

# History and Description of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Established: Association of Friends Meetings, 1939; Association and Yearly Meeting, 1963; Yearly Meeting with Associate Members, 1969

Membership: 605 adult members (as of August 2018)

Meetings: 1 Quarterly Meeting, 19 Monthly Meetings, and 8 Worship Groups

Central Address: Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, c/o Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, 1420 Hill Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Publications: *LEYM Bulletin*, 3 times a year; *Annual Records*, annually; *LEYM Directory*, as requested by the Yearly Meeting

Website: <http://leym.org>

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting began in 1939 as an association of Friends Meetings in Ohio, Michigan, western Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. It became a Yearly Meeting within the Association in 1963, and changed to a Yearly Meeting with associate meetings in 1969. All associated meetings are now part of the Yearly Meeting. The Annual Meeting – currently scheduled for late July – is for inspiration and fellowship, with business meeting for consideration of basic policies; committee reports and responses to concerns brought by committees; and the naming of officers, representatives to Friends' organizations, and the standing committees.

A Representative Meeting is held in the spring for committee meetings and to prepare the work of the Annual Meeting.

At present, the following standing committees are active: Advancement & Outreach, Arrangements & Site, Earthcare, Executive, Finance, Ministry & Nurture, Nominating, Peace & Justice, Program, Publications & Archives, and Youth & Children.

These committees meet and consult throughout the year to carry on the work of the Yearly Meeting. Committees of concern are set up as the occasion arises, made up of those persons under the weight of that concern, and are laid down when their work is complete.

Committees and representatives to Friends' organizations report to Annual Meeting and through the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records*. Electronic distribution of the *Bulletin* is the main means of distribution,

supplemented by mailing several hard copies to each monthly meeting. The Lake Erie Yearly Meeting *Policies and Procedures* manual is revised from time to time. Since 1985, all member meetings have been invited to participate in an annual process of responding to a set of queries developed by the Ministry & Nurture Committee on concerns arising from the membership. Summaries of the responses are published in the *Bulletin* and/or the *Annual Records*.

The focus of the Yearly Meeting budget is on supporting member meetings, youth and children of the Yearly Meeting, and individuals engaged in spiritual formation and other ministries. The Yearly Meeting supports Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio. The Yearly Meeting does not donate directly to Friends' organizations outside our region other than Friends General Conference. All member meetings and worship groups, and individual Friends, are encouraged to make contributions to these organizations. LEYM values and interacts with the work of the local meetings as well as national and worldwide Quaker organizations; accordingly, it has not developed an administrative structure requiring a paid staff except for a Yearly Meeting worker and a coordinator for the Teen Retreat program.

The one quarterly meeting within LEYM, Green Pastures, consisting of seven monthly meetings and three worship groups in Lower Michigan, shares some program activity with Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. GPQM has oversight of the Michigan Friends Center in Chelsea, Michigan, and financial and interactive relationships with the Michigan Area office of the American Friends Service Committee in Ypsilanti.