

Table of Contents

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting June 17-20, 2004 Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

- YM2004-1 Roll Call
- YM2004-2 First-timer introductions
- YM2004-3 Travel letter for Zig Dermer and Rosemary Coffey
- YM2004-4 Naming Committee
- YM2004-5 Epistle Committee
- YM2004-6 Naming Committee Clerks: Change to Policies and Procedures
- YM2004-7
- EC04-3-2 Lessons for LEYM from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Business Sessions
- YM2004-8 Preserving institutional memory on committees
- YM2004-9 Report on Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting
- YM2004-10 Worship and Epistle from the Quaker Consultation on Prevention of Violent Conflict
- YM2004-11 Welcome to newcomers
- YM2004-12 Report on the FWCC Triennial held in New Zealand in January of 2004
- YM2004-13 Report on the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund
- YM2004-14 Advancement & Outreach Committee Report
- YM2004-15 Worship
- YM2004-16 Arrangements & Site Committee Report
- YM2004-17 Publications & Archives Committee Report
- YM2004-18 African Great Lakes Initiative
- YM2004-19 Youth & Children Committee Report
- YM2004-20 Program Committee Report
- YM2004-21 Report on Quaker EarthCare Witness
- YM2004-22 Advancement & Outreach Committee and Policies and Procedures
- YM2004-23 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report
- YM2004-24 Report on FGC's Traveling Ministries Program
- YM2004-25 Worship; Epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative); First-timer introductions
- YM2004-26 Report on LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program
- YM2004-27 Report on Michigan Friends Center
- YM2004-28 Treasurer's Report
- YM2004-29 Finance Committee Report
- YM2004-31 Concerns about the American Friends Service Committee
- YM2004-32 Report on Friends School in Detroit
- YM2004-33 LEYM Fall Retreat
- YM2004-34 Report on the high school youth program
- YM2004-35 Worship
- YM2004-36 Appoint representatives to the consultation on nurturing ministry in our meetings
- YM2004-37 Milestones reached by Broadmead and Kalamazoo Meetings
- YM2004-38 Nominations approved
- YM2004-39 Minute opposing "Defense of Marriage"-type amendments to state & federal constitutions
- YM2004-40 Report from Earthcare Committee of Concern
- YM2004-41 LEYM Letter of Concern to AFSC approved
- YM2004-42 Arrangements & Site Committee Report
- YM2004-43 Final changes to and approval of the budget

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 17-20, 2004

YM2004-44 Report on the Friends Committee on National Legislation
YM2004-45 Epistle
YM2004-46 Epistles from the Children and Teens
YM2004-47 Appointments to the Nominating Committee
YM2004-48 Closing

Committee Reports

Advancement & Outreach
Finance & Budget
Treasurer's Report
High School Youth Program
Nominating
Ministry & Nurture
Peace
Publications & Archives
Spiritual Formation Program
Letter to American Friends Service Committee concerning Reorganization
AFSC Emergency Material and Assistance Program
Detroit Friends School

Epistles

Children's and Teen's Epistles
Adult Epistle

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting June 17-20, 2004 Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting met for its 41st session on Sixth Month 17, 2004, at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio. We began with worship. We have heard the epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting challenging us to live more fully and faithfully into God-centered lives, and to proclaim the Truth we find. Our clerk Sally Weaver Sommer welcomed us to worship, fellowship, and the conduct of our business, all with attentiveness to the Spirit's leading.

YM2004-1 Roll Call

We have heard the roll call of people attending from our constituent monthly and preparative meetings and worship groups. The final official tally will be inserted later. We miss four members because of health issues who have participated faithfully in our Yearly Meeting for many years: Bill and Isabel Bliss and Leonora and Wallace Cayard. Personal notes and letters would be appreciated by them.

Akron	5	Kalamazoo	14
Ann Arbor	19	Kent	5
Athens	19	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	6	Monongalia	2
Broadmead	14	N. Columbus	2
Cleveland	14	Oberlin	4
Delaware	0	Pine River	4
Detroit	8	Pittsburgh	7
Grand Rapids	2	Red Cedar	4
Granville	8	Wooster	2

Albion (under Red Cedar)	2
Erie (under Pittsburgh)	1
Fremont (under Grand Rapids)	0
Holland PM (under Grand Rapids)	0
Indiana PM (under Pittsburgh)	0
Manitou (under Grand Rapids)	0
Rio Grande	0
Rock Road (under Wooster)	0
Sidney (under Broadmead)	0
Grand Traverse (under Grand Rapids)	0

YM2004-2 First-timer introductions

Folks who are attending Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for the first time were asked to introduce themselves. Travel minutes have been read for Julie Harlow from Davis Monthly Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting, with a concern about Friends House Moscow; Deborah Fisch of Paulina Monthly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), who is coordinator of Friends General Conference (FGC)'s Traveling Ministries Program; Ed Dreby of Mt. Holly Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, from Quaker EarthCare Witness; Susan Lee Barton of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, field staff of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC); Dave French of Madison Monthly Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting, visiting under FGC's Yearly Meeting Visitor Program.

YM2004-3 Travel letter for Zig Dermer and Rosemary Coffey

We have heard some of the endorsements on our travel letter for Zig Dermer and Rosemary Coffey, who visited Ireland with the Friendly FolkDancers in April, which was the 350th anniversary of Friends in Ireland.

YM2004-4 Naming Committee

We approve Margaret Kanost, Nancy Nagler, and Bill Hummon to serve on the Naming Committee to bring forth names of two Friends to serve three-year terms on the Nominating Committee.

YM2004-5 Epistle Committee

Assistant clerk Mike Fuson, Ellen Barnes, and Peter Wood are approved to serve on the Epistle Committee.

YM2004-6 Naming Committee Clerks: Change to Policies and Procedures

The language of our *Policies and Procedures* [Section IV, E. Standing Committees, 5. Nominating Committee] regarding the task of the Nominating Committee to name committee clerks has been somewhat ambiguous. Friends, therefore, approve the following change:

- (1) To discern and to secure acceptance of, in advance of Yearly Meeting, nominations for officers and such committee and subcommittee members and representatives to other Friends' organizations, including yearly meetings within our Lower Great Lakes region of FWCC, as are called for by current activities of the Yearly Meeting. Thus most of the work is done at Representative Meeting. In addition, those attending Yearly Meeting who desire committee or other assignments should so state on their application forms; this information and the names of all persons attending LEYM shall be promptly passed on to the Nominating Committee.
- (2) To name, after consulting with current committees, a clerk for each standing committee by the rise of Yearly Meeting.
- (3) To function throughout the year to fill vacancies as they occur or additional positions as they are needed.
- (4) To advise the Yearly Meeting when a committee may need to be laid down.
- (5) To choose which representatives to FWCC may attend the Triennial. (Selection shall normally be of someone who has not previously attended.)
- (6) To provide, promptly at the close of Yearly Meeting, an accurate, complete list of all appointments to the Yearly Meeting Clerks, the clerk of each standing committee, and the Bulletin Editor.
- (7) To keep accurate records of each individual's initial year of appointment to a committee so that the limit of six consecutive years is not exceeded.

YM2004-7

We have heard a minute from Executive Committee that was read and affirmed at Representative Meeting in Third Month, 2004. It is printed on page 9 of the Spring 2004 LEYM *Bulletin*.

EC04-3-2 Lessons for LEYM from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Business Sessions

Don Nagler reported on his experience at Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), where all reports are in writing and are read by reading clerks. This fosters the sense of ongoing worship, with less conversation from the floor. It requires committee work ahead of time. It is felt that our Yearly Meeting sessions tend to have lengthy reports with little time for prayerful reflection on issues that need discernment. On the other hand, some value our informality. Friends seem to prefer that each committee discern which few things it wants to bring to the attention of the entire body, especially those things that need further discernment. All the rest of the committees' work can be included in the published reports. It may help to have a committee report its issue or question and then lay it over to allow time for anyone with questions

to speak with committee members. Then at a later session the body can perhaps arrive at a decision more smoothly. Friends agree we want to be more disciplined in our committee reports, differentiating between information and things that need input from the larger body. The reports should be brief, with more communication between committee clerks and the presiding clerk in order to build the agenda. We are reminded to help create a culture in which the clerk has been given authority to discern on whom to call to speak, and that we are not a “town meeting” in which everyone has the right to speak.

YM2004-8 Preserving institutional memory on committees

As members rotate off committees and new Friends come on, a great deal of institutional memory seems to get lost. We are reminded of our current *Policies and Procedures* that specifies that each committee is responsible for preparing its own policies and procedures and seeing that these get passed on to incoming clerks. Current clerks of committees that have no written outlines of procedures, history of past and current projects, and/or a file of committee minutes are asked to work on getting such things into a notebook or folder to pass on to future clerks.

Each committee shall develop its own set of procedures (in manual form) to guide its continuing work. Copies of these committee manuals shall go to the Clerk of LEYM and all respective committee members. Retiring committee clerks and members are responsible for passing their copies on to their replacements. The procedures may well include times when the committee will meet during the year, and the expected time when a committee report will be written, published, and submitted to the Clerk of LEYM.

YM2004-9 Report on Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

We have heard a report from the outgoing clerk of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, which has responsibility for Friends School in Detroit, support for the Michigan area office of the AFSC, and several other things. The Quarterly Meeting has gotten under the weight of a concern for the small worship groups, especially those that don't meet every week. Monthly meetings outside of Michigan that do not have these opportunities for meeting together are encouraged to consider forming quarterly meetings.

YM2004-10 Worship and Epistle from the Quaker Consultation on Prevention of Violent Conflict

We reconvened Sixth Day morning, with worship. We have heard the epistle from the Quaker Consultation on Prevention of Violent Conflict, held in Burundi. Amid the horror and devastation left in the wake of violence, we witness miracles of reconciliation and peace making, sense the faith and work of Friends in Africa, and hear their call for a renewal of our testimony to the power of God to enable us to live and work creatively for peace, justice, and the integrity of creation.

YM2004-11 Welcome to newcomers

We again welcome those who are attending LEYM for the first time. We have heard a letter of introduction for Paul Buckley of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, from Earlham School of Religion (ESR); Paul has recently published his translation into modern English of a number of works by William Penn. We welcome Roy Joe and Ruth E. Stuckey of Campus Friends Meeting, Wilmington Yearly Meeting, sojourning members of Monte Verde Monthly Meeting, who are representing FWCC.

YM2004-12 Report on the FWCC Triennial held in New Zealand in January of 2004

We have heard a report from our representatives sent from LEYM to the FWCC Triennial held in New Zealand in First Month, 2004. Margaret Kanost's more detailed report is available in the Spring 2004 LEYM *Bulletin*, pages 20-21. Today she shared more personal stories and a number of objects reflecting Aotearoa/New Zealand. We are informed of a prayer request for 350 Congolese Friends who have fled their homes in the past week as civil war has broken out again in their country. Our representatives report on the financial difficulties of FWCC. We are reminded that LEYM's general policy is not to make direct

donations to organizations, but to rely on monthly meetings to do this. Twenty-five percent of all contributions to the Section of the Americas is passed on to the FWCC World Office in London. Along with its primary function of connecting Friends across our theological, geographical, and institutional boundaries, FWCC also sponsors the Quaker United Nations Offices in New York and Geneva (in conjunction with the AFSC and British Friends). LEYM is part of the Lower Great Lakes Region of FWCC's Section of the Americas. The regional group meets once a year. This fall it is the turn of LEYM to be host, and the venue will be Friends School in Detroit, October 2 and 3. Help is needed; volunteers are requested to contact Margaret Kanost, Zig Dermer, or Susan Lee Barton, who is the FWCC staff person, located in Richmond, IN. She is available to help provide information and resources to ten yearly meetings in mid-America.

YM2004-13 Report on the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund

We are informed of the work of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund. A resolution has recently been introduced to the New York City Council urging Congress to enact and the President to sign H.R. 2037, the "Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act." Plans are underway by the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund to hold hearings to highlight the sufferings of citizens who are conscientiously objecting to paying military taxes. The tenth international conference will be held in Brussels. Friends approve that a travel minute be provided for our member David Bassett as he attends the conference, expressing our support of his faithful work on this concern.

YM2004-14 Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

We have heard a report from Advancement & Outreach Committee, which is attached.

YM2004-15 Worship

We re-gathered in the afternoon for worship. We are grateful for all the gifts bestowed on us.

YM2004-16 Arrangements & Site Committee Report

We have heard a report from the Arrangements & Site Committee, which is attached. Next year there may have to be a \$20 refundable deposit for keys, since LEYM was billed for the cost of several keys not returned last year.

YM2004-17 Publications & Archives Committee Report

We have heard a report from the Publications & Archives Committee, which is attached. If anyone has photographs from our 1999 sessions, they would be appreciated for inclusion in our LEYM scrapbook. Please send donated pictures to Joe Mills. The time has come to reassess the current experiment of posting the LEYM *Bulletin* on the web, printing only 250 copies instead of 1000, and mailing them mostly to archives and in bulk to meetings. This method saves considerable time and effort. As there are no complaints, Friends approve continuing this way of distributing the *Bulletin*. We are very grateful to all the work that Eric Starbuck has done as *Bulletin* editor, editor of the *Annual Records*, web master, and database and Directory compiler.

YM2004-18 African Great Lakes Initiative

Clémence Mershon intends to leave July 5 for Rwanda to volunteer with the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI). They plan to build classrooms for children orphaned by the genocide. She expects to return Aug. 23 and would delight in invitations to visit meetings to tell of her experiences and the work of Friends in that area. Our prayers go with Clémence in this work.

YM2004-19 Youth & Children Committee Report

We have heard a report from the Youth & Children Committee. There are 20 children and young people here now, and about ten more are expected on the weekend. There are 11 high school students, who miss the three additional Friends who usually attend high school functions. Our thanks go to all the people who are working with our children and youth this session. The fall 2003 youth retreat was so successful that

the parents and children organized and held another weekend in March 2004 in Cleveland.

YM2004-20 Program Committee Report

We have heard a report from the Program Committee, which is attached. We appreciate the work of the committee in organizing the schedule and events at these sessions.

YM2004-21 Report on Quaker EarthCare Witness

We have heard a report from Quaker EarthCare Witness, formerly known as Friends Committee in Unity with Nature. It is now affiliated with FCNL and intends to work more closely with monthly meetings. The focus is to restore the eco-logical integrity of the earth. We are informed that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting now sees the connection between this goal, working for peace, and the spiritual life of individuals and meetings.

YM2004-22 Advancement & Outreach Committee and Policies and Procedures

Advancement & Outreach Committee informs us that, after receiving feedback and taking the matter under further consideration, it withdraws its recommended changes in our *Policies and Procedures*. Advancement & Outreach intends to consider the entire section on membership and hopes to bring some recommendations about it to Representative Meeting in 2005.

YM2004-23 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

We have heard an oral report from Ministry & Nurture Committee. Twelve of the twenty monthly meetings have submitted narrative state of the meeting reports. Some of the meetings returned responses to the queries, and these have been filed in a notebook. The Committee would like Program Committee to reinstate small worship sharing groups during yearly meeting. The following psalm/query is offered to monthly meetings for this coming year:

How long, O God, how long must we remain complacent in our spiritual and physical relationships with the earth and sun which sustain us? How may we alter these relationships in a restorative way?

YM2004-24 Report on FGC's Traveling Ministries Program

Deborah Fisch, FGC staff, who works with the Traveling Ministries Program as well as several other FGC programs, spoke to us. The main work of the Traveling Ministries Program is to facilitate visits to meetings by seasoned Friends. The TMP also hosts an annual retreat for those who travel in the ministry. Every other year it holds a consultation for representatives from yearly meetings affiliated with FGC. LEYM is invited to name two Friends to attend the consultation in November on nurturing ministry in our meetings. Deborah asks, in this time of rapid change, when decisions are being made in our name as citizens in a great world power, what has God given to us for the world? What are we doing to prepare ourselves to be instruments for this message? As Friends have traveled in the ministry under the TMP, they have heard a great hunger and yearning for solid spiritual food. We could again learn to speak boldly to each other of what God has given us, so that we can then have the courage to speak to the world that so desperately needs the message of God's love and presence, that the Divine Spirit is available to instruct and guide us all into a more rightly ordered way of life.

YM2004-25 Worship; Epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative); First-timer introductions

We gathered on Seventh Day morning in worship, and heard the epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). Again, first-time attenders to LEYM were given an opportunity to introduce themselves. We are delighted with all the folks who are tasting our yearly meeting. We also welcome Leanne Jablonski, a Marianist sister who works with the Ohio Council of Churches' Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign, and Patricia Powers of Sandy Springs Monthly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, staff lobbyist for FCNL with a particular interest in Native American issues.

YM2004-26 Report on LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program

We have heard a report, which is attached, from the Spiritual Formation Program Committee, which for seven years has been providing encouragement and a program for spiritual nurture for individuals and, through them, our meetings. The cost of the program has risen, especially for the opening and closing weekend retreats. The committee has requested from the Finance Committee funds for scholarships. The committee is sponsoring a retreat for individuals and for spiritual friends, Sept. 10-12, at the Leaven Center in Michigan.

YM2004-27 Report on Michigan Friends Center

We have heard an oral report about the Michigan Friends Center, which is under the care of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting and in relationship with Friends Lake Cooperative Community. This past year it has hosted a number of excellent programs on a variety of topics. The upcoming schedule is available on the web.

YM2004-28 Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer has reported on the finances of LEYM, and her report is attached. After July 1, Erika Smith will deposit the checks, while Connie Bimber will continue to receive and pay bills. All checks should be sent to Erika Smith at 19425 Argyle Crescent, Detroit, MI 48203-1401. We are deeply grateful for the care that Connie Bimber has devoted to LEYM's finances for the past ten years.

YM2004-29 Finance Committee Report

We have heard a report from the Finance Committee. At Representative Meeting it was recommended that we make a special one-time contribution of \$500 to the World Office of FWCC. It was also recommended that we raise \$2,000 to support the participation of two representatives to the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends (aged 18-35) at the University of Lancaster, England. Regarding this, \$1,000 is to be transferred from reserves and \$500 from the youth activities fund; the rest already has been donated. The Spiritual Formation Program has asked for a line item of \$500 for supplies and scholarships, which the Finance Committee recommends. Finance Committee therefore recommends a total budget for next year of \$26,070, which comes to about \$31 per member. While this is not a formal assessment, Friends are reminded that we all have a responsibility to support our yearly meeting. Friends request that a copy of the proposed budget may be viewed during its consideration by the yearly meeting. The Finance Committee is asked to do this for next year. In order for the Finance Committee to be able to furnish a copy, requests for new or changed budget amounts should be forwarded to Finance Committee by a specific date to be determined. Friends are reminded that the budget is given a first reading at Representative Meeting and the report of Finance Committee's recommendations have been printed in the spring LEYM *Bulletin*, on page 11. Friends will consider the budget for final action later in our yearly meeting sessions.

YM2004-30 We have heard a report from the Peace Committee. Our attention is drawn to Friends School in Detroit's "Kids 4 Afghan Kids" program. In six years the project has blossomed. The school (grades 1-7) has nearly doubled in enrollment, and planning is underway to construct a middle school building and eventually a high school. The health clinic is receiving solid support from the International Medical Corps. There is an enlarged orphanage for 50 boys. See their website at www.kids4afghankids.com for more information. Our attention is also drawn to H. R. 2037, the "Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act." Peace Committee recommends a minute in response to Ohio's so-called "Defense of Marriage Act"; Friends will take this up again later in our sessions, after time to consider it further.

YM2004-31 Concerns about the American Friends Service Committee

We have heard a report of some of the changes in the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) that have an impact on local offices. The Michigan area office has had two programs. One is on criminal justice, the other has worked to educate against bigotry or restrictive legislation directed at lesbian, gay,

bisexual, and transgendered people. The AFSC is facing a financial crisis as expenses rise and donations in this country remain flat, while international funding is actually shrinking. Major questions about the direction in which the national office seems to be heading include devolving programs, corporate reorganization and governance, and employee background checks. After considerable discussion, Friends ask that a letter be drafted to be sent by LEYM to the executive director and the clerk of the AFSC board. Marvin Barnes, Dolores Avner, Jim Satterwhite, and Marty Grundy are asked to bring a draft to us tomorrow. Individual Friends are encouraged to seek out members of the AFSC board for additional information and dialogue.

YM2004-32 Report on Friends School in Detroit

We have heard a report about the Friends School in Detroit, where there are many exciting and encouraging new developments. The report is attached. Financial help continues to be needed.

YM2004-33 LEYM Fall Retreat

The proposal to hold an LEYM fall retreat has been considered by the committee named at Representative Meeting. The purpose of the fall retreat would be fellowship. The fall youth retreat is scheduled for Oct. 15-17, and there had been a hope to hold the adult retreat concurrently. While the Temple Hills facility doesn't seem adequate to these dual needs, there is a nearby retreat center, Heartlands, which might be available for adults. Friends generally approve the idea of a fall retreat, but that it be held in 2005. We ask Executive Committee to find two central Ohio Friends to join the planning committee.

YM2004-34 Report on the high school youth program

We have heard a report from the high school youth program with its staff support from Kri Anderson; it is attached. There have been four weekend events, including one with high school students from Northern YM, Illinois YM, and Ohio Valley YM. The committee recommends that the program be continued, which Friends are glad to approve. The committee further recommends – and Friends approve – that a more permanent committee be appointed to care for the high school youth program. This would have two-year staggered terms for one or two teens, a parent, a liaison with the YM high school program, a person to serve as clerk, and the program coordinator in an ex officio capacity. This committee would be entirely separate from the committee in Ann Arbor Meeting that supports and cares for Kri's ministry. We are informed that a committee of LEYM and Baltimore YM people has been formed to plan a work camp for 16-18 year olds to go to Moscow in Sixth Month 2005. The cost is expected to be about \$1,300 per person.

YM2004-35 Worship

We gathered again on First Day morning for our final session, beginning with a brief time of worship.

YM2004-36 Appoint representatives to the consultation on nurturing ministry in our meetings

We approve Connie Bimber and Nancy Nagler to be our LEYM representatives to the FGC Traveling Ministries Program consultation on nurturing ministry in our meetings. It will be held November 14-16, 2004, near Pittsburgh.

YM2004-37 Milestones reached by Broadmead and Kalamazoo Meetings

We are informed that Broadmead Monthly Meeting is 30 years old this month, and Kalamazoo was established 50 years ago. The latter plans to host a celebration Sept. 10-12. We are delighted in the life and growth these milestones symbolize.

YM2004-38 Nominations approved

We have heard the final report of the Nominating Committee, which is attached and will be published in the *Annual Records*. Friends approve the recommendations of the committee. The committee will attempt to find Friends willing and able to serve in the few remaining open positions. We authorize the Executive Committee to consider and approve – or not – these additional names. We are grateful for the work of the

Nominating Committee.

YM2004-39 Minute opposing “Defense of Marriage”-type amendments to state & federal constitutions

Peace Committee brings again to our attention its concern about movements in Ohio and Michigan to put constitutional amendments on the November ballot to ban recognition of same-gender marriage or civil unions. We approve the following minute, which we direct to be sent to a number of political officials and Quaker organizations.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting affirms there is that of God in each person, without regard to sexual orientation. On that basis, we oppose attempts to adopt discriminatory “Defense of Marriage”-type amendments to state and federal constitutions. We believe that such constitutional amendments would make it extremely difficult for a national consensus on this issue to evolve, and that such pre-emptive amendments would be contrary to our understanding of the spirit of God’s love.

YM2004-40 Report from Earthcare Committee of Concern

We have heard a report from the Earthcare committee of concern, which is attached. Monthly meetings are urged to earnestly consider the queries this year on earth care. Members of the committee of concern are available to monthly meetings or individuals for additional information.

YM2004-41 LEYM Letter of Concern to AFSC approved

Friends appointed to draft a letter to the AFSC bring the following, which is attached. Friends approve that this be sent over our clerk’s signature to the clerk of the AFSC board and to the executive director, with a copy to the Michigan area office.

YM2004-42 Arrangements & Site Committee Report

We are informed by the Arrangements & Site Committee that 147 people have attended over the four days of our yearly meeting sessions. We thank Bill Greenberg for the colorful and helpful spreadsheet he printed out that has facilitated the registration process. We approve meeting here again, June 16-19, 2005.

YM2004-43 Final changes to and approval of the budget

Finance Committee brings the following minutes, which Friends now approve:

We were informed by our FWCC representatives that the 20-year World Gathering of Young Friends (18 to 35 years) is planned for August 2005 at Lancaster University, England, and that LEYM could send two participants. One representative recommended that LEYM plan to send participants and that we establish a special fund to assist in their expenses, with a minimum goal of \$2,000. This recommendation was approved by Representative Meeting. The Finance Committee recommended that \$1,000 from the General Fund reserve and \$500 from the Youth Activity Fund be transferred to the fund, and that special gifts be solicited for the remainder. The treasurer has since received \$700 for this purpose and we need your approval for these actions. (Approved)

An FWCC representative reported on the critical condition of the London Headquarters Office of FWCC, whose treasury and reserves are almost exhausted; he asks that a one-time contribution of \$500 be made by LEYM to ameliorate the situation. The Representative Meeting approved. We need your post-approval of this action, minute RM04-3-15. (Approved)

The Spiritual Formation Group has requested support of \$500 for its 2004-05 budget, to be used for scholarships and supplies. The Finance Committee recommends approval. (Approved)

The treasurer recommends no other changes in the 2004-05 expense budget from the current 2003-04 budget. With the \$500 just approved for Spiritual Formation, the Finance Committee recommends a 2004-05 budget total of \$26,070 and requests approval. (Approved)

Friends approve the 2004-05 budget as offered in minute YM2004-29.

There was some discussion about the \$200 already donated to LEYM above the \$2,000 earmarked for the World Gathering of Young Friends. A difficulty with supporting this event is that it is being planned by an ad hoc committee that does not have 501(c)3 status. Friends approve that any funds above what is needed (up to \$2,000) for the expenses of our own two LEYM representatives to the World Gathering be used to help provide assistance to yearly meeting representatives from other parts of the world. We ask the Executive Committee to investigate how this might be done within our procedures. Friends and monthly meetings are encouraged to make additional contributions to assist the World Gathering of Young Friends. Finance Committee thanks Michael Fuson for developing an operating procedure; it is currently being used by our treasurer.

YM2004-44 Report on the Friends Committee on National Legislation

We are informed that the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) capital campaign has been a resounding success. Because of the current political situation in our nation, FCNL has significantly expanded its program and staff. Friends are encouraged to contribute generously right now, before FCNL's fiscal year ends on 6/30.

YM2004-45 Epistle

We delight in the presence of the entire yearly meeting family to hear one another's epistles. We have heard and approve the message from the adult sessions. We are grateful that our epistle committee has reported with integrity on our time together, and that we are sending a message of hope into the larger world of Friends.

YM2004-46 Epistles from the Children and Teens

The middle school class read their epistle, which explained how they explored the concept of integrity. It also described their very full schedule. The pre-school reported on its play-dough- and art-filled times together. The early elementary class of four showed us their self-portraits and read their epistle describing what they did. The upper elementary class took turns reading their epistle to us. The high school group presented its epistle in the form of an Integrity Anonymous meeting skit. It concluded with the "integrity prayer," which sums up their understanding of the concept:

Integrity is the honor that comes from honesty and kindness, while being strong enough to openly stand and live by what you believe.

YM2004-47 Appointments to the Nominating Committee

The Naming Committee recommends that Connie McPeak Green be appointed to the Nominating Committee for a three-year term. Friends approve with appreciation. The Naming Committee intends to recommend to the Executive Committee the name of a second Friend for final approval. Friends agree with this arrangement.

YM2004-48 Closing

There being no further business we conclude, hoping to meet again Sixth Month 16, 2005, here at Bluffton College, God willing.

Committee Reports

Advancement & Outreach

The Advancement & Outreach Committee was blessed at our meetings yesterday with the fellowship of Dave French and Merry Stanford. Dave offered insight and experience from his involvement with FGC Advancement & Outreach Committee and Northern Yearly Meeting. Merry carried a concern about inter-visitation among Friends in LEYM from Ministry & Nurture Committee. We were moved by the vision shared

by Merry and grateful for the spiritual foundation of the concern.

Advancement & Outreach continues to be grateful for news of meetings and worship groups within LEYM. We look forward to visiting meetings and deepening our connections.

We are developing articles to be published in future *Bulletins*. We are moving forward on a concern to help monthly meetings develop or refine web sites. We also plan to work with Eric Starbuck to refine the Yearly Meeting web site and possibly develop new material for it.

ITEM FOR YEARLY MEETING ACTION: Proposed revisions to *Policies & Procedures Manual*.

Acting Clerk,
Mathilda Navias

Finance & Budget

Several transactions recommended at Representative Meeting, 3/6/04, require your action in this sequence. We were informed by our FWCC representatives that the 20-year World Gathering of Young Friends (18 to 35 years) is planned for August 2005 at Lancaster University, England, and that LEYM could send two participants. One representative recommended that LEYM plan to send participants and that we establish a special fund to assist in their expenses, with a minimum goal of \$2,000. This recommendation was approved by Representative Meeting. The Finance Committee recommended that \$1,000 from the General Fund reserve and \$500 from the Youth Activity Fund be transferred to the fund, and that special gifts be solicited for the remainder. The treasurer has since received \$700 for this purpose and we need your approval for these actions. (Approved)

An FWCC representative reported on the critical condition of the London Headquarters Office of FWCC, whose treasury and reserves are almost exhausted; he asks that a one-time contribution of \$500 be made by LEYM to ameliorate the situation. The Representative Meeting approved. We need your post-approval of this action, minute RM04-3-15. (Approved)

The Spiritual Formation Group has requested support of \$500 for its 2004-05 budget, to be used for scholarships and supplies. The Finance Committee recommends approval. (Approved)

The treasurer recommends no other changes in the 2004-05 expense budget from the current 2003-04 budget. With the \$500 just approved for Spiritual Formation, the Finance Committee recommends a 2004-05 budget total of \$26,070 and requests approval. (Approved)

The Fair Share contribution for next year will be \$31 per member, unchanged from the current year. To accomplish our LEYM plans, we need Monthly Meeting cooperation to reach or exceed this goal.

We close with thanks to Asst. Clerk Michael Fuson for his Finance Committee Working Procedures, which Treasurer Connie Bimber has been using.

Finance and Budget Committee
Joe Davis, clerk

Treasurer's Report

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Treasurer's Report July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2004
By Connie Bimber

FUND	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	CURRENT BALANCE
General Fund	7,476.97	22,956.04	23,916.46	\$6,516.55
Annual Meeting	13,481.81	15,731.46	26,251.77	\$2,961.50
Triennial Travel	3,830.95	1,240.00	4,764.11	\$306.84
Granville Friends Y.F.	5,510.60	185.66	185.66	\$5,510.60
Youth Activity Fund	924.10	1,625.66	2,428.25	\$121.51
Spiritual Formation Grp	52.35	3,217.64	2,846.03	\$423.96
High School Program	\$752.00	6,787.69	6,092.49	\$1,447.20
World Gathering Y.F.		2,650.00		\$2,650.00
TOTALS	32,028.78	54,394.15	66,484.77	\$19,938.16

ACCOUNT	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	DEBITS	CURRENT BALANCE
CHECKING	22,390.30	46,222.42	58,359.11	\$10,253.61
SHOREBANK -March	2,038.60	21.46	0.00	\$2,060.06
SHOREBANK - Sept	2,089.28	24.61	0.00	\$2,113.89
SOUTHSHORE BANK	5,510.60	185.66	185.66	\$5,510.60
TOTALS	32,028.78	46,454.15	58,544.77	\$19,938.16

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 17-20, 2004

General Fund – INCOME

Akron	496.00	
Ann Arbor	4,216.00	
Athens	1,200.00	
Birmingham	784.00	
Broadmead	750.00	
Cleveland	2,666.00	
Delaware	372.00	
Detroit	300.00	
Grand Rapids	756.00	
Granville	600.00	
Kalamazoo	1,333.00	
Kent	624.00	
Mid-Ohio Valley	165.00	
Monongalia	250.00	
N. Columbus	0.00	
Oberlin	558.00	
Pine River	496.00	
Pittsburgh	5,455.62	
Red Cedar	660.00	
Wooster	806.00	
Misc.	377.42	
Sales & Fees	0.00	
Checking		42.93
CDs		46.07
Interest	91.00	
TOTAL	22,865.04	

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 17-20, 2004

General Fund – EXPENSES

EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PERCENT
World Gathering of Young Friends*		\$1,000.00	
Travel	\$5,500.00	\$4,666.15	85%
Office	\$300.00	\$116.05	39%
Publications	\$4,400.00	\$3,169.26	72%
FGC	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	100%
Records Project	\$200.00	\$100.00	50%
Advancement	\$130.00	\$0.00	0%
Clerk's Fund	\$500.00	\$35.00	7%
FWCC Travel*	\$1,240.00	\$1,240.00	100%
Youth Activity Fund*	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	100%
Olney Friends School	\$600.00	\$600.00	100%
FGC Nurturing Fund	\$500.00	\$500.00	100%
High School Youth Fund*	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	100%
Misc		\$290.00	
Totals	\$25,570.00	\$23,916.46	94%

* = transfers

Annual Meeting

Balance June 30, 2003	\$13,481.81
Expense	26,251.77
Income	\$15,731.46
Balance June 30, 2004	\$2,961.50

FWCC Triennial Travel Fund

Balance June 30, 2003	\$3,830.95
Expense	\$4,764.11
Income - Transfer	\$1,240.00
Balance June 30, 2004	\$306.84

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 17-20, 2004

Granville Friends Youth Fund

Balance June 30, 2003	\$5,510.60
Interest income	\$185.66
Transfer - outgo	\$185.66
Balance June 30, 2004	\$5,510.60

Earnings are transferred to the Youth Activity Fund.

Youth Activity Fund

Balance June 30, 2003		\$924.10
Income - transfer	\$1,200.00	
Income - interest	\$185.66	
Income - Youth Retreat	\$240.00	
Total Income this year		\$1,625.66
TOTAL INCOME		\$2,549.76
Expense - Grants	\$1,103.25	
Expense - World Gathering	\$500.00	
Expense - youth retreat	\$825.00	
Total Expense		\$2,428.25
Balance June 30, 2004		\$121.51

Spiritual Formation Group

Balance June 30, 2003	\$52.35
Income	\$3,217.64
Expense	\$2,846.03
Balance June 30, 2004	\$423.96

High School Youth Program

Income	Budget	Actual
From Green Pastures QM		\$540.69
Donations	\$1,000.00	\$1,032.00
Transfer from Gen. Fund	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Retreats	\$0	\$1,282.00
Fund Raising		\$685.00
Total Income	\$5,000.00	\$7,539.69

Note - Donations include \$752 donated last year.

Expense	Budget	Actual
Program expenses	\$1,000.00	\$427.50
Stipend	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Retreats		\$1,264.99
T-shirts		\$400.00
Total Expense	\$5,000.00	\$6,092.49
Balance June 30, 2004		\$1,447.20

World Gathering of Young Friends

Income

Transfer fm General Fund	\$1,000.00
Transfer fm Youth Activity F.	\$500.00
Donations	\$1,150.00
Total Income	\$2,650.00

High School Youth Program

June 16, 2004

Program Activities

Kri Anderson, Program Coordinator, conducted four successful quarterly retreats with and on behalf of LEYM youth, as per LEYM's agreement with her. These events were:

1. An informal summer retreat with eight young people at Michigan Friends Center. Activities including camping, swimming, worshipping together, and enjoying each other's company.
2. A fall retreat over Halloween weekend at Pittsburgh Meeting, with a theme of mask-making. Ten young people participated, and they reported that they want to go back to Pittsburgh sometime because of the beautiful meeting house and the wonderful hospitality! The event pulled in some Pittsburgh kids that had

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 17-20, 2004

not yet been to Annual Meeting. The Meeting joined the retreat for a potluck and talent show on Saturday evening, and the young people joined the Meeting for worship on Sunday.

3. The Second Annual Quake that Rocked the Midwest was held in Evanston, Illinois, over the Martin Luther King, Jr., weekend in January, involving youth from Northern YM, Illinois YM, Ohio Valley YM, and LEYM. 20 young people attended, with about 6 from LEYM. Workshops were led by Carolyn Lejuste (LEYM) on peacework, Breeze Luetke-Stahlman (IYM) on exploring the Quaker testimonies using radio, and Nancy Duncan (IYM) on healthy sexuality. It was an opportunity for these Midwestern Quaker youth to get together and build community, strengthening their sense of cohesion and identity as Midwestern Quakers. The shared meeting for worship at Evanston Meeting was very powerful. Many young people spoke in meeting who had never spoken before. Adults also spoke to the power of the youth presence. Feedback from meetings has generally been that hosting youth retreats, and having youth present, really enlivens and freshens the life of the meeting.
4. A retreat was held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, March 19-21, 2004, in which eight young people of LEYM participated. Susan Jeffers presented passages in the Bible dealing with power: the powers that be, personal power, and the power of God. Young Friends attended a peace rally at the University of Michigan and a ska concert performed by a band that includes one of our young Friends.

The High School Youth Program had also tentatively planned a trip to Russia in June 2004. That trip was postponed until June 2005, and will be a joint project of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Young Friends who are 16 through 18 years old are invited to apply soon. A planning committee has been formed, including Kri Anderson, LEYM, and Marcia Holiday and Stu Breyer, both of BYM. Friends House Moscow has been involved in advising the planning committee regarding logistics. The next step is soliciting applications, determining participants, and raising funds. The committee anticipates costs at \$1300 per person; fundraising by the participants will reduce that cost to themselves or to the Yearly Meeting. Activities will include service work at a local school, a visit to Friends House Moscow, including a presentation on FHM's Quaker witness in Russia and Europe, and sightseeing. There will be a ratio of one adult to each five or six young Friends.

Recommendations

1. Based on the successful completion of this first pilot year of the High School Youth Program, the committee heartily recommends that this program be continued.
2. The committee recognized that input was needed from significant persons who were not represented on the committee. We therefore recommend that the High School Youth Program Committee be comprised of one or two high school youth, a parent representative, a liaison representative of the High School Program of the annual sessions of LEYM, and a clerk. The Program Coordinator should serve as ex-officio member of the committee.

The Committee also recommends to the incoming committee that guidelines be drafted and distributed to meetings that volunteer to host a youth retreat. Kri has begun drafting these guidelines, and will work with the new committee to finalize them.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the young people of LEYM through the work of this program.

Respectfully submitted,
Merry Stanford, Clerk

Nominating

By David Stilwell, Clerk

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Officers

Office	Person	Year
Presiding Clerk	Michael Fuson, Granville	2
Assistant Clerk	Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead	4
Recording Clerk	Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor	1
Treasurer	Connie Bimber, Oberlin	10
LEYM Bookstore	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	4
Bulletin Editor	Eric Starbuck, Pittsburgh	5
Production	Publication Committee members with assistance of many others	

LEYM Committees

*No Nominee – if you feel led, call David Stilwell at 330-670-0053.

People Years Served & End Year

Advancement & Outreach

Kelly Helms, Ann Arbor	3 2005
Mathilda Navias, Broadmead, Clerk	3 2005
Phil Balderston, Wooster	2 2006
Don Nagler, Pine River	2 2006
John Savage, N. Columbus	1 2007
Leslie Walden, Detroit	1 2007

Arrangements & Site

Elena Tuhy, Granville	3 2005
Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead	3 2005
Judy Greenberg, Broadmead, Clerk	5 2006
Frank Kennedy, Broadmead	1 2006
Regula Kummer, Broadmead	4 2007
Jon Sommer, Broadmead	1 2007

Finance & Budget

Linda Mills, Kalamazoo, Clerk	6 2005
Zig Dermer, Pittsburgh	4 2006
Erika Smith, Ann Arbor	2 2006
Treasurer, ex officio	

Ministry & Nurture

Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor	3 2005
Star Mary Castro, Athens	2 2005
Janet Smith, Broadmead	5 2006
Shirley Bechill, Pine River	2 2006
Merry Stanford, Red Cedar, Clerk	4 2007
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	1 2007

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 17-20, 2004

Ministry & Nurture Local Representatives

Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor
Suzanne Howell, Athens
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham
Fred Feitler, Kent
Dick Taylor, Oberlin
Dolores Avner, Pittsburgh

Nominating

David Stilwell, Kent, Clerk	2005
Verne Bechill, Pine River	2005
Dolores Avner, Pittsburgh	2006
Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	2004
Bob Roehm, N. Columbus	2006
Connie McPeak Green, Cleveland	2007

Peace

Betty Ford, Grand Rapids	1 2007
Gerry McNabb, Oberlin	3 2005
Leroy Curtis, Wooster	2 2006
Nate Riley, Birmingham	2 2006
David Lore, Granville, Clerk	1 2007
Sadie Taylor, Oberlin	1 2007

Program

Adrian Barnes, Detroit	3 2005
Nancy Nagler, Pine River, Clerk	5 2005
Dale Pratt-Harrington, Athens	5 2006
Margy Liske, Kent	4 2006
Peter Woods, Red Cedar	1 2007
Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	1 2007

Publications & Archives

*	2005
*	2005
Leonora Cayard, Pittsburgh	5 2006
Marvin Barnes, Birmingham	2 2006
Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh, Clerk	4 2007
Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor	1 2007

Youth and Children

Youth & Children	Conlith Crotser, Cleveland, Clerk	2005
Youth & Children	Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens	2006
Pre-School Leader	Susan Gallagher, Akron	2005
Pre-School Asst	Joyce Balderston, Wooster	2006
Early Elem Leader	Peter Crowley, Cleveland	2005
Early Elem Asst	*	
Upper Elem Leader	Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead	2005
Upper Elem Asst	Joe Mills, Kalamazoo	2006
Fall Retreat Clerk	Kate Spry, Cleveland	2005

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 17-20, 2004

Fall Retreat Asst	John Edgerton	2006
Middle School Leader	Vanessa Fuson, Granville	2005
Middle School Asst	*	
High School Leader	*	
High School Asst	*	
Youth Member	*	

Representatives to

AFSC	Richard Taylor, Oberlin, Clerk	4 2005
AFSC	James Satterwhite, Broadmead	6 2005
AFSC	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	2 2006
AFSC	David Basset, Ann Arbor	1 2007
FCNL	Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor, Clrk	6 2005
FCNL	David Snyder, Albion	2 2005
FCNL	David Lore, Granville	2 2006
FCNL	Lila Cornell, Pittsburgh	2 2006
FCNL	Marge Nelson, Athens	1 2007
Q Earthcare Witness	Alan Connor, Ann Arbor	1 2005
FGC	Leonora Cayard, Pittsburgh	6 2005
FGC	Star Mary Castro, Athens, Clerk	5 2005
FGC	Kri Anderson, Ann Arbor	4 2005
FGC	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	2 2006
FLGBTQC	Bob Roehm, N. Columbus	1 2005
FWCC	Margaret Kanost, Birmingham	6 2005
FWCC	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	2 2006
FWCC	Raelyn Joyce, Kalamazoo	1 2007
FWCC	Zig Dermer, Pittsburgh	3 2007
William Penn House	*	
Olney Friends Schl	Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor	
Wilmington YM	*	
Ohio YM Conserv	Leroy Curtis, Wooster	
Canadian YM	Bob Orr, Detroit	
EFI Eastern Region	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	

Ministry & Nurture

Minutes – March 6, 2004 (approved June 18, 2004)

Present: Thomas Taylor, clerk (Ann Arbor), Ellen Barnes, recorder (Birmingham), Shirley Bechill (Pine River), Fred Feitler (Kent), Michael Fuson (Granville), Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo), Bill Hummon (vice Star Mary Castro, Athens), Steve Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Janet Smith (Broadmead), Richard Taylor (Oberlin).

Regrets: Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), Star Mary Castro, Suzanne Howell (Athens), Kathy Stackhouse (Pittsburgh)

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 17-20, 2004

MN 03/04 – 1. After a plenary session of silent worship, we gathered in a separate room and introduced ourselves. Friends then reviewed the agenda, adding two items.

MN 03/04 – 2. Minutes of June 2003. We reviewed the minutes of our meetings in June 2003 and note that approval of the Minutes of March 2003 should have included a correction in the report from Kalamazoo Meeting. That report should not have included the Quarterly Meeting event at Quaker Park, Battle Creek, in August. The note on that event should be listed in the minutes as a separate item.

Further correction: at the June meeting, Don Ruswick was the representative from Pine River and Shirley Bechill was a visitor.

The June amended minutes were approved, including the bracket-ed notes of explanation by the clerk.

MN 03/04 – 3. Integrity Queries – Summary of Responses. We have received summaries of meeting responses from Thomas Taylor and Janet Smith. Thomas has also provided a further draft, which incorporates passages from both. After additional discussion and editing by the group, the further draft was approved. The summary of responses will be submitted for publication in the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records* (2004).

This year we received 12 responses from meetings, whereas last year 17 meetings responded. This is in spite of an additional reminder letter sent to meeting clerks in October. We considered reasons for this shortfall in responses. It may be that integrity is a personal area, so it was difficult for Friends to open up in a group setting. The complexity of several of the questions may be off-putting. Some may feel that they are being coerced by a group of outsiders to do a meaningless exercise. Some felt that the June-December period is too busy a time for this. Upon reflection, we felt that this is the only schedule that works. In spite of these problems, several meetings find the queries process enriching. It is at the local level – Friends meeting Friends face to face – that the real benefit is felt. We ask that Friends help their meetings find the appropriate time and format to address the queries. Meetings use a variety of community-building ways and settings, including 20 minutes after meeting for worship or as part of business meeting, a specially called business meeting, an evening gathering or two, neighborhood “thoughtlucks,” intergenerational pizza parties, or a meeting retreat lasting a full day or a weekend. Our present process of queries continues to be a good way to invite the participation of numbers of Friends in their meetings in nurturing our spiritual vitality.

Survey: We discussed the possibility of developing a survey to ascertain the value of the query process and agreed to incorporate a simple set of questions about the process in the cover letter to the next set of queries. The clerk agreed to draft a letter for us to approve in June, asking such questions as:

What are the benefits to the meeting and to individuals of this annual YM query process?

How does your meeting currently handle the queries?

Have you any further suggestions of how your meeting might be given spiritual nurture?

We explored other ways of making the individual meeting responses available to Friends, such as reading some out in YM plenary or publishing them on the YM web page. Currently, the M&N clerk stores them in a notebook, which is made available during YM sessions. [Later thoughts from the clerk: Copies may also be obtained from the M&N clerk by e-mail or post. Other members of M&N may wish to print them off and make a packet of meeting responses available to their own meetings.]

MN 03/04 – 4. Spiritual Nurture in our Meetings: One Friend asked what happens to the State of the Meeting reports. This will need to be investigated and discussed further. Some reports have been sent to the clerk of M&N on occasion, and then have been copied for study in our M&N meetings. However, this has been somewhat haphazard. We note that State of the Meeting reports are generated in a variety of ways, with varying degrees of meeting involvement.

Friends shared their recollections of the history of the Spiritual Formation Program in relation to M&N, including received reports and designated Friends to carry out oversight and reports. Some of us have led SF groups. In the past couple of years, SF has seemed quite self-sufficient, so the bridges with M&N have been neglected. The program is still officially under the care of this committee, and we welcome reports, will respond to re-quests, and are happy to help publicize workshops and the formation of groups.

We wish to encourage that sufficient time be made for daily worship sharing at Yearly Meeting sessions. We will discuss the matter with members of the Program Committee, offering our services to help form the queries

used to guide the process.

We have been asked to give consideration to identifying Friends with spiritual gifts who might be encouraged to visit in meetings around the YM. We hope to discuss this concern further in June, when Merry Stanford, who recently brought it to the attention of clerk, can be with us. To develop such gifts, perhaps we might help Friends who feel they have a leading that can be tested in their own meetings to attend workshops or sessions of the School of the Spirit. The Yearly Meeting does not currently have a line for this kind of aid in its budget.

MN 03/04 – 5. Current Concerns: Time moving on, we had a brief sharing of issues of current concern in our meetings. These include draft counseling, racism, diversity, building community and reaching out to people who drift away from meeting.

MN 30/04 – 6. Queries for 2004: Spiritual Basis of Earthcare. We agreed that the queries for 2004 should be on Earthcare, with particular attention to its spiritual dimensions. This seems particularly timely with the potential devastating effect of many of our government's current policies on the environment, such as oil exploration in environmentally sensitive areas and the relaxing of emissions laws. The spiritual basis of Friends' testimony in this area needs our attention, so that we may be sufficiently grounded to play our part locally and nationally. Ministry & Nurture will consult with the Earthcare committee of concern, as we form these queries and after they have been drafted. We will then submit the queries to our YM sessions in June for approval and send them to meetings by 30 June, with responses invited by the end of December.

MN 03/04 – 7. LEYM Faith & Practice: The clerk informed us that the Executive Committee has been reminded that LEYM has no Book of Faith & Practice and that this may be the time to begin writing one from our present documents. This is a potential focus for our annual session in 2005, with Jan Hoffman or another Friend invited to help us explore what would be involved and what the costs and benefits might be.

MN 06/03 – 8. We ended the session with a very brief period of worship and adjourned to lunch.

Ellen Barnes, recorder
Thomas Taylor, clerk

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Queries on Integrity Summary of Meeting Responses, March 2004

The very personal area of "Integrity" may have been difficult for Friends to discuss in a group setting. This year, only slightly more than half (12) of our 21 meetings responded to the queries, and several of those responses were received well after the 31 December deadline.* Previously, as many as 17 meetings have responded. Busyness or other important matters may have also been contributing factors for the lower level of response. Even so, several meetings reported deep and meaningful sharing, and thanks were expressed for the set of quotes (provided with the queries as supportive material), which broadened our understanding of this central Friends' testimony. One meeting (Ann Arbor) held a special session to study and discuss the Wilmer Cooper pamphlet, *The Testimony of Integrity in the Religious Society of Friends*. Cooper's definition of integrity may stand at the heart of Friends' religious striving for wholeness: integrity is to live in alignment with one's spiritual beliefs.

1. What moves me to live with integrity? When do I have difficulty in witnessing to Truth? What gets in the way or blocks my being able to be faithful to this testimony?

Many of us thought of the lasting effect of early influences, such as family values, expectations, and teachings on goodness reflecting the goodness of God and the teachings of Jesus. We were also expected to be an example and witness to these teachings. Being moved to live with integrity also is found in experience with the Quaker traditions, especially the testimonies and advices and queries. Silent Meeting for Worship provides a centering to wait expectantly and with integrity for God's Truth.

Some saw Truth as a universal opening up or living so we are able to see through the diversions and distractions of daily life. We also talked of discovering the Truth by opening to the Light and putting ourselves in the place of others. The process may be similar to the natural inclination of a plant to grow toward sunlight, or that we have an inborn inclination to grow into the nature of God. Truth is that value which we associate with God, which reflects the spirit of God, and therefore this moves us to live with intent to be faithful to the testimony of integrity that helps us seek Truth (God). What moves us also is the desire to live truthfully and

faithfully to our inner spiritual authenticity.

Several spoke of feeling uncomfortable in situations where integrity is lacking; the discomfort helps pull us back to a right relationship with God and each other. Holding a difficult issue in the Light may bring a pang of conscience and prepare us for a second opportunity. Patience is required to be still and know the truth. In situations of serious conflict, as in divorce, both parties must acknowledge that one person's truth may not be the other's.

Speaking truth appears most difficult when it reveals a personal flaw, when we are in a large group (i.e., in situations with co-workers), or when we believe we lack knowledge or words to answer what we know as intuitive truth. Sometimes we hesitate, waiting for someone *else* to speak truth, thus opening the com-fortable path for us to do likewise. We are tempted by expediency to cut corners. Strong feelings or emotions can often impede our intentions to act with integrity, including the emotions of fear, anger, shame, jealousy, feelings of peer pressure, or hopelessness. Do we lose our integrity if we fail to speak out against injustice? Witnessing can also mean taking time to listen and share deeply with another person.

2. How does our meeting live in the life and power to find wholeness, where we are responsible to one another and to our broader community?

All meetings expressed a sense of support for one another and mutual encouragement to grow. Foremost in our meeting life is Meeting for Worship, where we find wholeness and a deepening oneness. From our worship experience we develop a sense of openness, caring, and trust. Through trust we are able to share deeply, and to give and receive witness as Friends, offering loving support to those with concerns and ministering to those who have needs. By reading our advices and queries and "being true" to our testimonies, we grow in understanding of our personal responsibilities to each other and to the meeting.

With every Friends gathering – worship, committee meetings, retreats, discussions, social gatherings, political demonstrations – we feel a sense of community, which enables us to reach out to others in a variety of ways. Several meetings wrote of taking their turns with local soup kitchens or homeless shelter projects, while others wrote of working to meet our global responsibilities.

Some questions continue to challenge us: How spiritually centered are our many commitments? Do we really hold each other accountable to live faithfully? One way we can stay close to the "life and power" and act on our responsibilities to each other is by daily intention to practice the Presence. One person put it, "The meeting gives me hope that I can become a person of integrity, by devoting myself to serving others in true and meaningful ways." With such interdependence in our world today, we are all responsible to our own inner sense of integrity and for each other.

* Meetings responding: Akron, Ann Arbor, Athens, Birmingham, Broadmead, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Kent, Oberlin, Pine River, Wooster. Copies of the individual meeting responses may be obtained from Thomas Taylor, clerk of M&N (by post or e-mail). They are also enclosed in a notebook that is made available at Yearly Meeting sessions in June.

Approved by LEYM Committee on Ministry & Nurture, March 6, 2004.

Peace

Peace Committee "notes," from June 17-20, 2004

(Sent by David Basset, at request of Jim Satterwhite, Peace Committee Clerk, in Hebron with Christian Peacemaker Teams)

The Peace Committee (PC) met on several occasions on June 17-18. Jim Satterwhite gave a report to the Meeting for Business on June 19.

Persons attending one or more PC meetings included David Bassett, Leroy Curtis, David Lore, Nate Riley, Jim Satterwhite, Sadie Taylor. (List may be incomplete.) Regrets: Lila Cornell.

1. Support for school in Afghanistan. We heard a report of the collaborative efforts to support the Jamaludine Wardak Elementary School in Afghanistan. This report was sent to us by Julie Poll, teacher at Friends School in Detroit, and Board member of Kids 4 Afghan Kids. Julie has visited the school during two

summers, and reports on the increase in this elementary school from 650 students (25 girls) in 2001 to 1000 students (450 girls), grades 1-7, in 2003. There are plans and hopes to construct a middle school and ultimately a high school. Also adjoining the school are a health clinic and an orphanage.

Julie expressed the hope, and PC endorsed this request, for individuals or Meetings to make contributions to help the school. Contributions can be made (by check), payable to Kids 4 Afghan Kids (a 501(c)(3) organization; thus gifts are tax-deductible); 9936 Hambleton, Livonia, MI 48150; tel.: 734-762-0569.

Further information regarding the Afghanistan school project is available from Julie Poll, Friends School in Detroit, 1100 St. Aubin Blvd., Detroit, MI 48207; tel.: 313-259-6722.

2. Conscientious objection to military taxation. The PC encourages individuals and Meetings to continue to support the concept of, and the legislative work regarding, the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act (HR 2037 in the 108th Congress). This Bill, when passed, would affirm the religious freedom of taxpayers who are conscientiously opposed to participation in war.

An important new development was the introduction, in New York City on May 19, 2004, by Council Member Bill Perkins (9th District, Manhattan) of Resolution 367 in support of the Peace Tax Fund Bill. The resolution affirms the rights of conscientious objectors to have "alternative service for their drafted dollars." Letters in support of this Resolution, from Meetings or individuals (especially from those with ties to this area of New York City), would be helpful. It is hoped that other communities might follow the example of this New York resolution.

(Information on both these topics is available at www.peacetaxfund.org).

3. Response to "Defense of Marriage" amendments to the Constitution. David Lore alerted us to the active efforts in Ohio to introduce a "Defense of Marriage" amendment to the state constitution. Following active discussion, the PC agreed on wording for a statement that would be brought to the LEYM Meeting for Business, with the aims of informing Friends of the discriminatory nature of such amendments and encouraging efforts to oppose such initiatives in Ohio or in other states.

The PC resolution reads: "Lake Erie Yearly Meeting affirms there is that of God in each person, without regard to sexual orientation. On that basis, we oppose attempts to adopt discriminatory 'Defense of marriage'-type amendments to state and federal constitutions. We believe that such constitutional amendments would make it extremely difficult for a national consensus on this issue to evolve, and that such pre-emptive amendments would be contrary to our understanding of the spirit of God's Love."

4. Contact persons for FCNL. We were apprised of the importance of having each Monthly Meeting appoint an FCNL contact person, and to inform FCNL of such appointments. (An important current FCNL initiative is the prevention of deadly conflict.)

Publications & Archives

NOTES FROM LEYM ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 2004

I. Annual Meeting Scrapbooks

Joe Mills, despite officially leaving the committee as of the close of Annual Meeting, kindly agreed to take the scrapbooks home with him again and continue working on them. He identified some photos from 1993, which he will insert in the proper place, and will choose among those from 1998 to add to those already filed. Others were left on a table in the display room for Friends to peruse and select; those remaining were to be discarded. Friends were asked to send him any spare photos from 1999, and Eric Starbuck promised to provide some from 2000 to 2003. Bill Hummon was taking photos at this gathering, so we hope to have some from 2004 in due course. Thus, with a little help from our friends, we look forward to having the scrapbooks up to date by next Annual Meeting.

II. LEYM *Bulletin*

Continuation of the past year's experiment with making the *Bulletin* available on-line, along with sending a few copies to each Monthly Meeting, was approved by Meeting for Business. We noted that we had increased the number of printed copies, in response to requests from some Meetings, and invited people to let us know if they truly wanted a copy sent to their homes. (So far, only 3-4 requests for personal copies had been received.)

We reminded Meeting that, from the financial perspective, it was obviously better to print 250 copies rather than the 1000 we were printing before. From the labor perspective, also, clearly it was easier to send a pile of copies to 30 or so Meetings rather than address, sort, band, and mail individual copies. Access on-line was made easier in the course of the year, so that it was now possible to print only those sections desired or the entire issue.

Our new committee member, Jeff Cooper of Ann Arbor, undertook to check costs at local printers with a view to taking over the printing and mailing of the *Bulletin* three times a year. The Clerk will check back with him some time before October, when the Fall issue will be ready.

III. New Staff Needed

We informed the Meeting that the job originally titled “*Bulletin* Editor” has now morphed into four separate parts: (1) writer and editor of the *Bulletin* three times a year; (2) compiler and editor of the *Annual Records* every summer; (3) maintainer and updater of the LEYM web site; and (4) updater of the LEYM database and compiler of the biennial LEYM Directory.

Eric Starbuck, who had been filling all four of these roles for some time, gave us his one-year notice of resignation. We, there-fore, invited the Nominating Committee to look for Friends interested in being considered for any of these positions, singly or in combination. After various consultations, we came up with a plan for this transitional year, involving a major commitment from each member of the committee. It looks like this:

- (a) Eric Starbuck will continue as *Bulletin* editor;
- (b) Marvin Barnes will update the web site, beginning in October with the Fall *Bulletin*;
- (c) Leslie Walden of the Advancement & Outreach Committee will take on the database and, if it works out, the next edition of the Directory;
- (d) Rosemary Coffey will work with Eric this year on the *Annual Records*, taking over the editing once Eric has compiled the contents, with the hope of taking it on altogether next year;
- (e) Leonora Cayard, who was not able to be present at this meeting, will be asked to continue as Archivist for LEYM and also take responsibility for printing and directing the mailing of the *Annual Records*, as well as proofreading the *Records* and the thrice-yearly *Bulletins*.

All these commitments will be re-examined at Representative Meeting next March in light of what happens between now and then.

IV. Business at Annual Meeting

Other business involved assigning reporters to the concurrent workshops as follows: Marvin to Old Testament sources of Quakerism; Jennifer Brower to Earthcare; Eric to Healing; Joe to Teaching Integrity; and Rosemary to FCNL on Native Americans. We failed to appoint anyone to cover Michael Birkel’s plenary, but fortunately Rosemary realized it in time and did so herself. We decided not to cover the interest groups formally, but invited the leaders to submit a report if they wanted to.

We also assigned committee members to check with Marty Grundy on missing statistical reports and with Thomas Taylor on missing state of the meeting reports. It looked like most were in or on their way by the end of the sessions.

In addition, Rosemary consulted again with Advancement & Outreach re the relative silence and lack of participation of Delaware and Mid-Ohio Valley monthly meetings. Mathilda Navias, incoming Clerk, and Merry Stanford, incoming clerk of Ministry & Nurture, planned to follow up in the coming months. In the meantime, Rosemary also spoke to an attender from Monongalia Meeting, asking her to check with her clerk regarding submission of the meeting’s statistical report, as the numbers in the 2003 *Annual Records* were clearly incorrect.

Rosemary K. Coffey, Clerk

Spiritual Formation Program

2004 Annual Report

The LEYM Spiritual Formation Program has, at our best count, been in existence for seven years. The program's goal is to assist individuals and meetings in deepening and enlivening their experience of the Spirit. We have focused through the years on different themes, from establishing individual spiritual practice to growing the blessed community. Each year we have invited a retreat leader and traveling companion to lead us in the opening and closing retreat.

Through the years many Friends of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting have received the benefits of spiritual nurture offered through the program. Although we have conducted evaluation of every retreat, this year we are also conducting an evaluation of the year-long program. This evaluation is still in process, but Friends have told us so far that, as a result of the program, they have initiated daily spiritual practice, been "prepared" for becoming a responsive member of the meeting community, formed exceptionally meaningful spiritual relationships, and experienced nurture, love, and patience. One Friend noted that the program had been the most important activity of his or her monthly meeting involvement, and that, because of this group, s/he has remained involved in the monthly meeting. Friends have mentioned that they have learned what it means to be Quaker through their involvement in this program. Clearly, the Friends who have responded have been changed. We believe that, over time, these changes have a direct impact on the spiritual life of the monthly meetings of these Friends.

The program has also changed in response to fresh ideas brought by participants. Originally, the Spiritual Formation Program was modeled on a similar program offered by Baltimore Yearly Meeting, consisting of an opening and closing yearly meeting retreat, and twice-monthly meetings of local meeting groups. The focus was divided equally between study and sharing one's spiritual experience and journey. Our structure is now more flexible than it was in the early years. The concept of a spiritual nurture group was extended to include spiritual friendships between two people. In some cases, individuals participate in the retreats without even being part of a spiritual nurture group or friendship. One group does not participate in a shared reading, but shares the treasure of individual reading with each other. One group meets monthly, rather than twice monthly. There are active groups or participants in Red Cedar, Pine River, Broadmead, and Kalamazoo meetings. There has been some interest in reaching out beyond the monthly meetings.

The program itself is not costly, although there has been a cost for materials and dissemination that we would like to recoup next year through a small program fee of about \$25 for all who participate in the yearlong program. The retreats, however, incur higher costs, mostly in the form of travel reimbursement for the retreat leaders, plus lodging and food costs. We have sometimes been able to provide a stipend for leaders, but that has not been possible in the past two years at all. The cost of providing the program, including retreats, has risen to \$225 per person for next year. Last year we cut costs by asking participants to bring pot-luck for some of our meals, and using the Michigan Friends Center in conjunction with a Green Pastures Quarterly event for our fall retreat, where camping and hospitality were available. While we are continuing to consider similar cost-cutting measures for future years, we do not want to lose the intensity of the retreat environment, which adds so much more to the spiritual experience of the participants, through communal practices such as Grand Silence.

We continue to encourage spiritual nurture groups to attend the retreats, but some members find that the expenses prohibit them from participating. We are especially concerned in helping those who absolutely do not have the resources to attend. Many monthly meetings have some resources to assist in this way, but meetings vary in their ability to provide this kind of support, and worship groups typically do not have the means to provide full support for this kind of activity.

The planning committee requests a \$500 line item for scholarships in the general budget to provide partial assistance to those who desire to deepen their experience of the Spirit through the full experience of the Spiritual Nurture Program, but do not have the financial means.

Letter to American Friends Service Committee concerning Reorganization

To Paul Lacey, clerk of the AFSC Board
Mary Ellen McNish, Executive Director, AFSC

Dear Friends,

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, gathered at our annual sessions in Bluffton, Ohio, affirms the traditional AFSC goals of service and witness. We are grateful for how well these have been implemented over the years by the Michigan area office. In particular, Friends have appreciated the criminal justice program and the LGBT rights program.

In recent months there has been increasing concern about certain actions and the corporate reorganization of AFSC. These concerns seem to fall into three categories. One is the national personnel practice regarding the quality and methods of employee background checks. Second, the corporate reorganization that seems to be emerging does not appear to uphold Quaker principles. The work of the AFSC has been particularly valuable over the years because projects have been generated in response to local grassroots needs. Third, members of our Yearly Meeting are feeling fear and pain around the possibility that the two strong Michigan area office programs will be laid down, and how that might be done. This concern derives particularly because of the way in which the Grand Rapids and Detroit offices were devolved and closed. In addition, the perception is that new national priorities will not reflect local conditions and needs. We are aware that many of these same concerns have arisen in other areas of the country and among the corporation board members representing our Yearly Meeting.

We implore you to pay attention to these concerns before you seriously erode the grassroots Quaker support you have been working so hard to rebuild after it was weakened in the past.

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,
Sally Weaver Sommer, clerk

Cc: Michigan Area Office

AFSC Emergency Material and Assistance Program

June 25, 2004

Dear Friends,

While many of you are by now aware of the closing of the Indiana EMAP office and collection center, I would like to provide some explanation and perspective to this decision.

The American Friends Service Committee is facing a difficult process of reevaluating focus objectives in light of present and anticipated fiscal realities. Peace building and migration have been identified as the two focus goals that most need our concentrated resources. The unfortunate result of this is that, nationally and within the regional offices, budget cuts must be made that will result in the elimination of some staff and program work and the postponement of other focus goal objectives.

In order to manage a fiscal responsibility that will allow program work within the Great Lakes Region to successfully address the focus goals of peace building and migration (immigration), the Richmond, Indiana, Emergency & Material Assistance Program (EMAP) operation will close. Humanitarian service remains one of AFSC's original focus objectives, and EMAP work will continue at the national level.

My position and the Great Lakes Region EMAP Collection Center will be laid down at the end of June. The EMAP Center in High Point, NC, continues to collect large quantities of handmade items for use in both domestic and overseas relief work, and also participates in EMAP kit campaigns. I hope you will want to continue to support humanitarian relief and encourage you to ship future donations to Peggie Baxter, Program Director in High Point. The address is 606 East Springfield Road, High Point NC 27263.

Peggie can be reached at 336-885-6921 or by e-mail to Pbaxter @afsc.org. If you do not know Peggie, you will find her a delightful person, who will appreciate your support every bit as much as I have. EMAP centers also continue to operate in Cambridge, MA, and San Francisco, CA, as well as at the national office in Philadelphia.

Program work in peace building, economic justice, criminal justice, and Africa Initiative continues in the Great Lakes Region through its Chicago, Dayton and Akron, OH, and Ann Arbor, MI, offices. Please consider these programs for future support as well.

To the meetings and individual Friends who have supported the EMAP program, I want to thank you again for helping AFSC serve others in times of crisis. I have been richly blessed from the three years I have served the Emergency & Material Assistance Program, largely in respect to the many Friends I have encountered through my work. May you continue to be blessed in Spirit.

In peace,
Bonnie Nicholson, Project Coordinator
Emergency & Material Assistance Program
American Friends Service Committee

Detroit Friends School

WHERE ARE WE AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME?

In brief, quoting Martin Luther King, Jr., "We're not where we want to be, we're not where we ought to be, but thank God, we're not where we were."

Through extraordinary grace, this past year we:

- abandoned split classes that put together the 2nd and 3rd grades and the 4th and 5th grades
- added two new teachers, an administrative assistant, a morning kindergarten teaching assistant and a half-time librarian
- strengthened both the math and science departments with the addition of a lower-school teacher dedicated to those academic areas
- offered remedial help by adding twice-a-week language arts and math help sessions
- celebrated on 9/11 our second annual Love Thy Neighbor Day
- joined the other 79 American and 20 international Friends Schools in celebrating Peace Day, during which we were led in a peace demonstration by our Student Leadership Council
- brought the entire eighth grade class to Mexico for 9 days to stay at La Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City, in order to visit the Campo, originally started by AFSC members, with all tickets for sixteen persons donated by board members, students' grand-parents, and faculty
- applauded our students who demonstrated no resistance to the expanding of the community service requirement to include 5th and 6th graders and joined the Positive Energy Team made up of 4 students from the 4th-8th grade who meet with the Headmaster monthly and are responsible for building support and positive thinking throughout the community
- added a geography course and a drama course
- replaced computers in the computer lab with nearly 30 models and a server donated by parents and a member of LEYM
- added wireless internet connectors so that most of the school can access the internet from the classroom as well
- placed all of our eighth graders in their high school of first choice, including half of our class going to the most selective private high schools in the area, with eighty percent of those receiving major financial support
- did not raise tuition a single dime.

Next year we will add:

- Spanish remedial help

- a dance course taught by a member of the Detroit Ballet
- a Coordinator of Quaker Programs
- a full-time custodian
- more hours to the Physical Education program
- a Dean of Faculty so that I can concentrate on being Head-master/Director of Development/Dean of Students
- a 40th Anniversary Capital Campaign aiming to raise at least \$3,000,000.

As you are aware, a little over two years ago Friends School was seriously considering closing the doors. We are not even close to being out of the economic woods, but neither are paydays in jeopardy nor is there a question as to whether or not we are a Friends school.

At the same time, our salaries are so low that when a young woman moved from Detroit Public Schools this year to join our lower school faculty she was forced to take a \$20,000 pay cut. To help retain experienced teachers and enhance the facilities we need Friends to step forward with contributions. I know independent school tuition is not exactly “tip money,” but I also know that Friends schools in New York City, Philadelphia, Cambridge and Washington – where Chelsea Clinton was educated – cost more than \$24,000 a year and that a dozen years ago the least expensive Philadelphia area school was \$9,000. Our tuition for the oldest students barely tops \$8,000. The average percentage of parents on financial aid in sister NAIS schools is 11% of families. Already we assist more than 40%; the goal is to find financial aid money for as many as 50% of our families. Why? We seek to serve a population that is both economically and racially diverse. While extending our hand, we have students from homes where both parents are professionals side by side with several students with one or more parents incarcerated or in a drug rehabilitation facility or who have not seen a parent in years.

In this anniversary year of *Brown v. Board of Education*, you have undoubtedly read reports of the increasing segregation in housing and schools in many parts of the country. Detroit is one of the country’s most residentially segregated metropolitan areas, and yet, right in the heart of the city, we are the most integrated independent school in Michigan, perhaps in the country, with not only a student body that welcomes all, but a staff, faculty, and board of trustees that reflect that diversity. Detroit will be getting a lot of attention in the next couple of years as it prepares to host the Super Bowl. Whether this infusion will be enough to help the city mark the start of a new era is still uncertain, but we need to be poised, at this critical juncture, to be a showpiece in the city’s array of options. For the new housing that is being built to attract stable families, good schooling must be at hand, and, while we as Quakers may know that education comes more from the heart and mind than the bricks and mortar, a deteriorating physical plant turns many a prospective parent away.

I have made no secret in wanting to make Friends School in Detroit the preeminent independent school in the area of American urban education. To do so will begin with good luck and require several essential pieces of long-range planning. Here is a partial list of visions:

- We need to upgrade our physical appearance. The fields are worn, the landscape unattended, gymnasium unacceptable, carpeting in tatters, building with very little gloss.
- I recommend a language lab to improve our foreign language department.
- We need to continue the diversity initiatives that have seen us bring together African-, Arab-, Asian-, European- and Latin- American children in a three-part Envisioning a New World Conference and five-week Summer Enrichment Program, confer with Ethiopian Jews and Armenian-Americans, and do community service with severely disabled students and the city’s homeless.
- I recommend we bolster the program that has focused on teaching a Quaker Value a month and inviting in numerous Quaker speakers.
- We need to renew our commitment to staff development, affording them the time and the means to attend seminars or courses to continue to enrich their teaching.
- With air conditioning throughout the building, rather than in only six rooms, we could provide a strong summer school program, allowing other students the opportunity to see what a Friends School education might offer.
- To keep our middle school program strong, we will need a larger gym that can also provide more adequate performance space.

To do these, we need help now, we need help in the near future, and we need help that will continue. We need help from local individuals and corporations, and we are actively seeking it, with a new database being developed, trying to recover and recultivate as many former students and families as possible, not merely those who graduated from our program. That effort, if successful, could more than treble our alumni base. Every month we meet with corporate sponsors who might be interested in assisting the work we do in aiding the city.

We need help from national organizations, and we seek it regularly as well. We appreciate the cooperative effort AFSC made with us, using our students' artwork for a greeting card and allowing our school to sell a certain number of the cards as well, and their offer to help us with planned giving recruitment.

Through Green Pastures Quarterly, we are the only Friends school in the care of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. We always appreciate your support, moral and fiscal. We have spoken within our Quaker values committee this year about how we can create more field trips for our students for overnight visits to other parts of the Midwest, attending meeting in the process, as our eighth graders have done for the past three years.

We can use present help. But at this particular juncture, the most powerful support you can give us is to help create the seeds of donations that will encourage others to give as well. Our materials are simple, but our need is great. Please, let us know, by e-mail or snail mail, how much you can donate now, how much you can pledge in the coming three years, and whether you would like to be contacted to consider planned giving through your estate. When others see your commitment, they will be moved to follow suit. We need their help. We need yours.

Forgive me for being bold enough to say we need you. Thank you for your continued support. We welcome both your suggestions and your questions.

Dwight Wilson

Epistles

Children's and Teen's Epistles

Pre-School Epistle

Dear Friends,

The pre-school group at LEYM included newcomers Lily Herold and Noah Fox. We were joined by Samantha Keyes Sunday morning.

We decorated shirts, played with play dough, finger painted and created many pieces of art work.

Early Elementary School Epistle

We are a growing group of friends. We talked about growing and looked at things growing around us. We drew life-sized pictures of ourselves to show how big we are now, so we can see how we change.

We visited a farm where we fed chicks and ducks, looked at nesting hens and petted sheep and goats, and planted tomato plants. We saw a lot of corn growing on the way to the farm.

Saturday morning we visited the farmers' market. It was cloudy and cool and there were no strawberries. We ate peas and cinnamon rolls.

After the market we flew kites. Amani said, "It's like walking a dog, only up in the sky." Serenity's kite flew up on the first try. Sam made his kite come down, and then soar back up again. We lay in the grass and watched the kites fly, and watched the sky turn blue.

Then we knew we could go swimming again. The lake was deeper than we remembered, because of all the rain, but it was just as much fun.

We look forward to coming together next year to see how we've grown.

Serenity, Amani, Andrew, and Sam

Upper Elementary School Epistle

We made a hotel Thursday night, called Future Mania. We did not have many customers at first, but many more came later.

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 17-20, 2004

We made special designs that we could put on our T-shirts and window designs. We also put the designs that we chose on the stained glass windows.

We went to the track and we ran around the track. We cheered on a lady who ran 2 miles. We jumped on the “squishy thing,” and we cheered her on.

We went swimming at the lake and the lake was flooded so there was hardly any beach. There were lots of children shoving each other off the dock.

Our teacher Steve brought in some artwork that he got from the Internet. We watched a movie and there was a mad person at the end. We drew designs all over Steve’s shirt. There were pigs swimming in the lake and he was one of them.

When we went swimming I got onto the dock. Steve or Zack pushed me off the dock.

I made a collection of leaves on a poster for 4-H. And I made a family tree and some stained glass for the window.

I made a sand crab at the beach.

I found a dead crawdad and put it on Noah’s sand crab.

We found cats in the bushes by the greenhouse. There were at least 7 kittens and the mother. They were really timid. Someone found a bag of cat food and we spread it to get the cats to follow. Some of the kittens were hurt and only the mother would let us pet her. We identified a cat who was fuzzy and white and we called her Fuzz Ball.

Ian Lore, Meg Diffenderfer, Brianna Edgerton,
Jody Pratt-Harrington, Brittany Crotser Crowley,
Sara Turner, Bradie Conner, Noah Hogan, and Sydney Keyes

Middle School Epistle

This year at LEYM we, the Middle School class, learned about integrity. Integrity means to do what you believe, and keep at that belief. We discussed integrity when we learned about Jesus and the three temptations. We also talked about how integrity affects our lives. We watched a movie called “Finding Nemo,” where we talked about how the characters show integrity.

We also learned that the conscientious objectors in World War II refused to fight. While refusing to fight these COs improved the lives of people who were mentally ill. They desegregated the federal prisons. We also learned how COs volunteered for risky medical experiments.

We helped the community by making sure the ice cream at a local coffee shop wasn’t poisonous, by eating some. With the arrival of three more people, our class played soccer and played with a parachute. After that, we had to go to sleep.

Saturday morning, we drew some interesting pictures and took part in an auction. We were auctioning off different things or events that could happen to you in life. The things you bought demonstrated what means the most to you.

Later we had a fun time at the nature preserve. Before we left Bill Hummon hunted us down and took a few pictures of our group. We came back from the nature preserve and ate lunch. We then talked about the civil rights movement and how integrity played a part in it. We ate dinner and attended the ice cream social. Our group watched the high school skit and all of the youth joined in a game of Kick the Can.

Shannon Pratt-Harrington, Will Smith, Julie Cross, Monica Edgerton, and Jessica Warmke

High School Epistle

Skit of an Integrity Anonymous meeting

Zach: I'm Zach. I have been clean for three months.

Group: Hi, Zach.

Micah: This is the Integrity Anonymous meeting; the NA meeting is down the hall.

Zach: Oh, okay. Thank you.

Abby: Hi, I'm Abby. I've been integrifful for 17 years. [claps] I can honestly say that this weekend I did not go on a nature walk and participated in "the process." Thank you.

Psyche: I've been integritis for 3 days. I can honestly say that I have gone on no nature walks and I have been sleep deprived. My sponsor Jim came and spoke about the Christian Peacemaker Teams which filled us with integritive thoughts and hopes. Thank you.

Two Erins [in unison]: Our name is Erin. We have been integri-fied for one month. We honestly made masks that looked just like us – NOT! We quietly sat in meeting for worship, and can truthfully say we didn't go on any nature walks.

Micah: My name is George integritationisatonalised for I've gone on lots of nature walks, and went to every meeting for worship. I slept through the ice cream social, didn't play any mafia games and have never been God.

Erin: Is your last name Bush?

Lea: I have been integrigorous for 2 days. I was inspired to be integrifful after hearing Michael speak. I went on no nature walks, and I cleaned up with integrity. Thank you.

C: I have been integrafinatious for 3 weeks. No, I did not go on any nature walks. Pat helped me find my integrity talking about FCNL. I napped for integrity on the dock, and then I was burnt, and then . . . I was picalized by apple cider vinegar. I went to Mexico which is all brown except for the colorful martinis. . .

Psyche: It's margaritas, and AA is down the hall.

Group recites the "integrity prayer": Integrity is the honor that comes from honesty and kindness while being strong enough to openly stand and live by what you believe.

Erin Diffenderfer, Psyche Castro, Zach Ford, Erin Hogan, Abby Pratt-Harrington, Micah Sommer, Lea, C, and 3 more

Adult Epistle

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Sixth Month 17-20, 2004

To Friends Everywhere:

We welcome you from the 2004 gathering of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting held at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio. We are surrounded by fertile farm fields and many of us have a distinct sense of place here: the motto of our Mennonite hosts emblazoned about the campus, "The Truth Makes Free"; the faint but lovely aroma of the linden trees.

The theme of our gathering has been "Integrity: Growing Wholeness From Our Roots." Early Friends spoke frequently and fervently about Truth. We find that a central aspect of integrity continues to be how to speak honestly about our experience. Building on this, our plenary speaker, Michael Birkel of Earlham College, said, "Integrity means to be engaged in the world.... [It] takes us to the wider world.... [It is the] expression of our gathered hope for a transformed world."

Michael Birkel emphasized that integrity has inward and outward dimensions. "We expect the spirit to transform us as individuals and then to guide us to go out and transform society." We saw both these dimensions echoed throughout our gathering. In workshops and our plenary we examined how we draw nourishment from our roots in the Bible and the experiences of early Friends. We explored how discernment of leadings is essential to a truthful life.

Many of our workshops exemplified the outward witness called forth by inward discernment. We heard about the work of Friends House Moscow and Friends' witness to the U.S. Congress upholding the rights of Native Americans. We listened as our earthcare committee described how "the dream drives the action." We discussed how integrity is fostered in our families.

The future of our Society is rooted in our youth, and we were joyous to hear of the growing success of the high school program of our Yearly Meeting. We were also inspired to hear of the sense of hope, expectation, and achievement surrounding Friends School of Detroit, a racially and economically diverse school in the heart of urban Detroit. Friends School seems to exemplify another comment of our plenary speaker: "By practicing integrity we can be agents of hope for one another.... Integrity can be an agent of social change."

In Lake Erie Yearly Meeting it is our practice each year to compose a query for consideration by our monthly meetings. As must surely be the case in other Meetings, these queries are usually the result of a careful and deliberate search for clearness. This year, as we appeared to be reaching the end of such a process in our committee, one Friend spoke and offered a complete alternative. As a young tree takes root and thrives in carefully prepared ground, so the rightness of this query grew in our hearts and minds.

How long, oh God, how long must we remain complacent in our spiritual and physical relationships with earth and sun which sustain us? How may we alter these relationships in a restorative way?

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,
Sally Weaver Sommer, Clerk