

University Friends Meeting  
State of Society Report  
May 2023

University Friends has been in a period of transition for almost four years. We have done a lot of exploring and adjusting, praying and searching for what our future may hold. Our attendance numbers have declined due to various factors including the pandemic and leadership changes, but a faithful core of Friends has kept us afloat.

We have enjoyed having various pastors and members filling in, some on a monthly basis, to bring us meaningful messages on Sunday mornings. We have also enjoyed a Worship Sharing format once a month when a speaker is not available. This time has become special and precious to us and we have enjoyed this meaningful time together by listening to the spirit.

We have been engaging in an experiment of rotating the clerk of the meeting on a monthly basis. LaVonna Loesch has been a mentor for Friends who are willing to learn the role of clerk and take a turn facilitating our monthly business meetings. This has been an opportunity for people to step outside their comfort zones and try something new. There have been great discoveries of talent among our meeting as a result of this exercise.

University Friends has also been trying to be good stewards of the large building we have, as it has not been used to its full potential in the past few years. We are currently leasing space to a preschool one day a week with increasing use in the coming months. We are also going to be leasing space to a private Catholic high school starting in July of this year.

The most exciting news we have is that after much prayerful consideration and searching, we have hired a new pastor, Charity Kemper-Sandstrom, and she will be joining us in July. She is a Kansas native, currently in Seattle and will be relocating here with her family. One of her previous pastorates was at Emporia Friends Church, where she was for about 14 years prior to moving to Seattle. We are blessed and excited for her and her family to be joining us soon and are looking forward to the future.

God has a plan for all of us, even though the route along the way may not be what we would have planned. We are grateful for the opportunity to move forward and see what He has planned for us on the horizon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Mallonee on behalf of Ministry & Council and University Friends Meeting

