

# Hominy Monthly Meeting 2020 State of Society Report

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” – Matthew 11:28-30

These verses have reassured us as we face great challenges including caring for two preparative meetings and the COVID-19 pandemic. We find that as we leave our weariness and burdens to God, He sustains, encourages, and inspires us to greater faithfulness.

Following the 2019 GPYM Hominy Friends and Council House Friends worked out a memorandum of understanding under which Council House Monthly Meeting was laid down and its members were attached to Hominy Friends. We then designated those who live in the Council House area as a preparative meeting. Friends continued to worship there most Sundays through the end of March. Meetings were then discontinued due to the pandemic. They resumed weekly worship in Fifth Month. Hominy Trustees and a few others were joined by Dean Young for a tour of the Council House facilities in Tenth Month. Everything was found to be in relatively good shape except for the parsonage.

Our minister worked with four Council House Friends to develop a letter to go out to people who had been involved with Council House in the past. While this project is still underway, nearly every response has included a financial donation for the Meeting, the Cemetery Fund, or both. The letter is sparking renewed interest in Council House which has lifted spirits. Our minister has made numerous trips to Council House to work on improvements to the parsonage kitchen and bathroom and to counsel with and encourage Council House folks. He also spent the Saturday before Memorial Day welcoming people as they came to decorate graves in the cemetery and received over \$800 in donations to the Cemetery Fund.

LaHunta Thompson continues to serve as the Council House Treasurer. Our minister located a cook stove and steam table in Muskogee which Brad Wood then purchased for Council House using Quivering Arrow Camp funds. The used equipment is in good shape and is stored at Kickapoo Friends Center where it will also be cleaned up. After Brad Wood consulted with our minister and Josh Leemasters of Wyandotte Friends, it was decided to cancel Quivering Arrow Camp for this summer and to begin planning for the 2021 camp. Last year’s camp was enjoyed by all who participated. There were no campers from Hominy, but our minister assisted.

Hominy Friends have been glad to welcome several new people and to encourage new leadership. We were saddened to lose the involvement of a key couple in Second Month. We continued to meet in person until a decision was taken in the Third Month business meeting to cease meeting due to the pandemic and to reassess the situation in Fifth Month. For three Sundays the Nagle family originated worship streaming via FaceBook Live from their dining room in Tahlequah. In Fourth Month our minister resumed driving to Hominy and originated live streams from the Meetinghouse with a few others being physically present. A recording of each meeting for worship is available on the Hominy Friends Meeting FB page. Attendance increases each week, though we are still taking recommended precautions.

We recently celebrated Joseph Nagle's graduation from Tahlequah High School with a special cake as part of our first fellowship dinner in months.

Several improvements to the Meetinghouse kitchen have been made and new fiberglass doors grace the front entryway. A new kitchen stove has been installed at the parsonage, but the interior still needs much attention. The parsonage fence needs major work and the parsonage needs exterior paint. We authorized our trustees to arrange for new vinyl siding on the west wall of the Meetinghouse and hope that can be accomplished this summer.

Tahlequah Friends Fellowship, a preparative meeting under the care of Hominy Friends meets for unprogrammed worship Thursday evenings at 7:30 in the Nagle living room in Tahlequah. Last summer they invited Chesterfield Monthly Meeting of Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative) to share in the oversight of their venture. This request was accepted and TFF now has dual affiliation. They were blessed by visits from Sara Scribner and others. In Second Month a group of students and staff of Arthur Morgan School, Burnsville, NC, were hosted in the Nagle home for two nights before continuing to Tulsa where Green Country Friends of South Central YM helped with arrangements. With the exception of a couple of weeks, meeting has continued in some form despite the pandemic. In addition to the Nagle family, there are three others who have resumed regular attendance.

Despite the challenges, Hominy Friends are hopeful. We look forward to renewed life and service as we seek to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

On behalf of Hominy Monthly Meeting,

Carole Revard, Presiding Clerk