LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

MINISTRY AND NURTURE, REPORT

2019-2020

Since Representative Meeting in April, Ministry and Nurture has met several times via Zoom and been in regular contact by email and phone to discuss items that we are working on.

In June a special meeting was held with members of the anchoring committee for an individual engaged in travel ministry. The meeting concerned the role of Ministry and Nurture when a travel minute is submitted to the Yearly Meeting.

A travel minute originates within a monthly meeting. If the individual will be traveling outside the area of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, the travel minute should be endorsed by Yearly Meeting. The request for endorsement should be forwarded to the Ministry and Nurture Committee for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting by the clerk of the Monthly Meeting The request should include the name of the person who will be ministering, a description of their ministry, the names of individuals on their Anchoring Committee, an end date for the Travel Minute, and the name of the Standing Committee that oversees the Anchoring Committee. The request should include the name of a contact person (one) from the Monthly Meeting that Ministry and Nurture may contact if there are questions or concerns. If the request is for a renewal of a Travel Meeting, it should include a copy of endorsement and the new end date, as well as any changes to the other information.

The information to be included with the request for endorsement of a Travel minute from a monthly meeting is more extensive than what is currently listed in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting’s Policy and Procedure manual. We arrived at this list of information based on our experience with a recent travel minute as well as referring to the procedures used by other yearly meetings. We are recommending that the existing procedure for Travel Minutes be updated to include this information.

Ministry and Nurture Committee would like to add some of the information that was shared with us before this meeting to LEYM website in the resources section. The materials, one titled *Jewels of Quakerism on Anchor Committees*, and one from FGC called *Some Guidelines for Care of Friends Led to Various forms of Ministry.*

The committee was very grateful to the individuals from the traveling minister’s anchoring committee for spending time with us to clarify this situation.

We have received a letter from Kalamazoo Yearly Meeting stating that they are continuing to support the traveling ministry of Mey Hasbrook and are requesting that LEYM continue its endorsement of the Mey’s ministry. Based on the information included in their letter and the endorsements from the meetings that Mey visited we are recommending that LEYM endorse Mey’s traveling ministry for a period of one more year. A copy of the letter from Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting is included.

Rebecca Morehouse, one of the co-clerks of Ministry and Nurture, worked for several weeks with Bill Warters, the LEYM meeting worker, to facilitate an online Meeting for Worship for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting in response to stay-at-home orders due to Covid-19. After several weeks, as individual Monthly Meetings started their own online meetings, the meeting sponsored by LEYM was laid down. We are especially grateful to Bill Warters and Jo Posti for encouraging and facilitating this meeting.

The Ministry and Nurture Committee also reviewed the State of the Meeting reports sent to us by monthly meetings. A summary of monthly meeting State of the Meeting reports is attached as a separate part of this report. Individual SOMs are included in the annual records. Please read them  if you are interested in having more information on any of the actions  mentioned here."

An issue that came to our attention in reviewing the State of the Meeting reports is that several meetings reported having experienced tension within their meetings owing to interpersonal problems between members. We were contacted by or reached out to clerks from these meetings to see if Ministry and Nurture could be of help. At this time the meetings have managed issues with right order. We assured them of our availability if any future help is needed.

Because interpersonal problems do have the potential to cause tension and discord within a meeting, Ministry and Nurture would like to explore materials from FGC or other sources that might be useful to have in the resources section of the LEYM website.

Ministry and Nurture completed a summary of responses to the 2019-2020 Query which is included as part of this report. Responses to the query were limited in number. We discussed why this might be, what we can do to increase response, or if we should even have a query. After discussion, we agreed that having a query is an important and useful tool. It is a traditional manner of addressing questions that shape our beliefs and can direct us to thinking about issues that are important but difficult. We have received some feedback regarding last year’s query and continue to welcome feedback. Members of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting may contact a member of Ministry and Nurture to share their thoughts.

In discussing a query for the coming year, we feel that events of the last six months -the Covid-19 pandemic and the tragic police killings and subsequent protest-are too important not to be addressed. We are continuing to work on the query at this time.

Ministry and Nurture holds the Spiritual Formation Program under its care; the work of choosing themes, arranging retreats, and suggesting readings is done by the Spiritual Formation Planning Committee. Typically the Spiritual Formation Program consists of a fall weekend retreat based on a theme chosen by the planning committee with a follow-up one-day retreat in the spring. In the intervening months smaller Spiritual Formation groups within monthly meetings meet regularly to discuss readings based on the theme and to support one another in their spiritual life.

A Spiritual Formation retreat was held in September at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan. The retreat, led by Joanne Neuroth from Red Cedar Meeting, was titled, “Meetings as Spiritual Crucibles and Incubators.”

At Lake Erie Yearly Meeting’s annual session in 2019, the Spiritual Formation Planning Committee members stated that, after having served on the committee for a number of years, they wished to step down and requested that others who participate in Spiritual Formation volunteer to be on the committee. At the time of the retreat several individuals stepped forward to plan the spring retreat and theme for 2020-21 as well as a making arrangements for a leader for the upcoming year.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the spring retreat for Spiritual Formation did not take place. We have learned that the new Spiritual Formation Planning Committee has met and is planning a fall retreat.

Rebecca Morehouse and Shelley Kotz, co-clerks.

Inclusions:

Summary of Query Responses

Summary of State of the Meeting Reports