



Epistle from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting in Annual Sessions at Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio, July 26-29, 2018

To Friends Everywhere:

Some 100 adult Friends and 29 young ones aged 18 months to 18 years gathered in community to explore the theme of Building the Beloved Community and ponder the question, Who is My Neighbor? We enjoyed eight workshops; daily sessions of worship sharing, spiritual practice, and Bible study; a talent show; and a dynamic plenary address. We appreciated the fact that the food service staff at Bluffton University adapted their offerings to reflect our concern for and dedication to care of the earth.

We formed a committee to help guide us to a policy on sexual harassment among adult Friends that will complement our policy protecting young adults and children, already in place. We approved a minute presented by the Peace & Justice Committee, urging the United States to reverse its opposition and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as all the

world's nations that are not burdened with such weapons have done. The U.S. must join that beloved community.

Northern Ohio poured out perfect summer weather: sunny, breezy, and not too hot. Orderly business meetings apprised us of our own committees' work, and visitors from the Earlham School of Religion, the American Friends Service Committee, and Friends Committee on National Legislation updated us on their work. Our finances remain solid. The helpful and friendly staff of Bluffton University served good food, and there was plenty of ice cream.

Without our plenary speaker to lovingly remind us of what we could too easily have let ourselves forget, we could have been all too comfortable passing a pleasant weekend together and enjoying a respite from the many political, social, cultural,

Epistle continued on next page



Clerks' Table: Mike Holaday, Peter Wood, and Nancy Reeves

environmental, and personal challenges in our lives. But Yvette Shipman of Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting has a unique gift for being simultaneously welcoming and challenging. She quickly earned our affection and trust, and used that connection to challenge us.

“If something feels uncomfortable, lean into it,” she told us in her talk entitled “Practicing Justice in Order to be in Relationship with Each Other.” “We make ourselves stay put when we should go,” she warned us.

In an exercise called Crossing the Line, she led us outside. Under the kindly summer skies we formed a large circle. As Friends called out “I identify as White,” or “I have experienced hunger as a child,” people for whom that was true moved into the center of the circle, or, if unable to do so because of the terrain, otherwise indicated their inclusion. This exercise reminded us of truths we have long known about liberal unprogrammed Quakerism: we are predominantly White, overwhelmingly college-educated, mostly heterosexual and cis-gendered, and mostly middle-class.

But the exercise also revealed to us things that are often invisible: when people who had a life-changing disability were asked to move to the center, for instance, there were three or four

people whose mobility devices announced their disability, but just as many whose disabilities were not marked on the body or indicated by the use of a cane, a wheelchair, or other aid. College drop-outs; people who had been homeless; single parents; people who identified as queer; people who had been sexually abused: here, too, the invisible was made visible.

As a Friend noticed, “Whether I was observing who was in the circle, or being in the circle, I felt it was all sacred space, a covered space. It felt like worship.”

By coming to share her gifts and insights with us, Friend Yvette showed us what it looks like when someone steps into their discomfort to promote justice and build relationship. Some Friends, like Yvette, who is Black, need not make a special effort to be among people who look, and are, different. Others of us, who have the privilege and comfort that comes from being among the familiar nearly everywhere we go, need to step up, and step into relationship. “Quakers are uniquely situated to do this,” Yvette told us. “Y’all have no excuse.”

Signed in and for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,
Nancy Reeves, presiding clerk



Plenary speaker Yvette Shipman

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Contacts

Presiding Clerk

Nancy Reeves
855 Drake Drive
New Franklin, OH 44216
(330) 814-2401
LEYMclerk@gmail.com

Assistant Clerk

Josephine Posti
291 Arden Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
(412) 491-6481
jo.posti@gmail.com

Recording Clerk

Peter Wood
936 Green St.
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 881-6845
peter.wood@comcast.net

Treasurer

Mike Hinshaw
1641 Southwood
Ashland, OH 44805
(419) 289-7834
hinshaw2323@gmail.com

Database Manager

Mathilda Navias
147 Hall St.
Tiffin, OH 44883
(419) 448-0578
LEYMworker@gmail.com

Bulletin Editors

Peggy Daub & Jeff Cooper
1506 Arborview Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 668-8063
bulletinleym@gmail.com

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

c/o Office Manager
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting
1420 Hill Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 761-7435
leym.org

PDF copies of
The LEYM Bulletin
are available at
leym.org

Annual Sessions, July 26-29, 2018: Summary and Notable Actions

One hundred and twenty-nine people attended the Annual Meeting, including 29 young people (from 18 months to 18 years) and 5 young adult Friends. Displays included Advancement & Outreach Committee's "Resources for Inclusiveness," which aims to help meetings to learn ways to be more welcoming to varieties of people. These resources are available on the website.

Annual business sessions commenced with a reminder that the land where we meet was originally the dwelling and hunting area of Six Nations and other indigenous peoples.

Friends approved the following minute brought by the **Peace & Justice Committee**:

Minute Urging U.S. Support for the United Nations Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (LEYM) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) supports the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We urge the United States to drop its opposition and ratify this legally-binding treaty and to persuade other nuclear-armed nations to do the same. We are deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of an accidental or intentional nuclear strike, as well as the waste of economic and human resources on programs for the production, maintenance, and modernization of nuclear weapons. We believe that dialogue, trust-building, and enlightened leadership provide a more effective and responsible path to peace.

This minute is being distributed by the clerk to all meetings and to Nikki Haley (current U.S. Ambassador to the UN), and could be made available to news outlets.

The annual query for monthly meetings to consider in the coming year was developed through collaboration of the **Ministry & Nurture and Earthcare Committees**:

As we face ongoing degradation of our planet and the general lack of political will to address this, we ask: What are the connections we experience between earthcare and our traditional Quaker concerns for peace and justice? How do we use spiritual guidance to respond with a sense of abundance and hope?

Continued on next page

Plenary exercise: Crossing the Line (see p. 2).



Contents

- *LEYM Epistle, pp. 1-2*
- *Annual Sessions 2018, Summary and Actions, pp. 3—4*
- *Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Harassment, p. 4*
- *Greening Yearly Meeting, p. 5*
- *Nominating Committee Seeks Friends Led to Serve, p. 6*
- *Finance Committee News, p. 7*
- *Little Meeting that Could: Detroit MM, pp. 8—9*
- *Update: FGC's Institutional Assessment on Racism, p. 10*
- *The AFSC and Quakers, p.11*
- *Calendar and Committee Clerks, p. 12*

Finances: Friends approved adding to the budget a \$1000 line item for *a scholarship to support LEYM members who wish to attend Quaker post-secondary educational institutions*. Friends also approved raising the honorarium budget for the plenary speaker from \$400 to \$500. The recommended contribution per Meeting member remains at \$30 (see p. 7).

Friends approved the **publication of future memorial minutes** on the website. Publications & Archives Committee also wishes to post memorial minutes previously published in the *Annual Records*; concerns or questions should be addressed to the P&A clerk, Bill Lefler.

The approved **Nominating** slate includes Jo Posti (Pittsburgh) as the new assistant clerk, continuing as presiding clerk for the following two years. A few positions remain open (see p. 6).

An ad hoc committee was formed on **how to address sexual harassment among adult Friends**, with Jo Posti convening. Three more Friends volunteered to serve (see below).

Friends approved having the database manager request **updated information from monthly meetings on members and attenders**, to bring the database up to date.

In response to a Friend's **concern about the new Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice**, cited by our *Policies and Procedures* as a book of discipline to which LEYM monthly meetings might refer, Friends agreed to season this concern among their meetings and take it up at Representative Meeting, 2019. More information will be forthcoming.

Next year's Annual Meeting will take place on July 25–28 at Bluffton University..



*Origami by Conleth Crotser
on Display at Annual Meeting*

Note: The full minutes and reports from Annual Sessions, along with reports on workshops and much other information, appear in the Annual Records, which will be distributed simultaneously with this Bulletin. ~ Eds.

Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Harassment

During the past two years, news about sexual harassment and abuse has become a frequent topic that touches every aspect of life – entertainment, politics, religion, media, and education. With each story, we often wonder what more could have been done to prevent it from happening in the first place. Safeguards such as LEYM's Policy on Child and Sexual Abuse Prevention, adopted in 2016, are important in protecting those under the care of the Yearly Meeting, establishing expectations and a reporting protocol, and defining a process for how allegations of abuse will be handled by the Yearly Meeting.

The next step is to develop a policy and procedures for instances that involve adults. An ad hoc committee comprised of Jo Steigerwald, Claire Cohen, Bill Wartens, and Jo Posti (clerk) is tasked with this work and will share a draft for Yearly Meeting to consider at Annual Sessions. The committee's goal is to develop a guide that reflects the caring that Friends living and working in relationship to one another aspire to while protecting victims and addressing issues that arise when a Friend is hurt while under our care.

Greening Yearly Meeting: Followup

At this summer's Annual Meeting, Broadmead Monthly Meeting introduced some steps to reduce our impact on the environment. Here is one person's perspective on how we did.

Cloth napkins: We provided cloth napkins to all attenders, hoping people would use them at meals instead of disposable paper, thereby reducing the use of paper and reducing waste going to the landfill. Members of our meeting had an enjoyable afternoon repurposing old tablecloths and fabric to make the napkins. My unscientific observation was that many people did use the napkins at least part of the time but a lot of paper was used as well. Perhaps the napkins were forgotten at mealtimes or needed washing before the weekend was over. No doubt the use of paper was reduced, but I think we could have done better.

People were invited to keep the cloth napkins for use at home if they wished. Many were returned at the close and will be laundered and hopefully used at future meetings.

Composting: We provided a bucket in the dish return area in the dining hall for people to deposit their food and compostable paper waste rather than put it in the waste basket, from which it would go to the landfill. Approximately four full buckets were collected and taken to a compost pile in a community garden in Bluffton. Many Quakers tend to clean their plates, reducing the amount of waste available, but a lot still didn't

make it into our buckets. More educational efforts and better signage probably would have helped.

Reduced meat consumption: Because the typical American meat-heavy diet is a significant contributor to climate change, we tried to encourage people to eat less meat, and worked with the food service to offer more and better vegetarian food options. My sense is that we were not very successful in this effort. We shared the dining room with other groups for much of our time there and could not ask them to participate in our program. Meat was still offered widely and I observed many people partaking of it.

A **donations box** was provided at the registration table; \$96 was collected and given to Quaker Earthcare Witness and Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie. Many thanks for your generosity!

Most LEYM folks are probably already very conscious of environmental concerns and are taking steps to reduce their impact. Our efforts at Yearly Meeting are only a small step for a few days to continue what many of us are already doing. We are grateful for all who participated in these efforts. Our publicity was limited and perhaps in the future, with more planning, we can do even better. If you have ideas or suggestions for making our yearly meeting sessions "greener," please email them to me at ken@blueflax.org.

~ Ken Lawrence (Broadmead)



Broadmead Friends at a peace march in Toledo.

News and photos from monthly meetings and worship groups is welcome in the Bulletin, as are writings and artwork of individual Friends. Please email contributions to Peggy and Jeff at bulletinley@gmail.com.

Nominating Committee Seeks Friends Led to Serve

Dear Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends,

Thank you to Friends who have agreed to serve the Yearly Meeting as of the 2018 Annual Sessions. A few openings remain. The Nominating Committee is in need of help in finding Friends who might be led to serve the Yearly Meeting in specific positions as well as to serve on committees. Please discern how you or your meeting can help us.

Committee vacancies (see descriptions below):

- 1 in Advancement & Outreach (3 years),
- 1 in Peace & Justice (2 years), and
- 2 in Publications & Archives (1 for 2 years and 1 for 3 years)

Representatives to Friends organizations

- 1 for the AFSC Corporation (3 years)

Please contact Clémence Mershon <andre14@earthlink.net> or Mathilda Navias <galaxy@woh.rr.com> if you have questions or leadings.

Database manager: The database manager is named by the Nominating Committee to serve a three-year term, renewable indefinitely, usually one year at a time. The database manager works under the oversight of the Publications & Archives Committee, but is not necessarily a member of P&A. Below is a summary of the tasks. Find more specific details in our *Policies and Procedures* (available at leym.org) or contact Mathilda Navias <galaxy@woh.rr.com> for more information. The database manager:

- * Maintains and updates the LEYM database of information about the slate of appointments, monthly meetings and place and time of worship, contact information for Friends, and more; it is currently in Microsoft Access.
- * Provides contact information for LEYM Friends to LEYM officers and committee clerks, as needed.
- * Provides a directory for the *Annual Records* of Annual Meeting attenders; LEYM officers, committee members, and representatives; and monthly meeting officers and committee clerks/conveners, etc.
- * Provides to Friends General Conference a list of addresses for members and active attenders annually, on request.
- * Prepares annual Statistical Report forms for quarterly, monthly, and preparative meetings and worship groups.

Clémence Mershon, Clerk of Nominating Committee

Advancement & Outreach Committee supports meetings and worship groups in attracting and welcoming new members and attenders. It works with worship groups ready to become monthly meetings and with meetings wanting to become worship groups or be laid down.

Peace & Justice Committee helps Friends understand matters of peace and work toward a more peaceful world.

Publications & Archives Committee oversees printed and web publications of the Yearly Meeting. The committee sends Yearly Meeting materials to a Quaker archive and encourages meetings to do the same.

Detailed descriptions of all committees appear in *Policies and Procedures*, available at leym.org.

News from Finance Committee

Below are the financial report for the 2018 Annual Meeting and the approved budget for 2018–19. For Annual Meeting, expenses exceeded income by \$1858, leaving just a small balance in the Annual Meeting Fund (\$87).

The budget includes a new \$1000 line item for a scholarship to support LEYM members who wish to attend Quaker post-secondary educational institutions. Anticipated income from contributions is raised by contributions for last year that arrived late and are being credited to this year. ~ Ed.

Financial Report for 2018 Annual Meeting

Income	
Fees	
Housing and commuter fees	\$7,330.00
Meals	7,620.05
Registration fees	5,330.00
Donations	854.26
Total Income	\$21,134.31
Expenses	
Housing and commuter fees	\$7,345.00
Meals	7,620.05
Honoraria	600.00
Discounts for children's program workers	2,015.65
Discounts for other workers and plenary speaker	650.50
Discounts for youth and children	3,153.03
Discounts for first-time attenders	457.48
Scholarships	136.42
Children's program	696.71
Ice cream social	280.00
Copies	37.40
Total Expenses	\$22,992.24
Net Deficit	-\$1,857.93
Current Balance of Annual Meeting Fund	86.67

LEYM Budget for 2018–19

Travel	\$2,000
Office Administration	500
Contract worker	2,400
Publications	3,200
Advancement & Outreach	200
Ministry & Nurture	50
College/University Scholarship	1,000
FGC contribution	6,000
Records project	100
FWCC Travel	1,800
Youth Activities Fund	1,000
High School Teen Retreat	0
Spiritual Formation	300
Olney Friends School	3,000
Consultation Fund	0
Ministry scholarships	0
Service projects	0
Insurance	500
Total Expenses	\$23,050
Contributions	22,600
FFC Dividends Income	1,000
Total Income	\$23,600
Surplus	\$550
Suggested contribution per member: \$30	

Bench on the Bluffton University campus.



This article reflects Sharon Ottenbreit's perspective of the Detroit Monthly Meeting's challenging journey over the past years. Sharon is co-clerk of Detroit Monthly Meeting.

The Little Meeting That Could...

The Detroit Monthly Meeting was established in the late 1920s and has worshiped in various locations throughout the city over the years. In the 1980s the Meeting purchased a permanent home on Fort Street in Detroit, even though the City was experiencing "white flight." This was a special place to worship and the location presented opportunities as well as challenges.

Throughout the years, the surrounding neighborhood around the Meeting House began to slowly deteriorate and viable businesses in the area closed or left the city. The Pitbull Tattoo's building shared a wall with our meeting house. Several years ago, that building, and another adjoining structure, had a large fire. Fortunately, our meeting house was spared. The first floors of those boarded up structures became a place for homeless individuals to seek refuge during the winter months.

When those neighboring structures were finally torn down, the Meeting House had an exposed brick wall that created a blank canvas for graffiti artists. Members had to repaint that wall twice to cover the graffiti and avoid a \$500 fine from the City.

Numerous times the Meeting House was broken into and items were stolen, such as an air conditioning unit, ladders, kitchen items, a CD player, tools, fans, a furnace, copper wiring, and even outside flower pots. A hidden compartment was made to store valuable items. The only items never taken were our treasured books!

The Meeting couldn't afford an alarm system, so we planned on installing a fake camera. During the installation, one of our members fell off the ladder and broke his ankle. A magnetic outside door handle was removed after worship began each week, so the door could not be opened during worship.



The former Detroit Meeting House

\$450 was paid each year for weekly trash pick-up, yet members disposed of the Meeting's trash at their own homes because the trash containers had been stolen. Trash removal payments were viewed as the Meeting's donation to the City.

Even with these past challenges, members never mentioned moving to another city. As a meeting, we are committed to the City and representing the Quaker faith there. As a meeting, we enjoy worshipping in Detroit and I always felt safe.

More than seven years ago, the Detroit Monthly Meeting was informed that the State of Michigan would be taking the Meeting House property by eminent domain to construct a new international bridge between the United States and Canada.

Our meeting is temporarily worshipping in a building in Detroit owned by Cass Community United Methodist Church. The reverend stated that our rent payments were helping their church's projects in Detroit.

Members have met on a regular basis with representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation over the past two years. The Meeting hired a well-known eminent domain lawyer, who eventually dropped us as clients after becoming frustrated with the Quaker process.

The State offered an amount of funds that will not allow us to relocate in the same central area of the City with a similar structure. Real estate in Detroit continues to become more expensive every year. We bid on multiple properties that needed extensive renovations, but notifying the seller that we had to wait for State funds prevented those sales.

The State's attorney questioned the fact that our meeting house lacked religious symbols and stressed that our meeting was small. He used newsletter minutes displayed online to help the State's case.

Our new lawyer stated that Quakers have made significant contributions to the City through past Underground Railroad efforts, educating children at Friends School, and volunteering weekly in various non-profit organizations.

After one of our latest meetings, a few of the Michigan Department of Transportation's representatives came up to me and said, "What happened to those friendly Quakers?" I replied, "When Quakers sees an injustice, they lead and feel the need to challenge it."

Detroit Monthly Meeting is simply asking to be made whole again. We want to receive just

compensation for our meeting house with hopes of sharing it with others in the community throughout the week as well. We feel strongly that the citizens of Detroit deserve a Quaker presence that is active, significant, empowered, and engaged.

As a meeting, we are painfully aware that the relocation process has become a spiritual distraction for many of us.

While our commitment is strong, it has become clear that we cannot do this on our own. Our members have stretched and will continue to stretch, but, upon great reflection, it has become clear that we must ask others for help. It is in that spirit that we reach out to Friends within Lake Erie Yearly Meeting who understand the depth and value of our commitment. We are open to any suggestions, strategies, or skills you can offer to help our situation. Please feel free to contact me by phone at 313-274-6999 or email at sharonottenbreit@gmail.com.

The little Meeting that could...will continue this journey with determination and faith.

In Friendship,
Sharon Ottenbreit

LEYM Youth Retreat at Templed Hills, September 28—30.



Institutional Assessment on Racism Update, October 2018

**Sharon Lane-Getaz and Justin Connor, Co-clerks of the
Institutional Assessment Working Group (IAWG) and the Task Force**

FGC's Institutional Assessment on Racism survey closed on July 31, 2018, with 1168 respondents — 66% female, 31% male, and 3% other, and an average age of 63. Respondents identified themselves as European (864), African (44), Asian (11), Latinx (15), Native American (20), and/or other descent (79) and from 15 directly affiliated and five unaffiliated Yearly Meetings. Focus Groups were held at Pre-Gathering and Gathering and at Northern, Ohio Valley, New York, Lake Erie, and North Pacific Yearly Meetings. Historical records and events round out the data and testimonies that the Task Force has amassed. With leadings from Spirit, the next phase of our work has begun: analyzing and summarizing the many sources of data, crafting recommendations, and planning our presentation for the fall Central Committee (Oct 25–28, 2018).

During September the report writing team worked toward documenting the stories that have become a painful lore among Friends of Color who've attended Gathering over the years: the Underground Railroad game, the "Quaker" sweat lodges, Confederate flags along the route, intimidation by campus police, and many other stories that may be less well known. These stories, along with quotes from the Focus Group notes, survey comments, and responses, are being knitted together into the final report and recommendations that will be presented to Central Committee. The IAR Task Force is working as a team in support of the report writing, editing, and ongoing discernment that allows Spirit to lead.

Our consultants, Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training, will facilitate a mini-workshop for Central Committee similar to the weekend-long workshop provided to 43 FGC staff members, committee clerks, Yearly Meeting representatives, and our Task Force members at Stony Point Retreat Center in November 2017. The 12-member Task Force used the Crossroads framework, language, and methods to guide and inform our FGC Institutional Assessment on Racism work over the last ten months. Since the recommendations report is being written within this framework, the body of the Central Committee will be better prepared to understand the Task Force report and discern the way forward. Crossroads will facilitate a better understanding of in-group and out-group dynamics that underlie systemic, institutional racism, and will help Friends on Central Committee better understand the definition of systemic racism. Most importantly, Crossroads will facilitate an activity to convey their six-stage Continuum of institutional, anti-racist transformation. This Continuum ranges from 1, which is the equivalent of a "good-ole boys club," to a 6, which is a fully transformed anti-racist organization within a completely transformed society. The data we've collected provides the evidence to locate FGC on this Continuum. The Task Force recommendations will focus on how to move FGC further along this Continuum toward anti-racist transformation.

The IAWG (our communications subgroup) will continue to provide these monthly updates to keep Friends connected to the process as our work continuously unfolds. IAWG recently submitted a short blurb about our work to *Friends Journal*, to be published this fall. We also plan to write a lengthier article about the Institutional Assessment on Racism process and what we have learned for a January 2019 *Friends Journal* issue.

The 12 IA Task Force members include three from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting: Marvin Barnes (Birmingham, IAWG, Continuum Team – Data Analysis), Carolyn Lejuste (Red Cedar, IAWG, Survey Team – Report Writing), and Dwight Wilson (Ann Arbor, Matrix Team).

Friends can make a gift to the Institutional Assessment on Racism and help nurture beloved community at www.fgcquaker.org/institutional-assessment-donation-form. To learn more, visit www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism/fgcs-institutional-assessment-2017-2018.

The AFSC and Quakers

In the past, AFSC has been taken to task for being less a Quaker organization than it was when founded. Yet it remains committed to Quaker values and process: the belief that there is that of God in each person, regarding no person as the enemy, using active nonviolence as a force for reconciliation, trusting the power of the Spirit to guide practical action, and understanding that new perceptions of truth will continue to be revealed.

Some years ago, the work of AFSC evolved from being a medium for Quakers to serve communities in need to that of working in partnership with people affected by injustice around the world, respecting their wisdom about how to change their circumstances and offering our own insights with humility. With this shift came some distance from the lives of Quakers at large. In response, AFSC established the Friends Relations Committee to actively communicate AFSC work to Quaker meetings and churches around the country. The spirit of Quaker work camps has led to the independent development of Quaker Voluntary Service, which places selected young people in communities of need for one year. AFSC has benefited from this program by having a Fellow each year to assist the Director of Friends Relations in this important work of inviting the participation and engagement of American Quakers.

We invite you to learn more about AFSC's current work in peace-building, immigration and sanctuary, indigenous people's rights, ending mass incarceration, empowering youth, and ending racism. Friends Relations produces a number of access portals:

Acting in Faith (www.afsc.org/friends): this blog invites two-way engagement and commentary.

Friends Engage (www.afsc.org/friendsengage) provides resources for Friends who wish to become more involved in social justice within their local meeting.

QuakerSpeak: Four recent YouTube videos in partnership with *Friends Journal* discussed AFSC work on Israel-Palestine, mass incarceration, migrant justice, and Islamophobia.

Calls for Spirited Action (www.afsc.org/calls-for-spirited-action) are monthly conference calls that provide a place for learning about AFSC work and speaking with experts within AFSC about issues.

Sanctuary Everywhere was a series of five webinars aimed at equipping participants to take supportive action as allies.

Changing Systems, Changing Ourselves: Anti-racist practice for accompaniment, Sanctuary, and resistance. This was an *e-course* which taught allies how to center the voices and leadership of immigrants and others most impacted and focused on the skills of accompaniment. Another series will be starting in January 2019.

Meeting Liaison Program has been an effort to develop a personal AFSC contact in every monthly meeting and to encourage participation in the AFSC Corporation and its various committees. Perhaps YOU can fulfill this roll in your meeting.

Quaker Social Change Ministry (www.afsc.org/quakersocialchange) is a transformative approach to social justice work that combines Spirit and action within a small cohesive group, often within a monthly meeting. AFSC provides training and support for these small "cells" that bring "mystics" and "activists" together.

As AFSC moves forward developing its next ten-year Strategic Plan, there will be additional opportunities to participate and provide input into the process that will set the organization's course in the future.

~ John Deikis, LEYM Representative to the AFSC Corporation, 2012-18



A trio of committee clerks at Annual Sessions: Carla Pratt-Harrington (Ministry & Nurture Co-Clerk), Joe Mills (Finance), and Claire Cohen (Adult & Family Program). The full list of clerks appears below.

Calendar for 2019

January 15: Due date for submissions for winter *Bulletin*

March 20-23: White Privilege Conference, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

April 6: Representative Meeting, Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, Ann Arbor, Michigan

May 4: Spiritual Formation Retreat, place tbd

May 15: Due date for submissions for spring *Bulletin*

June 30: Due date for State of the Meeting Reports

June 30—July 6: FGC Gathering, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa. See <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>.

July 15: Due date for Statistical Reports

July 25-28: Annual Meeting, Bluffton University

LEYM Committee Clerks, 2018-19

(Contact information available in *Annual Records* and on the LEYM website)

Adult & Family Program

Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh)

Advancement & Outreach

Ellen Barnes (Birmingham)

Arrangements & Site

Jon Sommer (Broadmead)

Earthcare

Russ Adams (North Columbus)

Finance

Joe Mills (Kalamazoo)

Ministry & Nurture

Flo Friender (Kalamazoo) &
Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens)

Nominating

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG)

Peace & Justice (no clerk yet named)

Publications & Archives

Bill Lefler (Pittsburgh)

Youth & Children's Program

Greg Mott (Broadmead)