

Central City Friends Meeting  
State of Society – June 2020

Blessings to all from Central City Friends Meeting!

In this time of upheaval it is a comfort to have our community of Friends, even if we haven't personally seen each other!

Up until February Central City Friends were meeting monthly, most commonly on the third Sunday. We have been blessed to have some new attenders bringing new ideas and energy to our group. One new attender is Mitch Olson, whose dad grew up and was married in the Meeting, and earlier generations were part of the Meeting. We hope to begin meeting again when we feel it is safe to do so but we are being cautious. We hold each other in the light and keep in touch.

In November we sent Thanksgiving cards to distant members as a way to keep in touch and to update our membership rolls.

Some of us were able to attend the Nebraska Quaker Fall Gathering in Lincoln in October. The Lincoln Meeting led the planning last year and a few of us were able to attend. We hope that this will continue again this fall.

We were pleased that Sara Scribner from Lubbock Friends of Christ Meeting could join us in October. As clerk of Ministry and Counsel she was on a listening tour of Monthly Meetings. Her visit reminded us of the importance of our interconnection in GPYM.

Selma Mesner, had a fall in December and broke her hip. She continues to recover at the Long-Term Care facility in Central City. It is difficult to be in touch because of the Coronavirus lockdown

We continue to hold friend Caryl Guisinger in the light as she has had a recurrence of cancer and is undergoing radiation and surgery.

We were saddened that Raymond McConnell passed away in April. He was a lifelong member though had not attended regularly as an adult. Still he was supportive of the good work our Meeting and the Yearly Meeting has done.

We continue to be active as individuals in peace and justice issues, including Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty; Nebraskans for Peace; Central Nebraska Peace Workers; Civic Nebraska (census education and voter registration to ensure people have a voice); women's marches; immigration reform and support groups including support for Catholic social services donating items to schools on the Mexican side of the border, and support for free legal counsel and translators for immigrants incarcerated at the southern border; promoting health at packing plants in regard to COVID-19, and reaching out to our elected officials on environmental and social justice

issues. Most recently our members have worked to end racism and police brutality in light of the killing of George Floyd.

New attendees have given us the opportunity to revisit our understanding of Friends' testimonies. We look forward to getting back together sometime in the not too distant future to continue reviewing our S.P.I.C.E.S. of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, Stewardship. We are a “Spicey” group!

Despite our challenges, Friends and attendees continue their efforts to make this a more equitable and sustainable place to live.