

Highlights of Representative Meeting

April 2, 2022, Via Zoom – Attended by 46 Friends

Condensed from the minutes for the Meeting

Members of **Ministry & Nurture Committee** have been nurturing monthly meetings, helping them discern their roles in LEYM and supporting those in which conflicts have emerged. Clerks' Chats have proven useful; resources for managing conflict and information about traveling ministry are available on the LEYM website.

The **Ad Hoc Technology Committee** and Bill Warters, digital communications facilitator, are striving to make helpful technology available for Friends in LEYM. Monthly meetings have been connecting through Clerks' Chats, spiritual retreats, and interest groups, and they are exploring ways that technology can help with outreach. A slide show created by Bill can be accessed at: <https://leym.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/LEYMRepMeetingTechUpdateSlides-web.pdf>

Last year, Friends tried a pilot program to experiment with interest groups **on earthcare and peace and justice** in place of standing committees. Friends engaged with these groups sessions, which often had speakers who increased our understanding and mobilized actions. At present, volunteers are organizing these interest groups, but this may not be a permanent solution.

The **Ad Hoc Venue Committee** was charged with exploring options for our 2023 Annual Meeting. In addition, they have been incorporating the work of the visioning committee and collaborating with other committees on ways to make our Annual Meeting faithful to Quaker practice, open to Friends from other traditions, community-building, intergenerational, and fun. Among potential sites, the most promising is Ashland University. The Committee is also looking at changing the date to the third weekend in June. Business sessions may be distributed throughout the year, rather than concentrated at Annual Meeting.

Presiding clerk Susan Loucks updated us on ideas that came from the **Visioning Committee**. Discussion includes possible additions to YM staff, as well as enabling Friends to work on specific tasks rather than serve on a committee for a defined term.

The **Adult & Family Program Committee** announced the plenary speaker and theme for Annual Meeting (*see pp. 3–5*). Suggestions for intergenerational get-acquainted activities are welcome.

Plans for the **teens and children program for Annual Meeting** include access to moderated times on a Minecraft server. Friends wishing to help with any activities should contact Christa White (christawhite1016@gmail.com) or Ellerie Brownfain (ellerieb@gmail.com).

During a break from business, Friends each chose to attend two **informational sessions** – about FCNL, Olney Friends School, AFSC, or FWCC.

Finance Committee presented a **treasurer's report** and plans for next year's budget, which is designed to decrease surplus funds. They recommend that we financially support the Detroit Monthly Meeting as they build a new meeting-house in Detroit. The scholarship for young Friends who wish to attend a Quaker school has a potential candidate.

The Clerk announced Executive Committee's decision that **Publications & Archives Committee** will take on the annual review of *Policies and Procedures* for any inconsistencies with current practice. She also presented a refresher regarding our current procedures for how minutes of concern come to Annual Sessions. (See *LEYM Policies and Procedures*, II. D, "Bringing Leadings and Concerns to the Yearly Meeting.")

The Clerk initiated small-group discussion of beginning a **process that could lead to creating a Faith and Practice**, considering the questions, "What statement of shared belief or practice would best serve us and our witness in our region? What would be a right-sized piece for this year? What other preparation or engagement would we need from our meetings before July to take this on together?" Friends expressed some confusion and concern about the term "statement of shared belief," and a desire for more time to consider this process.