

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, ad hoc Committee on Young Friends

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting has formed an ad hoc committee on youth to consider a mission and possible goals of serving youth and children in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, and to develop some draft recommendations for the Yearly Meeting regarding the future of programming for young Friends, aside from the Youth and Children Program at the Annual Meeting itself.

LEYM has two current programs which operate between Annual Meetings:

- Each October, there is a Youth and Children Fall Retreat for children in grades 1 to 6 which has been held near Bellville, OH.
- There is a High School Youth Program, newly reinvigorated under the leadership of Cari Burke, which is centered around four weekend retreats throughout the year and throughout the Yearly Meeting.

A variety of possible additional directions for Yearly Meeting activities have been discussed, both at a Threshing Meeting during the last Annual Meeting and by LEYM's Executive Committee. These include:

- Opportunities for middle school youth from different monthly meetings to gather together for socializing, service, and worship.
- A weekend gathering for religious education committees and others in LEYM who carry a concern about nurturing the Spirit in our Quaker youth.
- Assistance in communicating with other meetings about what is going on regarding religious education and support for youth.
- Bringing FGC Faith and Play training to LEYM.
- Assistance for monthly meetings in setting up committees of care or other support for young Friends who carry a concern, seek clearness about a ministry, or seek clearness about leadership capacities.
- More frequent opportunities for elementary-aged children to gather together during the year.

We would like to start our task by gathering information from Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups about your unmet needs and things the Yearly Meeting could do to help nourish youth. With that in mind we ask for replies to three questions:

1. Please share a quick characterization of what is going on with youth in your Monthly Meeting or Worship Group. This might include number and age ranges of youth who participate, description of a First Day School if appropriate, or other ways in which your youth are engaged in the life of your meeting.
2. Are there ways in which the Yearly Meeting could support your local activities?
3. What programs at the Yearly Meeting level would meet unmet needs to support and nurture youth and/or those who work with them?

Please reply by email to Peggy Daub, LEYM Assistant Clerk, at pdaub@umich.edu by April 30, 2010. Thank you for your careful attention and response.