

Central City Friends Meeting
State of Society – June 2022

Greetings from Central City Friends Meeting!

Another year has come and gone without being able to meet in person due to continued surges of Covid-19. Yet we are still together in spirit and hopefully can get back together soon in person.

Perhaps the most significant development through the year was the return of the Central City Friends Meeting House back to Great Plains Yearly Meeting. Last June word came from Cliff Mesner that the Merrick County Historical Museum had decided to tear down the Meeting House, citing a collapsed foundation (The Meeting House had been donated to the Museum in 2010.) Upon inspection it was determined that the foundation had not collapsed but there was some repair required, especially in regard to gutters. The Museum agreed to hold off with their plans and return it to Friends if we could act quickly. Steve McConnell brought a proposal to the Continuing Committee in September 2021 and thankfully the GPYM Continuing Committee agreed to retake ownership. The Deed was transferred in January of this year and the historic building is now back in our hands! We are heartened that Friends have stepped up with donations of money and time to maintain the building. Some repair has been done including painting of the Mott Room. More repair is required but we believe the building has a good future.

We were saddened by the death of lifelong member, Neil Mesner, at the age of 92. His loss is mourned but we rejoice in a life well lived and the legacy he left with his family and community in Nebraska, Illinois and the wider Quaker world. A memorial service was held at the Meeting House in May with a full house of family and friends. An earlier service had been held at Clear Creek Meeting in Illinois where he and his second wife, Grayce, had lived.

Lynn Zeleski and Steve McConnell were able to attend the virtual Nebraska Quaker Gathering in December. Friends from Lincoln, Omaha and Central City were able to attend, where we shared conversation and singing. Once again we hope to come back together in person soon.

We have had interest by individuals and couples to join with us from the area and so hope to come together soon. We believe our Friends' testimony of SPICES (Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship) are as important as ever, if not more so.

We continue to work individually to support the peace movement, women's rights, the LGBTQ movement, abolishing the death penalty and the environment. There are so many problems in the world yet we continue to persevere in our small way to make the world a better place.