

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

FRIENDLY LINE

July 2024

Des Moines Valley Friends: The State of the Meeting - Prepared for Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative 2024 by DMVF Ministry and Counsel

Diversity and new people joining us are two big strengths of our meeting. We also strive to be fully inclusive of Zoom attenders in the life of the meeting. Another strength is how we care for one another.

Our diversity sometimes leads to tensions among community members, such as over differing opinions regarding appropriate ministry. We have asked for individuals to practice more discernment about when to rise to speak during waiting worship and how to offer ministry.

As a community we have been delighted with the movement of the Spirit among us this past year. We are grappling with many changes and challenges but there is a new sense of possibility among DMVF and a growing sense that we have much to offer the wider community. The arrival of new attenders has brought us new Spiritual energy, helping us to put our faith into action in new ways.

Sometimes our worship feels deeply grounded, whether or not there is vocal ministry. Other times it feels less Spirit-led and more secular, depending upon the messages offered on a given First Day and the receptivity each of us brings with us to meeting.

Generally, we need more individuals to participate in meeting for worship with attention to business. As a community we do not seem to fully understand this responsibility. Our collective skills around doing our business after the manner of Friends will be enhanced with more attendance on a more regular basis.

We enjoy lively discussions when we gather to consider the query each month. Participation has been good and the sharing has provided one important venue for our community to deepen our relationships with one another. The queries continue to challenge us and continue to encourage our spiritual growth.

The spiritual life of our meeting will continue to be strengthened as we deepen the relationships between us. Witnessing against racism by many community members and generous informal sharing after worship both help deepen our connections to one another.

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A Quaker Minute

William Penn Statue Controversy

The National Park Service has retracted plans to remove a statue of the Quaker founder of Pennsylvania, William Penn, from a small pocket Park in Philadelphia. The Biden administration and the Park Service have been under intense pressure from conservative media for “cancelling” William Penn out of the history of colonial America in favor of a “woke” outdoor museum dedicated to precolonial Native American culture. In this context, “woke” refers to having an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, especially those involving the treatment of ethnic, racial or sexual minorities.

William Penn was a 17th Century wealthy British aristocrat whose father was Lord of the Admiralty under King James. Young Penn embarrassed his family by converting to Quakerism, preaching and pamphleteering for the Quaker cause, getting expelled from Oxford University and imprisoned in the Tower of London for his Quaker activities. The family sent William to the New World to administer Pennsylvania to hide his antics from London society.

William Penn made his Pennsylvania a “Holy Experiment” where people of diverse backgrounds and religions would live together in peace.

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

Des Moines Valley Friends MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS May 16, 2024

The Meeting began with a
Moment of Silence

Present: Carol Spaulding-Kruse,
Jack Holveck, Andrea Holveck,
Billie Wade, Claire Cumbie-
Drake, Dorothy Lifka, Ann
Robinson, Katie Jacoby, Logan
Jimenez, Fred Nelson, Gordon
Bivens, Deborah Fisch

Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2024 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minute: Friends approved the
minutes from the May Meeting
for Business, with appreciation to
Deb Fisch for stepping in for the
recording clerk.

Ministry & Counsel Committee Report (Jim Dietz-Kilen)

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting June 2024 Ministry & Counsel Report

In Attendance: Dorothy Lifka,
Andrea Holveck, Gordon Bivens
& Jim Dietz-Kilen (convener).

We gathered in silence at our
appointed time of 8:30 am on
First Day.

We shared updates regarding
Friends with health struggles or
other concerns and considered
how we might best provide
support for these individuals.

We next reviewed the balances
of the Sharing and Quaker
Education, Enrichment &
Advocacy Funds.

The draft State of the Meeting
report, which was circulated to
the committee following last
week's meeting, was the next

item. With just a few additional
tweaks, it was approved to be
submitted for approval at the
next Business Meeting.

Next, we discussed the new
process for introductions, sharing
joys & concerns and
announcements. In general, we
think it is working fairly well.
We suggest that the clerk or a
host simply acknowledge people
on zoom, as the least awkward
way of handling those
introductions. Committee
members felt that "popcorn"
sharing of joys & concerns is
working well.

Our last agenda item was a
request from Michael Luick-
Thrams for a clearness
committee. Michael specifically
requested, via clerk Carol, that
his clearness committee be
organized by her, as clerk, rather
than by M&C. The committee
consulted IYM©'s Faith and
Practice for guidance. That
book states that "[t]hose who
wish the help of a clearness
committee may ask the clerk of
the Meeting or of Ministry and
Counsel that such a committee be
formed." On that basis, we
advise Carol that it is appropriate
for her to proceed in working
with Michael to form a
committee for clearness.

Discussion: Friends discussed
the State of the Meeting report
and whether it should be
circulated for comment before
submitting to Yearly Meeting.
The Clerk will circulate by email.

Friends also discussed the new
process for sharing joys and
concerns after Meeting for
Worship. Friends expressed
concerns that individuals feel
hesitant to share with the new
process, and only share if their

joy/concern rises to a level that is
similar to a message. Others
expressed concern that they feel
less connected to Friends than
when joys and concerns were
shared longer with introductions.
Friends had several suggestions
about how to best address these
concerns. The Clerk will bring
the concern to Ministry and
Counsel for further
consideration.

Minute: Friends approved the
report.

Finance Committee & Budget Report (Catherine Dietz-Kilen)

*Friends were provided with the
following documents by email:
April Designated Funds, Funds
Summary, and Receipts &
Expenses*

DMVF Finance Committee Minutes, May 15, 2024 (via Zoom)

Attendees: Catherine Dietz-
Kilen, Katie Jacoby, Dorothy
Lifka and Dick Douglass

1. The Finance Committee
reviewed the proposed
budget for July through
December 2024. Because
there was little discussion at
the previous Business
Meeting, we were concerned
about presenting this budget
to be approved at the June
Business Meeting. The
Committee hopes to have a
robust conversation about the
budget at the June Business
Meeting with the likelihood
of delaying the final approval
until the July Business
Meeting, thereby giving the
Finance Committee an
opportunity to address any
questions or concerns raised
by the Business Meeting in

June at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

2. Our next scheduled meeting will be on the third Wednesday of next month at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom, June 19, 2024.

A note on our apportionment, from Catherine: The apportionment for DMFV for fiscal year 2023-24 was \$14,500, not \$12,000. The original proposed budget had \$12,000 for our apportionment, but then we received an unexpected donation and revised the budget to \$14,500.

We have not yet approved a budget for the next year. Because DMVF is switching to a calendar year, the next budget will be for July - December 2024. The finance committee has proposed \$7,500 for the six-month period. Unless there is a drastic change in DMVF's finances, I believe that we will budget \$15,000 in the calendar year 2025.

Katie Jacoby reviewed the Income/Expense report.

Friends were provided with the following Notes Re DMVF Proposed Budget (April 30, 2024):

1. Because the Meeting is moving to a calendar year for its fiscal year, the proposed budget is for six months. Therefore, most annual items from the previous budget have been listed at one-half of last year's annual amount.
2. The amount for snow removal/lawn care is reduced because we have a new provider who is less expensive.

3. The amount for the insurance that we share with Friends House has been increased because the cost has gone up. It comes due in October, so the entire year's amount is included in this half year budget.
4. Carpet cleaning. No amount is included for carpet cleaning because the amount budgeted for carpet cleaning has not been spent during the last two fiscal years.
5. There is a new line of insurance paid just by the Meeting. This past year, the Finance Committee realized that the Meeting itself was lacking coverage under the Meeting House policy and felt it was best that we take out our own. We did. Like the insurance that we pay through Friends House, it all comes due during the second half of the year, so the entire amount appears in the proposed budget.
6. Religious Education. The funding amount proposed, \$125.00, is the amount that was requested by the Committee.
7. Under Affiliated Contributions, we have added Friends Peace Teams in the amount of \$100. Because all of the other Affiliated Contributions have received donations during this calendar year, we have not listed additional donations for Affiliated Contributions beyond Friends Peace Teams.
8. Our yearly Meeting allocation has been restored to \$15,000.00 annually. Half of which would be due

during the second half of 2024.

9. The Ministry and Counsel Sharing Fund has been increased to \$30 per month.
10. The annual amount for Peace and Social Concerns has been increased to \$1,500.00, therefore \$750.00 is listed for the 6-month budget for Peace and Social Concerns.
11. The Property Management Fund has been unfunded for some years. We recommend starting to put money back into that fund at the rate of \$2,000.00 annually, so \$1,000.00 appears for the six-month budget.
12. There has been some discussion about budgeting additional funds for the Outreach Committee for the purpose of installing a sign on our property. We asked the Outreach Committee to look into the cost of installing such a sign should they wish to do so, so that, if appropriate, funds can be budgeted for our next full year budget for 2025.
13. The donations that we would need to be able to handle, this six-month budget would be \$17,515.00, keeping in mind that with both insurance premiums due during this six month period that the proposed budget in reality is a bit more than half of the one-year budget. During the 6-month period of July through December of 2023, we received donations of \$17,944.00.

Dorothy reviewed the proposed 6-month budget for the period from July – December 2024. Friends discussed the need for

carpet cleaning and requested that the committee consider adding this to the current budget rather than waiting until 2025. Friends expressed special appreciation to the budget committee for bringing the IYMC apportionment back to its previous level, for considering matters related to property management, and for increasing the insurance.

Minute: Friends approved the proposed budget with one modification to provide for carpet cleaning prior to the end of the year. Friends expressed their deep appreciation for the hard work of the budget committee.

Building & Grounds Committee (Dick Douglass)

No report this month.

Religious Ed Committee Report (Dorothy Lifka)

No report this month.

Friends House Board (Dorothy Lifka)

No report this month.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee (Patty Wengert)

No report this month.

Outreach Committee Report (Ann Robinson, Katie Jacoby)

Friends were provided with graphics for a revised proposed t-shirt, by email.

Jon Krieg provided the following link with photos from the Pride Parade:
<https://photos.afsc.org/?c=4007&k=7cbd98cf71>

Discussion: Friends gave feedback on the proposed designs for a DVFM t-shirt, especially

the language on the back of the t-shirt. The committee will consider the feedback and move forward with the t-shirt design.

Minute: Friends expressed their deep appreciation for the work of the committee.

Library Committee (Deb Fisch)

No report.

Nominating Committee (Claire Cumbie-Drake)

The Nominating Committee met on June 3, 2024. The committee discussed the Meeting's transition from a fiscal to calendar year for accounting purposes and for committee assignments. To facilitate this transition, the Nominating Committee is requesting that Friends continue to serve on their current committees and/or in their current leadership roles until the end of the current calendar year. Anyone who is not able to continue serving in their current capacity(ies) should contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

Members of the Nominating Committee will contact Friends in the early fall about committee assignments and positions for the 2025 calendar year.

The Nominating Committee is in the process of putting together an ad hoc committee of Friends who are interested in immigration issues and who can manage the Meeting funds set aside for the purposes of addressing concerns about immigration. Once formulated, the ad hoc committee will be asked to prepare a committee description, outlining the purpose

and work of the committee. Friends interested in serving on the ad hoc committee should contact a current member of the Nominating Committee (Claire, Dick, Andrea).

David Drake will be stepping onto the Nominating Committee in early fall for a three-year term. He replaces Claire Cumbie-Drake who is rotating off. Other members of the committee are Andrea Holveck and Dick Douglass.

Submitted by: Claire Cumbie-Drake on behalf of the Nominating Committee

Discussion: Deborah requested that we appoint additional members to the Library Committee before the end of the year.

Andrea is currently the Meeting contact for the coalition of churches working on asylum issues. She is waiting to hear back on the current status of their work before the Nominating Committee moves forward.

Minute: Friends approved the report.

New/Other Business?

The Clerk requested feedback on the *Clerk's Notes*.

Iowa Year Meeting Business (Reps Ann Robinson, Carol Spaulding-Kruse)

The following IYMC committees are (still) looking for additional members:

- The Virtual Access Committee
- Jr Mid-Year Meeting
- Young Friends at Yearly Meeting

IYMC needs caretakers from monthly meetings for Annual

Sessions. Volunteer by 7/15.

Ann is working on Jr. Mid-Year Meeting and Young Friends at Yearly Meeting.

Carol volunteered for the Virtual Access Committee.

Many thanks to Ann and Peter who have represented Des Moines Valley Friends on the Entertainment planning committee several times in recent years.

The Meeting closed with a Moment of Silence

Query#2 for August: Outreach

ADVICE

Friends believe it is essential to express in words and deeds the faith that sustains us and the convictions that arise from that faith. It is important to speak with integrity and courage ourselves as well as to listen to others with open hearts and minds. We seek fellowship with all branches of Friends and with other seekers of Truth. We recognize the oneness of humanity in the Spirit and believe that in learning from one another we may come to respect differences.

Truth is greater than any of us may know, individually or as a group.

As we work and share with others within our communities, we may find opportunities to invite them to attend our meetings for worship and other meeting activities. A genuine welcome to everyone is consistent with Friends' testimony of acknowledging the Divine Spirit in each person and

of our belief in the dignity and worth of every human being.

QUERIES

- Do we encourage intervisitation within yearly meeting and with other Friends?
- What are we doing to share our faith with others outside our Friends' community?
- How do we speak truth as we know it and yet remain open to truth as understood by others?
- In what ways do we cooperate with persons and groups with whom we share concerns? How do we reach out to those with whom we disagree?
- How do we make the presence of our meeting known to the larger community?
- Do we invite others to share in our meetings for worship and other meeting activities?
- Do we welcome everyone and appreciate the gifts that differences such as race, creed, economic status, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation may bring to us?

News of Our Friends

Dorothy Lifka turns 70 at the end of the month, on July 29. She has let me know that she would like to receive greetings cards for her birthday. Her address is: 1715 - 26th St., DsM, 50310 Friends could also bring a card for her on July 21st to a Second Hour with singing led by Deb Fisch. (This is not Dorothy's birthday gathering, but as she really enjoys singing, there will

be singing and celebrating that day.)

Catherine Dietz-Kilen

reported that she brought an item to a recent Antiques Roadshow event at Living History Farms, and was chosen for a filmed appraisal for the show. Her item was a wooden doll that was given to her mother by the Kuna people off the Sand Blas Islands (off the coast of Panama) in 1938 when she was two years old. Catherine was told that there is an 80% chance that she will appear with the doll in one of the three shows to be created from the event.

Jon Krieg authored a feisty and compelling Iowa View essay, "Iowa should use federal dollars to feed hungry kids. Voters can tell Kim Reynolds that" published July 10 in the Des Moines Register.

Logan Jimenez has had a flood of emails that is causing him to have to change his email. For general advocacy work or personal emails, please send to logan@bubblesnotbombs.org.

State of the Meeting Report *(continued from page 1)*

Our ongoing efforts to create a safe environment that supports diverse voices, while honoring that of Spirit in each of us continues to bring us closer together.

We feel that Yearly Meeting could benefit our monthly meetings by creating and encouraging such activities as intervisitation and shared participation in special opportunities among all monthly meetings. Yearly Meeting M & C could, perhaps, hold a workshop on the work of M & C

Des Moines Valley Friends T-shirts: Ready to Wear (Soon)



After months of discussion about the right “wearable” message and design to represent Des Moines Valley Friends and Quakerism, t-shirts will soon be ready to order! Thanks to Katie Jacoby, who has been patiently working on this project! She says these images are a mock-up to show the general layout and final text, but she is still working with Raygun for their advice on details like optimal font size, line spacing, etc. Order forms will be shared soon with sizing information, costs and colors. A order will be made to Raygun to get the best rate.

committees or Yearly Meeting P & SC could gather us to consider leadings together. Other ideas include bringing our meetings together for vigils or statements in local newspapers. Could our Yearly Meeting help connect younger attenders and members of monthly meetings? Perhaps Scattergood could share some of their activities via Zoom.

Quaker Minute: William Penn

(continued from page 1)

He signed a compact with local Indian tribes guaranteeing their right to self-governance on their own lands and paying them a fair price for the lands he purchased for the

In his Frame of Government, Penn provided for secure private property, free enterprise, free press, trial by jury and religious toleration – all civil rights that would be incorporated a century

later in the US Bill of Rights.

Though Penn embraced several innovative democratic ideals, he was not a “liberal” by 21st Century standards. His magistrates imposed a rigid moral code on all residents. He owned slaves. He enticed new settlers to Pennsylvania with exaggerated advertising. And his haphazard administration brought the colony into bankruptcy.

William Penn was a practicing Quaker and imperfect human being who is remembered by Friends as someone whose life spoke of God’s Love and the power of faithful action.

Upcoming Hosting List

July 14 – Jim & Catherine

July 21 – Steve & Kari

July 28 – Charlie & Dorothy

Aug 4 – Ann & Carol

Aug. 11 - Deborah & Katie

Aug. 18 – David & Claire

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.

Upcoming Second Hours:

July 21 – Singing

July 28 – Friends can link to Yearly Meeting pre-meeting at 9:00 a.m.– Reflections on Quaker beatitudes by Angelika Shafer, Penn Valley Meeting.

Query Discussions: First Sundays, 11:45 a.m. - Online & in person. Billie Wade, facilitator.

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, Dick Douglass, 515-864-1119.

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

Friendly Line: Send info for August FL to Ann Robinson at anny.robinson1@gmail.com by Friday, August 2.

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.