

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

FRIENDLY LINE

September 2022



CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE!

The Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace invites you to join them on Wednesday, Sept. 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the Peace Garden at Cowles Commons, 221 Walnut Street, for the annual celebration of the International Day of Peace.

The theme, as chosen by the United Nations, is “End Racism; Build Peace.” Dr. Kesho Scott will be the keynote speaker, and the Heartland Youth Chamber Choir will present special music. The service will explore the natural link between waging war and racism and will express a vision of peace and a position against war shared by all faith traditions.

DMVF State of the Meeting 2021-2022, as reported to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative

During the past year Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting has continued to experience that community and spiritual connection are not place-specific. A recent visitor commented that our hybrid meeting for worship was the best hybrid meeting he had attended. While we continue to work on the challenges of being both in-person and virtual, being hybrid has allowed geographically distant Friends to participate in Meeting for

Worship, on committees and in other leadership positions. IYM-C offering a virtual option allowed a number of DMV Friends to participate in spiritual sharing groups, yearly meeting and mid-year meeting. This increased spiritual development overall and also fostered a greater spiritual connection with other meetings and with IYM-C as a whole. Some Friends were also able to participate in inter-meeting visitation because of other meetings having virtual options. The clerk of DMVF benefited from participation in two virtual meetings of IYM-C clerks and hopes this resource will be available to future DMVF clerks.

Our meeting continues to reach out to Friends in need due to physical or mental health challenges and natural disasters, providing practical as well as spiritual support. Our meeting has also collaborated with meetings in other states and internationally to support a family affected by world conflict.

An ongoing second hour, Journey to Friends, has provided an opportunity for individual Friends to share their spiritual journeys with us. We continue to enjoy fun and friendship through our weekly joys and concerns, our yearly Christmas caroling – hybrid this year – and a talent show. We hope to resume other opportunities to gather together including our monthly soup

A Quaker Minute: Quaker Manners – Speak Only Once to the Matter Being Considered

Friends strive to conduct business meetings as a Spiritual exercise. As we consider our community leadings and actions, we listen carefully to discern the Light both within ourselves and as expressed by others as we translate ideals into practical action.

Strident advocacy and debate are not appropriate to the Meeting’s deliberations. Friends trust that those attending Business Meeting are listening carefully and “holding in the Light” the matter under consideration. Trust that your message has been heard and incorporated into the community’s discernment.

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

lunches and yearly picnic. As many of us heard at mid-year meeting, joy can be an important part of our spiritual journeys. We are concerned about Friends who no longer participate in our meeting due to discomfort with the virtual option, scheduling

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DMVF Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – Minutes August 15, 2022

Carol Spaulding-Kruse, clerk, opened the hybrid meeting for worship with attention to business near the appointed time with a period of waiting worship.

Attending: Carol Spaulding-Kruse, clerk; Deborah Fisch, recording clerk; Peter Clay, Kelsea Gillespie, Bob Henderson, Dorothy Lifka, Virginia Smith, Andrea Holveck, Jack Holveck, Patty Reynolds, Billie Wade, Fred Nelson,

Approval of Seventh

Month Minutes – Friends approved the 07/10/2022 minutes as published in the most recent issue of *Friendly Line*. If on further perusal someone finds a typo or other correction in the minutes within the next week, please contact the recording clerk (Deborah Fisch) so they can be amended for the officially recorded minutes. If a significant error is found the clerk will bring it to the next business meeting for approval. Typos will be corrected, but they do not require approval from Meeting.

Ministry & Counsel Committee Report (M&C)

(Peter Clay convening in absence of Jim Dietz-Kilen)
08/07/ 2022

To “listen” another’s soul into a condition of disclosure and discovery may be almost the greatest service that any human being ever performs for another. But in this scrutiny of the business of listening, is that all that has emerged? Is it blasphemous to suggest that over the shoulder of

the human listener, there is never absent the silent presence of the Eternal Listener, the living God? For in penetrating to what is involved in listening, do we not disclose the thinness of the filament that separates persons listening openly to one another, and that of God intently listening to each soul?

-- Excerpt from *GLEANINGS* by Douglas V. Steere

Present: Gordon Bivens, Andrea Holveck and Peter Clay

Following opening worship the three of us reflected on our agenda items. We continue our discernment as to how to help populate the anchor committee for Deborah Fisch with one or more Friends from our community.

As sometimes matters that are urgent and time sensitive come to us, we considered what process would be the best to follow in coming to decisions over email and with only some committee members participating. Our sense was that for most urgent matters it would be fine to seek input from the committee and to make a decision with whomever is able to respond. This is when the scope of what is needed is well within our resources in the Sharing Fund or is otherwise available support.

As is customary, we considered the condition, concerns and potential needs of individual members and families within our meeting. We unified around making some supportive outreach to individuals within our meeting. We did not continue discussion of the idea of having a designated monthly time when our community could gather virtually to hold one another in

the Light. If Friends in our meeting have thoughts or suggestions on this topic, these would be appreciated.

Finally, we ended by briefly sharing our thoughts on restructuring our meeting after more than two years of the pandemic. With the passage of time, we are seeing what is working well and what is not working so well. We want to encourage engagement with Meeting and to be welcoming for newcomers. This is a big topic and we will only touch upon it in this meeting. One idea is to consider reducing the number of our committees as some meetings have chosen to do.

We closed with some moments of silent worship. Peter Clay, convening

Minute – Peter Clay presented the M&C Report. Friends support the work of this committee and appreciate knowing its members are reaching out to members and attenders facing health challenges or challenging times to help discern how Meeting can be of best support to them and their families during difficult times. Those present were particularly interested in the beginning consideration by the committee as to the spiritual health of the meeting and whether the current committee sizes and configurations best serve Meeting at this time. The idea of reducing the number of committees was of interest. One possibility put forward is that the Hospitality and Outreach Committees could be combined. It was also mentioned that the Outreach Committee had already

been working on projects and sharing ideas with Meeting concerning how to be welcoming to visitors and encourage engagement with Meeting. It was suggested M&C share any thoughts they had in this area with the Outreach Committee.

The clerk suggested that since M&C had not yet been able to find anyone to serve on the Care and Accountability Committee (also referred to as an Anchor Committee by some meetings) for Deborah Fisch, that she simply share a report of any travel in gospel ministry (virtual or in person) at a business meeting following a visit. Deborah agreed to this recommendation. Deborah continues to carry a minute of travel in gospel ministry endorsed by both Paullina Meeting's clerk (where her membership is held) and the clerk of Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative (IYMC). [A care and accountability committee was approved by the IYMC M&C at the 2022 annual sessions. Two members of the IYMC M&C Committee were appointed to serve on the committee and it was hoped that two or three Friends from Des Moines Valley would be appointed to serve on the committee as well, since Deborah has been sojourning here and active in Meeting for several years now. Paullina Meeting is also being invited to appoint members to the committee. Members of the committee will meet with Deborah on a regular basis to be determined by Deborah and the committee. They will worship with Deborah, help find traveling

companions as needed, and help her stay faithful and accountable to the Spirit in her travels as well as her life in general.]

Religious Education Committee (RE) Report

There was no written report as the committee did not meet in July. The clerk asked Deborah Fisch, a member of the committee, if there were any updates that Friends should know about.

Deborah shared that the RE Committee will hopefully be able to meet sometime before the next business meeting since the new school year will begin soon. Traditionally, First Day School has run in parallel to the public-school year, though young F/friends have opted to continue to meet through the summer for the past two years.

Deborah asked F/friends to seriously consider if they could join the teaching team for the coming First Day School year. There are only three people teaching both First Day groups (grade school age and middle school age) and they have been teaching for several years now.

Minute – Deborah Fisch shared that the same three people have been teaching classes (two of them both classes for the lower grade aged and the middle school aged young F/friends for a few years now. They would appreciate it if one or two more F/friends with gifts of teaching/sharing with young F/friends would be willing to join the teaching team. The clerk reminded F/friends that it is a good spiritual practice to periodically review what their spiritual gifts are and how they

can use them in service to Meeting. She encouraged Friends, not currently serving on committees, to seriously consider what committees would be a good match for those gifts and share that with the Nominating Committee.

House & Grounds

Committee Report (Dick Douglass reporting) The committee has focused on finding and recommending solutions for our above-ground geothermal system which has been shutting down intermittently. Our research has included getting several bids three providers. We have looked at the following options:

Replacement of the thermal expansion valve – This part is causing the shutdown and replacement should allow the system to function normally. Cost: \$2807.61. Bid by Holt Plumbing.

Advantage: Lowest cost. This option may buy us months to a few years before needing to replace the system

Disadvantage: Our geothermal system is 15 years old and near the end of its life span (usually 15-20 years). Unfortunately, the company making our system went out of business. Therefore, many parts are no longer made or available at any price, and the failure of additional parts could force us to replace the system.

The Committee recommends this option. We are mindful that choosing the low-cost option of replacing only the thermal expansion valve entails the risk that the system may need to be replaced sooner rather than later.

We are hopeful that this option will provide us one to three or four years before we face the challenge of replacing the system.

Options we considered and are not recommending at this time:

Replacement of compressor and some other key components – Cost: \$14,407. Bid by Green’s Appliance

Advantage: Replaces some components and reduces risk of system failure.

Disadvantage: This option is only a partial replacement; many (“hundreds”) of parts remain from our original system and therefore we still face the risk of having to replace the system.

Green’s will not provide a warranty on the system with this level of repair. Green’s tech recommends against this option.

Replacement of the geothermal system by a standard HVAC system –

Cost: \$14,280. Bid by Holt Plumbing

Advantage: Replaces the system for lower initial cost.

Disadvantage: Increases our utility costs every month, roughly \$200-\$300 per month which over four TO five years would make system costs comparable. With every additional year, the standard system would add an estimated \$3,000 to our overall cost.

Committee members are concerned this option would represent a backward step in addressing climate change.

Please note: our current costs for our geothermal vary with the season as reflected in our electric bills: (Thanks to Kelsey for the billing data)

Oct. 15,2021: \$44.37;

Dec. 14, 2021: \$215.29;

Feb. 19, 2022: \$372.76

June 14, 2022: \$74.92

A standard system is predicted to add \$200 to \$300 to these costs monthly.

Replacement of the entire above-ground geothermal system –

Cost: \$23,500 Bid by Green’s Appliance

Cost: \$27, 200 Bid by Holt Plumbing

Advantage: Entirely new, above-ground systems with warranties.

Disadvantage: cost.

Note: These bids are not for identical systems, e.g., Holt is bidding a non-pressurized system because our underground pipes are 15 years old. Green’s bid a pressurized system but could provide a non-pressurized system at increased cost. This option would require careful additional study.

We’re hoping this information can provide a basis for a productive discussion in Meeting for Business.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Douglass

Minute – Dick Douglass, convener of the committee presented a detailed report on the options for repairing the above ground geo-thermal unit that provides A/C and heat to the meetinghouse. Using a geo-thermal system presents its own challenges and benefits, chief among them being the opportunity to pioneer this environmentally supportive method of heating and cooling the meetinghouse.

One Friend made a generous offer of \$20,000 to go toward replacing the system completely saying, “The \$20k is to assure that the physical infrastructure is

maintained at its top value. I manage all of my properties as if I may have to sell them tomorrow; therefore, I make certain they are in triple grade A condition in order to afford the top asking price the market will bear. Just common sense when one can afford it. Happy to pass it on.”

Friends appreciated the very generous offer, noting it certainly helps take the pressure of the committee and Meeting when considering when to replace the system (providing the repair holds) and what system to choose.

Friends also considered the possibility of inviting Friends House Board to work with Meeting to put in a new system that would heat & cool the entire Friends House. (It would require putting in a whole new system in the original portion of the property.) There wasn’t unity around this suggestion, but it was agreed it would be something that could be taken up when time to replace the whole system.

After hearing all concerns, suggestions, and offers Friends found unity of Spirit to approve the recommendation of the committee as it will buy F/friends time to consider which option of replacing the unit completely will best serve the Meeting. Friends thank Dick Douglass, the committee, and treasurer, Kelsea Gillespie for all the excellent work they did in bringing these detailed options for consideration by Meeting.

Treasurer’s & Financial Committee Reports (Catherine Dietz-Kilen, convener & Kelsea Gillespie, treasurer) – 07/26/2022
Attendees: Catherine Dietz-

Kilen, Kelsea Gillespie, Cindy Winchell, Dick Douglass, Dorothy Lifka
Monthly Financials – The Committee reviewed the financial reports for 05/2022 and 06/end of year 2022 and found all to be in order. We greatly appreciate that our treasurer has completed the transfers into and out of specific designated accounts as the Meeting authorized for the end of the fiscal year.

Bank Account – Kelsea Gillespie noted that with the changes in our national economy, we have begun to earn more interest on our money market account than budgeted. In order to take advantage of the increased interest in money market accounts, the Committee asked Cindy Winchell to set up a “sweeps account” so that a specified amount, determined by the treasurer, will stay in the checking account and the rest swept over to our money market to earn as much interest as possible. If more funds are needed in the checking account, the funds will be swept back from the money market account.

Committee Meetings – The Committee has decided that we are able to complete most of the business of the Committee by meeting every two months. Going forward, we will meet the fourth Tuesday each odd numbered month at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. In even numbered months, Kelsea will send all the committee members the financial reports for the previous month for our review. If a committee member has any questions, those questions will be sent to Kelsea and copied to the entire

committee. Kelsea’s response will also come to the entire Committee. With this practice, we will be able to submit the monthly financials to business meeting every month.

Minute – The Finance Committee Report was read. Friends appreciate the consistent good work of the committee. It is good to be able to relax knowing our finances are in capable hands. We approve the report of the Finance Committee.

Hospitality Committee

Report There was no written report from the committee. Andrea Holveck, a member of the committee, reported that they have not yet found someone to convene the committee. They plan to have something ready for October.

Minute – The clerk asked if Meeting was ready to combine the Outreach and Hospitality Committees which came forward during the Seventh Month meeting for worship with attention to business. It was suggested that members of the two committees should be able to consider the proposal prior to Meeting considering it for approval. The clerk pointed out that considering this kind of proposal can help Meeting function with purpose and do its work more efficiently and still in unity of the Spirit.

Nominating Committee

Report – There was no written report. The clerk, who has been serving on that committee, shared two tasks she knows still need to be addressed. 1) Someone who can regularly check and respond to Meeting’s voicemail messages; 2) Someone

to replace the presiding clerk on Nominating Committee. Carol shared she accepted the appointment to Nominating Committee two years ago, long before she was asked to take on the duties of presiding clerk of Meeting. This person would serve on that committee for the clerk’s final year of service. She asked Friends in attendance to consider if one of them could step in to fill her remaining term. (Recording clerk’s note – Toward the end of meeting Andrea Holveck felt clear to volunteer to serve the clerk’s remain term. The clerk expressed gratitude. The offer will officially be taken up for approval at the September meeting for worship with attention to business.)

Library Committee Report

There was no written report. Virginia Smith has asked Nominating Committee to appoint an “intern,” who can receive training as convener after this year as she has asked to be released after this year.

Minute – Friends expressed deep appreciation for the many extraordinary years of service by Virginia Smith and especially for her work in developing and maintaining the Meeting’s library. It provides excellent opportunities for Friends to learn about Quaker practices and history and topics of interest to Friends.

Peace & Social Committee

Report (P&SCC) There was no written report. Billie Wade summarized some of the matters before the committee. They like the new method of taking care of donations to various

organizations who also carry concerns and do work toward peace & justice.

The clerk asked if Meeting felt ready to take up the concern raised by Peter Clay concerning a draft letter that P&SCC had asked him to prepare and that was presented at the last meeting, prior to official approval by P&SCC, in hopes it could be taken to IYMC 2022 Annual Sessions as a concern of this meeting. While there was a general sense of approval for contents of the letter a lot of suggested edits were coming from the floor of the business meeting. It became clear that Friends would not be able to find unity to approve the proposed letter/minute that month and was referred back to Peter and P&SCC.

Peter stated he understood the wisdom of last month's discernment and that he felt the first paragraph of the original draft would clearly serve the hopes of P&SC. That paragraph reads:

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting supports passage of the "Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act" (H.R. 5444 and S. 2907). We also support H.R. 40, the bill that would establish a commission to study and develop proposals for reparations for the historical and ongoing devastating impacts of the institution of slavery on African Americans. We believe that acknowledging the truth of our nation's history is essential to healing the deep divisions that now exist. We believe that it is important to see and acknowledge how all the

historical harms and injustice are related and connected." Friends found unity of Spirit with this paragraph. It was approved with a request that the clerk send a copy to Iowa senators Charles Grassley and Joni Ernst, and Cindy Axne, U.S. representative for this region, on behalf of the meeting with the Clerk's signature and date of approval.

Minute – Meeting formally approved the paragraph quoted above supporting HR 5444 as well as S 2907 concerning the passage of the "Truth & Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act" as well as support of HR 40, the bill that would establish a commission to study and develop proposals for reparations for the historical and ongoing devastating impacts of the institution of slavery on African Americans. The clerk is asked to send letters including the wording of this approved statement to our representative and senators.

The clerk named a sense of sloppiness in the way Friends handled this request both last month and today. She did not feel we were able to give the time needed to carefully discern the matter being proposed and that, had we more time, we may have been able to discern additional possible actions more fully. Friends, including members of P&SCC found unity with the clerk's concern. We want to adhere more closely to our practice of asking committees to fully vet and approve any requests they bring forward for possible approval by Meeting. We further remind ourselves that committees and individuals reporting to Meeting

submit written reports to the clerk and recording clerk no later than the Friday before First Day meeting for worship with attention to business is to be held. This gives the clerk necessary time to put together an agenda that lends itself to give more time for discernment in reports asking for action by Meeting. It also gives the recording clerk time to put together the reports in the order of the clerk's proposed agenda, to best be able to follow along and be prepared to write a minute reflecting the Meeting's discernment of the leading of the Spirit for each report.

We ask P&SC Committee to continue to seek ways we can address these two concerns, helping us better understand and acknowledge the past and present roles of this country and Quakers in these matters. We seek to learn how to first recognize and then take action when we witness "racial micro-aggressions" in our daily lives, as well as join our voices with others in calling for an end to all acts of racial discrimination and hatred in the form of personal aggression, group or government sanctioned actions.

IYMC Nominating

Committee Dorothy Lifka asked for official approval to continue to serve on Yearly Meeting's Nominating Committee for the next two years. No one had been appointed to serve on that committee and seeing the need Dorothy had stepped in to serve this past year.

Minute – Meeting approves with appreciation the

appointment of Dorothy Lifka to continue to serve as our representative on the IYMC Nomination Committee for the next two years.

Report of Representatives on Friends House Board (Billie Wade, Dorothy Lifka and Deborah Fisch, Meeting representatives to Friends House Board. Deborah reported on behalf of Meeting reps.)

The Friends House Board met 07/15/2022, the first time in person since before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dorothy Lifka of Des Moines Valley Friends and Ronnie Free of Des Moines Mutual Aid and Great Plains Action Society were welcomed as new FHB members. (Dorothy was appointed to serve the remainder of Fred Nelson's term. Fred notified both the clerk of FHB and the Meeting clerk of his need to stand aside from his appointment that began in 2021.)

All board members were present. Other board members include: Heidi Yang (Immigrant Dreamers); and Cole Fuller, clerk (Des Moines Tutoring, LLC). Immigrant Dreamers staff serve collectively as the House Manager and Zuleyma Solis serves as recorder for FH Board meetings as a part of their commitment. The house managers are in charge of collecting rent, making announcements, notifying board members if something is happening out of the ordinary and placing ads when office space is available for rent, etc.

Mask Policy – It was agreed that both the tenants with offices in the older portion of Friends House and Meeting will set

future masking guidelines in keeping with CDC recommendations. At this time, masks are optional if vaccinated and not exhibiting any symptoms indicating the possible onset of COVID. This will change if COVID cases escalate and the CDC puts out new guidelines.

Rental Progress for Two Open Office Spaces– Office managers purchased new signage that clearly states in larger print that there is *office* space available, as the original signs were not clear and too small to be easily read from the street. Though there has been some interest shown, offices had not yet been rented out at the time of the meeting.

Note: We have recently learned that both empty offices at Friends House have now been potentially rented. One office is now being rented to therapist Lisa Richard. The other is not a done deal at the time of this report, but papers are being drawn up, and we will hopefully be able to report soon that the second office space is officially rented out.

Consideration of FH Bylaws for Approval Over two years ago, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) notified tenants of FH that they would be completely vacating their office spaces at Friends House. The Friends House Board set up an ad hoc committee, including members outside of the board itself to recommend changes to the FH Board bylaws. Despite many long hours of work, the ad hoc committee was not able to develop an approvable set of bylaws. About a year or so ago, members of the

ad hoc by-law's revision committee reported to FHB that they were not able to come to an agreement and recommended that if the FHB could not resolve the contested portions of the proposed revision, they should seek binding mediation so that Friends House could move forward. The Board then tentatively approved the revised bylaws as a working document, but they were also unable to come up with a solution to the stalemate about conditions for when, if and how Friends House (including the Meeting's addition) could be sold. Last winter, the board decided they would seek a mediator, but before someone could be hired, board members representing renters other than DMVFM came up with a proposal that met with approval from all members.

During the spring quarter FH Board meeting the amended proposed bylaws were reviewed. There were several edits suggested and approved, as well as one having to do with the number of nonprofit renters vs. for-profit renters at any one time. The bylaws were tentatively approved with a second reading and hoped for final approval scheduled this quarterly meeting.

The proposed bylaws were approved with both relief and joy after a few more suggested minor edits at the July board meeting. Copies will be emailed to all FB representatives once all edits are in place, and the Meeting reps will make a copy available to the Meeting clerk at that time.

Since the new bylaws are rather long and not everyone will likely want to have a complete

copy, it is not recommended that they be published in *The Friendly Line*. If Friends are interested, the bylaws could probably be placed on the password-protected portion of the Meeting's website. I believe it needs to be the discernment of the FHB as to how to make the bylaws available to the public. This is why it is being suggested they be placed on the password protected portion of our website.

OF SPECIAL NOTE – There were two sections that were amended after the last time Friends reviewed the proposed bylaws and gave feedback to the Board. The following wording is approved for those two sections. The purpose of the corporation is printed first to give background information that may be needed to understand the first change in the bylaws.

Section 2.1. *The corporation is organized to operate exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and more specifically to fulfill the Mission of Friends House, Inc. as stated in the "Friends House Procedures for Tenants and Their Clients."*

The purpose of the corporation shall be carried out by: a. Renting office space to nonprofit organizations whose values and actions are consistent with Quaker principals. If no nonprofit expresses interest in the available office space(s) within a 60-day period of the office space(s) becoming available for lease, other potential tenants who align with Quaker principles will then be considered.

First Change of Probable Interest to DMVF Meeting

The following was added to **Section 2.1** directly after the quote above,

More than 50% of Friends House office spaces must either be leased or made available for leasing to nonprofit organizations, and nonprofit organizations must account for 60% or more of the organizations leasing space at Friends House at any given time.

When the most recent two office spaces were vacated, Meeting representatives noticed that if both units went past 60 days and were both rented to for-profit organizations, over half of the tenants would represent for-profit organizations and this seemed to be contrary for the main purpose of the corporation which is stated as *renting office space to nonprofit organizations whose values and actions are consistent with Quaker principals*. It did not seem likely that at the time of its original writing, when AFSC filled a majority of the office space in the original house, that there would ever be a time when renting to a for-profit organization with principals similar to Quaker principals if no nonprofit rent could be found after 60 days of advertising the vacancy would even approach 50% of the office space in the original portion of Friends House.

This addition simply addresses the concern and stops rental to for-profits at the 50% mark of office spaces and the 40% mark for for-profit organizations. Be mindful that if at some time in the future this section or any other section no

longer seems feasible, the bylaws can be amended with 30-day notice to directors and 2/3 approval by vote of the board at either a called or regular board meeting.

Second Change of Probable Interest to DMVF Meeting

This change came about as a result of the dissatisfaction of Meeting with the original proposal concerning sale of Friends House because it did not give any individual authority to Meeting and particularly the Meeting's large addition to the original house which is considered the meetinghouse. The new section now reads as follows and seems self-explanatory. – Section 3.7. *The day-to-day management of Friends House and its tenants shall be governed by the tenants, with oversight by the board. Upkeep and maintenance of the Meetinghouse shall be governed by the Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting, consistent with the lease agreement between the Meeting and Friends House, Inc. Recognizing that the Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting has been a long-term occupant of the Meeting House and has financed the building of and on-going improvements in the Meeting House, any decision by the board to sell the property shall require the approval of the Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting. Should the Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting determine, independently of Friends House Board of Directors, that financial or other circumstances render it necessary for the Meeting to relocate, the Meeting shall have the authority to initiate a sale of the property. The board shall*

notify the tenants of the Meeting's intent to initiate a sale. The tenants shall be given a period of one year from the date of notice as a transition period, during which time they shall have the option of extending their existing lease agreements. Any purchase agreement for sale of the property shall provide that the current tenants have the option of remaining in possession of the leased property under the terms of their existing lease agreement. Any revision to the bylaws that affect Section 3.7 herein shall require the approval of Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting.

Update on Needed Plumbing Repairs to Friends House

A leak developed in one of the FH bathrooms that went through the walls or ceiling, damaging the office below. Three plumbing contractors were contacted to look at what was happening, make suggestions on how to repair the problem and give an estimate of the cost involved.

The first contractor said that either a pipe between the bathroom and office needed to be completely replaced, or perhaps the section with the leak could be cut out and replaced with PVC pipe, a much less expensive solution. Unfortunately, the suggested solution did not meet City Code, which we learned when the second contractor came. That contractor recommended only replacing the portion with the leak, but that the patch had to be of the same material as it was being fitted into, so it had to be welded, heavy pipe, not PVC pipe that could be glued and clamped into place. The third contractor

suggested the problem could easily be something as simple as replacing the wax circle that seals the connection between the pipe, the toilet base and floor and that they would try that first, because otherwise, the remedy was likely to be the much more expensive, requiring replacement of part or all of the pipe that is the water line into the toilet. Therefore, we opted for the replacement of the wax ring sealer. At the time of the committee meeting, no new leaks had been reported, and we have not heard of any leaking since then.

The next quarterly meeting will be the last of the FH fiscal year and is scheduled for September.

Minute– DMVF recognizes there are unique challenges to having a decentralized system such as at Friends House since American Friends Service Committee left the premise over a year ago. We recognize the hard work Friends House Board members and staff are putting in during this time of developing the best governance system possible to meet these new needs. We accept the verbal report of Deborah Fisch and comments shared by the other FH representative. We recognize that in the past there have been contentiousness between Friends and those who rent office space in the original portions of FH.

We are optimistic that things seem to have moved in a cooperative direction and hope it will continue. It may be that as the Board begins working with the newly approved by-laws, there will be need to amend them further in months and years

ahead. We are still in the process of discerning what will be possible concerning such things as keeping rental spaces filled and keeping the historical house in good condition and working order.

Meeting concludes – The clerk expressed gratitude for the presence of Friends who made time to participate in the business meeting. There being no other business, the clerk closed meeting with a period of silent worship.

Recording Clerk's Note: The following separate report from Kelsea Gillespie, treasurer of Meeting, was received but not read during business meeting. It will also be read for approval during Ninth Month business meeting.

Treasurer's Report – We ended our fiscal year having received 104% of our anticipated revenue and expensed only 84% of our budgeted items (including money shifted to be flexible for any transitions). This leaves us with \$6,552.15 to be added to our general fund reserve for the year. Thanks to all of our generous donors for making this possible.

The next meeting for worship with attention to business is scheduled for Sept. 11, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. It will be a hybrid meeting with F/friends attending both in person and via Zoom.

-- Carol Spaulding-Kruse, clerk
Deborah Fisch, recording clerk

*There are still many causes
worth sacrificing for - so much
history yet to be made.
Michelle Obama (1964-)*

NEWS of OUR FRIENDS

Peter Clay reports from Clay's Tree Farm that he had a great visit with his brother Scott at their family cabin in August. Scott drove out to Wisconsin from New Hampshire and was there for nearly two weeks. It had been nearly three years since Scott had been to the family cabin and it had been ten months since Scott and Peter had been together. They got a lot done in continuing to recover from the 2019 derecho and completed many other deferred maintenance tasks and needed repairs. More important, their bond as brothers was deepened. In the uncertainties of our world and with impending mortality ever closer, this visit was very meaningful for the two brothers.

State of the Meeting

(continued from page 1)

conflicts or reasons unknown to us. We hold them in the Light and will continue to reach out to them.

We remain concerned about the aging of our membership. This concern is mixed with hope as several youth, preschool to middle school age, have been participating in first day school virtually and in person.

We are also concerned about our relationship with Friends House as DMVF and other tenants of the building continue to adjust to the departure of the American Friends Service Committee. Several members of DMVF are active on the Friends House board and we are optimistic that we will be able to continue a mutually beneficial relationship.

Addressing concerns about the

shrinking of our membership, the outreach committee has come up with many ideas for how we can be more welcoming as a meeting. Some of these are resuming pre-covid traditions such as having hosts to greet attenders at Meeting for Worship, especially people who are new to our meeting. Others are adaptations of our hybrid approach including a welcome screen with information about Friends and about our meeting. One member of the committee has taken on the task of following up with newcomers by email. Updates and improvements have been made to the DMVF website and a Google calendar that is linked to our website is in process. We look forward to sharing the message of Friends with the wider world.

Query # 1 Discussion: Meeting for Worship July 3, 2022

Convener, Billy Wade; Recorder, Brock Wommack; Attending: Online (Zoom); Pam Blackburn, Andrea Holveck, Jan Falb, Carol Spaulding-Kruse, Gordon Bivens. At the Meeting House: Deborah Fisch, Dorothy Lifka.

We opened with silence.

How do we prepare, and what do we bring to worship in Meeting?

One Friend thought that a fabric art installation at Pendle Hill describes what she brings to Meeting: a circle of dolls holding hands.

One Friend imagines a sense of divinity, not only for oneself but inclusive within everyone attending in their own way. It is an expectation which is present.

Another has become so thankful for virtual Meetings! After attending a series of therapy workshops online, she was surprised that Zoom worked so effectively.

Another spoke about how there seems to be more sharing with each other during joys and concerns. This new virtual form can be real, opening doors to that which may be otherwise.

Another Friend reminded the Meeting of a virtual daily online meeting for "worship in the barn" at Pendle Hill (7:30 am CDT) which seems to spill over into her private life. Find it at PendleHill.org.

Then another Friend spoke about that outside of worship she is able to take the Quaker experience with her out into the community. If she doesn't apply daily worship in this way, she finds there to be missed opportunities in expression. By applying the principle of Quaker violence to her daily life, she is more conscious how she speaks with others, lessening the chance to sharpen her tongue.

One spoke about his recent experiences within Meeting where his messages seemed to him to be "weaponized" by other Friends. He felt judged when he was simply speaking in spirit. It is crucial not to judge another Friend's message.

Referring to an article in a recent "Friends Journal" article, if we are faithful, we listen. Can we have a gathered Meeting when one is online, she asked us?

One Friend emphatically said that virtual Meetings are absolutely real. She's seldom attended any other way, and yet experiences all of the physical

and emotional things that so many Friends speak about during their own experiences in physical Meeting. She uses the spirit rather than God to describe her method. When she feels like she is spinning her wheels, she stops, pauses, waits and chooses to stop struggling with the spirit. Today's Meeting's vocal ministry was very powerful, and she is grateful and pleased to have been led to Friends.

One added, how do we prepare for Meeting? I don't, he said. He said that after attending for 52 years, he seems to find himself in Meeting 24/7. He reminded Friends to read Benjamin Franklin's writings online at the Franklin Library. To him it seems Ben described similar experiences as a Deist.

Yes, said another. Mother Earth speaks loudly to her during worship.

If there is one thing that can be important in our worship, it is to integrate our Faith into our daily lives. It's helpful to be around folks receiving the divine whether they are Quaker or not. Recognize and support the gifts of eldership and efforts for nurturing another's ministry. It's a true gift to recognize and nurture those ministries.

A Friend suggested we share our thoughts and suggestions with our new Clerk Carol Spaulding-Kruse about how we may be more expansive with our vocal ministry

Lastly, a Friend reminded us to be careful in applying the rules and regulations to our worship, for the same may be stifling another's spirit during worship.

We closed our moment together with silence.

New Books Donated to DMVF Library

Native American Son: The Life and Sporting Legend of Jim Thorpe by Kate Buford

Jim Thorpe was an outstanding athlete in many fields and won gold medals in track in the 1912 Olympics which were later stripped from him.

Simple Living by Frank Levering and Wanda Urbanska

A couple leaves the fast life in Los Angeles to move to the Blue Ridge Mountains to help Frank's father with his apple orchard.

Thank you for the books!
-- contributed by Virginia Smith

AFSC highlights humanity within prison walls

AFSC and partners have launched [Let Me Tell You](#), a storytelling initiative to highlight the experiences of people serving life and long-term prison sentences.

"This project gives incarcerated men and women an opportunity to let members in society know who we really are," says Mark McCloud, who contributed his story to the project. Learn more about this work from this [article and video](#).

Read more at AFSC's full [Midwest Digest](#) for September.

Hosting List for Upcoming First Days

Sept 11 – Charlie Brown
Sept. 18 – Deborah & Katie
Sept. 25 – Dorothy Lifka
Oct. 2 – David & Claire
Oct. 9 – Jim & Catherine
Oct. 16 – Ann Robinson

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

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

Coming Second Hours:

Sept. 18 - Program on Vocal Ministry (continued) - Claire Cumbie-Drake

Sept. 25 - Journey to Friends - presenters TBA

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.

Building & Grounds: Questions about the building or grounds of the Meetinghouse to Building & Grounds Committee Convener, Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

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

Friendly Line: Send info for next Friendly Line to Ann at anny@mediacombb.net by Thursday, Sept. 30, 2022.

Find us online at: www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org

Check out our Facebook group for members/attenders. To be added, email Jan Falb, at jfalb0326@yahoo.com