

# THE IOWA FRIEND

## Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

### Reconcilers—Not Dividers

by: Tom Showalter, General Superintendent

**“Come now, and let us reason together...”** Isaiah 1:18, KJV

We live in a world of debate, conflict, opinion, and perspective. I am particularly troubled when these conflicts are made public on social media where followers of Christ insult one another while their not-yet-Christian friends observe the interactions. Our natural propensity tends toward gathering with those of the same opinion, forming allies, as if we are attempting to win a battle.

We have lost the art of mature conversation and the ability to disagree without making enemies. I know of people whose commitment to Christ have been questioned because they disagreed with the perspective of another. Shame on us! We will not always agree, but those of us who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ must continually exhibit His fruit, even in the midst of disagreement.

*Ephesians 4:29, “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.”*

If you disagree with another within the body of Christ, it is best to do so privately. Matthew 18 tells us to go to our brother and show him his fault “just between the two of you.” We must not forget our purpose of making disciples.

*2 Corinthians 5:18-19, “Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”*

We are to be reconcilers, not dividers. When we disagree with another, we must do so without treating people in less than Christ-like ways. I do not have to agree with you, but I must love you, as Scripture teaches.

Abraham Lincoln once said, “Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.” Similarly, Pastor Joseph Garlington wrote in *Right or Reconciled?*:

*“If we don’t understand that we are dealing with spiritual realities, then we will get stuck somewhere standing in front of a courthouse with petitions or circling an abortion clinic with placards to no avail. The ungodly activities will go untroubled and untouched by our earthbound effort. You cannot change racism with a petition, unless it’s a prayer petition.”*

We can replace the word “racism” with any other topic and it would be the same outcome. We must understand the “spiritual realities” we face and we must respond while wearing our spiritual armor.

Scriptural truth in totality (not simply the parts we like) must be the foundation on which we stand. When our feet are planted here, we can be assured that our foundation is firm. Therefore, when we find ourselves in a battle, let us make sure it is the right one against the right opponent.

*Ephesians 6:12, “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places” (New Living Translation).*

Friends, we are on the same team! Do not be distracted by those things that do not help us to fulfill the purpose of the Church.

## United Society of Friends Women—Iowa

### ELIZA ARMSTRONG COX FELLOWSHIP

In the late 1800's while living in Western Yearly Meeting, Eliza (Clark) Armstrong Cox caught a clear vision of the part Quaker women should contribute to the Master's great plan of world evangelization. Through her untiring efforts she initiated the movement which developed into the Women's Missionary Union of Friends in America which is known today as the United Society of Friends Women International (USFWI). The Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Award was established many years ago as a way to recognize and honor the special efforts of selected women in the local USFW societies.

If you wish to honor a woman in your society who has given outstanding service to USFW, please follow these steps:

Have someone in your society write a one-page biography outlining the contributions of this woman to your local and state USFW and to other missions efforts in your community.

Send \$25.00 through your local treasurer to Iowa USFW Treasurer, Charlotte Mosher, 23385 McKinley St., Milo, IA 50166. If you wish to award a pin to the recipient, please send an additional \$8.00.

Send the biography and a photo of the individual (in color if possible) to Iowa USFW Historian, Jacque Wilbur, 18684 Erbe St., Carlisle, IA 50047. The photo should be small enough to fit on the same page as the biography. Or, the preferred method is to email the article and a digital copy of the photo to Jacque at [jacwilbur@gmail.com](mailto:jacwilbur@gmail.com).

**DEADLINE: JULY 15, 2017.**

The biography and photo will be added to the permanent record in the book, "Iowa Recipients of the Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Award". The biography will be read and the pin (optional) will be awarded at the next Iowa USFW Celebration of Service as part of the Iowa Yearly Meeting Ministry Conference. This year's Celebration of Service is on Saturday, July 29, 2017, at Musco Technology Center, WM Penn Campus, Oskaloosa, IA.

If you have questions about this process, you may email Jacque at [jacwilbur@gmail.com](mailto:jacwilbur@gmail.com), or call her at 515-989-4129 (home) or 515-205-0692 (cell).

## Kaleo Academy – An Opportunity for Friends Youth Leadership Training

*Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Board*

Discipleship for young Friends is not only scriptural, it is a necessary part of investing in the lives of those who have grown up in our church families, and in the future of the Friends Church. There is now a discipleship program specifically designed for Friends youth which will give solid training in the Bible, Friends history and doctrine, and recognizing and responding to God's call.

Kaleo Academy, sponsored by Barclay College, is an evangelical Friends training experience for high school students based on four components: theology camp, online learning, mentoring, and service. The theological component involves some intensive study during a one week Theology Camp hosted by Barclay College (June 25 – July 1, 2017), and will continue throughout the year with Online Community Learning activities. A very important part of the Kaleo program is the relationship between each participating student and his/her mentor, which continues throughout the program. Each student will also be asked to develop a service learning project, called the Released Project, which is an opportunity to see God use each young person in the way He has called and equipped him/her.

**So, to summarize . . .**

**What you need to know about Kaleo:**

**WHAT:** An evangelical Friends training experience for high school students through theology, mentoring, service, and calling.

**WHO:** High school young men and women who are emerging leaders from evangelical Friends churches.

**WHEN:** Theology Camp begins June 25-July 1, 2017, and continues through the year, concluding with regional celebrations in 2018.

**HOW:** Applications and more information are available at the Kaleo Academy website.

[www.barclaycollege.edu/kaleo](http://www.barclaycollege.edu/kaleo)

Registration cost is \$695 if you apply by Mar. 1, 2017 (with \$100 deposit). Registration cost is \$750 if you apply after Mar. 1, 2017 (with \$120 deposit).

**Registration deadline is May 1, 2017.**

Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Board is very excited about this opportunity. **The Board will be providing \$250 for each IAYM student-mentor team who are accepted into the program, to go toward travel expenses to the Theology Camp at Barclay College.** (If a young person in your meeting has been accepted into the Kaleo program, please contact Nancy Stevens for an application form. [nansteve@gmail.com](mailto:nansteve@gmail.com) )

## 50 Days of Prayer for Revival

We are in the midst of our 50 Days of uniting together across IAYM to pray for revival. There is strength in joining together to pray for spiritual renewal. Be watchful to see how God responds to our prayers and join Him as our hearts are awakened. Two hundred thirteen people participated in the Concert of Prayer held February 4 with connections in six locations. To the best of our knowledge all but six churches participated in the Concert of Prayer and/or are involved in the daily prayer/weekly small groups. Comments, prayer requests, answers to prayer or updates on what God is doing in your church are welcome on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/IAYM-Concert-of-Prayer-2017-1428451700506206/>. Let's encourage one another.



**March 25** will conclude our 50 day venture when all churches are encouraged to attend a revival meeting to be held at **LeGrand Friends** following the Body of Representatives at approximately **2:00-4:00 p.m.** **Steve Pedigo will be the speaker** for this gathering. Steve comes to us with a passion about the life transforming power of Jesus Christ. He is currently the pastor at Westfield Friends in Indiana. He and his wife Marlene led an inner-city ministry in Chicago for 30 years. Mark your calendars for March 25 at LeGrand and plan to join people across IAYM. Come with the anticipation of experiencing God in a fresh way.



## Join us! For the 125th anniversary of Marshalltown First Friends Church!

A time to gather and share your memories of Marshalltown First Friends over the years!

"On March 16th, 1892, the Marshalltown Monthly Meeting of Friends was established. Through the years, though many things have changed, one thing remains; we are a gathering of people who come together to glorify God and spread the wonderful news of Jesus Christ. We invite you to join us as we celebrate this momentous occasion!"

**Date: Sunday, March 19th**

Lunch will start at 11:45 AM

Feel free to drop in whenever you can make it!

**Celebration program at 2:00 pm**

**Speaker: Tom Showalter**

General Superintendent

**Questions?** 641-753-7367

Email: [mtownfriends@live.ocm](mailto:mtownfriends@live.ocm)



**31st Triennial Gathering  
of Friends United Meeting**

Friends University, Wichita, Kansas  
July 12-16, 2017

Speakers: Miriam Were, Wess Daniels,  
Jan Wood and Colin Saxton

Registration and information: [fum.org](http://fum.org)

The early-bird registration deadline for the 31<sup>st</sup> Friends United Meeting Triennial is coming soon! Make plans now to gather with Quakers from all over the world in Wichita, Kansas—July 12- 16, 2017. We will be meeting on the campus of Friends University five days of worship, fellowship, learning and service.

**Register before March 31<sup>st</sup> and save \$30**

# God and Country

*James Tower—Peace & Social Concerns*

As a Christian leader in a time of great division, I recognize the dangers of being too specific about the things that are going on in the world. But I believe in truth, and I believe that the church should be a place where God's people do not settle for the superficial, a place where deep questions of meaning and purpose are pursued, and where how faithfulness in our world might take shape is held loosely. I believe in the truth, and that our relationship with God is a journey toward not only knowing the truth of God, but truth about ourselves, and our world.

While there is great division and a great need for healing in our world, true peace can never be found in sweeping problems under the rug or walking on eggshells. As people seeking to know and show the love of Jesus with the world, we cannot let fear have the final say. While the church of Jesus Christ shouldn't simply go around grinding a political axe or adding "public policy" to the gospel, we also cannot ignore the truth. I believe in humility and grace, that the church should be one place where the world can see how people who love Jesus are truly transformed and can "disagree agreeably" and speak the truth in love to one another. Unity is not uniformity, but where people of all stripes join together around Jesus.

But I think we should be able to be specific at times, and despite its controversial nature, I believe there is a movement among the people of God to consider how to lovingly engage the issue of immigration and how we as believers seek justice for the "stranger and foreigner" in our midst and in our world. One of the clearest themes of scripture is caring for the marginalized. Countless scriptures show us God's heart for the liberation of people who are being oppressed and mistreated, and how God's righteousness calls us to treat "sojourners" seeking refuge among us (Lev 19:33 among others).

As we explore this issue of immigration together, I want to express first off that I have no intention of using the trust and influence of my position merely to further any kind of earthly agenda or cause. I also want to express that while some may write my concerns off as naive, that I am on an earnest quest to seek the truth with God, and am open to your wrestling with me in that. If you disagree, please help me understand where and why. That being said, I do especially have a concern for the needs of two groups of people in our world today, refugees from Syria and Iraq, and DREAMers.

First, refugees from Syria: I want to begin by acknowledging that though the lines of Syria were redrawn in their final form after WWI, Syria is an ancient place with a rich biblical history. It was Antioch of Syria that followers of Jesus were first called Christians (Acts 11:25). This ancient hub of Christianity is home to many Christians to this day, who are now desperately facing some of the worst persecution of our time, fleeing terror and tyranny in a refugee crisis at a scale that the world has never seen. I understand deeply held concerns about our own security, and have my own, but my greater concern is that if fear of terrorism justifies a refusal to help those fleeing ISIS, have we not let the terrorists win? Are we not, as Christians, obligated to refuse to let fear tell us what is right and what is wrong?

Secondly, the DREAMers: While many people have broken our countries laws and entered illegally, and it is easy to find justification that they should be deported, DREAMers are different. These are people who were brought across the border as children by their parents. Many of them have no connection with their former country, and have only known America as their homeland. Under DACA, these immigrants made a deal to register themselves with the government and even paid their own money to balance out the cost of processing their applications for this low risk status. Now they are quite understandably fearful that they will be the easiest targets for deportation, *because* of their attempts to seek official status and come out of the shadows.

It is my understanding that Quakers in Iowa long ago found themselves in a similar situation with the hot button issue of slavery. It was many Quakers who, at great personal risk, stood up to unjust laws, harboring slaves on the on their way to Canada, our forebears civil disobedience answered to Christ's law of love and not popular opinion.

I want to conclude with this: I do not have the answers to these big questions. But I do know that Jesus cares for "foreigners and aliens" and that according to Mt 25, if the Lord blesses us with a tangible way to serve them, it is actually a way we serve Him. The examples of the Syrian church and of the early Iowa Quakers give me great hope that God may once again awaken and "unleash" the church to meet big needs in our day. But if the Lord is awakening His people to meet these needs--and I believe He is--instead of thinking "politically," let us seek the truth prayerfully. Let us trust that God will present His will, if we have the courage to seek it faithfully together.

\*\*\*For further information, concerns, or discussion—James Tower can be contacted directly at [james@cafchurch.org](mailto:james@cafchurch.org)



## ANNOUNCING OUR CAMP DIRECTORS!

### JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH CAMP

Director Bethany Hadley  
Assitant Kris Smitherman

### ELEMENTARY CAMP

Director Keith Smith  
Assistant Angela Burnham

### LITTLE FRY CAMP

Director Dani Juncker  
Assistant Cindy Norman

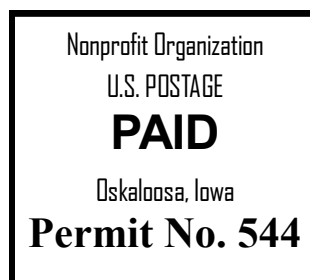


## Summer Friends Camp @ CQH June 2017

- 2-4 Young Adult  
Weekender  
18-35ish
- 9-11 Little Fry  
Grades K-2nd
- 11-16 Junior/Senior  
High Camp  
Grades 7th-12th
- 18-22 Elementary  
Camp  
Grades 3rd-6th



THE IOWA FRIEND  
P.O. Box 657  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
phone (641) 673-9717  
e-mail [office@iaym.org](mailto:office@iaym.org)  
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Subscription Price (individual)...\$10.00 per year (group)....\$9.50 per year Published monthly except August



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SPRING FLING for USFW

SAVE the DATE

Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 10am -  
2pm at Lynnville Friends Church. More  
information coming soon. Cost is \$10

**2016 Minute Books**  
**Are now available for purchase**

**Contact the office to order your  
copy!**

**\$12 per book**

### March

**10-12 Ignite Retreat** H.S. & Teen leaders

**11 BOC meeting**

@ College Avenue Friends Oskaloosa IA

**25th Spring Body of Representatives**

@ Mesquakie Friends Center Tama, IA

### April

**6-7th Pastors Short Course**

@ William Penn University

**22nd CQH Workday @ 9am**

**29th Spring Fling**

@ Lynnville Friends

### Summer Friends Camp @ CQH June 2017

**2-4 Young Adult Weekender**

**9-11 Little Fry**

**11-16 Jr/Sr High Camp**

**18-22 Elementary Camp**

**25-July 1 Kaleo Academy @ Barclay College**

### July

**12-16 FUM Triennials**

**26-29th Annual Ministry Conference**

@ William Penn University—Oskaloosa, IA