



Message from the Clerks: Lighting Our Way

From time to time, every organization needs to reassess its vision, and LEYM is no exception. Recent discussions in the Executive Committee have suggested that we need to look at the clarity of our vision, how well we are meeting the needs of our constituent monthly meetings, and to plan for ways to help us to discern new ways that Spirit may be calling the yearly meeting to grow and new paths for it to follow.

To this end, the yearly meeting will launch a year-long discernment process called “Lighting Our Way.” We will introduce this project to monthly meeting clerks during Annual Sessions this July during a special Saturday evening session. To encourage participation, we invite monthly meeting clerks to attend Annual Sessions at a reduced rate this year. Monthly meeting clerks can help

to investigate what it means to be a Quaker within LEYM, how the yearly meeting can best support its monthly meetings, what our strengths are and what opportunities we have to better serve meetings and individual Friends.

The goal of this working session is to develop a process and timeline that clerks can share with their meetings. It will lay a foundation for work that will carry on within meetings and in the yearly meeting throughout the year. We hope it will lead the yearly meeting and its constituent monthly meetings to clarify and focus their relationship and to create a vision which will inspire and unite us.

Nancy Reeves, Clerk
Josephine Posti, Assistant Clerk
Peter Wood, Recording Clerk

Come to Annual Meeting, July 25—28

Why do you attend Annual Meeting? We asked this question to LEYM Friends in the last *Bulletin*. Their answers are scattered throughout this issue. Watch for them!

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Funds Available for Travel to Conferences Reflecting Quaker Values

At the LEYM Annual Sessions in 2018, \$1000 was designated in the budget to assist Friends to attend conferences that reflect Quaker values. Conferences reflecting Quaker Values These can be conferences developed by or sponsored by Quaker groups or conferences whose purposes are closely aligned with Quaker testimonies, such as peace, equality, integrity, and simplicity. These funds are not meant to support travel to regularly occurring Quaker meetings such as the FGC Gathering or Yearly Meeting sessions, since other scholarships are available for those events. They should be used for one-time or rarely occurring events, workshops, or conferences.

To request funding, submit a form to the clerk of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting at least six weeks before an answer to the request is needed. The form should be accompanied by a statement of support from the clerk of the Friend's monthly meeting, the convener of their worship group, or the designee of either. Funding decisions will be made together by the following officers of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting or their designees: the presiding clerk, the treasurer, and the clerk of the Ministry & Nurture Committee.

The Form is now available on leym.org.

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Come to Annual Meeting,
on the theme
“Do Justice, Love Mercy,
and Walk Humbly with God:
Finding our Calling in
Disturbing Times”
July 25–28, 2019



Joyce Ajlouny, AFSC General Secretary and plenary speaker at this year's Annual Meeting.

The **registration deadline** for children and for the early bird discount for Annual Meeting is **Monday, July 8**.
Don't miss it!

Temporary Coverage of Meeting Worker Duties

With Mathilda Navias's tenure as LEYM Meeting worker recently ending, assistant clerk Jo Posti has volunteered to take on some of those duties until annual sessions. Please contact her at the Meeting worker email address (LEYMWorker@gmail.com) if you have website updates or requests to send messages to any of the Yearly Meeting email lists.

Plenary Speaker Joyce Ajlouny on Quakerism and Annual Meeting Theme

As a preview of coming attractions, Joyce Ajlouny, General Secretary of AFSC and our plenary speaker this year, answered questions from Program Committee clerk Claire Cohen.

Claire: *Tell us a little bit about yourself, including what brought you to Quakerism and what life experiences helped you form your spiritual beliefs and world view?*

Joyce: I am a Palestinian American. I lived in both countries intermittently and have been in the U.S. for nearly seven years. I joined AFSC as general secretary in 2017. Prior to that I worked as the head of the Ramallah Friends School [and in] numerous positions in international development, including Oxfam and the United Nations. I am married and have three adult boys.

I have been aware that my life choices have been rooted in my identity as a Palestinian-American Quaker. Each of these shaped me in profound ways.

Living in Palestine for most of my life, under an oppressive military occupation and experiencing its horrific and traumatic manifestations, is where I derive my unwavering commitment to justice, but also where I find courage to resist and stand by those oppressed wherever they may be. It is also where I taught the importance of resilience and of our shared humanity as global citizens. Despite seemingly bleak situations in our world today, I believe in the ultimate triumph of non-violent peacebuilding efforts to achieve just and lasting peace in all situations.

I am a member of the Ramallah Monthly Meeting and have been since my birth. My family joined the Friends community in the 1920s when my grandmother was convinced of the Quaker faith, converting from Orthodox Christianity in Palestine. As a Quaker, I have come to honor the practice of seeking inner peace – the light – in myself and in others, for there is that of God in everyone. With that comes the realization that we are all equal on this earth. For long now, I lived knowing that I do not own the ultimate truth. I was drawn to listen to the stories of those who come from unfamiliar cultures and faiths and those whom I

don't agree with; always looking for ways to refine my truth in continuous revelation. Being a Friend has therefore shaped who I am today, what I believe in, how I raise my children, my relationship with my colleagues, and how I lead organizations. Quakerism is my way of life; through it, I find my equilibrium and my grounding. My connection with Quakerism spanned well beyond my place of worship, where Quaker institutions played an equally important role in my family's life.

Following a long tenure with Friends United Meeting as the head of the Ramallah Friends School, and experiencing Quaker schools and colleges which my children attended, AFSC is the Quaker organization where I most recently landed.

Claire: *How do you see Micah 6:8, "... to act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God," guiding you in your role as general secretary of AFSC?*

Joyce: I see my role in encouraging staff to bring their whole selves to their workplace and by doing so improving organizational harmony, creativity, community, and impact. Quakerism provides an excellent foundation that allows the soul to be nourished in profound ways in the workplace.

Having served in leadership with AFSC for nearly two years, I have witnessed numerous examples of how programs succeed because of the courageous commitment of our staff and volunteers to justice and speaking truth to power; because of our belief in the transformative power of love and our deep listening to the voice of the impacted communities we work with; and, finally, because we aim to promote not ourselves as staff or an organization, but the communities we work with and are guided by. At AFSC, as we continue to seek to better ourselves and programs, Quaker ethos guides our relationships, decisions, programs, conflict mediation, and our management style.

Highlights of Representative Meeting

Hosted by Ann Arbor Meeting, April 6, 2019

About 45 Friends attended Representative Meeting, held in the Ann Arbor Meetinghouse on April 6. Many thanks to the organizers, Nancy and Thomas Taylor, and to other Ann Arbor Friends for providing housing and more than enough food, making everyone feel welcome. Some highlights from the business meeting:

- * The theme of this year's Annual Meeting, on July 25-28, is "Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with Your God: Finding Our Calling in Disturbing Times." Joyce Ajlouny, General Secretary of AFSC, will be the plenary speaker (see p. 3). Ten workshops will cover a variety of topics (see pp. 10-12).
- * A summary was read of responses from monthly meetings on the annual query, which this year asked about connections between Quaker testimonies and Earthcare (see p. 5).
- * Earthcare Committee invites Friends attending Annual Meeting to commit to eating vegetarian as much as possible "as a response to the dire circumstances of our planet." There will be meat available upon request (see p. 13).
- * This year the Youth & Children program hopes to offer two outings each afternoon, one for youth and one for children. Friends can support the program by urging families and children to attend Annual Meeting. The cost is quite reasonable for a family to attend, as for children through age 18 registration and lodging are free, and there is a 2/3 discount on meals.
- * Continuing from last year, young adults (ages 19-35) have free registration and first-time attendees have a 1/3 discount on all costs.
- * A process was approved to grant funds to help people attend conferences either sponsored by Quakers or whose purposes are closely aligned with Quaker testimonies. The fund's creation was inspired by last year's White Privilege Conference in Grand Rapids (see p. 2).
- * To encourage spiritual connection between monthly meetings in the Yearly Meeting, clerks of monthly meetings and conveners of worship groups will be especially invited to Annual Meeting this year. There will be an opportunity for them to gather to talk to one another, and a registration discount will be offered (see also p. 1).
- * We approved a minute of appreciation for Mathilda Navias's faithful service to the Meeting in myriad ways, both in official capacities (Meeting worker, database manager, organizer of the Spiritual Formation Program) and as a spiritual mentor and adviser on Quaker practices. Mathilda's last day on the job as Meeting worker was May 1. She will continue to be the database manager for about six months.
- * The Publications & Archives Committee reports that there are now 45 memorial minutes available at *leym.org*. Look under the tab for "Resources" and find many inspiring stories.
- * Next year's leader for the Spiritual Formation Program will be Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar), who is planning to encourage groups from the same meeting to explore how meetings as a whole can pursue spiritual development (see p. 20). ~ Eds.

Why do I attend Annual Meeting?

I come for spiritual renewal, to think about new ideas, to reconnect or connect with Friends from other meetings, and because there is often an opportunity to see and be a part of Quaker process in action.

Summary of Responses to the 2018 Annual Query

From the Ministry & Nurture Committee

The query: *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?*

Ministry & Nurture received responses to the 2018 Annual Query from 12 monthly meetings this year. During Representative Meeting in Ann Arbor, these responses were read and compiled. Several common themes emerged in these reflections.

Many meetings drew connections between earthcare and our traditional Quaker values and testimonies. For example, the responses referred to many aspects of simplicity, peace, community, and equality. Environmental action is clearly now seen as a crucial part of our peace and social justice work. Several meetings mentioned the disproportionate impact of environmental degradation on the poor and more vulnerable whose voices are rarely heard (*Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Broadmead, Detroit, Kent, Pittsburgh*). Our current economic system, with its focus on short term profit, constant growth, and the “selling of needs,” was also recognized by many as a major part of the problem (*Birmingham, Broadmead, Detroit, Kent*). Environmental damage creates the conditions for war, and war itself is destructive to the planet (*Broadmead, Detroit, Kalamazoo*).

Meetings thought deeply about the issues of abundance and hope and had various responses. A sensitivity to the pain and challenges faced by youth was recognized (*Athens*). We also see young people as a source of hope. Some questioned whether we should seek to attain hope and a sense of abundance, whether this is realistic. A few reflected that practicing gratitude can provide hope and sustain faith. Gratitude came up in many responses. Many also included the inter-relatedness of nature and spirit that some of us experience personally and that is present in Native spirituality. Religious traditions have certainly encouraged us to see the divine in creation, although in some cases they have led us to exer-

cise dominion over nature (*Granville*). One meeting also questioned whether the term “earthcare” actually implies a sense of domination (*Oberlin*). We do, in fact, experience abundance in nature. It was pointed out that renewable energy is inexhaustible and abundant (*Detroit*). There is also abundance in our spiritual lives. As one meeting wrote, “What gives us hope in the face of these challenges is the recognition that love is abundant. ...There is no end to love....” (*Ann Arbor*).

Many actions were explored as ways to respond to the current crisis. We need first to discern what is sacred in our lives, as it will drive our actions. Because we can only attend to what we are able to perceive, educating ourselves and others is vital (*Cleveland*). Many meetings explored the ways we can live simply and take small, personal actions, the ways in which we can act locally and “walk lightly on the earth” (*Ann Arbor, Athens, Birmingham, Kalamazoo*). These actions give witness to others, help to pull us out of despair, and can also make a real difference. Even a small impact is worth the effort. Joining with other groups was a critical action raised by several voices (*Ann Arbor, Athens, Cleveland*). When we can find common ground, sometimes leaving our own comfort zones, we build community as well as have larger effects on regional, national, and global issues. As one meeting wrote, we need to listen and “breathe together” (*Holland*). Another urged us to “Speak out with your voice and your pocketbook” (*Kalamazoo*). Political action is needed to create the magnitude of change required.

We often feel overwhelmed by the size and complexity of the problems and paralyzed by the experience of time running out. It is because of this that we need to discern what we, ourselves, are called to do and the ways in which we can support the work of others. One meeting urged us “to take

the next right step” and to recognize the distinction between “suffering that arises from a freely chosen effort” and the suffering that arises out of oppression or difficult conditions (*Cleveland*).

The Ministry & Nurture Committee was moved and encouraged by reading the responses to our query. We appreciate the time and clarity that

went into each meeting’s thoughtful response. Thank you.

Carla Pratt-Harrington and Flo Friender, co-clerks, Ann Sprague, Lisa Klopfer, Shelly Kotz, and Rebecca Morehouse

Proposed Changes to *Policies and Procedures*

At the fall Executive Committee meeting Mathilda Navias and Jeff Cooper agreed to consider needed updates to our Policies and Procedures manual, available at leym.org. They have compiled a multi-page document that groups suggested changes in four categories: A) those requiring discernment by the Meeting; B) those recognizing changes in current practice; C) policies and procedures already approved but not yet included; and D) minor changes in wording or arrangement. This document will be posted on the web-site around June 1 (with an email announcement), so that Friends can consider the suggested changes before Annual Sessions. To provide context, these changes will also be shown within the full text of Policies and Procedures. Below are most of the suggestions in Group A – those requiring discernment by the Meeting.

II. B, **Representative Meeting**: Two questions:

II. B. 2. a, on monthly meeting representatives, states “Whenever the size of the monthly meeting allows, at least one of these [two] representatives should *not* be a Yearly Meeting officer or member of a standing committee.” Is this realistic? Recommend *change to*: “Whenever possible, at least one of these representatives should *not* be a Yearly Meeting officer or member of a standing committee.”

II. B. 3, on scheduling, states that Representative Meeting should be scheduled in a way that allows distribution of the minutes well before Annual Sessions. Is this truly a scheduling question? Instead *recommend* stating that Representative Meeting *minutes* should be made available well before Annual Sessions. *Note*: Executive Committee discussed May 15 as a possible deadline for completing the minutes.

Somewhere (perhaps adding a II. E), *add* short descriptions of how to get a **Travel Minute** or **Letter of Introduction** from the Yearly Meeting (and what the difference is).

III. A. 1, **Clerk’s responsibilities**

At 1. h, Securing nominees for a Naming Committee: *Add* “It has been found useful to include at least one Friend who has served recently on Nominating Committee.”

At 1. j, Naming members to ad hoc committees: *Delete* “in consultation with Nominating Committee.”

III. C. 6. c, **Spiritual Formation Program**: *Consider* its proper place: Continue under Ministry & Nurture? Be a separate entity? If the latter, name its own Retreat Committee members or be named by Nominating?

III. E. 1. a, **Regional Yearly Meetings**: *Rethink* our relationship with nearby Yearly Meetings. EITHER drop naming visitors to Yearly Meetings, as we no longer have relationships with them, OR be intentional about sending visitors to all nearby YMs, support these visitors financially, and require them to report back. If the latter option is chosen, *add* the New Association of Friends. Note that some of these Meeting’s annual gatherings coincide with ours, which makes visiting difficult.

Why do I attend Annual Meeting?

Annual Sessions are an opportunity to deepen your spiritual practice, learn how other meetings face challenges, and develop friendships with Friends outside your meeting and experience.

[DRAFT] Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Harassment Policy

Note: This draft policy will be considered for approval at Annual Sessions.

Friends General Conference, in keeping with Friends' historical concerns for equality and justice, is committed to providing environments for staff, volunteers, committee members, and program participants which are free of discrimination and harassment. Demeaning actions, words, jokes, or comments based on an individual's gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, age, or faith will not be tolerated. We also note that sexual harassment, both overt and subtle, is an illegal form of demeaning and oppressive misconduct which we want to prevent and which, if alleged, we will investigate thoroughly and fairly. ~ FGC Central Committee, 10/22/95

In spite of some Quakers' participation in the abolition movement to end enslavement in the United States; in spite of some Quakers' commitment to dismantling Jim Crow during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s; in spite of some Quakers' visible work to support the Black Lives Matter movement and in spite of all of us feeling horrified when yet another unarmed black or brown person is shot by police, our Meetings remain mostly white and Friends of Color do not necessarily feel safe or welcomed in a Quaker faith community. ~ Institutional Assessment on Systemic Racism within Friends General Conference, October 2018

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting wants to make its Annual Gathering and other committee meetings, visits, and programs free of harassment. This policy addresses sexual harassment, racial harassment, and harassment based on sexual orientation. Our consciousness of the need to prevent and respond to these types of harassment has been heightened by our realization that such behavior does occur at Friends' events.

Sexual harassment is unwanted sexual or gender-based behavior generally involving the exercise of formal or informal power by the perpetrator over the victim. It is a form of misconduct that is demeaning to another person and undermines the integrity of the relationship. It is illegal, and is strictly prohibited within LEYM. Sexual harassment may be verbal (suggestive comments, threats, insults, jokes, sexual propositions), nonverbal (suggestive, insulting, or obscene gestures, noises, leering, displaying pornographic material), or physical (touching, brushing body, coercing sexual intercourse, assault).

Similarly, racial harassment is unwanted race-based behavior, harassment based on sexual orientation is unwanted behavior based on someone's sexual orientation, and gender identity harassment is unwanted gender-identity-based behavior. All generally involve the exercise of formal or informal power by the perpetrator over the victim.

The key words are "unwanted," "discrimination-based" and "formal or informal power," plus the basis of the behavior in differences in gender, race, sexual preferences, or gender identity.

Harassment is defined both by the feelings of the person who experiences it and by the intentions of the alleged perpetrator. What one person might consider an innocent comment or behavior could actually be experienced as harassment by another person, particularly if the alleged perpetrator persists in the behavior after the implications have been brought to his or her attention.

Does this mean that we must refrain from offering hugs to friends, or making comments about a friend's appearance? No—not if the person welcomes the hug or the comment. But we should be sensitive to the possibility that another might be made uncomfortable by such behavior. If there is any question about how another may feel, ask first (e.g., "May I give you a hug?"). This is simply part of our responsibility as members of a caring community of Friends.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FEEL HARASSED

1. If you feel harassed by the comments or behavior of another person at an LEYM event, and if you feel able, you can tell that person clearly that you find their behavior objectionable and ask them to stop it.

[DRAFT] LEYM Harassment Policy, *continued*

Of course, there are situations in which it is difficult to confront such behavior on the spot. If someone does tell you that they have been offended or embarrassed by something you did, please do not argue about their feelings or how you intended your behavior. You cannot tell someone else how they should feel about something you say or do. Just apologize and be mindful so as not to repeat the objectionable behavior.

2. Reporting incidents of sexual harassment, racial harassment, or harassment based on sexual orientation: LEYM has established a small Harassment Discernment Committee (H.D.C.) which includes a group of five people made up of diverse representation, so that people bringing a harassment complaint will feel comfortable. Please see the following section for details on the H.D.C. If you feel unable to confront the person, or find that they repeat the objectionable behavior despite your request to stop it, you may approach this committee with your concern. **Note that you may choose to pursue either an informal or a formal procedure for dealing with the situation.**

3. If you witness or are told about a situation involving possible harassment: Try to check it out with the person who appears to be experiencing the harassment; if they feel uncomfortable about the behavior, encourage them to confront it or report it. If it is impossible to talk with the person, or if the person is not prepared to make a report themselves, yet you are convinced that harassment occurred, then a report may be made directly to the H.D.C.

WHAT LEYM'S HARASSMENT DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE WILL DO IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTED INCIDENT OF HARASSMENT

Who is the Harassment Discernment Committee (H.D.C.)?

The H.D.C. is made up of five people of diverse representation (male, female, LGBTQ, persons of color, younger, older). Diversity is crucial to this process, so that the person bringing a harassment complaint will feel both represented and able to trust members of the committee.

Two members are tied to LEYM positions: one appointed by Ministry & Nurture, and one member of the Executive Committee. These two individuals will proactively recruit the remaining three positions. These positions will be recruited and named during Annual Sessions, for approval during a business session and will serve for one year. They can be asked if they wish to serve in subsequent years.

H.D.C. members will be identified in all event program information.

1. Informal procedure: If you feel embarrassed or offended by another's behavior, you may simply want an opportunity to discuss the experience with another Friend and think together about how to handle it. If so, a member of the Harassment Discernment Committee will be glad to meet with you for a confidential discussion of the incident(s). We welcome you to bring a support person with you during this conversation. If this discussion is sufficiently helpful, and you are able to stop or avoid further objectionable behavior, the H.D.C. will consider your concern to have reached closure and no further steps will be taken unless the committee member determines that the nature of the complaint is serious enough to warrant further action, such as a formal procedure.

2. Formal procedure: If you wish a formal investigation and more assistance in dealing with the alleged harassment than that afforded by the informal procedure, you will be asked to submit a written, signed complaint. This complaint may be brief, but it should include name(s) and a description of the objectionable behavior, the context, and your feelings. When such a complaint is received, two members of the H.D.C. will meet with you in confidence, discuss the alleged harassment with you, and then proceed with a thorough investigation of the complaint. As in informal procedures, a support person is welcome. Such investigation will always include, but not necessarily be limited to, a meeting of the investigators with the alleged perpetrator. The H.D.C. reserves the right to make an independent decision to initiate the formal procedure in any case which it deems sufficiently serious to require a formal investigation and the possible consequences as listed below. In

this event, both the complainant and the alleged harasser will be notified of such a decision.

3. The members of the committee will discern the merits and gravity of the complaint and how to handle the situation.

If the H.D.C. team determines that harassment did indeed occur, possible consequences include:

- a) Asking the harasser to acknowledge and stop the offending behavior;
- b) Requiring the harasser to stay away from the person who experienced the harassment for the duration of the event;
- c) Engaging in a restorative circle/conversation, if both the person experiencing harassment and the harasser agree;
- d) Requiring the harasser to leave the event; and/or
- e) Refusing to accept the harasser at future events.

The discernment team will communicate its decision and the action taken to the individual who submitted the formal complaint and to the full H.D.C. Any decision to exclude a harasser from future events may be appealed by the harasser to the H.D.C. prior to the registration period for a subsequent event.

4. Complaints will be treated with confidentiality and discretion.

5. Every effort will be made to protect persons making bona fide complaints from any kind of retaliatory action.

ACTING AS FRIENDLY BYSTANDER

A person who has experienced harassment may need to share the distress with someone in whom she or he has confidence and respect. If you are chosen, remember that however inadequate you feel, the other person trusts and respects you enough to share a matter of concern with you.

The most important gift you can offer is time – time for listening in a supportive and non-judgmental way, allowing space and silence for reflection.

The ideal outcome would be one where the harasser has been helped to accept and understand the outcome of her or his behavior, and has

stopped it; the person who has been harassed no longer feels threatened; and both are enabled to remain at peace in the LEYM community.

Comments on this draft can be sent to Jo Posti at jo.posti@gmail.com.

Request from Nominating Committee

Friends, please determine if you feel led to serve LEYM on committees (listed below) or as Representatives to Friends organizations. If so, please contact a member of Nominating Committee: Jo Steigerwald, Janet Dando, Mike Holaday, Bill Wartens, Ellerie Brownfain, or Clémence Mershon.

During the Annual Sessions, July 25–28, the Nominating Committee will work to discern the best Friends to serve in the positions listed below or as clerks of committees. Clerks are expected to attend meetings of LEYM's Executive Committee (4 meetings a year – 2 at Annual Sessions, 1 at Representative Meeting, and 1 in the fall). Representatives to organizations attend annual meetings of the organization.

Open positions:

Officer: LEYM Treasurer

Representatives to Central or General Committees of AFSC, FCNL, and FGC. 1 needed for each organization.

LEYM Committees:

2 Friends needed: Adult & Family Program, Advancement & Outreach, Ministry & Nurture
3 Friends needed: Earthcare, Peace & Justice, Publications & Archives

Why do I attend Annual Meeting?

I come to annual sessions for all the typical reasons – fellowship, old friends, feeling of home at Bluffton after 30 years of attending... But I also come for the surprises: the moments of worshipful opportunity, the outrageous quirkiness of Talent Night, the children's epistles. Every year is fresh.

Workshops at Annual Meeting

Friday, July 26, 3:30 – 5:15

Mey Hasbrook, Kalamazoo Friends MM, and **Sam Milford**, Pittsburgh Friends MM, FWCC representatives for LEYM: *Sink Down and Rise Up: Spirit-Led Action for Sustainability*.

As the climate crisis overwhelms many of us, there are Friends across the world arising to this great challenge with hope. We will explore the spiritual root of Quaker action for sustainability while learning about practical responses from Friends Meetings. We will envision where change is possible.

The session will open with silent worship and reflection on the query: “How do we act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Spirit amid extreme harm done to the Earth and humanity?” With a brief introduction, resources on sustainability will be provided from FWCC and the traveling ministry of Mey Hasbrook. Materials will be discussed in small and large groups. A simple arts activity will be offered to augment reflection and discussion. The workshop will conclude with worshipful sharing.

Jerry Knutson--traveling in the Ministry under the care of Orlando MM: *Using Spiritual Discernment to Find our Calling in Disturbing Times*.

Jerry Knutson will guide participants through his Pendle Hill Pamphlet #443 “Individual Spiritual Discernment” – their best-selling pamphlet. This workshop will focus on practicing methods of discernment, testing and implementing the discernment, and practicing spiritual disciplines. Participants are encouraged to read the Pamphlet in advance and bring it to the workshop.

Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh MM: *Form Follows Function*.

We organize ourselves for worship and the other functions of our collective life – but do our forms lend themselves best to what’s most important? This workshop will look at ways that spiritual organizations (mostly Christian, but not just

Quaker) are modifying to fit the new realities – different demographics, needs, and patterns of belonging. We’ll consider how our structures (including but not limited to financial, committee, and spiritual support) are supporting us and identify places where they could be re-imagined to allow for the living Seed to grow, flourish, and direct us to our corporate calling.

Bill Warters, Birmingham MM: *Doing Justice the Quaker Way: Lessons from Quaker Peacemakers*.

In this workshop participants will learn more about our rich history of Quaker peacemakers working across a broad range of domains. We will explore the work of Quakers such as Lewis Fry Richardson, Adam Curle, Elise and Kenneth Boulding, Jennifer Beer, Bayard Rustin, Priscilla Prutzman, William Kreidler, and George Lakey. A set of posters developed for FGC 2018 profiling Quaker Peacemakers will be offered as a possible educational tool for First Day Schools and informal gatherings. Broadly speaking, approaches to conflict intervention and justice work that seek to engage and mobilize bystanders and witnesses to reduce the costs of conflict will be explored.

José Woss, FCNL: *Election Integrity: Bold Steps from Congress. What Comes Next?*

José is Legislative Manager for Criminal Justice and Election Integrity at Friends Committee on National Legislation.

The House of Representatives took bold action in passing H.R.1. It’s the most robust elections reform we’ve seen in years. It’s unlikely that the Senate will take up a similar bill. But we know that the status quo is unacceptable. A government that walks humbly elevates the voices of all – not just those with big contributions – and does not suppress voices in the process. What can members of the Senate do to address gerrymandering, excessive money in politics, and dark money in our elections?

Workshops at Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 27, 3:30 – 5:15

Jo Posti, Pittsburgh MM: *Digital Ministry*.

Jo launched LEYM's Facebook and Twitter platforms to support the work of the Adult Program Committee in 2017. She's a social media manager for Comcast and has launched and managed accounts for a number of corporations and non-profits since 2007.

It's not enough to hang a shingle and host a website if we want to show seekers who we are, why we're relevant and what being a part of our faith communities looks like. During this workshop, we'll talk about developing a digital footprint for your meeting that's meaningful and reflects who you are as a Quaker meeting. We'll look at the analytics behind LEYM's Facebook and Twitter accounts and learn what engages readers and what we can do to increase that metric.

We'll also talk about free or inexpensive resources meetings can use to develop digital assets, how to use hashtags, how to launch an ad campaign, how social media stunts work, and why social media needs to be a part of your meeting's communications plan. With social media often portrayed as a force sowing division, we'll talk about how our presence can be one of digital ministry, providing signposts that bring us closer to the Divine.

Gottfried Brieger, Birmingham MM:
Furthering our Peace Testimony.

Just because we are not currently engaged in large wars like Vietnam or Korea, America is nevertheless militarily engaged in at least 14 countries, where we have troops actively fighting. We also support wars by supplying arms and logistics to allies engaged in conflicts world wide. Furthermore we have over 800 military bases all over the world. Much of this military engagement is the result of the passage of the Authorized Use of Military Force (AUMF) act passed by Congress after 9/11. It is essentially a carte-blanche for any president to use military force anywhere in the world. We also know that various administrations have sidestepped the requirement for Congressional approval to go to war by simply renaming these military events as "conflicts."

Based on personal experience with college students, I can assert that our young people, and probably many in the general public, are sadly unaware of these wars, despite the occasional reports in the media of particular wars in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Yemen.

How can we further our peace testimony?

Young men and women continue to flock to the military for a variety of reasons, despite the lack of an actual draft. They are woefully underinformed about the deadly consequences of participation in war.

We need to get together in a workshop to discuss the issue of effective peace-making by educating young Americans who are considering military service about the real extent of our international war-making and the real costs of these efforts.

I believe this topic fits nicely into the general theme of our Yearly Gathering, because justice, love, and mercy are notably absent in our national militant posture.

Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar MM: *Separating "My Call" from "All That Needs To Be Done."*

I recently apprenticed myself to traditions carried by the "Yearly Meetings Conservative" through an 18-month class led by Lloyd Lee Wilson (North Carolina YM Conservative) and Deborah Fisch (Iowa YM Conservative). They opened my eyes to exciting possibilities for concrete, confident, individual paths of faithfulness ... and for Meeting structures designed to call those individual gifts out into specific ministries (callings) in the world.

This workshop will be a quick survey of the disciplines I learned about ... with an interactive chance for participants to choose one to try on in a mini-version and report back to the group how it speaks to the project of "doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God."

In particular the disciplines we'll try "quick-take" samplers of include:

- 1) Expecting Transformation – letting the light search and discover, convict, and convert us;
- 2) Spiritual Practices – listening in tongues, spiritual journaling, scriptural literacy, historical gratefulness, life as prayer;

Workshops at Annual Meeting Saturday, July 27, 3:30 – 5:15, *continued*

3) Community as Crucible – understanding Meetings as more than just a collection of seekers exchanging messages on their individual journeys. Rather, Meetings become a network of relationships in which the gifts unearthed by the light are named, developed, practiced, and used to discern the Meeting's collective calling for walking humbly in the world.

I hope this overview will help to shape deeper explorations of each discipline for use in the fall Spiritual Formation retreat.

Robert Foulkes, Cork Meeting (Ireland), worships with Manitou Worship Group when in Michigan: *Planting Trees and the Health of the Planet*.

I am now 65 years old and know what I should do with the rest of my days – plant trees – but that is a complicated business. Where to plant them? Will humans allow them to remain? As a Friend I not only need to plant trees – I need to share what I know about this calling with others. Friends (the Quaker community) could have a great influence on the health of the planet if they understood what is happening to forests and what they could be doing about it.

José Woss, FCNL: *Mass Incarceration: The Next Steps*.

José is Legislative Manager for Criminal Justice and Election Integrity at Friends Committee on National Legislation.

The words in Micah 6:8 are clear: we must do justice. Excessive mandatory minimum sentences, overuse of solitary confinement, and deplorable prison conditions are just some of the problems of mass incarceration. The criminal penal system that dehumanizes and subjugates sometimes has the word justice in it but it is anything but a criminal justice system. We saw great progress in the last Congress. Come learn more about what the next step should look like.

Why do I attend Annual Meeting?

I attend our Yearly Meeting each year because I want to learn how other meetings are addressing issues and concerns that my own monthly meeting has. I am informed by attending the LEYM meetings for business and by joining a committee which draws Friends from all our affiliated monthly meetings. ... The value in working with f/Friends beyond my local group has helped me stay connected to the larger Quaker dialog.

I love seeing the children and youth present their minutes on the last day (always creatively!) and I recognize the role of those adults who choose to be with young Friends as their way of contributing and making a difference.

I am so happy that the All Ages Talent Show on Saturday evening has returned! The shared joy, appreciation, and laughter last long after we all go home.

It is a safe, comfortable, and happy place for families and adults alike.

Why do I attend Annual Meeting?

Familiar faces, stirring plenary, great conversations, sweet worship time together.

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

Annual Meeting's Meal Service: An Action about Climate Crisis

From the Earthcare Committee

At April's Representative Meeting, an action was approved as brought forward by the Earthcare Committee, here shared in brief:

"This year to commit as much as possible to a vegetarian food service as a response to the dire circumstances of our planet."

Unity arose with clarifying that this action acknowledges the worsening climate disruption and loss of life. As a result, the 2019 registration for Annual Meeting will present a default vegetarian menu, and Friends will need to opt "in" (check the box) for meat.

Earthcare and the Arrangements & Site Committees are working to ensure a variety of tasty, nutritious entrees. As always, special dietary needs may be requested such as low-carb options. In action about climate crisis, Friends are invited to join "as much as possible." It's one small step to recognize the Earth's ecological emergency and our responsibility to reduce its widening harm.

Meat consumption per capita in the U.S. is higher than in any other country in the world. Many Friends have already cut back or eliminated meat from their diet and have learned that a healthy diet without meat is not only possible but is not difficult and can be enjoyable.

For Friends who do not select meat, it is important to honor this decision on site. That means not partaking of food for other groups, since there will be meat served for others sharing the dining hall during Annual Meeting's first days.

All Friends are encouraged to go deeper into the LEYM Annual Query on Earthcare. Educational materials and displays will be provided at meal times about solutions toward the climate crisis and the impact of diet. The Earthcare Committee especially invites monthly meetings to host topics for small displays. For anyone with interest, please contact Mey Hasbrook (meymdhATgmailDOTcom).

The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [report](#) calculated that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees would require cutting human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide in half by 2030 and reaching "net zero" emissions around 2050. Not achieving this goal will result in mass deaths and negatively impact the ability of the Earth to support human civilization as we know it. That's why dramatic, immediate changes in lifestyle and priorities are essential.

In light of the IPCC report, Friends are invited to consider this query:

What aspects of our lives are we led to rethink?
As Quakers, what truth are we led to speak
and action(s) of conscience to take?

Here are some resources toward LEYM's food action about the climate crisis:

National Geographic's 2019 article ["Eating Meat has 'dire' consequences for the planet, says report"](#)

The Peaceable Table, a monthly journal by vegetarians among Friends and across faiths, www.vegetarianfriends.net.

Updates about this action will be shared on LEYM's Earthcare resource page, <https://leym.org/earthcare-home/>.

Why do I attend Annual Meeting?

For respite from the wider world, so that I can then go back into it. It's the simplification of a dorm room, cafeteria meals, meetings, Meeting, and the Mennonite Thrift Store in town. It's a place I've trusted my daughter to since she was 4; she's now 14, and looking very forward to another Annual Sessions.

Schedule: LEYM Annual Meeting

Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with God: Finding our Calling in Disturbing Times

July 25 — July 28, 2019

Thursday, July 25

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm | Lunch line open for LEYM |
| 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm | Executive Committee Meeting |
| 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm | <i>Spiritual Practice</i> (Time for study, conversation, singing, or other projects) |
| 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm | <i>Committee Meetings</i> ; check board in registration area for locations.
(Those not on committees may sit in.) |
| 5:45 pm to 6:15 pm | Dinner line open for LEYM |
| 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm | <i>Committee Meetings</i> ; check board in registration area for locations.
(Those not on committees may sit in.)
Newcomer Enrichment Meeting
<i>Spiritual Practice</i> |
| 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm | Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: Kreider Meeting Room |

Friday, July 26

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 6:30 am to 7:30 am | Early Meeting for Worship, Centennial Hall: First Floor Lobby |
| 8:00 am to 8:30 am | Breakfast line open for LEYM |
| 8:40 am to 9:30 am | Worship Sharing: Sign up in registration area for a group.
Bible study with April Vanlonden, ESR: Kreider Meeting Room |
| 9:40 am to 10:45 am | Committee Meetings. (Those not on committees may sit in.)
Newcomer Enrichment Meeting
12 Step Meeting
<i>Spiritual Practice</i> (Time for study, conversation, singing, or other projects) |
| 11:00 am to 12:30 pm | Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: Kreider Meeting Room |
| 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm | Lunch line open for LEYM |
| 1:45 pm to 3:15 pm | Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: Kreider Meeting Room |
| 3:30 pm to 5:15 pm | Workshops: Choose one (Children's Program ends at 5:15 pm
(See descriptions of these workshops on p. 10.)
<i>Sink Down and Rise Up: Spirit-Led Action for Sustainability.</i> Hasbrook & Milford
<i>Using Spiritual Discernment to Find our Calling in Disturbing Times.</i> Knutson
<i>Form Follows Function.</i> Loucks
<i>Doing Justice the Quaker Way: Lessons from Quaker Peacemakers.</i> Warters
<i>Election Integrity: Bold Steps from Congress. What Comes Next?</i> Woss |
| 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm | Dinner line open for LEYM |

Schedule: LEYM Annual Meeting, *continued*

Friday, July 26, *continued*

6:30 pm to 7:00 pm	Spiritual Practice (Time for study, conversation, singing, or other projects).
7:15 pm to 8:45 pm	Plenary Speaker: Joyce Ajlouny, <i>It Takes Courage: Quaker Values in Action</i>

Saturday, July 27

6:30 am to 7:30 am	Early Meeting for Worship, Centennial Hall: First Floor Lobby
7:45 am to 8:15 am	Breakfast line open for LEYM
8:45 am to 9:30 am	Worship Sharing: Sign up in registration area for a group. Bible study with April Vanlonden, ESR: Kreider Meeting Room
9:45 am to 11:45 am	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: Kreider Meeting Room
12:00 pm to 12:30 pm	Lunch line open for LEYM
12:30 pm to 12:50 pm	Spiritual Practice (Time for study, conversation, singing, or your own project).
1:15 pm to 3:15 pm	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: Kreider Meeting Room
3:30 pm to 5:15 pm	Workshops: Choose one (Children's Program ends at 5:15 pm) (See descriptions of these workshops on pp. 11—12.) <i>Digital Ministry</i> . Posti <i>Furthering our Peace Testimony</i> . Brieger <i>Separating "My Call" From "All That Needs To Be Done."</i> Neuroth <i>Planting Trees and the Health of the Planet</i> . Foulkes <i>Mass Incarceration: The Next Steps</i> . Woss
5:30 pm to 6:00 pm	Dinner line open for LEYM
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Meetings for clerks of constituent meetings; small dining room
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm	Talent Show
9:00 pm	Ice Cream Social 12 Step Meeting TBA

Sunday, July 28

6:30 am to 7:30 am	Early Meeting for Worship, Centennial Hall: First Floor Lobby
7:45 am to 8:15 am	Breakfast line open for LEYM
8:45 am to 9:30 am	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: Kreider Meeting Room
9:30 am to 10:30 am	Epistles and Sharing by the Children's Program: Kreider Meeting Room
10:30 am to 11:30 am	Meeting for Worship: Kreider Meeting Room
12:00 pm to 12:30 pm	Lunch line open for LEYM
1:00 pm	Executive Committee meeting

Continued

Schedule: LEYM Annual Meeting, *continued*

Note: **Schedules may change**, in which case there will be a notice in the registration area. Locations of committee meetings, workshops, and other events will be posted there as well.

There will be a **talent show on Saturday night!** Sign up with Kate Enger once you have arrived at Annual Meeting. A gentle reminder: this is a multigenerational event, meaning there will be young children in the audience, so keep that in mind when planning your act.

Alert: Attenders at Annual Meeting include Friends with asthma and chemical sensitivities that are triggered by fragrances. Help these Friends stay healthy by using **fragrance-free toiletries**.

* * *

Registering for Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting Registration Form, instructions for the form, and the Parent or Guardian Consent and Permission Form appear on the next three pages.

Please note the various **discounts / scholarships** available:

- ♦ LEYM subsidizes the cost for **children and youth** (ages 18 and under). Registration and Lodging are free, and meals are discounted by 2/3.
- ♦ **Young Adult Friends** (ages 19–35) have their registration fee waived (though lodging and meal costs still apply).
- ♦ **First-time attenders** receive a 1/3 discount on all costs.

Online Registration is Available: Registration for Annual Meeting can be completed either online at leym.quaker.org/reg/registration.htm or by mailing the paper form on the next page. In addition, the paper form can be printed online from the *Bulletin* at the LEYM site: <https://leym.org/leym-bulletins>. The **registration deadline** for children and for the early bird discount is July 8.

Road Construction in Bluffton: Alternate Routes to Bluffton Campus

Coming from the north on Interstate 75: To avoid street construction on SR (State Route) 103 coming into Bluffton, take Exit 145 (one exit earlier than usual) for SR 235. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right. At the next intersection, turn sharp left on County Road 313. Travel 5 miles to Elm St. in Bluffton (first traffic light). Turn right and go about six blocks to the Bluffton campus. Turn left on Rosenberger, Drive, then left into the third parking lot at the Sommer Center. Marbeck Center will be on your right.

Alternatively, continue south on I-75 to exit 140 (one exit later than usual). Turn right at the end of the exit ramp onto Bentley Rd. At S. Main St., turn right, go five blocks to College Avenue. Turn left on College, follow it through campus, about six blocks, to the Sommer Center parking lot.

Coming from the south on Interstate 75: Take exit 140 (Bentley Rd./Bluffton). Turn left onto Bentley Road. At S. Main St., turn right, go five blocks to College Avenue. Turn left on College, follow it through campus, about six blocks, to the Sommer Center parking lot.

LEYM Annual Meeting July 25-28, 2019 Registration Instructions

1. Registration deadline is Monday, July 8, 2019. Registration Form, Parental Consent Form, and check must be postmarked by this date for all children attending. The registration fee for adults who register by this date is \$65. The registration fee for adults who register after this date is \$75. Room assignments will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

2. Please complete a line on the registration form for each family member attending. Children age 3–18 pay 1/3 the cost of food. Lodging, linens, and registration for children are free. All adults who work full time with the youth do not incur charges. **It is important that every person attending be listed on the registration form** so that housing assignments can be made, meals are available, and program needs can be met.

3. Worship Group: Worship Groups will be available for signups onsite Friday and Saturday mornings,

4. Adult Young Friend: Put a check in the Adult Young Friend column if age 19–35 and wishing to participate in Adult Young Friends activities. **Registration is free for Adult Young Friends this year.**

5. Lodging: Overnight attendees may stay in Ramseyer Hall, which is air conditioned, for \$23.50/night or Bren-Dell, which is not air conditioned, for \$18.50/night, or may camp on the lawn near these dorms, for \$10.00/night. Prices are per person. Dorm rooms have two twin beds. Often additional mattresses can be moved from an empty room to accommodate children sleeping in parents' room. Children ages 0–18 have free lodging. Campers need to bring their own tents and sleeping bags and will have access to dormitory restroom facilities. Put a check in the box below each night a person is staying. In the Lodging Choice column, specify Ramseyer (R), Bren-Dell (B-D), or camping (C).

6. Linens: Put a check in the Linens column if linens are desired. The \$10.00/stay cost covers top and bottom sheets, pillowcase, towel, washcloth, and small bar of soap. Alternatively, sheets and towels may be brought from home. Children and adults going to the lake will need towels for swimming. The beds in the dorms are x-long twin size.

7. Blankets and pillows: Blankets and pillows are not included in the linens packet. Ramseyer rooms have blankets and pillows. Bren-Dell rooms have neither blankets nor pillows.

8. Commuters: Attendees commuting from home or staying overnight off campus pay the commuter fee for each day attending. The cost is \$5.00/day. If attending only part of a day, the full day fee for that day should be paid. Put a check in the box below each day attending.

9. Lodging/Commuter subtotal: For lodging: multiply the number of nights staying by the cost per night of the chosen lodging and, if linens are desired, add in the linen cost, and enter the value in the Lodging Subtotal column. For commuters: multiply the number of days commuting by the daily commuter fee and enter the value in the Lodging Subtotal Column.

10. Meals: Put a check in the box for each meal desired. Cost per meal for attendees ages 8 and up: breakfast \$6.50, lunch \$9.00, supper \$10.20. Add together the cost of all meals and enter in the Meals Subtotal column. Youth ages 8–18 have scholarships that will reduce these prices by **2/3**. The children ages 3–7 meal rates are: breakfast \$5.00, lunch \$6.75, and dinner \$7.75. The children and youth scholarships will reduce these costs by **2/3**. ***This year the default for meals will be vegetarian. If you want to eat meat, please check the special needs box.***

11. Registration Fee: Adults age 36 and up pay a registration fee of \$65 if the registration form is postmarked by Monday, July 8, or \$75 if postmarked thereafter. Part-time participants must pay the full registration fee.

12. First Time Attenders: First time attenders over age 18 are entitled to a discount of 1/3 off total costs. After calculating the "Total" for each adult, calculate 1/3 of Totals for all adults who are attending for the first time and enter the value in the Scholarship field.

13. Children: Registrations for children and completed Parent or Guardian Consent & Permission Forms *must be postmarked by Monday, July 8*. Children ages 3–18 pay 1/3 cost of food. Registration and lodging for the children is free. Children do not have to be toilet trained. A line on the registration form must be filled out for each child to assure a place in the Youth & Children's Program, lodging, and meals. A parent or guardian should complete the LEYM Parent or Guardian Consent & Permission Form for all children ages 0–18.

14. Contact Information: Please fill out your address, phone number, monthly meeting, and email address. If an email address is specified, the registrar will notify you when your registration has been received.

15. Concerns/Roommates: Please complete these sections as applicable. We will try our best to meet your requests.

16. Payment: Please make checks payable to LEYM and mail along with your completed registration form, and Parent or Guardian Consent & Permission Form if children will be attending, to the registrar: Sally Weaver Sommer, 118 S. Spring St., Bluffton, OH 45817

17. Financial Assistance: Those desiring financial assistance should first contact their monthly meetings. If needs cannot be met by the monthly meeting, contact the registrar.

18. Emergency Contact: If someone needs to reach you while you are attending LEYM, during business hours a message may be left at the Marbeck Center switchboard: 419-358-3000. After hours, campus security can be called at: 419-358-3343.

19. Questions?: Please contact Sally Weaver Sommer, registrar, at sally.weaver.sommer@gmail.com or 419-953-9455.

**Please read registration instructions
before completing this form.**

**Please read registration instructions
before completing this form.**

[illegible]

LEYM Parent or Guardian Consent & Permission Form

All children welcome, toilet-trained or not

Child's full name: _____

Child's age at LEYM: _____

Child's grade level next fall: _____

Nickname: _____ Tee Shirt Size _____ Youth Adult

Child's full name: _____

Child's age at LEYM: _____

Child's grade level next fall: _____

Nickname: _____ Tee Shirt Size _____ Youth Adult

Child's full name: _____

Child's age at LEYM: _____

Child's grade level next fall: _____

Nickname: _____ Tee Shirt Size _____ Youth Adult

Child's full name: _____

Child's age at LEYM: _____

Child's grade level next fall: _____

Nickname: _____ Tee Shirt Size _____ Youth Adult

Parent/Guardian name _____

Parent/Guardian email address _____

Home address: _____

Name(s) & address of children's Parent/Guardian/Adult Sponsor attending with child/teen if different from the above adult

Email address: _____

Please give a full listing of each child's medical, mental, and physical / conditions as well as any medications he/she is currently taking: _____

Medical Insurance Information. – A copy of the insurance card would be helpful. One for each child.

Insurance Carrier: _____

Group number: _____

Policy holder's name: _____

Policy number: _____

I am aware that my child is attending the gathering of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting at Bluffton University, Bluffton, OH, on July 25 – July 28, 2019. I authorize the adult staff to arrange for emergency medical care they deem necessary. I am aware that for my child to participate in swimming, bowling, or any other off- campus activity he/she will be riding in a private motor vehicle to and from these activities. My child will only ride in vehicles equipped with seatbelts or age appropriate child-restraining devices. [Providing your child's car seat would help.]

(Signature of parent or guardian)

Telephone number(s) where parent/guardian can be reached for permission for emergency medical treatment/ admittance if they are not attending LEYM.

Days: _____ Evenings: _____ Other: _____

If parent/guardian cannot be reached, Notify: _____

Days: _____

Evenings: _____

Fall Gatherings

LEYM Annual Fall Youth (K-12) Retreat

Friday, September 27, 7:00 pm – Sunday, September 29, 2019

Templed Hills UCC Camp, 5734 Durbin Rd. Bellville, OH 44813

Families and friends are invited to bring their youth (K-12th grade) to the annual LEYM Fall Youth Retreat at Templed Hills Camp in mid-Ohio to explore our Quaker connections with each other and our environment. This is a time for fellowship, crafts, games, and playing outdoors. Adult Friends are also welcome to come and assist with activities.

We will be staying in Heritage Hall, a converted barn which has common areas, a small kitchen, and six rooms which each sleeps four persons. Some older youth may sleep on bunks in a common area. We will be eating meals through Sunday lunch at the camp dining hall. Please plan to eat supper before you arrive on Friday night.

Registration Details:

- The cost per person is \$70, with a \$25 scholarship available. There is no charge for children under the age of 6.
- Deadline to Register: **September 10 ****
- Please bring the completed registration form and the registration fee to camp with you. A form needs to be filled out for each person attending the youth retreat.

Please call/text Diane Mott at 419-419-8339 or contact Diane at dianeer@bgsu.edu to register by the deadline and/or to ask any questions.

****If you have any dietary restrictions, the camp site director needs to know about them by August 30 so that the camp kitchen staff can plan appropriate meals.**

LEYM Spiritual Formation Program, 2019-20

Faithful Meetings: Weaving our Gifts Together

Traditionally, LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program has offered companionship and resources to support and hear about each other's individual growth in the Light. This year, we intend to take another step along the path. On a September weekend (dates tbd) at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan, with Joann Neuroth's leadership, we'll explore how meetings can undertake CORPORATE spiritual development in order to create "crucibles" where individuals can better hear and discern their part in God's call to heal the world ... and "incubators" where the gifts we need to answer that call are honed, honored and supported.

We can learn from Conservative Yearly Meeting traditions which have retained an active sense that a meeting's duty is to call forth the gifts of its members. A number of rich practices suggested by observing their investment in Blessed Community will be introduced in the fall retreat. Large or small groups of individuals from a single meeting will be able to choose which practice they want to experiment with during the year to see if they bear fruit among us. But we particularly encourage meetings to consider sending a team of members and attenders to learn about directions their meeting might want to explore.

On Saturday afternoon at Annual Sessions, Joann will lead a workshop designed to give a brief taste of the practices that will be more deeply developed in September. Joann is also available between now and September to travel to LEYM monthly meetings who wish to hear more about this opening as they consider whether and how to take advantage of it. Contact her at jneuroth@gmail.com if you are interested.

News from Friends in the LEYM Region

Kalamazoo Friends Meeting

(Reported to Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, September 2018)

Kalamazoo Friends support several ministries both of individuals within the meeting and of the whole meeting. The Adda Dilts Peace Park adjoining our meeting house is a ministry to the neighborhood. It provides a place for families to gather and children to play in a peaceful environment within a neighborhood that is often not so peaceful. Meeting members, our resident, and individuals we employ as evening peacekeepers work hard to maintain an environment of cooperation and respect. In addition to providing a place for free play, during the summer we host programs for children in the park and throughout the year we partner with student dieticians from Western Michigan University to provide family dinners once a month. Last year, as part of the Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts' focus on the Art of Fearlessness, we "yarn-adorned" the park with colorful knit and crocheted strips. Some of the neighborhood kids helped hang the pieces around the park and protested whenever we tried to take them down regardless of how water-logged and droopy they became.

We have a member who is an artist and has been called to use her art in service to others. KFM has recognized her ministry, which she calls La Puente (the bridge). We have supported La Puente for the past two years as the ministry has evolved and matured. La Puente is focused on sustainable arts, often with an emphasis on women's lives. The member-artist carries a concern about sustainability as right relationship with the earth while caring for one another, and travels widely with this concern.

Some KFM members minister to people in prison and the community through the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). AVP offers experiential workshops to develop participants' abilities to resolve conflicts cooperatively without resorting to violence, manipulation, or coercion. *See the report from Bill Warters on pages 22-23.*

Why do I attend Annual Meeting?

From a youth: To see all my Quaker Friends that I never see! Because it's a great community. It never matters what we are doing; it's always a good time.

This year, to familiarize Friends with LEYM committee work, the *Bulletin* is including brief descriptions of a few committees in each issue. This time we present the three committees that constitute the Annual Meeting Planning Committee:

Arrangements & Site Committee is responsible for all aspects of the Annual Meeting that have to do with the site (e.g., lodging and dining) as well as registration.

Program Committee (aka Adult & Family Program) is responsible for planning activities except for conducting business. This includes developing a theme, setting a schedule, and publicizing Annual Meeting to LEYM Friends.

Youth & Children Committee nurtures children and teens at Annual Meeting as well as at a fall retreat.

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

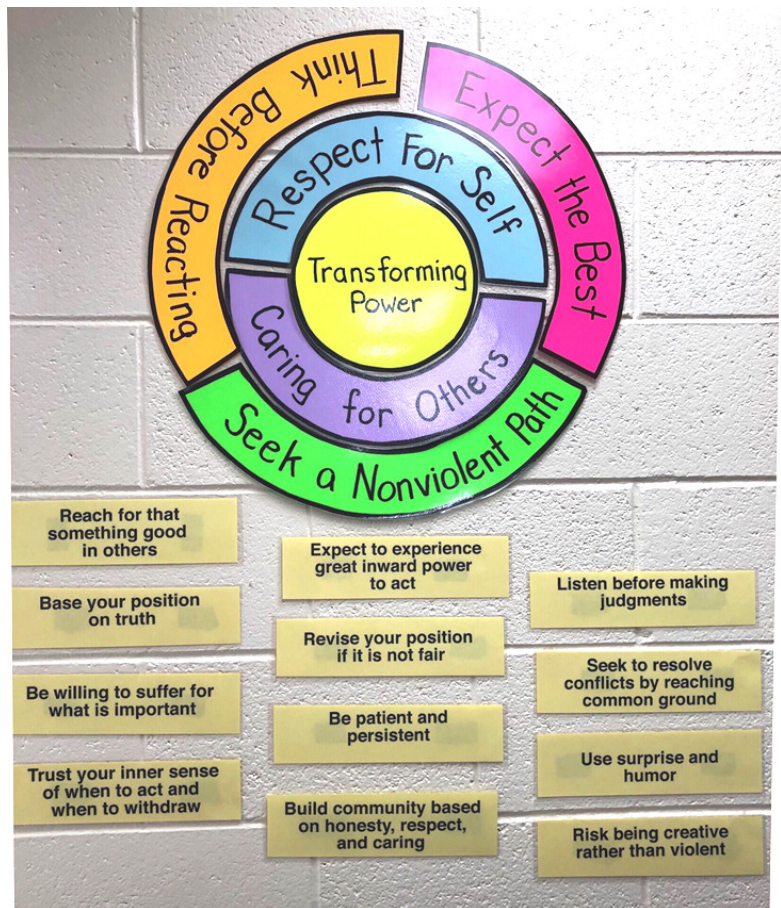
Alternatives to Violence Project Expands in Michigan

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) is growing within Michigan, with two LEYM monthly meetings (Kalamazoo and Birmingham) now actively supporting the fully volunteer project. AVP offers experiential community and prison workshops in personal growth, community development, and creative conflict management. Founded by Quakers in New York prisons in 1975, the nondenominational program was developed based on the real-life experiences of prisoners. AVP encourages every person's innate power to positively transform first themselves and then the world around them.

Today, AVP workshops are present in 37 States and over 50 countries. A full list of active projects in the U.S. can be found at <https://avpusa.org/>. Facilitators go through 60 hours of training (Basic, Advanced, and Training for Facilitators workshops) and then apprentice for an additional 60 hours before they are considered fully certified. The AVP Michigan chapter, previously active in the 1990s through the efforts of Friends from Birmingham and Detroit MMs, was revived by Kathy and Joe Ossmann of Kalamazoo Friends Meeting in 2013, when they moved here from California. The Ossmanns began by offering monthly AVP workshops in the Muskegon Correctional Facility, a state prison for men. More than 200 men have participated there so far, with 22 of them now active as inside facilitators.

AVP Michigan Expansion

After hosting a series of community workshops in the Detroit area, we now have a qualified volunteer facilitator pool in southeast Michigan. Bill Warters of Birmingham Friends Meeting coordinates the Southeast Michigan team. Thanks to a helpful introduction from Natalie Holbrook of AFSC's Michigan Criminal Justice Program in Ypsilanti, AVP Michigan has been invited to begin offering monthly workshops in the Ionia Correctional Facility, starting in July 2019. This is a big commitment that will require additional resources for things like housing, food, and transportation costs associated with hosting the three-



*AVP Transforming Power Mandala
and Guidelines from a recent workshop*

day workshops in Ionia, Michigan, located in a rural area about halfway between Lansing and Grand Rapids.

Seeking Creative and Supportive Friends

LEYM Friends continue to find ways to support AVP by serving as volunteer facilitators, offering overnight hospitality, providing food service for community workshops, or contributing financially. Kalamazoo Friends Meeting (KFM), the home meeting of the Ossmanns, is a good example. Since AVP began conducting monthly workshops in the Muskegon Correctional Facility, KFM has provided annual contributions from its benevolences budget. Additionally, for the past three years KFM's Peace and Social Action Committee has conducted a Valentine's Day candy sale featuring homemade confections with all proceeds going to benefit AVP, a registered nonprofit.

The treats are enjoyed by all and the event has provided significant and much appreciated help. In 2019 the candy sale raised a new record total of \$581.

AVP Michigan welcomes your support and well wishes going forward. Our contact information is provide below if you are interested in being involved.

Alternatives to Violence Project - Michigan
PO Box 171, Paw Paw, MI 49079
AVPMichigan@comcast.net
<http://avpmichigan.org>

Alternatives to Violence Project - Michigan South
East Council
PO Box 602, Roseville MI 48066
(586) 666-2919
avpmichse@gmail.com

~ Bill Warters (Birmingham)

Why do I attend Annual Meeting?

Answers from a family:

Seeing so many gather in the name of Peace is assuring.

I like it for the Quaker fellowship, especially for my children.

Because friends I only see once or twice a year are there.

Because my parents tell me to. And because we get to sleep in a college dorm.

Friends Couple Enrichment Workshop at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting: A Report

A Friends Couple Enrichment (FCE) program, aka Sacred Conversations, was held at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting in late February. Six couples participated. FCE is a ministry based on Quaker principles of respect for the dignity and worth of every person. A trained Leader Couple, Jaimie and Dan Mudd, led the retreat. The core of the FCE workshops is the practice of communication and deep appreciation for each other in the community of other supporting and loving couples. The retreat helped us develop specific skills to strengthen our relationships through couple exercises and discussions. It showed a way to practice deep listening to and from one's partner. Leader couples worked to ensure the safety and comfort of every participant. We found the experience rewarding and transformative. There was plenty of time for rest, socializing, and worship. Especial thanks to the Quaker Community Fund and Ministry and Clearness & Care Committees for their support.

Peace making begins at home and marriages under the care of the Meeting need continuous support and opportunities for enrichment. FCE was an effective way of working toward these goals.

More information about FCE can be found at: <https://friendscoupleenrichment.wordpress.com>

~ Asghar Aghbar

The **Quaker Arts Center at FGC's 2019 Gathering** invites proposals for all art forms, as well as programing, through May 31st. Volunteers are needed for visual-arts installation on June 30 and on-site activities from July 1 to 5. Visit <http://fqaquaker.org/fqa-fgc/> to learn more. Also find the QAC on Facebook at *qacgathering*. ~Quaker Arts Center Committee, quakerartscenter@gmail.com

News from Monthly Meetings, *continued*

“Water and Grandmothers: A Benefit” is hosted by Kalamazoo Friends Meeting at its meeting house on Saturday, June 8, from 12:30pm to 4pm. Friends are invited, and hospitality is available with advance notice. The program will share indigenous and Quaker perspectives. Co-presenters are special guest Panoka Walker (Monroe, Michigan), a contributor at FGC’s 2018 Gathering; and Mey Hasbrook, whose traveling ministry is under the care of KFM.

Entry is free. Donations will be invited and a silent auction will be held to benefit the indigenous, grandmother-led Women and Water Coming Together Symposium (www.spiritofthewater.org). Registration is encouraged: meymdh@gmail.com; (313) 389-6866. Find details on the Facebook event by the same name and the website femestiza.com.

The Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts, with its campaign “The Art of Peace and Justice,” is a co-sponsor. This event is the last in KFM’s series “Justice, Environment, and the Arts.” Friends can see event photos on KFM’s Facebook page.

Calendar for 2019

June 30: Due date for State of the Meeting Reports

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

July 8: Registration deadline for children attending Annual Meeting (and early bird registration discount)

July 15: Due date for Statistical Reports

July 25–28: Annual Meeting, Bluffton University

August 4: Summer Gathering of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, Quaker Park, Battle Creek

September 1: Due date for submissions for 2019 *Annual Records*

September 27-29: LEYM Fall Youth Retreat Bellville, Ohio (*see p. 20*)

October 1: Due date for submissions for Fall *Bulletin*

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

Currently no clerk

Finance

Joe Mills (Kalamazoo)

Ministry & Nurture

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

Nominating

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG)

Peace & Justice

Joel Ottenbreit (Detroit)

Publications & Archives

Bill Lefler (Pittsburgh)

Youth & Children’s Program

Greg Mott (Broadmead)