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Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Third Month 3, 2001

UCC Church, Kent, OH

Representative Meeting

Our Representative Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, gathering on the third day of the Third Month, 2001, in the UCC Church in Kent, Ohio, began with worship.

RM2001-1 Epistle from the Societe Religieuse des Amis, Assemblée de France

We have heard the epistle from the Societe Religieuse des Amis, Assemblée de France, held in Eighth Month 2000. We are reminded to listen to the Inner Voice that guides us in the way.

RM2001-2 Welcome

We are welcomed by Friends from Akron and Kent Meetings, who have cooperated to host us. We are grateful for their work and welcome.

RM2001-3 Roll call

The following numbers of Friends responded to the roll call:

Akron	6	Kalamazoo	3
Ann Arbor	8	Kent	8
Athens	4	Mid-Ohio Valley	2
Birmingham	3	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	8	North Columbus	2
Cleveland	2	Oberlin	3
Delaware	0	Pine River.	4
Detroit	1	Pittsburgh	7
Grand Rapids	1	Red Cedar	1
Granville	1	Wooster	1

The following nos. responded from worship groups. They are counted in their overseeing Monthly Mtg.

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

RM2001-4 Changes to LEYM Policies and Procedures

We have considered proposed changes to our LEYM Policies and Procedures Manual. We approve some minor grammatical wording and minor procedural changes which are attached. We refer the dates for *Bulletin* publication back to the committees.

RM2001-5 Worship

After a recess for committee meetings and lunch we regathered for worship and further consideration of the business of Representative Meeting.

RM2001-6 Epistle from Norway Yearly Meeting

We have heard the epistle from Venneses Samfunn Kvekerne (Norway Yearly Meeting) held in Sixth Month 2000. We are called to listen carefully to God, learning to balance our individual and corporate hearings as we uphold our testimonies in love.

RM2001-7 Approval of 2000 Representative Meeting minutes with a correction to minute RM2000-8

Minute RM2000-8 of last Representative Meeting held in Perrysburg, Ohio, was corrected to replace the last two sentences with the following text: "A new FGC project is the \$2,000,000 Nurturing Quakerism Campaign to raise funds for the support of meetings within FGC through new programs such as the Traveling Ministries Program." With this correction Friends approved the minutes as they are printed in the Spring 2000 LEYM *Bulletin*.

RM2001-8 Treasurer's report

We have received the Treasurer's report, which is attached. Five Monthly Meetings have not yet made their contributions to LEYM for this fiscal year. Friends are reminded that our Treasurer lives in Kendal at Oberlin, not Painesville, and checks need to be mailed to Connie Bimber, 156 Kendal Drive, Oberlin, OH 44074-1907. The address is also published in the LEYM *Bulletin*. Friends approve the report with gratitude.

RM2001-9 Finance and Budget Committee report

The Finance and Budget Committee recommends increasing the amount for travel in next year's budget. Since the surplus of five years ago has been pretty well spent down, the committee recommends the following changes: that registration for Yearly Meeting sessions be increased by \$1 per person; and that the annual expected contribution be increased to \$15 per member for Meetings that count children, and \$17.50 for meetings that do not. There will probably be more increases in the next few years. Friends approve the increase of \$1 for this year's Yearly Meeting registration fee. As of this time the Finance and Budget Committee has been able to find only "secondary insurance" for such things as youth trips and programs. The primary insurer is assumed to be that which is carried by the drivers of private vehicles. The committee is still looking for a solution to this situation.

RM2001-10 Publications Committee report

We have received the report of the Publications Committee, which is attached. The hope is that the *Annual Records* booklet will be published in mid-July. Any State of the Meeting or statistical reports that are received by June 1 will be included. In the section of the attached report listing future improvements of the *Annual Records*, we are informed that there are no plans for including a directory of all the youth members and all members and attenders of every Monthly Meeting. Eventually these directories will be a separate publication. Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting's State of the Quarter report will be included, but not its minutes. Friends expressed appreciation for the work of the committee and are pleased with the *Annual Records* booklet as it is developing. We understand that it is still a work in progress.

RM2001-11 History and Archives Committee report

We have heard an oral report from the History and Archives Committee. The committee asks for feedback in regard to the number of *Annual Records* booklets sent to each Meeting. Extra copies should be brought to Yearly Meeting to circulate to Meetings that might need more. The committee is now ready to turn its attention to collecting the history and records of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and its constituent Monthly Meetings, and getting them safely deposited in the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College.

RM2001-12 Ministry and Oversight Committee report

We have heard an oral report from the Ministry and Oversight Committee, which has been working on the responses to the set of queries sent out in mid-July. Fourteen of 20 Monthly Meetings and one Worship Group responded, representing 90% of the Yearly Meeting's membership. The committee has drafted a summary of the responses that will be available by our upcoming Yearly Meeting sessions. The committee is looking at how various Meetings use queries -- or not. The committee also looks at issues of ministry and oversight within the Monthly Meetings represented at its committee meetings. Friends appreciate the ongoing work of this committee.

RM2001-13 Advancement and Outreach Committee report

We have heard an oral report from the Advancement and Outreach Committee. It suffered a diminution of its members today. There seems to be some difficulty in intervisitation. Some of the larger Meetings, however, continue to reach out to smaller Meetings that they have helped form. There has been a little reaching out to campus Meetings, and the committee hopes to do more.

RM2001-14 Olney School update

The ad hoc committee to consider clearness around Olney School reported that the School is now operated by Friends of Olney, a non-profit board that is separate from Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative). Enrollment is up to 45 this year. The

School is engaged in a capital campaign. It is sponsoring youth retreats and other youth activities. The committee wants to know the extent of interest for support of Olney and will send a questionnaire to Monthly Meetings. It asks what we are doing as a Yearly Meeting and as Monthly Meetings about the education and socialization of youth in our areas.

RM2001-15 Schedule adjustments for Annual Sessions

The Adult Program Committee is trying to address the sense of time pressure in our Yearly Meeting business sessions and of over-scheduling during our Annual Meeting by adjusting the schedule. The theme of our upcoming Yearly Meeting is "Individual Will, Corporate Worship, Corporate Decision-making." Workshops and plenaries will focus on this theme. Committees will be expected to bring their reports in writing to the Yearly Meeting business sessions. The committee hopes to have Thursday dinner available at Bluffton College, and begin the meeting for business Thursday evening. Committees are invited to meet Thursday afternoon. Friends approve. The Committee brings the attached proposal for 2002. Friends are asked to consider this for a possible decision at Yearly Meeting. The committee invites feedback on the proposal. A suggestion has been made to consider inviting the Bluffton Mennonites to join us for some activities. We feel this is a good suggestion that needs more seasoning by Advancement and Outreach, Ministry and Oversight, and Adult Program committees.

RM2001-16 Youth and Children Program Subcommittee report

We have received a report from Youth and Children Program Subcommittee, which is attached. Additional volunteers are needed from Monthly Meetings. Suggestions of names should be forwarded to the Nominating Committee. This year there will be sign-up sheets at Yearly Meeting requesting volunteers with specific talents and gifts. We are grateful for the good work of this committee.

RM2001-17 Site Committee report

The Site Committee reports that Lake Erie Yearly Meeting will be held June 14 to 17, 2001, at Bluffton College. We ask the committee to see if we can use Centennial Hall, which is air-conditioned and barrier-free. Friends are reminded that timely registration is very helpful.

RM2001-18 Report from Nominating Committee

We have heard a report from the Nominating Committee. This year the committee is trying to touch base with all who are currently serving to make sure that each Friend is still willing to serve in his or her present capacity. Friends are particularly needed for this year's Youth and Children Program sessions, and for next year's Finance and Budget, History and Archives, Adult and Family Program, Site, and Youth and Children Program committees. Friends are reminded that individual Monthly Meetings are asked to name a representative to Peace Committee and one to Ministry and Oversight Committee. It has been suggested that LEYM might want to facilitate Friends visiting other Yearly Meetings in our FWCC Lower Great Lakes Region: Eastern Region (Evangelical Friends International), Wilmington Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting), the east-central area of Canadian Yearly Meeting (Friends General Conference and FUM), and Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

RM2001-19 Peace Committee report

We have heard the report and a number of announcements from Peace Committee, which will be attached. Our attention is directed to IRS action against conscientious objectors to war taxes; the committee plans to draft a letter on this. The committee raises the concern about the blurring of church-state separation by the current administration in Washington, DC. The committee is also looking at issues around damage to the environment by mind-set and actions of some large corporations.

RM2001-20 Changes to Policies and Procedures

We turned again to the Policies and Procedures Manual. After much discussion, the timing of the fall *Bulletin* is returned again to the Publication and History and Archives committees. There is some uncertainty whether Representative Meeting or only our Yearly Meeting session can approve changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual. Nevertheless, we approve, and ask not to have brought to Yearly Meeting in Sixth Month, the attached changes to the following parts: p. 3: 4. LEYM *Bulletin*, b, d (1); p. 5: add new 5. LEYM *Annual Records* a, b, c, and d; p. 14: b. Responsibilities [of presiding clerk] (6), (7); p. 15: b (14); p. 16: 3. Recording Clerk, b (2) delete (c); p. 21: E. Standing Committees, 2nd paragraph; p. 22: 1. Advancement and Outreach, b (5); p. 25: c. Youth and Children Program; p. 26: 5. Nominating, b (1); p. 27: 6. History and Archives, a, b (1); p. 28: add new 8. Publications; p. 29-30: all of A and B.

RM2001-21 Report from GPQM

We have received and will attach a report from Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, which consists of all seven Monthly Meetings in the lower peninsula of Michigan. An additional report was printed in the winter 2001 LEYM *Bulletin*. We appreciate learning more about the history and programs of this body.

RM2001-22 Report from our representatives to the FWCC Triennial

We have received a report about the FWCC Triennial, which is attached. It has been good to hear the personal experiences of our representative with the world-wide diversity of Friends and the underlying love and unity that can be heard when Friends stay together listening deeply to one another. We are asked to look at, for consideration at our Yearly Meeting session, the issues raised at the Triennial.

RM2001-23 Friends in Unity with Nature

We have heard a brief report from Friends in Unity with Nature. We are informed about Greenfire, a project that is in the process of acquiring land near Athens, Ohio, on which to build an ecologically-based wholistic community. There being no more time to consider business today, the meeting adjourns after a short period of worship. We plan, with divine assistance, to meet again on the first Seventh Day in Third Month, 2002.

Marty Grundy, Recording Clerk (Cleveland)

Reports

Changes to LEYM Policies & Procedures (missing)

Treasurer's report (missing)

Publications Committee

1. Report on Membership and Work of Publications Committee

Members of the Publications Committee were approved for a period of one year at the 2000 Yearly Meeting. They are: Ann Brown, Leonora Cayard, Rosemary Coffey (clerk), Joseph Mills, Eric Starbuck (editor), and Ruth Taber. Most of the committee work was done by e-mail, with one in-person meeting in Akron in September.

2. Report on Publication of the *Annual Records* 2000

The inaugural issue of the *Annual Records* booklet was completed in October 2000 as the Fall issue of our publications. Because of the challenges of producing our first booklet, we had decided to publish this year a Summer issue of the *Bulletin* to make needed information available quickly. In the future, we expect to publish the *Annual Records* booklet in the summer, followed by three issues of the *Bulletin* in the fall, winter, and spring.

We had 500 copies printed at a shop near Pittsburgh. 405 of them were shipped by parcel post to each of the 20 monthly meetings and a few selected worship groups, each receiving about half as many as they have adult members (there were 869 adult members listed in the Yearly Meeting in June 2000). Each of 4 Yearly Meeting officers received one copy by first class mail. Two copies went to Friends Historical Library in Swarthmore, our official depository.

In January 2001, after a list of recipient addresses was established, a total of 31 individual copies went by First Class mail to each of 14 Quaker libraries (including all branches of the Religious Society of Friends), to FGC and the other yearly meetings in FGC, to the Section of the Americas and the World Office of FWCC, and to the Library of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain. Several letters of appreciation have come in, including two warm ones from Britain.

There are 65 copies still available for future needs.

The expenses for the booklet are the following:

Printing and coil binding	\$911.30
Postage	116.10
(book rate parcels \$72.22, 1st Class 43.88)	
Packing supplies	29.25
Total	\$1056.65

3. Report on Publication of the LEYM *Bulletin*

Two issues of the *Bulletin* have been published since the 2000 Yearly Meeting, the Summer issue in August and the Winter issue in February 2001. Even though the expectation was that the size of the *Bulletin* could be somewhat reduced, the amount of material necessitated 12 pages for the Summer issue and 16 pages for the Winter issue.

Susan Jeffers supplied the mailing labels. and Sandi Robison, Bruce Stull and Rosalita Rowe from Akron Meeting helped with folding, stapling, labeling and sorting.

1200 copies were printed of the Summer issue, and 1000 of the Winter issue. The expenses for printing and mailing of the Summer issue were about \$650.00, and for the Winter issue about \$725.00. Requesting address service from the Post Office has made possible rapid updating of the LEYM mailing list. Even though the service costs from 59 to 78 cents per name, more than 100 address changes have been made so far, which will save the cost of return postage in the long run. The total cost of publications for this year is expected to come to about \$3600.00.

The editor is currently using an extension of the bulk- mailing permit from the previous editor at the Post Office in Delaware, Ohio. To establish a permanent non-profit bulk-mailing permit in Akron, a copy of LEYM's 501(c)3 form is needed. Since at this time the form cannot be found, LEYM may have to apply for 501(c)3 status again. This will be taken care of as soon as possible.

4. Plans for Future Improvements of the *Annual Records* of LEYM

Several needed improvements are obvious and will be taken care of. These include obtaining complete information from all Yearly Meeting attenders (name, address, phone number, e-mail, and Monthly Meeting affiliation); more timely and complete returns from Monthly Meetings as to State of the Meeting reports and statistics; and information about the Web site.

Among suggested additions are the following:

- a directory of officers, committee members, representatives, and Monthly Meetings, including addresses, phone numbers and e-mail, helpful for all Yearly Meeting work;
- a youth directory to facilitate the youth work of the Yearly Meeting, perhaps even including the birth dates of each young person;
- a directory of officers of the Quarterly Meeting as well as its minutes and reports;
- a complete directory of members and attenders of all Monthly Meetings and worship groups; in other words, every Friend on the Yearly Meeting mailing list.

The Publications Committee is considering these suggestions, and recommendations for their implementation will be offered at the time of Yearly Meeting.

Report on Publications Schedule

The committee intends to continue the schedule of four print publications per year, the *Annual Reports* in the summer, followed by a Fall, Winter, and Spring issue of the *Bulletin*. Deadlines for submissions will be published in the *Annual Reports* as well as in the Calendar section of the *Bulletin*.

Adult Program Committee proposal (missing)

Youth & Children Program Subcommittee

1. Adhering to a strict registration deadline for youth registration worked very well last year, and will be followed again this year. This year's deadline will be May 9, 2001.
2. We will again send a letter to monthly meeting clerks explaining the strictness of the deadline.
3. We will again send an advance letter to parents this year. An addition to this letter will be an insert directed to parents of pre-schoolers. It will ask parents to leave their children in the leaders' care at Marbeck and not visit them during the

program. Constant parent visits are disruptive to the program and confusing to the children. These constant interruptions do not demonstrate the support and respect for the leaders and their plans that the Subcommittee feels they deserve.

4. The Youth and Children Program Subcommittee has four vacant positions that need to be filled for LEYM 2001:
 - a) assistant Youth and Children Program Subcommittee clerk
 - b) assistant pre-school leader
 - c) assistant elementary leader
 - d) assistant upper elementary leader

Gretchen Dixon, co-clerk (Pittsburgh)

Peace Committee

Peace Committee Announcements:

1. "Is war illegal?" A thoughtful essay by Ed Pearson and Robert Randall is available on the War Tax Resisters listserv: wtr-s@igo.topica.com, or ask David Bassett to forward the text (drbassetesumich.edu).
2. Videos with highlights of the 8th International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns will be available after April 1, 2001, from: Peace Tax Foundation, 2121 Decatur Place, NS, Washington, DC 20003.
3. A Quaker Peace Roundtable will be held April 6-8, 2001, in State College, Pennsylvania. Among the speakers is Joe Volk of FCNL. Contact FCNL for more information (245 2nd St., NE, Washington, DC 20002, 202-547-6000, www.fcnl.org).

Discussion items:

1. Jim Satterwhite and Olwen Pritchard of our yearly meeting are now subject to a lien on their house by the IRS, related to their open refusal to pay war taxes (see Winter LEYM *Bulletin*, 2001). Other members of LEYM, David and Miyo Bassett, have been subject to IRS action for 30 years as a consequence of their witness on war taxes. With the cooperation and consent of these Friends, we will draft a letter for consideration at LEYM Annual Meeting. Is IRS prosecution of religious witnesses to conscience regarding payment of taxes for the military a form of religious persecution?
2. Faith-based initiatives. The committee discussed George W. Bush's proposals to fund social programs through faith-based organizations. Concerns include the blurring of church-state separation, privatizing governmental responsibilities, use of public funds for sectarian organization exempt from employment non-discrimination, the inherent intrusiveness of rules accompanying federal funds, and the potential for weakening the integrity of faith-based organizations. For background information, see the Feb. 8, 2001, Legislative Action Message at www.fcnl.org, or write Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 2nd St NE, Washington, DC.
3. The committee also discussed a concern brought to us on the influence of large corporations in treating our planet, its resources, and its inhabitants as commodities to be owned and exploited. How do we relate this concern to our testimonies on the sacredness of life, and how do we begin to address such a broad concern?

Meg Hummon (Athens)

More changes to LEYM Policies & Procedures (missing)

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

The membership of GPQM consists of the seven Monthly Meetings and the several small Worship Groups of FC-oriented Friends in the lower Peninsula of Michigan. Since its early, informal days in the late 1940s, the Quarterly Meeting has provided opportunities for Friends from the smaller, isolated groups to get to know a wider group of Friends in the Spirit. Attendance was around 200 during the 1950s and '60s, but dwindled to around 75 in the 1970s once the QM had joined the new Lake Erie YM. Attendance at the meeting on September 15, 2000 gives a good sampling of the present level of participation:

Ann Arbor	12
Birmingham	8
Detroit	3
Kalamazoo	3
Pine River	3
(includes Albion Worship Group)	
Red Cedar	0

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Holland Preparative Meeting	0
Albion Worship Group (included with Pine River)	1
Chelsea Worship Group	0
Fremont Worship Group	0
Manitou Worship Group	0
Visitors	1
Total Attenders and Visitors	32

GPQM meets for business twice a year -- the third weekends of May and September. Other gatherings are called if an invitation is received. Midwinter Quarter occurs typically when a Meeting sets a date, organizes a program and invites the QM to attend. In recent years, memorable events were hosted by Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor, the last being on Youth and Violence during January, 2000. The last two summers, Friends in Western Michigan (Kalamazoo) organized a meeting for worship in Quaker Park, Battle Creek, sharing interesting information about the history of Friends in the area. (See Minute 14 below).

Friends in the QM have spawned four institutions in SE Michigan: Friends Lake Community (1961), Friends School in Detroit (1963), The Michigan Area AFSC (c1964), and Michigan Friends Center (1990). GPQM takes an important role in the governance of both the Friends School and Center and receives reports about the work of AFSC.

In recent years, there has been a resurgence in the High School Program, thanks to good leadership from Eric Engel, Kri Anderson, and a lively group of high schoolers. This has been blended with the LEYM High School group.

Besides the problem of small attendance at meetings, other problems facing the QM include the difficulty the Nominating Committee encounters in finding Friends willing to fill leadership positions. In recent years, co-clerks served for four years rather than the two they had agreed, until another Friend could be found to take on the work.

A sampling of interests and concerns of the QM can be seen in the following excerpted from the September 15 Meeting at Friends School in Detroit. The full set of minutes is available for the asking from the QM clerk.

GPQM - 9/00-1 Clerk

Tom Taylor, Assistant Clerk, announced that Barbara Frisbie had resigned as Clerk of GPQM in a letter dated 8/10/00. She said she was resigning because she was no longer active as a Friend within a Monthly Meeting. It had become clear to many Friends that a Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting needed to be participating in a constituent Monthly Meeting.

GPQM - 9/00-7 Friends School in Detroit

Friends School in Detroit Gil Leaf, Head of School. Hopefully the project regarding the Underground Railroad (discussed in the report) is the beginning of possible further and broader projects that also involve the larger community.

GPQM - 9/00-12 Report from Michigan Friends Center

A combined semi-annual report from Michigan Friends Center was brought to the attention of the Meeting. Information regarding events at Michigan Friends Center was highlighted.

GPQM - 9/00-13 Future Quarterly Meeting Gatherings

The attention of the Business Meeting was directed to the opportunity for a Monthly Meeting to plan and host the next Mid-Winter gathering. Friends were asked to consider this during lunch. In the past several years, the program of these gatherings has been planned by the host meeting.

Spring Quarterly Meeting will beheld on Saturday, May 19, 2001, 9 AM - 5 PM at Michigan Friends Center, Chelsea, MI.

GPQM - 9/00-14 Report on worship in Quaker Park

Worship in Quaker Park, in battle Creek on August 6, 2000. The Clerk and other Friends reported on this second annual event. We are grateful to Barbara Frisbie for having organized the meeting and making arrangements for Friends to gather afterward at the nearby historical museum. Friends' attention was directed to photographs of the event available on the table. Aspects of Quaker history in that area, the subject of last Spring's QM, was mentioned. The Evangelical Friends Church of Battle Creek (EFI, Eastern Region) had been invited to join in the worship and fellowship. GPQM feels led to worship in Quaker Park, Battle Creek, on Sunday, August 5, 2001 at 11 AM followed by a potluck.

GPQM - 9/00-15 High School Program report

The High School Program report was given by Kri Anderson, the newly approved high school coordinator. Kri introduced herself, her background and thoughts about plans for the group. Jim Roush and Celeste Eustis described the high schoolers'

trip to South Manitou Island in August. Because of the natural beauty of the area and the rich companionship, the retreat was much appreciated. There were four adults (Jim Summers, Sarah Scott, Bill Riccobono, Sol Metz) and ten high school aged people, including teens from Ohio as well as from Michigan. Kri is also networking with Ohio and LEYM youth programs.

A November retreat is scheduled at Michigan Friends Center. The High School Program style is described as "have an event, reflect, then schedule from there." Hopefully, another retreat will be held in March 2001. In May 2001, an interfaith youth retreat will be held in Ann Arbor.

The High School Program requests that the Quarterly Meeting encourage adult presences for these retreats and activities.

GPQM - 9/00-19 Reporting regularly to LEYM

Don Nagler rose to ask that GPQM and its activities be described to LEYM on a regular basis. He feels that it would be helpful to the Yearly Meeting to know how our Quarterly Meeting operates. We are the only quarterly meeting thus far in LEYM and might serve as a model for other meetings in LEYM who may benefit from organizing into a Quarter.

The Quarterly Meeting authorizes the Clerk to send to the Publications Committee of LEYM the GPQM Minutes and Treasurer's reports.

A discussion of GPQM and how is it perceived by smaller Michigan Meetings and other LEYM Meetings outside of Michigan ensued. Issues of meeting isolation and visitation were raised. Participation (or lack thereof) in the Quarterly Meeting was also discussed. This as well as the encouragement of intervisitation was suggested as a future Business Meeting agenda.

GPQM - 9/00-20 GPQM Days at Michigan Friends Center

Friends were reminded that GPQM has six days of free usage at Michigan Friends Center and that these days were mainly to help encourage youth programs. The Quarterly Meeting reminds the High School Program and other Friends youth groups that these days may be drawn on for their needs.

Friends School in Detroit

Board of Trustees 2000-2001

Friends

Jeff Cooper (2)	2001
Nancy Taylor (1)	2001
Marvin Barnes (2)	2002
Susan Hartman (3)	2003
Michael McKay (3)	2003
Robin Warner (3)	2003
Peter Collins (2)	2003
Geoff Brieger (1)	2003

Non-Friends

Lynda Krupp (3)	2002
Kate Halladay (1)	2002
Charlene Snow (1)	2002
Patty Little (1)	2003
Ruth Seymour (1)	2003

The property, business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Trustees which shall consist of not less than 9 nor more than 21 members, the majority of whom shall be members of The Religious Society of Friends. (FSD by-laws, Article III, Section 1.)

Tom Taylor, clerk (Ann Arbor)

Friends World Committee for Consultation: 20th Triennial

I came home with tangible, totally unexpected gifts: a handmade Mexican box, a CD of peace songs written by Austrian children, a bag from Kenya, a doily from an isolated Friend in Finland. These gifts represented something more intangible, namely, spiritual community. I felt privileged to be at the 20th Triennial, along with others from LEYM: Rosemary Coffey and Zig Dermer, Richard Lee, and Clemence Ravacon Mershon. I am still sorting through what I received and what to share. From July 22nd to 30th, 260 Friends from 40 countries and many cultures, races, languages, ways of being and worshipping gathered together at Geneva Point, New Hampshire, in sight of Lake Winnepesaukee, the Lake of the Great

Spirit. I was reminded, what we seek is not outward uniformity but inward unity.

The theme was "Friends: a people called to listen, gathered to seek, sent forth to serve." As it turned out, it wasn't easy to listen. First, everything was rendered into Spanish, French and English in the plenary sessions and the Meetings for Business. In my daily worship and sharing group, moreover, which included Friends from Kenya, Bolivia, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Mexico, the U.S., and El Salvador, I was one of the two participants responsible for interpreting everything that was said into and out of Spanish. I also interpreted for a healing group.

Second, listening was hard because I heard pain first-hand. This came through the concerns of those dealing with basic survival, or living in regions torn by violence, or unable to progress because of the simple need for a tractor; through the concerns of members of indigenous peoples torn from their land, of Friends devastated by seeing the dead from HIV/AIDS lying along roadsides, of caring Friends moved by horrid prison conditions, the plight of child soldiers, the threats to habitat and livelihoods by deforestation, the needs of Quaker and other refugees. It was a challenge to not reach for the pocketbook. Rather, we were all called to live lives "Centered on the Edge," cleaving to God, the immovable center, attempting to act in ways that the world considers impractical or irrational, like loving one another.

Third, it wasn't easy to hear differences between branches of the Religious Society of Friends. But I loved listening to a young Conservative Friend from North Carolina share her faith. Taking the time to listen, across barriers and differences, allowed many of us to hear "the place where words come from" as common concerns emerged. A related highlight for me was the Plenary Address by Simon Lamb, a young Irishman, on "Friends: A People Called to Listen" (see web site <<http://homepage.eircom.net/interfriendpublisher/simonfwccaddress.html>> for the text). There is a quiet place deep in the heart of each of us, he said, where God and humanity meet, and it is there that we search for a response to poverty in the world. Standing clearly within his evangelical framework, Simon challenged both evangelical Friends (to acknowledge the "priesthood of all believers") and liberal Friends (to beware of being so accommodating that the source of belief is lost). "If we are to learn to truly listen to God, then we must also learn to listen to each other within the Religious Society of Friends." Simon spoke non-judgmentally and prophetically; it seemed to me George Fox himself might have given a similar message.

Another highlight was listening to the joy expressed by our local hosts from New England YM; along with Friends from Cuban YM, they shared how they had developed a "Bridge of Love" to transcend differences. In 1991, a committee of New England Friends (FGC) began to foster contact with Cubans (FUM) and, since then, there have been a number of extended visits in both directions. They agreed to keep the focus on spirituality and relationship building, rather than on money. The love between them was evident. I enjoyed interpreting for Friends from Northern YM and El Salvador YM as they began a similar process.

I want to share more, about: (1) the Year of Jubilee and the efforts to cancel Third World debt payments; (2) QUNO's involvement in the UN's upcoming 3rd World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance in South Africa, Aug 29-Sept 6, 2001 (any LEYM youth interested in attending?); (3) preparations for the next World Gathering of Young Friends (LEYM youth - ages 18-35 - are invited to contact Gwen Erickson at <ericksoesguilford.edu> for details); (4) the Change Agent Peace Program (CAPP) for the Great Lakes Region in Africa, sponsored by Quaker Service Norway to strengthen local capacities for peace (and open to additional support from LEYM if Friends are interested); (5) the campaign for Quakers to plant 9000 trees between now and the 21st Triennial in New Zealand, January 2004 (to make up for the paper used by participants and the carbon dioxide damage caused by additional airplane travel). Please, Friends, ask me more about any of the above. Rosemary, Zig, and I would also be happy to visit your Meeting and talk with interested members in person, about both FWCC and the work Friends are doing in the world. Please let me know if you would welcome such a visit. You can reach me at <bethjoy311@netzero.net> or at 5220 Hedgewood Dr., #1024, Midland, MI 48640, (W) 517-667-6745 or (H) 517-832-5935. As David Purnell, Clerk, summarized in the final minute: We are called to become "prophets of joy."

Beth Joy Blackbird, representative (Pine River)