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Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting 51st Annual Sessions July 24-27, 2014 Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

Thursday Evening Session

YM14 - 01 Worship & Reading of Northern Yearly Meeting Epistle

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the 51st annual sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with waiting worship. Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Assistant Clerk, read Northern Yearly Meeting's 2014 epistle written at its recent annual sessions with the theme "What Canst Thou Say?" Meeting joyfully at the end of the long cold winter, the Meeting reflected gratefully on its community's strength and its connection with El Salvador Yearly Meeting.

YM14 - 02 Agenda & introduction of clerks

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), Clerk, thanked all those who were able to be present and who helped to prepare the sessions. She reviewed the agenda, explained how it might be modified and explained how the process for the Annual Sessions works. Sally introduced the clerk of the Site Committee, Jon Sommer (Broadmead); the clerks of the Program Committee, Janet Dando (Akron) & Dale Pratt Harrington (Athens); the managers of the Book Store, Susan Carpenter (Broadmead) & John Templin (Broadmead); and the clerk's table: Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Assistant Clerk and Peter Dale (Detroit), Recording Clerk.

YM14 - 03 Newcomer introductions

The Clerk invited visitors, guests, and newcomers to introduce themselves. The following did so:

Kathryn Phillipson: FCNL Staff
Scilla Wahrhaftig: Pittsburgh MM/AFSC Staff
Eric Evans: Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting/FGC Staff visitor
Greg Coleridge: AFSC, Northeast Ohio, Staff
First Time Attender: Jo Schlesinger, Pittsburgh MM

The Clerk read a travelling minute on behalf of Eric Evans.

YM14 - 04 Roll Call

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

Monthly Meetings

Akron	1
Ann Arbor	16
Athens	21
Birmingham	6
Broadmead	13
Cleveland	9
Delaware	0
Detroit	8
Grand Rapids	5
Granville	2
Holland	0

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Kalamazoo	4
Kent	0
Mid-Ohio Valley	0
North Columbus	4
Oberlin	1
Pine River	0
Pittsburgh	14
Red Cedar	7
Wooster	8

Worship Groups

Circleville	1
Erie	0
Waysmeet	1

Others

AFSC	1
Earlham College	1
FCNL	1
FGC	1
White Rose MM (OVYM)	1
No affiliation	3

Total in attendance **129**

YM14 - 05 Holding absent Friends in the Light

The Clerk asked the Meeting to hold in the Light the following persons who were not able to attend these sessions: Valerie Grozsmann (Kalamazoo); Merry Stanford (Red Cedar); Don & Nancy Nagler (Pine River); and Mary & Kyo Takahashi (Pine River).

YM14 - 06 Reading of endorsements to travelling minutes

The Clerk read endorsements that had been added to the travelling minutes of those who travelled on behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, including one for LeRoy Curtis (Wooster) from Ohio Yearly Meeting and two for Paula Deming (Waysmeet Worship Group) from Ohio Yearly Meeting and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

YM14 - 07 Naming Committee report

Joyce Balderston (Wooster) reported for the committee. Joyce reported that Clemence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group) has agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. The committee is still looking for a second person to serve. The Naming Committee, in consultation with the Clerk, will name a Nominating Committee Clerk.

YM14 - 08 Epistle Committee

The Clerk asked for volunteers to serve on the 2014 Epistle Committee. Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) volunteered to join Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor). Another volunteer is needed.

YM14 - 09 Worship sharing groups and session for newcomers

Janet Dando (Akron) reported for the committee. Janet explained the process for the worship sharing groups, emphasizing the special session on Life Journeys, and reminded the Meeting of a session for newcomers.

YM14 - 10 No memorial minutes this year

Prior to our Annual Sessions the Clerk had asked for Memorial Minutes for those who had died in the last year and had been active in LEYM. None were brought forward.

YM14 - 11 Memorial worship

The Clerk asked the Meeting to move into worship with an invitation to hold in the Light others who have died in the past year. The following names were brought forward: Charles Mead, a member of Pittsburgh MM whose parents had a connection to the YM when it was being formed; Moses Boone from Detroit Monthly Meeting; Waldon Baskerville, a member of Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting; Michael Kay, Gene Gallagher, George Bent, as well as several others from Oberlin Monthly Meeting; and Betty Kaufman from Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting.

The Clerk asked the Meeting to also hold in the Light those who have recently lost family members.

Friday Morning Session

YM14 - 12 Worship & Reading of German Yearly Meeting Epistle

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the Friday morning session of the 2014 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with waiting worship. Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Assistant Clerk, read the 2013 German Yearly Meeting Epistle, whose sessions centered on the 50th anniversary of Quäker-Hilfe (“Quaker Aid”). Role models and companions from current and past aid projects in Algeria, the Middle East, the Caucasus, and Poland were present as guests. It “learned that its action in the world is neither completely good nor completely bad, but is rather revealed in ‘variations in grey’.” One recurring issue in their annual sessions is the question of how the Yearly Meeting disposes of its financial capital. Moreover, it continues to ask itself how “it fills the Quaker Peace Testimony with life” and what the responsibilities of the Peace Committee are in this regard. “It is in our variety - whether in our worship or in our peace and service - that we find our strength” that helps it “to reach important decisions together as one”.

YM14 - 13 Welcome of visitors and first-time attenders

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), Clerk, welcomed visitors and first time attenders. Pat Thomas, visitor from Richmond, Indiana, introduced herself and described a book she wrote drawing on her work with Bible studies at LEYM, “Following Jesus & Walking with God: A Year’s Journey Through the Gospels”.

YM14 - 14 Epistle Committee Filled

Sharon Ottenbreit (Detroit) volunteered to Join Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) and Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) on the Epistle Committee. Friends **approved** the appointment of the committee.

YM14 - 15 Nominating Committee in-process report

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. Thomas stated that progress was being made in filling the positions. He outlined the positions that will be brought for approval and those positions that still need to be filled. Thomas also mentioned that the committee is considering the nature of the interchange between visitors to and from other yearly meetings.

YM14 - 16 Youth and Children Committee Report

Conleth Crotser (Cleveland) reported for the committee. So far, twenty-three children and youth are participating in Annual Sessions this year. There are nine teachers, although teacher recruitment is a continuing effort and more may join. The children and youth have been enthusiastically involved in a great variety of activities and T-shirts and crafts are again being produced.

The fall youth retreat for K-8th graders and their parents will again be held in early October and everyone is encouraged to participate. An updated report will be given Sunday morning.

YM14 - 17 Ministry & Nurture Committee - Report on Sexual Abuse

Paula Deming (Waysmeet WG) reported for the committee. She asked Alfred Clapp (Athens) to introduce a report on sexual abuse prepared by a clearness committee within Athens Monthly meeting. Alfred read the following report:

The purpose of this report is to inform Friends about an episode of sexual abuse between children which occurred within LEYM several years ago, and, in doing so, to foster awareness among Friends that will make it less likely for such an event to take place in the future.

In January, 2012, a young woman in Athens Friends Meeting revealed to a few adult members that, 13 years earlier, she had been subjected to a pattern of sexual abuse by another, older, child. This had begun — under our eyes, but out of our awareness — in our First Day School, and continued at LEYM the following summer. Until 2012, the young woman had not revealed this experience to anyone, and it had a serious negative impact on her adolescence and young adulthood. She was 10 years old at the time the abuse began, and the perpetrator was a 14-year-old boy. The boy couched his advances as acts of warm brotherliness, as helpful education into the adult world of sex, and as their special secret, a kind of grooming behavior. The secret was kept from both the girl's parents and members of the Meeting. It evolved into multiple years of abusive sex that took place away from the Meeting House. The boy left the Meeting and, for several years, the community. His parents have not been involved in the Meeting.

It took years for the young woman to correctly label this “friendship” as abuse. It has been part of her healing to share with her family, her Clearness Committee, and the Athens Meeting as a whole, the truth of her experience. In hindsight we feel that our Quaker values helped put her and us at risk. Meetings are supposed to be safe places for children. In being accepting and loving to all our children, we sadly missed the clues. We did not honor our small feelings of discomfort with observed behavior, and did not consider abuse a possibility. In the end we did not protect the young people under our care. It is clear to us now that we as a religious society are not immune from this kind of thing, and that it can happen, not only between adults and children, but also between children.

Since this episode has been revealed, First Day School personnel of Athens Friends Meeting have begun each year with an open discussion encouraging both children and adults not to discount their own feelings of discomfort, should they arise, but to share them with at least someone else in Meeting. Athens Friends have also tried to be more attentive to children during transition times between scheduled activities.

The Athens Friends Meeting brings this matter to the attention of LEYM in order to raise awareness among Friends so that our children may in the future be better protected from potential sexual abuse, both in our monthly meetings and at LEYM. This kind of event is rare, but hopefully, such awareness can empower adults and young people to attend to their own feelings of discomfort, should such instances arise. Increased awareness is the only response from LEYM that the young woman wishes. LEYM need not be concerned about any potential liability issues.

Athens Friends here at LEYM invite LEYM Friends wishing to consider this matter further to meet with us as way opens.

The committee asked us to consider the following minute:

LEYM Friends recognize that we in the Religious Society of Friends are not immune to the possibility of sexual abuse in our Meetings and recognize that this is not just perpetrated by adults on children, but may occur between children. Such sexual abuse has occurred among LEYM Friends. Let our awareness of this Enable us to respond to feelings of discomfort that we may sense, to empower us to speak up and speak out when led and thus to limit the chances of our children being hurt by sexual abuse within our Meetings.

The Clerk thanked Athens Meeting for bringing this to our attention, and announced there would be opportunity to discuss and reflect on this concern at the rise of this session. Suggestions for modification of the minute were made from within silent worship. It was also suggested that the Yearly Meeting should develop policies which would better protect our children and meet insurance liability concerns. The Clearness Committee from Athens will consider the suggestions and return with a revised minute.

Friday afternoon session

YM14 - 18 Worship

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the Friday afternoon session of the 2014 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with waiting worship.

YM14 - 19 The Ad Hoc Service Project Committee Report

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. Peggy described the work camp experiences of two groups from LEYM in Detroit in conjunction with Cass Community Social Services. Peggy presented a very interesting and entertaining slide show to accompany the report. The slide show was followed by enthusiastic individual comments from the eleven other work camp participants in attendance at the session. Peggy stated that the committee recommends that future work camps alternate between work camps with a home base in Bluffton with work camps based in urban areas. The complete report follows.

Report on the 2014 LEYM Workcamp: Working With CASS Community Social Services in Detroit

Two groups from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting volunteered their hands and hearts to work with Cass Community Social Services (CCSS) in Detroit this year. Six teens, under the direction of Robb Yurisko, held their summer retreat with CCSS the weekend of July 18-20, followed immediately by an intergenerational group of 12 (11 adults and 1 youth) from Sunday to Thursday, July 20-24. In all, seven monthly meetings within LEYM were represented: Ann Arbor, Athens, Birmingham, Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Red Cedar.

The work CCSS does in Detroit dates back to the Great Depression of the 1930s, when Cass United Methodist Church decided they would help to feed the hungry. As Reverend Sue Pethoud, the volunteer coordinator, informed us in our introductory meeting, "we have been feeding people ever since and that feels good." They now provide some 1 million meals per year. They have grown in several different directions beyond serving food as way has opened for them, and now provide temporary housing for homeless men, women, children, and individuals with HIV/Aids. Last fall they opened a newly renovated apartment house that provides permanent housing for over 40 formerly homeless individuals whose rent is based on income. They provide activities for developmentally disabled adults that include employing some of them to sort paper in a shredding operation, with the resulting bales of shredded paper sold for recycling. There are also several other CCSS green industries which employ formerly homeless men and manufacture doormats and sandals from discarded tires, and coasters from repurposed wood and glass.

In order to accomplish all of this, CCSS welcomes thousands of volunteers each year who work under the direction of their staff. The LEYM teens spent Saturday, July 19, shredding paper in the morning and assisting in the kitchen to cook for CCSS clients in the afternoon. The intergenerational group worked three days and helped to make sandals and doormats, sorted and shredded paper, cooked a meal, played and talked with developmentally disabled adults, and helped to clean up an amazingly overgrown yard of a derelict building directly across the street from the CCSS campus in order to provide a safer environment for clients. Both groups also enjoyed seeing some other sites in Detroit, with some of the teens worshipping with Detroit Meeting on Sunday, and the intergenerational group visiting Detroit's Wailing Wall (built in 1940 to create a segregated neighborhood) and enjoying a dinner of Mediterranean food in Dearborn one evening.

CCSS made this camp easy to organize because they were able to provide housing and meals for volunteers, and did a good job of planning our work. We were able to see the contributions we made and to interact for part of the time with the clients who are helped there.

Robb Yurisko's report on the teens' experience included the following passages:

On a personal note, this has been my favorite retreat thus far. It was so fun to be part of something greater and be able to process that experience with our teens. We ate breakfast and lunch with the folks receiving services there. We were made a special breakfast of eggs and bagels that the homeless population was not offered and we felt horrible about that and processed it. Lunch was especially hard for some of our teens because there were well over 100 people eating with us and many remarked they were scared because they had never been exposed to this population and it felt different and unsafe. There were lots of opportunities to talk about racism and class-ism during this trip. We made our work fun and had lots of laughs while we worked.

The intergenerational group experienced similar realizations and lessons. We were trained in making sandals and doormats by people whose life experiences were totally foreign to us, we were jolted by the simple

accommodations and meals, we laughed and worshipped together morning and evening, and fell into bed tired to the bone. This year's theme for our annual sessions of "Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges" was fitting to our experience, as we experienced both barriers and bridges in our short but spirit-filled time in Detroit with CCSS.

Our recommendation for the future is that we alternate between work camps with a home base in Bluffton and workcamps based in urban areas. That means planning a work camp for 2015 that would look more like the one we did last year, which had two half-days of work in Lima with participants arriving a day early here in Bluffton. We had a great return rate of ten people who participated last year and came again this year, but one of the purposes of this presentation is to extend a warm invitation to all of you to join us next year. The combination of hard work and great fellowship will stretch you physically and spiritually.

YM14 - 20 Spiritual Formation Program

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) reported for the program. Mathilda introduced those present who have been involved with or participated in the program. She followed by presenting the history, goals, and processes of the program, along with the valuable results garnered from the program. Mathilda recommended that a way be found to better serve the eastern part of the Yearly Meeting. She also asked the YM to consider the committee's new fee structure and **to allow the Spiritual Formation Planning Committee to continue to pool the YM's contribution to the program with the rest of the fund and for it to be used as needed by the program without restrictions. The recommendation was approved.** The Finance Committee will bring a recommendation on the amount of the line item as part of its report later in these sessions. The full report follows.

The Program

In 1999, LEYM sponsored a Spiritual Formation Program with fall and spring retreats held at Michigan Friends Center and Barnesville, Ohio. The Program's oversight committee included Tom Taylor, Janet Smith, and Merry Stanford. The committee designed a year-long Spiritual Formation Program based on one in Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Local spiritual formation groups met in Ann Arbor, Athens, Barnesville, Cleveland, Columbus, Kent, and Lansing, with a total of 56 Friends participating. The program has continued ever since. A program based at the Pittsburgh Meeting flourished for some years, but seems to have ended in 2006 or 2007.

LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program has the following goals:

- Become more aware of our spiritual capacities for inward listening in relationship with God.
- Receive spiritual nurture.
- Learn about a variety of spiritual practices and how they might fit into one's individual life.
- Get to know Friends from the wider yearly meeting.

The program consists of two retreats, one in the fall to begin the program and one in the spring that serves as a wrap-up. These retreats provide opportunities for group interaction and experiences as well as personal reflection. In between the retreats, local groups meet once or twice a month, and participants practice a regular spiritual discipline of their choice to help heighten their awareness of the Spirit. Local meetings include worship and may focus on either personal sharing on how the Spirit seems to be moving in one's life or sharing personal responses to readings. Most groups share a meal or snacks.

The program is run by a volunteer committee made up of Friends who are regular participants. The Spiritual Formation Planning Committee is under the care of LEYM's Ministry & Nurture Committee and reports to it annually. In addition, we have a member of the planning committee who is also on Ministry & Nurture and acts as a liaison.

The planning committee invites a leader and a spiritual companion to bring a workshop on a chosen theme each year for the retreats. Recent themes have included:

- The Blessed Community
- Living in the Presence
- Grounding our Spirituality in Nature
- Healing in the Manner of Friends, led by Richard Lee

The committee looks both to Friends in our geographic area and to FGC's Traveling Ministries Program for

leaders. Since 2002, leaders have included Marjorie Larrabee, Deborah Fisch, Michael Birkel, and Merry Stanford.

This coming year's program will be led by Eric Evans on the theme, The Gospel of John: Stories of What God's Love Looks Like. The registration deadline is August 15. You can find the full details in our flyers, in our display upstairs, and on LEYM's web site. The following year's program will involve experiential retreats using Rex Ambler's Experiments with Light.

In 2008, partly to cut costs and partly because it seemed to fit the program better, we began holding a one-day retreat in the spring hosted by a meeting instead of a full weekend retreat at a conference center. This has worked well. We invite local Friends to participate in the retreat whether they've been involved in the program before or not, and this has the benefit of involving different meetings. We plan to continue holding the fall retreat at a retreat center and to have different meetings host the Saturday retreat each spring.

Participants

In the last eight years (since I started tracking participation), 81 different Friends have attended retreats, many of them for a number of years. They are from 12 different meetings, many in Michigan, but also from Broadmead, Cleveland, N. Columbus, and Oberlin. There has been an average of 23 participants at fall retreats, and 18 at spring retreats. There are many additional Friends who participate in a local group but don't attend retreats.

Evaluations and Value of the Program

From the beginning, the planning committee has used evaluations from participants to make changes to the program. These have asked for comments rather than numerical ratings. Over the years, comments on the retreats have included:

"Have come for years for rest, fellowship, time to 'recharge' spiritually - need the time away to get perspective on my life, my challenges, my joys and blessings."

Comments on the year-long program have included:

"Just showing up regularly and sharing personal spiritual experiences helps keep me in touch with the spiritual in my daily life."

"It is because of this group that I remain as involved in my monthly meeting as I am."

Not everything has gone smoothly for everyone. Some leaders have been less than ideal. But overall, evaluations have been overwhelmingly positive. In 2009, the planning committee reported to LEYM, "The strong yearning for this kind of program continues among the participants. It nurtures the participants spiritually, and this nurture carries over into our monthly meetings and into Lake Erie Yearly Meeting." In the responses to the 2009 Annual Query, one meeting reported: "Being involved in the Spiritual Formation program has supported and sustained a number of us."

For the last two years, five LEYM Friends have attended the School of the Spirit's program On Being a Spiritual Nurturer, which they have just completed. All of them have been part of LEYM's Spiritual Formation program. In an email I received a few days ago, one of them wrote:

"I think the Spiritual Formation program was an amazing preparation for the School of the Spirit. I was very prepared and experienced in Quaker process almost entirely due to the LEYM Spiritual Formation program. I had the experience both of deep listening and being listened to in articulating my spiritual journey."

Vision for the Future

In addition to continuing the program for Friends in the western part of the yearly meeting, I would like LEYM to develop a program that works for the rest of the yearly meeting, and I have some ideas on how that might be done. But that work is not really within the scope of the current planning committee.

Fees

I have left money matters to the end, as you will be asked to make a decision.

Setting fees for the retreats in recent years has involved making educated guesses because the per-person share depends on how many people attend each retreat. Expenses that need to be covered include: the cost of rooms, meals, and meeting rooms at the retreat center in the fall; meals in the spring; travel expenses for the leader and companion, which vary widely; an honorarium for the leader; and materials costs such as flyers, name tags, a

mailing to meetings, and extensive resource booklets for Friends to use during the year. Annual expenses in recent years, including rooms and meals, have run between \$2,800 and \$4,500. Of course, with more participants, the higher both expenses and income are.

This coming year, the Planning Committee is taking a fresh approach to setting fees. In the past, there was a set fee for attending the retreats with a deep discount offered for couples. This year, while we are raising fees, we are also giving participants information about how much the program actually costs and then asking them to decide what they can afford. That might be more, or less, than the full program cost. The full cost figures are based on an assumption that we'll have a certain number of participants.

We give two suggested payments: enough to cover the full cost of \$190 a person for both retreats; and a minimum fee of \$150 for those who can't afford the full amount. There is the option of making an additional contribution to support others. There is a \$20 discount for first-time attenders and couples. Last year's fee was \$135. We encourage Friends to request help from their monthly meeting and then from the program if they need assistance.

We are proceeding in faith that by the end of the program year the costs will be covered. So far, registrations are encouraging. A number of Friends have sent in contributions.

Finances

In the beginning, the program was designed to be self-supporting. In 2004, the program committee requested that the yearly meeting contribute \$500 each year to help participants attend the retreats. The yearly meeting approved this with the note that this line item was for "supplies and scholarships" (YM2004-29). In 2005, the Spiritual Formation line item was increased to \$600 "to cover some scholarships to the new Spiritual Formation group forming in the Pittsburgh area" (YM05-22).

The amount of LEYM's annual contribution was reduced to \$100 in 2011, in part because the Finance Cmt. was looking for places to trim the budget but also because the program's fund had grown larger than necessary. It has stayed at \$100 until now. During those years, we have intentionally drawn down the fund to the point where it now needs to be built back up and stabilized.

At the Executive Committee Meeting prior to Representative Meeting earlier this year, the program's finances were discussed. "It was noted that when LEYM began budgeting an annual amount for the program, that money was designated for scholarships and materials. It has always been put directly into the fund for the program and for many years no distinction has been made between money contributed by LEYM and other money in the fund. Executive Committee felt comfortable with using the yearly meeting's contribution to support the program in all its aspects, and recommends that the yearly meeting approve this change." (EC14 04.04-7) Additional discussion occurred at Representative Meeting, and the committee was asked to prepare this presentation explaining its purpose and program at this Annual Meeting.

YM14 - 21 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported. Mike noted that contributions from all monthly meetings have been received. He also reported the Yearly Meeting has received a \$10,000 anonymous donation to be divided between the Traveling Ministry Program (\$3,500), the High School Teen Retreat Program (\$3,500), and the General Fund (\$3,000). So far this year the Yearly Meeting has only spent about 31% of its expense budget. Mike then went through the financial report, explained the YM's financial position, and outlined its assets. The YM operated well within its budget, with the additional bonuses of the \$10,000 donation and a better than expected return on investments. The full report follows.

BALANCE SHEET

	6/30/2013	6/30/2014	Change in value 6/30/2013- current
Cash Assets			
Citizens Nat. Bank, Bluffton, Ohio	16,255.92	32,499.02	16,243.10
Friends Fiduciary, Base Account	16,938.81	19,777.72	2,838.91
Friends Fiduciary, Granville YF Account	6,403.91	7,192.02	788.11
Memo:cur FFC total: 26,969.74			
Total Cash Assets	39,598.64	59,468.76	19,870.12
 Allocation of Assets			
General Fund**	15,797.49	30,246.74	14,449.25
Granville Youth Fund	6,403.91	7,192.02	788.11
Annual Meeting Fund	371.33	1,473.31	1,101.98
Youth Activities Fund	7,584.58	7,092.37	(492.21)
High School Youth Fund	2,982.50	5,773.30	2,790.80
Spiritual Formation Fund	2,175.32	1,107.51	(1,067.81)
FWCC Travel Fund	1,139.83	2,339.83	1,200.00
Consultation Fund	3,143.68	3,143.68	0.00
Ministry Scholarship Fund	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
Temp. Work Proj Fund		100.00	100.00
Total All Funds	39,598.64	59,468.76	19,870.12

Saturday Morning Session

YM14 - 22 Worship & Reading of Epistle of the Alaska Friends Conference

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the Saturday morning session of the 2014 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with waiting worship. Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Assistant Clerk, read from the Epistle of the Alaska Friends Conference 2013 Annual Session. The theme of the session was “Caring for Creation - How are we led to address climate disruption?” The main session of the gathering was devoted to a discussion of “a series of queries exploring our personal perspectives on right relations with the earth’s resources and our understanding of the related Quaker Testimonies.” The epistle concluded by expressing “appreciation to Friends who remind us of the Light we lift up across the globe. We join you in this perpetual journey to walk lightly on the land, answering that of God in each person and in God’s glorious creation.”

YM14 - 23 Welcome of visitors and first-time attenders

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), Clerk, welcomed visitors and first time attenders. The following were introduced: Josephine Posti (Pittsburgh); Vaughn Peebles, White Rose MM, Ohio Valley YM; Louise Hammel (Wooster); Ron Irvine (Grand Rapids); and Marta Rhea Johnson, Interim Head of Friends School in Detroit.

YM14 - 24 Finance Committee Report

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. The establishment of a Traveling Ministries Fund was discussed and **approved**. The establishment of a Travel Fund was discussed and **approved**. The establishment of a budget line and a fund to support various costs of LEYM Work Projects was discussed

and **approved**. The expansion of the purpose of the FWCC travel fund to cover Friends from other parts of the world was discussed and **approved**.

The 2014-2015 budget was discussed and explained. A particular concern for the viability of Friends School in Detroit was brought forward. The full report follows.

Finance Committee Report, Annual Meeting, 2014

A. Anonymous Donation. As you have heard from our treasurer, LEYM recently received an anonymous donation of \$10,000, with the request that its use be divided almost equally among the General Fund (\$3000), the High School Teen Retreat Program fund (\$3500), and "Traveling ministries" (also \$3500). The Finance Committee is immensely grateful to the donor and is striving to see that the money is spent as requested.

B. Establishment of Funds and Budget Line.

1. To spend the portion of the anonymous gift for traveling ministries, we propose establishing a new fund for that purpose. Last year, we approved supporting Merry Stanford as a traveling minister with funding from the Advancement & Outreach Committee's budget line; for the coming year, the proposed **Traveling Ministries Fund** would be used in precisely the same way as that budget line, supporting Merry's work. Looking farther into the future, the clerks, Advancement & Outreach Committee, and Ministry & Nurture Committee will consider how Yearly Meeting wishes to support traveling ministry and thus who will have oversight for the fund. The fund would start with the \$3500 from the donation.
2. At Representative Meeting we proposed establishing a **Travel Fund** to provide a cushion for the Travel budget line. Travel expenses have varied wildly from one year to the next; a fund would enable us to budget somewhat less than we have been, drawing on the fund in years where expenses are high, and preserving money budgeted for travel by paying back into the fund when expenses are low. In the past year, we budgeted \$5000 for travel expenses but spent only \$1547 and the unspent monies moved back into the General Fund at the end of the year. We propose taking \$3000 of the money budgeted for travel last year to establish a Travel Fund. Money in the Travel Fund would be used for the same purposes as money in the Travel budget line. (In fact, the budget line would now subsidize the fund.) We bring this proposal back now for your discernment.
3. Also at Representative Meeting, acting on a recommendation from Executive Committee that Friends participating in LEYM work projects be supported by the Yearly Meeting, we proposed **creating a Budget Line and Fund to support the costs of LEYM work projects**, including the registration costs of individual participants. Although the original recommendation was that the Yearly Meeting cover the registration costs completely, Finance does not feel we can promise *complete* coverage, and thus propose defining the budget line and fund as *supporting* these costs. The temporary fund established for cash flow for this summer's project has a balance of \$70, which would be moved into a permanent fund to supplement the budget line for next year.

We bring this proposal back to create both a budget line and fund for your discernment as well.

C. Budget for 2014-15

A draft budget was presented at Representative Meeting and printed in the spring *Bulletin*. That budget included many new expenses, resulting in a suggested per/member contribution of \$45, up from \$40 this year. Since then we have reduced budgeted expenses by \$2000 and recognized additional income of \$600, thereby improving the expenses-to-income balance by \$2600, and allowing us to reduce the suggested per/member contribution. In making adjustments, we have tried to meet the needs of the Yearly Meeting without placing too great a burden on monthly meetings, bearing in mind that we completed the 2013-14 fiscal year with assets of over \$59,000 but that we want to avoid drastic changes from one year to the next.

Proceeding through the proposed budget we have made the following changes since Representative Meeting:

- Reduced the Travel budget by \$1000, in expectation of having a Travel fund

- Increased the FWCC travel budget by \$1200. Here we need to approval of Meeting to expand the purpose of the FWCC travel fund: currently it supports LEYM Representatives when they travel to international gatherings. Recently we have budgeted \$1000 to \$1200 per year, which builds up in a fund, thereby enabling us to offer considerable support to these representatives every few years. This year we expect FWCC to request contributions to help Friends from less affluent parts of world attend the next International Representatives Meeting, to be held in Peru in January 2016. We propose adding \$1200 to this fund for this year only and expanding the purpose of the fund to cover Friends from other parts of the world.
- Reduced the High School Teen Retreat Program budget by \$700 because of the \$3500 donation to the Fund. (This had originally been increased by \$1000 over last year to support travel expenses of teens; we now propose increasing it by only \$300, thus the \$700 decrease.)
- Reduced the Spiritual Formation budget by \$700 on the advice of the Spiritual Formation Planning Committee. (This had originally been increased by \$1400 over last year; now the increase is only \$700.)
- Reduced the proposed budget line for the work project by \$800, based on the experience of this summer.

These changes reduce the budgeted expenses to \$31,740.

Meanwhile, we realized that we were not including in income our semiannual payment of dividends from the Friends Fiduciary Corporation, estimated at \$600.

These changes allowed us to reduce the expected income from contributions to \$29,725 and thus the suggested per/member contribution from \$45 to \$41.

This leaves the deficit between budgeted expenses and budgeted income at \$1165, which we believe is an acceptable figure.

D. Travel reimbursement rate. We kept the rate at 35¢ per mile.

E. Friends Fiduciary accounts: We confirmed that we will move both our accounts into the Quaker Green Fund. Although the payout will be less by up to 1 percentage point at first, we have heard nothing but support for this move.

YM14 - 25 High School Teen Retreat Committee Report

The report was written by Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) and presented by Conleth Crotser (Cleveland). The full report follows.

Four of four retreats have been completed so far this program year.

The Fall 2014 retreat was held in Athens Meeting. Eight teens attended. The workshop was led by Merry Stanford and Peter Wood (Red Cedar) on the spiritual practice of dialogue. The teens engaged in dyads and group dialogue on issues that were important to them, including their experience of and response to racial language in school. The out trip included a visit to a farmers' market and the always popular thrifting expedition.

The Quake that Rocked the Midwest: 40 teens attended this retreat over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend, coming from Illinois YM, LEYM, and Ohio Valley YM, with seven teens from LEYM. The workshop topic was the life of Nelson Mandela, and the out trips included a visit to the Holocaust Museum, learning about how different nations responded to the Holocaust; and to Millennial Park, which included an unusual art installation that involved seeing your own and others' reflections in a curved surface.

The Spring 2014 retreat was held at Pittsburgh Meeting. Four teens attended from Cleveland, Red Cedar, Ann Arbor and Athens. The workshop was facilitated by Scilla Wahrhaftig on the work of AFSC. She did a wonderful job enlightening the group about the work of AFSC internationally and domestically. The main out trip, chosen by the teens, was a visit to the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium. Exploring the campus and thrift shopping were also enjoyed by the teens.

The Summer 2014 retreat was held at CASS Community Social Services in Detroit. Six teens attended from Cleveland, Athens, and Red Cedar Meetings. The teens learned about the social services that are provided by the center: feeding and housing homeless men, women, and families, job coaching, housing people living with HIV/AIDS, recycling old tires into sandals and door mats, and shredding paper for recycling. The group worked in the recycling center on Saturday morning and in the kitchen on Saturday afternoon. The teens ate breakfast and lunch with the folks receiving services there. They had many opportunities to talk about safety,

racism, classism, and privilege. On Sunday morning half of the teens worshipped with Detroit Friends. Ask them about this experience!

Future Retreats

The 2014 fall retreat will be held at Ann Arbor MM, November 7 - 9.

The 2015 winter retreat, called the Quake that Rocked the Midwest, will be held once again in Chicago, January 16-19.

Robb is hoping the 2015 spring retreat will be held in a Ohio meeting.

Policy regarding ages of participants: Our Policies and Procedures identify the High School Teen Retreat Program as a program for “high school aged youth,” i.e., youth who are in ninth through twelfth grade. The committee clarified the policy to include rising ninth graders during the summer before their ninth grade year, and graduating seniors during the summer following graduation.

Merry is stepping off the committee. I'm very sorry to withdraw from the committee at this point in its history. I had hoped to serve one more year in order to help find and hire a new program coordinator. (See item below.) However, my health (which is slowly improving) and my travel in ministry (which is diminished) are being shown to me to be the priorities for now. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this program!

Search for new program coordinator: Robb's last retreat with the teens will be the 2015 summer retreat. He has done a marvelous job with the program, both in helping guide the teens spiritually and doing so in a way that they enjoy. But Robb has discerned that it is time for him to move on to new things. A new coordinator will be need to be named by summer 2015. The new clerk and committee will be deeply involved in reviewing and updating the job description, requesting applications, and interviewing applicants. Please alert the committee to Friends you think would be interested in providing dynamic leadership to the Teen Retreat Program.

Potential concern about the future of the LEYM HS Teen Retreat Program: Our numbers of participants at retreats have been somewhat lower this year, and we have two teens who are aging out of the retreats, with limited information about younger teens who may be interested in joining us. This gave rise to a potential concern on the committee about keeping the program viable by welcoming new attenders who are entering 9th grade.

So committee members called LEYM families with teens this spring to make personal contact with the families, and to invite their teens to attend the retreats. We don't yet know the outcome of those calls, but we were not overly encouraged by the responses we received. We are aware that teens these days are very scheduled with school, sports, jobs, and other interests. We suggest that meetings might consider taking an active role in encouraging their teens' attendance at the High School Teen Retreats, where teens have an opportunity to hang out with other Quaker teens, participate in teen-relevant workshops regarding Quaker faith and practice, go on outings determined by the teens, participate in service projects, and practice meeting for business in a community of teens. Parents are usually happy to know that all of this occurs in a structured setting with well-articulated expectations regarding behavioral limits and how Friends treat each other. We also invite teens participating in the retreats to bring friends to the retreats.

Here is what young Friends and their families have said about the retreats:

“We bond with other Quaker teens. We've connected and just had a great time while doing it.”

“We have a lot of fun and laugh A LOT!”

“These retreats are one of my child's highlights of the year.”

One of the parents reported that their teen remarked, on returning home from a retreat: “Now I know why you are a Quaker.”

Some teens have indicated that they feel a great disconnect with teens at their schools, and that these retreats are the *only place they can really be themselves*.

I want to thank the teens whose energy makes this such a dynamic program. Thank you to the parents for entrusting your teens to the care of the Yearly Meeting in this way. Thank you to Robb, who has devoted his care and skill to the spiritual nurture of our young Friends. Thank you to the committee, Joyce, Dave, Levi, Dyani, and Conleth, for your time and effort and caring on behalf of all the teens of LEYM. And thank you to

the Yearly Meeting, for the opportunity to serve in this way, nurturing the youthful leadership of LEYM.

The report was discussed. Monthly Meetings have been asked to encourage teens to participate, but they need additional and more timely publicity in order to give families enough time to schedule participation. It was suggested that monthly meetings designate an organizer to encourage teens and help them get to the retreats.

YM14 - 26 Friends General Conference (FGC) Report

Eric Evans (FGC staff) reported. He explained that FGC is more than just the Gathering and that it is not a denomination, but rather a service organization. It seeks to deepen Quaker worship and practice, support a loving Quaker community, as well as support outreach. Eric distributed several FGC pamphlets and made several announcements. He explained the purpose and the work the FGC traveling ministries program does in supporting meetings and Friends traveling in the ministry. He then reported on the Ministry on Racism Program and how it seeks to support Friends of Color in their meetings and to help meetings to be more welcoming to attenders of color. It also works on issues of racism in our society.

Eric spoke about the FGC's Couples Enrichment Program and The New Meetings Project. Online, the Seeding Meetings program is offering Quaker meetings Power Tools as well as the New Meetings Toolbox to help all sorts of meetings get organized, not just new ones. The Quaker Quest project offers materials on how to welcome new attenders to meeting. Eric strongly encouraged meetings to offer First Day School if they don't already. FGC offers a curriculum to support First Day School. Last spring FGC conducted a Spiritual Deepening Consultation on the subject of religious education for adults and has hired a Spiritual Deepening consultant who will be creating resources for meetings.

YM14 - 27 Friends School in Detroit (FSD) Report

Marta Rhea-Johnson, Interim Head of School, reported. She explained how the school tries to not only provide a great education, but to also have students grow up to be good people. She reported that the school is making progress financially, even though there certainly still are many challenges in this regard. Marta tries to make sure the school is managed with integrity. One of the biggest challenges the school faces is that the parents who are interested in having their children attend the school often are not able to afford the asked tuition, necessitating scholarships. The School is a Quaker school. It uses Quaker values to operate and teach. It also teaches Quaker values to the children and has the children follow these Quaker values in their school lives. Marta then explained the various fundraising efforts the school conducts during the year. She also stated that FSD, while still in debt, is paying its staff on time. It is also making payments to its vendors and on its mortgage. It was asked from the floor: "Is LEYM is doing enough to support FSD spiritually and logistically, other than its financial contribution?" It was suggested that all Quaker children should have the opportunity to attend a Quaker school sometime in their lives. Marta then offered to make available the financial figures from the school to those who are interested. The current interim head is being mentored by a past Quaker head of FSD, Dwight Wilson.

YM14 - 28 Report from Olney Friends School

The Clerk reported that Greg Mott (Broadmead) submitted a report which will be published in the Bulletin.

YM14 - 29 Advancement and Outreach Committee Report

Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) reported for the committee. The full report follows.

The A&O Committee's policies and procedures call for the committee to engage in visitation with monthly meetings and worship groups. The committee is pleased to report that it has been aided in this work very materially during the last year by Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), whose calling to travel in ministry the committee endorsed at annual sessions in 2013. Merry visited four meetings between Sept. 2013 and March 2014: Athens MM, Kent MM, North Columbus MM, and Pine River MM. Letters from the clerks of these meetings describe Merry's visits as "spiritually nourishing," "a beginning for further dialogue," "a gift," "a blessing," and "an enriching experience." Merry plans visits to Grand Rapids MM, Ann Arbor MM, and

Granville MM in the coming months. The committee continues to hold in the Light Merry and her anchor committee in Red Cedar MM, as she ministers to meetings in spiritual need.

The committee received a report from Evelyn Kirkhoff, formerly of the Gallipolis Worship Group. She tells us the group was laid down in April. The committee is aware of several other worship groups that continue to function; committee members have recently been in contact with the Chelsea, Fremont and Manitou worship groups. These groups appear to be stable in membership and happy to continue meeting and worshipping in the manner of Friends. In our committee work it occasionally comes to our attention that small groups of Friends are meeting in our area that are not connected with our yearly meeting. We remain open to communication with these Friends. The LEYM website has a map of the LEYM service area, showing the location of its MMs and WGs. We have recently updated the map to reflect current information.

Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) reported for the FGC New Meetings Project. The three women who have occasionally been meeting for worship in the manner of Friends in Ludington, Michigan, were contacted by a New Meetings Project liaison team consisting of Merry Stanford and Mike Holaday. The women have elected not to pursue the possibility of becoming a meeting any further. Mike also reported that the New Meetings Project has developed materials intended to support existing meetings, now collected in a "Quaker Meetings Toolbox" which can be found on the FGC website.

The committee asked that LEYM endorse the travel minute from Broadmead Monthly Meeting in support of Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) as she serves as a mentor with the New Meetings Project of Friends General Conference. The full text of the minute follows:

Broadmead Monthly Meeting
c/o 1532 Bernath Parkway
Toledo, OH 43615
May 31, 2014

Broadmead Friends send you greetings and commend to your care our member, Mathilda Navias. She will be with you as she serves with the New Meetings Project of Friends General Conference. Mathilda is uniquely suited to this work and there is no doubt her leading had Divine origins. She has extensive knowledge of Quaker process, has clerked Advancement and Outreach at the Yearly Meeting level and has expressed her belief that the efforts of fledgling meetings to get started is God's work and she is there to assist.

May you all be held in Light as you labor together.

In Peace,
Mary Igoe Meyers
Clerk of Broadmead Monthly Meeting

The endorsement was **approved**.

The committee continues to encourage the High School Teen Retreat Committee to reach out to young people of our community and we look forward to their report on the experience of that group.

Saturday afternoon session

YM14 - 30 Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

Paula Deming (Waysmeet WG) reported. The full report follows.

The Ministry and Nurture Committee has several charges. First, we administer the Ministry Scholarship Fund. Second, we hold the Spiritual Formation program under our care. Third, we collect and assess the annual State of the Meeting Reports. And fourth, we craft an annual Query to be considered by monthly meetings and worship groups as an enrichment tool.

We also consider other matters that the yearly meeting clerk asks us to take under our care. Last year, Merry

Stanford (Red Cedar) and Peter Wood (Red Cedar) asked us for support of a proposal to offer a special couples enrichment program; this was brought to yearly meeting at last year's sessions. The first program will be offered early in 2015 — Friday, February 27 to Sunday, March 1 — at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan. Merry has sent us a flyer. Copies can be found online.

This year, we were given a tender problem, which was brought to LEYM representatives meeting by Athens Monthly Meeting. During these annual sessions we have heard a report and proposed minute from the Athens Clearness Committee Concerning Sexual Abuse. Our committee had first listened to the report and minute and seasoned it with the Athens representative. The Athens Clearness Committee then met to finish the report and proposed minute; it was the revised version that was presented to this body yesterday.

This year, we received only one request for Ministry Scholarship funds, from a Friend who wished to attend the FGC Gathering. Because of the short time given for discernment plus the lack of an exact sense of ministry, the request could not be considered further. We encourage Friends who are following a leading to bring it to their monthly meeting; after seasoning, the monthly meeting may then bring a request for a scholarship to this committee.

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) has already given a complete report on the Spiritual Formation program that is coming up this year. As noted, the fall retreat will take place September 5-7 at the Colombiere Retreat and Conference Center in Clarkston, Michigan. Eric Evans (Central Philadelphia/FGC Staff) will lead us in a consideration of "The Gospel of John: Stories of What God's Love Looks Like." Flyers for the program can be found upstairs on the display tables.

M&N received State of the Meeting reports from 19 monthly meetings and worship groups. As we read the reports, we noted some challenges in our meetings, but we also noted many strengths and growth.

Several reports continue to include worries about aging. Gallipolis Worship Group, with only three Friends left (one in a nursing home and the others suffering from health issues), has laid itself down. Another meeting is feeling tender and fragile after the loss and diminished health of several seasoned Friends. Some meetings are worried about a lack in diversity.

One meeting writes of trying to rebuild after being torn apart by conflict. Some smaller meetings have laid down committees and are having difficulty finding First Day School teachers.

However, many meetings gave the sense of love and caring within the meeting community. Several, large and small, mentioned that worship includes a deep silence. Some wrote of the Spirit shining through their actions.

It seemed that more meetings wrote about the children's programs and how much they enrich the meetings. One meeting wrote of having the children lead the meeting for worship one week.

Meetings found outreach with other religious groups to be very rewarding. We also read about service projects. Many wrote of projects in support of Quaker organizations or other local needs. Many meetings have committees that address issues of sustainability and care for the planet, or the meeting as a whole is working on them.

The M&N Committee has enjoyed reading all of the details of these reports. Many contain items that are of interest to all meetings. We encourage all Friends and meetings to take the time to read all of the reports.

Jerry Knudson expressed his gratitude for the support of the committee and yearly meeting as he pursued a degree at Earlham School of Religion. He received his degree last month.

Paula shared the annual query which the committee has developed for the coming year:

"Friends find their essential unity in their profound and exhilarating belief in the pervasive presence of God and in the continuing responsibility of each person and worshipping group to seek the leading of the Spirit in all things." *Faith & Practice of New England Yearly Meeting, 1986*

How has our practice of expectant waiting in worship invited the Divine to guide our meeting's actions? In what ways do our actions in the world as a meeting enrich and transform the spiritual life of the body?

The Clerk read the revised Minute on Sexual Abuse from Athens Monthly Meeting and asked for the

Meeting's discernment. The following minute was **approved**:

LEYM Friends recognize that we in the Religious Society of Friends are not immune to the possibility of sexual abuse in our Meetings. Such abuse may occur between children, not just between adults and children, and by any gender. Such sexual abuse has occurred among LEYM Friends. Let our awareness of this, along with our loving and caring for our children, allow us to honor small feelings of discomfort, to empower us as individuals to speak up and speak out when led, and, thus, to limit the chances of sexual abuse happening in our Meetings in the future.

The Clerk proposed that she be given the authority to name an ad hoc committee to explore the various issues around sexual abuse that have arisen out of the discussion of the Athens report and bring recommendations to the YM. This was **approved**.

The body expressed gratitude for all the work that went into developing the report and minute by Athens Friends.

YM14 - 31 Publications and Archives Committee Report

Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) reported for the committee. The full report follows.

- 1) Committee members accepted assignments to cover the 12 workshops at Annual Meeting and write summaries for the Annual Records. Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar), Bob Roehm (North Columbus), and Susan Carpenter (Broadmead) also volunteered to accept workshop assignments
- 2) Annual Records
 - a) Confirmed that Les Walden will be the editor for next year
 - b) Committee members will serve as copy editors for the various sections
 - c) Submission deadline is 9/15/2014; material may be submitted in any format.
- 3) Bulletin
 - a) Susan Carpenter, nominee for Bulletin co-editor, met with the committee. She has talked with past editors, Les Walden and Jeff Cooper as to the functions and management of the Bulletin. Susan feels the future Bulletins might include: report on activities of monthly meetings, profiles of Friends in the Yearly Meeting, & sharing spiritual journeys.
 - b) We discussed ways for the Publications committee to give proper oversight of the Bulletin. We encouraged Susan to contact committee members by email and the committee clerk by phone about problems and concerns. The Committee will make sure we have one or more copy editors for the Bulletin.
 - c) Submission deadline is 9/ 15/ 2014 for a 10/ 1/ 2014 release; the preferable format is *Word*
- 4) We discussed what to do with copies of early Bulletins that have been turned over to the Yearly Meeting but are in poor quality printed form. The Committee suggests at least putting them on the web site as a means of preserving them and will discuss this further with Mathilda Navias. The committee will also inquire of the Swarthmore Historical Library as to whether it is interested in receiving the old paper copies.
- 5) The Yearly Meeting's scrapbooks were reviewed. We will continue to try to add some photos of future annual meetings.

YM14 - 32 Site Committee Report

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reported for the committee. There are 124 attenders this year. This includes 23 children, 8 of whom are teens. The 2015 Annual Sessions will be July 30 - August 2 and in 2016 will be July 28 - 31. The Clerk suggested that the Site and Youth Program committees get together at Representative Meeting in order to consider whether registration for the youth program should have an earlier deadline. It was asked from the floor if members might be able to register online, rather than merely downloading the form. The Clerk asked the site committee to consider this suggestion.

YM14 - 33 Nominating Committee Report

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. Thomas gave an update on the committee's progress and encouraged members to follow their hearts and assume responsibilities as they are led.

YM14 - 34 Earthcare Committee Report

Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) and Richard Lee (Red Cedar) reported for the committee. They said that the committee has been exploring various ways they might be able to widen and deepen the spirituality around Earthcare issues and bring them before the YM. They introduced the members of the committee and asked them to speak about some of the issues they are working on. The Committee is planning to host a listserv to facilitate building bridges between individuals and groups and to help establish a network to help the Yearly Meeting deal with important Earthcare issues. Quaker Earthcare Witness has only two people in it that are under the age of 40. Friends, particularly those under 40, are encouraged to join this organization. Max Heirich spoke about the Michigan Interfaith Power & Light group, which urges us to create energy efficiency and move away from carbon based to renewable energy. A petition was passed around in support of movement toward renewable, clean energy. There was gratitude expressed for the direction that the committee and the YM are taking.

YM14 - 35 Peace Committee Report

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. The full report follows:

In this time of shocking abuse of human rights, massive violence in several areas of the world, and the funding and sale of destructive weapons by our government, it is inevitable that the LEYM Peace Committee will have a wide-ranging report to bring you and we do! Several of us will share our concerns and actions about

1. the bombings in Gaza and on-going violence between Israelis and Palestinians;
2. FCNL's work - with Katherine Phillipson from FCNL reporting
3. and the fate of Central American children crossing our southern border and immigration issues in general

To begin at the beginning, we want to follow up on the minute that was passed in our 2013 Yearly Meeting session:

Minute approved by Lake Erie Yearly Meeting July 2013:

A key step towards stability and safety for Israelis, Palestinians and the other indigenous peoples of the region depends on a just agreement regarding the Palestinian lands that Israel has illegally occupied, according to international law, since 1967. Therefore, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting calls for Friends to join the boycott of products made in Israel's illegal West Bank settlements and to divest from companies that support Israel's military occupation and repression of the Palestinian people. We join with the American Friends Service Committee, Britain Yearly Meeting, monthly meetings, and religious and civil society organizations throughout the world in taking such steps in working for peace.

Blessings to you as your monthly meetings continue to follow the leadings of the spirit,

Sally Weaver Sommer, Clerk of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

In order to help us act on this minute, Friends Anne Remley and Helen Fox from Ann Arbor Meeting have produced the card on your chair that lists ten companies which are based in the illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine. Please take the card with you to your investment counselors and your relatives, and ask them to divest from those companies. Also in your chair is a flyer (keep it in your pocket when you shop) that asks you to boycott Soda Stream for the same reason.

Further, we have had very good news from Friends Fiduciary Corporation, and I'll read a portion of their letter to you.

"To answer your question about the holdings of the ten companies as of June 30, 2014 we did not hold

any of those companies. I would note that some managers have discretion for direct purchase; however, we check the holdings quarterly to verify that there have not been additions that run counter to our screens.”

Jeffery W. Perkins, Executive Director, Friends Fiduciary Corporation

Lucia Kalinosky (Oberlin) will share further our concerns about the present situation in Gaza including a proposed Call to Action [See YM14 - 39 below].

Though Scilla Wahrhaftig has now departed from Yearly Meeting, she has left a short paragraph on her concern about mass incarceration and solitary confinement of prisoners.

“At Friends General Conference a concern pertaining to mass incarceration arose from the attendees. A number of events helped to bring to our attention the tremendous number of incarcerated citizens, with the disproportionate amount of people of color. Over 130 Friends signed up to become part of a Quaker network to address the issue and a steering committee is in process of being established that will explore ways to reach out to Friends for whom this is a major concern.”

Anyone interested in being on the mailing list could contact Scilla Wahrhaftig (swahrhaftig@afsc.org) or (scillahw@gmail.com).

Katherine Philipson, Network Building Associate for Friends Committee on National Legislation, is with us to share the most recent news from FCNL. Her report follows.

While there are not all that many Quakers, it is important that we remember that it is quality over quantity that counts. If war is not the answer, then what is? FCNL is working with the AFSC to answer this question. FCNL is focusing on cutting Pentagon spending and increasing social spending. It is also working on ways to bring about non-violent conflict resolution. Working on avoiding war with Iran. It is also trying to repeal the Main Law that has given the President a blank check with which to prosecute the War on Terror. Finally, there is new staff person at FCNL who is to work with young adults.

Peter Dale (Detroit), stepping briefly out of his role as Recording Clerk, will bring us a concern about the immigration of Central American children. His full report follows.

A Call to Action on the Immigration of Central American Children into the U. S.

The Peace Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is concerned with the response of the United States to the crisis created by the influx of unaccompanied children from Central America over the U.S.-Mexican border. They are arbitrarily being denied asylum and face wholesale deportation back to economically untenable and dangerous situations. The attempt to frame the refusal of asylum to these children as a legal issue is merely an attempt to justify discrimination without addressing its economic and racial underpinnings. The United States also refuses to admit its complicity in maintaining undemocratic governments in the region, fostering the conditions that have led to the desperation that motivated these children to risk their lives in trying to escape.

In order to address the crisis created by the detention and forced expulsion of unaccompanied children from Central America in the wake of their influx into the United States, the committee asks that meetings take immediate steps to ameliorate the situation by reaching out to other groups who are also working to help these children. We need to contact our congressional representatives, urging them to act swiftly to vote against fast-tracking deportations of children and asking them to provide extra funds to address their immediate needs. We should also contact President Obama and tell him to deal with the situation as a humanitarian crisis rather than a security threat, with the likely result of increased militarization of border communities and adding more detention centers. Please write to the editors of local newspapers, calling for justice and compassion by adhering to the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, which guarantees due process for unaccompanied children. As Quakers, we can do no less.

During discussion there was a concern expressed about not addressing the root causes of the crisis. There is a tension between the need to address the immediate crisis and the need to find a solution to the root causes of the crisis. Concern was also expressed that what was presented was a proposed minute, and had not been seasoned sufficiently by the Yearly Meeting for approval. The committee agreed to try to rework the proposed minute and resubmit it to the YM in another form in order to meet these concerns.

Sunday morning session

YM14 - 36 Worship

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the Sunday morning session of the 2014 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with waiting worship.

YM14 - 37 Ad hoc Work Camp Planning Committee

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) has agreed to clerk the committee for the coming year. Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor), Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), and Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) are also on the committee. Others are welcome to join or to offer suggestions.

YM14 - 38 Naming Committee Report

Joyce Balderston (Wooster) and Seth Reichenbach (North Columbus) reported for the committee.

Abbey Pratt Harrington has agreed to clerk the Nominating Committee. Clemence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG) was approved as a member of the Nominating Committee. The Naming Committee will continue to search for another person to serve on the Nominating Committee.

YM14 - 39 Peace Committee Report

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. After discussion and an agreement for the addition of specific mention of Hamas and calling for all the parties in the conflict to negotiate, Friends **expressed support** for sending the following Call to Action on ending the Israeli Military Occupation of Palestinian Territories (see YM14 - 35 above) as an email to the Monthly meetings from the Peace Committee.

Call to Action on the crisis in Gaza

In the light of the current violence in Gaza, we feel that there is a moral imperative to act for shared human dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians by addressing a root cause of injustice and inequality in the region, namely by ending the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian territories. Given the United States' support for Israel and the resulting complicity of U.S. taxpayers, LEYM Peace Committee calls on Friends to encourage the U.S. Government to work with all involved parties, including Hamas, for a just ceasefire that would end the seven-year-long blockade of Gaza.

We ask Friends to consider the following actions:

- Contact local congress people and other elected representatives to ask for an end to U.S. military aid to Israel
- Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper, including the names of local representatives in your letter
- Contact your favorite news outlets to ask for fair coverage
- Hold or join a rally or vigil in a public space
- Contact a corporation profiting from the occupation, asking them to end their complicity (see our short list of corporations or visit www.whoprofits.org)
- Sign the petition (website below) calling for a military embargo of Israel
- Ask others to sign this and other petitions asking for an end to Israeli attacks on Gaza
- Participate in local boycott, divestment and sanctions efforts.
- List of Protests - <http://samidoun.ca/2014/07/take-action-protests-around-the-world-respond-to-assault-on-palestine/>
- FCNL letter to Congress - <http://capwiz.com/fconl/issues/alert/?alertid=63273901>
- Military embargo letter - <http://www.bdsmovement.net/stoparmingisrael>

YM14 - 40 Report from the AFSC

Seth Reichenbach (North Columbus) reported for the representatives. The full report follows.

Report to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting on the American Friends Service Committee's 2014

Corporation Meeting

The annual meeting of the American Friends Service Committee's Corporation took place beginning on Thursday evening, March 6, through Sunday morning, March 9, 2014 in Philadelphia. AFSC is celebrating 97 years of service. The Corporation conducted its business, appointed Corporation and Committee members, and approved the Friends put forward by the Standing Nominating Committee. The Corporation also approved the placement of the Friends Relations Committee as a committee of the Corporation, parallel to that of the Standing Nominating Committee.

On Thursday night, those in attendance heard songs of forgiveness and unity from Tribe One, and from Naima Lowe, who presented "39 Questions for White People" to challenge us to consider issues of privilege.

The Friends Relations Committee was given the task of nurturing a greater vitality in the

Corporation and the connection between AFSC and U.S. Friends in their monthly and yearly meetings. During the meeting Friends joined one another in both programmed and

unprogrammed worship and worship-sharing sessions. The theme this year was, "Steadfastly working for peace and justice in Israel-Palestine." There were evening sessions on this topic.

Several seasoning sessions gave Friends a deeper familiarity with AFSC programs and provided an opportunity to advise staff and the AFSC Board.

The indicators of AFSC as a Quaker organization were discussed. An AFSC document, two years in the making, was reviewed at a seasoning session to get feedback and opportunity for refinement. This document reports on how AFSC seeks to embody Quaker practices in its mission, governance, leadership, program strategies, relationship principles and our spiritual connection through worship.

There were a number of seasoning sessions. One revolved around critical issues facing AFSC and the world. This session discussed a working paper, titled Shared Security: Reimagining U.S. Foreign Policy, jointly authored by the AFSC and the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). This document is the foundation of new program initiatives to embrace youth leadership both inside and outside of Quakerism and strive to change the narrative that justifies militarism and violence in the media. The issues related to U.S. foreign policy abroad, amongst our own communities, and ways in which the language and concept of "security" could be redefined to promote dialogue between different communities, were explored during the seasoning session.

The Israel-Palestine conflict was a concern during the Corporation's annual meeting. Many times the question arose: What is the price of the current narrative of Israeli security in the form of restrictive walls, military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and discrimination and brutality directed towards the Palestinian people? Growing concerns were noted among Friends, which have resulted in initiatives in many monthly meetings Directed towards a just peace in Palestine, while noting that the narrative of "peace" is also a complicated one. We heard from Sandra Tamari, a young Palestinian woman, and Dalit Baum, a young Israeli woman, about the recent history in the region and attempts to boycott companies tied to apartheid against Palestinians. AFSC continues to affirm its involvement with programs in Israel and Palestine. Since 1948 AFSC has been persistent in the search for a just peace in Israel-Palestine.

There's program presentation we heard about mass incarceration, specifically for people living in poverty. We asked ourselves what the future of the prison system should look like, seeing the injustice but not knowing a way to end it.

General Secretary Shan Cretin reported on the return of AFSC to financial stability after critical years following the economic downturn. She reported that the required shrinkage of AFSC has resulted in higher efficiency. She also reported that new work considered by AFSC will be guided by the strategic plan and the financial health of the organization. The organization is smaller than it was in 2007. AFSC has learned the need for good stewardship of resources to meet its obligations. The Corporation's 2013 Annual Report, including the audit results, was made available those in attendance at the Corporation meeting. All documents were available electronically to members of the Corporation, reducing the environmental impact of printing.

Plans are in the works for the centennial celebration and a related Courageous Acts campaign to raise additional funding for general endowment, interns/fellows, and strategic opportunities.

YM14 - 41 Minute of Appreciation to Bluffton University

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) presented a minute as follows:

We are grateful to Bluffton University for letting us make our home here with them during our annual sessions in 2014. The welcoming spirit of their staff and the beauty and comfort of their campus provided support for our work, our worship, and our play.

The minute of appreciation was **approved**.

YM14 - 42 Nominating Committee Report

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. The new and renewed appointments indicated in the report that follows were approved. *[Ed.: The report appears at the end of this document.]*

YM14 - 43 Finance and Budget Committee Report

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. Jeff explained the travel budget line and asked for approval of the budget. The budget was **approved**. The budget follows.

DRAFT BUDGET 2014 - 2015

General Fund Expenses			FY 2012 - 2013		FY 2013 -2014		2014-2015	
	Actual 10-11	Actual 11-12	Actual 12-13	Budget 12-13	Actual 13-14	Budget 13-14	Budget	Bud Diff 13-14 vs 14-15
(* = transfers)								
Travel	5,948.15	2,961.97	3,972.64	6,000.00	1546.70	5,000.00	3,000.00	-2,000.00
Office	10.00	17.47	18.00	100.00	18.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
Contract worker	824.12	1,510.00	1,313.29	2,040.00	938.12	2,040.00	2,040.00	0.00
Finance	60.00	59.77	229.75	210.00	40.40	50.00	50.00	0.00
Publications	2,070.10	2,940.49	3,371.43	3,400.00	2030.71	3,200.00	3,000.00	-200.00
Advancement	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	-175.77	600.00	600.00	0.00
Ministry & Nurture	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	150.00	300.00	300.00	0.00
Clerk's Fund	0.00	0.00	27.00	300.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	0.00
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00
FGC - Special Program	500.00	500.00						
FWCC one-time donation		1,200.00						
Records project	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	200.00	200.00	100.00	-100.00
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00	2,480.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1200.00	1,200.00	2,400.00	1,200.00
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
High School Retreat Fund*	1,100.00	3,300.00	4,900.00	4,900.00	6000.00	6,000.00	6,300.00	300.00
Spiritual Formation*	600.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	800.00	700.00
Friends School in Detroit	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	0.00
Consultation Fund*	0.00	472.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00	-500.00
Summer work project							1,200.00	1,200.00
Insurance			500.00		500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
Misc.		0.00	-1,212.83	0.00	-2357.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expense =	25,752.37	26,242.67	26,319.28	30,450.00	21,790.46	31,140.00	31,740.00	600.00

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Income

Contributions	26,902.50	29,998.50	29,543.00		29,001.00	29,000.00	29,725.00
FFC Payouts					738.71		600.00
Other Income					4010.91	250.00	250.00
Total Income	26,902.50	29,998.50	29,543.00		33,750.62	29,250.00	30,575.00
Actual Income - Actual Expense	1,150.13	3,755.83	3,223.72		11,960.16	Budget underfunded by \$1165**	

Total Contribs / Members		\$40.05		\$40.60		\$40.00	\$41.00
Members		760		750		725	725
Suggested contr./member	37.00	40.00		40.00		40.00	41.00

**Balance, if needed, to come from General Fund

YM14 - 44 Epistle Committee Report

Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) Reported for the committee. Mike introduced himself as the rising Assistant Clerk, thanked his fellow committee members, Sharon Ottenbreit (Detroit) and Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) and read the Yearly Meeting's 2014 Epistle. The Epistle was gratefully received, clarified, approved, and will be given to the clerk for her signature. The Epistle follows.

Epistle for 2014 LEYM Annual Sessions
July 27, 2014

Greetings to Friends Everywhere:

The Lake Erie Yearly Meeting has met in annual sessions from July 24th-27th, 2014, in Bluffton, Ohio, for worship with attention to business, fellowship, growth in the Spirit, and fun and laughter. We have enjoyed sparkling summer weather on the campus of Bluffton University and are grateful to the University for this pleasant meeting place once again. One-hundred twenty-four Friends gathered, including 101 adults and 23 youth.

We heard Spirit speaking in the epistle of the German Yearly Meeting, read to us by our assistant clerk. German Friends criticized their government's policy of barricades against refugees and urged leaders to receive those in need and to respect their human dignity. We were reminded that diversity is a strength and that what some see as shades of gray others see as an array of colors. These Friends prepared us to think deeply about our theme of "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges."

Our plenary speaker, Scilla Wahrhaftig, from the AFSC office in Pittsburgh, shared her rich insights into this theme. She led us in bridging the two halves of the meeting room musically, when we sang this round:

Building bridges between our divisions,
I reach out to you, will you reach out to me?
With all of our voices and all of our visions,
Friends, we can make such sweet harmony!

Scilla gave us powerful strategies for reducing tension in confrontations, such as asking open-ended questions, taking time to breathe, and relaxing our body language. Bridges can be built in many ways, she reminded us, and we greatly enjoyed seeing a model bridge of cardboard boxes of many sizes, shapes, and colors built earlier in a workshop. On the boxes workshop participants had written what it takes to build bridges, including courage, love, listening, and humor. Scilla reminded us bridges can work when they are built together from each side toward the middle, and they can also work when built entirely from one side. She invited us to tell each other stories of our own efforts at bridge building, and thus we made ourselves open to the Light of others.

Above all, Scilla reminded us of the great power that lies in listening. When we are tempted to confront another by saying, "I'm going to tell you how it is," we should consider how much greater is the power that lies in asking, "How is it for you?". She observed that when those who are wounded and broken can tell their stories and be truly heard, anger dies away and the seeds of peace are sown. When we listen, our own language softens, for listening is the cardinal act of giving and the source of peace.

We listened in love and admiration as volunteers for this year's LEYM workcamp told us of their work with Cass Community Social Services, a non-profit in Detroit. Immediately before our annual sessions, a 12-person, multi-generational group was there for three days, preceded by a group of six LEYM teen volunteers, who spent a weekend at CCSS. The team told us how they cooked meals for large numbers of homeless people and cleared years' worth of weeds and brush from a derelict property. They described the grimy and exhausting work of sorting and shredding paper, and turning discarded tires into doormats and sandals and scrap wood and glass into coasters. The slide show revealed inner-city Detroit as a world most of us are hardly aware exists, and we appreciated the bridges these Friends built into that world. We look forward to more opportunities for volunteer work in the coming years.

We were deeply saddened to learn that there had been sexual abuse between two children in our meetings more than a decade ago. We approved a minute making our member meetings aware of the possibility that this can happen, and asked our clerk to form an ad hoc committee on the topic of sexual abuse.

We delighted in our rejuvenated Earthcare Committee and supported our Peace Committee's deep concerns for the Gaza-Israel conflict and the crisis of child immigration on our southern border.

On our last night together we enjoyed those of all ages who shared their gifts in the talent show and made us feel bound together in joy. We are thankful for this time of spiritual renewal together.

YM14 - 45 Epistles from the Youth and Children

The leaders or participants in the programs performed or read their epistles.

The **Pre-School Epistle** was presented and accepted. Thanks were given to Ellen Barnes (Birmingham), Christa Pratt-Harrington (Athens), Sam Spry (Cleveland), and Ben Molina (Athens) for all their work with Pre-School children. The epistle follows:

What we did was run and play, run and play,
What we did was run and play all day.
The playground had such slides galore.
Count them up, one through four.
The highest slide was so scary,
By the second day we weren't so wary.
The spiral slide did bend and bend.
It made our hair stand up on end!
To us the beaver looked like a panda.
We brought bikes, which we lent to Amanda.
Books and blocks, stuffed animals and snacks,
We even have a couch for naps!
From our stroller we like to sing.
Loud and clear our voices ring.
What we did was run and play, run and play.
What we did was run and play all day.

The **Early Elementary Group** report was presented and accepted. The group had a wonderful time playing games, going to the Farmers' Market, going on a nature walk, eating ice cream, swimming, and discussing peace symbols in keeping with the theme of building bridges. Thanks were given to Marc Smith (Ann Arbor) and Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) for all their work with Early Elementary children.

The **Upper Elementary Group** report was presented and accepted. The group had a great time eating ice cream, petting cats, bowling, participating in the talent show, hanging out, going to the nature preserve, petting cats, and playing soccer. They also found time to make books during the sessions. Thanks were given to Peter Crowley (Cleveland) and Julie Brewer (Athens) for all their work with the Upper Elementary children.

The **Middle School Group** report was presented and accepted. Thanks were given to Clemence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG) and Tim Damon (Cleveland) for all their work with the Middle School children. Samantha Smith (Ann Arbor), Jonah Brownfain (Birmingham), Skylar Price (North Columbus), Alexander Charlot (Red Cedar), Rosa Seif (Grand Rapids), and Tim Damon (Cleveland) presented a lively give-and take performance demonstrating their enthusiastic appreciation for their YM experience.

The **High School Group** epistle was presented and accepted.

We talked about lobbying as a way to build bridges with public officials and also talked about

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building bridges to help work on peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine.

This year was a little unusual for the Teen group. We were missing the Crowley kids and, for once, we didn't stay up to all hours watching movies. We did eat plenty of Nutella, though and discovered that strawberries dipped in it taste like ambrosia.

The sugar rush probably had something to do with Andrew developing his theory of Quaker activism. He declared that Friends are like Chihuahuas. We're small, so we make up for it by being loud and determined: an approach that seems to be pretty effective.

We participated in workshops on lobbying and on the situation in Israel/Palestine. When asked how they fit this year's theme, we decided that lobbying is based strongly around the idea of breaking barriers and building bridges with elected officials.

The same applies to Israel and Palestine, where many are working to build bridges and to bring peace between the two groups. We discovered while swimming that bridges made only of sand will quickly break apart. They need some form of a solid foundation to hold them up, and keep them strong.

We managed to walk into town twice. We got to hold the free kittens at the Farmers' Market. Winston had his shirt ruined by a kitten with a full bladder.

On our last night, we managed to break with tradition. Instead of pulling an all-nighter, we stayed up until midnight befriending clawed primates, falling into quicksand, and running from giant snakes. In other words, Ben has successfully introduced us to Dungeons and Dragons. All in all, it was a wonderful Yearly Meeting and we're sorry to be leaving.

Thanks were given to Michael Fuson (Granville) and Isaac Zika (Athens) for all their work with the High School Group.

YM14 - 46 Additional visitors & close

The following additional visitors were recognized at the end of the Sessions: Judith Abala - Columbus, Ebby Luvaga - Iowa, Warnock Davies - Lima, and Claire Davis (Broadmead).

The Annual Sessions closed for the year.

Peter Dale, Recording Clerk
Sally Weaver Sommer, Presiding Clerk

LEYM Officers, Committee Members & Representatives

(Terms begin and end at rise of annual YM sessions.)

Year of Service End Year

Officers

Presiding Clerk ^	Sally Weaver Sommer, Brdmead	3	2016
Assistant Clerk ^	Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids	1	2018
Recording Clerk ^	Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	1	2017
Treasurer ^	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	3	2015

(^ = serves on LEYM Executive Committee.)

Communications

Bulletin Editor	Susan & Berch Carpenter, Brdmd	1	2015
Database Manager	Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	10	2015

(Note: Mathilda Navias, Broadmead, to be Webmaster as part of paid work.)

Committees

Advancement & Outreach

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Aran Reinhart, Broadmead	1	2017
_____	1	
Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor	3	2016
Erika Smith, Ann Arbor	2	
Shelley Kotz, Broadmead	2	
Dolores Avner, Pittsburgh, Clerk ^	5	2015

Earthcare

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Others interested are welcome to attend

Richard Lee, Red Cedar, Co-Clerk ^	1	2017
Jim Crowfoot, Ann Arbor	2	2016
Phil Clampitt, Birmingham	2	
Judy Greenberg, Broadmead, Co-Clerk ^	7	2015
Shannon Pratt-Harrington, Athens	3	2015
Phil Balderston, Wooster	2	

Finance

of Members: 3 Years of Term: 3

Treasurer serves ex officio

Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor, Clerk ^	4	2017
Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor	5	2016
Bob Orr, Detroit	3	2015

High School Teen Retreat Program

of Members:

3 adults with 3 year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2 year terms.

Peggy Daub, Clerk ^	1	2017
David Avner, Pittsburgh	2	2016
Joyce Balderston, Wooster	6	2015
To be appointed by teens	1	2016
Dyani Armijo-Sinnett, Ann Arbor, HS representative	2	2015

Ministry & Nurture

of Members: 6

Years of Term: 3+ 1 Rep. from each meeting encouraged

Ruth Carey, Ann Arbor	2	2017
Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens	2	
Flo Friender, Kalamazoo	2	2016
Paula Deming, Waysmeet, Clerk ^	5	
Margaret Walden, Detroit	3	2015
Pam Kuhn, Wooster	3	

(and other representatives as appointed by local meetings)

Nominating

of Members: 6 (Appointed by YM thru Naming Committee)

Years of Term: 3

Clemence Ravacon Mershon, Erie WG	1	2017
_____	1	
Abbey Pratt-Harrington, Athens, Clerk ^	2	2016
Michael Fuson, Granville	2	
Ann Sprague, Detroit	6	2015
Linda Mills, Kalamazoo	3	

Peace

of Members: 6

Years of Term: 3+1 Rep. from each meeting encouraged

Lucia Kalinosky, Oberlin, Co-Clerk ^	1	2017
_____	1	
David Snyder, Oberlin	5	2016
Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead	2	
Joyce Balderston, Wooster, Co-Clerk ^	2	2015
Kathleen Peabody, Ann Arbor	3	

Paul Helbling, Broadmead MM rep

Publications & Archives

of Members: 4 Years of Term: 3
Webmaster & Bulletin Editor serve ex officio

Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	1	2017
Emma Seif, Grand Rapids	2	2016
Leslie Walden, Detroit	2	
Joe Mills, Kalamazoo, Clerk ^	5	2015

Yearly Meeting Planning Arrangements & Site

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Jon Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk ^	11	2017
Janet Smith, Oberlin	1	
John Templin, Broadmead	5	2016
Berch Carpenter, Bluffton (Registrar)	7	2015
_____	1	
Donna Rodriguez, Broadmead	3	

Adult & Family Program

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Dale Pratt-Harrington, Athens, Co-Clerk ^	2	2017
Sharon Ottenbreit, Detroit	1	
Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh	2	2016
Joel Ottenbreit, Detroit 2		
Janet Dando, Akron, Co-Clerk ^	6	2015
Valerie Vogel, Pittsburgh	6	

Youth & Children's Program

of Members: 12 Years of Term: 2

Kate Spry, Cleveland Clerk ^	2015	
_____ Assistant Clerk	2016	
Employed student or YM vols.	Infants & Toddlers	

The following Friends have agreed to serve at Annual Meeting, 2015.
(Specific duties to be determined closer to Annual Meeting.)

Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	Peter Crowley, Cleveland
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	Marc Smith, Ann Arbor
Timothy Damon, Cleveland	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	Fall retreat clerk
Peter Crowley, Cleveland	Fall retreat assistant

LEYM Bookstore: Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 14

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

AFSC Corp	_____	1	2017
AFSC	Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar *	6	2015
AFSC	John Deikis, Ann Arbor	3	

(* indicates clerk of that group of representatives)

FCNL Gen Brd	Jo Schlesinger, Pittsburgh	1	2017
FCNL	Bill Lefler, Pittsburgh	1	
FCNL	Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor	5	2016
FCNL	Max Heirich, Ann Arbor	5	
FCNL	Kathleen Peabody, Ann Arbor *	6	2015
FCNL	Dottie Stratton, Wooster	3	

FGC Cntl Cttee	Robb Yurisko, N. Columbus	1	2017
FGC	Helen Hebben, Kalamazoo *	2	2016
FGC	Paula Deming, Waysmeet	3	2015

(LEYM Reps appoint rep to FGC Executive Committee)

FWCC	Carmen Kelly, Detroit	1	2017
FWCC	Mike Kelly, Detroit	2	
FWCC	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	5	2016
FWCC	Jerry Knutson, Pittsburgh	6	2015

Q Earthcare Witness	Judy Greenberg, Broadmead	2	
FLGBTQC	Robb Yurisko, N. Columbus	3	
Wm. Penn House	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	7	2017
Olney Friends School	Greg Mott, Broadmead	7	

Visitors to neighboring yearly meetings

Canadian YM	_____	
EFI Eastern Region	Abbey Pratt-Harrington, Athens	3
Ohio YM	Paula Deming, Columbus	3
Ohio Valley YM	_____	1
Wilmington YM	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	