



## Clerk’s Message from Jo Posti We Made It!

We made it!

As you read this, we’re preparing for LEYM’s second virtual Annual Meeting, perhaps the last time we will need to meet entirely online. Since March of 2020, our yearly meeting has conducted business, hosted chat sessions, shared information, and checked in with each other through email, Zoom, phone calls, and texts. We’ve grieved together, celebrated together, shared challenges, and provided encouragement. In some ways, it’s been nothing short of amazing.

As LEYM begins to think about how to approach in-person gatherings for next year’s Annual Meeting as well as Representative Meeting and other committee meetings, monthly meetings are discerning how to accommodate hybrid worship, how the pandemic has impacted the use of meetinghouses, and how decreased space rentals have impacted meeting budgets.

As monthly meetings recover and recalibrate, please look to the Yearly Meeting as a source of support. Our webmaster, Bill Warters, and database manager, Lynda Rose, are hosting a **Tech Tools Show and Tell** on Monday, June 7, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm to showcase some of the valuable technical tools and helpful resources now available to our LEYM



community. With the 2020 upgrade to our website and the recent migration to a brand new database system, Friends are sure to discover some helpful tools or resources that they were not aware of.

Annual Meeting in July is also a great way to connect with Friends, attend a workshop, or learn more about the Yearly Meeting’s work. This year’s virtual format will make it easy to attend as much or as little as your schedule allows. Some of my deepest friendships started at in-person Annual Meetings with people whom I only saw once a year in Bluffton. The pandemic has actually given us an opportunity to see *more* of each other than we did previously.

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## Clerk's Message, *continued*

My dog has seen much more of me, too. If my company ever brings us back into the office, I'm not sure how poor Luna will adjust. Multiple long walks each day have been great for both of us during the pandemic. It's a practice I hope doesn't end just because the pandemic has. What are the *new* Quaker practices you'd like to see continue?

Does your meeting have a new focus? New members with new perspectives? I can't wait to hear what's changed and what may never be the same for you and your meeting. See you at Annual Meeting, July 28 through August 1.

Jo Posti  
Presiding Clerk

### HOW ARE YOU LED TO SERVE?

Since Nominating Committee expects to appoint Friends to LEYM committees and as Representatives to Friends organizations by the rise of 2021 Annual Sessions on August 1, Committee members would appreciate knowing that Friends would like to CONTINUE serving on their current committee or as LEYM Representatives. If you have a leading to serve on another committee or wish to leave committee work, please inform us of that as well.

Nominating Committee: Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (clerk), Ellerie Brownfain, Janet Dando, Mike Holaday, and Jo Steigerwald

### Annual Meeting Registration

Registration for this year's meeting is open July 1–23. Check the website ([leym.org](http://leym.org)) for instructions, starting on July 1. Please note that Friends wishing to participate in any part of the Annual Meeting must register by July 23. Those willing to volunteer to help as Zoom co-hosts for various sessions should register early and plan to attend the orientation session on Monday, July 26, at 3:00.

There is **no fee** for participating in this meeting, but contributions to LEYM are welcome.

### LEYM Tech Tools Show and Tell

The LEYM web worker (Bill Warters) and our database manager (Lynda Rose) will be hosting a special Zoom session on Monday, June 7, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm to showcase some of the valuable technical tools and helpful resources now available to our LEYM community. With the 2020 upgrade to our website and the recent migration to a brand new database system, Friends are sure to discover some helpful tools or resources that they were not aware of. Join in via this Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85061393975?pwd=eFUxRVFrc3hQQnNZdERWRWhHL204QT09>

PDF copies of  
*The LEYM Bulletin*  
are available at  
[leym.org/leym-bulletins/](http://leym.org/leym-bulletins/)

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# LEYM Annual Meeting (Virtual)

July 28 — August 1 *and* August 7, 2021

## Healing Through Truth

**Living Myths from the Past Cause Continuing Pain.  
Pathways Through Truth Help Heal.**

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held July 28 through August 1. Since, once again, we will be meeting virtually, we have stretched our time together slightly, beginning on Wednesday rather than Thursday and concluding with a final business session the following Saturday morning, August 7. A schedule of the program is printed on pages 4–5.

Comments from Friends who attended last year’s Annual Meeting were altogether positive, and included a number of Friends with us for the first time who found the Meeting “well organized, informative, and fun.”

Our plenary talk on Friday evening will be “From Truth to Healing with Native Peoples,” presented by Paula Palmer, of Boulder Meeting. She describes her work in this way:

“For the past eight years, I’ve labored under a concern for building right relationship with Indigenous peoples. In my ministry, I seek healing for the centuries-old wounds of genocide, colonization, and forced assimilation of the Indigenous peoples of this land. I invite non-Native Friends to open our hearts to the Light of Truth, . . . to let the Light illuminate our transgressions as a religious society that promoted and operated Indian boarding schools, . . . and [hear] stories of Friends and communities that are responding to the Light of Truth.”

Paula has provided us with an intriguing reading list, in case we are led to prepare hearts and minds for her plenary talk and workshop (*see* pages 9–10). Several other stimulating workshops (most led by LEYM Friends, *see* pages 6–8) and Bible study, again led by April Vanlonden, round out the daily schedules.

**New this year** will be an **opening unprogrammed worship** each day, and then an “**epilogue**” to close each day with an opportunity to share highlights in worship. The young people’s program will likely again include cooperative construction via Minecraft.

Once again, by popular demand, the Saturday evening will bring out the **amazing talents** held within our membership. Last year, this included some delightful surprises via the magic of Zoom, which will also enable visits to each other’s home meetings on Sunday morning.

The Program Committee: Susan Hartman, Steve Morehouse, Greg Mott, Aran Reinhart, and Thomas Taylor (clerk), with web worker Bill Warters



*Paula Palmer, plenary speaker and leader of a workshop on right relationship with Native Peoples.*

# Schedule of 2021 Annual Meeting Events

## *Healing Through Truth*

This schedule is provided so that you can plan ahead and choose how you will participate. All information on Zoom sessions will be provided at *leym.org* in the Annual Meeting section.

### Monday, July 26

3:00 pm Orientation for volunteer Zoom hosts – Bill Wartens

### Wednesday, July 28

3:00 pm LEYM Executive Committee

7:00 pm Opening Plenary: Welcomes and Orientation – Jo Posti, Thomas Taylor

8:35 pm Worship

### Thursday, July 29

8:15 am Worship

9:00 am Bible Study – April Vanlonden (Earlham School of Religion)

11:00 am Business session #1

3:00 pm Workshops:

The Roots and Branches of Quaker Advocacy – Bobby Trice and/or Alicia McBride (FCNL) *See page 6.*

Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Suffering at the Hands of the Israeli Military – Jennifer Bing (AFSC), Shaina Low (Defense for Children International – Palestine), and Palestinian activist Zeina Ashrawi Hutchison, with Anne Remley (Ann Arbor) *See page 6.*

7:00 pm Workshops:

Prison Abolition as a Quaker Practice – Megan Mueller Johnson (Ann Arbor) and Megan Wilson (Ann Arbor) *See page 6.*

Experiment with Light – Maryann Concannon (Red Cedar) *See page 7.*

8:35 pm Worship

### Friday, July 30

8:15 am Worship

9:00 am Bible Study – April Vanlonden (Earlham School of Religion)

Worship Sharing

11:00 am Business session #2

1:00 pm Interest groups – organizational (FWCC, AFSC, RSWR, FCNL)

3:00 pm Workshops:

The Intersection of Earthcare and Justice Action – Richard Tucker (Ann Arbor) *See page 7.*

Spiritual Companion Groups: What they are and how they might serve LEYM – Cassie Cammann (Ann Arbor) *See page 7.*

Friday, July 30 *continued*

- 7:00 pm Plenary Speaker: *From Truth to Healing with Native Peoples* – Paula Palmer (Boulder, Friends Peace Teams)  
ca. 8:50 pm Worship (earlier if plenary talk comment and question period ends before 8:45)

Saturday, July 31

- 8:15 am Worship  
9:00 am Bible Study – April Vanlonden (ESR)  
Worship Sharing  
11:00am Free time to be used by committees as they need to meet  
1:00 pm Workshops  
Native Plants and Native Americans: Models for Healing – Tom Small (Kalamazoo)  
*See p. 7.*  
Are We Ready? – Carolyn LeJuste (Red Cedar) *See page 8.*  
3:00pm Workshop  
Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward right relationship with Native Peoples – Paula Palmer (Boulder, Friends Peace Teams) *See page 8.*  
7:00 pm Talent Show – Kate Enger (Athens), MC *See p. 16.*  
ca. 8:30 pm Worship (after talent show ends)

Sunday, August 1

- Morning Worship in local Meetings  
2:00 pm Business Session #3  
3:00 pm Reading of Epistle and Meeting for Worship

Saturday, August 7

- 10:00 am Business Session #4

**Committee meeting time:** Due to the energy required to participate in Zoom meetings and the ease of meeting virtually at other times, most Yearly Meeting committees may not wish to meet during Annual Meeting. For those committees that have immediate business to transact, we have set aside 11:00 am on Saturday morning for committee meetings.

**Business session agendas** and committee reports will be shared with attendees prior to annual sessions. *Committee clerks are encouraged to send all potential action items and committee reports to the clerks by July 15* in order to develop the schedule for each session.

**Please note!** This year, Annual Meeting begins a day earlier than usual, on **Wednesday, July 28**. The registration deadline is Friday, July 23.

## Workshops at LEYM Annual Meeting (virtual) - all via Zoom

See LEYM Website ([leym.org](http://leym.org)), Annual Meeting section, for the link to join each 90-minute workshop.

Thursday, July 29, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

### **The Roots and Branches of Quaker Advocacy**

Presented by **Bobby Trice and/or Alicia McBride**, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Quakers have worked to influence the government almost as long as there have been Friends. Why have Quakerism and advocacy been so intertwined? What do the experiences of past Friends have to offer Quakers today concerned about our government's decisions and actions?

The Quaker writer and speaker Margery Post Abbott offers some thoughts in *A Theological Perspective on Quaker Lobbying*, published by FCNL and newly revised in 2020. Using this resource as a lens to approach these questions, we will explore the roots of Quaker advocacy, share our own experiences of inspired action, and reflect on how Spirit is leading us to witness today.

This workshop connects with the LEYM theme Healing Through Truth by providing participants space to connect with the Quaker theology and history underpinning Quaker witness and truth-telling in the world today.

Thursday, July 29, 3:00 – 4:15 pm

### **Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Suffering at the Hands of the Israeli Military**

**Jennifer Bing** (AFSC), **Shaina Low** (Defense for Children International – Palestine), and

Palestinian activist **Zeina Ashrawi Hutchison**, with **Anne Remley** (Ann Arbor)

AFSC seeks to expose and challenge the Israeli military's harsh detention of hundreds of Palestinian children each year, the destruction of Palestinian homes, and the increasing seizure and occupation of West Bank land – all in violation of international law.

The presenters will share a brief film, discuss their campaign, and suggest effective action approaches, including support for a new Congressional bill introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum of Minnesota. They will also provide background information that Friends can share with their own Meetings about ways to oppose the suffering of Palestinians and work to support human rights for all.

Thursday, July 29, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

### ***Prison Abolition as a Quaker Practice***

**Megan Mueller Johnson** (Ann Arbor)  
and **Megan Wilson** (Ann Arbor)

In this workshop, two young Friends will share our leading toward and commitment to prison abolition and discuss abolitionist ethics as an integral part of our Quaker faith and practice. We contextualize the dismantling of the punishment system in the Quaker testimonies of peace, integrity, and equality. In particular, we discuss the peace testimony in the context of state violence against oppressed communities in this country, and our belief that truly honoring “that of God” in each person requires us to turn away from exile- and punishment-based models of enforcing our societal rules and toward models grounded in healing and reintegration instead. We will briefly discuss real-world examples of transformative justice practices and other steps toward abolition.

In keeping with this year's theme of Healing Through Truth, we are choosing to focus on the “truth” of these values and how they challenge us to imagine more effective and ethical models of justice, rather than laying out a blueprint for a system without prisons or police. We acknowledge the decades of work, led by Black women, to plan those practical details and implement these ideas in the real world; we will provide a resource sheet for Friends who would like to learn more about abolitionist practices, including transformative justice practices, but for the sake of time the workshop will be limited to the relationship between Quaker values and abolitionist politics, and reimagining justice as a big picture, rather than the granular details.

Thursday, July 29, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

### **Experiment with Light**

**Maryann Concannon** (Red Cedar)

*Healing Through Truth.* There is no better way to describe the practice of Experiment with Light. This workshop will provide some background on how this practice was founded by Rex Ambler, a prominent British Quaker. We will then experience the guided relaxation process called Experiment with Light for about 40 minutes. Following this, we will have worship sharing about our insights and what happened for us during the guided relaxation. Maryann Concannon has been practicing Experiment with Light regularly since 2020.

Friday, July 30, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

### **The Intersection of Earthcare and Justice Action**

**Richard Tucker** (Ann Arbor)

There is rising awareness that climate deterioration cannot be slowed without addressing the challenge of environmental justice (EJ) – locally, nationally, and globally. This workshop will consider how we can link EJ activism more effectively with Friends' efforts on race and class injustice. In the political sphere, action for environmental legislation is essential on every level of government, lobbying on issues such as clean energy and clean water.

The workshop's participants will be invited to discuss: How does EJ intersect with race and class injustice? What is the distinctive strength of faith-based communities? What are young activists' priorities, and how do they view the relative importance of the EJ agenda? We will review Quaker organizations (QEW, FCNL, AFSC, etc.) and Black, Native American and Latinx environmental activists.

Friday, July 30, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

### **Spiritual Companion Groups: What They Are and How They Might Serve LEYM**

**Cassie Cammann** (Ann Arbor)

In the past two years, the LEYM Spiritual Formation group has broadened its focus on individual spiritual practice to include collective spiritual practice. This session will introduce the practice of spiritual companion groups, engage participants in a few of its core practices, describe experiences of LEYM members who have formed spiritual companion groups, and reflect together on their potential for enhancing the spiritual life of our monthly, regional, and yearly meetings.

This workshop will introduce how the groups work, useful practices, and how groups are forming in LEYM. We will present the key ideas, practice a few of the skills in small groups, listen to a few folks' experiences, and address people's questions. Many of us have found this to be very fruitful in our spiritual lives and look forward to sharing it with others.

Saturday, July 31, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

### **Native Plants and Native Americans: Models for Healing**

**Tom Small** (Kalamazoo)

For Indigenous peoples, plants are teachers and healers. They are the “standing nations,” deserving of our respect. They deserve our gratitude for the gifts they share with us, special gifts endowed by the Creator. Instead, our culture is pushing millions of species of plants to the brink of extinction. Recent scientific discoveries, however, confirm what ancient, indigenous wisdom has affirmed all along: plants are intelligent, sentient beings who communicate with each other and ourselves in a variety of “languages.” Can we recover the lost ability to listen? Can we free ourselves from our culture's “colonial” view of plants as resources and inferior beings, allowing them full recognition as our true elders and teachers?

Join Tom for an introduction to both ancient and new insights into plant intelligence along with a

*Continued on next page*

discussion of its implications for healing broken relationship with “all our relations.”

A retired Western Michigan University Professor, Tom Small is former clerk of the steering committee for Quaker Earthcare Witness and a longtime member of its Publications Committee. He is co-author of *Using Native Plants to Restore Community*, now in its fifth printing. He speaks extensively on various topics having to do with plants and soil and writes for *BeFriending Creation* and other environmental publications.

Saturday, July 31, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

### *Are We Ready?*

**Carolyn Lejuste** (Red Cedar)

What will it take for LEYM to declare ourselves an anti-racist faith community? Why is becoming an anti-racist faith community a Spiritual matter? Why might we want to pass a strong anti-racist minute? Then what? How can we move our beloved yearly meeting to embracing the work of becoming anti-racist? Is there Truth to find in our commitment? Why is that Truth so difficult? How is that Truth spiritually healing?

During this workshop time we will work with these queries, consider LEYM’s readiness, and organize steps forward to becoming a fully inclusive beloved community.

Saturday, July 31, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

### **Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples**

**Paula Palmer** (Boulder,  
Friends Peace Teams)

We offer this workshop in response to calls from Indigenous leaders at the United Nations and the World Council of Churches. Through experiential exercises, we trace the historic and ongoing impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery, the 15th-century justification for European subjugation of non-Christian peoples. Our goal is to raise our level of knowledge and concern about these impacts, recognize them in ourselves and our institutions, and explore how we can begin to take actions toward right relationship between Indigenous and settler peoples.

During the workshop, the story of the colonization of the land that became the United States is told in the voices of Native Americans, European and American colonists, and Western historians. Participants engage with this history through experiential exercises and in small group discussions. The workshop is appropriate for high school students and adults.

*This is an incredibly powerful experience ... a tool with the power to engage the hearts and minds of a community in the work of acknowledging our history in order to begin to imagine a new way forward.*

— Rev. Nikira Hernandez-Evans (Paiute)

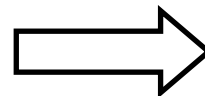
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### **GPQM Summer Gathering, Sunday, August 8**

Friends are invited to the Summer Gathering of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, on Sunday, August 8, at Quaker Park in Battle Creek, Michigan. 11:00 meeting for worship under the trees, followed by a picnic and fellowship.

Every year GPQM remembers the anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and celebrates peace in this historic Quaker meeting place.

All are welcome. Please bring your own chair or blanket, food, beverage, and mask.



On the next two pages, **Paula Palmer** provides a resource list for her plenary talk, “From Truth to Healing with Native Peoples,” and her workshop, “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change” (described above).





## RESOURCES

### LEYM Plenary and Workshop, 2021

Contact: Paula Palmer, [paulaRpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:paulaRpalmer@gmail.com)

*Where common memory is lacking,  
where people do not share in the same past,  
there can be no real community.  
Where community is to be formed,  
common memory must be created.*

- Georges Erasmus, Dene Nation  
Co-chair of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (Canada)

#### ***Books about the experience and consequences of settler colonialism:***

Healing Haunted Histories: A Settler Discipleship of Decolonization, by Elaine Enns and Ched Myers

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Trace: Memory, History, Race and the American Landscape, by Lauret Savoy

Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery, by Mark Charles and Soon-Chan Rah

Not from Here: A Memoir, by Allan G. Johnson

#### ***Resources for Land Acknowledgement and Reparations***

If you are considering developing a Land Acknowledgement,

- (1) Ask yourself why you are drafting a land acknowledgement. What is your purpose in doing this? (If it's just to be cool, or woke, or because someone else did it, take a step back and reconsider your motivations.)
- (2) Learn about Indigenous peoples in your community. Think in terms of past, present, and future:

*Continued on next page*

*The past:* What is the history of Indigenous people on this land? How did they interact with the ecosystem and with other human groups? If they were removed, how did this happen? Where and how are they living now?

*The present:* Which Indigenous people live in your community today? If there are tribal offices or Indigenous organizations, what do they do, what do they need, how can you support their programs and aspirations? What is their relationship with the land today?

*The future:* What actions will you take so that this acknowledgement is meaningful to you and to Indigenous peoples?

Please also consult these guidelines from Indigenous people and organizations:

[The importance of land acknowledgements](#), half-hour video by Mark Charles (Navajo), January 2021

land acknowledgements: <http://landacknowledgements.org/>

[https://usdac.us/nativeland?](https://usdac.us/nativeland?link_id=0&can_id=3887ced107ad15d6173327d2ecef131a&email_referrer=email_1005280&email_subject=today-honor-native-land)

[link\\_id=0&can\\_id=3887ced107ad15d6173327d2ecef131a&email\\_referrer=email\\_1005280&email\\_subject=today-honor-native-land](https://usdac.us/nativeland?link_id=0&can_id=3887ced107ad15d6173327d2ecef131a&email_referrer=email_1005280&email_subject=today-honor-native-land)

<https://quakerservice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Land-Acknowledgment-Resource.pdf>

<https://nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment>

<https://friendspeaceteams.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Land-Reparations-by-John-Stoesz.pdf>

### ***From Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, a program of Friends Peace Teams:***

[The Land Remembers: Connecting with Native Peoples through the Land](#), by Paula Palmer, *Friends Journal*

[Doables: Actions you can take in your community](#)

[Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples](#) website

[Register here](#) for online “*Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples*” workshops. [Sign up here](#) to receive TRR e-newsletters (scroll down the right hand column).

### ***To keep informed:***

Join the Friends for Right Relationship Google Group. Learn from other Friends and share experiences, ideas, and resources. To join, visit this website and fill out the JOIN REQUEST FORM: <https://groups.google.com/group/FriendsRR>

[Decolonizing Quakers](#) website

## Spiritual Companionship in LEYM

On Saturday May 1, 27 members of this year's LEYM Spiritual Formation participants gathered for the Zoom version of the "spring retreat." This was the fourth time that many of us, from various monthly meetings, met with Nadine Hoover (September, November, January, and May) to share our questions and experiences, and to practice the version of "Spiritual Companionship" which she has taught, mostly to non-Quakers, and seen used to great advantage throughout the world with Friends Peace Teams.

We started our Zoom meeting by everyone present completing the sentence "One fruit of this practice for me has been . . . ." These "fruits" ranged widely, including:

- Delight in the feeling of deeper friendship and trust, after starting with significant differences.
- A rare, ongoing opportunity to share one's spiritual journey with others.
- A renewed sense of the Living Spirit in day-to-day affairs.
- Appreciation of the discipline of regular support for turning to Spirit.
- A new sense of how to proceed with listening to leadings of Spirit or Conscience.
- A way into group discernment.

All participants were positive and shared their appreciation for being involved in the process. The overwhelming sense of the year's practice is that it is valued by most who have tried it, and that they plan to continue with their practice going forward.

At the LEYM Annual Meeting in July, I will offer a 90-minute workshop introducing "Spiritual Companionship" as we've been practicing it, and exploring ways that this practice might be useful in the Yearly Meeting (*see page 7*).

Nadine Hoover will continue to offer trainings three times a year (July, November, and March). Her trainings can be accessed at <https://consciencestudio.com/index.php?q=training&p=0>.

The question I see for LEYM's consideration is, would we like to continue encouraging such trainings? If so, how?

Cassie Cammann (Ann Arbor)

## Zoom Workshops on Sexism, Anti-Sexism

LEYM offered a series of workshops via Zoom during the past year. One of the workshops, on May 1, addressed issues of sexism and anti-sexism. Ann Sprague, Ruth Ann Wilhelm, and Joel Ottenbreit (all from Detroit Meeting) looked at this from three perspectives and raised a number of queries: 1) How has our spiritual formation as individuals been affected by patriarchal images and ideas of the divine? 2) When God, scripture, and religious authority are all traditionally masculine, what is the conscious and unconscious impact? 3) Are we counter-acting these ideas in our First Day Schools? 4) Are we willing to examine sexism in our own meetings, or are we uncomfortable with such issues as the ratio of male and female vocal ministries? 5) Do we actively try to encourage gender balance in all committees and do women's voices always carry equal weight? 6) When social justice issues, both international and domestic, spring from sexism, do we see them clearly and take action? 7) Do we raise objections with the media? An example might be when the term "child marriage" is used to describe the bartering and abuse of girls. 8) Do we lobby for adequate parental leave policies and affordable childcare here at home? It can be extremely easy to fall into the dominant culture's perspectives on these issues.

The presenters plan to continue the work of the interest group and would be open to Quakers from other meetings contacting them ([detroitfriendsmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:detroitfriendsmeeting@gmail.com)) if the topic interests them.

Ann Sprague, Ruth Ann Wilhelm, and Joel Ottenbreit

# News from and for Monthly Meetings

## Exploring Hybrid Worship Models

LEYM's Ministry & Nurture Committee has been exploring the many ways that Quakers are adapting to a more virtual life of the spirit as groups adopt online meeting practices. Quakers are worshipping online across the globe, as these extensive lists of worship opportunities compiled by [Western Friends](#) and [Friends World Committee for Consultation](#) make clear.

As more and more people get vaccinated, attention has turned to how Friends are going to return to their meetinghouses, and how we might continue to incorporate some of the gifts technology has given us even as some of us gather together in person.

## Resources of Special Interest

Friends General Conference hosted an [FGC Consultation: Spirit and Community Online Resources](#) in April 2021, which featured a panel discussion titled [What Have We Learned? Spirit and Community-Building Online](#), now available for viewing, as are other related discussions, at [fgcquaker.org](#). Topics include online and hybrid worship, Religious Education, clerking, reopening in-person meetings, technology, and accessibility.

Kathleen Wooten, a Friend from New England Yearly Meeting, has developed a rich collection of resources on her page [Being the Church Online](#). Her links to resources on blended/hybrid meetings for worship highlight the good thinking and open sharing that Friends are doing as they explore new models for gathering together.

Pendle Hill, the Quaker retreat center, has been successfully hosting a daily worship bringing online visitors together with in-person worshipers in the Pendle Hill Barn. This write-up of [Pendle Hill's Hybrid Worship Experiment](#) provides lots of interesting details for their approach. Building on their experience, Pendle Hill has teamed up with the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in the UK to offer a Pendle Hill Workshop scheduled for **June 11–13, 2021**, that will explore the theme [Becoming Blended Worshiping Communities: Exploring the Opportunities and Challenges](#). There is a fee for this workshop (\$90).

With respect to different technical tools on offer, *Western Friend* has developed a [spreadsheet designed to help groups think through the advantages and disadvantages of different technical approaches to hybrid worship](#).

Friends interested in digging deeper may be interested in joining the [Facebook Group Quaker Gatherings: Best Practices & Creative Exploration](#) for ongoing conversation with like-minded Friends.

Compiled by members of the Ministry & Nurture Committee  
and Bill Warters, Webmaster

## Anti-Racist Activities at Ann Arbor Friends Meeting

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting recently installed, in front of Quaker House, a hand-painted "Black Lives Matter" sign created by Young Adult Friends. AAFM's Membership and Outreach Committee has printed similar signs for Friends to take for their front yards, while other Friends have done additional work related to anti-racism, including the creation of queries.



## Detroit Friends Meeting is Growing and Building

Detroit Friends Meeting has seen attendance increase by 20% during COVID and is pleased to welcome younger attenders to its meetings. Friends have finished a project to summarize 100 years of Meeting files and submitted the originals to Swarthmore for its archives.

The Meeting is now in the process of purchasing three parcels of property in a core city neighborhood of Detroit, on which it plans to build a modest 2500 sq. ft. meetinghouse. This exciting future is captured by co-clerks Cristin Graham and Sharon Ottenbreit:

*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.*

**Patricia (Pat) Campbell**, formerly of Detroit Meeting, died suddenly from a brain aneurysm in mid-April at the age of 72. For Lake Erie Yearly Meeting she served as clerk and assistant clerk in 1990–94. She also served, around 2000, as recording clerk for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting.

Ann Sprague (Detroit) wrote:

*A former member of our meeting, Patricia (Pat) Campbell passed away suddenly a few days ago. Although many of you never had the opportunity to know her, Pat was an important part of Detroit Friends Meeting for many years.*

*Pat felt led to Detroit Friends Meeting although she always lived in Ann Arbor. She was a steadfast presence in our meeting during difficult times. She and NancyLynn Sharpless were married under the care of the Detroit Friends Meeting 32 years ago. Fortunately, the Meeting had already approved a minute in support of same-sex marriage. Pat was a deeply spiritual seeker and also a woman of great practicality and skill. She was financially astute. For example, she urged us to start a meetinghouse saving fund many years ago, when we first learned about the likelihood of a new bridge [whose design forced the abandonment of the old meetinghouse]. She spoke her mind plainly, sharing both her vulnerability and her strength. Pat was also active in the wider Quaker community, to which she brought insight, leadership, and musical skills, as she became proficient on classical guitar. She provided a strong link between our meeting and FGC, LEYM, and GPQM. Although she moved to North Carolina and eventually transferred her membership to the Asheville Friends Meeting, in 2017, she maintained her relationship with us over the years and offered us generous support. She will be greatly missed.*

Pat's spouse, NancyLynn Sharpless, sent the following memories in separate messages:

- ◇ Pat loved being with people who cared for others and didn't hesitate to share her mind.
- ◇ She worked in private and public institutions in Michigan and North Carolina as a forensic psychiatrist. In retirement she went "back to college" for classes she couldn't take as a med student. Her last courses were Latin and Roman history.
- ◇ She completed her residency in psychiatry at U of M. She was a Girl Scout for life. She was very generous with her earnings, giving regularly to many Quaker and community organizations.
- ◇ In recent years she was very active in North Carolina's The Nature Conservancy as a volunteer and supporter. We request any memorials to be given to them: <https://support.nature.org>

NancyLynn resides at 105 Elk Mountain Rd, Asheville, NC 28804.

# FWCC Section of the Americas

## Report on the Biennial Meeting, March 12–21, 2021

*Here . . . for just such a time as this. [Esther 4:14]*

*To deliver pastoral care to one another [1 Thess. 5:11]*

*To make new wineskins for new wine [Matt. 9:17]*

*To offer to the world that which we have [Acts 3:6]*

A year ago, the Section of the Americas Convocations Working Group began to envision three scenarios for the biennial Section Meeting nine months hence: totally virtual, face to face, or hybrid. Although the Section's bi-lingual committee meetings had been using Zoom with consecutive interpretation for at least four years, we couldn't imagine something we had never done before: a totally virtual meeting over multiple days, for the hemisphere from Alaska to Bolivia.

Months before the Executive Committee chose the above Bible verses as the theme, our working group began to ask these questions: How far should we go in discarding old structures that may have supported us in the past while being open to the new necessary? How do we fit new ways, ideas, methods, visions into new, unknown patterns while maintaining necessary sanity and equilibrium? What gifts do we bring to these new ways of being, doing?

How could we help a tiny staff of four (later four and a half), all working remotely in the U.S. and Guatemala, to create, then carry out a ten-day schedule of events over four time zones (not including visitors from the other three FWCC Sections), which mirrored our normal four-day Section Meeting in one location, while being inclusive of Friends without resources or minimal technology? Many of us planners are still amazed that so much more went surprisingly well or better than had been planned. God's guiding hand was ever-present.

Thousands of staff and volunteer hours later, the Section of the Americas was able to create successful venues for small and large group worship, Bible study, workshops, business, celebration, talent show, and collaboration for 327 registrants. More than one third were participants from Latin America, four times the normal number of Spanish-speaking participants, and we had NO visa

problems, only connectivity issues! Much of the daily worship's music and the two Musical Festivals (new to the Section Meeting) showcased Latin American youthful talent, vigor, and jubilation. Music provided the buttons which held the various events together.

Non-existent hotel fees and flight costs allowed many Friends to encourage their friends to attend. Donations helped more than 100 Latin Americans "connect" (often via "WhatsApp") when they could not afford the \$25 registration fee. A particularly important donation of \$2500 for Interpretation support from New York Yearly Meeting's World Ministries facilitated the feeling of being in a totally bilingual FWCC world, more often created during a World Conference.

The inclusion of COAL Friends (Comité organizadora de los Amigos Latinos) in the absolutely crucial behind-the-scenes committee work and participation at every level of the production helped me feel as if they were an integral and integrated part of every event, the first time in decades that I had felt that while attending Section Meetings. My Spanish has definitely improved, so that I could follow the Sunday sermons in Spanish without difficulty.

Bi-lingual greetings and conversations from thousands of miles away helped many Friends to overcome perceived cultural and theological differences. Those conversations and the ability to reconnect with Friends active in FWCC in the 1990s, even before I began serving as an official LEYM Representative, were especially sweet highlights for me. Somehow, strangely, despite having to turn off my video at times because of bandwidth issues, I did feel I could connect with more Friends by seeing their faces close up and hearing their individual voices during our many encounters.

Our Lower Great Lakes Regional Meeting with Wilmington YM, Ohio YM (including a member from Britain), Central Canadian Friends, and ten LEYM attendees created a place for sharing the similar issues our yearly meetings are struggling with as we look for “new ways of being.”

I felt truly fortunate to be able to share as many worshipful hours with Friends from everywhere as home life allowed. For more than 50 years, I have found my “spiritual home” among diverse Friends in Friends World Committee for Consultation.

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group)

### **FWCC (Friends World Committee for Consultation) Job Openings**

FWCC has re-opened the search for its **next General Secretary**. The applicant must be a member of the Religious Society of Friends and be willing to live and work in London. See the job description on the FWCC World Office website ([fwcc.world](http://fwcc.world)). Please send applications to: [search@fwcc.world](mailto:search@fwcc.world) by midnight in London on June 4, 2021, and direct any questions to Simon C. Lamb, clerk of the Search Committee and clerk of FWCC, at [clerkfwcc@friendsworldoffice.org](mailto:clerkfwcc@friendsworldoffice.org).

**QUNO Geneva is looking for its next director.** Must be a member of the Religious Society of Friends. Seeking someone who is passionately committed to building peace and justice and who possesses the understanding and sensitivity necessary for work in multilateral diplomacy. Please consult the announcement and the application pack on QUNO’s website ([quno.org](http://quno.org)).

**Section of the Americas: Operations Manager.** The selected candidate will use his/her administration, finance, communications, and data skills in aspects including audience engagement, volunteer coordination, and connecting with Quaker meetings and churches throughout the Americas. Work may possibly be done remotely for the right candidate. To be considered, send your LinkedIn profile or resume to [tracihs@fwccamericas.org](mailto:tracihs@fwccamericas.org); interviews to begin around June 10.

### **Restructuring AFSC**

In this past year, AFSC has been working on restructuring, with over 50 contributors planning the next decade. Three areas were identified as most essential: a just peace, just economies, and just migrations.

- *Just Peace* concentrates on divesting in militarism, dismantling incarceration, and advancing civil liberties.
- *Just Economies* concentrates on moving to shared prosperity and promoting alternative economies.
- *Just Migration* concentrates on demilitarized borders and helping migrants to build supportive communities.

Across these three goals will be added climate justice. The methods suggested are changing systems by working with established networks, governmental advocacy, research and analysis of

trends, and community organizing. AFSC is committed to anti-racism, feminism, and youth needs. This will also involve increasing revenue, and bolstering financial and risk management.

Additionally, AFSC wishes to engage more Quakers in its work. To accomplish this, effective learning programs will be designed and feedback loops provided. Tools for Quakers to do social work and to strengthen relationships with served communities will be developed. A youth initiative is planned for 18–25 year-olds to be involved in 2022.

This restructuring is still in planning stages and debate is continuing.

Kathleen Helbling (Broadmead),  
YM Representative to AFSC Corporation

## Share Your Talent!

Sign up for the **LEYM virtual talent show** when you register for Annual Meeting. You can pre-record your piece and send it to Kate Enger at [psych-drkate@gmail.com](mailto:psych-drkate@gmail.com). This allows for a wider range of talents, like gymnastics on the backyard apparatus, agility duos with your dog, a short clip of your rock-climbing expertise, a 360° view of the sculpture you created, a brief slide show of all the birds attracted to your feeder, or a quick tour of your garden.

Please keep in mind that a talent doesn't have to be a song or story; it could be turning a somersault, shooting a perfect basket, blowing an enormous bubble, showing that you can slide into the splits, or a photo of the table you restored, sweater you knitted, or a unique pie crust. Thanks to our virtual format, we can weave together brief, lovely submissions.

**Please send Kate your submissions by Sunday, July 18.** If you prefer to perform live, please send a description of your piece to [psychdrkate@gmail.com](mailto:psychdrkate@gmail.com) by July 30. Please note: **All performances must be under 4 minutes in length, and must be child-friendly.**

Looking forward to your talents!

### Calendar for 2021

June 27 – July 3: FGC Gathering (Virtual)  
(see [www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering](http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering))

July 15: Due date for Statistical Reports

July 23: Registration Deadline for Annual Meeting

July 28 – August 1 & August 7 (if needed): LEYM Annual Meeting, via Zoom

August 8: Summer Gathering of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, Battle Creek (see p. 8)

September 1: Due date, submissions for LEYM *Annual Records 2021*

September 15: Due date, submissions for Fall *LEYM Bulletin*

September 18: Fall Gathering of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

September 24–26: Fall Retreat for Youth and Children (see next column)

## Save the Date!

### Fall Youth Retreat

The COVID situation permitting, this year's Fall Youth Retreat will happen September 24–26 at Temple Hill UCC Camp at Bellville (in central Ohio). K–12 youth and their families from throughout the LEYM region are invited. Questions? Contact Diane Mott (Broadmead) at <dianeer@bgsu.edu>.

### LEYM Committee Clerks, 2020–21

(Further contact information available in *Annual Records* and on LEYM website)

#### *Adult & Family Program*

Thomas Taylor  
tftaylor37@comcast.net

#### *Advancement & Outreach*

Ellen Barnes (Birmingham)  
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#### *Arrangements & Site*

Jon Sommer (Broadmead)  
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#### *Finance*

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar)  
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#### *Ministry & Nurture*

Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor)  
more2becky@aol.com &  
Shelley Kotz (Broadmead)  
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#### *Nominating*

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG)  
andre14@earthlink.net

#### *Peace & Justice/Earthcare Interest Group*

Joel Ottenbreit (Detroit)  
joelottenbreit@gmail.com

#### *Publications & Archives*

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)  
peggydaub@hotmail.com

#### *Youth & Children's Program*

Christa White (Athens)  
740 274-2308 (text or call)