Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

FRIENDLY LINE

October 2026





Community members from across the Des Moines area gathered for inspiration, prayer and music to celebrate the International Day of Peace, Sept. 21, 2026, at the Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in Des Moines. This event, initiated by the United Nations, has been held for some years now, planned by the Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace and other co-sponsors. Photos from the event by Jon Krieg.



DMVF book group continues

All Friends are invited share in the DMVF discussion of "Fit for Freedom Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice" by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye.

The next meeting will be held Sunday, Oct. 18, at 1:30 p.m., on Zoom and in person at the DMVF Meeting House. Books may still be available through the DMVF's library or can be ordered through Friends General Conference QuakerBooks.

This month's reading/ discussion will cover Chapter 2.

Treat responsibly this Halloween: Buy chocolate willing to be checked

Giving chocolate to trick-or-treaters or as a gift is a way to share joy with others. To make the world happier, ensure that cocoa farmers have a better life by choosing chocolates from the most ethical companies, starting with your Halloween chocolates.

Find more information, including a scorecard to help rank your chocolate spending at www.chocolatescorecard.com/home.

-- from Green America.

Quaker Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

September 13, 2026

Participants: Dorothy Lifka, Charlie Brown - co-clerks; Forrest Determann - Recording Clerk; Debra Fisch, Susan Meyers, Bob Henderson, Stan Sanders, Cheryl Sutton

Online: Billie Wade, Brock Wommack, Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Jim Dietz-Kilen, Angela Hopkins, Katie Jacoby, Carol Spaulding Kruse

Meeting opened with a moment of silence

Review of Meeting Minutes

Meeting accepted August minutes without amendment

Treasurer's report

Presented by Katie Jacoby

Minute: Approved financial report with appreciation

Finance Committee Report

presented by Catherine Dietz-Kilen

Amending current report to make three changes:

- Request to increase budget for Peace and Social Concerns Committee by $1000, as recommended by the committee.
- Increase to Religious Education Committee by $500 to account for additional costs for daycare and new materials
- Additional $100 for treasurer's committee for safe deposit box that was not previously considered. The deposit box had been moved from prior bank to the new credit union currently being used and this expense was not considered at the time of the original report.

The proposed fence is being paid by property management or building and grounds and is not a factor in the above action items.

Minute: We approve the Finance Committee's recommendation for an increase of $500 for religious education, $100 for clerk and treasurer's expenses, and $1000 for Peace and Social Concerns for the current fiscal calendar year. We anticipate having these funds available during this current year.

Ministry and Counsel

Presented by Jim Dietz-Kilen
No action items.

There is a journaling workshop that Billie will be offering on Oct. 17th. There will a fee that M&C will consider scholarships from the Quaker Education Enrichment and Advocacy Fund that should be requested by Oct. 1. Requests for scholarship funds should be sent to Jim DK.

Anyone that wants to contribute a gift for the second year of Bug's education should send them to the meeting in care of the CMARC committee with a note that it should be earmarked for "Bucks for Bugs." Gifts specific to this purpose are not tax deductible.

Minute: The meeting appreciates the work of the Bucks for Bugs Committee and to those that contribute to the fund and those that have hosted Bugs and supported him in others ways. We encourage others to continue support for Bugs financially and with other support.

Building and Grounds

Presented by Charlie Brown

There is a cleanup day for the building grounds on September 27th after meeting. Friends are asked to bring any yard tools they may have to use for this event.

The committee has obtained three quotes to replace HVAC system, building and grounds has not yet reviewed them.

There was a proposal to have a keypad added to replace keys

There was also a proposal of insulated drapes for front windows for both efficiency and to be able to darken room for video projector presentations that they're looking into.

A friend suggested blinds instead of drapes partially for aesthetic purposes. Another friend suggested they cost less and last longer.

Meeting discussed the details of options for blinds vs. curtains and of lock/keypad replacement. Clerk noted at this point we're just gathering information on this. Thoughts on this may be sent to buildings and grounds.

Stains on carpeting has been discussed as well. It was suggested this be professionally cleaned. This is something that's currently budgeted for.

Minute: Buildings and grounds is still in research phase of addressing window treatment and locks. Those that have have input should contact Charlie Brown.

Religious Ed Committee

There is no convener for religious education right now. There is a lot of work being done

with the kids, anyone that would like to be involved, please let Cheryl or Dorothy know.

Concern with sanitation and cleaning supplies was discussed (sanitizing wipes, sprays, et cetera). The committee should consider this. Anyone that donates supplies should turn in receipts along with donations. Currently bleach and water is being used to clean.

Minute: Those working with the children are scheduling a meeting to discuss a variety of issues including standard procedures for sanitation and the curriculum and the possibility of extending child- care to second hour some Sundays and other issues people bring to the meeting.

Committee on Migrant and Refugee Concerns

No action items for CMARC.

A letter from Bug's was sent out in Clerk's notes to those that have not seen it.

Library Committee - No report.

Outreach and Communications Committee

Report presented by Katie Jacoby

Minute: We accept the Committee's report with appreciation.

Friends House Board Report

Presented by Dorothy Lifka
No action items.

Des Moines Valley Friends is taking on the cleanup of the back grounds for need to create safe outdoor space for children at meeting. The other areas towards the front of the property should be Friends House responsibility and should be paid 1/3 by meeting and 2/3 by Friends House.

A friend suggested that since we are doing some of the physical work for tending grounds, that Friends House may contribute for paying for removal of materials. The dumpster can be used for much of this but there may be more material cleared than fits in the dumpster.

Waiting and maintenance of signs by Friends house should also be considered.

Minute: Business meeting asks Friends House board representatives from Friends Meeting to ask the board to clarify the roles of the informal ad-hoc Friends House board buildings and grounds committee. The understanding of the members of the Friends House board ad-hoc buildings and grounds committee is that they would play an advisory and research role on their problems -- not doing the physical work on matters outside the expertise of board members on large complex projects.

The work of the committee is appreciated. Their work is not always fully reflected int the reports.

New Business

Love as action events. We are encouraged to work on new events, these actions do not need to look like prior events.

Individually and corporately we have many things on our place, and unless someone steps forward to coordinate a next Love an Action event, we may need to put this aside for now.

A friend noted that the activity could be sponsored by one of our committees such as Peace and Social Concerns -- if that's something they're willing to take on. Previously this was organized by John Krieg under his role with AFSC, he and several others have organized prior events, which the P&SCcommittee helped support financially. The committee will consider taking this project on under their care.

Minute: Business meeting suggests that Peace and Social Concerns Committee discern whether or not to take on the Love as Action Project under the care of the Committee.

Brock would like input on the idea of his current property being used as a Quaker and artists retreat center.

Announcement: DMVF, Ames and Whittier meetings will host yearly meeting next year, 2027. There is a need to set up a committee to work on this. There will be further discussion of this at the October Business Meeting.

For new business next month: Discuss membership and documents storage.

The meeting ended with a moment of Silence.



F(f)riends share a meal and conversation during a DMVF soup lunch in September. Photo by Ann Robinson.

Query #3: Meeting for Business

September 6, 2026

Convened by Billie Wade, Recorded by Susan Myers; Attending: Dorothy Lifka, Ann Robinson, Brock Womack, Cheryl Sutton

Advice (from IYMC)

In our meeting for business, Friends seek Divine guidance in handling the affairs of the meeting. By opening the meeting with a period of worship, Friends can more easily wait patiently upon the will of the Divine Spirit while conducting business. This assists our meetings for business in finding the loving unity that might never be achieved through discussion alone. The right conduct of meetings for business, even in routine matters, is important to the life of the meeting.

Friends are encouraged to prepare for and attend meetings for business just as they would other meetings for worship. Participating in meetings for business and acceptance of responsibilities within the meeting should not be taken lightly. When filling positions within our meetings, it is important to consider the suitability of individuals for specific tasks.

Although the clerk is particularly charged with gathering the sense of the meeting, all Friends can assist the process by committing themselves to be faithful in opening their hearts and minds to wait upon the Divine Spirit?

Queries and Discussion

How can we hold our meetings for business in the spirit of love, understanding and patient search for unity without becoming frustrated by differences of opinion or the pressures of time?

We have worked to keep our business meetings on track to avoid unnecessarily long meetings for business. As we work to use our time together wisely, we also recognize this query does not envision meetings for worship with the purpose of business that wrap up promptly within a short time allowing members to leave happy and serene. The emphasis here is on the patient search for unity in the spirit of Love.

As we abide in that spirit and realize we're not able to get to an action item in a particular session, the item can be brought to our next business meeting. If an item becomes urgent, we can call a business meeting before our next scheduled meeting for business.

Some have observed that Yearly meeting seems more deliberate than our monthly meeting about listening out of the stillness to what is shared in business meeting. Most of our clerks have worked to resolve the tension between keeping business meeting on track and providing the frame for conducting our business meetings in the spirit of worship and discernment. Attending business meetings, we are called to the discipline of waiting and being open to what others have to share. We are grateful for our clerks' efforts to find this balance.

To help ground our meetings, we considered suggesting our clerks open meeting for worship with attention to business by reminding participants that we enter this meeting in the spirit of love and appreciation. For example, 'Let us hold the meeting for business in the spirit of love, understanding and a patient search for unity without becoming frustrated by differences of opinion or the pressures of time.'

We are challenged to attract more attenders to participate in our monthly meetings for worship with attention to business. This exhortation may help us bring an attitude of love and patience to our business deliberations, especially as we encounter lack of clarity and/or disagreement.

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

We work to remember that our deliberations are not about any individual preference but rather about the needs of our community. We considered the discipline of stepping aside and being willing to learn, trusting that we will sometimes make mistakes and as a community, we'll have opportunities to remedy those.

How do we share responsibilities among Friends in our meeting?

We are sometimes concerned that our worship community has become 'a small group of aging members.' We have members and attenders who consistently care for the community, such as by providing rides for non-

driving members and providing childcare and religious education. While some can be quite active (retirees, for example), over time, most members and attenders step in when needed.

How do we serve our meetings?

We serve because we want to be here. Members give joyfully because we know funds will be joyfully and responsibly used to do good work. Business meeting can be a source of joy where we report how, through our committees, we are working (and playing) to get things done for our meeting and our wider community.

We are actively exploring how we can make meeting for business more fun and joyful, a reflection of the joy and generosity of spirit in our work together.

We also considered whether returning to the practice of reading the committee reports during meeting for business might enliven the meeting by sharing committee accomplishments for all to hear.

We need to make room for self-care during business meetings. We could be more intentional about making room for people to take breaks as needed to get up and stretch, use the restroom or grab a snack or refreshment. Perhaps we could ask hosts on business meeting first days to provide more substantial snacks.

As we gather for business meeting, we are coming together for the care of our community. We' suggest framing business meeting as an opportunity to share and receive reports of the joy we've experienced in the last month together.

Attending business meeting is a crucial way of learning about the meeting's collaborations with Friends House and other faith communities, as well as how we have come to decisions to use our resources in specific ways.

Suggestion to add to query: How do we encourage people to attend meeting for worship with attention to business?

Upcoming Events

Meadowlarks Gathering to Sing - Saturday, Nov. 21 through lunch on Sunday, Nov. 22. Come when you can, leave when you need to. Location: Windsor Oaks Community Center, 1100 Adams Street, Ames. Carpooling opportunities may be available, by contacting Ann Robinson or Deborah Fisch at DMVF.

If you are planning to attend, please email Carol Gilbert at clerk@iymc.org to help plan for meals.

Hosting Schedule

Oct. 11 – Jim & Catherine
Oct. 18 – Steve & Kari
Oct 25 – ?
Nov. 1 – Ann & Ted
Nov. 8 – Charlie & Andrea

You can view the hosting schedule at the DMVF web calendar for hosting **here**. If you feel led to serve the meeting as a host, contact co-clerk Charlie Brown at 515-689-6470.

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting for Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m., at the Meeting House and by Zoom via email invitation from co-clerks, Charlie Brown and Dorothy Lifka, at clerk@desmoinesvalleyfriends.org

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: Held on the second First Day each month at 11:45 a.m.

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

Upcoming Second Hours:
10-18 – Soup lunch
10-25 - Faith Journey Sharing - Michael Halloran

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

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

Friendly Line: Send info for the September FL by Fri, Oct. 30, to anny.robinson1@gmail.com

Find us online at: https://www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org/.

Check out our Facebook group at Des Moines Valley Friends (Quakers) and our (separate) **Facebook page** at Des Moines Valley Friends – Quakers