

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

FRIENDLY LINE

September 2025



What can we do?

Des Moines Valley Friends Committee on Migrant & Refugee Concerns (CMARC) has been taking actions to help supporting our immigrant neighbors, primarily through financial help to several organizations, including Iowa Immigrant Movement for Justice, an organization with roots in the American Friends Service Committee.

We encourage Friends to consider ways individuals in the meeting might offer support in more individual ways. Here are several opportunities available through MMJ in the month ahead that Friends might feel led to engage in.

MMJ Talent Show and Annual Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Stand in solidarity to celebrate the immigrant and refugee communities that make Iowa thrive! This family friendly event will showcase Iowa talent, a silent auction and delicious food provided by immigrant owned restaurants.

Register [here](https://www.iowammj.org) and contact info@iowammj.org if you have questions. (The location is shared upon registration.)

ICE Accompaniment Training

Thursday, Oct 9, 4:00 p.m.

Virtual training to learn how to accompany vulnerable community members as they navigate the U.S. immigration system. Register [here](https://www.iowammj.org).

Other ways to help include:

Luggage Transportation

Families of people facing deportation need help getting luggage to loved ones. MMJ is seeking volunteers who can help with luggage drop off in Omaha for Iowans who are being deported by ICE. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-2pm. (It is possible that a volunteer would need to wait for hours for ICE officials to check the bag and OK it for travel.)

Find a number of helpful resources for supporting immigrants and watch for other training and advocacy opportunities at <https://www.iowammj.org>



Have you checked out desmoinesvalleyfriends.org lately?

A project of the Outreach & Communications Committee, the website seeks to be a low-maintenance site for those who are curious about who we are and a resource site for all. The site pages include Welcome, About Friends, Young Friends, FAQ, State of the Meeting, Friendly Line, IYMC, Resources, Contact, Calendar and Members.

Information about meeting times and building accessibility is front and center - well, more like front and right sidebar.

The calendar includes Quaker and/or local like-minded social justice events, information about Second Hours and a hosting calendar link. We're looking forward to contributions to the calendar from the peace and social concerns committee. There might be a joke or two in there too. ARR! (Talk like a Quaker Day might be different than Talk Like a Pirate Day.)

Under the Members page you can find links to the forms for Request for Donation/Payment/Reimbursement, Library Committee Book Request and Committee Accounting Worksheet, which is an Excel spreadsheet to keep track of your committee's budget, designated fund and spending.

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Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Des Moines Valley Friends,
Aug 9, 2025

Present: Carol Spaulding-Kruse;
Dorothy Lifka; Ann Robinson;
Billie Wade; Jim Dietz-Kilen;
Catherine Dietz-Kilen; David
Drake; Claire Cumbie-Drake;
Cheryl Sutton; Katie Jacoby;
Andrea Holveck

The Meeting opened with a
Moment of Silence

Approval of Minutes from June
2025 Meeting for Business
(Meeting for Business was
cancelled for July.)

Minute: The Minutes were
approved.

Ministry & Counsel

(Jim Dietz-Kilen)

July Meeting

Attendance: Andrea Holveck,
Peter Clay, Deborah Fisch, Jim
Dietz-Kilen (convener)

We gathered in silence at our
appointed time. We spent the
meeting discussing ways we
might provide care and support
for others in our meeting
community. The committee
completed the State of the
Meeting Report for IYM(C) 2025
Annual Sessions.

We have no action items to
bring Meeting for Worship with
Attention to Business.

We closed with silence.

August Meeting

Attendance: Andrea Holveck,
Peter Clay, Gordon Bivens,
Deborah Fisch, Dorothy Lifka,
Billie Wade & Jim Dietz-Kilen
(convener)

We gathered in silence at our
appointed time.

Petra, Tyler & Family--We
discussed our wish to have a pot-
luck send-off for Petra, Tyler and
family. We have asked them to
suggest a date/time or two that
would work for them and will
then work with Claire to
schedule. We also want to
organize a time when folks from
meeting can help move items
from their Des Moines home to
storage and are interested in
using the Sharing Fund to have
professionals move large items
for them, if needed.

Care Committee for Pam—
Dorothy Lifka, Claire Cumbie-
Drake, Susan Myers, Deslonde
Lamb & Jan Falb have formed a
care committee for Pam.

AVP Training—Cheryl Sutton is
willing to offer, under the
auspices of Meeting, a three-day
training. M&C recommends to
Business Meeting that we take
Cheryl up on this offer and
recruit volunteers to help
promote the training and to offer
hospitality to participants.

We closed in silence.

Minute: The Meeting approved
holding an AVP workshop under
the auspices of DMFV.
Representatives from Ministry
and Counsel and Outreach were
asked to meet with Cheryl to
discern the details and logistics
for a workshop.

Finance Committee (Catherine
Dietz-Kilen)

Meeting July 14, 2025

Attendees: Catherine Dietz-
Kilen, Katie Jacoby, Dorothy
Lifka and Charlie Brown

1. Financial Reports. The
Finance Committee reviewed and
approved the financial statements
for May and June 2025 for

submission to Meeting for
Business.

2. The Finance Committee has
instituted a practice that, in the
event that the statements do not
reconcile by an amount \$5.00 or
less and the Treasurer has spent
two hours to find the problem to
reconcile the accounts, the
Treasurer need not spend
additional time but may instead
make a “correction” to the
statements via the funds currently
held in our budget under
bookkeeper. We are no longer
paying an outside bookkeeper
and therefore believe that next
year’s budget will not contain a
line item for “bookkeeper”. We
will include a line item for
“reconciliation”.

3. The Finance Committee
authorized the Treasurer to make
the contributions to the
organizations listed under
“affiliated contributions” in our
budget, at her convenience.

4. The Finance Committee will
open a credit card at Community
Choice Credit Union with the
Treasurer and Co-Convenors of
the Buildings and Grounds
Committee as signors on the
card. Repair or maintenance
providers will often require
payment on the day that work is
done on behalf of Des Moines
Valley Friends. The co-
convenors of the Buildings and
Grounds Committee need a credit
card in order to make timely
payments. The Treasurer will pay
any credit card amounts due, in
full, prior to the date that
balances come due, as it is not
our intention to incur interest
costs.

5. The Finance Committee began
our review and editing of the Des
Moines Valley Friends

Treasurer's Transition document and completed the first two pages. We will continue with this task at each committee meeting as time allows, with the intention of having a completed document ready for the use of any future treasurer or Finance Committee members. The document will also be available for any member or attender who would like to review it.

6. Action Item. The Finance Business Meeting prepare a copy of the membership records that can be held in the safety deposit box which the Finance Committee will open at Community Choice Credit Union.

7. The Finance Committee's next scheduled meeting will be on the third Wednesday of August at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom, August 20.

Katie reviewed the financial statements with the Business Meeting. There are no outstanding matters related to the Meeting finances. All is in good shape.

Action item: The Finance Committee recommends that the Meeting keep a copy of the membership records in the bank safety deposit box. Forrest is creating a spreadsheet of the membership records. An additional paper copy of the records is also at the Meeting House. The Finance Committee will get a copy of the records to put in the safety deposit box.

Minute: The Meeting approved the Finance Committee report, including the recommendations regarding the membership records.

Building & Grounds Committee (Charlie Brown)

The Business Meeting reconsidered a **Minute** from the June Meeting for Business, as follows:

We are asking Building and Grounds to look into expenses for ceiling fans and curtains for the east windows to cut down on the cost of heating and air-conditioning and to review the quote for the replacement HVAC system.

August

Buildings and Ground committee members suggested that the Meeting use fans to help cool the Meeting room, and requested that individuals who are not committee members not "mess" with the thermostat. The committee reminded Friends that it takes up to an hour to cool off the room.

Minute: The Meeting approved the reports, however, no decision was made regarding the matter of adding ceiling fans and curtains on the east windows.

Religious Education Committee, (Dorothy Lifka)

No report for July or August

Meeting has a new attender who may be interested in having child care and First Day School for his 7 year old. Andrea will convene a meeting of the Religious Ed committee.

Friends House Board (Dorothy Lifka)

Meeting, July 18, 2025

Highlights: Renee Cawthorn, FH manager, is taking a "sabbatical" from some of her duties during August and September. She will

continue to do "light, administrative work" but will not work on building repairs during those two months.

The board approved formation of an informal building and grounds committee to help get bids on repairs, schedule appointments with contractors and make recommendations to the board. Mike Martin, Katie Jacoby and Charlie Brown have agreed to be on this committee. Immediate concerns are ruling out termites (inactive evidence was found during the elevator inspection), repair of ceiling water damage in several of the offices and replacement of the current air conditioning unit on the third floor.

Dorothy reported that Friends House may be looking for a new property manager.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee (Billie Wade)

Meeting 5 August 2025

Attendees: Billie Wade (Convener), Jack Holveck, Peter Clay, Petra Lange, Patty Wengert

Thank you to Patty Wengert for handling the backpack donation to Hope Ministries. The committee is very grateful to Patty for taking care of this.

Budget Balance: \$1,960.95

Designated Funds Balance: 1,310.95.

Expenditures, Calendar Year 2025: \$850.00

Billie - A couple of tender requests. Emails about supporting Patty in our donation to Hope Ministries and asking for input on the committee's report to the yearly meeting went unanswered and this was a concern. The members of the committee all committed to

doing better.

David Drake – The Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) executive director's note about her arrests while praying in the capitol will be addressed. How might we do something similar here in Des Moines around the cuts in Medicaid and also on the revocation of rights for folks based on gender?

The committee will invite David to fill out our new form for Friends who wish to bring new concerns or leadings to the committee.

Request from Cheryl Sutton:
A change in how we structure soup lunch sign up. She is interested in DMVF using a team approach to potlucks that they use at Bear Creek. Billie will include this as an action item for business meeting to consider.

Old Business:

- Becoming an Affirming Congregation through [Rainbow Faith Coalition](#)

Billie will check out the website and provide background to Carol for this as an agenda item for business.

- Creating a literature rack for LGBTQ+ literature.

The committee thinks that this is an item for the library committee to engage with. Petra will reach out to Deborah Fisch to discuss further how to move forward on this.

- Sustaining donations to One Iowa

Peter will reach out to Cecilia Martinez to find out why our May check is still uncashed. We agreed to send another check for \$100 once we have learned why the previous check is uncashed.

- Book reading of *American Teenager*. Billie will be in touch with Dorothy about this.
- Hosting a 101 from One Iowa. Peter will reach out to Cecilia Martinez to learn more about the specifics on One Iowa implementing their LGBTQ+ 101. How many participants at a minimum? How much is the cost for the workshop? How many hours is the training?
- Creating regular educational spaces for Friends to know how to discuss things like trans rights.
- We agreed to send another check for \$100 for Gaza support to the AFSC.

We will defer the following items until September:

- creating a discernment request form for Peace & Social Issues committee (April)
- Deborah's Concern about Organizing: can we set up a way to communicate if we want to travel or meet with Friends at rallies? (March)
- Petra's creation of a Monthly Calendar to inform, organize and inspire action amongst Friends (February)
- How we are centering the most vulnerable folks being targeted by this Administration (January)

P&SC Meeting - 01 July 2025

Attendees: Billie Wade (Convener), Peter Clay, Jack Holveck, Patty Wingert, Petra Lange

Opened with a moment of silence.

- We considered the logistics of adding PSC events to the DMFV website calendar. Petra drafted a form for Friends to use to invite members of the Meeting to events that they will be attending. The draft can be accessed here: <https://forms.gle/jSo9e6HY29nwHAzo9>
- We reconsidered David Drake's request sent through email on Monday, Jan. 27, to support a Ute School in Colorado.
- Without further details, we had difficulty discerning an action in support of this school but crafted questions that would help us with future requests. Petra drafted a form for Friends to use to request support from PSC; the draft can be accessed here: <https://forms.gle/Cb69ZiLTJNBu19jT9>

Questions for Form:

- Who is the point of contact from Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting? Who is the point of contact from any other organization referenced in this request?
- What request are you bringing to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee?
- What inspired this request? For example, are these signs part of a local movement in which we are joining in solidarity to support immigrants to our community and Meeting?

- Do you know if other congregations or Meetings have taken the step you are suggesting?
- Are there missteps that we could avoid by learning from how other spiritual communities have implemented specific actions? For example, if the sign does not actually prevent ICE from entering the Meeting House, would people assume it meant we were a sanctuary?
- What is the purpose of taking this particular action? What are your hopeful outcomes of taking this action?
- What is the social issue that you are hoping this action will address? For example, is this sign an effort to support immigrant families? Is it a visual sign of resistance against a specific law? Who will this action benefit?
- What is the relationship that is grounding this request?
- Does someone in our Meeting have a relationship with the organization we would be supporting? How does this benefit vulnerable or marginalized communities and have these communities most affected asked for this assistance?
- Is there a conflict of interest? For example, will the donation made by the PSC committee

benefit a Friend of the Meeting?

- Our meeting convenes on the first Tuesday of each month, please let us know which of the monthly meetings you would be able to attend in order to answer any questions that might arise.
- We discussed the requests made after the Second Hour with One Iowa and while there was interest in financially supporting One Iowa and learning more through their LGBTQ Inclusivity Training (specifically a session of LGBTQ 101), we were unclear about the financial commitment and will return to the discussion after doing some research.

One Iowa discussion:

- Sustaining donations to One Iowa (How much total?)
- Hosting a 101 from One Iowa.
- How much does it cost? \$600/hour?
- Creating a literature rack for LGBTQ+ literature.
- Book reading of *American Teenager*.
- Creating regular educational spaces for Friends to know how to discuss things like trans rights.

Hope Ministries:

Patty Wengert will share list of materials needed for the Back to School event.

Minute: The Meeting approved the Peace and Social Concerns Committee reports with gratitude

for the hard work of this committee. Meeting approved of the committee developing a form for use by Friends who want to make requests for donations from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee budget. The Meeting also approved of Peace and Social Concerns creating a new format for soup lunch sign-up.

Outreach Committee

(Ann Robinson) No report for July or August. A new attender noted that he learned about the Meeting from the Meeting's table at the Comparison Project event at Drake University. Thank you to the Outreach Committee!

The committee plans to meet in late August.

Library Committee

(Deborah Fisch) No report for July or August.

Nominating Committee

(Andrea Holveck)

At the May business meeting, a suggestion by the nominating committee was brought forth by David Drake. We recommend that committee assignments be for a two-year period. Every other year the nominating committee would ask for new committee assignments. Exceptions to the two-year term might include clerk, assistant clerk and recording clerk. We are asking for a discussion about this at our August meeting.

Minute: Friends approve the recommendation that committee assignments be for a two-year period, with the exception of clerk, assistant clerk, and recording clerk. The nominating committee will continue to oversee the process of

discerning who will serve on the various committees.

The Clerk expressed thanks to the members of the nominating committee for their work.

Committee on Migrant & Refugee Concerns (CMARC),
(Dorothy Lifka)
CMARC Meeting - July 12, 2025

Peter updated us on funding for DACA renewals through Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners. He suggested that either he or Jean Hansen could write an article on this for the Friendly Line. We agreed to send \$1210.00 to the fund to pay for two renewals or partial payment for additional renewals.

We received a request for funds for an individual who is friends with a member of DMVF. We decided that we don't have enough information. Dorothy will contact the Friend who requested the help. This might be more appropriately handled by the Sharing Fund.

We discussed a welcoming sign which has been discussed previously in meeting for business and decided that it needs more discussion and seasoning.

Jim has agreed to track the balance in our designated fund.

Dorothy will contact Mak Sucasca to reschedule a second hour meeting with him.

We encourage Friends to continue to contact the media and our local, state and federal representatives to speak up in support of migrants and refugees. Next meeting: August 30th at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom.

Minute: The Meeting approved the report, with gratitude to the committee.

IYMC Business, New & Other Business

IYMC:

The IYMC Archives Committee is considering options for how to preserve records of Quaker history in light of the pending closure of the Iowa City Archives library, including the possibility of taking the records back.

Follow-Up & Action Items for Next Month

Regarding 50th anniversary of the bombing of the Meeting House on December 14, 2025.

Friends revisited the following Minute from the June 2025 Meeting for Business: We will plan to schedule a second hour as soon as possible to discuss this matter and to consider an ad-hoc committee to discuss, which will include Renee from Friends House. We will discuss an invitation to Randy Evans to speak during that second hour.

Friends expressed mixed views on the purpose of commemorating this event, and whether Friends should reach out to other organizations and individuals about participation.

David Drake will reach out to Randy Evans about his availability and willingness to share his experience related to this.

The Meeting Closed with Silence.

How many circles- circles of friendship, of passion, of commitment and circles of connections of every kind can we close, before the Big Circle of our life itself closes?

- Peter Clay

Query #4: Meeting for Worship for Business - Notes from Discussion Sept. 7, 2025

Present: Billie Wade, convenor, Susan Myers, recorder, Dan, Dick Douglas, Andrea Holveck, Deb Fish, Cheryl Sutton, Jack Holveck, Pam Blackburn

How can we hold our meetings for business in the spirit of love, understanding and patient search for unity w/o becoming frustrated by differences of opinion or the pressures of time?

It can be challenging to give ourselves fully, given that some of our meetings for business last up to three hours. We have looked at different ways to address the challenge of using our time well. We recognize, too, that the process of finding the sense of the meeting may take time. Our goal is to get a sense of the Spirit as we gather the sense of the meeting. It may be that when our deliberation takes so long, we have become less centered on where the Spirit is leading us. At these times, we have benefited from the clerk bringing us back to center. At other times, we recognize that we won't complete our process in one meeting.

How do we respond when no one else in the meeting seems to hold the views that we do on an issue?

Sometimes, a person will offer a completely different direction to the conversation, and when this is Spirit-led, it may take the process into a more fruitful of being willing to participate and speak, according to what we are given.

We reflected that we have few people who participate in Meeting for Business and would like to find ways to attract more attenders. Greater involvement is important, as important decisions that affect the entire meeting are often made.

We also considered ways the clerk might keep close-of-business meeting to the stated time. When committees do not have written reports, we can omit an oral report – next time they have an action item, they can bring it forward. We could also ask committees to limit their reports to items business meeting needs to consider. Information that is not action-oriented could be shared in the Friendly Line.

We are grateful for the skill our Clerk brings to our business meetings, including sending the agenda and reports out prior to meeting. We can all benefit by preparing for business meeting by reading this information carefully.

For issues that promise to be controversial, we would benefit from background information on why the issue is important. We also have the opportunity to communicate concerns with other members well before business meeting.

Part of approaching discernment is to remain open to what might be revealed to us through our process, which we may or may not describe using overtly spiritual language. We see the questions in this query as applicable to our daily life. We seek to honor the Spirit within everyone with whom we come into contact, including those who do not consider themselves to be religious.

We appreciate the ethos in DSM Vally Friends, that when a member has a need, we try to step up to fill it. We also appreciate that members and attenders do not hesitate to serve on committees – often multiple ones.

We did not identify any suggested Changes to the Advice and Query.

Query # 5: for October Harmony Within the Meeting

*This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you
John 15:1*

ADVICE: It is sometimes difficult to remember that love is a gift of the Divine Spirit and not simply a human emotion. As imperfect human beings, it is not always possible for us to feel loving toward one another, but by opening ourselves to the Light Within, we can receive and give love beyond our human abilities. Relationships among meeting members take time to evolve. Sometimes misunderstandings develop. When differences arise, they should not be ignored for the sake of superficial unity. We believe disagreements which might divide or disrupt a meeting can be resolved through human effort and divine grace, and may result in a stronger and more creative meeting. True harmony depends upon each person's deep respect of and faithful attention to the Divine Spirit within us all. We endeavor to practice humility, attempting to understand positions of others and being aware of the possibility that we may be mistaken.

It is the responsibility of the ministry and counsel committee to be sensitive to needs which may arise. Others in the meeting may be equally concerned, and because of greater understanding in certain cases, be able to give counsel. In reconciliation of differences, a position not previously considered may prove mutually beneficial. At times it may be necessary to confront individuals whose behavior is disruptive. A clearness committee or professional help may be suggested in some situations. We must always remember the power of holding one another in the Light, and the healing that comes from forgiving ourselves as well as others.

QUERIES

- What can we do to deepen our relationships with one another?
- How does gender affect the way we relate to each other?
- How does our meeting balance the needs for honesty and kindness?
- What topics do we avoid for the sake of "unity"?
- When in conflict with others, do we cultivate a forgiving spirit?
- Do we look to that of God in ourselves and seek to address that of God in those with whom we disagree?

DMVF Website

(continued from page 1) As always, if technology keeps you from accessing these forms let us know. We'll be happy to provide paper copies. We will also be adding other documents of interest to members, for example,

our updated Treasurer and Finance Committee Policies and Practices.

Have a suggestion? Let the Outreach & Communications Committee know! Members of are Katie Jacoby (convener), Forrest Determan, Ann Robinson, Billie Wade and Lindsey Baker.

-- contributed by Katie Jacoby

News of Our Friends

Elaine Wedeking will be presenting a duet program of harp music with her teacher Kristin Maahs at Wesley Acres on Oct. 3, at 3:30 p.m., in the primary performance space. The program will include a wide variety of musical pieces. All are welcome to attend.

Anna Wiegel and Charles Bastow were married on August 30th at the Crown Point Community Center in Johnston. Anna's daughter, **Dava**, was a bridesmaid. Friends can send well wishes to the family at 1302 Main St., Norwalk, IA, 50211.

Osh Anderson is healing from a recent fall; please hold her in the light.

Upcoming Hosting List

Sept. 7 – Charlie & Dorothy
Sept. 14 – Deborah & Katie
Sept. 21 – David & Claire
Sept. 28 – Jim & Catherine
Oct. 5 – Steve & Kari
Oct. 12 – Ann & Audrey
Oct. 19 – Peter & Andrea

Upcoming Events

International Day of Peace: Act Now for a Peaceful World

Sunday, Sept. 21, 5:00 p.m., at the Cowles Commons Peace Garden, 313 Walnut St., Des Moines. (The alternative location in case of rain is Capitol Hill Lutheran Church, 511 Des Moines street.

Brian Campbell, director, Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility, will share comments and there will be music by the First Methodist Church Choir. DMVF is co-sponsoring this event with the Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace and others.

Penn Valley Friends Meeting Retreat: Love Your Neighbors

Penn Valley Meeting in Kansas City invites Friends to join its Fall Retreat, September 25 -27, 2025, at the The Sisters of St. Francis Retreat Center, 2100 Noland Rd., Independence Missouri.

The theme will be: Love Your Neighbors: No Exceptions. (Mark 12:30-31). Get more details, including the cost, and link to register at:

<https://kcquakers.org/about-us/news/>

Sing With the Meadowlarks

A singing weekend is being planned by Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), to be held in Ames, Iowa. The tentative date is Oct. 18-19. Final dates and other details will be announced soon after Meeting for Worship and in Clerk's notes.

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,

carol.spaulding@drake.edu

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

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

Upcoming Second Hours:

Sept. 20: First Day Potluck
Sept. 27: David Drake will discuss his trip to Ireland to meet with peace groups

Child Care: If you have a child who would like to be included in Zoom childcare or first day school for older youth, contact Dorothy at dmlifka@yahoo.com.

Building & Grounds: For questions about the building or grounds of the Meeting House, contact Building & Grounds Committee Convenor, Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

Hospitality Committee: For questions about housekeeping at Hospitality Committee convenor Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

Friendly Line: Send info for the Oct. FL by Friday, Sept. 26, to anny.robinson1@gmail.com

Find us online at:

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

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