

Heartland Friends Meeting

State of Society, May 2022

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, but encouraging one another. Hebrews 10:24-25

“A circle of trust is a group of people who know how to sit quietly “in the woods” with each other and wait for the shy soul to show up. The relationships in such a group are not pushy but patient; they are not confrontational but compassionate; they are filled not with expectations and demands but with abiding faith in the reality of the inner teacher and in each person's capacity to learn from it.” —Parker J. Palmer

At Heartland Friends, 2021 found us relieved to have made it through 2020 and hoping for a high degree of back-to-normal in 2021. We are glad to, again, be meeting indoors together, even though attendance is a bit less than pre-pandemic. We find ourselves appreciative of our tenderness and respect for each other as we share a variety of personal health-behavior leadings among our community of Friends. We are discovering, together, continually changing and evolving degrees of “normal.”

One of our annual highlights is our Christmas Eve worship. For a second year in a row, our Christmas Meeting for Worship took place outside in our parking lot with luminaries providing gentle beauty as the evening darkened. As our weather warms with Spring, Friends and neighborhood friends are enjoying the blooming of bulbs and flowering bushes added to our grounds during the 2020 stay-at-home and distancing months of the pandemic when we all looked for something good to do with our time. Love blooms in the most difficult of times. We observe neighborhood children and adults enjoying our Meetinghouse grounds regularly, and we are glad to be a place where many can be peaceful with Nature.

We continue to welcome Wichita Friends School students and staff to our Meetinghouse for their worship on Monday mornings. Two Heartland members are present at the school weekly, leading worship, teaching enrichment classes and assisting with administrative tasks. Several additional Meeting Friends volunteer on the board of directors, on committees and give supportive assistance to the Head of School. We are thankful for the energy and Quaker leadership Heartland is able to share with our local Quaker education program.

Heartland Friends Meeting is temporarily without a clerk. Angela Young, our clerk for seven years, is relocating with Dean to Michigan in June. Their departure is a journey of sadness for us, but we feel joy in their decision to bring to reality a dream and a longing they have shared for a number of years. As yet, no one in our membership has received a calling and release to fill the role of clerk. We are approaching our partially undefined leadership with intentionality, being conscientious and tender with our internal communications to keep all informed and securely grounded in faith community as, together, we await Spirit's leading.

Submitted by Connie Adams for Heartland Friends Meeting