

University Friends Meeting
State of Society Report
May 2024

It has been an exciting year for University Friends as we welcomed our new pastor, Charity Sandstrom, into our midst. Charity has ministered to us in so many ways and, after several years of transition for UFM, it has been wonderful to have her here with us. We are still a small group of faithful Friends. But we have offered two membership classes that have garnered interest and we have welcomed four new Friends to our official membership.

We continue to enjoy a Worship Sharing format on occasion to offer Charity a Sunday off and to continue exploring this type of worship that became so special to us during our time of transition.

This year we are exploring a new option for the clerking of our monthly business meetings. Beth McDonald and Dan Schuster have accepted and been operating as Co-Clerks of our monthly business meetings. Additionally, Cheryl Mallonee and Vonda Schuster are operating as Co-Recording Clerks of the meeting. So far, this arrangement has been working out well for us with the clerks alternating monthly. It allows us flexibility and also the ability to grow as Friends by trying something we may not have been able to commit to on our own.

University Friends also continues to strive to be good stewards of the large building we have. We have explored a few lease options and have found a good partner in the Mary Seat of Wisdom Academy. We have also been hosting outside groups such as the Good Time Squares, the Friends University Jazz concerts, and the Wichita Shakespeare Company for free inside Shakespeare-in-the-Park performances. We also continue our long-standing partnerships with the Scouts of America as well as All Nations Fellowship.

We want to be more visible and viable in our immediate neighborhood. We have plans for a community garden on our property as well as a prayer labyrinth on our east lawn. God has been very good to us this last year and we are excited for the opportunities that await us.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth McDonald & Dan Schuster, Co-Clerks of University Friends Meeting