

# Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

## FRIENDLY LINE

### October 2022



### Golden Rule



*Sails Again for a  
Nuclear-Free World!*

### Presentation on the Golden Rule, October 12

The public is invited to a presentation on “Sailing for a Nuclear-free World and a Peaceful, Sustainable future.” Wed., Oct. 12, 7 p.m., at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave., Des Moines

The Golden Rule, a project of Veterans for Peace (VFP), has a proud history and now VFP is bringing it back into service.

In 1958 Quakers sailed the Golden Rule to the Marshall Islands to demand the U.S. stop nuclear weapons testing on the islands. Today VFP is sailing to build public support for the abolition of nuclear weapons. VFP will highlight the growing threats and will offer tools to help us mobilize.

The event is sponsored by Catholic Peace Ministry, Iowa Peace Network, and 13 co-sponsors, including Des Moines Valley Friends.

The Golden Rule is sailing the waters of the US to build support for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In October they are sailing down the Mississippi River and stopping at river cities along the way. The crew is traveling in-land on Oct. 11 and 12 to carry their message to Central Iowa. They will address the current threats and what we can do to minimize those risks, including:

- US Ratification of the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW);
- Commitment to No First Strike;
- Taking weapons off “hair-trigger” alert; and
- Transferring the nuclear weapons cost into human needs.

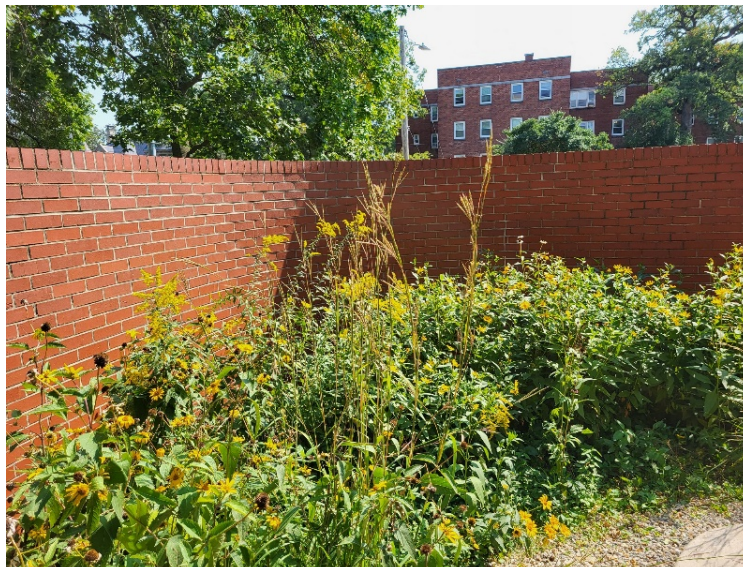
For more information about the VFP Golden Rule Project:  
<http://www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org/>

### A Quaker Minute: Quaker Manners – If Your Thought Has Been Addressed, Do Not Repeat What Has Been Said

Trust that those present have been listening attentively and are carefully contemplating what has been said. Advocacy and debate will not further this internal reflection.

In 21st Century American society, we are familiar with decision making by Majority Rule. As deliberating Friends, we step away from “reading” the room and judging which ideas have the most support. In the stillness, we each seek the wisdom and guidance of our inner voice.

*-- One in a series on Quaker history and practice, contributed by Pam Blackburn*



Fall prairie garden – view from the Meeting House.  
Photo by Fred Nelson.

**DMVF Meeting for  
Worship with Attention to  
Business  
September 11, 2022**

**Clerk:** Carol Spaulding-Kruse  
**Recording Clerk, pro tem:** Fred Nelson

**Attending:** Charlie Brown,  
Peter Clay, Dick Douglass,  
Andrea Holveck, Jack Holveck,  
Dorothy Lifka, Susan Myers,  
D.J. Newlin, Billie Wade and  
Brock Wommack.

Meeting opened with silence.

**August minutes:** *Approved* with a note for need to correct error with misuse of the word principals in several places. The word should be principles (Quaker principles) in section 2.1 of amended section of Friends House bylaws for review and in the discussion of the section in the minutes.

**Announcement:** International Day of Peace event on Wednesday, September 21, at 6:30 pm at the Peace Garden at Cowles Commons, downtown Des Moines. This year's theme is "End Racism - Bring Peace". DMV Friends is co-sponsor of event.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Building & Grounds**

**Committee (Dick Douglass):** Full written report online. The replacement of the thermal expansion valve in our geothermal system was completed on Sept. 9 by Holt Plumbing for cost of \$3,004.14. Thanks to Kelsea for having the check to Holt Plumbing well in advance of the service date. It was noted that the Friendly Line

needs to update listing of B&G convenor to Dick Douglass.

**Minute** - Meeting is grateful to Dick and the B & G committee for follow up on the repair of heating and cooling system.

**Treasurer's Report (Kelsea Gillespie):** For review online. There was discussion concerning the amount of funds available to Peace and Social Concerns for the new accounting year.

**Minute** - Clerk to check with Kelsea for clarification of funds available to P&SC.

Following meeting, Carol contacted Kelsea. The clarification is that there is a carryover in the designated fund for P&SC from the prior year. At the end of July, it was \$1,233.00. This amount minus a recent \$50 donation made by P&SC leaves \$1183 in designated account plus the \$1000 amount budgeted for the new accounting year. This means that P&SC currently has \$2,183 available for their use.

**Hospitality:** Did not meet and no report. It was noted that Andrea Holveck is current convenor for Hospitality Committee. There was a brief discussion of possible merging of Hospitality and Outreach Committees as well as the possibility of a 5th week get-together event for the Meeting to be considered by Hospitality Committee.

**Library:** No report. Virginia Smith has advised the Meeting of her final year as convenor for the Library Committee. The Clerk encouraged lookout for someone interested in being future convenor.

**Ministry & Counsel (Jim Dietz-Kilen):** Full written report online from Sept. 4 meeting. Review of issues discussed: Brock Wommack requested an additional insert to upcoming Friendly Line to share his experiences with Parkinson's. M&C suggested Brock write a short note for the Friendly Line section "News From Our Friends" that includes a link to share a longer written piece.

Kelsea Gillespie proposed a series of "One-on-Ones" with individuals to sign up to randomly pair with another Friend for one-on-one conversations. The purpose is to get to know each other better. Kelsea offered to make the random pairings and was asked to proceed with the "One-on-One" project.

Concerns for Meeting members/attenders were reviewed, held in the light, with contact made as appropriate.

M&C discussed the restructuring of our meeting with possible reduction of committees. They request Business Meeting consider forming an ad-hoc committee for this purpose. Deborah Fisch and Peter Clay offered to represent M&C on the committee.

**Minute** - Appreciation of thorough M&C report and Brock's willingness to share his journey with Parkinson's. To be done through the process of a link to a longer writing as recommended by M&C. Brock suggested periodic supplements to the Friendly Line for Friends to share experiences with the Meeting. Brock will follow up with Billie and Ann regarding this idea.

There was appreciation and support for Kelsea's One-on-One idea for Friends to get better acquainted.

The Ad-hoc committee established to review restructuring of the meeting with reduction of committees. Members: Deborah Fisch, Peter Clay, Billie Wade, Charlie Brown and Dorothy Lifka. Clerk will send a follow-up email to Dorothy, who will schedule the first meeting of ad-hoc committee.

**Nominating Committee and Outreach Committee:** No meeting or reports.

**Peace & Social Concerns (Patricia Wengert):** Full written report online from Sept. 6 meeting. Review of issues discussed: P&SC informed Clerk of the International Day of Peace celebration for which our meeting is a co-sponsor.

Our Meeting approved sending letters to Senator Grassley, Senator Ernst and Representative Axne expressing our support of a Truth and Healing Commission On Indian Boarding Schools, and passage of Senate File 2709 and House File 5444 — and Senate File 40 and House File 40, for the establishment of a Commission to look into reparations for the institutions of slavery and its impact. The letters have been sent via email and received. The Committee approved donations to DMARC and the Food Pantry of Iowa.

Discussion was held regarding supporting the Golden Rule Peace Boat's upcoming journey on the Mississippi River. The sail boat has rich Quaker history. It is

currently owned by Veterans For Peace. Kathleen McQuillen with the Catholic Peace Ministry is involved. Discussion was about possible support of the project.

**Minute** – DMVF Meeting is interested in supporting project. Peter and Susan will follow up with finding out how DMV Friends can support the project — and if reasonable, go forward.

Appreciation was expressed for P&SC for their work. Appreciation to Peter for bringing issues to attention of meeting for which above noted letters were sent.

**Religious Education:** No report. Noted that Dorothy Lifka is current convenor. Future issue to resolve is scheduling to allow religious education teachers to attend business meeting.

**Other Business:**

An AA group has requested use of the meeting house. Dorothy agreed to sponsor as Friends representative and meeting approved. Other than Quaker groups using meeting house pay rent/donation of \$25 for evening and need to schedule through Claire.

Other issues for future business meeting: updating the fall hosting schedule; second hours for vocal ministry; Friends House bylaws; and Friendly Line deadlines.

Meeting closed with silence.

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*Nuclear peace is possible, and bravery and tenacity can overcome militarism.*

-- Veterans for Peace

**Query # 2 Discussion:  
Outreach**

**August 7, 2022**

Convenor, Billie Wade;  
Recorder, Brock Wommack;  
Present: (Meeting House) Clerk Carol Spaulding-Kruse, Kari Noble, Ann Robinson; (Zoom) Jack & Andrea Holveck, Gordon Bivens, Susan Meyers, Dorothy Lifka, Convenor Billie Wade, recorder Brock Wommack.

Discussion:

Take this Query and get out there!

One should appreciate the Outreach Committee's efforts, and also appreciate visitors to the Meeting more.

Outreach is enriching both the Meeting and the community.

Intervisitation is a new concept to some new attenders for they have come from other faith disciplines that jealously guard their worship from outside influences.

Has there been outreach to visitors this summer? (Emails have been sent to at least most of the guests who've provided this contact.) A question directed by the Outreach Committee, do first-time/new attenders want to receive the FL? Sometimes they do indicate interest and get added to the list temporarily, but it has not meant that they've come back to worship with DMVF.

Visitors can just be visitors, be genuinely open to them without expectation.

A recommended resource for considering thoughtful outreach is, Let Your Life Speak, based on writings of Parker Palmer (<https://www.letyourlifespeak.com/>)

Have any of the visitors been asked what brought them to Meeting? (Sometimes.)

The pandemic has seemed to bring more attention to our online presence via the Meeting's website. It may also have brought visitors to the Meeting.

It is great seeing at least a few more people getting involved with Meeting society. This has always gone in cycles, and the present resurgence is welcome.

It's cool being around strangers who get it. Comradery is priceless, the feeling is a worthwhile experience.

It was noted that retired Methodist ministers have often historically been visitors to Friends Meetings throughout the years.

Spiritual sharing groups have become more active because of Zoom, and it wouldn't be possible without this technology. It offers the chance to share with people who "get it," who don't have to have the Quaker back story explained to them. It seems to be a very quick bonding presence because we all want to be there and participate.

On another note, we would like to make further outreach to Friends House, in this time of change.

How do we speak truth to others? Truth relates to values, (not beliefs?). Shared values are enhanced whilst working with others.

Try reaching out within the family. Tease with siblings. Sometimes, siblings will be surprised at your personal spiritual growth and vice versa. It's all a process of seeking to relate to seeing differences—values matter!

Participation in workshops on related topics often will mean engaging with those with whom we disagree.

Is reaching out to those we've lost be considered Friendly stalking?

There is an interview on Netflix with Bill Maher interviewing President Barack Obama in which Maher presented the President with the fact that he (Maher) is in the largest majority in the USA, namely one with no faith-based community or religion. Declining numbers of those who count themselves as religious is reducing attendance for many churches, although not necessarily for many of the most conservative churches. (Exploiting divisions can be good for recruiting attendance? Not something Quakers are likely to benefit from.)

Finding common ground between one another is made by asking questions and listening to their answer without opinion or judgement. Asking questions can be seen as offensive, so how can we work with them? What is true for me—what is true for them?

Right now student society at universities shows a real fear of interacting with folks different than themselves. It is fearing a response that you're going to be received with criticism and judgement. Its answer? Try to be kind even (especially) if you disagree.

The worship ended in silence.

### **Query # 3 Discussion: Meeting for Worship for Business**

**September 4, 2022**

Convenor, Billie Wade;  
Recorder, Brock Wommack;  
Present: (Meeting House) Charlie Brown, DJ Newlin, Patty Reynolds; (Zoom) Pam Blackburn, Carol Spaulding-Kruse, Andrea & Jack Holveck, Dorothy Lifka, Peter Clay

Discussion:

We are reminded Friends are to bring a loving, compassionate, and open-hearted spirit to Meeting for worship with attention to business.

It was remembered that 40 years ago in Business Meeting, the concern about abortion practically divided the Meeting in two, which was a surprise to some to hear.

One must come to Meeting with an open mind and be willing to change.

At times, should the Meeting become noisy, it is helpful for the Clerk to request a time of silence, to recalibrate the worship.

There may be a lot of differing opinions concerning \$ and finances within the Meeting. One found that as Treasurer, becoming a filter to help Friends find middle ground is a mistake. Allow the differences to come to the Meeting for Business. Differing opinions need to talk it out in Quaker process. We seek unity in peace by consensus after all, a difference from the democratic process of voting majority rule.

Meeting for Business may be both interesting and disappointing. We need to be

willing to have hard Meetings and not avoid them.

It is sharing views that reveals the Quaker process. Perhaps we should call another Business Meeting with a concern for abortion? Pro-life Friends online can be a resource, for example.

We are reminded that the spirit within Meeting for Business, let alone any other moment of worship, requires NO judgement.

Considering the possible demise of democracy, it is in forgetting that there must be an inclusion from all points of view—it takes time. For Friends, coming to a consensus, decisions are better off if we make them as a whole. It takes time to absorb what's being said, for it's not easy to walk the walk -- it takes time.

During Business, there is time for discussion within a timely manner. But this can be a challenge. A good reminder is to bring to Meeting for Business only those questions needing action. Full committee reports are not necessary if clear within the committee itself. This aids in keeping the use of time to be most productive.

Perhaps some committees should be laid aside or combined with a parallel committee's mission.

The primary purpose of all worship including Business Meeting is seeking divine guidance. The process is the long game as we are each historical beings living within the context of our time together, seeking divinity while we disagree on how to act upon our consensus.

There is a calling within Friends where all opinions are

welcome, whether agreeing or dissenting.

Again, during discussion, there is a moment when the Clerk may intervene by calling for a return to silence. Why not have that moment of recognition and recalibration?

It is well noted that by attending the Iowa Yearly Meeting for Business will provide one with a fine example of worship in this form of Meeting. "Everything is spoken out of silence, the same within the committees."

Business Meeting is also an opportunity for non-members to speak to committee concerns, enriching the process.

Be more mindful that we are in worship while committee's work needs to be affirmed. Bring items to the meeting for further discussion and action -- and remind Friends to speak out of the silence!

Speak out of the silence.

The meeting closed in silence.

### Hosting List for Upcoming First Days

Oct. 9 – Ann Robinson  
Oct. 16 – Jim & Catherine  
Oct. 23 – Charlie Brown  
Oct. 30 – Deborah & Katie  
Nov. 6 – Dorothy Lifka  
Nov. 13 – David & Claire  
Nov. 20 – Ann Robinson

**Looking ahead:** Daylight Saving Time concludes at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022, when the clock will "fall back" one hour (in theory we get one extra hour of sleep!).

**Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting for Worship:** Sundays at 10 a.m., at the Meeting House and by Zoom via email invitation from clerk, Carol Spaulding-Kruse, at [carol.spaulding@drake.edu](mailto:carol.spaulding@drake.edu)

**Meeting for Worship/Business:** Regularly held on the second First Day each month at 1 p.m.

### Coming Second Hours:

Oct. 16 – Committee meetings?  
Oct. 23 – Programming break  
Oct. 30 – "5th Sunday Social" in person at the meetinghouse

**Query Discussions:** First Sundays - Online & in person. Billie Wade, facilitator

**Child Care:** Temporarily suspended at the Meeting House. If you have a child who would like to be included in Zoom childcare or first day school for older youth, please contact Dorothy at [dmlifka@yahoo.com](mailto:dmlifka@yahoo.com).

**Building & Grounds:** Questions about the building or grounds of the Meetinghouse to Building & Grounds Committee Convenor, Dick Douglass, 515-864-1119.

### Hospitality Committee:

If you see a housekeeping problem that needs attention, please contact the Hospitality Committee convenor Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

**Friendly Line:** Send info for next Friendly Line to Ann at [anny@mediacombb.net](mailto:anny@mediacombb.net) by Friday, Oct. 28, 2022.

### Find us online at:

[www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org](http://www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org)  
*Be sure and check out the website's new calendar!*

**Check out our Facebook** group for members/attenders. To be added, email Jan Falb, at [jfalb0326@yahoo.com](mailto:jfalb0326@yahoo.com)