



Growing a Quaker Legacy Clerk's Message, by Merry Stanford

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. – Isaiah 11:6

On the 7th of the month called July, they dispersed the meeting which then consisted chiefly of children; for the men and women being generally in prison, the children kept up their meetings regularly, and with a remarkable gravity and composure: it was surprising to see the ... courage and constancy with which some of [them] behaved on this occasion, keeping close to meetings in the absence of their parents, and undergoing on that account many abuses with patience.... The boys and girls were mostly from ten to twelve years of age. – In Bristol in 1682, from Joseph Besse, A Collection of the Sufferings of the People Called Quakers, 1753, excerpted in Britain Yearly Meeting Quaker Faith & Practice, 19.35

This report from 1682 also includes a detailed account of the physical violence and imprisonment inflicted on these children. I am most struck by the faithfulness of these young Friends to gather for worship, according to their own leading, in the face of these threats. Without their parents present to care for and guide them, these children were moved by the Spirit to stand firm in their right to assemble for worship.

Our understanding of the need to nurture children's development has grown exponentially since 1682,

when children tended to be perceived as miniature adults. Yet I think that the courage, audacity, and spiritual mettle of these young Friends of the 17th century does offer us wisdom for the 21st century. Some queries occur to me: What opportunities do we offer our children to experience the spiritual fruits of following the Quaker way? How do we offer them the opportunity to mature in the Spirit?

LEYM has begun a process of exploring questions like these. At our Annual Sessions in June 2009, the Yearly Meeting engaged in a worship sharing session to explore a possible vision for the care and religious education of young Friends that would extend beyond the four days of our Annual Sessions. Three threads of thought emerged from that worship sharing process: 1) our experience is that young Friends' programs build community; 2) we have also seen that connecting youth with Friends' opportunities builds a Quaker identity; 3) youth programs run by youth, with adults serving as advisors, are preferred (and probably most effective). In the wake of the positive energy emerging from the Annual Sessions, Executive Committee was led in October to charge me with appointing an Ad Hoc Committee on Children and Youth to continue the exploration of a possible mission and goals for the care and religious education of LEYM youth. I have asked the Assistant Clerk, Peggy Daub, to

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Clerk's Message, *continued*

clerk this committee, and have appointed five other members who have demonstrated a commitment to the needs of young people. They have already begun their work and will report to the Representative Meeting in March about their progress.

Another fantastic development for the spiritual nurture of our high school youth is the arrival of Cari Burke as our new High School Youth Program Coordinator. She has begun organizing young Friends to attend the Quake that Rocked the Midwest in mid-January, one of four retreats per year, which will be planned and implemented by the teens themselves. Cari has organized the High School Program at the FGC Gathering, and is very excited about helping LEYM youth connect with each other and the Spirit. Please see her announcement in this *Bulletin* (p. 6).

Meanwhile, the Yearly Meeting continues exploring ways of assisting families with the cost of attending the Annual Sessions, especially in these uncertain economic times. Our scholarships for first-time attenders were successful in helping 14 newcomers attend the sessions in 2009. In an effort to help Friends continue to attend, the Yearly Meeting currently covers registration costs for Friends needing

financial assistance. But we understand that registration costs are a fraction of the total expense of participating in the summer sessions. We do not yet know the extent of the need for, nor our ability to provide, more extensive scholarships for ongoing attenders. But we are committed to finding a way to ensure that all young Friends and their families who wish to attend are able to do so. This will be a topic of our deliberation at Representative Meeting.

All of the other work of the Yearly Meeting is devoted to building and maintaining a community of Spirit that can support and nurture all of us, and which will serve as the legacy we leave our Quaker children. I ask you to join me in holding the Yearly Meeting in the Light, and especially our young people, who are finding their way as young Friends. May we and they learn to exhibit the kind of spiritual courage and leadership that is needed in these times, in the ways that Spirit leads.

Many blessings,
Merry Stanford, Clerk

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Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Mid-Winter Gathering

**Saturday, February 27, in Detroit
Including a Work Day at Friends School**

Birmingham and Detroit Monthly Meetings will jointly host the mid-winter gathering of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, February 27.

The day will begin with meeting for worship at Detroit Friends Meetinghouse (6227 West Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48209), probably starting at 9:30. There will then be a brief tour through Detroit, ending at Friends School in Detroit (1100 St. Aubin Street, Detroit, MI 48207 – corner of St. Aubin and Lafayette) for a day of cleaning and repairs, with “a bit of frivolity in the mix.”

Watch for a flier announcing this event and providing more details.

Representative Meeting

March 6, 2010, at Athens Friends Meeting

Friends, please take note of the extended schedule, and consider staying for worship with Athens Friends on First Day at 10:00.

Information and Registration

The 2010 LEYM Representative Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 6, at Athens Friends Meeting, 22 Birge Dr., Chauncey, OH 45719 (a few miles north of Athens). *See driving directions on back.*

Lunch and dinner will be offered for a contribution of **\$20 per person** (more if you can; less if you can't) for those who have registered in advance. For other attendees, there are restaurants ten minutes away, in Athens, The Plains, and Nelsonville.

Child care will be provided for those who notify Carla Pratt-Harrington before February 16: cpratt-harrington@alexanderschools.org or (740) 594-8166.

Schedule for Saturday, March 6:

Registration & simple breakfast	8:30 AM
Meeting for worship	9:00 AM
Greeting & Announcements	9:45 AM
Committee meetings	10:00 AM
Lunch	12:15 PM
Meeting for business	1:30 PM
Dinner	5:00 PM
Meeting for business	6:30 PM
Adjournment by	9:00 PM

A meeting of the **Executive Committee** (Yearly Meeting officers and committee clerks) will be held on **Friday evening, March 5**, at the same location, starting at 7:00.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION

(To be received by **Tuesday, February 16, 2010**)

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Meeting or Worship Group: _____

Number of persons for **lunch** _____

Number of persons for **dinner** _____

Vegetarians (#) ____; Omnivores (#) ____

Please arrange **child care** for the following children:

Name _____ age _____

Name _____ age _____

Name _____ age _____

Overnight Accommodation

I (we) will make our own arrangements

I (we) need information about area hotels/motels

I (we) need hospitality with Friends on:

Friday, March 5 (# people) _____

Saturday, March 6 (# people) _____

Please email or post this information to:

Carla Pratt-Harrington
6539 Hudnall Rd.
Athens, OH 45701
cpratt-harrington@alexanderschools.org
(740) 594-8166

Registration Fee: \$20.00, which includes Saturday meals and refreshments. Payment may be made on the day of the event. Checks should be made payable to "Athens Friends Meeting."

**Directions to Athens Meeting House
22 Birge Drive, Chauncey, Ohio 45719**

From Michigan and northwestern/central Ohio:

1. Find your way to Columbus
- 2a. From the south-eastern stretch of I-270, take Exit #46 for U.S. 33 East (Southeast Expressway), toward Lancaster
or
- 2b. From I-70, take Exit 105A, to U.S. 33 East (Southeast Expressway), toward Lancaster
3. Continue on U.S. 33 East for about 60 miles, taking the bypass around Lancaster
4. A few miles after Nelsonville (still on U.S. 33 East), turn left onto Ohio 682 at the sign for Chauncey. (If you get to The Plains or Athens, you have gone too far.)
5. In Chauncey, turn left onto Birge Dr., soon after the Marathon Station
6. Follow signs to the Meetinghouse, which is on the right (22 Birge Drive)

From Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and
northeastern Ohio:

These Friends needn't go as far west as Columbus, but Athens Friends have no recommended route. Try a website map service such as MapQuest or Google Maps, use your vehicle's navigation system, or consult a road atlas or state map of Ohio.

*THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY
LEFT UNPROGRAMMED*

(BACK OF REGISTRATION FORM)

Mark your calendars – later dates this year!

**Join all ages of Friends at the
2010 Annual Sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
at Bluffton University, July 29 - August 1**

The theme of our 2010 Annual Sessions is recognizing that
Where there are shadows, there is also Light

The challenging economy is taking a toll on our families, communities, and Quaker organizations and schools. Political, social, and global issues weigh heavily on us. How do we find our center in the midst of conflict and change?

Join us in Bluffton, Ohio, Thursday, July 29 to Sunday, August 1, to explore together how we might remain open to the experience of the Divine as we look for the Light among the shadows.

Our Plenary Speaker will be Lloyd Lee Wilson, of Rich Square Monthly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting-Conservative, Woodland, North Carolina. A recorded minister in the Friends' tradition and much sought-out for his vocal ministry at Friends' gatherings and yearly meeting sessions, Lloyd Lee is the author of *Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order, Holy Surrender*, and *Wrestling with our Faith Tradition*.

In addition to opportunities for Quaker business, there will be about a half dozen workshops, offered by Richard Lee (Healing), Jerry Knutson (Light Groups – a worship technique), and LEYM committees, as well as time for individual spiritual practices, and playing and sharing activities.

AND

Back by Popular Demand - The LEYM Talent Show!
To be Presented on Saturday evening, July 31

Singing, dancing, juggling, story telling, yo-yo tricks – we love it all.

So polish up your act and be a part of the exciting performance.

Please contact Janet Dando at 330 666-7222 with questions or early registrations.

Children and Youth meet during adult sessions for their own planned activities, led by experienced and loving Friends.

Adult Young Friends connect in worship, business, and play.

More details, the schedule, and registration forms will follow in the spring *Bulletin!*

LEYM High School Youth Program Back in Motion!

Cari Burke (Manitou WG), our new High School Youth Program Coordinator, writes:

It is with great excitement that I write about LEYM's newly reinvigorated high school retreat program. I recently accepted the role of High School Youth Program Coordinator and am excited to begin holding LEYM teen retreats again in the very near future.

We intend to sponsor four high school retreats a year, incorporating fellowship, fun, spiritual nourishment, and Quaker leadership workshops over the course of a weekend. This model follows that which LEYM used for several years with great success.

I have asked monthly meeting clerks to let me know approximately how many teens, grades 9-12, you have in your meeting who may be interested in attending a Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Young Friends retreat. Even rough estimates will help us significantly in our planning as we re-establish this program! Contact information for teens and for families with teens in your meeting is also greatly appreciated.

If you are a teen or a family with teens, please let me know your contact information so that you will be included on the list for future communications about teen retreats. I can be contacted at: *cariupnorth@gmail.com* or 231 383-1296. Please also feel free to share any thoughts you have on retreat dates, themes, presenters, or locations. The spring retreat will likely be at Olney Friends School at the end of March, although the date has not yet been set. Teens are cordially invited to participate in the planning of the retreats! Contact me, Cari Burke (info above), to get involved.

Many Blessings,
Cari

Reminder from the Ministry & Nurture Committee

State of the Meeting Reports for monthly meetings are due May 31st. They should be sent to the clerk of the Ministry & Nurture Committee, Ellen Barnes, at *ellenbarnes1@wideopenwest.com*. Full details are available from the Ministry & Nurture section of our website: <http://leym.quaker.org/mncommittee.html> (or see *Annual Records 2009*, pp. 93-94).

The report may cover such matters as:

1. The spiritual condition of the Meeting, both strengths and challenges.
2. The nature of meetings for worship during the year, including the quality of the silence, and the content and quality of the vocal ministry.
3. The meetings for business during the year, including the range of concerns considered, attendance of members, and implementation of the Meeting's decisions.
4. The contributions of committees such as Peace and Social Justice, Religious Education, Ministry and Nurture, Youth, and others.
5. That which is most needed to deepen the spiritual life of the Meeting and to strengthen its witness of Friends' testimonies to the world.
6. Key events during the year which helped build the Meeting in the Life.
7. The Meeting's ongoing connections to the wider Quaker community.

2009 Consultation for Monthly Meeting Clerks

by Merry Stanford, LEYM Clerk

In November 2009, LEYM sponsored its second consultation for meetings and worship groups, this one for meeting clerks. (The first consultation, held in November 2007, was for clerks of ministry & nurture committees.) Fourteen Friends participated, representing 11 monthly meetings: Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Broadmead, Cleveland, Detroit, Granville, Kalamazoo, Oberlin, Pine River, Red Cedar, and Wooster.

This consultation focused on spiritual nurture, learning, and connecting with other monthly meeting clerks. Time was made available for personal spiritual practice, meeting for worship, group process – and play! Shirley Bechill, past LEYM clerk and current clerk of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, co-facilitated the consultation with me. We met at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan, where we made nurturing use of the walking trail, labyrinth, and book and gift store, as well as multiple quiet meditation areas.

For me, the highlight of the consultation was the sharing of spiritual gifts and practical experience among meeting clerks. Practical ideas were shared about deepening the spiritual life of the meeting. We identified general areas of conflict that arise in our meetings, and elements of successful resolution of those conflicts. We explored ideas about Friendly responses to behaviors that may not support a Spirit-led approach to business. We discussed what we mean by “community,” and further explored and experienced ways that Friends among us are building communities of Spirit. And we considered ways that we can all continue to develop as clerks, and to nurture new clerks.

Friends generally found the consultation highly useful, giving them “tools and confidence for clerking,” providing an opportunity for “meeting with and being supported by other clerks,” and learning about the differences among meetings in our yearly meeting. A strong interest was expressed in continuing these consultations, not only for monthly meeting clerks, but for recording clerks and committee clerks as well. We will consider this request, and see where Spirit leads!



Reply from President Obama

At the 2009 Annual Meeting, Peace Committee proposed and Yearly Meeting approved sending a letter to President Obama and members of Congress, urging them to stop military equipment exports to Israel, to work for relief and reconstruction in Gaza, and to adopt a viable peace agreement. (The full letter is printed in the Annual Records 2009, p. 59, and the Fall Bulletin, p. 8.) We received the following reply from President Obama:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 30, 2009

Dear Friend:

Thank you for writing to share your views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I have initiated a sustained diplomatic effort to promote peace in the region because achieving a secure and lasting peace is critical not only for Israelis and Palestinians, but also for their neighbors and the United States. I appointed former Senator George Mitchell, an experienced and accomplished diplomat, as our Special Envoy to lead this effort.

Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict demands our immediate and continued attention. For generations, the conflict has taken a terrible human toll, and continued instability in the Middle East makes us all less safe. We must open a more hopeful chapter in the story of the Holy Land.

Through comprehensive and sustained efforts, we can achieve the goal of two states: a Jewish state of Israel and a viable Palestinian state, living side by side in peace and security. This approach requires working with Israelis, Palestinians, and other stakeholders over the long term, and my Administration will do just that.

I encourage you to join me online and read more about my Administration's approach to this complex issue and other critical foreign policy matters at: www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/foreign_policy.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Reports from LEYM Representatives

American Friends Service Committee – Annual Meeting of the Corporation November 6-7, 2009

Friends Center, Philadelphia, PA

by Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) and Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar)

AFSC's effort to save on costs and to be environmentally friendly was evident from the preparatory stages of the meeting. Rather than getting a bulky packet of mostly single-sided papers in the mail, we received an email with 120 pages of attachments, which we could read and then print off those items we wanted to bring to the meeting. Also, the meeting was held at Friends Center rather than in a local hotel and the usual major public event with a well-known speaker was not scheduled.

In its business meeting, the Corporation agreed to change the AFSC bylaws so as to hold the Annual Corporation Meeting in March rather than its usual first weekend in November. We also agreed to reduce the size of the AFSC Board from its current c.44 to 25+, the details to be worked out by a specially appointed committee of the Board. As that discussion went on, Friends seemed to be concerned with issues of representation and diversity (geographic and minorities), even though Friends were reminded that Friends' committees are supposed to be seeking the will of God rather than that of any special interest group. These changes should bring a more efficient and effective Board as well as cost savings. Getting past the sense of turf – of a multiplicity of service committees struggling for a smaller pot of funding – will take longer.

We heard from a number of program areas, such as service to immigrants in New York and along the Mexican border in California. Since the U.S. prisoner population has increased from 200,000 in 1971 to 2.6M today due to the "war on drugs" and mandatory sentencing, the need for AFSC prison work has grown and continues to need our resources. Counter recruiting is going well, with "Peace Recruiter" T-shirts and displays for people to take into schools. This is in response to the Pentagon's annual \$4.9M budget for 26,000 recruiters around the country.

The International division closed a number of field offices and has placed its area managers in the field: Asia in Phnom Penh, Latin America in Sao Paulo, Africa in Nairobi, and Middle East in Jerusalem, allowing middle management to be more responsive and in touch, as well as carry out some of the program work themselves. Perhaps the most unique international work to be described was helping the North Korean Department of Agriculture learn farming techniques more appropriate for the post-Soviet era, when Russian technology is no longer available at a price they can afford. North Korea is showing signs of wanting to survive into new realities rather

than self-destructing, which is likely to lead to major violent conflict in the region.

The AFSC Finance Department gave the Corporation a useful and informative review of the recent economic crisis and how it has affected AFSC's financial picture: a three-year decline in contributions, bequests, grants, and income from investments has led to a reassessment of all expenditures, looking to save essential services and program insofar as possible, although program is more flexible than central services. It has also led to unfortunate rumors, which can spread more quickly than the truth. Contrary to one rumor, administration has taken almost as much of a hit as have programs. Since many essential services, such as accounting, fundraising, and communications, take place in Philadelphia, the national office had 38% cut as opposed to 41% in the regions – pretty comparable given the different sorts of work involved. A list of all the specific cuts will be mailed to the Corporation when it is available. Layoffs have been traumatic for all, but it is hoped that the current level of expenditure (\$28M p/a as opposed to \$48M in 2008) can be maintained and that the worst is over, although it is impossible to predict – AFSC has not been here before. The word is that the outlook for philanthropy is not rosy.

This was Paul Lacey's final meeting to serve as Clerk of AFSC after eight years of leadership. On Saturday afternoon, a party was held to honor Paul and to thank him for his work. First, Paul was asked to speak about what he learned in the post. He told a number of stories which testified to the successes the AFSC has had and to the value of keeping Friends' testimonies foremost. There were heartfelt speeches from program and administrative staff, board, and corporation members giving testimony to Paul's effectiveness as clerk, his humor, wisdom, listening ear, and the broader picture he has been able to keep in mind. It was also good to have the new AFSC clerk, Arlene Kelly, to preside at some of the sessions of this meeting, so there was a sense of continuity of leadership as we go into the last four months of Mary Ellen McNish's time as Executive Secretary.

A look through the AFSC website still gives news of a vital peace and service organization looking to the future, including Paul Lacey's fine letter to President Obama asking for withdrawal from Afghanistan. One can click on "contribute" to give online. It's still a wise investment in the future.

Reports from LEYM Representatives

FWCC Regional Gathering – Lower Great Lakes and Midwest Regions October 30 – November 1, 2009 by Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor)

The Gathering was held in the Ann Arbor Meetinghouse, from dinner on Friday through Sunday morning worship. The theme, "In the Manner of Friends: Living my Faith Today," was chosen by the keynote speaker, Patricia Thomas (Wilmington YM), and provided material for fruitful sharing and discussion Friday evening on how the Spirit is working through our meeting communities, and then on Saturday morning on a more personal level.

Patricia's keynote talk on Saturday and following panel of three Friends were recorded and may provide useful material for later publication. Patricia spoke of particularly Quakerly characteristics of living our Faith. Elizabeth Muganzi, a Nairobi Friend who is sojourning with Ann Arbor Friends, told of the Ngong Road Friends community gathering together to build a 3500-seat meetinghouse, then gave an impassioned plea for Western Friends to become more involved in Kenyan Quaker development; John Lawson-Myers (Indiana YM) told of his work as a student in the Wilmington College Quaker Leadership Program; and Bob Fisher (Ann Arbor) told of the spiritual ground for faithful work. Friends then broke into worship-sharing groups to tell their own stories of living faith.

Following lunch on Saturday, Friends were invited to take a walking tour of a nearby portion of the University of Michigan central campus to see some rare treasures (a papyrus letter of Paul, a letter of Galileo, etc.), and then a show of photography and impressionism at the U-M Art Museum, returning to the Meetinghouse via the picturesque Law Quadrangle and modern School of Business.

The place of Joy and Creativity in our spiritual lives was explored on Saturday afternoon with workshops on singing, folk dance, writing, and art, first by experience and then by worship sharing in small groups. This merged into a time of quiet conversation and rest, followed by a programmed meeting for worship in which Patricia led us in consideration of Integrity. We sang three hymns on the theme and Steve Deasy (Ann Arbor) sang an original song, "Let Me Make Peace," which Friends felt opened them to the workings of the Spirit. At the close of this worship session, Mike Hinshaw, Elizabeth Mertic, and Thomas Taylor gave brief talks about the purposes and programs of FWCC.

The Saturday evening program offered three choices: a film and discussion on Earthcare, led by Jim Crowfoot (Ann Arbor); a sharing about Service work to individuals with a variety of needs (in the meeting community, with

the mentally ill, in inner city Detroit, and through the AFSC Michigan Area Office Criminal Justice Program), led by Cassie Cammann, Clerk of Ann Arbor Meeting; and Peace Work, a general discussion on how each Friend was led to this work and ways of staying connected to the Meeting community.

As we worked to develop this event, there was considerable discussion about the budget. A number of Friends responded generously to the request for scholarship help, and several local Friends came and helped out or provided food and housing and paid nothing or only a small amount.

Although this was to be a meeting for Friends in two regions, it was most heavily attended by the host monthly meeting (28), Lake Erie YM (an additional 16), and region (an additional 14). The Midwest Region was represented by only 12 Friends, but it was good to have the 6 Friends from Indiana YM to add to the other 4 FUM Friends (Wilmington YM). In the end, the numbers worked out very well for the facility. We might have handled another 10 Friends, but the dishwashing would have presented a major problem (we used no throwaway plates or cups and served two sit-down meals, and Ann Arbor Meeting has no dishwasher.)

Some comments made by Gathering attenders:

- *General feeling of being happy to be together and to get to know Friends from the Region.*
- *Program well organized, paced, and relevant to Friends.*
- *The music in the programmed worship was lovely.*
- *The campus tour after lunch was a highlight.*
- *Appreciated the talks by Patricia Thomas, the panel, and evening workshops.*
- *The food was delicious.*
- *The Housing arrangements ... led to a number of warm friendships which make for lasting memories.*

A list of nearby meetings was made available and Friends were encouraged to worship in other meetings on Sunday morning. In the end, several worshiped with Ann Arbor Friends (both 9 and 11 am), and so other Ann Arbor Friends benefited from the Gathering's outwash.

Thomas Taylor clerked the Ann Arbor Friends' ad hoc committee for program and local arrangements, and deserves much credit for this Gathering's success. – Ed.

Reports from LEYM Representatives

Quaker Earthcare Witness Annual Meeting: October 8-11, 2009

by Alan Connor (Ann Arbor)

The theme of this year's annual meeting was stories about living with the environment. Some of the stories were about experiences our contemporaries have had interacting with indigenous people who continue with the earth-care and nature-valuing cultures of their ancestors. Those people live with nature as a part of it, rather than as controllers and exploiters of it. Some of the stories were of contemporary interaction with nature; one was of introducing children to the Earth and nature as a source of good spiritual sustenance for life and the need to give back to the Earth what one has taken from it. Another was about a young woman's journey as a journalist from the conventional world to being one with nature and reporting on and writing about that.

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) resolved to join the [Europe & Middle East Section of] Friends World Committee for Consultation in supporting Britain Yearly Meeting's minute to those meeting at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit on December 7-18, 2009 (which appears below).*

The QEW FCNL Work Group expanded, with five new members. The group agreed that we need to ask our Senators to strengthen the Kerry-Boxer energy bill such that polluters cannot use "offsets" to continue polluting at the present rate for the next few years. A number of us will attend the annual meeting of FCNL in November and lobby for a stronger bill and ask FCNL to urge members to do the same.

A Quaker Response to the Crisis of Climate Change Britain Yearly Meeting

The crisis of global climate change represents a supreme test of humanity's collective wisdom and courage. Our immoderate use of the Earth's resources violates the entire biosphere, threatening the lives of millions of people and the habitats of thousands of species. Many of the poorest people are already suffering a changed climate; they are asking us all to act.

How has humanity produced this crisis? Our faith response is that prevailing social values have obscured what it means to live authentically on this Earth. In rich European countries we consume more than we need within an economic system that divides us as a society; in much that we do, we cause harm to the planet and each other without enriching our lives.

The Earth is God's work and not ours to do with as we please. We recall Gandhi's saying, often quoted by Quakers: "Live simply that others may simply live." As a Quaker community, we do try to live what we believe, guided by the values of simplicity, truth, equality, and peace. Too often we fall short of honouring them. Climate change is challenging us to ask anew what our faith leads us to do.

As individuals and as a community, we are now making the difficult decisions and plans necessary to limit our ecological impact to a sustainable level. With encouragement from one another, we are progressively reducing our reliance on non-renewable resources while stepping up our campaign for wider social change. As a small religious society, we take heart in belonging to a community of faith groups and others working towards the same goals in a hopeful spirit.

We gladly take up our responsibility and call for unprecedented international cooperation to enable the large cuts in global emissions which are required. This will be a difficult road to travel but we are prepared to support decision-makers in taking the radical steps necessary. We appreciate progress made and uphold decision-makers as they navigate conflicting priorities, yet we challenge them to hold faith with the goal and not bend to short-term expediency.

An inequitable global agreement on climate change could lead to forced migrations and serious conflict. Any agreement must put the world's poorest first; it falls to richer countries to bear the greater burden of responsibility for change. The goal is achievable but priorities will need to change: currently, the majority of states commit more resources to warfare than to tackling climate change.

Where we see crisis, we also see opportunity to remake society as a communion of people living sustainably as part of the natural world. By leading the simpler lives of a low-carbon society, we draw nearer to the abundance of peace, freedom, and true community. Our faith in common humanity gives hope; love, rather than fear, can still lead us through this crisis.

Susan Seymour
Clerk, Meeting for Sufferings
Britain Yearly Meeting

Martin Ward
Clerk, Britain Yearly Meeting

** The endorsement by the Europe & Middle East Section of FWCC can be read at www.fwccemes.org/news/emes-executive-endorses-quaker-statement-on-climate-change. – Ed.*

Reports from LEYM Representatives

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 12-15

by Kathleen Peabody (Ann Arbor)

From legislative visit training by FCNL staff for Friends lobbying Senators – points to bring up about climate change legislation:

- ~ Climate change is an existential threat
- ~ Reducing heavy metals in air is very important
- ~ We can create green jobs by addressing global warming and pollution
- ~ This is a national security issue, referring to wars for oil
- ~ Not all costs involved in obtaining oil are reflected in the price of gas

Asks for Senators:

- ~ Ensure that all coal-fired power plants meet minimum standards for carbon pollution for old and new plants
- ~ We should use the best technology that is available at reasonable prices
- ~ There are no limits now! We should upgrade or shut down clunkers
- ~ EPA already has the ability to set pollution standards by using the Clean Air Act, but this is offered for trade by Senator Kerry! Urge protection of CAA and have minimum standards for carbon pollution.

* * *

Speech by Joshua DuBois, Head of Obama Administration's Neighborhood and Faith-Based Organizations: "In the White House there are not enough people to do all that is needed. We have to connect with the change agents." They want to work with FCNL because of past efforts on torture, immigration, and a just economy. The Obama Administration plan includes:

- 1) Make sure faith-based and neighborhood groups are part of the economic recovery.
- 2) Focus on responsible fatherhood, as this affects all.
- 3) Ways to find common ground around abortion issue.
- 4) Focus on interfaith dialogue and cooperation to bring religions together to solve common problems.

"I am a person of faith and President Obama is a person of faith. He also believes in the separation of church and state. The foundational purpose of the Administration is to do what the people need, according to the Constitution."

* * *

Address by Joe Volk, Executive Secretary: "We need active expectation and should not settle for the world we have. This is a rich moment of opportunity for legislative work. FCNL is beginning the 3Y9M Project – a plan with the expectation to raise \$9 million in three years. We need to act out of hope instead of fear, and we

have to practice hope to bring the world we and others seek. We have greater potential and influence than I have ever seen with FCNL to advance our goals with the Obama Administration. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty can be passed in 2010.

"Fundraising is essential if FCNL is to have a presence on Capitol Hill. Our budget was cut from \$4.6 million per year to \$3.2 million, 17 staff jobs were eliminated, and salary cuts were taken. Think 3M9Y!

"Getting coverage is a challenge and loss because of the media conglomerates' concentrated power. New kinds of media are there for us to use.

"'War Is Not the Answer' theme can energize more than Quakers. The attitude that government must be made smaller must be countered with 'Government needs to be part of the answer.'"

* * *

Meeting for Business, November 13

Policy Committee report proposed minutes in five areas:

- ~ Comprehensive U.S. Immigration Policy
- ~ The Environment/Climate Change
- ~ Health Care Reform
- ~ Preventing and Resolving Violent Conflicts
- ~ Quakers Engaging American Muslims (new)

* * *

Panel: Two legislative liaisons spoke about what can bring positive results in communicating with Representatives and Senators: Voters are of prime importance. Citizens visiting members are more powerful than lobbyists. Hundreds of postcards from one source hold less weight than a thought-out individually written message.

Our role is to educate members of Congress and give some practical tools. There is always somebody lobbying against your issue. Written messages should be strong and concise. Letters take three to four weeks to reach their office; something on paper is better than only a vocal message; email is better; glossy pictures and DVDs are destroyed; letters to district offices get through if they are unique, otherwise are tallied.

Senators fact check with universities in their states. Most scientific positions are difficult to read and understand. Praise members of Congress to their staff. Go to *Thomas.gov* and familiarize yourself with a Bill before sending a message about it. Editorials in local papers are important. Staffs check for names there, so letters to the editor or editorials should include the legislator's name.

Reports from LEYM Representatives

Friends Committee on National Legislation, continued

Workshop I: Prevention and Resolving of Violent Conflict: Quakers can be most effective in prevention and should not miss opportunities.

Successes: 1) FCNL lobbied for and legislation has created a Civilian Response Corps to prevent war. The State Department has started this by training civilians in agriculture. 2) A coalition of FCNL, Oxfam, Human Rights First, and other groups from other sectors got HR 2410 passed. The language included a Genocide Prevention Task Force and Foreign Relationships Authorities Act. The State Department must assess what is needed to prevent genocide and then come back to Congress.

Dream: The Pentagon's huge budget should allow for a Chief of Reconciliation and Stabilization to complement the Army Chief, the Navy Chief, etc. Then the interest in what a green chief would do would increase.

* * *

Workshop II: Health Care, led by Ruth Flower: The webpage on Health Care is updated everyday. Go to Budget > Health care, and look in first paragraph. We want a comprehensive public plan; income-based subsidies; regulation of the private market; consumer protections; monitoring by local or regional bodies, including consumers and medical professionals. Keep contacting your Senators: write simple messages on their websites.

* * *

Guest Speaker: Dr. Sayyid Syeed, National Director of the Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances at the Islamic Society of North America, spoke of the opportunities and difficulties of interfaith social justice work. What should be the joint role of people of religion around the world? Unity takes a lot of work, experience, and understanding.

Dr. Syeed and Rabbi Yafi have written "Children of Abraham" together. Muslims recognize the accomplishments of Quakers in abolition, civil rights, and non-violence. Syeed thinks we have directly influenced improvements in America. Quakers need to provide leadership to move forward; the world is waiting for us. There are 1.4 billion Muslims in 55 countries. Discrimination against women does not appear in the Koran. Saudi Arabia does not represent Islam, which is a dynamic monotheistic religion concerned with respect for women and men. "Civilization and the rule of law is what brings peace. Occupation and colonialism brings confrontation. Personal relations are very important for rumor control about Islam. Lies are being projected to falsely define who Muslims are."

* * *

Business Meeting Notes: Joe Volk says "This organization is strong for the long term. Development involves four major areas: thanking, storytelling, asking, thanking. It is hoped each donor will thoughtfully review their giving and increase it by 25% if possible."

* * *

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting – Small Group Session: FCNL is working for renewal of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Many yearly meetings are wanted to sign onto this renewal. A new treaty is now being drafted and negotiated. To get Senators' attention, get a community member to write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper.

Afghanistan / Middle East Workshop: FCNL thinks the U.S. Army should regroup to the green zones only; name an exit strategy and set a withdrawal schedule; negotiate with nearby countries. Representative McGovern's Bill H.R. 2404 has 101 co-sponsors. The White House is watching this. Co-sponsors are still needed. Go to: www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2404. Barbara Lee's amendment says once this bill is passed, no more troops can be sent. The WINA sign campaign needs to be stepped up.

Report on Lobbyists Group re Foreign policy in the Middle East: FCNL is one of only two peace groups still lobbying about Iraq. Establishing no permanent U.S. bases got overwhelming support from the Committee. Afghanistan permanent bases are also out. In Iran, we must negotiate solutions. The plan to have Iranian uranium sent to Russia and then to France for transference to fuel rods only before being returned to Iran is very important. Stability in the Mideast may rest on all sides agreeing on this. President Obama is doing well by keeping quiet.

* * *

Large Group Meeting – Interviews of Bridget Moix and David Culp, FCNL Lobbyists: David collects information for Quakers to feed back to the Senators, Bridget to the House Representatives. Legislators pay more attention to well-informed constituents than to lobbyists. Members of Congress listen more to constituents about domestic matters and not so much on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

FCNL sometimes testifies before Congress – you must be asked. FCNL tries to build prevention, diplomacy, and international cooperation into funding for development. Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL) stated that "FCNL has been a voice of moral conscience for human rights and humanitarian efforts for many decades."

Reports from LEYM Representatives

FCNL, continued

Ninety percent of the clergy in Rhode Island petitioned Sen. Jack Reed to vote against starting the war on Iraq. He named that as his reason for voting no.

There is a five-minute video on the FCNL website as a training for trainers about Peaceful Prevention of Conflict. This would be good to use to get a discussion into 2010 elections. FCNL will prepare tools for this.

This organization is strong and has been for a very long time, but in these times we need to be vigilant to keep it strong. People from all faiths interested in ending war will help if they have the tools.

* * *

I didn't know the extent and reality of FCNL until I saw them in action. My impressions were that, among human endeavors, with all our encumbrances and distractions and interruptions, etc., this is a pinnacle of what humans can accomplish and ignite for improvements of life on Earth. FCNL is not in it for themselves. They are not pushing an agenda of profit-making to buy more or provide luxuries for a few. Their agenda is human rights and all that that encompasses. The pain being experienced because of the difficult economic times is very real. It has meant staff job losses and curtailing of programs, but FCNL is weathering it with grace and love and is already realizing better footing to build it back up. Friends Committee on National Legislation is very much respected for doing honest, thorough research and for promoting legislation beneficial to the common people, to the public instead of private interests.

Death

Zig Dermer, a member and former clerk of Pittsburgh Meeting, died suddenly on January 6 in Vietnam, age 75. He served on the finance committees of LEYM, FWCC – Section of the Americas, and the FWCC World Office, and frequently represented FWCC at Yearly Meetings around the country. His 37-year career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh was mainly as an intellectual property lawyer, specializing in patents, trademarks, and contract negotiation. After retiring, he continued to do legal work. In December 2005, Zig relocated to Nha Trang, Vietnam, where he taught English and otherwise assisted young people in furthering their education. His survivors include five children and five grandchildren.

Friends World Committee for Consultation by Mike Hinshaw (Wooster)

I hope you are planning to attend the Annual Meeting of FWCC – Section of the Americas, March 18 to 21 in Reisterstown, Maryland (see also p. 15). There we may be asked to consider modifications to our historical practice of convening Annual Meeting every year and to think about the possibility of facilitating more local gatherings, especially in preparation for the World Conference in Kenya in 2012. Please be thinking of items we should consider at our committee meeting there. Undoubtedly we will confer with folks in the Midwest Region about the possibilities of continuing to hold joint Regional Gatherings. In the normal course of events, Wilmington YM would be in line to host the next Fall Gathering, but we need to discuss the best way forward without being bound completely by previous practice.

I know we are all sheltered in the everlasting arms, Mike

AGLI Summer Workcamps 2010

The African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams is sponsoring intergenerational workcamps in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. Orientation begins on June 19 near Washington, DC, and work camps end July 24. Workcampers build clinics, schools, and peace centers. Workcampers have been as young as 8, as old as 84 and have included entire families, but most are between 18 and 35. Our goal is for each team to include six international (non-African) and six local workcampers, plus professional builders. Workcampers should have good health and willingness to do manual labor; construction skills and experience are not necessary.

Each workcamper is expected to conduct fundraising activities and to contribute a minimum of \$2300 plus the cost of airfare to/from Africa (approximately \$2000). To apply, go to the website www.aglifpt.org and click on "Workcamps" or "Volunteer" to download the application, or contact Dawn@aglifpt.org. The form indicates that each applicant is advised to begin with a clearness committee to determine the depth of his/her leading.

Learn more at www.aglifpt.org. Questions? Contact Dawn Rubbert, AGLI's Program Manager, at Dawn@aglifpt.org or 314 647-1287.

LEYM Change of Address

Please return to:

Name _____

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

Address _____

City _____

Thank you!

State _____

Zip _____

Email _____

Meeting _____

See you at
Representative
Meeting,
Athens, Ohio
March 6
(See page 3)

Calendar

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

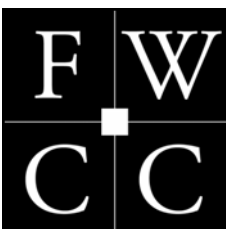
- ◆ MARCH 6 REPRESENTATIVE MEETING
ATHENS FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE (SEE PP. 3-4)
- ◆ APRIL 1 DUE DATE FOR **SPRING BULLETIN**
- ◆ MAY 31 DUE DATE FOR **STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS AND STATISTICAL REPORTS**
- ◆ JULY 29 - AUGUST 1 ANNUAL MEETING
BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY, BLUFFTON, OHIO

GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING

- ◆ FEBRUARY 27 MID-WINTER GATHERING, DETROIT
MEETINGHOUSE AND FRIENDS SCHOOL IN DETROIT
(SEE P. 2)
- ◆ MAY 15 SPRING GATHERING
MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER, NEAR CHELSEA

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE

- ◆ JULY 4 - 10 ANNUAL GATHERING, CAMPUS OF
BOWLING GREEN UNIVERSITY, BOWLING GREEN, OHIO



Friends World Committee
for Consultation

SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta
de los Amigos

SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS

All Friends are welcome to attend the **2010 Annual Meeting**, March 18 – 21 at the Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center in Reiserstown, Maryland, near Baltimore. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to worship in the various ways that represent Friends in the Americas, and for business, workshops, and many informal face-to-face chats with the wider Quaker community. The theme is *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another....* (John 13:34-35). North Carolina pastor Deborah Suess will bring the keynote message on Friday evening. There will be events specifically for young adult Friends who attend. Friends can register on the website, www.fwccamericas.org; the registration deadline is February 22.

Young Adult Friends Plan Wichita Gathering

University Friends Meeting is inviting Young Adult Friends (ages 18-35) from across North America to come together on May 28-31 to worship God, share in fellowship, and grow together in faith as Friends. Following the gathering, on June 1-3, there will be an opportunity for a shared service project. Micah Bales says, *"YAFs will work together to let our faith shine, demonstrating our love for the people of Wichita."*

FWCC's **online searchable database** for meetings, churches, and worship groups in the U.S. and Canada has now been enhanced with a visual, interactive Google Map. On the FWCC home page, click on the map to find Friends in a given area. If you want to know more about a meeting – what time worship starts, what branch of Friends it's part of, what languages Friends worship in – then use the FWCC searchable database. Have fun zooming in and finding where Friends meetings are concentrated!

Address Service Requested

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Jeff Cooper
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Email: cooperdaub@hotmail.com

Now see with the eternal Light,
whether ye bring forth
fruit unto God....

Margaret Fell

Cited in Pendle Hill Pamphlet 398

Winter 2010 Bulletin

