

Minutes of Executive Committee October 27, 2012

EC12-10-1 Attendance

Committee clerks and officers of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gathered at the appointed time with the following persons in attendance:

Peggy Daub (Clerk), Peter Dale (Recording Clerk), Sally Weaver-Sommer (Assistant Clerk), Nancy Taylor (Peace), Mathilda Navias (Yearly Meeting Worker), Mike Hinshaw (Treasurer), Clemence Ravaçon-Mershon (Adult Program), Jon Sommer (Arrangements and Site), Jeff Cooper (Finance), Thomas Taylor (Nominating), Dolores Avner, (Advancement & Outreach), Paula Deming (Ministry & Nurture)

EC12-10-2 Worship

The meeting opened with silent worship.

EC12-10-3 Previous minutes

The minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting of seventh Month 26, 2012 were shared, discussed and approved to stand as corrected.

EC12-10-4 Clerk's Report

- A) The Clerk announced that the Fall Bulletin is completed and she hoped it would arrive before the rise of the meeting. [See #11 below.] The Annual Records (ARs) are being prepared and should be completed in the near future. Minutes from the Annual Sessions will be posted online in a PDF file. The Nominating Committee will also submit a PDF version of its report for online use prior to the publication of the ARs. Other portions of the Annual Records could also be put online, with care not to include individual contact information. Mathilda Navias will work with the Publications & Archives Committee on the issue of how much to put online. The Publications Committee will summarize Annual Sessions minutes for the Bulletin.
- B) In response to a request by the Clerk, Dolores Avner has asked Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting if it would be willing and able to host the coming Representative Meeting on Fourth Month 6. If it is unable to do so, Red Cedar Monthly Meeting will be asked.
- C) The Clerk announced that the Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM) Mid-winter Gathering is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of Third Month 23. Chuck Fager and Paul Buckley are slated to speak. While the details have yet to be finalized, it appears that the event will be hosted by Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting. Scot Miller (Grand Rapids) is handling the arrangements.
- D) Peggy Daub plans to attend the Friends General Conference (FGC) Consultation for Yearly Meeting Clerks 11/30—12/2, 2012 in Chicago.
- E) Other Consultations: We hope that two representatives from LEYM will be able to attend a grant-funded consultation on supporting youth activities early in 2013. The Assistant Clerk and a representative from the A&O committee will probably attend a consultation on supporting New Meetings sponsored by FGC in January 2013.

EC12-10-5 Yearly Meeting Worker Report: FGC Quaker Cloud

Mathilda Navias reported on the new FGC Quaker Cloud project being developed and designed to facilitate website development and hosting, with a central database and lots of links. It seems to her it will probably be something logical, useful and attractive to meetings. It is to have built in privacy elements, with security and technical support. The approach is to have the project be template driven, making it very user friendly. It looks like the service will be quite reasonably priced and LEYM will probably want

to move its website there eventually. Hopefully, the project will be able to be demonstrated at the Annual Sessions next summer.

The Clerk reminded members of the Executive Committee to check the LEYM website to make sure information within their purview is up-to-date and accurate. Contact information is especially important. Any necessary changes should be made known to the Yearly Meeting Worker.

EC12-10-6 Fall Youth Retreat

The Fall Youth Retreat (1st through 10th grades) took place at the UCC camp Temples Hills October 5-8. Fourteen youths and eight parents attended. Peter Crowley submitted a written report (supplemented by Clemence Ravaçon-Mershon in person). The Balderstons were great hosts at their farm on Saturday, teaching about stewardship as the youth helped with harvest and chores. Cooperative work and reaching across the wide age span of participants were important elements of the retreat. Participants seemed to have a very enjoyable time. Feedback Clemence obtained from the retreat will be used to help develop a youth program for the anniversary celebration during the up-coming Annual Sessions.

EC12-10-7 High School Teen Retreat Program

The Teen Retreat Program Committee will be considering with Robb Yurisko his plans for after his current commitment ends in late July 2013. If Robb does not continue, new leadership will need to be in place for the Fall 2013 retreat. The position is a very demanding one and a suitable replacement could be hard to put in place. Yearly Meeting is reminded that typically there are four High School Teen Retreats held yearly: in the summer; in the Fall; the weekend of Martin Luther King Day; and in the Spring. Consideration is being given to how best to provide Robb with up-to-date contact information for monthly meetings and teens.

EC12-10-8 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor reported that there have been two resignations from the committees that leave positions needing to be replaced in time for Representative Meeting, Fourth Month 6, 2013. Janet Smith has resigned from Advancement & Outreach and Connie Bimber has resigned from Ministry & Nurture.

There continue to be a position needing to be filled on the Arrangements & Site Committee and an Early Elementary Assistant position on the Youth & Children's Program Committee that need to be filled, as well.

EC12-10-9 Advices & Queries

The newly approved Advices and Queries were printed and distributed to monthly meetings by Thomas Taylor. The text will also be made available online on the Yearly Meeting website. As agreed at Annual Sessions, we believe that the Advices & Queries document should be a living thing, subject to occasional revision. We agreed that the Ministry & Nurture Committee be asked to establish a mechanism for gathering and compiling thoughts, comments, suggestions or criticisms of the text and share them with the Clerk. They should also discern when a formal revision of the document is needed and at that time recommend to the Clerk that a revision be undertaken. The Clerk confirmed that the Ad Hoc Committee on Advices & Queries was laid down as of the end of Annual Sessions, and Executive Committee took this opportunity to express deep gratitude to the members who served on the Ad Hoc Committees for their good work.

EC12-10-10 Finance Committee.

Jeff Cooper reported.

- A) The yearly meeting incurred a **deficit** of \$1,587.70 for the Annual Sessions. Jeff pointed out that, "if the practice of having a Teen Retreat at the Annual Meeting and/or the large amount for scholarships continues," the yearly meeting will need to find a way to fund it.
- B) Susan Hartman has completed a **financial review** of LEYM's books, including a year-end report for 2011-2012 with a full reconciliation with bank statements. Her written report includes a list of 13

recommendations, most of which apply to how the Treasurer maintains records, though a few involve policy the Finance Committee should consider. The committee expressed its deep gratitude to Susan for her effort and care in doing the review.

- C) The Finance Committee wishes to transfer money that has been invested in three Certificates of Deposit (CDs) at Urban Partnership Bank to the **Friends Fiduciary Corporation**. The committee feels that the transfer is sound, both as a financial decision, and as a decision to invest in keeping with Quaker social values. The committee can easily replicate the current arrangement with the CDs, whereby interest from one account is transferred to the Granville Youth Fund and interest from another re-invested. Because Friends Fiduciary requires a formal minute from groups opening new accounts with them, it was necessary for Executive Committee to minute approval that would have normally rested within the Finance Committee's purview. The following minute was approved:

The Executive Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting authorizes the establishment of accounts with Friends Fiduciary Corporation. We authorize our treasurer to undertake the necessary transactions on our part.

- D) The Finance Committee is trying to quickly find economical **liability insurance** for the yearly meeting. Many venues for meetings and retreats now require proof of insurance prior to rental or use of the facilities. The Spiritual Formation Program was required to buy insurance to cover its fall 2012 weekend retreat at the Weber Retreat and Conference Center in Adrian, Michigan. Booking the Retreat scheduled for fall 2013 at the Weber Center cannot be finalized due to this lack of liability insurance. The youth programs and potential service projects should probably also be insured. In its investigations so far, the committee has found that some companies would require us to be incorporated before insuring us.

Upon discussion, the Executive Committee felt that the yearly meeting should explore the options available to address the situation, so that the yearly meeting is not constrained in its activities in the future.

The Executive Committee approved delegating Treasurer Mike Hinshaw to obtain insurance for the Spiritual Formation Program Retreat and/or for the year as soon as possible, if financially feasible. They also asked the Finance Committee to sort out any significant questions or concerns of cost or policy (such as liability, incorporation, precedence, or philosophical considerations) regarding yearly insurance coverage and report to Representative Meeting.

EC12-10-11 Bulletin

Thomas Burnett, Bulletin Editor, was reached by telephone, and reported that the current Bulletin will be mailed, since an emergency prevented him attending the Executive Committee's meeting. He has set up an account with his printer in order to facilitate publication. The yearly meeting is reminded that First Month 1 is the deadline for submissions for the next issue.

EC12-10-12 Proposal for a 2013 Summer Workcamp in Detroit

Nancy Taylor presented a proposal for a 2013 summer workcamp in Detroit on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Service Projects. The project would likely be for the benefit of Friends School of Detroit. After significant discussion, it was agreed that the project needs a longer span of planning and should be delayed. There were four primary concerns:

- 1) There is no line in the budget for a workcamp and the committee was uncomfortable committing to payments without precedent and without approval of the Yearly Meeting.
- 2) Issues concerning liability insurance for all yearly meeting events are currently being examined and have yet to be resolved.
- 3) There might not be enough participation without an opportunity to make a presentation directly to the yearly meeting. It was felt that such a presentation would better ensure support and

participation.

- 4) It was learned that Friends School would not be able to cover any of the material costs, making it an open-ended expense.

Executive Committee is supportive of the work of the committee, but suggests pushing the actual date of the workcamp further out. It asked the Committee to continue its work and present more detailed plans as they become available.

The committee is hopeful that, if the concerns about liability, level of participation, vetting and payment for an organizer, and material costs are resolved, there will be approval for a workcamp in the summer of 2014. Assuming Tyler Hampton, the prospective workcamp leader, would still be interested in being involved, it would be helpful to have him attend Representative Meeting to discuss the proposed workcamps and prepare for a presentation at Annual Sessions in July.

The feasibility of undertaking a much more modest, local project in conjunction with the 2013 Annual Sessions, perhaps in Lima, was discussed. The Committee will investigate this possibility and possibly bring it for approval at Representative Meeting. A brief, inexpensive workcamp might be financially and logistically feasible.

EC12-10-13 Program Committee & Anniversary Celebration

A) Clerk Peggy Daub asked Executive Committee to reflect on what its desired outcomes from an anniversary celebration are. The group contributed the following:

- Give young people a sense of where they are on a continuum
- Present the germ underlying the organization, and its context in the world
- Understand LEYM's history, and see that it is not static but changing
- Have fun, show that we're listening to young friends and counting on them as we go forward
- See names and faces of those who have been involved over the years
- Time to reflect on points of growth and experience joy/fun
- Affirm who we are and what we want to nurture in the future
- Remember the unique personalities who have been involved
- Gain a better understanding of yearly meeting history, especially its development as a spiritual body; have particular business items/topics been formative?
- History and community

The clerk pointed out that many or all of these goals could be met by either modest means or larger efforts. We need to gauge the yearly meeting's interest and energy in order to have an appropriately-sized celebration that achieves what we hope it will.

- Perhaps have a memento (like the bookmark for Ann Arbor meeting's celebration) – as a reminder that we're growing spiritually
- Big timeline with invitations for people to share on it – photos; include a line into the future – the next 50 years
- Include what came before LEYM

B) Clemence reported for the Program Committee. The theme for the 2013 Annual Sessions and Anniversary Celebration is "Growing in Grace", with more emphasis on moving forward rather than merely our history. There was considerable discussion around when to hold plenary meetings and meetings for worship during the Sessions. The committee is wrestling with the scheduling and content of the evening programs. It is still in the process of finalizing a keynote speaker for the Sessions; many names were proposed, but it was agreed that the speaker should move us spiritually. The pulling together of a performance of The Fire and the Hammer is proving to be difficult. Among other programmatic elements under consideration are: an alternative simple dinner option for Thursday evening; a Teen Buddy System to help people who need assistance; a workshop on the history of LEYM. In the interest of more streamlined business sessions, committee clerks were asked to give more concise summaries as oral reports during the Sessions. More detailed reports could be submitted

for the Annual Records. Some concern was expressed that the large scope of the 2013 Annual Sessions, with its additional element of celebration, could be overwhelming to the committee. The committee responded that it felt that it could manage the Sessions and celebration, but should the need arise, it will approach the Executive Committee for assistance.

- C) The committee is continuing to develop an **Oral History Project** in monthly meetings beginning this winter. Meetings will be invited and encouraged to interview those with long associations with Quakers in our region. The committee will develop and provide a base list of questions to serve as a core for the interviews. It is hoped many youth in the meetings will be involved in the interviews. The committee will also examine the records to determine if any histories of the yearly meeting were collected in the 1990s.

EC12-10-14 Closing

The meeting rose after a period of silence.