



Love, Light, and Peace

Clerk's Message, by Shirley Bechill

Now that fall is upon us, our attention is moving away from our summer activities and hopefully we are refreshed and spiritually renewed to resume a more scheduled life. To assist Friends with that renewed focus our Fall *Bulletin* offers some reminders of our decisions and reports from Friends who have been representing LEYM among other Friends' groups. Also we hope all of our monthly meetings have received copies of the 2006 LEYM *Annual Records*, which provides the minutes from the annual sessions and lists of those Friends who are serving us in the many committees that carry forward the work of the Yearly Meeting. This booklet serves to assist in our moving forward in the Spirit together.

The leadings are clear for LEYM to move forward in our ministry and service to our youth and young adult Friends. These leadings seem to be shared among many other yearly meetings and Friends General Conference. The sense of an emerging wave of commitment to LIVE the Quaker Testimonies among younger Friends is thrilling to witness. Note the resources being offered by the newly formed FGC YOUTH MINISTRIES COMMITTEE [see p. 13] as well as the continuation of YOUTH QUAKES conferences for high school age Friends.

The message brought to us at Annual Meeting to practice

"expectant listening" in our prayer life is being supported and deepened through our Spiritual Formation groups as they commit to "a year of living prayerfully." Many Friends will be sending (and receiving) Loving Healing Light to one another, their meetings, all Friends, and others in today's troubled world. I invite each of us to join in this spiritual practice which will increase the spiritual energy and power being made available for LOVE, LIGHT, and PEACE to dwell within all hearts.

In Love & Light,
Shirley Bechill, Clerk

Epistle

From Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

June 18, 2006

To Friends Everywhere:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends met at Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio, June 15-18, 2006. We rejoiced in our record-breaking attendance of one hundred sixty-nine Friends and visitors with whom we shared much hearty laughter, nurturing food for our bodies and spirits alike. We joined together to consider the leading of the Spirit in our worship and prayers, in doing the work

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of the Yearly Meeting, in renewing special friendships, and in welcoming first-time attenders. We were especially aware of the lack of presence and gifts of those Friends who were not with us due to death, health or other obligations. We also enthusiastically welcomed those Friends making their gifts available to Yearly Meeting and celebrated the growing numbers of energetic younger Friends and toddlers.

Our schedule this year was deliberately designed to allow for both personal and corporate spiritual practice and authentic listening. Our workshops gave us opportunity to examine how we heal, live, act, celebrate, grow and are moved by Faith. Friends were enriched and encouraged by Michael Wajda's message of "Expectant Listening," which will serve to assist us in recognizing when and how God is speaking to us personally. Friends found Michael's open, descriptive sharing of his experience with expectant listening most pertinent at this time of challenge in our rapidly changing and violent world.

Electronic technologies are proving to be an efficient way to hold community. A Friend from an earlier time visiting us today would marvel at the sound of an occasional wireless telephone or the sight of Friends at keyboards and monitors at all hours. The quality and quantity of our books, publications and correspondence would certainly invite commentary

in an early Quaker's journal. As contemporary Friends, we are a rich blend of tradition and modernity.

We continue to discover and rediscover. Two of our young Friends have traveled to the World Gathering of Young Friends near Lancaster, England, and some hope to travel to Costa Rica in the spring to explore Friends' history there. Older Friends, too, have been building bridges in their experience at FWCC gatherings. Perhaps these are metaphors for deeper spiritual discovery among all Friends and perhaps a manifestation of God's continuing revelation.

Even though we value and rely on long-standing Friends' traditions and process, we are reexamining some of our Yearly Meeting structure. In the nurture of our monthly meetings, we have over many years addressed queries which may become part of our own *Faith and Practice*. We have renewed appreciation for continuity. Again, as experienced Friends pass, we are dedicating more effort to records and archives and to fostering the collective memory within the Yearly Meeting.

Even as we looked inward, we were reminded repeatedly by our visitors from the African Great Lakes Initiative, Friends Peace Teams, Friends World Committee for Consultation and Friends Committee on National Legislation of our place in the wider Friends community. The efforts of these groups are living examples that our testimonies for peace and social and economic justice remain firm.

We have gathered, we have worshipped, we have worked, we have learned and we have celebrated during our gathering. We trust that we have grown and are stronger in spirit as we return to our home communities. We pray that we continue not only to listen, but to heed.

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,
Michael Fuson, Clerk

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The following pages present a condensed version of the business that transpired at the 2006 Annual Meeting, divided into three sections of Minutes (Opening, Center, and Closing), interspersed by Reports from Wider Quaker Organizations, and Committee Reports and Related Actions. For complete minutes and reports, see the Annual Records 2006. My apologies for anything essential that this condensation omits. — Ed.

Annual Meeting: Highlights of the Minutes

June 15-18, 2006

Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

43rd Session of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Opening Minutes

We **welcomed** new attenders, Friends, and visitors, among them Dave French, from the FGC Yearly Meeting Visitors Program; Elizabeth Oldham, from Friends World Committee for Consultation; David Zarembka, from the African Great Lakes Initiative; David Bucura, also representing AGLI; and Susan Lee Barton, FWCC Midwest Coordinator. The count of total attenders was 169—a new record.



Clerks: Recording, Presiding & Assistant

At various sessions we heard the reading of the **Letter of Greeting** from Britain Yearly Meeting and 2005 **Epistles** from Intermountain YM and Iowa YM (Conservative).

We have learned that our friend **Miyo Bassett** is recovering from a serious operation in Rochester, NY. Miyo and the Bassett family are in our thoughts and prayers. We mourned the deaths of Fran Eliot and Peter Collins, both of Ann Arbor.

Phil Balderson and Abbey Pratt-Harrington were approved to serve with Shirley Bechill, Assistant Clerk, on the **Epistle Committee**.

We approved Margy Liske, Sally Weaver Sommer, and Peter Wood to serve on the **Naming Committee** to bring names of two Friends to serve three-year terms on the Nominating Committee.

Connie Bimber, **Treasurer**, reviewed the opening and closing fund balances and reported that some meetings' checks have not been received. We are grateful to Connie for reassuming the responsibilities of YM Treasurer.

Reports from Wider Quaker Organizations

World Gathering of Young Friends. Bekah Sommer reported on attending the Gathering in Lancaster, England, in August 2005. As visas were denied to numerous African and Indian Young Friends, a second gathering was held in Kenya. At both gatherings, Young Friends learned about Quaker history, overcame language barriers, and experienced the variety of Quaker worship styles from around the world. The group understood the importance of building *puentes* (bridges) between Friends in different areas.

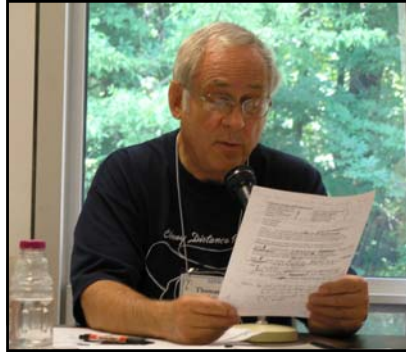
Friends General Conference. Our representatives, Shirley Bechill, Star Mary Castro, Valerie Groszmann and Kri Burkander, reported about FGC programs on traveling ministry, couples enrichment, religious education, publishing, book tables, high school program, youth ministries, nominating, long range planning and this year's Gathering, to be held in Tacoma, Washington. FGC is striving to raise new money for all these projects. Dave French spoke about his work as Assistant Clerk of the FGC Advancement & Outreach Committee. In a fundraising feasibility study, respondents felt that FGC was uniquely equipped to build bridges across different varieties of Quakerism in North America. Dave invited us to attend future FGC Gatherings in River Falls, WI (2007) and Johnstown, PA (2008).

Friends World Committee for Consultation. Representatives Margaret Kanost and Mike Hinshaw reported on the FWCC Section of the Americas annual meeting hosted by Guatemala Friends in March 2006. They visited Friends churches in Chiquimula during the meeting. The main speaker was Duduzile Mtshazo, FWCC Clerk. Attenders learned about the Progreso Scholarship program for needy students, many of whom are Mayan. The next FWCC Triennial meeting is scheduled for August 2007 in Dublin, Ireland. Mike Hinshaw and Raelyn Joyce have been chosen to represent LEYM there. A regional meeting is scheduled for September 29 - October 1 in Wilmington, Ohio. We were encouraged to contribute to the campaign that FWCC is mounting to build its finances.

Friends Committee on National Legislation. Thomas Taylor reported that the FCNL Policy Committee absorbed responses from 200 meetings

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and churches to the call for priorities to bring to the 110th congress. The spiritual basis of our political work was evident from many responses. Earthcare and a budgetary shift from military to human needs at home and abroad were emphasized. Aaron Scherb, FCNL staff member working on nuclear issues, is here to conduct a lobbying workshop.



Thomas Taylor

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting. Don Nagler reported on recent gatherings. The Michigan Area AFSC office in Ann Arbor, Friends School in Detroit, and Michigan Friends Center are all supported by and report to GPQM.

Quaker Earthcare Witness. Al Connor reported. QEW continues to hold that we are called to live in "Right Relationship with Creation...." We recognize that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God. As parts of God's Creation, humans need to work to restore the earth's ecological integrity.

QEW affirms: the UN is the appropriate institution for governments and NGOs to advance this agenda; the principles of the Earth Charter and the Interfaith Working Group for international trade should be followed; trade should be promoted for purposes that protect and enhance local food security, the earth's biological productivity and general health.

QEW is concerned about the dearth of representatives from many YMs that are not members of FGC. QEW members Margaret Mansfield and Ed Dreby are leading work on a curriculum for adults and high school youth that addresses the spiritual bases for social, environmental and economic justice and sustainability. QEW is inspired by the long-term environmental protection and energy policy adopted by Friends Committee for National Legislation as a legislative policy. FCNL and QEW provide each other with updates and alerts on pending energy and climate change legislation. QEW is now an official nongovernmental organization (NGO) observer at the UN.

We were reminded that QEW started 25 years ago as Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, under the leadership of LEYM Friends Bill and Isabel Bliss.

Friends Peace Teams/African Great Lakes Initiative. David Zarembka (below) reported on this work, which started in the early 1990s when he and others on FPT went to Burundi and Rwanda to learn of the needs in peacemaking activities. The first program was in the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). African Quakers have also been working to heal the intertribal wounds of recent years, partly through healing companions: Tutsi and Hutu pairs.



Center Minutes

Costa Rica Intergenerational trip. John Barrie told us of the trip he and his wife, Karen Connor, took to San José and Monteverde, Costa Rica. They observed how effective Quakers have been there in starting such institutions as the national park system, a Friends school, and a coffee cooperative. John and Karen have consulted with Kri Burkander about taking a group of YM high schoolers to Costa Rica; Kri is eager to help enable this proposal.

We were inspired and encouraged by Michael Wajda's **plenary address** on "Expectant Listening." [See summary on p. 11; full text in *Annual Records 2006*, pp. 52-67.]

Valerie Groszmann communicated the joy and frustrations of arranging and staffing the **Book Display** at our YM sessions.

Young Adult Friends. Bekah Sommer and Abbey Pratt-Harrington brought a concern regarding a new program and/or space for young adult Friends at Yearly Meeting. This will require liaison with the Program Committee. We are heartened by this request. We are reminded that FGC has resources, including a new Youth Ministries Committee, to help meet this need.

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Committee Reports and Related Actions

Finance Committee (Sally Weaver Sommer). The Committee reviewed the final financial report for 2004-05 and the preliminary report for 2005-06 and concluded that LEYM is financially sound. Guidelines regarding honoraria and expenses for our annual gatherings were approved and given to the Registrar and the Program Committee. We propose that the budget for fiscal year 06-07 be identical to the previous budget, except that the high school youth fund be increased by \$500 (see p. 10). The new share per member will be \$35.

Advancement & Outreach Committee (Mathilda Navias). The Committee continues to seek ways that LEYM can support meetings and worship groups with few active Friends. We have compiled suggestions for ways a monthly meeting can support a worship group or preparative meeting under its care.

A&O has worked with Bill Warters on redesigning the LEYM web site. A&O will add brief descriptions of Quaker worship, business, and testimonies; we urge LEYM committees to consider posting information on their own web page. To help meetings and worship groups set up web sites, we have assembled a pamphlet, "Is Your Quaker Meeting Thinking of Setting Up a Web Site?" Meetings that do not create their own web site can now obtain a page of static information on the LEYM web site by contacting Bill Warters. Of LEYM's 22 monthly and preparative meetings, 11 currently have web sites, as do 3 of the 9 worship groups. For help in establishing a web site, contact Mathilda (mathilda1@lycos.com or 419 448-0578).

A&O has worked with Thomas Taylor, LEYM Recording Clerk, to revise the statistical report form for gathering contact information and membership/attendance figures from meetings and worship groups. The new form was distributed by e-mail and regular mail, and meetings could reply electronically. Feedback on the new form should be given to Mathilda. LEYM committees and officers who want to communicate with meetings can get a mailing list or e-mail addresses from Mathilda, who manages the yearly meeting database.

Ministry & Nurture Committee (Merry Stanford). The Committee found the submitted State of the Meeting Reports to be rich and full of detail regarding the spiritual conditions of our monthly meetings. The *State of the Meeting Guidelines* appear to have nourished rich sharing among us. This year the Committee will add "ongoing connections to the wider Quaker community" to the potential topics for consideration in these reports.

The Committee is working with the FGC Traveling Ministries Program to identify a leader for a Saturday consultation to be held in April 2007. The consultation is intended to help ministry and nurture committees of monthly meetings consider ways to deepen Friends' experience of Meeting for Worship and share ideas concerning Spirit-led vocal ministry.

The Committee agreed to send the following to local meetings through a summer mailing: an annual query; an updated booklet of the LEYM queries (also to appear on the web site); an invitation to submit ideas for queries focused on pertinent topics of faith and practice, for consideration next year; an invitation to submit brief stories (up to 1000 words) of faith journeys, to be collected and published.

Our Query for 2006 is on Discernment [see p. 12].

As the Spiritual Formation Program grows, the benefits are observed in our monthly and yearly meetings. The program next year will be led by Beckey Phipps and Phil Fitz of New England Yearly Meeting at the Leaven Center near Lyons, Michigan, September 8-10.

To nurture new Clerks, the committee recommends to the Executive Committee the development of a packet of information, including a timeline indicating when things are requested, and the purpose they serve in the Yearly Meeting.

The FGC Traveling Ministries Program has requested two representatives of each Yearly Meeting to serve at a consultation to be held in November near Pittsburgh. The names of Kri Burkander and Dolores Avner were put forward as representatives.

Peace Committee (David Lore). In this election year, Friends should take advantage of the opportunity to make known our views on war and peace, human rights, and political and economic justice. The Committee asks individual Friends and Monthly Meetings to inform themselves and consider action on: The U.S.-India Nuclear Pact;

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Permanent U.S. Bases in Iraq; The Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund; a Congressional resolution on Palestinian Christians. Clemence Ravaçon-Mershon has agreed to serve as our committee representative and liaison to the Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board.

The Yearly Meeting approved the following two Minutes brought to it by the Peace Committee, and asked the Committee to send these to our constituent meetings, requesting that they be forwarded to appropriate members of congress and senators as well as to the local press.



David Lore

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Minute on Raising the Federal Minimum Wage

As U.S. citizens, we say we stand for economic justice: the freedom to work to achieve a better life for ourselves and our families and receive fair value for our labor.

As Quakers, we believe in equitable sharing of the world's resources, the value of labor, and the lessening of disparity between rich and poor in terms of opportunity.

As a matter of fairness and economic justice, therefore, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting asserts that it is well past time for Congress to take up and adopt a substantial increase in the federal minimum wage. The current minimum wage, \$5.15 an hour (or about \$10,700 a year), has been in effect for nearly a decade and is simply inadequate to support an individual worker, let alone a family.

When adjusted for inflation, the current minimum wage is the lowest it has been in the last half-century, according to a study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Currently, several states are considering raising their state minimum wages above this \$5.15 standard. In addition, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee recently voted 37-27 to raise the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour. But the full House is not expected to follow suit.

As a matter of economic justice, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting calls on state legislators and members of Congress to act quickly and responsibly to raise the minimum wage on behalf of all working people in the United States.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Minute on Closure of Guantánamo Bay Detention Center

The recent suicide of three detainees at the Guantánamo Bay detention facility operated by the U.S. military in Cuba has again exposed America to worldwide criticism as to the way suspected terrorists there are denied basic human and legal rights afforded under both U.S. and international law.

So far, only a handful of the more than 300 detainees at Guantánamo Bay have been charged or allowed hearings by military tribunal.

Attorneys have been outspoken in their criticism of U.S. policy at Guantánamo and even Allied governments have called for closure. President Bush says he'd like to see Guantánamo closed as well.

Yet the prison, even now, is being expanded rather than removed, and its operations remain cloaked under a thick veil of military security.

In keeping with our testimonies on peace and justice, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (Quakers) calls on the U.S. government to close the Guantánamo facility while affording Guantánamo detainees — as well as others held in similar circumstances by the U.S.— both humane treatment and due process under U.S. and international law.

Closing of the facility would be in compliance with the laws and stated principles of the United States. By observing moral, legal and ethical standards, we invite others to do the same.

Earthcare Committee (Ann Sprague). The Committee has reconstituted itself through outreach and has new members representing several monthly meetings. For this gathering, we planned the workshop "Eat It As Long As You Can." The Committee intends to continue presenting a workshop on the environment at future Yearly Meetings.

Our review of Committee goals was deeply influenced by Nominating Committee's proposal that we should function primarily as a networking group. We hope to identify environmental concerns, interests, and resources within the LEYM community. In our role as a conduit for information and networking we have also begun the process of establishing a presence on the LEYM web site.

We would like to work this year toward identifying three or four regional meeting clusters, which could more easily meet for educational activities and work together on issues of local concern.

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Arrangements & Site Committee (Judy Greenberg and Mary Igoe Meyers). The Committee thanked Friends for their “cheerful forbearance” and their expressions of appreciation, and reported that we are scheduled here next year on June 14-17 if this is agreeable to LEYM.

Program Committee Report (Peggy Daub). The Committee’s work manifests itself in the skeleton of the Yearly Meeting gathering. We hope to create a strong frame, which all can use as a sound structure of worship, fellowship, yearly meeting business and spiritual growth. To determine how we might create a better frame, we distribute an evaluation form at the end of each Yearly Meeting. We consider the feedback from the evaluation forms carefully, and have found them exceedingly useful. The Committee notes an issue repeatedly brought to our attention: for several years LEYM has not followed its previous practice of inviting a report at business meeting from one of four national groups (AFSC, FCNL, FGC, and FWCC) each year on a rotating basis. We lift this up as a concern to be considered more widely within the Yearly Meeting.

Youth & Children Committee (Carla Pratt-Harrington). Thanks to all who participated in the program. There were 31 young people this year, ranging in age from 1 to 18; they were organized into five classes by age and grade. Thanks to Nominating Committee, who gave us a list of ten wonderfully competent and committed leaders and two co-conveners last June, allowing us more planning time this spring. A parent volunteer created our T-shirt design again this year. We borrowed wagons and a six-seat stroller for our youngest children, thanks to Macklin Intergenerational Center.

On Friday we spent time learning a few folk dances, thanks to a parent volunteer. As usual, we had crafts available Friday and Saturday evenings and swimming in the afternoons. Thank you, volunteer chaperones. And thanks to the Site and Program Committees for responding to our needs and being flexible with our children. Special thanks to parents who are meeting and picking up children on time.

As we send these young people into adulthood we are aware they may need their own program and support in the near future. The teens are currently processing how this might come to pass [see p. 4].

Publications & Archives Committee Report (Rosemary Coffey). Our *Bulletin* editor, Jeff Cooper, would appreciate being on the mailing list for monthly meeting newsletters, so that he can draw on their contents for the LEYM *Bulletin*. We are changing the deadline for the Winter *Bulletin* from December 15 to January 1. We’ve not received much feedback on whether the number of *Bulletins* and *Annual Records* we send to meetings is appropriate. Please let us know if your Meeting needs more or fewer. Jeff and Bill Warters would be happy to receive copies of photos of Yearly Meeting folk for the *Bulletin* and LEYM web site respectively. The web site has a new function that allows for “e-mail alerts” in the case of something you’d like to disseminate quickly; let Bill Warters know if you want to use this. Bill is also prepared to create web pages for monthly meetings who do not already have one.

After we learned, at Representative Meeting, that Les Walden could not complete a new edition of the *LEYM Directory* because of health problems, Mathilda Navias felt called to take over. However, this has been more of a job than she had anticipated, so she now asks us to consider whether we really need such a publication. Originally, we wanted a current database for mailing the *Bulletins* to individuals; now that we send them in bulk to the meetings, that purpose is no longer served. The *Annual Records* have up-to-date information on attenders at Annual Meeting and committee members and officers. Shall we produce a *Directory* for this year and then lay it down? Or are there people here who can’t do without it? This question can be decided at a future meeting of LEYM, since it has been a bi-annual publication and the 2006 edition is still in the works.

Nominating Committee. [*Business concerning Nominating Committee occurred in five sessions, presented consecutively below. Ed.*]

1. Connie McPeak Green reported that Youth & Children Committee is in particular need to be filled this year. The Committee brought us a proposal to restructure our committees:

In considering the reality of our size and functions as a yearly meeting, the Nominating Committee would like to offer for your consideration a change in the approach to how we fill committee positions. We think it might be helpful to rethink the committee structure in terms of two categories: maintenance committees (Nominating, Program, Arrangements & Site, Ministry & Nurture,

Annual Meeting 2006: Highlights of the Minutes

Finance & Budget, Youth & Children, Publications & Archives) and committees of concern (Peace, Earth Care, Advancement & Outreach).

The Nominating Committee would nominate clerks for all committees. All members of the maintenance committees would also be named by the Nominating Committee.

The committees of concern would have their membership made up of those yearly meeting attenders who feel drawn to those committees as well as members/attenders sent by their monthly meetings to represent them. The committees of concern would function as networks where monthly meetings could report on the work they are doing and exchange ideas. The committees of concern clerks would function as facilitators. Perhaps reports of these committees to the yearly meeting could be in the form of a summary of what monthly meetings are doing, as we believe the real work of these committees happens at the monthly meeting level. We suggest that these committees of concern could meet at a different time at yearly meeting sessions than the maintenance committees so there might be more participation in each. We also suggest that membership on the maintenance committees be decreased to two-year terms for four members with the option of serving three terms.

We believe these changes in our structure would better reflect our size, function and energy as a yearly meeting. We invite you to hold these ideas in the Light.

2. Connie told us of the structural and personnel problems that led to the proposal outlined above:

...We have an average of about 120 attenders, including children, at Yearly Meeting sessions. Fewer than 60 attend Representative Meeting. We have about 92 positions of service in the YM to fill. It is not possible to serve on more than one committee at a time ... because all committees meet at the same time. Some committee positions have been difficult to fill.... due to apparent lack of interest or energy.

Ideally, the work of the Nominating Committee should be one of spiritual discernment but, due to the sheer volume and time constraints, and numbers of available and willing attenders, it becomes a secular exercise of filling slots. After 30 years of using the present committee formula, it might be time to reevaluate and re-vision how we might be faithful to the leadings of the Spirit.

The Clerk asked us to study the outline of problems and the proposal together and to consider the following three issues. Is it right to: a) change the size of our committees? b) have two different types of committees? c) structure

our YM program so some Friends can serve on two committees at the same time?

3. Several questions concerning practical implications of the committee restructuring proposal and the problems noted above were raised and addressed. These issues will need clarifying over time.

4. Numerous Friends offered thoughts and suggestions, including the need for wider involvement from all our meetings. The Clerk thanked the Nominating Committee for stimulating this discussion.



5. Connie McPeak Green and Dolores Avner (above) thanked those Friends going off committees, and read the names of Friends who have agreed to take on new committee and representative responsibilities as well as the names of committee clerks [see p. 19]. The Clerk asked the Nominating Committee to revisit issues concerning the membership of Earthcare Committee and co-clerks of Arrangements & Site and report to the Executive Committee, which will act on behalf of the YM.

Closing Minutes

Youth & Children Reports. Carla Pratt-Harrington read the epistle from the toddlers [see pp. 75-79 in the *Annual Records*]. The Elementary group's epistle was read and dioramas shown and described. Upper elementary group told us who they were and showed us in action what they like to do. Middle schoolers acted out their YM experiences as their report was read. High schoolers entertained us with a talking epistle over bluesy rhythm and chords on Micah's guitar: "Did anyone hear what he said? I think it was about listening." [See photo, top of next page.]

Annual Meeting 2006: Highlights of the Minutes



Naming Committee. Sally Weaver Sommer laid the following names before the meeting to serve on Nominating Committee for three years: Judy Greenberg and Fred Feitler.

Abbey Pratt-Harrington read the **LEYM Epistle** Following brief edits from the floor, the Epistle was approved [see pp. 1-2].

Michael Fuson (below) is ending his term of service as Presiding Clerk at the close of this meeting. We thank him for his patience and his calm nudging to stay on track, and for allowing time and space for the Spirit to work in our midst.



Michael Fuson, Clerk
Shirley Bechill, Assistant Clerk
Thomas Taylor, Recording Clerk



*Our FGC Representatives reporting:
Shirley Bechill, Star Mary Castro,
Valerie Groszmann, and Kri Burkander*



Future FGC Reps? The Early El Group



A record 169 Friends registered

Annual Meeting 2006

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING Finance Report for 2006 Annual Meeting

BALANCE March 1, 2006 **\$6,619.59**

INCOME

Prepaid checks	\$12,342.50	
2nd checks	\$4,355.75	
Cash fees	\$56.00	
Lost keys, extras	\$143.75	
Seed money	\$16.00	
TOTAL INCOME 2006		<u>\$16,914.00</u>

TOTAL \$23,533.59

EXPENSES

Housing*	\$8,406.50	
Campers	\$40.00	
Commuter fees	\$185.25	
Meals*	\$7,455.00	
Linens	\$385.00	
Lost keys	\$160.00	
Copies	\$103.56	
Ice Cream Social	\$316.00	
Beverages	\$76.75	
TOTAL BLUFFTON CHARGES		\$17,128.06

Speakers travel	\$343.60	
Honorariums	\$300.00	
Youth program – snacks, crafts	\$327.37	
Swimming	\$184.00	
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES		<u>\$1,154.97</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES \$18,203.03

Note * includes housing and meals for speaker, registrar, youth leaders, & Workshop leaders

BALANCE July 20, 2006 **\$5,250.56**

PROGRAM COSTS – for purposes of figuring registration fees for next year

Copies	\$103.56	
Ice Cream Social	\$316.00	
Beverages	\$76.75	
Speakers travel	\$343.60	
Honorariums	\$300.00	
Housing & Meals	\$2,342.75 (includes speaker, 12 youth leaders, registrar, & 2 workshop leaders)	
Youth program – snacks, crafts	\$327.37	
Swimming	\$184.00	
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES		<u>\$3,993.03</u>

Budget for 2006-07

Travel	5,500.00
Office	300.00
Publications	3,400.00
FGC	4,500.00
FGC – Special Program	500.00
Records Project	100.00
Advancement	130.00
Ministry & Nurture	200.00
Spiritual Formation*	600.00
Clerk's Fund	500.00
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00
Friends School in Detroit	2,500.00
High School Youth Fund*	5,400.00
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700.00
Olney Friends School	<u>600.00</u>
TOTALS	\$ 28,170.00



Alternative entertainment in downtown Bluffton

Annual Meeting 2006: Summary of Plenary Address by Michael Wajda

Expectant Listening: Finding God's Deep Long Thread of Guidance

Note: Michael spoke to his topic by exploring four themes and sharing many stories from his personal experience.

There is a simplicity and purity about Quaker spirituality; it is gentle, available to everyone, here always. In seeking, we find; in listening, we hear God's messages. In a time of deep personal trouble, long ago, Michael took long, solitary walks, which helped to bring about peace, harmony, and strength. Then, Something alive in the silence began to speak to him. "Live in the joy of the Light," it said. "There is strength in doing good." "Accept only the thoughts that come from God."

Qualities That Help Nurture Expectant Listening:

We must do the following:

- Look honestly at ourselves and face our deepest feelings and experiences.
- Notice glimpses of the Divine in many different forms.
- Allow for vulnerability.
- Pay attention to God's inward language.
- Develop regular spiritual practices.
- Acknowledge our spiritual hunger.
- Practice patience.
- Let go of our thoughts and will and sink deep to where the Holy Presence is waiting to lead.
- Heed God's messages.
- Celebrate the joy and growth that come from spiritual listening.
- Know that the Light offers endless forgiveness, profound wisdom, and amazing love.

Listening and Faithfulness

Expectant listening is a gift. It is the ability to sink deep, to wait, and to trust the Living Presence, *which has drawn us to this listening* through experience. It is all about God. God is doing the work of transformation.

The Light wants us to be faithful, and the Living Presence gives us experiences of the Seed, so that we will come again and again to the place where we can hear God's messages. It is an inner drama, wherein we notice God's beckoning to us. This requires commitment to daily spiritual practices. Extended silent retreats may lead to significant spiritual insights.



Michael Wajda

Listening Leads to Finding and Following God's Deep Long Thread of Guidance

- Wake up.
- Go deeper.
- Give more of yourself to God.
- Support everyone in going to the Deep Place.
- Look for deeper levels of listening, staying in touch with the Living Source.
- Include intention and expectation in your listening.
- Yield to the experience of Francis Howgill, "to be gathered as in a net."

Listening Sometimes Becomes Seeing

Spiritual listening may evoke spiritual seeing. Worship in meeting and at home is necessary. The Spirit may evoke images in worship or at other times, even becoming a living stream that burns like fire. God's fire illuminates the stream of life; it reveals, but it does not consume. Flames leap, but they are flames of love. This Living Stream that burns like fire is asking us just to accept God's love.

"Friends, we are being called to greater faithfulness ... to be channels of the living God."

Summarized by Rosemary Coffey

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

2006 Annual Queries: On Discernment

The following advices and quotes are offered to the Monthly Meetings to assist with their reflection on the queries. Please use them, as led, through individual reflection and worship sharing.

- 1. What do I understand "divine guidance" and "discernment" to mean?**
- 2. How do I experience divine guidance and discernment in my life and in our life as a Meeting?**
- 3. What are we, as Friends, being called to do or to be in the world at this time?**

1. As Friends we commit ourselves to a way of worship which allows God to teach and transform us. We have found corporately that the Spirit, if rightly followed, will lead us into truth, unity and love: all our testimonies grow from this leading. – Britain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (BYM), 1.01

2. Friends make group decisions in the faith that the divine Spirit, which is accessible to all persons, is one, and that therefore, if Friends will wait upon and heed the light of Truth within, we can find unity in what we do. – Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) Faith and Practice, p. 32

3. Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life. – BYM, 1.02

4. Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one. – George Fox, 1656, in BYM 1.02

5. Please be patient, those of you who have found a rock to stand on, with those of us who haven't and with those of us *who are not even looking for one*. We live on the wave's edge, where sea, sand and sky are all mixed up together: we are tossed head over heels in the surf, catching only occasional glimpses of any fixed horizon. Some of us stay there from choice because it is exciting and it *feels like the right place to be*. – Philip Rack, 1979, in BYM 20.06

6. Quakers took a stand against slavery early in American history partly because one man, John Woolman, was willing to hold the tension between reality and possibility. But it is important to note that the entire Quaker community was also willing to hold that tension until they were opened to a more integral way of being in the world. They refused to succumb to the impulse to resolve the

tension prematurely, either by throwing Woolman out or by voting to allow the slavery-approving majority to have its way. Instead, they let the tension between reality and possibility break their collective heart open to justice, truth, and love. – Parker Palmer in *A Hidden Wholeness*, p. 181

7. Membership is, or ought to be, about transformation. The transformation of individuals who have experienced the divine spirit at work in their lives. The transformation of a community which has sensed, and tries to live out, its particular role in bringing about the transformation of the world which can be seen as God's purpose. – Helen Rowlands, 1996, in Pendle Hill Pamphlet, *Members One of Another*, p. 18.

8. I wish I might emphasize how a life becomes simplified when dominated by faithfulness to a few concerns. Too many of us have too many irons in the fire. We get distracted by the intellectual claim to our interest in a thousand and one good things.... We learn to say No as well as Yes by attending to the guidance of inner responsibility. – Thomas R. Kelly, 1941

9. Does anything make us distinctively Quaker? I say yes. Wherever we are seeking God's will rather than human wisdom, especially when conflict might arise, we are being faithful Quakers. Wherever there is no division between our words and our actions, we are being faithful. – Val Ferguson, 1991, in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PhYM) Faith & Practice, p. 95

10. ...the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it. – Deuteronomy 30:14 (RSV)

11. The first gleam of light, "the first cold light of morning" which gave promise of day with its noontide glories, dawned on me one day at meeting, when I had been meditating on my state in great depression. I seemed to hear the words articulated in my spirit, "Live up to the light thou hast, and more will be granted thee." – Caroline Fox, 1841, in PhYM, p. 131

Queries On Discernment, *continued*

12. Membership is costly... It is not just about belonging, feeling accepted, feeling at home (although these may be the things we talk about most often.) It has also to do with being stretched, being challenged, being discom-forted.... We can never be entirely sure of where the venture will lead us...[but] the one thing we can be sure of is that the process, taken seri-ously, will call us to change. – Helen Rowlands, 1996, in *Members One of Another*, p 28.

13. Decision is a risk rooted in the courage of being free. – Paul Tillich

14. *Lo, I am with you always* means when you look for God,
God is in the look of your eyes,
In the thought of looking,
nearer to you than your self,
or things that have happened to you.
–Rumi, 13th C Sufi master, in "Be Melting Snow" (trans. by Coleman Barks)

15. Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon,
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light,
Where there is sadness, joy.
– *Prayer of St. Francis*

FGC Youth Ministries Committee

Every monthly meeting in each yearly meeting served by FGC receives a mailing a couple of times each year containing a wealth of information and resources. The recent mailing focuses on the new FGC Youth Ministries Program Committee and the various opportunities for youth. The Committee is requesting that the survey form concerning Young Friends, ages 14-18, and Young Adult Friends, ages 18-30, in our meetings be returned for their use in developing needed resources and programs. Already there is a web site (www.Quakeryouth.org) designed specifically for Friends ages 14 – 35 to connect, share information and interests, and lots more.

AFSC has a great online newsletter, *Toward Peace & Justice*. It contains recent information on the **Declaration of Peace Campaign**. For information consult info@declarationofpeace.org.

News from FWCC

Civil Rights Leader to Speak at Annual Meeting

Bernard LaFayette, a leader of nonviolent social change, will address Friends as the keynote speaker at the 2007 Annual Meeting that will take place March 15-18 at the Moses Brown School in Providence, Rhode Island. Dr. LaFayette, co-founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and former Program Administrator of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, is currently a Distinguished-Scholar-in-Residence and Director of the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at the University of Rhode Island.

The FWCC Annual Meeting brings the diversity of Friends from across the Americas together for fellowship, worship, work, and study. All Friends are welcome to attend. Pre-registration is requested. Additional information, including a preliminary schedule and online and mail-in registration, will be available in November.

The **Casa de los Amigos** in Mexico City seeks people interested in serving as volunteers for 3 to 12 months, beginning January 2007. Volunteers exchange work for lodging and use of kitchen and other facilities. In addition, the Casa seeks experienced Quakers who are willing to serve as Resident Friends for 3 months or more under the care of Mexico City Monthly Meeting. For more information, visit <http://fwccamericas.org/>

Workshops for bilingual interpreters and translators planned: The need for competent interpreters and translators is growing among some Friends' groups and yearly meetings, as is FWCC's need to have skilled volunteers for its meetings that are conducted bilingually. FWCC is in the early stages of planning workshops next year to train bilingual Friends in the basics of interpretation and translation. FWCC is interested in hearing from bilingual (English/Spanish) Friends who might be led to the ministry of volunteer interpretation for Quaker groups. Interested Friends should email newsletter@fwccamericas.org.

Did You Know...

that in January you can audit two-week intensive courses at the Earlham School of Religion for a considerably reduced price? To learn more, visit www.esr.earlham.edu or phone the Admissions Office (1-800-432-1ESR).

Reflections on QUIT (the Quaker Initiative to End Torture) Conference

In an historic moment, 117 Quakers from 17 Yearly Meetings, along with nine other allies from around North America, came together at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, for the **QUIT** (Quaker Initiative to End Torture) Conference to create a movement to stop torture wherever it is practiced. Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, played a major role in providing financial, organizational, and spiritual support for this important event, as did many other yearly and monthly meetings.

Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting was one of 15 meetings that minuted support for the conference. Scilla Wahrhaftig, an original member of the QUIT planning committee, and Mary Parish attended, thanks to both financial and spiritual support from Pittsburgh Meeting. The conference itself was immensely powerful, as one might imagine. During the three days we spent together, conference participants gained first-hand insight into the abhorrent practices that constitute torture through the stories of those who have been victims of torture, those who work with people who have been tortured, and in the case of our keynote speaker, Jennifer Harbury, those whose loved ones were tortured.

But our work did not end there. We were very much focused on developing ideas about concrete actions we can take and, in particular, the ways in which those Friends gathered at Guilford could bring this concern to their monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings. Bal Pinguel, Program Coordinator for the AFSC Peacebuilding Program and a torture victim, spoke of it being our sacred duty as Quakers to take up this task of eradicating torture. Chuck Fager, from Quaker House in Fayetteville, NC, suggested that, as our forebears worked for over a hundred years on the issue of slavery, we too may need to work with tenacity, veracity, and audacity for generations to eliminate torture. We must look to that history for our strength and

open ourselves to the guidance of the Spirit as we take up this arduous work.

As this movement begins, we are at once sobered by the immensity of the problem and lifted up by the power of the light and love that surrounded us during the conference and which we now carry within us. We left the conference having taken vital steps toward identifying how we can draw on our faith and heritage to build a powerful and effective movement to bring about the abolition of torture. Work groups have identified specific actions that can be taken. Any Friends or attenders who wish to become involved with this initiative are welcome, and Scilla or Mary can be contacted for more information. In addition, the QUIT web site, www.quit-torture-now.org, contains lots of good information, including the conference booklet. There is also a list-serve that Friends can join by e-mailing listserv@mtsac.edu and placing the words "Subscribe QUIT-L" along with your first and last names in the body of the message. Finally, there is a booklet of resources about torture that can be found in our library. It contains a multiplicity of information under such headings as Religious Statements Against Torture, International and National Laws Related to Torture, Articles, and Useful Web Sites.

Friends, we all know how large the task is that lies before us. Your help and support in whatever fashion you can offer are crucial. In a minute approved at the 2006 Annual Meeting of FWCC, it is stated: ... *At great cost, Friends have witnessed prophetically against injustice for more than 350 years. We now call on Friends everywhere to raise our voices once again against a malevolent darkness that is spreading throughout our world – to join together with all people of faith and conscience in calling on our governments to banish forever the use of torture in any form.*

~ Scilla Wahrhaftig and Mary Parish

On Saturday, December 2, at 2 pm, there will be a **National Labor Antiwar Demonstration** in Cleveland, as the opening event for the "National Labor Conference Against the Iraq War" to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Everyone is welcome to participate in the march from the hotel to the Federal Building and Cleveland City Hall for a rally. Endorsements are requested and the list will be included in the printed flyer. Greg Coleridge of our Northeast Ohio AFSC Program has suggested that Friends and LEYM might consider an endorsement. For more information, email: USLaw2006Ohio@aol.com.

The **2007 FLGBTQC** (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns) **Midwinter Gathering** will take place February 16-19 at the beautiful Summit Retreat Center in Browns Summit, North Carolina (just north of Greensboro). The theme for the gathering, "Many Voices, One Spirit," reflects the spiritual and religious diversity among Friends, especially the multifaceted expressions of Quakerism in North Carolina. The plenary session will be led by Max Carter, director of Friends Center and Quaker Studies at Guilford College. For more information, visit <http://flgbtqc.quaker.org>.

Reports from *Other* Yearly Meetings

Visit to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), Scattergood, July 25-28, 2006

Dear LEYM Friends,

Early in the summer, I was invited to visit Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) by its clerk, Deborah Fisch. Deborah is the director of FGC's Traveling Ministries Program, and has been a frequent visitor to LEYM. Deborah is a mentor to me. I considered the invitation, and felt that it was the right thing for me to do. It helped that my husband has an aunt who lives nearby and would welcome a visit from us. I obtained a letter of introduction from Shirley Bechill, our new LEYM clerk.

Note: Conservative Friends are the smallest branch of Quakers in the US, generally more traditional than other unprogrammed Friends. Many LEYM Friends are familiar with the Conservative Quaker retreats held in Barnesville, Ohio.

On a Tuesday, my husband, Dan, and I flew to Moline, Illinois, where Dan's aunt and her husband picked us up and took us to their house. Dan spent our five days with his aunt, while I spent my days at Yearly Meeting.

It was a truly blessed time for me. IYMC is small, and there were about the same number of Friends as at LEYM annual sessions. Friends were warm and welcoming, and I ran into some I already knew.

We met at Scattergood Friends School in West Branch, Iowa, a small boarding high school which is owned by the yearly meeting.



Friends slept in dormitories and ate in the cafeteria, where we helped set up and clean up from meals. Worship and business sessions were held in a lovely meeting house which is a separate building from the others. Though not old, it gave the feel of a traditional Quaker meeting house—very open and settled.

Business meeting began with worship and continued in worship as business was presented. Following Conservative tradition, the clerk also wrote the minutes. She was joined at the facing table by an Assistant Clerk and a rotating pool of Readers. All business was presented by the people at the facing table. Committees and others on the agenda prepared written reports that were read aloud by one of the Readers. Deborah is a skillful and experienced clerk. The pace was deliberate and meditative. Friends generally spoke to the business briefly and from a

centered place. Deborah's minutes encapsulated where the meeting had come to.

Friends showed remarkable self-discipline during business in remaining calm and centered during the many pauses while the clerk worked on a minute or waited before acknowledging a Friend who wished to speak. The yearly meeting had put itself under the discipline of always speaking into a microphone. Several Friends had hearing problems that could be best ameliorated using a device that worked through the AP system; speaking loudly did not help these people. Two Friends on the floor of the meeting were designated as runners (or more accurately, walkers), who would bring a microphone to Friends as the clerk recognized them. The AP system worked poorly throughout the week, with lots of static, and Friends were very patient while the controls had to be fiddled with. In the middle of long sessions, Friends were asked to rise and stretch but remain in worship.

In addition to business sessions, I took in Arthur Meyer Boyd's presentation on FCNL's new "green" building; [heard] two young Friends share their experiences at the World Gathering of Young Friends; was allowed to sit in on a meeting of the Ministry & Counsel Committee; attended a presentation by Anna Sandidge, Coordinator of Friends Peace Teams; attended a discussion of the yearly meeting's web site; and attended a talk by Ruah Swennerfelt, General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness. I had a number of lively discussions with Friends during meals and other times. Most evenings, a small group gathered in the meetinghouse to play and sing. One evening was given over to folk dancing led by Mark and Sandra Helpsmeet, who are active in Friendly Folk Dancers and whom I knew from FGC Gatherings.

I brought various Quaker outreach materials with me, including ones developed by LEYM's Advancement & Outreach Committee, which I put in a display area. Early in the week, I offered a workshop on "Outreach without Proselytizing." IYMC currently has no committee for outreach, so many Friends were exploring new territory. It was so well attended that I offered the workshop again later in the week so that those who had recently arrived or not been able to attend the first one could do so. It was also well attended. *Continued on next page*

Reports from *Other* Yearly Meetings

Deborah had asked me to bring my mountain dulcimer. I ended up doing two hour-long concerts for small groups of Friends. These were informal and Friends were encouraged to ask questions about the instrument and the music.

Commitments at home caused us to leave Iowa Saturday morning, so I missed the last two days of Yearly Meeting.

From my past experiences with Conservative Friends, I had expected to see some plain dress. This was not the case. Friends were also not particularly Christocentric—that is, they did not insist that everyone use Christian language and regard Jesus Christ as Savior—which was another surprise. Socially and theologically, they are similar to LEYM Friends. The major difference I found among Iowa

Conservative Friends was a core of seasoned Friends with an explicit understanding that we are under God's guidance in all things and at all times. There was a willingness to be self-disciplined and to submit to appropriate discipline as prescribed by the clerk or one's monthly meeting. Most of the monthly meetings understood that they are spiritual communities whose tasks include discernment of individual leadings and discernment of the meeting's corporate actions and decisions.

The experiences I had and relationships I began at Iowa Yearly Meeting have touched me deeply.

Mathilda Navias, Clerk
LEYM Advancement & Outreach Committee

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING, McNabb, July 26-30, 2006

Shirley and Verne Bechill were visitors to IYM under the care of the Yearly Meeting Visitation Program. It was a very exciting yearly meeting. There were some obvious differences between LEYM and IYM. Their yearly meeting was holding its 132nd annual meeting, making it about 100 years older than LEYM, its budget was about twice as large as LEYM's, the number of people attending was somewhat larger than at LEYM, it was a day longer, and it owns the property where the yearly meeting was held. They also had many committee meetings during the four days. There wasn't much free time in the schedule.

Three items of business stood out as quite significant in their gathering:

First, IYL members love their meetinghouse with a passion. They are in the process of implementing new buildings, some of which are already completed. There are eight cabins and a bathhouse for members. The floors of the cabins came from the demolition of the old dormitory, and they feel very proud of their contractor, who is recycling as much as possible into new buildings. They also have plans for a new community building containing many sleeping rooms, a large meeting room, and a kitchen. One big concern is the lack of air conditioning in the meeting house. Many members cannot come because of the heat, and some

come only for a day. The heat in mid-summer was well into the nineties, and with high humidity this is a real concern for everyone. The new building will alleviate this problem, but it is probably many years into the future.

Second, IYM is much concerned about meeting the needs of its young people. They had an active program for the yearly meeting, but it was somewhat weak in the post-teen age group.

Third, for ten years IYM has been in the process of writing a Faith and Practice. There was considerable work on it during the yearly meeting. There is a remarkable section on same-sex relationships; after two workshops on the document, they were fine tuning it through yearly meeting sessions to make it even better.

On Saturday evening they held an intergenerational gathering for folk dancing and singing. The music was live, and the participants from the very young to the very old participated in the activities on the front lawn of the meeting house. This reminded us of the early days of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, which had similar activities.

We found great value in becoming acquainted with these Friends and their ways of practicing Quaker beliefs.

Verne Bechill

Reports from *Other* Yearly Meetings

Canadian Yearly Meeting (Conservative), Winnipeg, August 12-19, 2006

Marvin and I felt honored and privileged to be Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's representatives at Canadian Yearly Meeting. It was a deeply moving spiritual experience, and opened our awareness to some of the unique perspectives of our northern neighbors.

Canadian Yearly Meeting is a week long, stretching from Saturday to Saturday. This allows for a cadence in the days: they started with early morning worship, then breakfast, Bible study after breakfast, followed by worship options, then a business meeting that lasts until lunch. A meeting for worship for healing was held during the last portion of the lunch break, followed by another business session, then a period for special interest groups or other activities, dinner, and ending with the evening activity. The week length enabled the program committee to fold in more time for fellowship. Even with the longer time to meet, some of the Canadian Friends spent more time driving than at yearly meeting itself: the person assigned to me as my first timer buddy drove five days each way to get from Victoria to Winnipeg.

There were four options for the worship after Bible study: Worship study, worship fellowship, silent worship or walking meditation. Worship study is worship sharing with queries based on the Bible study. Worship fellowship was worship sharing with no queries. People indicated which form of worship they were interested in on the registration form, and the worship sharing groups were put together from this information. I participated in the worship fellowship. Over the five days, the six of us in my group developed a bond of trust that enabled us to admit to our vulnerabilities, and thus grow from them. This five hours, spread over five days and with the same group of people, led to a very deep spiritual sharing.

Canadian Yearly Meeting faces many of the same issues as Lake Erie Yearly Meeting: how to educate the members and attenders – both the adults and the children; how to handle the business of the meeting without stretching the people or the budget too thin; how to maintain an environment that encourages spiritual growth in the Society; how to handle all the social issues competing for people's time. Canadian Yearly Meeting has put together a committee that has interviewed every monthly meeting on these topics, calling it the committee on Consultation and Renewal or "CnR." An initial draft of the committee's recommendations was presented,

and the more controversial of the recommendations provoked deep discussion about the meaning and benefits of membership in FGC and FUM. Marvin's and my presence had two effects: first, it will make us more tender to Canadian perspectives as we pursue wider Quaker interests, and it helped reinforce the relationship between Canadian Yearly Meeting and other Quaker groups.

The meetings in southern Ontario are so close to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting that there is opportunity to share resources. We suggested to Michigan Friends Center that they should make meetings in southern Ontario aware of the center and some of the programs it offers, and Michigan Friends Center has already started to follow up with mailings. We will be sharing the structure of our spiritual formation program with the CnR committee, so they can consider whether they want to build on it or not.

They have managed to cut the cost of attending yearly meeting by establishing a food coop that served the meals to over half the attenders of CYM. It enabled families to attend who otherwise would have found the cost prohibitive, but the trade-off was that the group was split at meal times.

The registration form has a section where the different tasks that need volunteers are listed. Everyone is expected to pick a couple. This ranges from helping with registration, leading worship sharing groups, buddies for the first time attenders, food coop and camping liaisons, computer help, and other activities.

On the lighter side, everyone was asked to listen for the humorous statements that people made during Yearly Meeting, especially the unintentional ones. These were collected in envelopes clearly labeled as gleanings, and many of them were read back to the whole group Friday night at "family night." The gleanings came from all aspects of the Yearly Meeting: Bible study, small group meetings, business sessions, comments overheard in the lunch lines, even from another meeting's youth epistle. The ability to laugh at oneself is a great gift.

We had the sense that Canadian Yearly Meeting attenders appreciated our presence, and are looking forward to seeing an LEYM representative at Halifax, Nova Scotia for their 2007 Yearly Meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Barnes

News from Around LEYM

Friend Available to Discuss Healthcare in Ohio

Athens Friends Meeting has provided a Traveling Minute for Warren Haydon to visit other LEYM Meetings concerning health care. Warren carries a special concern for health care and is promoting legal change in Ohio in support of health care of all Ohioans. He is a member of Athens Friends Meeting. He has served the Meeting in many capacities, including Recording Clerk and Treasurer. He currently serves on our Ministry and Counsel Committee, and on the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

Warren supports universal single payer health care. He is Chair of the Southeastern Ohio Single Payer Action Network, which is a chapter of Single Payer Action Network (SPAN) Ohio. He serves on the State Council for SPAN Ohio, which is using the initiative petition process to make Ohio the first state in the nation to offer universal single payer health care. While he is involved in a specific endeavor with SPAN Ohio, he is most interested in educating Ohio citizens through discussion about the current health care crisis and the need for universal single payer health care. Over the last several years, Warren has made numerous presentations to local, regional and state groups on single payer universal health care as a practical option for Ohio. Warren would welcome an invitation to visit your Meeting, hear about your experience with and concerns for health care, and to share his knowledge of better options.

We commend Warren to your Meeting. He can be reached at warrenh@frognet.net or at 740 590-3086.

Meg Hummon, Clerk, Athens Friends Meeting.
meghummon@earthlink.net or 740 592-5703

Dorothy Fischer

Dorothy Fischer, of North Columbus Friends Meeting, died on July 28, at the age of 92, as a result of a massive stroke. Dorothy was NCFM's oldest and longest-term member, having joined the Meeting in 1938. Approximately 200 people attended Dorothy's memorial service, held on August 6 at the Westminster-Thurber community, where she had lived for the past several years.

Recent LEYM Publications

By now your meeting should have received copies of the *LEYM Annual Records 2006*. Look for booklets with bright orange covers. The AR contains full minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting (and Representative Meeting), the text of the Plenary Address, reports on the workshops, Epistles (including five from various children-youth groups), a history and chronology of LEYM, State of the Meeting Reports from constituent monthly meetings and worship groups, statistics on membership and attendance at monthly meetings, and contact information for meetings and their officers and committee clerks as well as for LEYM committees. Friends who are actively involved in the Yearly Meeting should be sure to acquire a copy. Thanks to Nancy E. James (Pittsburgh), who compiled the AR this year.

There is also a new *LEYM Directory* (blue cover), which should be mailed in early October. The *Directory* provides contact information for members and attenders within LEYM (listed alphabetically); lists of members and attenders at each of the 20 monthly meetings, 2 preparative meetings, and 8 worship groups; and lists of children arranged by age. The *Directory* reflects the diligent work of Mathilda Navias (Broadmead).

Raise the Roof for Red Cedar

Michigan Friends Center invites Friends to a special chili dinner as a fundraiser for Red Cedar Meeting's dream to build their own meetinghouse, on Saturday, November 4—after Susan Jeffers' workshop on Peace Churches and the Bible (see next page). The food will be donated and all proceeds will go to Red Cedar's building fund. Gather at 5:30; dinner at 6:00. Friends from Red Cedar will make a short presentation about the process of planning an environmentally friendly home of their own. Music will be performed by three extraordinary youth musicians from Ann Arbor Meeting. With high school youth in mind, we will fire up the sauna and prepare a campfire by the lake front for those who wish to extend the evening.

Tickets are \$10-50 sliding scale; a donation enables MFC to subsidize a small number of tickets. For reservations or information, or to offer help, contact Pam Hoffer (phoffer@umich.edu or 734 662-3435).

LEYM Change of Address

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip _____
Email _____
Meeting _____

Please return to:

Jeff Cooper
1506 Arborview Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Email: cooperdaub@hotmail.com

Thank you!

Explore LEYM's *Annual Records 2006!*

(There will be a quiz.)

Calendar

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- JANUARY 1, 2007 DUE DATE FOR WINTER **BULLETIN**
- MARCH 3, 2007 **REPRESENTATIVE MEETING**, AT RED CEDAR MEETING, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN
- MARCH 15, 2007 DUE DATE FOR SPRING **BULLETIN**
- JUNE 14-17 **ANNUAL MEETING**, BLUFFTON, OHIO

GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING

MID-WINTER GATHERING ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24,
AT GRAND RAPIDS MEETING

MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER: FALL WORKSHOPS

WWW.MICHIGANFRIENDSCENTER.ORG

- OCTOBER 21 SATURDAY, 10:00—4:00 **MEETING IN METAPHOR: POETRY AS SPIRITUAL LISTENING**, LED BY JUDITH KERMAN. \$10-25 OR AS ABLE. BRING A SACK LUNCH AND CLOTHES FOR TIME OUTDOORS.
- OCTOBER 28 SATURDAY, 9:30—4:30. **TWENTIETH CENTURY QUAKER JOURNALS AND THE JOURNALING PROCESS**, LED BY STEPHEN ANGELL. \$10-25 OR AS ABLE. BRING A SACK LUNCH AND DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR TIME OUTDOORS.
- NOVEMBER 4 SATURDAY, 9:00—4:00. **SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES: PEACE CHURCHES AND THE BIBLE**, LED BY SUSAN JEFFERS. \$10-25 OR AS ABLE. BRING A SACK LUNCH.



Middle Schoolers (Epistle reading)

Committee Clerks, 2006-07

Advancement & Outreach: Mathilda Navias (Broadmead)

Arrangements & Site: Jon Sommer (Broadmead)

Earthcare: Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) and
Jim Crowfoot (Ann Arbor)

Finance & Budget: Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead)

High School Program: tbd

Ministry & Nurture: Merry Stanford (Red Cedar)

Nominating: Connie McPeak Green (Cleveland) and
Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead)

Peace: David Lore (Granville)

Program: Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)

Publications & Archives: Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor)

Youth & Children: Joyce Callahan (Cleveland)

Address Service Requested

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Jeff Cooper
1506 Arborview Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Email: cooperdaub@hotmail.com

***The Spirit in whose presence we
wait in worship empowers us.***

**Patience A. Schenck
Pendle Hill Pamphlet #383**

Fall 2006 Bulletin

We're on the Web!
<http://leym.quaker.org>

Save the dates!

***LEYM 2007
Annual Meeting***

June 14-17



"WAIT FOR THE LIGHT, THEN PUSH"

*(Quakerly message at rear exit door of a bus;
this is actually Folk Dancing on Saturday night,
ably led by Rosemary Coffey.)*