

Table of Contents

To go directly to a topic, click on it. If that does not work, try Ctrl+click. Otherwise, page down.

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

March 2, 2002

Oberlin, Ohio

Representative Meeting

- RM02-1 Roll Call
- RM02-2 History and Archives Committee report
- RM02-3 Advancement and Outreach Committee report
- RM02-4 Publications Committee report
- RM02-5 Report from the editor of the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records*
- RM02-6 *Membership Directory*
- RM02-7 Treasurer's report
- RM02-8 Finance and Budget Committee report
- RM02-9 Preliminary report from Nominating Committee
- RM02-10 Ministry and Oversight Committee report
- RM02-11 Spiritual Formation Program report
- RM02-12 Relationship with the Ohio Council of Churches
- RM02-13 Report from one of our representatives to FGC
- RM02-14 Appointing representatives to FGC consultation on eldering
- RM02-15 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting report
- RM02-16 Report from Friends School in Detroit
- RM02-17 Adult and Family Committee report
- RM02-18 Report from the Youth and Children Committee
- RM02-19 Report from Arrangements and Site Committee
- RM02-20 Changes to LEYM Policies and Procedures
- RM02-21 Peace Committee report
- RM02-22 Creation of Earth Care Committee of Concern for trial period
- RM02-23 Thanks
- RM02-24 Close

Reports

- Report from LEYM History and Archives Committee
- Advancement and Outreach Committee report
- Treasurer's report (missing)
- Finance and Budget Committee report
- Report from one of our representatives to FGC Central Committee
- Peace Committee report

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

March 2, 2002

Oberlin, Ohio

Representative Meeting

At a gathering of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Representative Meeting at Kendal at Oberlin, Third Month 2, 2002, we began with worship and a welcome from Marcia Heckert of Kendal Corporation. We welcomed the following visitors: Linda Krupp and Ricky Moore from Friends School in Detroit, Ogden Hannaford of North Side, Chicago, Meeting sojourning at Oberlin, and first-time attender Shelby Conrad of North Columbus. After committee meetings and lunch, Representative Meeting settled again into worship in which we remembered Friends who have died recently. We have heard the epistle from Norway Yearly Meeting recounting what they are learning about being in community.

RM02-1 Roll Call

We have heard the roll call and the following numbers are present:

Akron	3	Kalamazoo	3
Ann Arbor	9	Kent	4
Athens	4	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	3	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	11	North Columbus	3
Cleveland	2	Oberlin	11
Delaware	0	Pine River	3
Detroit	1	Pittsburgh	3
Grand Rapids	1	Red Cedar	0
Granville	3	Wooster	3

The following numbers responded from worship groups. They are counted in their overseeing monthly meeting.

Albion Worship Group	1	Indiana Preparative Meeting	0
Chelsea Allowed Worship Group	2	Manitou Worship Group	0
Erie Worship Group	1	Mansfield Area Worship Group	0
Fremont Worship Group	0	Sidney Worship Group	0
Holland Preparative Meeting	0		

The total number responding to roll call is 67.

RM02-2 History and Archives Committee report

History and Archives Committee reports that it has completed its task of publishing the *Annual Records*, and has deposited many yearly meeting records at the Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College. Friends are invited to send memories of LEYM -- recent as well as older -- to Leonora Cayard. The report is attached.

RM02-3 Advancement and Outreach Committee report

Advancement and Outreach Committee reports that its work of intervisitation continues. They are continuing to explore ways to settle and strengthen new and small meetings. They oversee the ongoing development of the LEYM web page. The report is attached.

RM02-4 Publications Committee report

We have heard the report of the Publications Committee. Ninety copies of the *LEYM Membership Directory* have been printed. The Committee has evaluated the *Annual Records*: 400 were printed and mailed in August. Friends expressed their deep appreciation for the long hours of faithful labor on the part of Susan Jeffers and Eric Starbuck in editing and publishing the *Membership Directory* and *Annual Records*.

RM02-5 Report from the editor of the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records*

The Editor of the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records* reports that the US post office requires too much paperwork to change the bulk-mailing permit from Delaware to Akron, although a temporary expedient has been arranged. The LEYM web site has been redesigned and enlarged. There is a page for each monthly meeting. Akron Meeting has found it gets more inquiries from visitors who have seen its web page than through any other form of outreach. Friends expressed their appreciation for the hard work of the Editor.

RM02-6 *Membership Directory*

The Editor of the *Membership Directory* asks individuals and meetings to inform Susan Jeffers and/or Eric Starbuck of all address changes. Next time, each monthly meeting will be asked to specify which addresses need to be changed, who is to receive mailings, and so on. It would be helpful if monthly meetings asked individuals who are enthusiastic or competent computer users to be in contact with Susan Jeffers at <susan@read-the-bible.org> to feel toward a sense of how God might lead us to use this technology.

RM02-7 Treasurer's report

We have heard the Treasurer's Report, which is attached. We are grateful to our Treasurer for her ongoing careful attention to our finances.

RM02-8 Finance and Budget Committee report

Finance and Budget Committee has developed a budget for next fiscal year that includes increases for FGC, Friends School in Detroit, Olney Friends School, clerk's fund, and youth activities fund, and adds a commitment of \$500 per year for the next 10 years for the FGC Nurturing Quakerism Campaign. This would involve raising the recommended per-member contribution to \$26. These issues will be considered at our Yearly Meeting sessions in Sixth Month. The report is attached.

RM02-9 Preliminary report from Nominating Committee

We have heard from the Nominating Committee that it appreciates receiving both the pre-registration list of those who planned to attend Representative Meeting and lists from each committee of those present in their meetings today. Thirty-eight out of 67 standing committee members, and nine out of 21 representatives to other Friends organizations have confirmed that they will continue to serve another year. Both Ministry and Oversight and Peace Committees would like to have representatives from every monthly meeting. Nominating Committee is willing to keep records of these Friends, but reminds us that it is the responsibility of the monthly meetings to name them.

RM02-10 Ministry and Oversight Committee report

We have heard an oral report from Ministry and Oversight Committee that it heard of the spiritual life in monthly meetings and is encouraged that some healthy new life is evidenced, especially through the use of small groups. The query for next fiscal year will be on peace. A booklet has been prepared compiling all the queries since 1985 that have been brought to the Yearly Meeting by Ministry and Oversight Committee. The Committee recommends that this be posted on the LEYM web site. The Committee also offers a Summary of Responses to Queries for 2001: Nurturing our Meeting Community.

RM02-11 Spiritual Formation Program report

The Spiritual Formation Program reports it is in its fourth year. Marty Grundy and Connie McPeak have facilitated the opening and closing retreats, and first Ruth Taber, then Valerie Groszmann, have organized a book table. The program consists of opening and closing weekend retreats and two local meetings a month, one to share personal spiritual journeys and the other to reflect on how a specific reading resonates with their lives. Any Friends who feel led to deepen their spiritual lives are especially urged to join at the opening retreat next fall in Brighton, Michigan.

RM02-12 Relationship with the Ohio Council of Churches

We are informed of the possibility of LEYM relating to the Ohio Council of Churches. We would have observer status at first, along with seven other groups. This relation would be realized most effectively by a Friend who feels led to ecumenical work, taking it on for a fairly long period of five or ten years. The relation is not creedal but refers to agreement with the purposes and work of the Council. This includes anti-racism, social action, and both ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. We ask the clerk to get additional information, season it, and bring it back to Yearly Meeting in Sixth Month.

RM02-13 Report from one of our representatives to FGC

We have heard an enthusiastic report from one of our representatives to Central Committee of Friends General Conference (FGC). It is attached.

RM02-14 Appointing representatives to FGC consultation on eldering

The Traveling Ministries Program of FGC is hosting a consultation in 11/2002 for two representatives from each FGC-affiliated yearly meeting, to explore how FGC and the yearly meetings might foster discerning, caring for, and eldering our local meetings in support of ministry. We approve asking Executive Committee to name two representatives to attend.

RM02-15 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting report

We have heard an oral report from Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting. It held a called meeting in Twelfth Month in regard to the perilous financial condition of Friends School in Detroit. Minutes of the meeting are available. Last week Grand Rapids MM hosted about 60 folks for the mid-winter gathering of GPQM on the theme of "Circles of Peace."

RM02-16 Report from Friends School in Detroit

Linda Krupp of Friends School in Detroit spoke briefly in gratitude for our spiritual and financial support. The school gives an excellent education grounded in Quaker values as well as solid academics. Admissions are up. The only difficulty is financial. Graduates of the school are noticed in local high schools as the students who move comfortably between racial groups, are active in student conflict resolution, and engage in peace actions.

RM02-17 Adult and Family Committee report

We have heard an oral report from the Adult and Family Committee. LEYM will be held 6/13-16/2002 at Bluffton College on the theme, "Testimonies, where Quaker rubber hits the road: moving from talking the talk to walking the walk". Steve Morehouse of Ann Arbor MM will be the plenary speaker on "The Spiritual Journey of an Imperfect Quaker". There will be opportunities for committees to meet Thursday afternoon and have lunch and dinner on campus. Workshops will be offered by Friends organizations this year, as an experiment. The Committee recommends that, if there are international visitors, the FWCC representatives or some other small group host the visitors and make arrangements for interpreters, travel, etc.

RM02-18 Report from the Youth and Children Committee

The Youth and Children Committee finds its new staffing format very helpful. The high school group hopes to have its own session with the plenary speaker this year. The service project will be to make and sell things to raise money for Friends School in Detroit.

RM02-19 Report from Arrangements and Site Committee

Arrangements and Site Committee informs us that Bluffton College's fees have risen slightly. There will be considerable construction around Marbeck Center this summer.

RM02-20 Changes to LEYM Policies and Procedures

Friends approved some minor changes in wording of the LEYM Policies and Procedures. We ask that the corrected Policies and Procedures be printed and made available at our upcoming yearly meeting sessions.

RM02-21 Peace Committee report

We have heard a report from the Peace Committee, which had a very full meeting, considering a number of important topics which they bring to our attention. A copy will be attached. The Committee drafted a letter in regard to "US government plans to overthrow the government of Iraq," which it suggests be sent to the White House and Senators of our four states, and that individuals use it to send to newspapers and members of Congress. Friends expressed appreciation for the letter, but also voiced reservations having to do with wording that seems to place all the blame on the US government, noting that there are ambiguities in the Middle East that led some Friends to suggest a more nuanced wording. Friends agree to forward this draft from the Peace Committee to monthly meetings to enable them to season it and use it as they are led. We appreciate the work of the Peace Committee in developing the letter and hope that we might return to this issue in Sixth Month.

RM02-22 Creation of Earth Care Committee of Concern for trial period

We have considered the proposal, brought up at last Sixth Month, and circulated to the monthly meetings, to create a

committee on Earth Care. Its purpose would be to (1) ask, *What is the Earth and its Creator asking of us?*; (2) co-create an ongoing Earth Care ministry/faith and practice to include lifelong learning and education for all ages; (3) become a facilitator for these concerns and their implications for behavior for LEYM meetings and individuals; (4) enable local meetings to inform other meetings of their environmental concerns and activities; (5) exchange knowledge of environmental issues before, and decisions made by, our state and federal governments; (6) communicate with and support FCNL's Part IV *We Seek an Earth Restored*, and make LEYM aware of FCUN's work and concerns. We approve this and agree that it shall be considered a committee of concern for a three-year trial period. The Nominating Committee will not be asked to name anyone to this new committee, and the core participants will select the convener. Bill Bliss has volunteered to serve in this capacity.

RM02-23 Thanks

We are grateful to Oberlin Meeting and Kendal for hosting us. The food was excellent as were the accommodations. We especially appreciate the work of Connie Bimber in making the arrangements.

RM02-24 Close

There being no further business the meeting is adjourned. Friends look forward to gathering for Yearly Meeting in Bluffton 6/13 to 6/16.

Marty Grundy, Recording Clerk

Reports

Report from LEYM History and Archives Committee

The History and Archives Committee completed its task of developing and producing the *Annual Records* in booklet format and turned over the production of future volumes to the newly appointed Publications Committee. The committee also sent as many historical records as we could find to our designated depository, the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College, and is encouraging all monthly meetings to deposit their records at the Friends Historical Library.

At the annual meeting in June 2001, the History and Archives Committee was asked to collect more information about the history of LEYM. The clerk of the committee sent out a letter "to all LEYM Friends" inviting them to contribute personal memories about Lake Erie Association / Yearly Meeting. A collection of our individual memories would not only help to tell the story of LEYM but would also be a record of God's leadings among us and how we tried to follow these leadings. One wonderful result of this invitation is a one-page handwritten letter from Elise Boulding sharing her reminiscences. We hope that there will be more contributions to this effort.

Leonora Cayard, clerk

Advancement and Outreach Committee report

The members of Advancement and Outreach Committee shared our experiences of visiting other meetings since June 2001. We were glad to have several Friends sit in on our meeting and share their experiences as well.

We will resume our practice of publishing articles in the *Bulletin*. Marvin Barnes (Birmingham MM) will write our next article and it will include suggestions of ways that meetings can reach out to Muslim groups.

Betty Ford (Grand Rapids MM) is planning to pursue a leading to contact each meeting in LEYM to record what outreach strategies each has employed.

We know that small meetings and worship groups would like to have more visitors. Advancement and Outreach Committee continues to work on arranging visits, possibly assigning committee members in a rotation.

Advancement and Outreach Committee plans to work with the Publications Committee to determine what help we can offer with the LEYM website, WWW. quaker.org/leym/

Erika T. Smith and John Savage, co-clerks

Treasurer's report (missing)

Finance and Budget Committee report

Present: Connie Bimber (Treasurer), Joe Davis, Zig Dermer, Linda Mills, and Don Nagler (clerk of LEYM)

1. Worked up a budget for 2002/03 adding \$1030 to this year's budget of \$19,560 for a total of \$26,090. Increases are recommended in:
 - FGC 70
 - Friends School in Detroit 285
 - Clerk's Fund 190
 - Youth Activities Fund 400
 - Olney Friends School 85and a commitment to FGC's Nurturing Quakerism Campaign over a 10-year period of \$5,000, or \$500 a year.
2. The per member quotient thus increases to approximately \$26 per member per year. We are much concerned that this year's contributions are not reaching the \$22 previously encouraged.
3. Discussed yearly meeting content, cost, attendance, and length.
4. Discussed Friends Schools in Detroit and Olney

Joe Davis, clerk

Report from one of our representatives to FGC Central Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to be one of our yearly meeting's representatives to the Friends General Conference (FGC) Central Committee. I am much interested in group decision making, and at the meetings I attend I am learning more about Friends' process, clerking, and seasoning. Working on the Long Range Conference Planning committee suits me fine; I like to step back a bit and see a larger picture. The annual summer Gathering of Friends is under the care of the above mentioned LRPC. And it is only one of the good programs and projects of FGC.

Star Mary Castro

Peace Committee report

LEYM Peace Committee minutes from its meeting on Saturday, March 2, 2002 (10:10 AM to 12:20 PM)

1. Present (Monthly Meeting in parentheses): David Bassett (Ann Arbor) (clerk), Pat Birmingham (Oberlin), Isabel Bliss (Ann Arbor), Jack Brown (Oberlin), Katie Brown (Oberlin), Shelby Conrad (N. Columbus), Janet Dando (Akron) (recording), Steve Dando (Akron), Meg Hummon (Athens), Margaret Kanost (Birmingham), Karl Liske (Kent), Gerry McNabb (Oberlin), Jim Satterwhite (Broadmead). Also present: Lynda Krupp (parent & Board member, Friends School in Detroit)
2. Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is asking Friends to show support for Representative Dennis Kucinich's (10th CD, Ohio) proposal for the establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Peace. We might also send to Repr. Kucinich letters of commendation for his recent speech regarding the current administration's lack of concern for civil rights.
3. The Committee adopted a statement to suggest a Quakerly response to the possibility of war with Iraq. Friends may use this statement to:
 - a. write a letter to the editor in their own communities;
 - b. (if the Business Meeting approves the statement*) have the LEYM clerk send it to Senators in the four LEYM states, and to the President; (* the Business Meeting did not reach unity concerning this statement, so it was not approved by the Business Meeting);
 - c. encourage individual Friends to write to their own Congressperson on this topic.
4. The Committee suggests that the Ministry and Oversight Committee pursue the idea of having this year's queries focus on the peace testimony. We suggest adding the following queries:
 - a. "Do I consider that paying for war is a form of participation in war?"
 - b. "How do I maintain my Testimony to Peace at a time when a mood of war prevails in the land?"
5. The Committee discussed the draft of a statement in support of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill (HR 1186). We decided to continue the discussion at Yearly Meeting in June, especially during the Peace Committee meeting time on Thursday, June 13 (that meeting time beginning at 4:00 PM).
6. It was suggested that the Planning Committee invite an intern from the Quaker UN Office in New York (and

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE MEETING 3/2/2002

possibly from other Quaker organizations) to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting - this year if possible, or next year.

7. The Committee discussed House of Representatives Bill 3598, the Universal Military Training and Service Act of 2001. FCNL believes the bill is not likely to pass; but it may be the beginning of further efforts at such legislation. It is worth watching. In the meantime, Friends are encouraged to meet with young people, to help them be aware of their peace testimony, and help them to know about agencies that can assist with their conscientious objection to war.
8. We took note of the many references made to FCNL in our Committee meeting, as a source of information and inspiration in our work.

David Bassett, Peace Committee Clerk