reported in the next Friendly Line. Minor changes will not be reported but will be corrected before a final copy is placed in the notebook holding the approved minutes for DSM Valley Friends Meeting.

03.21.01 Minutes of 02/14/2021 were reviewed and approved. If, however, upon further perusal Friends find any

needed corrections, they should be sent to the recording clerk within the next week. Minutes will be corrected if needed and put into the notebook that holds approved minutes for DSM Valley Friends Meeting. Any substantial corrections will be reported at the next meeting for worship with attention to business and appear in that month's *Friendly Line*.

Summary of Interim
Treasurer's Report (Kelsea

Gillespie, interim treasurer) –
The treasurer's report was included within the Finance Committee's written report, and presented by Catherine Dietz-Kilen. The recording clerk was asked to provide a summary of that report.

At the end of March, we will be 75% of the way through the fiscal year. Des Moines Valley Meeting's share/apportionment to help cover the IYMC budget is due at the end of June. Kelsea reported that we have currently paid over \$4,800 of IYMC apportionment of \$14,500, and will send a check to bring us up to date at the end of the month.

Catherine presented a financial report through January 2021. Items in the report and additional financial details that were reviewed by the Finance Committee included:

- There is no longer a "fake" bank account, which was a concern in the financial review. The account had a logical purpose and is now identified as a "clearing" account.
- This year, we did not budget money for Property
 Management, but agreed we will need to put money back into the budget line next fiscal year. This year \$4,155 in donations have been made to the Property
 Management Fund.
- Friends House prefers to have payments made

quarterly (at this time). We will be up to date on money owed to Friends House when we make this quarterly payment at the end of February.

We are tracking closely to where we should be at this time in the fiscal year. Some of the exceptions included:

- Under Insurance, rates have gone up a little. Finance Committee recently received information that indicated that there is no need increase the budget for this at the current time.
- Under Hospitality, the cost for cleaning service/ housekeeping is increased to \$1,350 for two cleanings/ month, as approved at last business meeting. With \$150 for supplies, this brings the line item to \$1,500.
- Donations for use of the meetinghouse are 163% of what was expected. The committee expressed appreciation to those who have been generous, despite reduced use of the facility.
- The FC plans to renew Friends Journal subscription and ask for its ad to continue as well. The cost for the subscription and the ad may go up, but FC doesn't have final numbers yet. It may be that increased subscription and/or ad rates will be able to be covered from the budgeted amount + Library Committee designated funds. Ann Robinson will get back in touch with FJ to check on billing.

03.21.02 – The Treasurer's report, embedded within this month 's Finance Committee Report, was approved at the same time as the rest of that report. The recording clerk was asked to provide a summary of the Treasurer's report which

appears above. The summary is taken almost completely from the Finance Committee's Report labeled, *January Financials*, and was prepared by the interim treasurer. Meeting approves with great appreciation all the work that has gone into bringing the books and records up to date through January 2021.

January 2021 Financial Report Summary	
Progress through the Fiscal Year:	58%
Percent of Budgeted Income Received:	77%
Percent of Anticipated Expenses Accrued:	54%

Finance Committee met

02/24/2021 – Those attending
included: Catherine Dietz-Kilen,
convener; Kelsea Gillespie,
DMVF interim treasurer; Cindy
Winchell, DMVF assistant
treasurer; Dick Douglass; Ann
Robinson.

Catherine and the committee expressed great appreciation for extensive work by Kelsea with help from Cindy Winchell and Pam Blackburn to transition management of DMV Friends' bank accounts and record-keeping, and the work that they all have done to bring accounts, deposits, and bill payments up to date.

January Financials and **Budget Review** - Kelsea presented a draft financial report through January 2021 and credited Cindy and Pam for their great help. She read a statement of appreciation she drafted to acknowledge Pam Blackburn's long service as DMVF's treasurer, which the committee strongly supported as a preamble to this month's Financial Committee Report. [Note – A summary of the financials originally appearing here now appear in the Treasurer's Report portion of these minutes.1

<u>Questions</u> – The following questions remain for the committee to consider and make recommendations to Meeting at a future time:

- Will the treasurer's expense change? Now paying Pam the same to use her QuickBooks account. Not urgent to make a change.
- Friends House transition?
 Probably won't know what changes will mean for the budget until next FY. If changes come sooner, we will have to adjust at that time.

Status of Bank Accounts and Signatories –

- Still have accounts at two banks but will close EdCo/ Financial Plus accounts as soon as Kelsea feels like she is up to speed and has all automatic bill payments switched to EBank.
- Cindy and Kelsea are now signatories on EBank account, and Catherine can access accounts to review, which brings us close to addressing financial review's recommendation for three-party review.
- Catherine will touch base with Pam regarding key to the lockbox and contents. May or may not need a lockbox in the future.

Next steps -

- Agreed that we should put money not needed for this year's budget in longer-term savings to get at least small amount of interest.
- Ask each committee what they would like to see as their line item for next year.
 Ann Robinson has message she sent to committees last year that she will share with Catherine.
- Send items for Finance
 Committee's working list to
 Catherine to prioritize at next month's meeting.
- Ann will put blurb on how to donate to DMVF in Friendly Line, using language from Pam Blackburn in the past.

<u>03.21.03</u> – We listened with interest to the report of the

Finance Committee. We are pleased with all the work being done by Kelsea and the Finance Committee.

Meeting approves giving the FC the authority to allocate up to \$500 for technology needs without further approval from the business meeting. The Meeting clerk will send a copy of the approved minute of appreciation to Pam Blackburn.

Ministry & Counsel Committee

Report (Gordon Bivens, convenor) M&C continues to meet the first Sunday of the month from 8:30 to just before 10. The committee continues to work with members of the Finance Committee as requested, as well as the Transition Committee.

03.21.04 – Meeting heard the report given by members of the Meeting's Ministry & Counsel Committee. We are glad that M&C is being able to give assistance to the Transition Committee as they plan for the time when AFSC vacates its offices in Friends House and with the Finance Committee as they continue to grow into their work as a new committee.

Peace & Social Concerns

Committee Report - The following report was not received in time be read at the business session, but it was agreed that the report would be included in the minutes if received within a few days of the business meeting. Peter Clay assisted by other P&SC Committee members shared that the committee had drafted a proposed letter to be sent to the Iowa Legislative Judiciary Committees and for possible inclusion on the Des Moines Register op ed page. The letter is returned to committee for further proof reading and then to the DMV Meeting clerk, Dorothy

Lifka, for proofing before being sent out over her signature on behalf of Meeting. Peter will also be preparing a draft letter recognizing the importance of the transition of AFSC & JFON and our support for the new organization they have created, Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice Group, along with the \$100 donation to the new organization. He will include our hope to collaborate with them in the future.

P& SC Committee Report

(Patty Wengert, convenor) - A Zoom meeting of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee was held on March 2nd. In attendance were: Patty Wengert (convenor), David Drake, Peter Clay, Jack Holveck. Kelsie Gillespie, interim treasurer, also joined the meeting.

The committee approved the revisions of a proposed letter to the Iowa Legislature Judiciary Committees in the Iowa House and the Iowa Senate, stating Meeting's opposition to reinstating the death penalty in Iowa. We also approved proposing that the Meeting clerk submit it as a possible op ed letter to the Des Moines Register. As Meeting clerk, Dorothy Lifka should be the contact person for Meeting.

The interim treasurer cleared up two donations that had been reported but never delivered to the agencies last fiscal year, to Central Iowa Shelter and Services and to the Sanctuary Group. Those funds have already been deducted from the Meeting's budget. We believe the Sanctuary donation is sent to the Unitarian Church, but Patty will check on that address with Andrea Holveck, Meeting's representative to that board.

Also. Kelsie will send the \$200.00 to the Sanctuary Group which our committee requested back in November 2020. P&SC Committee also approved donations to DMARC; both the Diaper Fund and their general fund, \$100.00 each. We also approved a \$100.00 donation to Creative Visions back at our September 2020 meeting.

The committee approved one additional donation of \$100.00 be made to the new Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice Group. The convenor will get the address for this group.

03.21.05 - We do not take it for granted that lowa will always oppose the death penalty and we appreciate Peace & Social Concerns Committee members being on top of what is being proposed in the Iowa Legislator, notifying the Meeting, and recommending what appropriate actions might be taken by Meeting. We also minute our appreciation for our long-time relationship with the American Friends Service Committee and are sad to see them leaving Friends House. We approve the drafting of the letter by Peter Clay to the Iowa Legislature Judiciary Committees concerning the move to reinstate the death penalty in Iowa and a draft letter to AFSC recognizing the importance of the transition of AFSC and XXXX into IMMJG, for editing by the clerk before sending over her signature along with a \$100 donation to Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice Group.

Transition Committee Report

(Claire Cumbie-Drake, coconvenor) - Friends House, Inc. has hired Dan Schott as the parttime property manager for Friends House. He is working alongside Jon Krieg for the month of March so that Jon can fully orient him. Dan is currently

the part-time administrative assistant for the Center for Social Ministry, which is a Friends House tenant.

By the end of March internet access for Friends House will be fully upgraded. This includes an access point for the Meeting. There will be a monthly fee for the internet access, which is not yet determined. Thank you to Bob Henderson and Cole Fuller for coordinating this work.

The Transition Committee continues to labor with revising the By-Laws for Friends House, Inc. as well as completing other tasks involved with becoming ready to sign contracts with potential office renters.

03.21.06 - Friends appreciate the careful and sometimes difficult work being done by our representatives and all those serving on the Transition Committee on behalf of Friends Board, especially work being done on revising the organizational bylaws. If the Transition Committee is not able to reach unity concerning by-law revisions and has other work to complete, we suggest Friends House Board approve the current FHB and Transition Committee continue (with perhaps new representatives to fill places vacated by AFSC) until the time that a new set of organizational by-laws are agreed upon by the Transition Committee and a final recommendation report can be presented to Friends House Board for consideration. We are sad that AFSC is leaving Friends House and at the same time, we state our support for the newly formed Migrant Movement for Justice Group and will welcome new tenants to Friends House whenever they join us. We approved the Transition Committee Report with thanks. Friends House Board Meeting (Fred Nelson, Meeting

representative) – The quarterly meeting of the Friends House

Board was held March 12, 2021 at 10 AM via Zoom.

With the departure of AFSC from Friends House and the change of internet service there is a \$20 increase of rent/cost per tenant.

With the departure of the **AFSC Immigrant Rights** Program, Jody Mashek discussed plans to make clear the relocation of their program to past, current, & future clients as well as aiding Friends House tenants with the redirection of walk-in clients.

The Transition Committee requested the two current AFSC Board members be replaced with two temporary Board members as the transition issues continue to be worked out.

Finally, updating property signs in the future to reflect changes of tenants was discussed.

03.21.07 – We appreciate the work being done by Meeting representatives to the Friends House Board, especially at this time of significant changes do to the departure of AFSC from Friends House and all the needed changes that go with their departure.

Reopening Committee Report (Dorothy Lifka, convenor) - The reopening committee recommends a trial of in-person worship with the following precautions:

- A limit on the number of individuals or households who can attend, with the number depending on how many can be seated six feet from one another.
- A requirement that everyone attending sign in (so that people can be notified in the unlikely possibility that someone in attendance at Meeting comes down with COVID within the prescribed number of days while being contagious.)

 A requirement that everyone present wear a protective

- · Chairs in the meetinghouse will be set up in household groupings at least 6 feet apart.
- · A named host will sanitize after meeting and will ensure that attenders are following the above quidelines.
- · Any visitors to the meetinghouse will be expected to comply with all of these quidelines.

For now, the Zoom meeting will be considered the primary site for worship and those present in the Meetinghouse will be part of the Zoom meeting.

Deborah Fisch has agreed to ask Katie Jacoby if she can provide laminated signs with larger print, to help move the furniture, and to research an air purifier.

We will need additional supplies for sanitizing as well as a supply of disposable masks.

03.21.08 - Friends approve beginning to hold trial, in-person meeting for worship in the meetinghouse on First Day mornings from 10 to 11 AM beginning immediately. All quidelines in the report are approved and will be expected to be followed.

New Business

Offer of New Oven, Dishwasher, and Microwave to Meeting - Charlie Brown and Susan Myers have a new oven, dishwasher and microwave which they would like to donate to the meeting house kitchen. Charlie believes he has someone lined up to install the appliances for Meeting at no cost.

03.21.09 – Friends approve the generous donation of a new electric range, dishwasher, and microwave for the meetinghouse kitchen with many thanks. Charlie is asked to let Peter Clay know the date for installation once it is set so he can inform Edna Griffin. We now look even more forward to the time we are able to safely return to sharing soup meals and potlucks!

03.21.10—The clerk let Michael know that we will take up this request at a future meeting, after we have had an opportunity to see how holding meeting for worship at the meetinghouse once again goes. It was also pointed out that the Friends House Board would need to be consulted concerning use of the driveway. Friends were encouraged to read Michael's report so it can be considered at a meeting in the near future. No action was taken at this time.

By-laws of the Meeting (Claire Cumbie-Drake) - Claire reviewed the proposed revised by-laws she has drafted that were sent out prior to the business meeting. The law requires that officers be named for the non-profit. The treasurer asked whether or not the treasurer is considered an officer. A concern was raised about the right balance of the autonomy of the treasurer of Meeting. The proposed by-laws will be amended to include both the treasurer (as it has been in the past) and the clerk of the Finance Committee as officers of the Meeting. The by-laws will need to be signed. Claire will look up who needs to sign on behalf of the Meeting.

By-laws of Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting Article I Name, Background

Information, and Intention

§1. Name: The name of this corporation is Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting.

§2. Background Information and Location: Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting was first incorporated in 1954 and has been in continuous

existence as a religious body since that time. Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting is a monthly meeting within the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends.

Article II Purpose

The purpose of Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting is:
a. The practice of religion in the manner of the Religious Society of Friends; and
b. The continuation of the principles, practices and organization of Des Moines Valley Friends as they now exist and as they may evolve in the future.

Article III Membership

The membership of Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting shall consist of all those who have been approved as members of the Des Moines Valley Friends monthly meeting for business. The members shall meet at least monthly in a Meeting for Worship with attention to business to conduct the business of the monthly meeting. Attenders are also invited to fully participate in the Monthly Meeting for Worship with attention to business.

Article IV Governance, Officers, and Committees

§1. Governance. The Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting shall be governed according to the principals and practices of the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) as they now exist, and as they many evolve in the future. Decisions shall be made on the basis of a "sense of the Meeting", which has the outward appearance of a consensus model, but is rooted more deeply in spiritual discernment of the way forward. §2. Officers. The officers of Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting shall be a Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, Clerk of the Finance Committee, and such other Clerks as the Monthly

Meeting for Business may select and approve as officers. §3. Committees. Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting may appoint committees to carry on it's work. The duties and responsibilities of each committee shall be prescribed by the monthly meeting.

Article V Amendments

The membership of Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting may alter or amend these Bylaws, except as limited by law or by the Articles of Incorporation. at any time, provided that written notice of the substance of the proposed action and of the Meeting for Business at which the action may be taken shall be given to the members of the Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting at least 60 days in advance of the meeting. Approved this day

2021, by the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting. Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting By:

03.21.11 - Friends approve the proposed revised by-laws prepared by Claire-Cumbie Drake with the addition of the treasurer as one of the named officers of the Meeting. Claire will find out who needs to sign the By-laws and make sure they get to them for their signatures. A copy of the signed by-laws will be filed as needed and another will be put in the Meeting's safety deposit box. Meeting minutes its appreciation to Claire Cumbie-Drake for all the work she has done on behalf of Meeting to update and file the by-law.

Announcements

Midyear Meeting of IYM(C) -

Midyear Meeting of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) will be held via Zoom again this year. Vanessa Julye, of Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting in

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, will be guest presenter. Vanessa is a coordinator for Nurturing Ministries Program of Friends General Conference, focusing on the Racism and Youth Ministries Programs. As such she has helped develop workshops, retreats, and materials to help Friends become better informed about the continuing systemic racism within the Religious Society of Friends, how it affects both Friends of Color and white Friends, but in quite different ways. She is the co-author of the book Fit for Freedom Not for Friendship, an in-depth look at the history of Friends in the United States from early colonial times when Friends not only owned slaves but were also heavily involved in shipping of captured people from Africa to the United States where they were sold into slavery, to the present day where systematic racism makes it particularly challenging for Friends of Color. The first session begins the morning of 3/27/21 and ends after meeting for worship on First Day morning, 3/28. Vanessa provides a long list of resources for both children and adults and suggests specific ones to read in preparation for Midyear. For more information and to register for Midyear Meeting go to the IYMC website at www.IYMC.org

Advice & Query Discussion for April – Ann Robinson will facilitate consideration of Query # 10 Environmental Responsibility on Wednesday, 04/07/21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. A Zoom invitation will

There being no further business, the clerk closed the meeting after a period of waiting worship.

be sent out prior to the meeting.

Proposal for BUS-eum to
Use Friends House Parking
Lot For Meeting

Consideration at Next Business Meeting

Thirteen months ago volunteers and I (Micheal LuickThrams) fully prepared our newest BUS-eum to traverse the American Heartland with five sub-stories which interested us. Now, after a year's plague-induced hiatus, those themes are not only compelling, but even more relevant to the historical moment in which we live. Thus, we are plotting how to finally get back on the road with a cultural program of pressing importance to us all.

When? Interns (including from France, England, Germany, USA or Repub. of Georgia) and I would like to arrive at the meetinghouse parking lot on late Thursday afternoon, 07/01/2021, to begin setting up for the BUS-eum opening to the public by noon Friday and showing it through Sunday evening, 07/04/2021. (We would plan to leave the parking lot on Monday morning.)

How? We have re-mounted the panels on the OUTSIDE of the bus, plus spaced them in groupings per themes over three sides of its 90-foot exterior. Masks will be required inside and encouraged for outside. We will have disinfectant available at all time, plus requiring spacing between and limiting number of visitors at a given time.

Why? Well, because without our knowing it, when we wove together the overall narrative, the dovetailing topics have much of value and singular relevance to topics currently again facing our nation. They are:

- —WWI's anti-German hysteria mirrors much of the antiimmigrant angst felt by many at present.
- —The 1918-19 global influenza pandemic took millions of lives, with close parallels to the current Corona virus.

- —Today's racial tensions have roots in the "Second Wave" of the KKK of the 1920s; this exhibit tells how.
- —Bootlegging in the Prohibition Era foreshadowed the illicit drug use still facing us today.
- —The media had it wrong last January, the "last storming" of US Capitol wasn't 1812, but rather 1932.

Where? We plan to tour Wisconsin in July, Minnesota in August and Iowa in September, showing anywhere hosts (institutional, planned in advance, or individual, "planned" only days, even hours in advance, where we can park the BUS on level ground, with normal-wattage electrical connections nearby & amp and space to spread.

Who? We would welcome any volunteers from the Meeting or wider community, yet we would form the core crew. For further details, please contact me at –

MichaelLuickThrams@gm ail.com or Kristine at 515.450.1548.

News of our Friends

Charlie Day passed on March 12, 2021. For a complete obituary please click on following. https://www.ilesfuneralhomes.com/obituary/Charlie-Day/_/ 1886052





Adeline Gillespie with American Dolls gifted to her by Claire Cumbie- Drake. Photo provided by Claire Cumbie-Drake.

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: <u>www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org</u>

Check out our Facebook group for members/attenders. If you'd like to be added, email Jan Falb, at ifalb0326@yahoo.com

Building & Grounds:

Any question about the building or grounds of the Meeting-house can be directed to Building & Grounds Committee Convener, Charlie Brown, 515/689-6470.

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 clerk, or outside the meeting house (weather permitting) - in-person meetings in meeting house temporarily suspended due to corona virus

Meeting for Worship with attention to Business, 1:00 to 2:00 pm. second First Day each month - currently on zoom due to corona virus.

Friendly Line:

Please send info for next Friendly Line to Ann Robinson no later than April 30, 2021, the last Friday of month, at anny@mediacombb.net