

**Topeka Friends Meeting  
State of the Society Report  
2022-2023**

We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.                      Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

The Topeka Friends Meeting continues to relax our social distancing. In March, we started holding hands again at the rise of meeting.

Howard Chong brought to the meeting a concern about how the City of Topeka dealt with the people in a homeless encampment. Howard and Marjorie Van Buren drafted a letter to the city expressing our concerns. The meeting received a stock response from the city but the city has installed a new city manager and it is hoped that the condition of homeless people in Topeka will improve.

Howard has used the meetinghouse a number of times for a variety of community building events that he sponsors.

Howard is offering free meditation classes and continues his volunteer work with local young people.

James Coffman remains incarcerated. He has found an attorney that is planning on filing an appeal regarding the sentencing guidelines that were used but so far nothing has been filed. We continue to hope that the State of Kansas will acknowledge the humanity of James and all the other prisoners and work to improve the conditions in the prison system.

Lori Keegan continues to be active with the FCNL advocacy teams. They have received the areas of concern from the national group for 2023. Lori is also involved with Quakers in Business. They promote Quaker values in the business setting.

The meeting has been blessed with a new attender, Lisa Sims. Lisa devotes her time and energy to spreading information about the continuing revelation of Jesus' message through modern day prophets. She distributes books related to the messages that people have received and has worked to translate some of the messages into Spanish for a local congregation.

Fred Craig recently moved to Wichita and is living with his niece and her family. Fred was a long term member of the meeting and we will miss his thoughtful presence.

The meeting has begun a discussion series about the book, Living the Quaker Way by Philip Gulley.

The meeting continues to struggle financially. Our biggest expense continues to be the meetinghouse. We hate the idea of losing the presence in the community that the meetinghouse provides but we are exploring other options.

The meetinghouse continues to be used by the local Baha'i community, who make regular financial contributions to the meeting.

On behalf of the Topeka Friends Meeting,



David Ozaki  
Presiding Clerk