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Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

46th Annual Sessions

June 11-14, 2009

Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

Thursday Evening Session

YM09 - 1 Opening Worship, Reading of Letter of Greeting from Britain Yearly Meeting

Friends gathered at the appointed time with worship out of which our Assistant Clerk, Shirley Bechill (Pine River), read a letter of greeting from Britain Yearly Meeting directed personally to our Yearly Meeting. British Friends realize that while our individual understandings of the Inner Light are diverse, in worship we share together the experience of the divine and learn trust as that experience carries us to unknown destinations. They are developing a framework for priorities to guide their lives and work, deepening their faith and commitment for serving the needs of the world.

YM09 - 2 Guidelines for Conduct in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Our Clerk, Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), read a list of guidelines for conduct in meeting for worship with attention to business in accord with the longstanding traditions of Friends and encouraged us to follow these guidelines.

YM09 - 3 Appointment of Assistant Recording Clerk

Nominating Committee. Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) proposed that Margy Liske (Kent) serve as Assistant Recording Clerk through 2010. Friends **approved**. Joe Mills (Kalamazoo), Recording Clerk, warmly welcomed her to the Clerks' table.

YM09 - 4 Introductions

Our Clerk introduced our Recording Clerk, Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) and Assistant Clerk, Shirley Bechill (Pine River). Our clerk welcomed new attenders and visitors and invited them to introduce themselves: Philip Mauer, Broadmead; Jo Steigerwald, Cleveland; Sol Metz, Anne Remley, Dina Greenway, and Sarah Gerk, Ann Arbor; Nadine Thompson, Red Cedar; Max Carter, New Garden (NCYM-FUM); Sue Axtell, Earlham School of Religion; Barbara Mays, FGC; Mary Ellen Newport, Olney Friends School.

YM09 - 5 Calling of the Roll

The calling of the roll of Friends from constituent meetings and groups gave the following count (corrected against registrations):

<u>Monthly Meetings</u>			
Akron	1	Kalamazoo	6
Ann Arbor	25	Kent	3
Athens	10	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	9	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	22	North Columbus	4
Cleveland	16	Oberlin	3
Delaware	0	Pine River	6
Detroit	2	Pittsburgh	9
Grand Rapids	3	Red Cedar	10
Granville	3	Wooster	4
Holland	0		

<u>Worship Groups</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	
Erie	1	
Manitou	3	

Total in Attendance: 146

YM09 - 6 Memorials

Our Clerk invited Friends to respectfully share out of the silence the names of Friends who have passed on so that we could hold them in the Light: Robert Davis, the son of Claire and Joe Davis, Broadmead; George Bower, Jo Ann Pratt, and John Hamm, Pittsburgh; Homer Chance, Carl Orecklin, and Elizabeth Struble, Ann Arbor; David Noyes, Athens; Kay Huber, Wooster; and Lois Laughlin, West Branch Friends Meeting, Iowa. We give thanks for their lives and will continue to hold them and their families in the Light.

YM09 - 7 Appointment of Epistle Committee

The Clerk asked for two Friends to volunteer to serve with the Assistant Clerk on the Epistle Committee. Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) and Helen Söderberg (Red Cedar) offered their services in helping to write our epistle.

YM09 - 8 Announcements from Committees

Program Committee co-clerks, Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie) and Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor), encouraged Friends to participate in Saturday night's talent show. They also shared various program details for our sessions and reminded us to complete the evaluation forms before the end of our Annual Meeting. Nancy Nagler (Pine River), clerk of the Youth & Children Committee, called for volunteers to serve as drivers for the children's swimming.

YM09 - 9 Appointment of Nominating Committee members

Naming Committee. Verne Bechill (Pine River) and Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) proposed that Mark Post (Grand Rapids) and Ann Sprague (Detroit) be appointed to the Nominating Committee. We **approved** these appointments.

YM09 - 10 Representative Meeting Date & Consultation for Monthly Meeting Clerks

Our Clerk announced that Representative Meeting will be held as usual on the first Saturday of March; the location is yet to be determined. Forms and information on the Consultation for Monthly Meeting Clerks are available at the Clerks' table. Friends are encouraged to take this material to their monthly meeting clerks to share and promote the consultation.

YM09 - 11 Executive Committee Report

Our Clerk reported for the Executive Committee that Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is 46 years old with more needs arising and constituent meetings making use of more services. Yearly Meeting is attempting to accommodate these needs.

- a. Last year we approved an ad hoc Committee on Queries. This committee now consists of Thomas Taylor (clerk - Ann Arbor), Raelyn Joyce (Kalamazoo), Jo Posti (Pittsburgh), Ellen Barnes (Birmingham), and David Snyder (Oberlin). This committee is working on a set of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting queries.
- b. A new ad hoc committee has been formed to update and revise *Policies and Procedures*. Members are: Jeff Cooper (clerk - Ann Arbor), Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh), Mathilda Navias (Broadmead), and Joseph Mills (ex officio as Recording Clerk - Kalamazoo).
- c. The Clerk introduced a proposal that Yearly Meeting contract on a consulting basis to coordinate and update the Yearly Meeting web presence, and asked that Friends consider this request when we consider the budget.

YM09 - 12 Announcements

Our Assistant Clerk requested that announcements for Annual Sessions be submitted in writing to her beforehand.

- a. Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) announced procedures for selecting and purchasing books and other items at the bookstore. Valerie feels a future need for an assistant as the variety of merchandise for sale expands.
- b. Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) reported that copies of the Earth Charter are available near the registration desk for Friends to pick up and review.

Friday Morning Session

YM09 - 13 Worship and Reading from Epistle from Northwest Yearly Meeting

Out of our opening worship, the Assistant Clerk shared from the Epistle from Northwest Yearly Meeting (Seventh Month 2008). Northwest Friends describe themselves as a community of Friends that sings with one voice the triumphant story of their faith. They are experiencing a wholesome rebirth with new boards, new missions, new approaches, and new spiritual and social ministries. Our Clerk shared from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice* on our proper discipline in participating in meeting for business.

YM09 - 14 Introductions

Our Clerk again welcomed newcomers to introduce themselves: Dwight Wilson (Head of Friends School in Detroit) and Jim and Mary Kalafus, Ann Arbor; Bob Roehm, North Columbus; and Jennifer Bing-Canar, Clear Creek Meeting (Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting) and our visiting representative from American Friends Service Committee - Chicago. We heard the kind letter of introduction from Bruce Birchard, Friends General Conference General Secretary, introducing our FGC staff visitor, Barbara Mays.

YM09 - 15 AFSC Great Lakes Regional Office

Jennifer Bing-Canar reported on the work of the AFSC Great Lakes Regional Office. Despite Service Committee budgetary constraints, young people have become enthusiastically involved with internships. The Committee's work is still moving forward with a highly committed staff that is making personal sacrifices in these times of major financial challenges for the Service Committee. Friends shared concerns about budgetary problems and their impact on programs and voiced concern and compassion for the dedicated program staff.

YM09 - 16 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (clerk - Ann Arbor) introduced members of the committee who were present: Fred Feitler (Kent), Mathilda Navias (Broadmead), Phil Balderston (Wooster), Nancy James (Pittsburgh), and Ann Sprague (Detroit), who joined the work of the committee before her term begins at the rise of Yearly Meeting Sessions. Forms with job descriptions are available at the registration desk for Friends to complete as to where and how they might serve the Yearly Meeting. Needs remain for Friends to serve on Arrangement & Site, High School Youth Program, Publications & Archives (a co-clerk is needed), and as representatives to Friends organizations.

YM09 - 17 Olney Friends School

Mary Ellen Newport, representing Olney Friends School, Greg Mott, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Representative to Olney, and Khenti-sha Iyi, a senior at Olney, all spoke with great enthusiasm about the School. Greg shared many cogent changes since 1999 when the Friends of Olney assumed governance. Both graduation and the alumni meeting gave him a great sense of Olney's purpose and direction. Mary Ellen brought greetings from many Olney families and feels very strongly about the necessity of the School to be connected to the Yearly Meetings and the monthly meetings that are a part of each. She spoke of the strong spiritual sense of Quaker values and testimonies as a part of the academic and service

culture of the School and the palpable sense of place. Diversity flourishes, with 11 countries and 11 states represented among the student bodies. Mary Ellen issued a clear call for student applicants. Olney senior Khenti-sha Iyi, a graduate of Friends School in Detroit, spoke of the vibrant school spirit and school friendships, among students as well as faculty.

YM09 - 18 Advancement & Outreach

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) presented a written report. Monongalia Meeting has a new meetinghouse. Friends appreciate the extensive work of this committee.

YM09 - 19 2009 Yearly Meeting Directory

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) announced that the new *2009 Yearly Meeting Directory* is complete and presently available, thanks to the diligent work of Dan Bell and Mathilda Navias (Broadmead).

Friday Afternoon Session

YM09 - 20 Worship and Reading of Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting

Following the opening worship, our Assistant Clerk shared an Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting (2009). Our Australian Friends recognize that our responses to today's needs for justice and environmental responsibility must remain Spirit-led and will require patience as well as preparedness. They hear the call of their young people that they are the ones who will be adversely impacted by failure to timely address climate change.

Our Clerk shared an advice from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting noting the need to respect all members, that God is in no hurry, and that perhaps humans are not of greatest importance in God's vast universe.

YM09 - 21 Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer, Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh), thanked Connie Bimber for her past service and presented a written financial report as of 6/11/09 giving opening and closing fund balances with income and disbursements. Currently, we are nearly \$3200 under budget. Eric and Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), Clerk of the Finance Committee, answered questions about the report. Friends accepted the report with appreciation.

YM09 - 22 Finance Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) presented a report on the development of next year's proposed budget, giving detailed explanations of various line items. Friends shared their concerns about providing additional support for various Friends ministries. The budget will come to our final session for approval; preview copies will be posted. She also shared a procedure which describes oversight for the proposed payment of consultants by the Yearly Meeting.

YM09 - 23 Earthcare Committee

Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) and Al Connor (Ann Arbor) submitted written reports. The Committee proposed a minute for the Yearly Meeting endorsing the Earth Charter. Comments were shared; while not in full agreement on the reasons for supporting the Charter, Friends **approved** the Yearly Meeting endorsing the Earth Charter.

The Committee also proposed amending our *Policies and Procedures* to allow Yearly Meeting contributions to other Friends national organizations besides Friends General Conference. Friends reviewed the reasons for our original policy and also recognized the rising importance of an earthcare testimony. We are not yet in unity on this proposal.

Saturday Morning Session

YM09 - 24 Reading of Epistle of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns

Our Assistant Clerk read the Epistle of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns from their mid-winter gathering, where they found joy in their loving community. They are saddened that FGC Gatherings are held in locations where laws deny them civil rights, despite Friends' knowledge experientially of God's love and support for all people. With recognition that this country is strengthened by diversity, they ask Friends to join them in seeking equality, knowing that radical love will prevail.

YM09 - 25 Date of Annual Meeting

Arrangement & Site. Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead) reported that Representative Meeting approved changing dates of Annual Meeting for 2010 at Bluffton University to late July to accommodate families with children who often are in school during our sessions. The dates for 2010 will be 7/29 to 8/1. We **approved** holding Annual Meeting in 2011 from 7/28 to 7/31. We will be reviewing the suitability of holding Annual Meeting in late July on an ongoing basis.

YM09 - 26 LEYM Privacy Policy

Publications & Archives. Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) submitted a written report. Friends unite in amending the Yearly Meeting's Privacy Policy to reflect the following:

- 1) The full names of adult Friends (those 18 and over) may appear on the LEYM website. The names of children and youth (under age 18) may not appear there without prior approval of their parent or guardian.
- 2) Photos of Friends of all ages may appear on our website. Friends can request that pictures of themselves or their children *not* be posted on our website by checking a box on the registration form.

Registration forms for any LEYM event will provide this option.

YM09 - 27 Peace Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) submitted a written report. Friends **approved** a letter to President Obama (on the extended version of Yearly Meeting letterhead) requesting him to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions banning the use of cluster bombs. We also **approved** a letter to the President and members of Congress urging that military equipment exports to Israel be stopped, to work for relief and reconstruction in Gaza, and to adopt a viable peace agreement.

YM09 - 28 Friends General Conference Gathering

Our own Star Mary Castro (Athens) is Co-Clerk of the 2010 FGC Gathering with Rex Sprouse, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, to take place in our region at Bowling Green, Ohio. Starting Sunday 7/4 and ending Saturday 7/10, the Gathering will last only six nights to help reduce costs. Jon Sommer (Broadmead) is clerking local arrangements and Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends are strongly urged to participate in the Gathering and serve as volunteers. Star Mary gave details as to the various committees and the evening program, and noted the available scholarships and many work grants. The theme is "Accepting Gifts of the Spirit."

YM09 - 29 Ministry & Nurture

Ellen Barnes (Birmingham) submitted a written report. We thank the Committee for all its work and efforts.

YM09 - 30 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) submitted a preliminary report listing committee assignments and officers. The committee raised a concern of reducing the number of our representatives to Friends organizations because of travel expense.

YM09 - 31 Announcements

- a. Our Assistant Clerk informed us that Miriam Peebles (Indiana Yearly Meeting) suffered a massive heart attack and is in intensive care. She and her husband, Vaughn Peebles (Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting), are longtime visitors to our Annual Meeting. We are asked to hold her and Vaughn in the Light.
- b. Rebecca Morehouse (Ann Arbor) and Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie), co-clerks of Program Committee, recognized and expressed appreciation for the faithful work and positive energy of the Committee, whose other members are Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Linda Mills (Kalamazoo), Bekah Sommer (Broadmead), and Janet Dando (Akron). Special thanks were offered to Peggy Daub, who has served well for five years and will be moving on to other work for the Yearly Meeting.

Saturday Afternoon Session

YM09 - 32 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Shirley Bechill (Pine River) submitted a written report for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting as its Clerk.

YM09 - 33 Friends School in Detroit

Dwight Wilson (Ann Arbor), Head of School, reported that the School has survived several recessions since its original opening. This year's grade school graduates were admitted to their first choice high schools, and many Friends School alumni have been accepted to and attend prestigious colleges and universities. Although facing financial distress, the School hopes to open in September with a projected enrollment of about 120 students. The Board of Trustees has decided not to renew Dwight's contract. Friends expressed their deep admiration for and gratitude to Dwight for his invaluable service to and community building for the School, making it the strong academic institution that it is. The Yearly Meeting **approved** an extra \$1000 financial contribution to the School from this year's budget.

YM09 - 34 High School Youth Program

Michael Fuson (Granville) reported on the High School Youth Program which has been inactive for the most part these past two years. Shirley Bechill (Pine River), Assistant Clerk, Nancy Nagler (Pine River), Clerk of Youth & Children Program, and Michael Fuson interviewed an impressive applicant for the contractual coordinator position, whom they are eager to refer to the High School Youth Program Committee once it is reconstituted. The Committee will provide oversight to the coordinator. The Clerk asked Friends to explore their hearts for a leading to serve on this committee.

YM09 - 35 Youth & Children Program

Nancy Nagler (Pine River) reported that we have 26 happy and active young people participating in many activities. Leaders are:

Joyce Balderston (Wooster) with returning Bluffton students Christina Hieber and Kristian Overmyer	Infants
Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens) and Conleth Crotser (Cleveland)	Early Elementary
Peter Crowley and Tim Damon (both Cleveland)	Upper Elementary
Diane Mott (Broadmead) and Mary Takahashi (Pine River)	Middle School
Steve Connor (Ann Arbor) and Walter Mead (Pittsburgh)	High School
Nancy Nagler (Pine River) and Su Penn (Red Cedar)	Coordinators

YM09 - 36 Friends World Committee for Consultation

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported that the FWCC World Conference will be held in 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya with the theme: "Being Salt and Light: Living the Kingdom in a Broken World." Our Yearly Meeting will be entitled to several representatives.

Yearly Meeting is the host of the annual gathering of the Lower Great Lakes Region of FWCC, Section of the Americas. Ann Arbor Meeting has graciously agreed to serve as a host site. The dates are 10/30 - 11/1/2009 and the theme is "Living Our Quaker Faith Today."

First Day Session

YM09 - 37 2009-10 Budget

We **approved** the 2009-10 budget of \$30,820 as presented by the Finance Committee. The most significant change (for one year only) was an increase of \$2000 to Friends School in Detroit in response to its current budget crisis. The suggested per adult member contribution will remain at \$37.

YM09 - 38 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) presented a final written report showing nominations for officers and committee assignments. Friends **approved** the nominations. We held over for further consideration the Committee's recommendation of reducing the number of representatives to AFSC & FCNL.

YM09 - 39 Attendance at Annual Meeting

Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead) for Arrangement & Site announced a total attendance at Annual Meeting of 146, with 14 first-time attenders who received scholarships.

YM09 - 40 Reports, Epistles, and Introductions From Young People

We cherished the reports, epistles, and introductions we received from our young people and we will include these in our *Annual Records*. We thank them for their presentations and treasure the joy they have brought us.

YM09 - 41 Epistle from Adult Young Friends

We received the Epistle from the Adult Young Friends. They reported on their activities during our sessions with warm laughter. We increasingly value their presence among us.

YM09 - 42 Yearly Meeting Epistle

The Yearly Meeting Epistle was read and **approved** as written, with acknowledgment of the effort behind its fine quality.

YM09 - 43 Friends Committee on National Legislation

Michael Fuson (Granville) and David Snyder (Oberlin) reported that the Friends Committee on National Legislation has undergone a 25% to 30% reduction in its staffing and budget. It now has a sustainable budget due to the support of Friends in these financially difficult times. A challenge match is in place for additional giving. FCNL's influence remains strong as its staff has been sought out by congressional staffers and members of the presidential transition team. It continues with efforts toward peace in the Middle East.

YM09 - 44 Minute of Gratitude for Service of Shirley Bechill

Friends **approved** the following minute:

Friends of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting are grateful for the service of Shirley Bechill of Pine River Monthly Meeting as Presiding and Assistant Clerk of the Yearly Meeting. Friend Shirley kindly communicated interest in every level of Yearly Meeting activities, presided with love, patience, and understanding over meetings for worship with attention

to business, and persistently reminded Friends of the presence of the Spirit in our midst.

YM09 - 45 Appreciations

We share in the appreciation of each other's presence, which lightened our loads, lifted our spirits, and will leave us with joy and a longing to reconnect. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Bluffton University, members of the Arrangement & Site Committee, and other Friends for contributing to the success of this year's gathering. We look forward to meeting again at Bluffton on 7/29/2010.

Merry Stanford, Clerk
Joseph Mills, Recording Clerk
Margy Liske, Assistant Recording Clerk

Guidelines for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business provides an opportunity for Friends to practice several of our testimonies as we carry out the practical work of maintaining our faith community. We seek to be Spirit-led in our work, with as much efficiency as possible, achieving a sense of what Friends call "right order," and so ask that you use the following guidelines.

1. When you need to speak, ask the clerk to recognize you by raising your hand.
2. To affirm something someone has said, simply nod or use the phrase, "This Friend speaks my mind." Please don't ask to be recognized so that you may express the same thought in other words.
3. When you speak, please stand, speak to the clerks' table, and keep your comments to the point.
4. Friends will not generally be recognized to speak on any given issue more than once, except to acknowledge a personal change of perspective during the meeting.
5. When the recording clerk is developing a minute, sit in worship, and hold him/her in the Light. Please refrain from conversation with your neighbor.
6. When a person speaks in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, receive the words as you receive vocal ministry in Meeting for Worship - with an open heart and calm mind.
7. If you feel that the gathering needs a break or a stretch, it is appropriate to ask to be recognized so that you may ask the clerk for one.

Committee Reports

Advancement & Outreach Committee (YM09 - 18)

Advancement & Outreach Committee has undertaken several tasks since LEYM's annual sessions in 2008.

First of all, at our November 2008 meeting, four of us agreed to make personal visits to monthly meetings that seldom, if ever, send members to our Yearly Meeting sessions. Janet Evans Smith went to Delaware Meeting; Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki visited Holland Meeting; Mike Hinshaw got to Mid-Ohio Valley Meeting; and Rosemary Coffey spent some time at Monongalia Meeting in Morgantown, West Virginia. Most of these meetings turned out to be very small and generally close-knit. Their main emphasis at this time is clearly on their relationships with one another. While some interest was expressed in what Yearly Meeting had to offer, participation was simply not a priority. Sometimes it was an issue of distance; sometimes of timing; sometimes of conflicting commitments. All received us warmly. We plan to follow up with a brief accounting of this year's highlights and information about the change in date for 2010, in hopes that some Friends from these meetings might yet join us here.

Secondly, Rosemary exchanged several email messages with the Clerk of Indiana (Pennsylvania) Preparative Meeting, a woman with whom she worked on Local Arrangements for the recent FGC Gathering in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The issue here is whether it is reasonable to call the very small group in Indiana a preparative meeting - rather than a worship group - given that they have made no noticeable steps for many

years toward becoming a monthly meeting. In fact, due to moves and retire-ments, the group is smaller than ever. The Clerk made it clear that bothering them about nomenclature was not going to help. So we have dropped the issue for the time being, but will continue to offer interest and support.

Thirdly, we have examined the contact information for all the meetings and worship groups in the Yearly Meeting in terms of what appears on the LEYM website, on the FGC Quakerfinder website, on their own websites (if they have them), and in our *Annual Records*. If all four places reported the same information, we congratulated them. If they did not, we pointed out the discrepancies and asked which version they preferred. We either encouraged them to make the changes themselves, or we did it for them. This is a process that, alas, has to be repeated every year, but we feel it is useful to do so.

Finally, we decided to withdraw our invitation to Quaker Quest of FGC to send speakers to us this year, because the schedule was so full of other activities. It just didn't seem worthwhile to have two people with us for four days, when we were going to give them only one 1½-hour workshop slot to present their program. Depending on what our own Program Committee decides, we hope it may be possible to offer them more than one time slot and invite them to come next year instead.

Thank you for your attention!

Rosemary Coffey, Clerk

Earthcare Committee (YM09 - 23)

The Earthcare Committee (EC) has continued to be active within LEYM during the past year. Highlights include the following:

1. We again coordinated efforts to encourage carpooling among those attending Yearly Meeting. This year (2009), Al Connor is the Committee's contact person to help resolve difficult transportation issues; his name, phone number, and e-mail address are being provided in case of need.
2. Phil Clampitt, co-clerk, participated for the EC in the fall LEYM Executive Committee Meeting in Detroit, and was joined by Al Connor and Margaret Kanost to report to the March LEYM Representative Meeting in Cleveland.
3. Several members of the Committee (Al Connor, Dick Hogan, Judy Greenberg, Margaret Kanost, and Phil Clampitt) met January 24, 2009 for a rich and productive day at Judy's home in Toledo. (Co-clerk Jim Crowfoot was unable to attend, but sent helpful comments and suggestions which we utilized fully during our discussion.)

We decided to plan and conduct an EC workshop and such other activities as a nature walk, literature table, and late evening documentary film during the 2009 Yearly Meeting. In addition, we agreed to bring three proposals to LEYM this year. (See item #6 below.)

4. Our 2009 Earthcare workshop (planned by Al Connor, Dick Hogan, Judy Greenberg, and Phil Clampitt) will be on the topic, "What's Up with Earthcare in our Meetings? A Panel, Sharing, & Brainstorming Workshop." We decided on this topic because of our committee's interest in getting more feedback from local Friends meetings and worship groups within LEYM on Earthcare activities in which they are engaged. Phil Clampitt will lead the workshop, and Jim Crowfoot (Ann Arbor), David Snyder (Oberlin), and Star Mary Castro (Athens) will each report on their local meeting's activities. A special added feature will be a brief report by Mary Ellen Newport (Olney Friends School) on Olney's activities and plans relating to Earthcare. There will be adequate time after the panelists speak for the "sharing and brainstorming" that we trust will follow.
5. Our committee plans to show, and talk about, the documentary film *The World According to Monsanto* on Thursday evening (June 11) after the opening LEYM business session, for all who are interested and available.
6. The Committee brought three proposals to Representative Meeting, to be considered at Yearly Meeting this year: (1) that LEYM endorse the Earth Charter (see the LEYM Spring *Bulletin* 2009, p. 18); (2) that LEYM amend its Policies and Procedures [Section III-A (2) (b)] so that they are less restrictive, and will permit annual contributions to Friends' national organizations in addition to Friends General Conference, if approved by the Yearly Meeting; (3) that, beginning in 2009, LEYM include in its budget an annual financial contribution to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

7. The Committee agreed that Al Connor's reports from Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) should, from now on, become a regular and important part of the Committee's reports to LEYM. (Al's April 2009 QEW report accompanies this report.)
8. Over the weekend of May 15 to 17, 2009, five members of the EC committee (Al Connor, Helen Söderberg, Judy Greenberg, Phil Clampitt, and Dick Hogan) met for our first-ever Earthcare Committee retreat at Greenfire Farm, near Athens, Ohio, where we were guests of the Hogan family. We are grateful to all the Hogans - Dick and Mary and their adult children, Matt, Erin, and Noah - for taking us in, feeding us, engaging us in conversation, and helping us feel at home during the weekend. It was a wonderful, rich, memorable time together for all of us, with delicious food - including milk and cheese from the goats on the farm (whom we met), eggs from the Indian runner ducks (whom we also met), and rhubarb crisp with rhubarb fresh out of the garden - pleasant sleeping accommodations, lots of rich conversation, worship sharing, some planning and other business, visiting the Farmers' Market in Athens on Saturday, getting much better acquainted, in part through each of us having the opportunity to "tell our stories," and more. This beautiful, rural, hill country of southeastern Ohio - and the specific setting of Greenfire Farm - made this an ideal setting for an Earthcare retreat.

We members of the Earthcare committee remain very much aware of the many challenges we, LEYM, and the wider world face for the future. Endorsement of the Earth Charter is one symbolic step LEYM can take in response. Along the same lines, Merry Stanford has just called our attention to a wonderful and important graduation speech* given last month by Paul Hawken (a visionary environmental activist and author, among other credentials) from which we want to quote just a few sentences: "When asked if I am pessimistic or optimistic about the future, my answer is always the same: If you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren't pessimistic, you don't understand data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this earth and the lives of the poor, and you aren't optimistic, you haven't got a pulse. What I see everywhere in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world." Also, "The living world is not 'out there' somewhere, but in your heart." We agree. We think we get it. Hawken also told those graduates that there is invisible writing on the back of their diplomas that says "*You are brilliant, and the Earth is hiring.*" (We agree, and only add that a large dose of humility is an additional requirement.) We urge members of our committee, LEYM as a body, and thoughtful and caring people in the wider world to heed this important message of hope, and to run with it.

Phil Clampitt & Jim Crowfoot, Co-clerks

* Copies of Hawken's entire speech were made available at Yearly Meeting.

Report on Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee Meeting April 23-26, 2009

Much of the time at the meeting was spent attempting to revise the Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) purposes and Mission statements. Consensus was not reached. Deliberations were tabled until the annual meeting on October 8-11, 2009. Two issues were the reasons for attempting the revision: (1) A mission statement is needed that will inspire Friends and others who have the same values and concerns as QEW and its members to support QEW and its work financially and vocally. (2) A few members of the organization believe QEW should limit its efforts to persuading Friends and friends of Friends [to] adopt lifestyles that are espoused by elders of indigenous civilizations and are harmonious with the Earth, and that QEW should not spend its resources advocating for Earth-friendly policy and legislation. Others believe that those two purposes or goals are equally important and that QEW should witness to both.

At the request of the Continuing Council, which functions as QEW's executive committee, the QEW FCNL Working Group submitted the proposal that QEW's joint sponsorship of Friends Testimonies and Economics (FTE) with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Earthcare Working Group work through QEW's FCNL Working Group. Both working groups have direct contact with FCNL's legislative advocate on energy. They assist him with advocacy and in getting support for energy policy that we believe is ecologically, economically, and socio-culturally sustainable and in the best interests of all life on Earth.

FTE is concerned with developing an economy that will sustain the Earth and life upon it. FTE members and

associates believe that the present economic system, which emphasizes perpetual growth and extraction of the Earth's mineral and agricultural resources, is a leading cause of present economic and environmental problems. Some of its members worked with members of the Quaker Institute for the Future in writing and publishing the book *A Moral Economy*. Oversight of FTE is to be provided by four persons, two delegated by QEW and two by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The four FTE overseers can add four more members to the FTE team so they can consult on sustainable economic issues, usually by email and conference phone calls. The additional four members are to represent diverse geographical areas, disciplines, ethnic and age groups, and gender.

FTE is organizing a "Confronting the Growth Dilemma" network. That network is to be inclusive and diverse by geography, discipline, ethnicity, age, and gender also. Its purpose is to confront government and private economic sector leaders and policy-makers with the idea that perpetual economic and population growth and appropriation of the Earth's natural resources are not sustainable.

Alan N. Connor
LEYM Representative to QEW

Finance Committee (YM09 - 22)

Expenditures and transfers to funds are about \$3250 less than budgeted and income is about \$1500 less than budgeted. Therefore, our General Fund balance increased by about \$1750. No budget line was overspent and all monthly meetings have made contributions to the Yearly Meeting. However, the amount contributed was not as much as we estimated, given a membership of 793. The reality of meetings not contributing the requested amount needs to be addressed if we want to increase our budget.

The Committee reviewed each line item of the budget to determine if additional expenditures will be made this fiscal year. There will be more expenditures from the Clerk's Fund. No expenditures for Advancement and Outreach will be made. The Committee also considered expenditures that might be made out of any of the funds. The Ministry & Nurture Committee expects to receive an application for a ministry scholarship during this fiscal year.

The Youth Activity Fund has excess funds. We know that the Adult Young Friends are considering requesting a budget line. Perhaps we could use this fund to cover the AYF program. More investigation is needed.

We considered the budget for 2009-2010. We decided to reduce Travel from \$6500 to \$6000 since in no year since 2005 have we spent more than \$5000. We were reluctant to reduce it further, given the uncertainty in travel costs. We decided to keep the High School Fund at \$1100 even though we have \$7200 in the High School Youth Fund. We expect to spend \$5400 from the fund next year and in subsequent years. We will keep the budget line item below the projected expenditures until the fund balance is reduced to \$1000.

We put \$2400 into the Clerks' Consultation Fund in 2008-2009 to pay for the contracted clerical worker. These funds will be spent during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Because we expect to have another consultation in two years, we decided to put \$1200 in the fund in 2009-2010 and another \$1200 in 2010-2011 so that there will be enough in the fund for the second consultation. In addition, we will include in the proposed budget \$1500 for other clerical services, particularly coordination of the website. All other line items will remain the same in the 2009-2010 budget as they were in the 2008-2009 budget. Given the proposed changes, we project a 2009-2010 budget of \$28,820 compared to \$29,020 for fiscal year 2008-2009.

The Finance Committee approved the following procedures for paying for contracted services. It is the Committee's understanding that these procedures do not need the approval of the Yearly Meeting.

- Consultants who work with a committee will submit invoices to the clerk of the committee for approval. The committee clerk will forward approved invoices to the Treasurer of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for payment. Checks will be sent by the Treasurer directly to the payee.
- Consultants who do not work directly with a committee will submit all invoices to the Presiding Clerk of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for approval. The Presiding Clerk will forward approved invoices to the Treasurer of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Checks will be sent by the Treasurer directly to the payee.

Sally Weaver Sommer, Clerk

Approved 2009-2010 Budget (YM09 - 37)

LEYM Budget for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

General Fund Expenses

(* = transfers)	Budget 07-08	Actual 07-08	Difference	Budget 08-09	Actual 08-09	Difference	Budget 09-10	Difference
Travel	5,500.00	4,823.81	676.19	6,500.00	4,943.25	1,556.75	6,000.00	-500.00
Office	300.00	156.22	143.78	300.00	47.83	252.17	300.00	0.00
Publications	3,400.00	2,250.62	1,149.38	3,400.00	2,895.19	504.81	3,400.00	0.00
Advancement	880.00	880.00	0.00	880.00	0.00	880.00	880.00	0.00
Ministry & Nurture	800.00	600.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
Clerk's Fund	500.00	363.00	137.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	0.00
FGC - Special Program	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
Records project	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00	1,240.00	0.00	1,240.00	1,240.00	0.00	1,240.00	0.00
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	2,700.00	0.00
High School Youth Fund*	5,400.00	5,400.00	0.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00	1,100.00	0.00
Spiritual Formation*	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00
Friends School in Detroit	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	2,000.00
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00
Consultation Fund*				2,400.00	2,400.00	0.00	2,700.00	300.00
Scholarship Fund for ministry*				1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
Misc.	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>29,520.00</u>	<u>27,713.65</u>	<u>1,806.35</u>	<u>29,020.00</u>	<u>25,126.27</u>	<u>3,893.73</u>	<u>30,820.00</u>	<u>1,800.00</u>
Per member contribution	\$37.23			\$36.60			\$36.39*	

* \$2000 was added to the Friends School in Detroit line item to respond to the budget crisis. This is to be taken out of General Fund reserves and will not increase the suggested per person contribution.

**Treasurer's Report (YM09 -21), updated to June 30, 2009
by Treasurer Eric Starbuck**

**Treasurer's Report, June 30, 2009
End of Fiscal Year 2008-09**

General Fund Income

Meeting (Giver)	Amount
Akron	\$170.00
Ann Arbor	\$4,958.00
Athens	\$2,400.00
Birmingham	\$702.00
Broadmead	\$1,000.00
Cleveland	\$1,924.00
Delaware	\$440.00
Detroit	\$600.00
Grand Rapids	\$871.00
Granville	\$850.00
Holland	\$200.00
Kalamazoo	\$1,780.00
Kent	\$629.00
Mid-Ohio Valley	\$180.00
Monongalia	\$490.00
North Columbus	\$800.00
Oberlin	\$780.00
Pine River	\$592.00
Pittsburgh	\$5,587.00
Red Cedar	\$2,035.00
Wooster	<u>\$540.00</u>
TOTALS	\$27,582.00

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL SESSIONS 2009

Fund	Open	Income	YM Subsidy	Expense	Close
General Fund	\$6,708.63	\$27,528.00	--	\$26,794.61	\$7,442.02
Granville Youth	\$6,010.60	\$283.40	--	\$283.40	\$6,010.60
Annual Meeting†	\$18,126.07	\$19,402.88	--	\$31,269.57	\$6,259.38
Youth Activity*	\$5,465.26	\$1,003.40	\$2,700.00	\$1,987.49	\$7,181.17
High School Youth*	\$5,796.61	\$1,092.00	\$1,100.00	\$777.11	\$7,211.50
Spiritual Formation*	\$3,625.25	\$2,300.00	\$600.00	\$2,847.81	\$3,677.44
FWCC Travel*	\$1,706.45	--	\$1,240.00	--	\$2,946.45
Consultation*	\$18.55	--	\$2,400.00	\$150.00	\$2,268.55
Ministry Scholarship*	--	\$1,000	\$1,000	--	--
TOTALS	\$47,457.42	\$51,609.68	\$9,040.00	\$65,109.99	\$42,997.11

† Includes transactions from Annual Meeting 08 (separate AM 09 below)

* These moneys are held in our checking. We do the accounting. We also subsidize them.

Funds Total	\$42,997.11
CDs Total	\$10,855.19
Checking	\$33,308.72

CDs - Shorebank	Open	Income	Expense	Close
Granville Youth				
686108009	\$6,010.60	\$223.71	\$223.71	\$6,010.60
4003416	\$2,368.44	\$102.20	--	\$2,470.64
4003424	\$2,292.20	\$81.75	--	\$2,373.95
TOTALS	\$10,671.24	\$407.66	\$223.71	\$10,855.19

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL SESSIONS 2009

Account	Budget	Actual Expense	Budget %
Travel	\$6,500.00	\$4,943.25	76%
Office	\$300.00	\$76.53	26%
Publications	\$3,400	\$3,534.83	104%
Advancement	\$880.00	--	
Ministry & Nurture	\$200.00	--	
Clerk's Fund	\$500.00	--	
FWCC Travel*	\$1,240	\$1,240	100%
Youth Activity Fund*	\$2,700.00	\$2,700	100%
High School Youth Fund*	\$1,100.00	\$1,100	100%
Spiritual Formation*	\$600.00	\$600.00	100%
Consultation Fund*	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	100%
Ministry Schlrshp Fund*	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	100%
FGC	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	100%
FGC - Special Program	\$500.00	\$500.00	100%
Records Project	\$100.00	\$100.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	\$2,500.00	\$3,500	140%
Olney Friends School	<u>\$600.00</u>	<u>\$600.00</u>	100%
TOTAL	\$29,020.00	\$26,794.61	

* separate fund subsidized by the General Fund

In-Kind (Travel) \$1,865.98

QUAKE (Jan 08 but paid in 08-09 fiscal year)	
Kri Burkander's last High School Youth Conference	
Income	
Tuition	\$1,092.00
Expenses	<u>777.11</u>
Surplus	\$314.89

Annual Meeting 2009

INCOME

Lodging	\$6,904.50
Meals	\$7,105.60
Registrations	\$4,840.00
Donations	\$189.98
Scholarships - Athens	<u>\$342.80</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$19,382.88

EXPENSE

Honorarium - Max Carter	\$200.00
Travel - Max Carter	\$324.02
Meals	\$7,196.85
Lodging	\$7,024.50
Ice Cream Bar	\$310.00
Scholarships	\$2,445.04
Children & Youth*	\$583.11
Name Tags	\$44.28
Copies**	\$115.64
Adjustments***	<u>\$50.33</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$18,293.77

Surplus **\$1,089.11**

*** C&Y includes:**

Swimming (from cash box)	\$127.75
Supplies (reimbursed)	\$346.60
Childcare (paid by check)	\$108.76

**** Copies 2009 include:**

Bluffton U.	\$89.90
Program Cmte (reimburse)	<u>\$25.74</u>
	\$115.64

***** Adjustments are refunds
& balancing**

Bluffton Bill 2009 Detail

Detail	Total
Adult breakfasts	\$1586.10
Child breakfasts	\$63.00
Adult lunches	\$2582.45
Child lunches	\$95.00
Adult suppers	\$2765.00
Child suppers	\$105.30
Ice cream sundae bar	\$310.00
Commuter fees	\$180.00
Linen packs	\$442.50
Bed nights, adult	\$6073.00
Bed nights, child	\$249.00
Lost keys	\$20.00
Campers	\$60.00
Copies	<u>\$89.90</u>
TOTAL	\$14,621

Ministry & Nurture Committee (YM09 - 29)

1. State of the Meeting Reports

Fourteen monthly meetings and one preparative meeting submitted State of the Meeting reports prior to LEYM's Annual Session this year. There were recurring themes throughout the reports as well as much diversity between meetings. One recurring theme was the visits from Mary Ann Downey of FGC Traveling Ministries. Many monthly meetings mentioned this as one of the highlights of their year. Several of the meetings struggle with limits to their resources, both financial and human.

It was noted that reports which were developed by a group process were sometimes powerful for the monthly meeting as a whole, allowing the meeting to reflect both on what had been positive in the past year and what needed to be worked on - awakening the meeting to opportunities for growth.

It was encouraging to read how smaller meetings work to take on projects and service as a whole.

The Ministry & Nurture Committee would like to encourage Friends outside this committee to read these to get a sense of what other meetings in the YM are doing.

2. Spiritual Formation Program

This past year the Spiritual Formation group for the western portion of LEYM had two retreats: a weekend one in the fall at the Leaven Center, and a one-day retreat in the spring at the Kalamazoo Meetinghouse in Kalamazoo, Michigan. There were 17 participants altogether, 14 at each retreat. The retreat leaders were Connie Lezenby and Mickey Edgerton of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The theme was *Grounding Our Spirituality in Nature: Strengthening our Connections with the Source of Nourishment and Refreshment*.

The strong yearning for this kind of program continues among the participants. It nurtures the participants spiritually, and this nurture carries over into our monthly meetings and into Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

The Spiritual Formation program will continue its experiment with a weekend fall retreat and a one-day spring retreat for the coming year. The retreat leader for the 2009-2010 year will be Michael Birkel of Earlham College. The theme will be *Spiritual Nurture*. The dates of the fall retreat are September 25th through 27th and it will be held at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan. The spring retreat will be May 1st and the planning committee is currently looking for a meeting to host the spring program. Fliers with information about the program and the registration form will be uploaded to the LEYM website this upcoming week.

3. Query for 2009

The search for a query arose out of our discussion of the State of the Meeting Reports. We noted in particular the sense of seeking spiritual growth that seemed to recur in many State of the Meeting reports. One Friend noted that a worship sharing titled "How do we name the Divine?" had been particularly rewarding for all participants. This led us to begin with that query and move from there, with a deep discussion about the relationship between spiritual experience and the words we use to describe that experience. After many iterations, we arrived at the following Query:

What experiences have you had of wonder and awe?

What experiences have you had of the Light or the Divine?

What helps you open yourself to these experiences and what gets in the way? What practices do you have to deepen these experiences?

How do we support each other in this awareness?

How do we support our children in their spiritual journeys?

Submitted by Ellen Barnes, Committee Clerk

Peace Committee (YM09 - 27)

We were sorry to think that David Lore was not only missing our meetings, but is in pain. We send him healing light. The topics our committee discussed and dealt with were several, and we'll be asking you to approve two short letters to our political leaders about two of the topics.

We are upset by the continued use of cluster bombs by the U.S. military and its failure to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions, so we propose sending the following letter to the President.

We received minutes about the Palestine/Israel conflict from three meetings: Red Cedar, Grand Rapids, and

Ann Arbor. Anne Remley and Betty Ford have prepared a display of these and other minutes from other meetings in the display area upstairs. A variety of informational materials about the topic can be taken by Friends to share with their own meetings. We felt it would not be useful to write a long letter to President Obama about the history of the Middle East conflict and the transgressions by all parties, so we propose the following letter for your consideration.

Peace Committee has received a letter of concern from a group of Ann Arbor Friends about the pending severe cuts in the AFSC budgetary funding, cuts which may affect regional offices. We commend study and, as appropriate, supportive action by monthly meetings within LEYM which are involved in local AFSC program work. We appreciate the opportunity this weekend to learn more about how the Board will handle this financial crisis, from Jennifer Bing-Canar of the Chicago AFSC Regional Office.

Jim Satterwhite brought an action alert about the conditions in the Zharawa Internally Displaced People's tent camp in the border lands of Iraq. The people in the local villages have been subjected to repeated military attacks from their neighboring countries, Turkey and Iran, for over two decades. Since 2007, when the United States began sharing military intelligence with Turkey, the attacks have become more aggressive, resulting in death, injury, and extensive property damage to civilians and their homes. As people are displaced, they are placed in IDP camps where there is no shade and temperatures can reach 118° F. There is no electricity, and latrines are dangerously close to tents; there is danger of rampant illness. Members of Christian Peacemaker Teams have moved into the Zharawa camp and will join voices to ask the local, national, and international community to help relocate them to a more livable and humane environment. You can help by taking any of the actions mentioned on the sheet we've handed around.

David Bassett has asked us to inform you about the decision by the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (NCPTF) to expand their efforts to find a Congressional District Organizer (CDO) in each of the nation's 435 Congressional Districts to be an advocate for the RFPTF [Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund] bill. Again you will find information on our handout sheet about what you can do.

Last year we endorsed the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), and we rejoiced when President Obama condemned torture as a tactic as soon as he was inaugurated. The vigorous work of NRCAT continues, and yesterday they mounted a public witness in front of the White House to urge Obama to create a Commission of Inquiry to investigate U.S. torture practices since 9/11. They asked us to take note that this is Torture Awareness Month. To learn more about how you can register your opinion and work for the cessation of torture by our country, check our handout.

Nancy Taylor, Acting Clerk

Letters Proposed by Peace Committee and Approved by Yearly Meeting (YM09 - 27)

Dear President Obama,

We strongly urge you to ban the U.S. military's use of cluster bombs and to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions. By the beginning of 2009, 95 nations had signed this treaty which agrees to ban these deplorable weapons.

In the past ten years the U.S. has used cluster bombs in civilian populated areas of Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In Iraq alone during one three-week period of major combat, the U.S. and U.K. used nearly 13,000 cluster munitions. Many of these bombs explode on impact, but many more remain live - de facto landmines - on the ground for months, and even decades. Handicap International reports that 98 percent of cluster bomb victims are civilians and 27 percent are children.

The Obama transition team promised that upon taking office, the Administration would "carefully review the new treaty." Now is the time to sign on, and prevent future deaths and maiming from cluster bombs. We look forward to your immediate action on this issue, which is crucial in working toward a peaceful world.

(signed - Lake Erie Yearly Meeting)

Dear President Obama (or member of Congress),

As Quakers, we urge the President and Congress to stop military equipment exports to Israel, to work for an end to all violence, and to press for unimpeded delivery of humanitarian supplies and rebuilding equipment into Gaza. We urge adoption of a viable peace agreement grounded in the human rights and security needs of both Israelis and Palestinians, with provision for the just sharing of land and water.

(signed - Lake Erie Yearly Meeting)

Publications & Archives Committee (YM09 - 26)

1. New LEYM Directory

We are delighted to announce the publication of the *2009 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Directory*, and are grateful to Mathilda Navias and Dan Bell for their care and hard work in producing it. Copies are being given to each meeting and worship group, and to LEYM officers and committee clerks for the coming year (2009-10).

2. Annual Records Deadline

The deadline to submit materials for the 2009 *Annual Records* is Sunday, July 12. Materials are welcome sooner; send them to Jeff Cooper, editor of the 2009 edition. Publication is expected by August 23.

3. Proposed Amendments to Privacy Policy

At the 2009 Representative Meeting, our committee proposed two amendments to the privacy policy that Yearly Meeting approved in 2007. Responding to suggestions made at Representative Meeting, which make the policies less restrictive while also respecting the privacy concerns of Friends, we have revised these proposals in three ways:

- 1) The amendments now apply to the *entire* LEYM Website, not just the version of the *Bulletin* that appears there.
- 2) Proposal 1 would now allow names of youth and children to appear on the Website under special circumstances, but *only* with permission of their parent or guardian.
- 3) Proposal 2 would now allow photographs of an individual child to appear on the Website, but Friends could *opt out* of having their own or their children's photos appear on the Website.

Thus the revised proposed amendments read:

Proposal #1: The full names of adult Friends (those 18 and over) may appear on the LEYM website. The names of children and youth (under age 18) may *not* appear there without prior approval of their parent or guardian.

Proposal #2: Photos of Friends of all ages may appear on our website. Friends can request that pictures of themselves or their children *not* be posted on our website by checking a box on the Registration Form [for any event].

These revised proposals were sent to meetings and worship groups within LEYM by our Clerk to allow consideration before these Annual Sessions. We now bring them to the Yearly Meeting to request approval.

4. The LEYM Website

We reviewed use of our website and encouraged Bill Warters to delete outdated announcements. With Jo Steigerwald, we considered how she might help Bill maintain a website that reflects current Yearly Meeting activities. For various reasons, among them enabling Jo to update the website directly, we may want to consider a host different than *Quaker.org*, which would cost a small amount per year; we shall keep Finance Committee informed. Bill remains willing to lead a session for webmasters of monthly meetings, if that is desired at a future annual meeting.

5. Re-inventing the *Bulletin*?

We have been asking ourselves if there is a way to make the *Bulletin* more useful in announcing events and to increase readership. The replacement of the summer issue with the *Annual Records* several years ago was a net gain, but with no *Bulletin* appearing between March and September, we lost the ability to announce in print many events occurring in late summer and early autumn. Moreover, our current distribution method requires

most Friends to retrieve a printed copy from their monthly meeting or to download a pdf file from our website. Next summer presents a good opportunity to rethink the *Bulletin*. With our annual sessions taking place in late July, the publication schedule of the *Bulletin* and the *Annual Records* will need to change too. In addition, Jeff Cooper will be completing five years as *Bulletin* editor, and plans to pass this responsibility to another Friend, who may bring different skills.

Hence we have been exploring questions such as:

- Should the *Bulletin* be published more often?
- If so, could issues be shorter, with more emphasis on timeliness of content and less on appearance (e.g., publication in multiples-of-four pages)?
- Can we distribute the *Bulletin* electronically, perhaps sending it directly to many individual households?
- What are the purposes of the *Bulletin*?

Our discussion made clear that any method of distributing the *Bulletin* directly to Friends depends on maintaining an up-to-date database. We acknowledged too that some Friends need to receive printed *Bulletins*.

We plan to continue exploring these questions over the next year. As we do so, we invite Friends to share their thoughts on the frequency of publication, the appearance of the *Bulletin*, distribution of the *Bulletin*, and how our committee might more effectively communicate information, preferably without greatly increasing the workload of its editor. One measure we make take immediately is to send more announcements of events to monthly meeting newsletter editors.

Jeff Cooper, Clerk

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

All of the eight monthly meetings of GPQM continue to be active and send their “State of the Meeting” and annual statistical reports to LEYM. There continue to be four worship groups, but the Albion WG reports low attendance so some members are considering attending their “parent” monthly meeting, Red Cedar, beginning next fall, when the new meeting house there is expected to be ready for occupancy.

Friends School in Detroit continues to be the site for the fall Meeting for Business each third Saturday in September. This year we welcomed Holland Friends to full monthly meeting status; all but one of the eight monthly meetings were present. The special relationship/sponsorship of GPQM and Friends School in Detroit has been reported in the past. This fall meeting also serves as the annual meeting for the School, when GPQM approves the new nominees for the board of trustees. The program in September 2008 was provided by members of the Quaker Earthcare Witness staff, Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox. They came from New England a day early in order to spend time on Friday with the children of Friends School in Detroit and to share their program on John Woolman. Their gifts and presence were much appreciated.

Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting hosted a truly enriching day for “Identifying Our Spiritual Joys that Bring Light to Our Meetings and Beyond.” There was a deep nurturing among GPQM Friends gathered that Saturday in February 2009.

The regular spring GPQM meetings take place the third Saturday in May (the 16th this year) at the Michigan Friends Center, near Chelsea, Michigan. In the morning, Friends met for worship, followed by a presentation by Michael Birkel on interfaith dialogue. Our time now is a rich opportunity for such dialogue, and Birkel shared insights gained from his experience as a teacher at Earlham College, as a speaker at Friends’ events, and as a participant in interfaith conversations.

Among the reports, Friends found it disturbing to learn that AFSC programs are at risk due to the national financial crisis, especially our Ann Arbor AFSC office programming. The situation will remain very uncertain at least until mid summer or fall. GPQM has a longstanding (since the 1950s) major commitment of support for AFSC programs in Ann Arbor.

In the early spring it was brought to our attention that Friends School in Detroit is facing financial problems as well, partly as a result of the

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overall financial and employment crisis in that city. The school head-master and GPQM clerk sent a letter to all the monthly meetings in the quarter alerting them of the crisis and requesting whatever financial response was possible. In April the Clerk of the School's board of trustees called a special meeting of a few Friends who have served the School and given continued support, the Clerk of GPQM being among them. The Headmaster and GPQM Clerk requested permission from LEYM Clerk to forward a similar letter to all the other LEYM monthly meetings. There also has been a variety of other efforts put forth by the School and many Friends. The board has worked closely with the School administrative staff overseeing the situation. Dwight Wilson, the Head-master, came to the spring GPQM business session in May with a progress report and he is with us now at LEYM to be available to LEYM Friends.

At the spring meeting the quarter expressed its loving concern and requested the GPQM clerk to schedule a *Called Meeting* at the Ann Arbor Meetinghouse in the very near future. Such a meeting was held Sunday, June 7, from 2 to 5 pm. All but one monthly meeting was represented at this meeting for Friends to meet in worship and to receive reports from the Headmaster and Clerk of the school board. That Clerk stated that their board is committed to opening the School in the fall and is in the process of developing restructure plans and procedures which soon will be ready to share with GPQM meetings. Friends raised questions, made suggestions, gave witness, and expressed a new sense of commitment to supporting this important work in the city of Detroit. There is a great need and GPQM's intention is to help spread the story of our wonderful unique school. After over 40 years of service this school continues to demonstrate through the transformed lives of its students that God's work in the Spirit reaches way beyond this school and that city. The GPQM Clerk is now preparing a special report to be forwarded to the GPQM monthly meetings.

We are looking forward to the addition of new and younger Friends stepping into leadership. The approved slate of officers at the spring meeting is: Shirley Bechill (Pine River MM), continuing as Clerk for one year; Diane Guenin-Lelle (Albion WG) as Assistant Clerk, who will become Clerk in fall of 2010; Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar MM) as Recording Clerk; and Debs Roush (Ann Arbor MM) continuing as Treasurer one more year.

To complete our GPQM year there is an annual meeting for worship for world peace held in Battle Creek, Michigan at "Quaker Park" on the first Sunday in August (close to Hiroshima Day). Friends are welcome to come for worship at 11 am, followed by fellowship and a potluck picnic on August 2, 2009.

In Love and Peace,
Shirley Bechill, GPQM Clerk

Nominating Slate (YM09 - 38)
LEYM Officers, Committees Members,
& Representatives

		<u>Year of Service</u>	<u>End Year</u>
Officers			
Presiding Clerk	Merry Stanford, Red Cedar	3	2010
Assistant Clerk	Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	1	2013
Recording Clerk	Joe Mills, Kalamazoo	3	2011
Asst. Recording Clerk	Margy Liske, Kent	1	2010
Treasurer	Eric Starbuck, Pittsburgh	2	2011
Bulletin Editor	Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor	5	2010

Other Positions

Webmaster	Bill Warters, Birmingham	5	2011
Database Manager	Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	5	2011

Committees

Advancement & Outreach

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	3	2010
Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki, Kalamazoo	3	2010
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	2	2011
Seth Reichenbach, North Columbus	1	2011
Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh, Clerk	4	2012
Janet Smith, Broadmead	1	2012

Arrangement & Site

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead, Co-Clerk	3	2010
Jon Sommer, Broadmead, Co-Clerk	6	2010
Berch Carpenter, Broadmead	2	2011
Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor	1	2011
Vanessa Fuson, Granville	4	2012
Kelly Helms, Ann Arbor	4	2012

Earthcare

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Others interested welcome

Dick Hogan, Athens	5	2010
Philip Clampitt, Birmingham, Co-Clerk	4	2010
Alan Connor, Ann Arbor	5	2011
Judy Greenberg, Broadmead, Co-Clerk	2	2011
Helen Söderberg, Red Cedar	4	2012
Jim Crowfoot, Ann Arbor	4	2012

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Finance & Budget

of Members: 3 Years of Term: 3

Treasurer serves ex officio

Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk	5	2011
Barbara Warrington, Kent	4	2012
Joyce Callahan, Cleveland	1	2012

High School Youth Program

*# of Members: 5 (3 adults with 3-year terms +
2 high schoolers with 2-year terms)*

Joyce Balderston, Wooster	1	2010
Steve Connor, Ann Arbor	1	2011
Joyce Callahan, Cleveland, Clerk	1	2012
Meaghan Diffenderfer, Cleveland, HS	3	2010
Jody Pratt-Harrington, Athens, HS	3	2011

Ministry & Nurture

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each Meeting encouraged

Years of Term: 3

Margy Liske, Kent	3	2010
Richard Lee, Red Cedar	3	2010
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham, Clerk	5	2011
Connie Bimber, Oberlin	2	2011
Don Nagler, Pine River	4	2012
Elaine Wilson, Ann Arbor	1	2012

Ministry & Nurture Monthly Meeting Representatives

Kri Burkander, Ann Arbor alternate
Suzanne Howell, Athens
Margaret Walden, Detroit
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo
Fred Feitler, Kent
Verne Bechill, Pine River

Nominating

of Members: 6 (Named by YM through Naming Committee)

Years of Term: 3

Philip Balderston, Wooster	3	2010
Star Mary Castro, Athens	3	2010
Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	2	2011
Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor, Clerk	2	2011
Ann Sprague, Detroit	1	2012
Mark Post, Grand Rapids	1	2012

Peace

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each Meeting encouraged

Years of Term: 3

David Lore, Granville, Clerk	6	2010
Kurt Liske, Kent	3	2010
Betty Ford, Grand Rapids	6	2011
James Satterwhite, Broadmead	5	2011
Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor	2	2012
Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead	1	2012

Program

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie, Co-Clerk	3	2010
Linda Mills, Kalamazoo	5	2011
Bekah Sommer, Broadmead	2	2011
Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor, Co-Clerk	4	2012
Janet Dando, Akron	1	2012
Valerie Vogel, Pittsburgh	1	2012

Publications & Archives

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Webmaster serves ex officio		
Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor, Co-Clerk	6	2010
Dan Bell, Broadmead	3	2010
Bob Roehm, North Columbus	3	2010
Nancy James, Pittsburgh	5	2011
_____, Co-Clerk	1	2012

Youth & Children Program

Years of Term: 2

Su Penn, Red Cedar	Clerk	2011
Nancy Nagler, Pine River	Assistant Clerk	2010
_____	Pre-school leader	2011
Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	Pre-school asst.	2010
Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens	Early elementary leader	2011
Mary Takahashi, Pine River	Early elementary asst.	2011
Peter Crowley, Cleveland	Upper elementary leader	2011
Timothy Damon, Cleveland	Upper elementary asst.	2010
Diane Mott, Broadmead	Middle school leader	2011
Walter Mead, Pittsburgh	Middle school asst.	2010
Steve Connor, Ann Arbor	High school leader	2010
Charlie Burnett, Athens	High school asst.	2010
Jessica Fox, Athens	Fall retreat clerk	
Marcia Goldstein, Athens	Fall retreat asst.	

LEYM Bookstore

Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	9
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Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

		<u>Year of Service</u>	<u>End Year</u>
AFSC	Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor	3	2010
AFSC	Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar	1	2011
AFSC	_____	1	2012
FCNL	David Snyder, Oberlin	7	2010
FCNL	Charlie Burnett, Athens	3	2010
FCNL	Thomas Burnett, Athens	3	2010
FCNL	Meg Hummon, Athens	5	2011
FCNL	Kathleen Peabody, Ann Arbor	1	2012
FCNL	_____	1	2012
FGC	Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	2	2010
FGC	Fred Feitler, Kent	3	2010
FGC	Steve Connor, Ann Arbor	1	2011
FGC	Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead	1	2012
	(LEYM Reps appoint rep to FGC Executive Committee)		
FWCC	Raelynn Joyce, Kalamazoo	6	2010
FWCC	Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids	3	2010
FWCC	Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh	4	2012
FWCC	Jerry Knutson, Pittsburgh	1	2012
	(LEYM Reps appoint own clerk)		
	(FWCC Triennial - World Conference in 2012; # of reps TBA)		
Q Earthcare Witness	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	7	
Q Earthcare Witness	Judy Greenberg, Broadmead (alt)	1	
FLGBTQC	Su Penn, Red Cedar	1	2010
Wm Penn House	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	2	
Olney Friends School	Greg Mott, Broadmead	2	

Visitors to Neighboring Yearly Meetings

Canadian YM	Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie	2
EFI Eastern Region	_____	
Ohio YM Conservative	LeRoy Curtis, Wooster	7
Ohio Valley YM	_____	
Wilmington YM	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	