

On the 14th November 2020 an All-Poland Gathering of Friends took place, in which participated 21 people from the south, north, east, west and central Poland. It was the first meeting online in the history of our group, on the Zoom platform.

During the worship with spiritual sharing we expressed our joy with being able to see and hear each other, and our hope in the possibility that our community might thrive despite the limitations caused by the pandemic. We have also articulated our need to stay in touch with each other by any means possible, including email, phone, personal meeting and meeting online.

The Kaszuby group, the Warsaw group and the isolated Friends from the South and the North also participated in the news sharing part of the gathering.

We have listened to a presentation about the micro-practicing of peace, i.e. making peace every day in a micro scale. In the exchange that followed the presentation we shared our own experiences of peacefully solving everyday conflicts. We are hoping - and even planning - to organise further workshops in education for peace.

The need for regular, open-for-all meetings and worship was very visible and clearly expressed. In as much as we are challenged by the pandemic-related limitations, the situation also offers new opportunities. We are unable to meet in person but we can meet online instead, which for some of us means we can meet more often, and for others - especially the isolated - that we can meet at all. We have agreed that we will utilise the already tested Zoom platform for our future group meetings (once they are scheduled). The first of such all-Poland, hour-long meetings for worship, followed by tea/coffee, we have scheduled for 28th November 2020 at 10:30 am.

To ensure that the work of Friends in Poland continues the Gathering has expressed its conviction that the official roles, which were due to expire with this All-Poland Gathering, are 'frozen' until the next in-person meeting is possible.

The organisation of the next All-Poland Gathering remains an open question. We hope that more regular meetings and worship online will make it possible to address it again soon.