

THE IOWA FRIEND

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

Life and its Transitions



John 14:6 (NIV)

“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Many years ago while attending College I was urged to consider a ‘life verse’ which could serve for the future. After a couple years discerning that suggestion I settled on John 14:6. This practice was not mandatory but strongly urged and I believe intended to serve as a cornerstone or barometer in work and practice for use while serving in Christian ministry. As I

reflect on it now, I have a better understanding of its intent and why it has served me well through times of doubt, turmoil and joy. We all need an anchor and that moment began for me on February 12, 1976. By inviting and accepting Jesus Christ into my life everything changed. One of the joys I have not spoken about often in recent years is that my wife Joyce, had also privately accepted Jesus Christ into her life and it was validated on the following Sunday morning when we both stood and walked to the front of the New Sharon Friends Church to publicly profess our new found faith and relationship with God. Our family and our lives changed on that day.

Now these many years later, we are about to retire, but not from the ministry. I will be transitioning again, as I did from pastoring to becoming the Superintendent to another new phase of our life’s work. I have been offered a full time position on the faculty of William Penn University to try and fill the position of religion and Quaker philosophy that Mike Moyer has so ably accomplished. Upon Mike’s retirement there was a need for Quaker faculty to continue in the heritage of William Penn University.

I want to say thank you to the entire Yearly Meeting for the opportunity to serve as the General Superintendent for over 12 years. I know it was a dream come true for me and one that I wondered if it was even possible. I have learned so much about Iowa Yearly Meeting, some of the joys and sorrows that are normal for life, but don’t feel so normal when they occur. Last week I attended the burning of the mortgage at Middle River Friends Church, while just one month ago we were asked to approve the laying down of two of our long lasting churches, Hesper and Cedar Creek. That serves as a good example of the issues that your Superintendent must deal with each year. It has been friendships that have carried us along this path in so many different ways.

As I step down on October 15, I hope to leave the Yearly Meeting in a good place for the future. It is a sobering fact that life transitions are always with us. Beginnings and endings are part of our human condition. I remember standing at the bedside of a long time member of LeGrand Friends as he drew his last breath, the wife and a friend and I held hands and prayed in that moment, at the completion of that moment the hospital played a baby tune over the intercom system, and I knew that a new baby had just been born. I then proceeded down the stairs to the maternity ward and entered the room to share in the joy of that new addition to a joyous family. What an afternoon.

Joyce and I do not know everything about what our future will hold, but John 14:6 will remain as a life verse that will continue to give guidance and assurance. He died for us so that we may have life eternal.



William Penn University is back in session!

On move-in day the welcome bags were handed out to the students. They were happy to receive them. Thank you Friends for making that vision a reality!

On the following Tuesday night, campus ministry launched their programs with a hogroast and life-sized futsal tournament. A great time was had by all. Thank you Earlham Friends for this great idea!

Please pray for JeanClaude and the ministry team as they minister to the student body at Penn. Jean Claude is the Grad Assistant that will be working with Campus Ministry this fall. And pray for the new teachers that will be teaching the Quaker/religion classes!



Jean Claude Ninganza



Congratulations Rick Bachman, Robert Talbot, and Randall Nichols

These men were recorded by Iowa Yearly Meeting during our annual session. What a joy to witness this event and celebrate with you and your families! Blessings to you as you serve in your local ministries.



Our New General Superintendent

Tom Showalter and his family were in attendance at our annual sessions. The family will be moving to Oskaloosa at the end of this month and Tom will begin his work on October 1st. Tom and Ron will spend 2 weeks working through the transition of leadership. Pray for Tom as he prepares to serve Iowa Yearly Meeting!

Mesquakie Friends Church

2 weeks after our Yearly Meeting Conference, Mac & Berny McDonald hosted the Open House service at Mesquakie Center. Please pray for the ministry transition and for the McDonalds as they begin this new ministry!



Please take time to "follow" them on Facebook
@ Mesquakie Friends Church

Contact them at
Mesquakiefriends@gmail.com



The William Penn University Applied Technology Division invites applications for

a visiting faculty member in Applied Computer Science for the spring semester, 2016
full-time faculty member in Applied Computer Science beginning spring 2016 or fall 2016

Rank dependent upon qualifications. Master's degree in a computing discipline and teaching or industrial experience required. Doctorate a plus. The normal teaching load is 12 credit hours per semester.

The Applied Computer Science area includes majors in computer science, software engineering and information technology and supports the leadership core Computers & Technology course for the university and applications courses for other majors. Individual course assignments will be chosen from Computers & Technology, Algorithms & Programming (Java), Data Structures (C++), Web Programming/Mobile App Development, Programming Techniques, Numerical Analysis Methods (MatLab), Business Computer Applications, Systems Analysis/Software Engineering, Software Engineering Project, Systems Implementation, Testing & Quality Assurance, Professional Development Seminar, Training Practicum and undergraduate research, depending on an individual's strengths and experience. Software engineering background is a plus.

William Penn is a Quaker-related, undergraduate, liberal arts institution located in small town Oskaloosa in south-central Iowa.

Review of applications will begin September 10, 2015 and continue until the position is filled.

To apply, submit a letter of application including a statement about your approach to teaching, a Curriculum Vita, unofficial transcripts of undergraduate and graduate coursework and the names and contact information of three academic referees.

Applications may be submitted to Dr. Jim Hoeksema, Applied Technology Division chair via email attachment (WORD document or pdf) to hoeksemaj@wmpenn.edu with the subject line - APCS faculty

Questions about the positions may be addressed to Prof. Judy Williams, head of Applied Computer Science, williamsj@wmpenn.edu

Connecting Friends through the work and stories of Friends United Meeting

Helping the poor pay for health care

The Adopt-a-Bed program of Lugulu Friends Hospital was created 25 years ago to cover the hospital expenses of individuals who are unable to pay their bills. The daily bed fee at Lugulu Hospital is just \$12, yet many local people can't afford these charges. Recently a child with a septic wound spent three months as an inpatient at the hospital, accumulating a bill of over \$2,000 which her grandparents could not possibly pay. The Adopt-a-Bed Fund was able to assist the family to clear this crushing bill.

A Christian approach to health care requires that the sick are treated regardless of ability to pay. Without the Adopt-a-Bed Fund, Lugulu Hospital would have gone bankrupt years ago. This year, FUM has a goal of raising \$10,000 for the Adopt-a-Bed Fund.



September

- 9/11-13 Family Camp at CQH
- 9/26 Garrison Golf Scramble

October

- 10/3 USFW Fall Retreat @ HCNP
- Men's Retreat @ Middle River Friends
- 10/7-10 FUM General Board Meeting
- 10/11-13 IAYM Pastor Retreat @ CQH
- 10/30-31 All Committee Gathering @ CQH

July 2016

- 7/7-10 USFW/Quakermen Triennial in Cedar Rapids, IA
- 7/27-30 Annual Yearly Meeting Conference @ WPU

Hesper Friends Church
Hesper, Iowa

Dear Friends,
Ron Bryan has asked me to share with you our experiences as we laid down our Meeting at Hesper Friends.

We had been praying for a positive resolution. We tried a variety of activities to encourage growth, including ecumenical Christmas Cantata choirs, personal invitations, advertising—all to no avail. Rural churches in our area are all struggling with the decline in rural population and disinterest in the institutionalized church. After a winter of dealing with our emotions, realizing that we could not continue with 7 elderly active members it was decided in April 2015 that we should begin the process of closing our church of 160 years with prayer and dignity.

We are convinced from that point on the process was Spirit-Led. Everything seemed to come to fruition relatively quickly. A local antique dealer purchased the contents. Our organ went to a local funeral home and the piano to a relative. The church bell which was purchased from the church in Burr Oak, IA that called the Laura Ingalls family to church when they ran a hotel there. The bell will be donated to the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum in Burr Oak. Our building and an extra lot has been donated to the Winneshiek Co. Habitat for Humanity to be converted into a home by that organization.

We have been blessed with generous donors so that we have been able to invest in a safe & socially responsible investment fund. We will be using the interest from that fund to give our pastor of 30 years, Keith Mardock and his wife, Myrna, a retirement package.

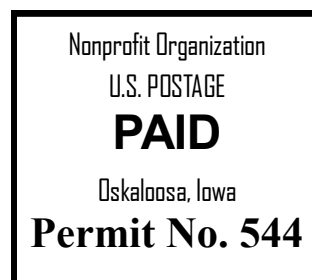
So it seems that although this has been a traumatic experience, it has also been interesting, challenging and even spiritually uplifting. It brings to mind the famous words of some wise sage, “never doubt in the dark what God has revealed in the Light”.

I would hope that no other meeting will have to experience this, but if that should happen perhaps our story may be of some help.

Blessings,

Marvin Cooper, Clerk
Hesper Friends

**We are on
the web at
iaym.org**



Subscription Price (individual)...	\$10.00 per year	(group)....	\$9.50 per year	Published monthly except August
------------------------------------	------------------	-------------	-----------------	---------------------------------

DES MOINES

GATHERING

ALL ARE WELCOME

WHY THIS?

A social event to connect with others for a time of food, fun and conversation. Let's see what God is doing in Des Moines together.

CONTACT

**Questions? Contact Jacob Pribble
(405.240.7290) or Scott Biddle
(641.673.9717).**

Sep 9th

6:30pm-9:00pm

meet at

Toad Valley Golf Course

[237 NE 80th St, Pleasant Hill for

mini-golf

and then grab

Jethro's BBQ

[Altoona]

afterward

\$7.50 + money for Jethro's

Oct 7th

6:30pm-9:00pm

meet at

Cowboy Jacks

(5513 Mills Civic Pkwy, West Des

Moines) and then

bowling

at Plaza Lanes

**\$12 + money for Cowboy
Jacks**