
Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

- April 2021 -



Upcoming

GPQM Spring Business Meeting, 10 a.m.—12:30 p.m., Saturday, May 15, 2021

Agenda

- 1) Query related to Environment and Sustainability (Elliott Brannon)
- 2) Roll call (Elliott Brannon)
- 3) Previous Meeting's Minutes (Elliott Brannon)
- 4) Reflections on Mid-winter gathering (Deb Wickering)
- 5) Report on Called Meeting for Friends School in Detroit (Joseph Mills)
- 6) Treasurer Report and Budget
- 7) Nominating Committee
- 8) Michigan Friends Center Update (Richard Tucker)
- 9) Michigan Quakers for Environmental Action: (Peggy Daub, Phil Volk and/or Richard Tucker)
- 10) GPQM moving forward

Zoom information: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/91769618384> | Meeting ID: 917 6961 8384

News from Our Monthly Meetings

Red Cedar Friends creates video series for both seekers and seasoned Friends

Our Worship can be so intimate, and yet, we don't always know the stories of fellow Friends' journey to Quakerism, or why they decided to become a Recorded Member, or what happens for them in the Silence. Red Cedar Friends Membership & Outreach Committee (M&O) began a video project in early 2020, interviewing Friends so that we could make some short videos to use on our Facebook page and website.

The videos were originally intended to help recruit new seekers to Friends Meeting, and to help de-mystify some of our practices to potential and/or new attenders. However, as we began the interviews, our M&O committee collectively felt moved by the honest and heartfelt responses we were getting. Even as more seasoned attenders, we learned a great deal from fellow Friends. And even more precious were the interviews with Friend Jim Drummond, who passed away just a few short months after these recordings.

So, we've made a YouTube channel to share the completed videos more widely, and encourage Friends to view and share these videos, as led. **Find us at our [RCF YouTube channel](#).** We hope you enjoy these videos, as we have.

Ann Arbor Friends install Black Lives Matter sign



Ann Arbor Friends Meeting recently installed a hand painted Black Lives Matter sign in front of the meetinghouse with the help of its Young Adult Friends group. This is part of work AAFM has been doing related to race and has also included queries on racism and intent vs. impact.

Holland Friends bid farewell to Meeting founders

Holland Friends want to acknowledge with gratitude the contributions to our Meeting of Greg and Kathy Winnett-Murray as they leave us for retirement to their new home in Prescott, Arizona. Greg and Kathy founded our Holland Meeting by forming a worship group in their home in the early 1980s. Their steady presence over the years offering leadership in Meeting, wisdom on environmental and earthcare issues in particular, as well as their interpersonal warmth and generosity will be greatly missed. But we know them to be adventurous souls and wish them all the best as they transition to an exciting new phase of life and to a new environment that they will explore and enjoy to the fullest.

Peace,
Larry Dickie, Clerk
Holland Friends Meeting.

Detroit Friends Meeting Update

The all-virtual silent worship format presented a challenge initially, but it provided our meeting with an opportunity to welcome new attenders and become more inclusive. Weekly attendance has increased by twenty percent with over thirty attenders at times. We are especially pleased to see younger individuals attending our meetings. The success of inclusiveness in this virtual format has demonstrated the value of continuing a hybrid format when we return face-to-face.

As Quakers, we have also been called to action and have established a working group to focus on our continuing need to become an actively antiracist faith community.

An Historical Interest Group completed the task of summarizing one hundred years of meeting files and were submitted for safe keeping at Swarthmore College's Historical Friends Library.

Our Meeting purchased three parcels of property in the core city neighborhood of Detroit to build a modest 2,500 sq. ft. meetinghouse from the Detroit Landbank Authority. We are now in the process of performing environmental studies on that property.

The Development Committee has become active to begin the fundraising process for the additional funds needed. A Universal Design for Ease of Access working group has been formed to make recommendations to incorporate in the new meetinghouse's design, so it is accessible to all individuals.

After years of discernment and uncertainty over the path forward, we are enthusiastic about the possibility of creating a meetinghouse that will provide us with a permanent spiritual home that serves the community and will serve generations of future Quakers. We continue to strive for a Quaker presence that is active, significant, empowered and engaged, ensuring that our collective Light continues to shine in Detroit.

Report submitted by Cristin Graham and Sharon Ottenbreit, Co-Clerks

Kalamazoo Friends Meeting Update

In Kalamazoo we are still having hybrid Meeting for Worship on First Day. About 4-8 Friends have been attending in person at the Meetinghouse and 17-20 by zoom. We also have been having Wednesday evening zoom gatherings about twice monthly. Recently we have discussed aspects of a covenant community (stemming from a retreat we had in the fall with Emily Provence), Amnesty International letter writing, anti-racism strategies, Alternatives to Violence (AVP) mini workshops, and Meeting for Healing.

Joe Mills, Co-Clerk

Submissions for LEYM Spring Bulletin due May 15, 2021

Send articles, essays, reports, or artwork for the LEYM Bulletin to bulletinleym@gmail.com by May 15. PDF copies of The LEYM Bulletin are available at leym.org/leym-bulletins/.

Let us hear from your meeting

Perhaps you have news to share with other Meetings and Worship Groups in GPQM, or you would like to invite Friends to an upcoming event. Send your news to April Allison (gpqmccommunications@gmail.com) and we will spread the word through Facebook, our web page, and/or this periodic newsletter. We hope to hear from you.

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Officers and Committees

(terms end June 31 of year listed)

Co-Clerks (2-year overlapping terms)

Deb Wickering (GR) (2021)

Elliott Brannon (AA) (2022)

Recording Clerk (1-year term)

Joe Mills (K) (2021)

Treasurer (3-year term)

Jeff Cooper (AA) (2021)

Finance Committee (3-year overlapping terms)

Bob Orr, Clerk (D) (2023)

Mark Donovan (K) (2021)

John Williams (AA) (2022)

Nominating Committee (3-year overlapping terms)

Susan Hartman (AA) (2021)

Raelyn Joyce (K) (2022)

Peggy Daub (AA) (2023)

Communications Coordinator (1-year term)

April Allison (RC) (2021)

Resident Agent (serves without term)

Jeff Cooper (AA)