



The Family of LEYM Clerk's Message, by Merry Stanford

For, when I came into the silent assemblies of God's people, I felt a secret power among them, which touched my heart; and as I gave way unto it I found the evil weakening in me and the good raised up; and so I became thus knit and united unto them, hungering more and more after the increase of this power and life... – Robert Barclay (1648-1690)

I believe that the first year I attended Lake Erie Yearly Meeting was in 1990, six years after I started attending my local meeting. My children were young, and Peter Wood and I were expecting to get married in a few months. Immediately, yearly meeting touched my heart, for the experience of spiritual family that I experienced there. I loved the gathered worship, the worship sharing groups, the inspiring plenary talks, and the workshops. I especially loved some of the business sessions, feeling the power of God move among Friends as they discerned in a way I had never before witnessed.

Now Peter and I have been married for nearly 18 years, my children are well into their adult lives, and we are grandparents. The wheel has turned. Life reaches out to itself, becoming ever more vibrant and complex. And as my own little family has grown and matured, so has the family of LEYM.

In its 45th year, LEYM continues to be led by that unseen power along a developmental path toward

greater spiritual and organizational maturity. Until fairly recently, most of the spiritual exchange between the Yearly and monthly meetings occurred at the annual sessions, with many seasonal requests made of the monthly meetings for information. In fact, LEYM continues to rely on you, the monthly meetings, for information and reports – and you have been wonderfully responsive! This year, for example, we received timely statistical reports and State of the Meeting reports from 100% of our meetings and worship groups!

But for some years the vision of the Yearly Meeting has been expanding, as it has gradually moved into its next stage of life, becoming a greater spiritual resource for our monthly meetings and worship groups. Signs of this new stage are many, including a consultation last November for clerks of Ministry and Nurture committees of our monthly meetings, the planned development of a set of Queries for ongoing use by the monthly meetings, opportunities with a traveling minister from Friends General Conference last spring and this fall, a vibrant and ongoing spiritual formation program, a user friendly resource from the Earthcare Committee to help our meetings become deeply rooted in their unique bioregions, a resource-rich website (leym.quaker.org), and new plans for a consultation for monthly meeting clerks. The young people who were

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Clerk's Message, *continued*

brought together a few years ago by the vibrant ministry of the High School Youth Program are now reaching out to each other on Facebook, encouraging and supporting each other to gather as young adults at Yearly Meeting. Thus we become knitted together, united unto each other, and hungering more and more after the increase of the life we find among each other.

As you read the articles enclosed in this issue of the *Bulletin*, I hope you will feel the good raised up in you. Whatever you find of interest here, please allow the power of the Spirit that brings us together and works among us to find a resting place in you. Many blessings, Friends!

Merry Stanford, Clerk

Theme for Annual Meeting 2009, June 11-14

The theme of our annual gathering next summer will focus on how we can see ourselves in the other, and use that empathy to overcome our fears and become peacemakers. This theme ties together ideas on how we perceive and interact with "the other" (from the queries provided by the Ministry & Nurture Committee) with the challenge laid before us in Helen Horn's plenary talk in 2008 on finding the courage to be peacemakers in the face of fear. See you at Bluffton!

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Officers

Presiding Clerk:

Merry Stanford
936 Green St
Lansing, MI 48906
517 281-1570
merry.stanford@comcast.net

Assistant Clerk:

Shirley Bechill
1246 N. Masonic Dr
Alma, MI 48801
989 463-4539
bechill@alma.edu

Recording Clerk:

Joseph Mills
4404 Carver Dr
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269 375-4414
millrae@juno.com

Treasurer:

Eric Starbuck
7127½ Thomas Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
412 596-4172
starbuck.eric@gmail.com

Bulletin Editor:

Jeff Cooper
1506 Arborview Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734 668-8063
cooperdaub@hotmail.com

Publications Committee:

Marvin Barnes
Dan Bell
Jeff Cooper, clerk
Nancy E. James
Bob Roehm
Bill Warters

Webmaster:

Bill Warters
18746 Old Homestead Dr
Harper Woods, MI 48225
313 371-2932
bill.warters@gmail.com

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

c/o Office Manager
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting
1420 Hill Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
http://leym.quaker.org

Monthly Meetings, Preparative Meetings, and Worship Groups of LEYM

Michigan

Albion WG
Ann Arbor MM
Birmingham MM
Chelsea WG
Detroit MM
Fremont WG
Grand Rapids MM
Holland MM
Kalamazoo MM
Manitou WG
Pine River MM
Red Cedar MM
Tustin WG

Ohio

Akron MM
Athens MM
Broadmead MM
(Bluffton, Findlay,
Perrysburg, Sidney)
Circleville WG
Cleveland MM
Delaware MM
Gallipolis Area WG
Granville MM
Kent MM
North Columbus MM
Oberlin MM
Wooster MM

West Virginia

Buckhannon PM
Mid-Ohio Valley MM
Monongalia MM

Pennsylvania

Erie WG
Indiana PM
Pittsburgh MM

Prayer Request

Friends, clerks of LEYM have had the tradition of inviting a small group of Friends to hold the Yearly Meeting in the Light through the year. We find that asking specific Friends to hold the Yearly Meeting in the Light is very beneficial, helping all things go better, from the conduct of business to the positive regard in which we hold each other.

I am continuing that tradition, and would also like to expand it a bit. I will be asking those who have consented to this year-long prayer task to gather early on the Thursday afternoon of the annual sessions in June for a period of extended worship. I want also to include in this invitation others who may have the leading. If you feel led to hold the Yearly Meeting in the Light on a regular basis throughout the year, please let me know. I can be reached at merry.stanford@comcast.net. Thank you, Friends.

Merry Stanford, Clerk

Correction: 1000 Friends!

The report on the FWCC Triennial 2007 in the spring 2008 *Bulletin* (p. 16) included the sentence "We ... began to plan for a World Conference of 100 Friends in Kenya, in 2012" This should have read "a World Conference of 1000 Friends."

Annual Meeting 2008: Highlights of the Minutes

45th Annual Sessions, June 12- 15, Bluffton University

This review emphasizes **actions**; the complete minutes appear in *Annual Records 2008*, pp. 15-50.

Each of our sessions opened with readings about Friends practices in conducting business and with readings of epistles – from Britain Yearly Meeting, the Camp at Stillwater, FLGBTQC, and New England Yearly Meeting – and a letter from Kenyan Friends to their political leaders. We welcomed new attenders and visitors, including Susan Axtell, Admissions Director of the Earlham School of Religion, and Elaine Emily (Pacific Yearly Meeting), visiting from FGC.

Thursday Evening Session

The **calling of the roll** of Friends from constituent meetings and groups gave the following count (corrected against registrations): 131 in attendance, including 6 visitors.

Memorials. Our Clerk, Shirley Bechill (Pine River), invited Friends to respectfully share names of Friends who have passed on: Marion Stow (Manitou Worship Group and North Columbus); Walt Scheider, Charles Van Boven, and Barbara Neal (Ann Arbor); Frederick Durham (Kalamazoo); Marjorie Prellwitz, Harry Olson, and Edwin Betz (Pittsburgh); and Miriam Doan (North Columbus). We hold them all in our hearts.

Naming Committee. We approved Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) and Michael Hinshaw (Wooster) serving on the Naming Committee, as proposed by the Executive Committee.

Assistant Clerk, Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), welcomed meetings to volunteer for **hosting Representative Meeting**.

Friday Morning Session

Epistle Committee. We approved Joyce Callahan (Cleveland) and Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) joining Merry Stanford in writing our Epistle.

The **Naming Committee** presented Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) and Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) for three-year terms and Nancy James (Pittsburgh) for a one-year term for Nominating Committee. Friends approved.

LEYM Household Survey. Merry Stanford reported on the results of the survey of YM households [see pp. 14-15 of this *Bulletin*].

Friday Afternoon Session

We accepted the **Treasurer's Report** from Connie Bimber (Oberlin) [see *Annual Records 2008*, pp. 19-23].

Finance Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported:

To establish closer communication with MM treasurers, the clerk of Finance will email them regularly throughout the year.

The Committee discussed the procedure for seeking scholarships from the youth activity fund, and decided to require those seeking scholarships to send a letter from their meeting with their request. The request will go to the Presiding Clerk instead of to the Treasurer. The Clerk will make the decision about the request in consultation with the Treasurer and the clerk of Finance Committee.

The Committee reviewed a proposal from Ministry & Nurture Committee that we establish a scholarship fund to help LEYM Friends pursue their ministry gifts by attending seminars institutes, workshops, etc. Finance Committee has included in the proposed 08-09 budget \$1000 for this purpose. Ministry grant requests should be accompanied by a letter from the MM and would be processed by Ministry & Nurture Committee.

Finance Committee has raised the mileage reimbursement amount from \$0.25 to \$0.35 per mile.

Finance Committee proposed a budget of \$29,020 for the 2008-09 fiscal year [see p. 8]. This maintains the suggested per-member contribution at \$37. Changes from the 07-08 budget include:

Travel: increase by \$1000 to cover increased airfare and increased mileage reimbursement

High School Youth Fund: decrease by \$4300 because only one retreat was held this last year

Consultation fund: increase by \$2400 to pay for consultation in fall 09

Scholarships for ministry fund: increase by \$1000 per M&N proposal

We approved that a request for assistance from a specific scholarship fund of the YM will be submitted to the Presiding Clerk with a letter of support from the applicant's monthly meeting. The Presiding Clerk will consult with the Treasurer and clerk of the Finance Committee in acting upon the request.

Annual Meeting 2008: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

Advancement & Outreach Committee

Mathilda Navias reported:

Changes in Meeting Status

Circleville Worship Group. In May, Athens MM prayerfully took Circleville under their care.

Buckhannon, WV, Friends. Recently, their status was changed from a worship group to a preparative meeting, under the care of Monongalia MM.

Holland, MI, Friends. In January, Grand Rapids MM approved making Holland Preparative Meeting a full monthly meeting. In May, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting approved this change, and so advised A&O. On behalf of the Yearly Meeting, we welcome Holland Friends as a full monthly meeting.

Friends of the Light. This Friends Meeting in Traverse City, Michigan, has abandoned exploring affiliation with LEYM.

Update on Meeting Websites: New websites since last yearly meeting are Athens, Kent, Green Pastures Quarter, and North Columbus. Of 21 MMs, all but 5 have websites.

Visits to LEYM Meetings: Mary Ann Downey and her husband, Bill Holland, visited LEYM Meetings and WGs in Ohio in April. LEYM covered \$880 of the cost, and FGC's Traveling Ministries Program covered the remaining \$366.05. Mary Ann and Bill are scheduled to visit Meetings and WGs in Michigan in October 2008.

Friends were invited to attend the **A&O Workshop** at these sessions: "Everything You Wanted to Know about Quakerism but Were Afraid to Ask."

Resources in the Display Area and on the A&O Committee Page on LEYM's Website

(www.quaker.org/leym/advancementcommittee.html) were noted.

Our Presiding and Assistant Clerks presented a proposal from the Executive Committee for a **Consultation for LEYM monthly meeting clerks**, in fall 2009. The consultation would allow clerks the opportunity to come together, network, share experiences and problems of meeting clerking, and become aware of Yearly Meeting resources. Friends united in holding such a consultation.

Friends World Committee for Consultation

Judith Inskeep (Purchase MM) and our FWCC Representatives, Mike Hinshaw and Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids), reported on the Triennial held in Ireland

last August and various FWCC regional gatherings. Jana reported on her interpreter work with FWCC and gave a moving account of her visits this past year to Friends churches and meetings in Jamaica and Cuba, and to a Friends boys' school in Belize. The next worldwide meeting of FWCC will be held in Kenya in 2012. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's turn to host an FWCC fall regional gathering falls in 2009.



Earthcare Committee

Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) reported:

In December, we decided to plan and conduct a workshop ("Life More Abundant the Bioregional Way") and other activities (literature table, nature walk, and possibly a late night documentary film) during Annual Meeting and to develop a plan to stimulate ride sharing to Annual Meeting.

Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) planned, wrote, and had printed a 29-page booklet, "Getting Started! Growing Our Sense of Spirit-Home the Bioregional Way," for use in the EC workshop and for follow-up by workshop participants. EC members funded the printing of 200 copies and mailed out copies of the booklet to Earthcare representatives in LEYM's MMs and worship groups [see pp. 16-17].



Annual Meeting 2008: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

Phil Clampitt and Helen Söderberg (Red Cedar) implemented the ride sharing program developed by EC and approved by LEYM in March. This program should help ensure more people can attend the Annual Sessions and conserve energy.

Throughout this past year members of EC have perceived that the crisis of unsustainability is deepening. EC is challenged in how to most responsibly inform members of LEYM about this situation and to suggest alternative responses.

Peace Committee

David Lore (Granville) reported.

The Committee presented three items for approval:

1) A minute endorsing the Statement of Conscience promulgated by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). We approved the Yearly Meeting's endorsement of this minute:

Minute on NRCAT Statement of Conscience

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) endorses the Statement of Conscience promulgated by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). The statement, endorsed so far by 130 religious organizations, reads as follows:

Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions, in their highest ideals, hold dear. It degrades everyone involved – policy-makers, perpetrators, and victims. It contradicts our nation's most cherished values. Any policies that permit torture and inhumane treatment are shocking and morally intolerable.

Nothing less is at stake in the torture abuse crisis than the soul of the nation. Let America abolish torture now – without exception.

We note that several Quaker organizations have already endorsed this statement, including three yearly meetings, 23 monthly meetings (one of which is Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting), and the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Monthly Meetings are encouraged to consider endorsing this Statement of Conscience and participating financially in the NRCAT initiative.

2) A minute noting current U.S.-Iraqi negotiations on a new "security agreement" to replace the current UN mandate after 2008. On Saturday afternoon, after further development of the minute and its proposed distribution, Friends approved the minute, with Friend Verne Bechill (Pine River) expressing a concern that the minute was not forceful enough, but standing aside.

Minute on U.S./Iraqi Security Agreement

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) has previously endorsed the call by the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) for the expeditious withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq without the establishment and retention of U.S. bases in that country.

The existing United Nations mandate, which the U.S. administration views as the legal basis for the continuing U.S. military presence in Iraq, expires at the end of 2008.

It has been widely reported that the U.S. is currently negotiating a long-term security agreement with the Iraqi government which, among other things, seeks retention of more than 50 U.S. bases in Iraq as well as immunity for U.S. personnel, military and civilian, from Iraqi law.

The terms of this agreement have triggered opposition on the part of some Iraqi government leaders because of its intrusion on Iraqi sovereignty.

Still, the U.S. administration has announced that it intends to finalize this agreement before it leaves office in January 2009, without submitting it to Congress for ratification.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting remains committed to the end of the U.S. occupation of Iraq and the restoration of full sovereignty to that country.

We, therefore, oppose any new security agreement, if one is needed at all, which compromises Iraqi sovereignty and continues an American military presence in Iraq.

Distribution: Monthly Meetings of LEYM; U.S. Senators, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Michigan; Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; The White House; Embassy of Iraq, Washington, D.C.; FCNL; *Friends Journal*

3) An open letter from LEYM to the presumptive Presidential candidates, Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama, regarding the facts on the ground which need to be addressed by the next administration in pursuing any "two-state solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

On Sunday morning, after further consideration and editing by the Peace Committee, Friends approved the Yearly Meeting sending separate letters to Senators McCain and Obama regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. [The text of this letter appears in *Annual Records 2008*, pp. 45-47, and on the LEYM website, leym.quaker.org.]

Annual Meeting 2008: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

Publications & Archives Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported.

I. At Representative Meeting we decided to produce another printed *LEYM Directory* in 2008, “with final details (including the listing of children) to be considered at our Annual Session.” Following correspondence with MMs and worship groups, P&A proposes the following for the 2008 Directory:

- 1) The section listing children by year of birth will be deleted. This information will still be collected for the LEYM database, but will be available only on request from the Database Wrangler (Mathilda Navias) for legitimate LEYM purposes.
- 2) The section listing children by meeting or worship group will continue to list children’s names but with the letter “Y” (rather than year of birth).
- 3) The section listing Friends by household will list children’s names and add the letter “Y.”

II. For the new Directory, MMs and worship group will receive from P&A a spreadsheet (as a printed form and an Excel file) with current directory information, and be asked to provide updated information. We hope that by listing only changes in the last two-and-a-half years, we can minimize the work that must be done by monthly meetings.

Friends approved the listing of names of children in our Directory, merely indicating their status as minors, not their ages. Dates of birth will remain in the database for suitable Yearly Meeting purposes.

Ministry & Nurture Committee

Margaret Liske (Kent) reported:

1. State of the Meeting Reports: How marvelous to receive 24 reports from meetings and worship groups, which can be read by all in the *Annual Records* [pp. 90-142]. The Committee felt the Spirit moving through our meetings, small and large, with the deep desire to grow in the Spirit.

2. Spiritual Formation: Ellen Barnes, Clerk of the Spiritual Formation Planning Committee, reported on the two retreats that took place this year. Given the strong yearning for this kind of nurture and the carryover into the MMs and LEYM, we decided to continue the format for the fall retreat, Friday evening through Sunday lunch, but reduce the spring session to one day. The 2008-09 retreat leader will be Connie Lezenby of Gwynedd, Pennsylvania MM, and the theme is

“Grounding our Spirituality in Nature: Strengthening our Connections with the Source of Nourishment and Refreshment.”

3. Spiritual Consultation: The great success of the November 2007 Spiritual Consultation for representatives of MM Ministry and Nurture Committees has encouraged Friends to continue the practice. Out of this gathering a need was expressed for such a consultation for LEYM MM clerks. Thus M&N proposes that funds be set aside to enable such a consultation under the oversight of the LEYM Executive Committee for fall 2009.

4. Program and Funding Request: M&N proposes that \$1000 be allocated as a line item to help support MMs who wish to send a member or attendee to FGC’s School of the Spirit or the Religious Educators Institute or Pendle Hill, etc. for education or training related to ministry among Friends. Two requirements would be: 1. that the request come from the MM rather than the individual, and 2. that the MM provide financial support to the individual. M&N will collaborate with other YM committees as appropriate to the request. [*This proposal was approved when the 2008-09 budget was approved; see p. 8.*]

5. Query Set: An intense interest and need has been expressed for a set of LEYM queries which MMs and worship groups could use throughout the year, queries with both individual and corporate aspects. Thus M&N proposes an **M&N Ad Hoc Committee** of interested participants to begin this process for LEYM.

6. Annual Query: The Committee has again provided an annual query for LEYM MMs:

Are we open to the Other?

What keeps me/us from connecting with those who are different from me/us?

What fears cloud my/our vision of the Light in all beings?

How can I listen with my heart, willing to be vulnerable?

How are we teaching our children that God’s love includes all?

We approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to collect and develop a formal set of published queries for our Yearly Meeting.

Annual Meeting 2008: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

Saturday Afternoon Session

Program Committee

Linda Mills (Kalamazoo) reported:

For these Annual Sessions, the Committee adopted the theme “Peacemaking from the Inside Out” and invited Helen Horn to be the plenary speaker. The following workshops were scheduled:

Clearing the Channel, further exploration of the plenary topic with Helen Horn

Testing Discernment and Decisions, with Jerry Knutson

Life More Abundant the Bioregional Way, with Judy Greenberg and Jim Crowfoot

Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Quakerism but Were Afraid to Ask, with Advancement & Outreach Committee

Meeting for Healing, with Richard Lee

Publicizing Prayer, Peace, and Community Projects, with David Lore

The Committee arranged for Bible study each morning, worship sharing on Friday and Saturday mornings, two newcomer enrichment meetings, singing, nature walks, Saturday evening contra and folk dancing with a watermelon social, and mini gatherings for Quaker organizations. We instituted a Buddy system, matching volunteers with newcomers, and provided a microphone for announcements at meals.

Youth & Children Committee

Our Assistant Clerk read a report from Dolores and David Avner (Pittsburgh) and Nancy Nagler (Red Cedar), which we joyfully received.

This year we have 23 children and a supportive staff of 14.

T-shirts (design and execution by Crowley-Crotser Corp.) incorporated the Annual Meeting theme.

Openings available: Job requirements – Enjoy children, be flexible. LEYM covers your expenses at Annual Meeting and the fringe benefits are priceless. Consider this an invitation. RSVP ASAP.

High School Youth Program Committee

The Clerk reported that the Committee is moving forward for a search for a new High School Youth Program Coordinator as a replacement for Kri Burkander (Ann Arbor).

Olney Friends School

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) gave a glowing report on “the amazing resilience of that school”; the success of its diverse graduates; its success raising money; plans for a new “green” Activity Center; its Sustainability Coordinator, courses in vegetable gardening, and hands-on farming experiences; and its strong Board of Trustees, Headmaster, and Development Director. [See *Annual Records*, pp. 38-39.]

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Don Nagler (Pine River) reported:

The fall business session, at Friends School in Detroit, featured the report given on FSD by Geoff Brieger, Clerk of the Board, and Dwight Wilson, Headmaster. It was greatly encouraging, but challenging, in this time of financial and social crisis. The program was given by Penny Ryder, director of the Criminal Justice Program of the Ann Arbor Office of the AFSC.

The midwinter meeting, sponsored by Ann Arbor Meeting, offered an excellent panel discussion on “the relationship between spirituality and activism.” After lunch, there was joyous contra dancing in which the children were invited to participate.

The spring presentation brought a lively and insightful talk on “Light Within, Light Without” by Lonnie Valentine, who heads the peace curriculum at the Earlham School of Religion. In the business session, we approved and welcomed Holland Preparative Meeting to monthly meeting status.

Green Pastures supports six institutions with its budget, principally the AFSC, Ann Arbor Office (about 63%) and Friends School in Detroit (about 17%).

Arrangement and Site

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reported that next year’s gathering at Bluffton will start on June 11.

Gathering of Friends General Conference

Ellen and Marvin Barnes (Birmingham), Clerks of this year’s Gathering, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, invited Friends to consider attending the Gathering.

Friends School in Detroit

Dwight Wilson (Ann Arbor), Headmaster, reported:

In academic, ethical, and development areas, FSD is in as strong a position as it has ever been. Development efforts and successes have increased multiple-fold since the prior Headmaster. However, the age of the building, skyrocketing fuel,

Annual Meeting 2008: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

health insurance, and security expenses, and the economic climate of Detroit have caused serious challenges for the school. Fourteen students (almost 10% of the student body) had to withdraw for nonpayment of tuition, reflecting a city-wide crisis. Academic success, an exciting drama program, teaching Chinese to grades pre-K to 7, community service, development, new flooring, and establishment of a Human Rights Lectureship and Day of Learning in honor of Miyo Bassett were highlights of the past year. Concerns included the reduction of staff by five people (to balance the budget), the need to replace the lighting system and think ahead to replacing the aging furnace and roof, the cost of transportation for community service, and the debt on a mortgage and loans. Each of these represents places where you, your meetings, and your friends can shine a light. [See the full report in *Annual Records*, pp. 42-44.]

Our Clerk asks that we hold FSD in our prayers and the Light and follow our hearts as to its needs.

First Day Session

2008-09 Budget Friends approved the budget as presented by Finance Committee, with a suggested per-adult member contribution of \$37 [see below].

Budget for July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009		
General Fund Expenses	Budget 08-09	Difference from 07-08
(* = transfers)		
Travel	6,500	1,000
Office	300	0
Publications	3,400	0
Advancement	880	0
Ministry & Nurture	200	-600
Clerk's Fund	500	0
FGC	4,500	0
FGC – Special Program	500	0
Records projects	100	0
FWCC Travel*	1,240	0
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700	0
High School Youth Fund	1,100	-4,300
Spiritual Formation*	600	0
Friends School in Detroit	2,500	0
Olney Friends School	600	0
Consultation Fund	2,400	2,400
Scholarship Fund, Ministry	1,000	1,000
Misc.	0	0
TOTALS	\$29,020	\$-500
Per member assessment	\$36.60	

Friends approved Thomas Taylor as **clerk of the Nominating Committee**, as recommended by the Naming Committee. Our Clerk explained the process used this year of the Naming Committee consulting with the YM Clerks to find a clerk for Nominating Committee. Friends approved this procedure.

Nominating Committee

Peter Wood (Red Cedar) reported.

The Committee presented a report showing officers and committee assignments [see *Annual Records 2008*, pp. 184-188; also this *Bulletin*, pp. 2 & 19]. Friends approved the report.

We cherished receiving the **reports, epistle, and performances from our young people**, which will be a part of our *Annual Records* [see pp. 80-81]. We thanked them for their presentations and treasure the joy they have brought us.

Epistle from The Adult Young Friends

Adult Young Friends reported on their activities during our sessions, sharing the peace pledge and poster. We thanked them and are heartened to see the rising Spirit among them [see p. 11].



Annual Meeting 2008: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

The **Yearly Meeting Epistle** was read and, with one small change, approved [see p. 10]. Friends thanked the Epistle Committee for its diligent work.

Appreciations. We minuted and extended our heartfelt thanks to **Friend Connie Bimber** for her more than 12 years of faithful service as Treasurer of LEYM. We minuted appreciation for **Merry Stanford's** care and nurture of the Ministry & Nurture Committee and the Yearly Meeting. Friends shared other expressions of gratitude and appreciation. We are **grateful to Bluffton University** for hosting our Annual Sessions and contributing to the success of our gathering.

We **concluded with worship**, giving thanks for the strength of the Spirit that has been with us and looking forward to coming together again.

Shirley Bechill, Clerk
Joseph Mills, Recording Clerk



Treasurer's Report for 2008 Annual Meeting

Income	
Housing and commuter fees	\$6,063.00
Meals	\$6,358.30
Registration fees	\$4,343.00
Donations	\$199.30
Lost Keys	\$20.00
Total	\$16,983.60
Expenses	
Housing and commuter fees	\$6,097.50
Meals	\$6,654.70
Honoraria	\$2,473.05
Scholarships	\$187.74
Swimming	\$0.00
Watermelon	\$58.50
Copies	\$65.10
Lost keys	\$100.00
Total	\$15,636.59
Surplus	\$1,347.01

LEYM Epistle

From Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Sixth Month 15, 2008

To Friends Everywhere,

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gathered at Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio, for its 45th session, Sixth Month 12 through 15, 2008. Friends weathered storms of climate, including torrents of rain that miraculously parted whenever the children's program had outside activities. Friends were not challenged during our meetings, however, by storms of the spirit or heart, and showed great love to each other during business sessions, in worship sharing, at meals, during fun, and during our spiritual practice periods.

The Lake Erie Association of Friends was founded in 1939, becoming a Yearly Meeting in 1963. At 45 years old, LEYM has shifted from the developmental task of solidifying its identity to becoming a nurturing resource for its monthly meetings and worship groups. Signs of this new stage include a survey of households regarding their attitudes toward the Yearly Meeting, a consultation for clerks of Ministry and Nurture committees of the monthly meetings, the planned development of a set of Queries for use by the monthly meetings, opportunities with a traveling minister from Friends General Conference, a vibrant and ongoing spiritual formation program, and a planned consultation for monthly meeting clerks. We are excited and energized by this shift in our consciousness about who we are as Friends and what we can accomplish together.

Another sign of our growth is the interest and energy that young adult Friends are bringing to the Yearly Meeting. These young Friends grew up in our Yearly Meeting, coming to us as nursing babies and roaming toddlers. Now the wheel has turned, and they are taking on advancement and outreach among their peers. They have also enriched our gathering the last two years with special activities following the plenary sessions that spoke meaningfully to the themes. We look forward to the fruits of their fresh outlook and energy.

This year's theme was Peacemaking from the Inside Out. Helen Horn, a cherished member of our Yearly Meeting and our Plenary speaker, asked us if we were "Centered Enough for Peacemaking." Helen encouraged us to act out of faith, despite our fear, to follow the nudges of Spirit to act on behalf of peace and justice. She also encouraged us to take time for reflection and refreshment, for "feeling the Presence of something yearning, through the mystery of suffering, for us to help channel healing into the world."

Friends were presented with an opportunity to discern how Spirit may be nudging us. Friends School in Detroit, under the care of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting of LEYM, suffers the impact of Michigan's economic downturn. Ten percent of the student body had to withdraw mid-year due to an inability to pay school fees, resulting in layoffs of essential and talented teachers. Given the extremely high academic achievements and community contributions of the students and graduates of this school, we are saddened by this news, and encourage Friends everywhere to examine their hearts regarding support for Friends schools, and especially Friends School in Detroit.

During our time together we have been blessed by the power, peace, and love of the Spirit of God and by each other's presence. We thank God for the strength of our loving connection.

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,
Shirley Bechill, Clerk

Epistle from the Adult Young Friends

Fifteenth day of the sixth month of 2008

Dear Friends Everywhere,

This Yearly Meeting weekend has been, to say the least, an interesting time for the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Adult Young Friends group. As only the second established AYF program during the Yearly Meeting, we are still faced with great uncertainty as to our role within the larger Meeting. We have therefore used our time together to discuss what that role should be and how to establish it.



We wish to further integrate ourselves with the adult program. Our work in planning the post-Plenary activity has helped us feel more connected to the theme of the weekend and given us a deeper connection with the adult community. We hope to continue strengthening this connection.

Another important issue for us is our growth as a program. This includes growth in numbers, but also spiritual growth and strengthening connections among ourselves. We hope to expand and reach out to young adults throughout the Yearly Meeting geographical area who may not have been involved in the past. In addition to forming new relationships, we hope that this will contribute to a strong foundation for the Meeting in the future.

We have many unanswered questions as to our place within the Meeting community. However, with this epistle we hope to begin a dialogue with the rest of the Meeting as to how best we can become a more vital part of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

Wishing you the joy of pear-flavored jelly beans,

The Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Adult Young Friends: Katie Braun, Psyche Castro, Erin Diffenderfer, Rachel Kacprzyk, Anthony Norlin, Abbey Pratt-Harrington, Bekah Sommer, Micah Sommer



Annual Meeting 2008: Report on Plenary Address by Helen Horn “Centered Enough for Peacemaking?”

Helen Horn opened her address by referring to Steven Chase’s article “The Power of Fearful Faithfulness” in the June 2008 *Friends Journal*. Chase’s title, which alludes to the 2008 FGC Gathering theme, “Courageously Faithful,” suggests that effective peacemaking may arise from doubt and uncertainty as well as from centeredness. He cites Martin Luther King’s memoir of the Montgomery bus boycott, in which the civil rights leader admits to being nervous about joining the protest until labor activist E. D. Nixon shamed him into acting. Chase argues that we don’t have to “attain perfect spiritual wisdom or confidence before we become active . . . we just have to get started.”



Helen shared the stories of four persons who struggled with being faithful in the midst of doubts and fears. One woman found a way to question her chosen Presidential candidate about certain issues without openly challenging him in front of other supporters. A mother resolved the conflict between her dedication to simple living and her young son’s wish to buy something he felt he needed. A farmer strove to balance his helpfulness and generosity toward an impoverished neighbor with his expectations of truthfulness from the other man. Another woman, a peace activist, learned from an anxiety dream that her fear of criticism was hindering her from speaking out against the Iraq War. What these four persons had in common was their concern “about violence or injustice in one form or another.” And although they questioned their own leadings and decisions, they put their beliefs into action.

Citing more stories from her own and others’ experiences, Helen discussed “the things that most help and hinder [us] . . . from staying centered.”

Prayer, individually or in groups, is one of the most valuable “helps,” and one form of prayer is gratitude. Helen said that when she journals, she lists four of the day’s blessings before “getting into my doings and challenges.” Another way of praying is “simple awareness of being alive” in the midst of a trying situation, such as waiting in line at a grocery store behind a screaming toddler. A woman in that situation tried the mental exercise of identifying with the frustrated two-year-old – then visualized the child happy on his return home. She felt calm by the time she reached the cashier.

Regular prayer and meditation groups can help us center “and get in touch with leadings.” We may also involve the help of our Meeting in our discernment process, perhaps through a clearness committee. “To be centered, then, is to find a practice, a rhythm that fits our lives to be in ongoing dialogue with our Deep Wisdom, to let the Inner Light show us the next steps.”

One inner hindrance to living out our testimonies is workaholism, which short-circuits the brain and “numbs us out psychically.” A related problem is procrastination, which “often comes from a good-hearted wish to do a better job than we really have time for – a yearning for perfection.”

Another hindrance to active work for change is “getting stuck with only people like ourselves” instead of connecting with those our work is intended to serve. On the other hand, separating ourselves from fellow workers by being judgmental hinders us, as do “angry confrontations with those holding different views” and the cynicism that may come when our efforts seem to bear no results. “It is crucial to listen to the fear of things beyond our control that can be behind our anger, or cynicism, or sense of inadequacy.”

But “fear can energize us to act,” Helen reminded us, coming back to “Fearful Faithfulness.” She spoke of the worship-sharing session her Meeting held the day after the 9/11 attacks. “Fear that our government would retaliate in kind was uppermost.” The Meeting drafted a letter to editors of local papers, arguing against military revenge and attempting to connect with Ohio University’s Muslim population. Two persons from the Meeting were led to join students and townspeople who were staging a sit-in at the town’s main intersection.

Helen concluded by responding to her title’s query, “Centered Enough for Peacemaking?” “No, we can’t wait until we are spiritually mature, deeply rooted in the peace that passes understanding, before we take hold in conflict situations or speak out against injustice. Centered peacemaking is a ‘learn as you go’ operation. . . . All we need to do is the best we can, joined with other good-hearted and knowledgeable comrades, and leave the rest to God.”

Reported by Nancy E. James (Pittsburgh)

Wilmington Yearly Meeting

Report from LEYM Representative, Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)

Who are the FUM (Friends United Meeting) Quakers that live alongside LEYM Friends in Ohio and dominate the Friendly landscape in neighboring Indiana? I learned a little more about these “cousins” of ours when I attended Wilmington Yearly Meeting in Wilmington, Ohio, July 24-27, 2008.

Wilmington is a town of about 12,000 in southwestern Ohio, situated about 25 miles east of the midpoint between Dayton and Cincinnati. When I visited, it was a town still reeling from the announcement some weeks earlier that its largest employer was moving thousands of jobs away. It is the home of Wilmington College (founded by Quakers in 1870) and 200 years ago was in the center of the growing edge of Quakerism in this country. Just as Mount Pleasant, in eastern Ohio, served as the welcoming meeting for Quakers moving west from Pennsylvania, the Miami Monthly Meeting in nearby Waynesville received Quakers who moved northward from Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia to the fertile and cheap land of Ohio.

This year’s Yearly Meeting had the theme “Do you want to be made well?” which was the focus of a pre-meeting retreat planned by the Ministry & Counsel Committee. This nice “gathering” time included worshiping, hearing panel presentations on the interrelationship between faith and healing, creating art together, and eating in fellowship, all of which helped to nurture a sense of unity and familiarity among participants before the work of the Yearly Meeting began the next morning. It made me feel at home immediately.

The annual reports of committees and other units were printed in a booklet and distributed to those arriving for the gathering, with the business sessions following the outline of the booklet. It was novel for me to meet pastors and hear sermons at a Quaker gathering, and I enjoyed the experience. The pastors had mostly trained at the Earlham School of Religion recently, and the sermons were not so different in content than messages I am used to hearing in my unprogrammed meeting. Throughout the gathering I heard repeated references to the Quaker testimonies, making me feel more at home spiritually than I thought I would be. Also familiar were the reading of passages from other Yearly Meetings epistles and the good book display.

Visiting Wilmington Yearly Meeting gave me a better understanding of what it is like for Friends and Friends’ Meetings to be thick on the ground instead of sparsely measured out, as in most of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Within a rectangle roughly one-sixth the area of Ohio, there are 25 meetings/churches. (The Yearly Meeting also includes 6 meetings clustered in the Knoxville area of Tennessee.) The committees in this Yearly Meeting can easily meet several times a year, and the members know each other’s meetings from firsthand experience. Nonetheless, I heard several familiar discussions of how to attract more attenders. One meeting in a small town had started two innovative and successful programs that were much discussed: a free lunch one day a week to anyone who came (as well as a canned food bank from which people could choose), and an invitation to local youth to use their building one evening a week.

Wilmington Yearly Meeting’s efforts to revise their *Faith & Practice* have run into points of disagreement in how to place themselves on a continuum of Christianity – are they conservative Christians or moderate? Do they consider the Richmond Declaration of Faith a document that all can agree on? Should the Richmond Declaration be included in the *Faith & Practice* if not everyone agrees with the practice of having a written creed? Points at which unity has not been found include the role of outward sacraments, the role of the Richmond Declaration of Faith, the definition of marriage, a set of new queries, and a statement on the mission of the Yearly Meeting. It seemed to me that the distance between opinions on these matters was closely related to the individuals’ identifying or not identifying with the language and practices of the evangelical Christian churches. It will be interesting to see how these Friends are led in their discussions of these points in future years.

The locale of the meeting, Wilmington College, has honored its alumnus Thomas Kelly with a center named in his honor, and has given the campus Meetinghouse the name of its long-time professor of religion T. Canby Jones (who remains active in the Yearly Meeting). I enjoyed visiting its Quaker Heritage Center, where a new exhibit of commissioned sketches of the Yearly Meeting’s meetinghouses opened during the sessions, and hearing its report on the health of the institution.

LEYM Household Survey Results

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar)

In April and May you were asked to participate in an online survey about LEYM. Surveys are a wonderful tool to help a Meeting focus its self-inquiry and respond to Friends' needs. There were 176 responses to the LEYM Survey, representing households from nearly all of our monthly meetings and worship groups. The results point to several implications and questions for further exploration, and are broken out below by general category.

General Information (about those who responded to the survey): There was an interesting distribution among respondents. Nearly half are experienced Friends who have been attending their local meetings for more than 15 years, and nearly half have only one household member who is a recorded member of a Friends meeting. The three most frequent age groups in responding households are, in order of frequency: 1) ages 31-64, 2) ages 65+, and 3) ages 18-30.

Discussion: 1) *Young adults are the third largest group among respondent households. Would more young adults attend LEYM if more of the general programming were focused on their needs and/or interests (e.g., workshops, interest groups, plenary speakers?)* 2) *Half of all the respondents are the only Quakers in their households. Does this affect the nature of their needs in relation to the Yearly Meeting? Is LEYM programming meeting the needs of these Friends? We have asked the Executive Committee to consider these questions.*

Attendance: Nearly half of respondents have never attended LEYM. This is a surprisingly good response rate for Friends who say that their biggest obstacles to attending are that they "Don't feel connected," and "Don't know enough about LEYM." Clearly, these Friends may like to be more connected to the Yearly Meeting. In fact, close to half of them say they would feel encouraged to attend the Annual Sessions if they were invited to accompany another Friend who is familiar with the Yearly Meeting.

We also looked at responses based on the home states of the respondents. More than half of those from Michigan and Ohio have attended LEYM; almost half of those from Pennsylvania have attended; but only one respondent from West Virginia has attended.

Discussion: *Attending Yearly Meeting for the first time seems to be one of those experiences that is made easier by a personal invitation. So, for those of you who already enjoy attending LEYM, please consider inviting Friends from your local meetings to travel with you to their first Yearly Meeting. Executive Committee will also be exploring ways to help West Virginia Friends who feel the leading to become more involved in LEYM, so that their experience is better represented in our deliberations.*

Cost: Almost half of all those who responded find the Yearly Meeting sessions to be affordable, and nearly all of the rest find it affordable with careful planning. However, among the responses from Friends who have never attended, not even one-third find the Yearly Meeting affordable, although over 60% say it is affordable with careful planning.

Discussion: *We don't know from the survey if Friends who have never attended find the Yearly Meeting less affordable because they do not yet value the Yearly Meeting as much as other events, and/or because they are less affluent and less likely to travel than the Friends who do attend. We do want to make Yearly Meeting activities accessible to all Friends, regardless of income, and so we are beginning to consider some different approaches to scholarships.*

Calendar and Site: The results regarding calendar are intriguing. A huge majority of Friends are satisfied with keeping the date of the Yearly Meeting the same as it has been, in mid-June. However, when we looked at preferences based on state, we found that the Friends who prefer to keep the dates in June are from Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia. Friends from Pennsylvania want to move the date because the current timing interferes with their school

LEYM Household Survey Results, *continued*

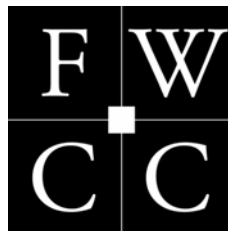
schedules. The obstacle to moving our meeting date is that there is only one time suggested in common by Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Ohio Friends - late July to early August. Unfortunately, this is not a time that is workable for West Virginia Friends – whom we want to better include in our decision-making!

Michigan and Ohio Friends are satisfied enough with the current site at Bluffton University in Ohio. However, the majority of Pennsylvania and West Virginia Friends want the Yearly Meeting to consider other sites that are closer to their local meetings.

Discussion: The Yearly Meeting has discussed the question of calendar and site on and off for many years, with many pros and cons presented in our business sessions. Now, for the first time, we have some data on which to base our further explorations.

Our Yearly Meeting has an L shape, cradled around Lake Erie, with a northern and western region which is Michigan's lower peninsula, and a southern and eastern region which is Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. This makes finding a suitable and centralized site difficult. Bluffton is remarkably central to our Yearly Meeting, when we consider the furthest points north, south, east, and west. However, there remain many of us who cannot attend easily due to distance and/or timing. We do not yet assume that a change will be in the best interest of the Yearly Meeting, but the Site Committee will be exploring this question with the Executive Committee and the Yearly Meeting. We expect that, if moving the date and/or site seems the best solution, any change would take two to three years to implement. This time line would include discussing and seasoning the issue among Friends in the Yearly Meeting, as well as locating and reserving a suitable space.

I hope you find these results as interesting as I do, and look forward with me to the discussions we will be having in the coming year. Please feel free to address any questions, suggestions, or concerns to me at merry.stanford@comcast.net.



Friends World Committee
for Consultation

SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta
de los Amigos

SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Next Annual Meeting in Oregon

Save the dates: Our 2009 Annual Meeting will be March 19-22 at Canby Grove Christian Camp and Conference Center, just south of Portland, Oregon. We anticipate having more than a dozen international visitors; members of FWCC's other three Sections who serve on the Central Executive Committee will participate in the meeting prior to going on to their own meeting, and the Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL) Executive board will also be there.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, with the Church of the Brethren and the Mennonite Church, USA, is planning a Peace Gathering entitled **Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace**, on January 13-17, 2009 at the Arch Street Meetinghouse in Philadelphia. To learn more, visit www.peacegathering2009.org/.

The **Quaker Youth Book Project** is now accepting submissions of writing and art by Friends ages 15-35. The Call for Submissions, which includes submission guidelines and suggested topics and questions, is available now on the Project's website in English and Spanish. Visit www.fgcquaker.org/files/CallforSubmissions_0.pdf to learn more.

The writing and art included in this book will focus on the personal spiritual experiences, beliefs, and identities of contemporary young Friends from all branches. The editorial committee includes young adult Friends from the U.S., Canada, Bolivia, and Kenya, representing the various theological perspectives of Friends.

News from Friends General Conference

Weaving Sacred Wholeness, an intergenerational conference to explore our diversity – in all of its forms – and ways we can use that diversity as our strength, will take place March 6–8, 2009 (the weekend of our Representative Meeting) at Penn Center on St Helena Island, South Carolina. The conference goals include:

- ◆ Sharing our stories and feeling we are heard.
- ◆ Building our relationships so our ongoing conversations on diversity remain open and alive.
- ◆ Retaining the vitality of our mystical tradition.

Fees are expected to be between \$175 and \$230. For more information, please contact Vanessa Julye at Vanessaj@fgcquaker.org.

Resources for Quaker Meetings From the LEYM Earthcare Committee August 20, 2008

During 2007-2008, the LEYM Earthcare Committee has been developing and identifying resources that local Meetings can use to deepen their spirituality and actions through learning about and caring for Creation.

At the June 2008 Annual Meeting, the Committee hosted a well-received workshop based on a new booklet, "Getting Started: Growing Our Sense of Spirit-Home the Bioregional Way," commissioned by the Committee and authored by Judy Greenberg (Broadmead), with input from other Committee members. This booklet will soon be available for reading and downloading on the LEYM website's Earthcare section. In August, Judy completed her instructions and suggestions for how local meetings can use this booklet to further Earthcare work in ways that fit the situation of their local watershed and the interests of meeting members and attenders. Her suggestions are presented below in "The LEYM Bioregional Necklace."

Also during the 2008 Annual Meeting, the Earthcare Committee sponsored late evening showings of current documentaries on the challenges of unsustainability and what local groups and organizations, including faith-based ones, are doing to help achieve sustainability. "Renewal" was one of those documentaries that the Committee recommends to local meetings wanting to learn about what diverse faith groups are doing to advance sustainability. Jim Crowfoot (Ann Arbor) has prepared the information further below on "Renewal" and its potential use by local meetings.

The LEYM Bioregional Necklace

Judy Greenberg

The LEYM Earthcare Committee is commending to all a particular avenue for investigation and discernment that we find especially promising. The bioregional movement meets the criteria of acting locally, and seems specially relevant because of LEYM's placement between the Great Lakes and the Ohio River. A great many waters are influenced by what goes on in our area. For this reason also, we've loosely defined our "bioregions" as the watersheds (areas that shed water into local rivers) in which we live. Strung out from mid-Michigan through Ohio and into western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, the watersheds in which we live and worship are struggling at many levels.

To begin exploring the bioregional idea, the Committee put together the "Getting Started!" booklet, in hopes that meetings would find it a useful tool. The bioregional concept includes all kinds of caring for life, so we see this as a possible way to look at much of our other work as well as concerns for the land. We have several of these booklets available, and they can also be read and/or printed out from the Earthcare Committee Section of our LEYM website.

Our Committee's vision is of all our worship groups and meetings learning about our own watersheds and discerning how most effectively to contribute to the well-being of our own piece of the planet. Committee proposes, God disposes! If your meeting isn't led in this direction at this time but you're feeling eager to work on this now, we hope you'll not despair, but seek out and become involved with a local environmental group.

A few suggestions for discussion groups: having a good map of your watershed with its main rivers and streams and a matching street map is important for orienting everyone visually. Poster-sized paper is useful so everyone can see as you work and plan. Starting lists is a good first-meeting project: examples include Characteristics of our Watershed, Key Issues in Our 'Shed, Basic Guiding Principles for Action, Key Officials/Groups that make Land Use Decisions in our 'Shed, Local Resources to investigate, Questions to have answered, and Possible Actions. Beginning an inventory of individual interests/leadings regarding the area is also useful. A scribe may be designated to update these lists as the group works on them, and to take notes of the group's planning and activities. Having a visible agenda and agreeing on about how much time to spend on each item is helpful; then, ask everyone to help the group stay on the time schedule.

Possible ideas for using the booklet as a group: first meeting might read thru p. 13 to orient selves to bioregional idea, and review the Questions and Resources List in the back, noting one or two interesting resources. A second discussion might focus on the "Effecting Change" chapter, pp. 17-23, about our spiritual journeys. (Beginning a list of working principles to govern action is a job Friends might well undertake before inviting too many nonFriends to the group.) A final booklet discussion could focus on the "Getting our Group" chapter, pp. 14-16.

Earthcare Resources, *continued*

We on the Earthcare Committee hope our meetings will find this concept as exciting and useful as we do, and begin to activate a linked necklace of cared-for watershed "jewels" throughout our Yearly Meeting area. We are eager to hear what meetings are doing, and especially whether the booklet is useful for your group – what worked or did not work. The breath of the spirit moving back and forth between each other and our meetings as we all “experiment” with discernment and obedience is truly life-giving. We're so grateful to be on this adventure with all of you.

Using the Documentary “Renewal”: Inspiration for Doing Local Earthcare Work and Connecting It to Other Religions

Jim Crowfoot

This 90-minute documentary shows the vitality and diversity of religious groups and their members in the U.S. who are acting in different ways to care for the natural environment and people, based on their spiritual commitments. The examples shown are from different parts of the Christian tradition as well as from Islam, Buddhism, and Judaism.

At the website for this documentary, *renewalproject.net*, you can purchase for \$19.95 plus postage a DVD of this film that also includes slightly longer separate video descriptions of each of the eight case studies on which “Renewal” is based. Both the full version and the individual case studies are excellent vehicles for discussion and worship sharing. This website also includes information about different groups and organizations that have shown and otherwise used this documentary and their reactions to it as well as descriptions of the five organizations that partnered to produce this film.

A community engagement campaign has been developed specifically for this film. It is “The Renewal Project” and its website is *renewalproject.ning.com*. An informative description and review of the film, prepared by Fine Cut Productions, LLC, is available at *yubanet.com/life/Renewal-Documentary.php*.

Meetings could use this documentary or parts of it for their teens’ and adults’ religious education activities or for meeting-wide consideration of the connections between Quaker testimonies and social action focused on the environment and/or a meeting’s responsibilities for earthcare both practically and spiritually.



Earthcare Committee Clerks, Jim Crowfoot and Phil Clampitt, joined Jon Sommer and others on the field trip to Bluffton University's Nature Preserve, June 2008.

DEATHS

Flora Sellens McKinney died on August 13, 2008, at Medford Leas (in New Jersey). Flora served as Clerk of LEYM for four years (1967-71), when the family lived in Pittsburgh. Later she was Clerk of the Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting (1977/8), Clerk-Coordinator for Illinois YM (1979/80), and Plummer Lecturer at Illinois YM (1981). Flora and her husband, Howard (who survives her and is also a former LEYM Clerk), “had the opportunity of belonging to all the branches of Friends, eight Yearly Meetings, two Associations of Friends, two worship groups, and an independent Friends Meeting.” They also attended four triennial conferences of the FWCC: in Sweden, Switzerland, Kenya, and Mexico. Memorial meetings were held at Medford Leas and Haddonfield Meeting in September. Memorial donations may be made in Flora’s memory to the Ramallah Friends School; checks should be made out to Ramallah Friends School and sent to Global Ministries, Friends United Meeting, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374-1980.

Ella Molnar Young, a longtime member of North Columbus Friends Meeting, passed away on August 31, 2008. Ella was editor, with Ruth Browning, of the LEYM *Bulletin* some years ago, and was active in the Women's Committee of AFSC at Dayton.

Epistle from Young Adult Friends Conference

Richmond, Indiana, May 23-26, 2008

Living as Friends, Listening Within

Dear Friends Everywhere,

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.” – Romans 12:2 NRSV

In worship, in small groups, in conversation, we have been transformed. Friends affirmed their love for one another again and again. The act of coming together physically was a first step to enacting loving unity. We are hungry for connection and growth in grace with one another, and the healing of our divisions. We heard sermons and joined voices in song. Friends had opportunities to experience and participate in unfamiliar forms of worship. We felt the support of seasoned Friends who provided pastoral care and the many Friends that held the gathering in prayer.

Formal small groups gathered every day for checking in and more personal discussion of the challenges and joys of the conference. Small informal groups treasured free time where we found the space to address other concerns. These informal discussions created a foundation for the depth at which we arrived in worship. Earlham School of Religion professors, students, and alumni led workshops, while conference participants held interest groups on various topics. On Sunday, participants could choose between programmed (First Friends), semi-programmed (West Richmond), or unprogrammed (Clear Creek) worship in the community.

In Spirit-led worship we found that Friends spoke to the necessity of continuing in conversations about our similarities and differences. Friends were asked before the conference to consider the cultural norms of others present, and whether certain choices may impact our ability to find common ground. We began exploring scripture together in workshops, Bible study, and programmed worship. This invited new challenges and opportunities to engage with texts important to the experience of Friends. We were reminded by Mark Walker that living in unity as a Religious Society of Friends will make us more effective in our work in the world. The discernment of corporate and individual leadings is one of the obligations we have to one another as a Society. We hear the need to acknowledge diverse leadings, such as Gospel, traveling, vocal, and eldering ministries. Recording these gifts is one way of making individuals and meetings accountable to leadings.

Friends heard a call to find ways to share the good news that has been revealed to us at this gathering. We strive to carry this light with us when we return to our home meetings and churches. We have invited one another to our respective yearly gatherings and to explore ways of opening our spiritual homes. May we share with the world the light and love that was a presence at this gathering.

In peace,

The YAF Conference Participants

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
2008

Calendar

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- ◆ OCTOBER 12 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING,
FRIENDS SCHOOL IN DETROIT
- ◆ JANUARY 1, 2009 DUE DATE FOR WINTER BULLETIN
- ◆ MARCH 7 REPRESENTATIVE MEETING
LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED
- ◆ MARCH 15 DUE DATE FOR SPRING BULLETIN
- ◆ JUNE 11-14 ANNUAL MEETING
BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY, BLUFFTON, OHIO

GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING

- ◆ SEPTEMBER 20 FALL GATHERING
FRIENDS SCHOOL IN DETROIT

FWCC SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

- ◆ SEPTEMBER 26-28 LOWER GREAT LAKES REGIONAL
GATHERING ON *BEING A PEACE CHURCH IN THE
21ST CENTURY - OLD TESTIMONIES, NEW TIMES*,
CRIEFF HILLS COMMUNITY, PUSLINCH, ONTARIO
- ◆ MARCH 19-22, 2009 ANNUAL MEETING
CANBY GROVE CHRISTIAN CAMP AND CONFERENCE
CENTER, OREGON

LEYM Committee Clerks 2008-09

Advancement & Outreach: Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh)
Arrangement & Site: Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead)
Earthcare: Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) and
Jim Crowfoot (Ann Arbor)
Finance & Budget: Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead)
High School Youth Program: Michael Fuson (Granville)
Ministry & Nurture: Ellen Barnes (Birmingham)
Nominating: Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor)
Peace: David Lore (Granville)
Program: Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) and
Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Pittsburgh)
Publications & Archives: Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor)
Youth & Children: Nancy Nagler (Pine River)

Adult Young Friends Contact: Bekah Sommer (Broadmead)
Database Wrangler: Mathilda Navias (Broadmead)



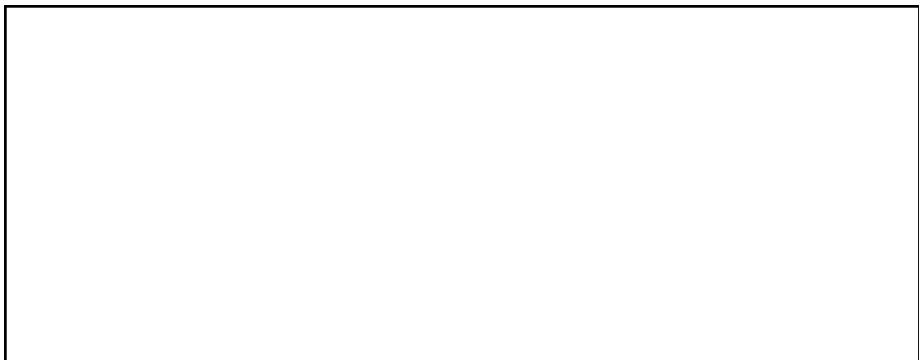
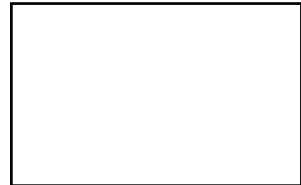
Address Service Requested

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

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

Centered peacemaking is a
'learn as you go' operation....

*Helen Horn,
Plenary Address 2008 (see p. 12)*



Fall 2008 Bulletin

