



Clerk's Message from Susan Loucks

What Might our Yearly Meeting Be?

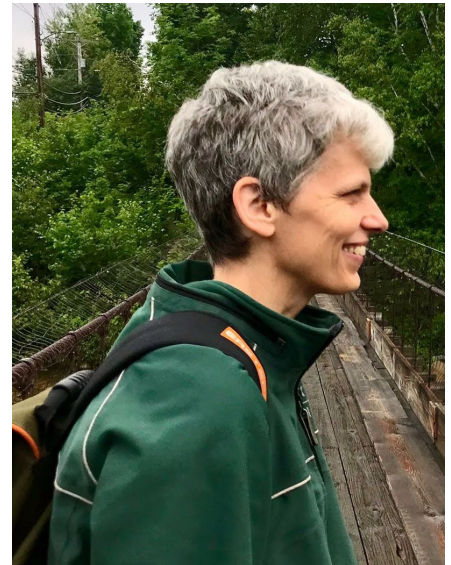
When you think of a vibrant, flexible, engaged, and Spirit-filled organization, what does it look like?

Here are the thoughts of some people in our yearly meeting:

- A source for ideas and companions in my search for spiritual deepening
- A beacon to the outer world of creating awareness of Quakers and attraction to Quakerism
- A hub of support for interconnectedness and collaboration between monthly meetings
- An encouraging, welcoming, activist space available to any one who wants to be part of it
- A model of the wisdom of Quaker process.

These thoughts and many others were part of information-gathering that happened as part of a Visioning process stewarded by an ad hoc committee over the last year. The group was charged with gathering information from both inside and outside of the Yearly Meeting, surfacing important themes and questions, and ultimately bringing recommendations on practices and structures that foster the kind of yearly meeting we long to see.

Part of the inquiry hinged around the function of a yearly meeting: What does a yearly meeting uniquely accomplish? Is the additional



level of structure still relevant? Many larger-scale associations in and outside of faith contexts are asking these questions. It's easy for this kind of organization to be seen largely as a bureaucracy, making burdensome requests of its members without returning much benefit.

The ad hoc group found that there are, indeed, vibrant functions only a yearly meeting can provide—including supporting ministries and providing opportunities for distinctly Quaker leadership in groups too small to do that on their own and providing exposure to diversity (including expressions of faith). One interviewee spoke of the potential collective power of a group of this breadth and depth:

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Clerk's Message, continued

There's a limit to what one monthly meeting can do in working towards this world. The spiritual connection I feel to my monthly meeting is tied to the bigger interest in changing the world. Feeding those projects is integral to the spiritual life of our meeting and Quakers more broadly. The role that I see a yearly meeting playing in the spiritual health of these meetings is to help further our experiences of ongoing revelation.

It turns out that there's no shortage of energy and ideas, both about what might make our Annual Sessions "explode outward with Spirit-faithful joy and expression" (the hope of an attendee at Representative Meeting) and how we can be working together throughout the rest of the year. Some of them are:

- Coming up with shared statements of belief—whether it's a Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice* document or in another form
- Hiring staff to support our youth program, and/or to build more robust connections throughout the Yearly Meeting
- Incorporating more fun into Annual Sessions (outside activities! intergenerational opportunities! art!)

- Attention to making everyone feel welcome and at home—whether it's identifying "buddies" for first-time Annual Sessions attendees, deepening and expanding our anti-racist practices, and/or continuing to explore new ways to create accessibility through technology.

The ad hoc group's work has finished. The interviews were summarized in a report with recommendations and queries (read it at <https://tinyurl.com/leymvisioningsummary>) and grounded in the perspectives of a larger number of Yearly Meeting members during April's Representative Meeting. During that meeting, participants also organized the ideas that had surfaced in the report and in the morning into potential long- and short-term action items and identified priorities. These priorities have been shared with committees for potential adoption.

Those steps to implementation are relatively straightforward, but we'll see a real shift towards our ideal when people in meetings across the region feel that Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is their own petri dish, a culture in which they can potentially grow their ideas and find support in a larger context. Perhaps you have burning questions about how the Quaker faith can inform parenting your teenager or your toddler. Maybe you've discovered injustices at an immigration detention center near you, and are yearning to participate in justice-seeking action that is focused on this issue and grounded in your faith. We need your participation, your energy, and (yes) your patience as we figure out systems that will enable these sorts of connections.

I'm looking forward to seeing what we can do together!

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Epistle to All Friends

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

July 28 — August 1, 2021

To Friends Everywhere:

We greet you from our homes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan, where we have gathered virtually for a second year. We are palpably aware of the skills, time, and love of Friends with gifts in web-based organization and facilitation who make this kind of gathering possible, as well as the foibles of individual internet connections and interfaces.

Our theme this year, “Healing through Truth,” was woven throughout our program. Our Bible study leader opened up texts of terror, shame, and oppression that moved us to consider the wrongs of our current societal environment and reminded us that seeking alignment with Truth is both healing and transformative. Afternoon workshops encouraged us to seek truth and healing as individuals and as a corporate body. We considered the disruption our lives might encounter when we ask Spirit to guide us and lifted up the healing available when we take action in the world.

We have been grateful to start and finish our days with worship. Worship sharing times have been rich, deep, and revealing of the complexity and uniqueness of each Friend. The sense of connection, of profound engagement in the themes of healing and truth telling, both individually and communally, was evident throughout. We discerned together how the tender input from others helps us tell the truth and moves us toward healing.

While we met virtually, we recognize that we live and worship on lands that were taken from native peoples including the Potawatomi, Seneca, Cayuga, Shawnee, Odawa, Ojibwe, Delaware, Chippewa, Ottawa, and many others. Some of the stories of colonization, Christianization, and genocide of native peoples were brought to life by our plenary speaker, Paula Palmer, who led us in a profound and interactive session titled “From Truth to Healing with Native Peoples.” She drew attention to our particular, local history of land acquisition for farming and Quaker management of three of the many Indian boarding schools in our region. Paula promised healing for the colonizers as well as the colonized, if we engage in the work before us, and offered a powerful path to health that she received from Indigenous leaders – speak truth, acknowledge the harms done, apologize, forgive, atone, and repair. She encouraged Friends as individuals and collectively in our Meetings to experience the fruits that come from actively engaging with this traumatizing aspect of our past; a release of guilt, new relationships, and joy-filled alignment with Spirit.

LEYM registrant data holds up a mirror to racial, gender, ethnic, and age imbalances that naturally influence our culture. We recognize our lack of diversity and seek to wrestle with our racism and other oppressive habits, traditions, and practices that separate us from those who seem different. How can we continually interrogate our norms, leaving room for and supporting new experiments and openings? We are encouraged to deepen our friendships across monthly meetings, by sharing our ideas, experiences, longings, and stories. We are inspired by the possibility of transformation through our encounter of Truth as we hold ourselves accountable to stay open to continuing revelation.

While web conferencing continues to provide desirable accessibility to many and reduced carbon impacts from travel, we notice and grieve the erosion of personal connection across

Continued on next page

LEYM Epistle, *continued*

our community that arises from enforced physical distance. It's hard to be present in our life together when duties at home are calling us to walk the dog, go to the grocery store, or even attend to work email. Breakout groups offer a welcomed space for deeper sharing, but there are not the impromptu chances to catch up with Friends when we meet in person, share meals, and immerse ourselves in community. We had no children's program this year, as our young Friends are not interested in web-based interaction. We feel a huge loss of the vitality and perspective of children and young families. We also notice reduced collective energy of Spirit in our business sessions, partly evidenced by much lower participation. On screen it is harder to know when we are in unity.

Like other yearly meetings, we are a unique set of people with unique gifts to leverage towards the world's healing. We recognize that some of us are impatient for change, while others of us need time to process information and experiences, especially the difficult issues of white colonialists' genocide of indigenous peoples, our own racism, and the ongoing genocide of the people of Palestine. We encourage Friends to start from the premise that we are all children of God. From there we seek a personal relationship with Truth where we can align our beliefs with our actions. We leave our LEYM gathering, virtual though it was, a bit more refreshed, steeped in the joy of seeing familiar faces on screen, and blessed with new information and new and renewed leadings of the Spirit.

Jo Posti, Presiding Clerk

Carolyn Lejuste, Susan Loucks, Susan Towner-Larsen, Epistle Committee

* * *

Youth Epistle

I enjoyed playing Minecraft alone.

This year.

Jonah Brownfain (Birmingham)

LEYM Annual Queries

Each year LEYM's Ministry & Nurture Committee prepares a set of queries for the consideration of meetings. The M&N Committee invites each meeting to consider the queries and to develop a written response that describes the insights arrived at during its consideration. Meetings are requested to send this to lklopper@gmail.com by January 15, 2022. These queries, along with supplemental readings, have been sent to LEYM clerks of monthly meetings and conveners of worship groups.

In what ways do I experience a sense of spirit in my life?

What is the role of the meeting in nourishing depth of spirit among us?

Submitted by M&N co-clerks: Rebecca Morehouse and Shelley Kotz

Highlights of the 2021 Annual Sessions

July 28 — August 1, 2021

Some 150 Friends registered for this year's virtual Annual Meeting on the theme "*Healing through Truth: Living myths from the past cause continuing pain. Pathways through truth help heal.*" All but two of these Friends were adults, and 16 were visitors.

Although the ultimate focus of this column is actions taken during business sessions, what is most remarkable during our COVID-era Annual Meetings is the change in balance between time spent conducting business and time for other activities enjoyed by many Friends. Up through 2019, the traditional schedule devoted over 9 hours to business meetings and another 2 to committee meetings, while squeezing all workshops into two sessions (about 3.5 hours). This year that ratio was reversed: the business sessions were scheduled for roughly 5 hours, committees could meet during a period of "free time," and workshops were spread over five sessions (about 7.5 hours), enabling much broader participation. There remained time for traditional favorite activities – Bible study, a powerful plenary address by Paula Palmer, meetings of interest groups, and the talent show. New this year, and much appreciated, were regular worship sessions at the beginning and end of the day. Sadly, there was no children's program this year, many young Friends feeling "Zoomed out."

And now, down to business:

- ♦ Acting on proposals brought by the ad hoc committee on Policies and Procedures, Friends approved: 1) that minutes from Representative Meeting should be made available for posting within one month, and 2) that Publications & Archives Committee, rather than the Meeting worker, is responsible for editing minutes from Representative Meeting, Annual Sessions, and Executive Committee meetings "for consistency of language and format" for the *Annual Records* and the website.
- ♦ Friends approved a deficit budget with a suggested per/member contribution of \$25, down

from \$30 last year. (For more detail, see "News from Finance Committee" on p. 6.) LEYM's contributions included a gift of \$1000 to Detroit Meeting to support their building a new, extraordinarily energy-efficient Meetinghouse in the city of Detroit; monthly meetings, worship groups, and individuals are encouraged to consider making their own contributions to the Detroit Meetinghouse project. (See p. 7.)

- ♦ Advancement & Outreach presented a draft social media ad with active links to introduce people to Quakerism.
- ♦ Arrangements & Site helped us consider issues about how and where future Annual Meetings will take place. Friends in easterly Meetings wish that they didn't need to travel as far as Bluffton. For 2022, we decided to continue meeting in Bluffton, if the campus is open to visitors.
- ♦ A plan to form an ad hoc technical platform advisory committee to support the work of Bill Warters (webmaster) and Lynda Rose (database manager) was approved.
- ♦ Ministry & Nurture presented the annual LEYM Query for this year:

In what ways do I experience a sense of spirit in my life?

What is the role of the meeting in nourishing depth of spirit among us?

At rise of meeting, Adult & Family Program Committee, which provided such an exciting program this year, had only two members and no clerk. Advancement & Outreach Committee also needed a clerk and new members – especially those knowledgeable about social media. See Nominating Committee's request (p. 7) that Friends consider serving on one of these or other committees. Descriptions of all committees can be found on leym.org.

For a broader perspective on this year's Annual Meeting, please read the LEYM Epistle, on the preceding two pages. ~ Ed.

News from Finance Committee

Below are the financial report for the 2021 Annual Meeting and the approved budget for 2021–22. For 2021–22, budgeted expenses and transfers rise by \$443, with increases in payments to our Meeting worker (\$2000) and database manager (\$1100) and our contributions to organizations (\$2050) being nearly offset by decreases in administration (\$2000) and transfers into funds that have sufficient balances (\$2757). Our contributions to organizations included a special gift of \$1000 to support Detroit Friends building a new meetinghouse; *LEYM encourages individual Friends to contribute as well* (see next page). With a decrease in the suggested contribution per member from \$30 to \$25, the budgeted income from contributions drops by \$3875, resulting in a deficit budget of \$10,675; this can be covered by the ample balance in the General Fund.

For Annual Meeting, income exceeded expenses by \$177, increasing the balance in the Annual Meeting fund to \$419. Finance Committee thanks those Friends who contributed to the Annual Meeting, more than covering expenses. ~ Ed.

LEYM Budget for 2021–22

General Fund Expenses

General

Contractor: Web manager	\$5,100
Contractor: Database manager	2,500
Insurance	500
Administration	1,500

Committees

Advancement & Outreach	500
Ministry & Nurture	100
Publications	3,200

Members

Attend conferences with Quaker values	1,000
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Organizations

FGC	6,500
Olney Friends School	3,500
Swarthmore Records project	150
Contribution Detroit Friends Meetinghouse	1000

Funds (transfers)

Travel Fund	1,200
Youth Activities Fund	0
Quaker College/Service scholarship	1,000
Spiritual Formation Fund	0
FWCC Travel & Donation	1,800

Total Expenses & Transfers **\$29,550**

General Fund Income

Contributions	\$17,875
FFC Dividend (base account only)	1,000

Total Income **\$18,875**

Income minus expenses/transfers **(\$10,675)**

Total Changes in General Fund **(\$10,675)**

Suggested contribution per member: **\$25**

Travel mileage reimbursement rate, per mile 16¢

Financial Report for Annual Meeting July 29—August 1, 2021

Income

Donations	<u>\$1090.00</u>
Total Income	\$1090.00

Expenses

Honoraria	\$900.00
Airtable upgrade for registration	<u>\$13.41</u>
Total Expenses	\$913.41

Net Income from Activities **\$176.59**

Annual Meeting Fund

Balance on July 1, 2021	\$242.42
Plus: Net Income	\$176.59
Balance on Aug. 31, 2021	\$419.01



*Rendering of Detroit Meeting's
Planned New Meetinghouse by
Architect Cassandra Kail*

A Message from Nominating Committee

As the new clerk of Nominating, I'd like to thank everyone who continued on committees from 2020 to 2021. We are grateful so many will continue to serve LEYM during the coming year.

If you attended LEYM's virtual Annual Sessions last summer, you probably noticed that the report from the hard-working 2020-21 edition of the Nominating Committee had many more gaps than usual. We think it's because virtual annual meetings two years in a row kept us from having the informal, face-to-face communication we've always relied on to find Friends led to serve.

So I'd like to extend an invitation. If you have any leading toward service at all, please introduce yourself to one of us on Nominating Committee. If you know of someone else who might benefit from a nudge in our direction—even someone in your monthly meeting who hasn't been active in LEYM—we'd love to know who that is. These suggestions will help us to move forward.

Here's a list of your Nominating Committee's members. We're eager to hear from you.

Rick Adams, North Columbus, radamswilliam@gmail.com

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham, ellerieb@gmail.com

Wink Covintree, Birmingham, wcovintree@icloud.com

Rachel Edwards, Pittsburgh, rachelmichellek@yahoo.com

Sheila Johnson, Ann Arbor, shejohnson49@gmail.com

For the Nominating Committee, Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids, mikeholaday@att.net

Detroit Friends Plan New Meetinghouse – Support Needed

After years of discernment and uncertainty over the path forward, the Detroit Friends Meeting (DFM) is enthusiastic about building a new meetinghouse to provide a permanent spiritual home in Detroit that will serve the community and generations of future Quakers.

Detroit Friends Meeting has had a presence in Detroit since the early 1920s. DFM's 25 current members, along with a faithful group of attenders, have stretched and will continue to stretch, but it is evident that they cannot achieve this new meetinghouse mission without the help and support of others.

DFM's mission is to continue to strive for a Quaker presence that is active, significant, and engaged, ensuring that our collective Light continues to shine in the City of Detroit. Through your help and support, LEYM can help make this new meetinghouse a reality!

Architectural plans incorporate several energy-efficient building systems, including two separate layers of wall insulation, roofing insulation with an R value of 45, triple-pane glazed windows, and LED lighting. The property design includes permeable pavements and bioswales to reduce moisture runoff. Future planning calls for a solar panel array mounted on the standing seam metal roof. *See the rendering on the previous page.*

For more information on the project and ways to contribute, visit the Detroit Friends Meeting website at detroitfriendsmeeting.org.

News from Monthly Meetings

Anti-Racism in Pittsburgh Friends Meeting

This fiscal year's efforts to become more completely an antiracist Meeting began with the writing and approval by the Meeting of an Antiracist Minute, which follows below. The Minute is a manifesto, citing the commitment of Pittsburgh Friends to face and undo their personal racism and to discover and undo the implicit institutional racism of the Pittsburgh Friends Meeting.

The PFM Antiracist Minute

In response to the police killing of George Floyd and other unarmed people of color, and to the Black Lives Matter movement, Pittsburgh Friends Meeting commits to becoming an actively anti-racist faith community. As a majority-white meeting, standing in solidarity with our black and brown brothers and sisters, we accept responsibility to do our part in dismantling the cultural, political, and economic structures that maintain white supremacy in the U.S. We call on individual members and attenders, and each Meeting committee, to ask how our decisions and actions contribute to or inhibit our commitment to anti-racism. This is the time to act, and there is a place for all of us in this work.

Our meeting's testimonies of Love and Community, Peace, Equality, and Social Justice, call on us to work not only against police violence but for nonviolent resolution of conflicts, and in support of equitable justice, quality education, access to healthcare, and living wages for all people. The COVID 19 pandemic has laid bare how the denial of these fundamental rights disproportionately hurts people of color. As we live into this commitment to anti-racism, we will add our support to activist groups led by people of color and we will be guided by the anti-racist projects and proposals of our national Quaker organizations, AFSC, FCNL, and FGC.

As a meeting, in our committees, and as individual members or attenders, we will frequently bear witness. We will educate ourselves, through reading, listening, and conversation about how to act

on our anti-racist convictions. We will seek ways to mark, mourn, and speak out against acts of racial violence by police and others. We will "say their names" and know their stories.

We acknowledge our need to become chronically uncomfortable with our nation's cultural status quo, accepting our own meeting's complicity in America's institutional and systemic racism by allowing it to persist. We recognize that radical change, change that goes to the coercive and violent roots of such institutional racism, demands much of us, as we seek to do so nonviolently.

We recognize that we are, hereby, humbly making a long-term commitment to anti-racism, using our newly adopted queries to guide us in our decisions and acknowledging that our understanding of what Spirit requires of us will evolve, as we learn from our partners in anti-racism work and as we are guided by collective discernment.

We recognize also that we will make mistakes along the way, as we put what we are learning into practice, negotiating differing perspectives. Unity of purpose in being an anti-racist meeting does not mean uniformity of discernment or action. As individuals and as committee members, each of us must discern for ourselves how our temperament and skills can best join with other Friends in becoming anti-racist. We will not judge each other, but "help one another up with a tender hand," as Isaac Penington called us to.

In making this commitment to anti-racism, we are seeking to live according to our belief in the Light of God in all people, and we are answering the call of our Quaker ancestors of all races, who fought for abolition and civil rights and against war and militarism, risking their privileges in doing so. Only then can we fulfill the promise of this minute as being an anti-racist meeting.

Approved September, 2020

(Pittsburgh's story continues on the next page.)

News from Monthly Meetings, *continued*

Anti-Racism in Pittsburgh Friends Meeting, *continued*

Delayed “Fall Gathering” (January, 2021)

Due to the necessity of arranging the annual PFM Fall Gathering for a virtual format, the event was held on January 30, 2021. Its theme was “Becoming an Antiracist Meeting.” In five sessions, the gathering considered how to implement the assertions of the Anti-racist Minute that the Meeting had approved in September, 2020.

WGAR [Working Group Against Racism] during 2021 (from the WGAR Minutes of September 8, 2021)

Following the “Fall” Gathering, WGAR has met regularly to develop the actions it can take to enable individual Friends and the PFM community to undo personal and institutional racism.

In July, 2021, WGAR raised the idea of a personally focused working group for its white members, the Anti-racist White Accountability Group. This group has focused on enabling white members of the Meeting to identify, first, their own implicit racism and, then, their complicity in allowing institutional racism to persist within the Meeting as well as systemic racism in the American culture that normalizes white privilege. The group has been meeting biweekly for two months.

Throughout 2021, the meetings of WGAR have focused on developing a range of actions that aim to undo the more implicit institutional racism of the Meeting. By the meeting of September 8, WGAR had come to unity on a set of actions that would be facilitated by individuals and small groups, called “action teams.” These groups reflect the priorities of WGAR. They have been working to provide essential services to their communities and are seeking reparations for white demolition of the neighborhood that had been their cultural hub and the dispersal of its business and residential community.

Allyship with BIPOC-led Groups

- ♦ Friends are developing a supportive relationship with Rev. Dale Snyder, the current pastor at Bethel AME Church, who is building an interfaith coalition of faith communities and their congregations.
- ♦ Another effort at becoming allies involves Fr. Paul Abernathy, who has been working to heal the consequences of Black trauma for women, men, and children oppressed by racism by developing a Neighborhood Resilience Project to heal them, so that they can help to heal others and rebuild their communities.
- ♦ Some Friends, with the Alliance for Police Accountability, are pursuing restorative justice for Black youth in the wake of the closure of the Shuman Juvenile Detention Center and a proposal to send its residents to failing detention centers in other counties.
- ♦ Another effort, coordinated with the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, is opposing voter-suppression laws directed at BIPOC citizens. These efforts are aligned with the lobbying recommendations of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. One example is lobbying Pennsylvania’s Senator Toomey to support S-1, the For the People Act, and S-4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

Next Steps

To develop additional engagement from the members of Pittsburgh Friends Meeting, WGAR is planning to offer adult educational sessions on becoming an ally between now and the end of 2021. For early 2022, several members of WGAR are helping to plan another annual gathering that will focus on deepening the awareness of the efforts that the Meeting is making and hoping to attract more Friends to commit themselves to these efforts.

Joe Marchesani
PFM Working Group Against Racism

News from Monthly Meetings, *continued*

Red Cedar Friends Meeting Anti-Racism Activities

For three years, Red Cedar has been learning about systemic racism and white supremacy in a monthly meeting we call Spiritual Grounding for Racial Justice. For almost the same length of time, we have gathered in a book group, reading authors of color. In June 2020, this work resulted in passing a minute committing ourselves to becoming an anti-racist faith community.

Passing the minute has increased our commitment, our discussions, and our activities as we actively strive to live into this minute. At every meeting for business, our clerk asks us to consider our commitment to anti-racism in the business we conduct, using the FGC question, “How does this (decision) support our commitment to becoming an anti-racist faith community?”

In a response to police violence and killing, our Peace and Social Justice Committee develops letter-writing packets filled with information about a specific incident, the life of the person lost or impacted, examples of what might be included in the letter, and a list of people who may receive the letter, including the family of the victim (via their attorney.)

We have moved our long-term maintenance fund to Liberty Bank in Detroit, an African American-owned bank. Liberty Bank works with homeowners who may not qualify for mortgages in the large corporate banking system.

We are seeking ways to build relationship with local Indigenous communities with the intention of making land acknowledgments less performative. We seek ways to demonstrate a sincere acknowledgment of the harm our white ancestors caused and our responsibility to repair those harms.

This is not easy work. Within our community, some Friends have been working on anti-racism for a while and others are just beginning. We make mistakes, sometimes hurtful mistakes. After a difficult discernment regarding

the placing of a Black Lives Matter sign in front of our meeting house, two Friends of Color were led to step away from Red Cedar for a while. These Friends were deeply hurt by micro-aggressions spoken during discernment. It is the work of white Friends to accept white supremacy as a valid description of our culture and habits; to struggle with the myths taught about the history of this country; and to learn, together, how to recognize and resist habits of white supremacy. In these discussions, statements are made that can be hurtful to Friends of Color.

Red Cedar feels deeply the loss of their presence, witness, strength, and wisdom that deprives the Meeting in clear and immeasurable ways and deprives them of their faith community. We, as a community, are committed to finding a way to repair this breach.



~ Carolyn Lejuste

News from Monthly Meetings, *continued*

Oberlin Friends Meeting and Anti-Racism

Last year, Oberlin Friends Meeting spent time discussing the first three queries from the 2020 Annual pre-FGC Gathering Retreat for Friends of Color and their Families. (Please see the Epistle of 2020 Annual Pre-Gathering Retreat at fgc-quaker.org, under Becoming an Anti-Racist Faith Community.) They were included in the annual LEYM query.

After this discussion, about 25 of us read Isabel Wilkerson's book *Caste: the Origins of Our Discontents*. We divided into two groups and met several times via Zoom, culminating in a combined meeting in December. Good organization and coordination bore fruit in wide participation and deep sharing. Wilkerson's book had an impact on us and opened our eyes and minds.

Now, we hope to continue with the last three 2020 FGC Friends of Color queries:

- * How can we encourage the support of Friends of Color in Quaker worship and meetings around the world?
- * How can Friends de-center themselves in order to listen to and hear Friends of Color?
- * How can I support respite for Friends of Color?

Recently, we circulated an invitation from Paula Palmer. She offered three resources from Right Relations with Native Peoples, an organization under the care of Friends Peace Teams. Paula was the keynote speaker as well as workshop leader at LEYM Annual Sessions in July, and her messages were challenging and hard. These new offerings will further stimulate our action and reflection.

Nancy Finke
Clerk, Activities Committee
Oberlin Friends Meeting

Lisa Sinnett, a member of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, has released her first book-length publication, a speculative memoir—*Detroit Fairy Tales*. Her publisher shares this about the book:

Detroit Fairy Tales is a work of autobiographical fiction . . . that explores the lives of one struggling family with deep roots in their one-of-a-kind city.

In the spirit of *Bastard out of Carolina* and *The Glass Castle*, *Detroit Fairy Tales* is part a coming-of-age story and part an exploration of how trauma can reverberate through four generations. Hopeful, yet raw and unflinching, [its] 36 vignettes tie together like a work of jazz to create a single, one-of-a-kind work. Along the way, *Detroit Fairy Tales* challenges assumptions while it peels back the layers of love, trauma, hope, and resignation that are at the root of this not unusual American family.

Chelsey Clammer, author of *Circadian* and *BodyHome*, writes:

More than a story about growing up in a certain time and place, . . . *Detroit Fairy Tales* explores how time and place are just as important to a narrative as the people experiencing their lives within it. . . . With precise storytelling and captivating language, *Detroit Fairy Tales* is an enthralling read that considers who we are by looking at where we come from and how the past shapes our future.

Available online from independent booksellers <https://bookshop.org/books?keywords=Detroit+Fairy+Tales> and from your local independent bookstore. Sale proceeds are shared with the American Friends Service Committee and the Canadian Friends Service Committee. To learn more about this project, the publisher, and the author, please visit elisasinnett.com.

LEYM Calendar for 2021–22

October 23: Executive Committee Meeting,
via Zoom

November 17–21: FCNL Annual Meeting (see
www.fcnl.org/events/annual-meeting-and-quaker-public-policy-institute)

January 15: Due date for:
Submissions for Winter *Bulletin*
Responses to LEYM Query (see p. 4)

March 9–12: White Privilege Conference, Charlotte,
North Carolina (see
www.theprivilegeinstitute.com)

A Saturday in late March or early April:
LEYM Representative Meeting, via Zoom

A Saturday in Early May:
LEYM Spiritual Formation Retreat

May 15: Due date for:
Submissions for Spring *Bulletin*
State of the Meeting Reports

July 3–9: FGC Gathering, Radford University,
Radford, Virginia (see www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering)

July 15: Due date for Statistical Reports

July 28–31: LEYM Annual Meeting; via Zoom or
in Bluffton. Beginning date may be adjusted.

LEYM Committee Clerks, 2021–22

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

Adult & Family Program
Clerk tbd

Advancement & Outreach
Clerk tbd

Arrangements & Site
Jon Sommer (Broadmead)
sommerjs@bluffton.edu

Finance
Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar)
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Ministry & Nurture
Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor)
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Nominating
Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids)
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Publications & Archives
Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)
peggydaub@hotmail.com

Youth & Children's Program
Christa White (Athens)
740 274-2308 (text or call)

Save the Date!

“Healthcare, Healing, and Antiracist Standards”

A Zoom Talk by

Valencia P. Walker, Associate Chief Diversity & Health Equity Officer,
Nationwide Children's Hospital, and Vice Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion,
Department of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine

and

Rev. Carrie Finegan, Director of Pastoral Care, Nationwide Children's Hospital

Saturday, November 13, at 2:00

Watch leym.org for details

Presented by the LEYM Peace & Justice Interest Group