

2022 LEYM Annual Meeting

Minutes and Reports

Kate Enger, Recording Clerk

Opening Session, Wednesday, July 27, 2022

All sessions were held via Zoom to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

YM2022-01 Meeting started with enjoyment of the welcome video shared by digital communications facilitator Bill Warters (Birmingham) and created by Bill Warters and Barbara LeSage (North Columbus).

YM2022-02 Jo Posti (Pittsburgh), assistant clerk, shared an epistle from Wilmington Yearly Meeting. Friends in Wilmington gathered with a focus on compassion in action. Their discussions included how that compassion will inform their relationship to Wilmington College, their support of the young Friends in the Meeting, and the processes for future gatherings with one another. They expressed hope that Friends choose to focus on current healing and future activities rather than feeling bound by past traditions. Wilmington Friends shared their hope that they, and others, will find healing and hope as they strive to match compassion with action.

YM2022-03 Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), presiding clerk, acknowledged the peoples on whose lands we meet. We recognize that we belong to the land rather than the land belonging to us, and respectfully acknowledge the peoples that nurtured these lands before their lives were displaced by colonization and who continue to do so now. Our clerk recommended <https://native-land.ca> for exploring the first peoples inhabiting land around the globe.

YM2022-04 Susan Loucks welcomed Friends and introduced the theme for this year's sessions: "Many Roots, One Tree."

Susan thanked Friends for choosing to spend time together. She thanked the Program Committee for the work that they did to prepare these sessions, and the ongoing virtuosity of Bill Warters in making these virtual sessions possible.

Both those well-versed in Quakerism and those just getting started are welcome. Likewise, those attending for the first time and those who see this gathering as a homecoming are welcome. We are a community that has an opportunity to discern Spirit's leadings for us and to follow those leadings.

YM2022-05 Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) thanked each participant in the Adult & Family Program Committee by name and described the fulfilling nature of their work. She expressed hope that the image of "Many Roots, One Tree" will help us feel grounded and nourished, as a tree is nourished by roots and leaves, along with branching out and bearing fruit.

Our plenary speaker, worship sharing, panel sessions, social gatherings, Bible study, and workshops will support our exploration of this theme.

YM2022-06 Bill Warters presented a report on the demographics of 2022 Annual Sessions registrants (*see below*).

We are about 130 strong. We celebrate the diversity in our group, while recognizing that our group tends to be more White, older, and female. 40 people are first-time attenders.

LEYM 2022 Annual Sessions Registration Demographics

138 Total Number of Registrants

44 First Time Attenders

Registration by Monthly Meeting

Akron MM	1
Ann Arbor MM	15
Athens MM	3
Birmingham MM	9
Broadmead MM	14
Cleveland MM	5
Detroit MM	14
Erie Worship Group	2
Grand Rapids MM	5
Granville MM	1
Kalamazoo MM	7
Mid-Ohio Valley MM	1
North Columbus MM	7
Oberlin MM	4
Pittsburgh MM	12
Red Cedar MM	10
Unaffiliated	2
Wooster MM	6

Registration by State/Province

MI	55
OH	47
PA	18
MA	3
CA	2
WV	2
MD, NC, DC, WA, IN, MN, GA, TN, NY, Ontario	1

Age Distribution

Teen/High School	5
Young Adult 19-35	9
Adult 36-60	31
Adult 61+	93

Declared Gender Distribution

Female	77
Male	46
Non-binary	3
Transgender	3

Declared Race/Ethnicity Distribution

White/European	115
Black or African American	9
Hispanic or Latino	1
Other	1

YM2022-07 The clerk called for names of absent and deceased friends.

Those deceased included:

Birmingham Meeting: Julie Poll and Margaret Kanost

Oberlin Meeting: Connie Bimber

Athens and Granville Meetings: Joyce Miller

Vaughn Peebles, a frequent past attendee from Wabash, Indiana, sends his greetings and holds this LEYM gathering in the Light.

YM2022-08 Visitors and first-time attendees introduced themselves and were welcomed to Annual Sessions. Those who are more familiar with Annual Sessions were encouraged to offer support, as the weekend unfolds.

YM2022-09 Bill Warters and Kate Enger (Athens), recording clerk, called roll by Meeting, and Friends raised virtual hands to indicate which Meeting or Worship Group they attend.

YM2022-10 Story Trees

Some Meetings presented Story Trees that featured photos and historical information about their Meetings. Stories included Friends taking a stand against injustices such as redlining, hunger, and war, Friends learning more about Quaker faith and practice and teaching others (we are not the oatmeal people), and Friends expressing joy and fellowship through sundae Sundays and other events.

The Story Tree gallery can be browsed at your leisure here: <https://leym.org/story-tree-gallery/>.

Some Friends signed into a different Zoom meeting for worship, while others stayed to enjoy the full presentation of Story Trees.

Second Session: Thursday, July 28, 2022 Minutes and Reports

YM2022-11 Friends started this meeting for worship with attention to business with silent worship at 10:30 a.m. Out of the silence, Jo Posti, assistant clerk, shared an epistle from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of Friends, who met to explore the theme, “Embrace the Healing Power of Community.” They considered challenging questions, such as institutionalized racism and the shrinking size of their Meetings, and they explored ways to glimpse the Light, heal, and maintain hope.

YM2022-12 Susan Loucks, presiding clerk, gave some pointers on using our virtual format in a manner that respects and supports Quaker process. The clerks’ table was introduced: presiding clerk Susan Loucks, assistant clerk Jo Posti, and recording clerk Kate Enger.

YM2022-13 Epistle Committee. Susan Loucks

Susan Towner-Larsen (North Columbus) and Erika Smith (Detroit) have volunteered to work with Jo Posti on the epistle committee. Friends **approved**.

YM2022-14 Clerk’s Report. Susan Loucks

The visioning report led to some processes that have helped Friends consider some new approaches to meeting the needs of the Yearly Meeting, such as clerks’ chats, and to start making plans for how to meet for Annual Sessions and whether to change committee sizes and structures.

The Yearly Meeting has been exploring the possibility of creating our own *Faith and Practice*. An upcoming session this weekend gives Friends an opportunity to begin exploring that task further by specifically addressing our stand on anti-racism.

YM2022-15 Digital Communications Facilitator. Bill Warters (Birmingham)

Bill reported on his work. His attentions have been focused on the considerable task of setting up these online Annual Sessions.

We have the resources to support Friends who may want to do online presentations in the coming year. Interested Friends are encouraged to contact Bill at leymworker@gmail.com.

YM2022-16 Naming Committee. Pamela Moore (Erie WG) presented the Naming Committee report on behalf of herself, Elliott Brannon (Ann Arbor), and Ann Sprague (Detroit).

Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar) has offered to serve on Nominating Committee for one year, then re-assess if she can continue. **Approved.**

YM2022-17 Nominating Committee, Report No. 1. Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids)

Mike presented the preliminary slate for the Nominating Committee. We have quite a number of openings, and Friends are encouraged to consider how they are led to serve. *See YM2022-29 for the final report of the Nominating Committee.*

The Nominating Committee found about 110 positions listed in *Policies and Procedures*. There are only about 600 Friends listed as members in the Yearly Meeting, which means one of six Friends would need to take on a responsibility in order to fill the whole slate. The Committee has also noted a lack of good fit between stated policies and procedures and our actual working practices. For example, two committees have been happily functioning as interest groups, but those committees have not been formally laid down or re-designed. It may be time to look at our *Policies and Procedures* document to make sure it serves our purposes effectively.

LEYM Nominating Committee Report: Preliminary, July 2022

The Nominating Committee is pleased to submit the attached slate of nominees for 2022. Our charge is to “discern and secure” Friends to serve as officers, members of standing committees, representatives to other Quaker organizations, visitors to neighboring Yearly Meetings, and two other positions, as specified in *Policies & Procedures*. However, it hasn’t been possible for the Nominating Committee to discern and secure all 108–112 positions defined by *P&P* for many years. We’ve noticed a trend over the last decade or so, continuing this year, toward an increasing number of unfilled positions at rise of Annual Sessions. This concerns us.

We can point to several factors that seem to contribute to shortfalls in nominations.

(1) Discernment requires that we know the Friends we nominate. Our best opportunity to get to know Friends, especially those new to us, has always been the four days we’ve spent together at Annual Meetings. That personal contact has been denied us by the pandemic since 2019. Virtual Annual Meetings just don’t provide the insights into Friends’ gifts and interests that come from conversation and observation. Such was a crucial and rewarding part of our work before, and we’re hopeful that, starting next year, Nominating can do that again.

(2) Securing nominees needs the willing participation of the Friends the discernment process leads us to approach. Recently we’ve seen three entire committees become dormant. The YM hasn’t appointed any visitors to neighboring Meetings for several years. Some of our organizational representative appointments go unfilled annually. Many of our standing committees (including Nominating) are short a Friend or two in most years. This year, for the second time in recent memory, we haven’t been able to nominate an assistant clerk going into

Annual Sessions. The Nominating Committee can ask, but most of those we ask decline. Most of those who accept have served the YM already, often many times in many capacities, and we're losing these Friends as the YM ages.

(3) Our numbers are declining overall. In our 2021 census, the YM counted 601 adults, meaning that on average we need one out of every six Friends across our 19 constituent MMs and WGs to hold an appointed position, every year. This may be an unrealistic expectation. LEYM's governance seems to have been designed for a bigger Yearly Meeting than we have these days.

Each unfilled appointment represents a small departure from our stated policy. In the aggregate, they suggest to us a certain lack of fit between our policy and our actual practice. We've noticed other evidence of such lack of fit. For example, when the YM declared the Earthcare and Peace & Justice Committees dormant three years ago, it wasn't for lack of interest within the Meeting. On the contrary, plenty of Friends carried concerns for the earth, peace, and justice, then as well as now. What Friends weren't interested in, the former clerks of those committees told us, were all the formalities that come with being a committee: having a clerk, having agendas, making reports, making a commitment to a three-year term, etc. In response to their request, the YM replaced the committees with a non-traditional interest group "scaffolding framework," an arrangement that can't be found in *P&P*.

Here's another kind of discrepancy between *P&P* and our actual practice. Three of our committees, Adult & Family Program, Youth & Children, and Arrangements & Site, are described in *P&P* as subcommittees of a single Yearly Meeting Planning Committee. Yet they don't seem to work together in any way. If coordination is intended, our practice doesn't reflect it.

Here's another. We've noticed that at the beginning of our Annual Meetings, a group of parents and other Friendly adults gets together to plan how they'll keep the kids busy and happy. We call them the Youth & Children Program Committee, but they largely do without those same elements that define a committee that the Friends on the former Earthcare and Peace & Justice Committees objected to. Much the same could be said about the cadre of Friends in the Bluffton area that have handled all the logistical tasks related to in-person meetings on that campus for years, whom we've always called the Arrangements & Site Committee. We may call these committees, and precisely define their structures in *P&P*, but they look more like coordinated groups of volunteers who work together to provide needed (and much appreciated) services to the YM. Again, with Adult & Family Program, what we have had for the last two years is a couple of regular appointees and some enthusiastic volunteers, not the *P&P*-specified six-person committee with three pairs of Friends serving overlapping three-year terms – and that will continue for the next year. In fact, few committees match their *P&P* specs these days.

As we carve out exceptions like these to our stated policies, we tacitly acknowledge that the policies don't actually work in practice. From the Nominating Committee's point of view, it would be better to revise *P&P* to reflect our practice than to attempt to revise our practice to conform to *P&P*. We believe the Yearly Meeting has come to the point where a reimagining of

our governance would be in good order. We recommend that the presiding clerk appoint an ad hoc committee to consider this question.

In the meantime, the Nominating Committee welcomes Friends interested in the open positions on this preliminary slate to contact us. We also remind Friends that all standing committees except Executive, Finance, and Nominating have meetings open to any interested Friend. In other words, it isn't necessary to be appointed to most committees to take part in their work.

Rick Adams, North Columbus
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham
Wink Covintree, Birmingham
Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids, clerk
Sheila Johnson, Ann Arbor

YM2022-18 Ad Hoc Site Committee. Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead)

The ad hoc committee focused on planning where and how we will hold future Annual Sessions. They incorporated the work of the visioning committee and worked in collaboration with the Program Committee, Arrangements & Site Committee, Youth & Children Committee, and the digital communications facilitator. They presented the following recommendations:

1. Focus more on activities that build connections in ways that will complement the business of the Yearly Meeting. Activities will provide opportunities to share Friends' gifts and talents and to have fun and to nourish our spiritual growth. We will seek to nurture interactions between the children and adult Friends, and between our Meeting and other Yearly Meetings.
2. Meet at Ashland University in 2023, which the committee believes meets our needs. That site will require more travel time for some Friends, and less for others, but still provides a somewhat central location. The change will require some adaptations to how we organize our Annual Sessions and an increase in the costs that we will incur. Benefits include a contact person who has been very easy to work with, the opportunity to collaborate with the Ashland Center for Nonviolence, nearby coffee shops, and access to parks and a pool for the children to enjoy.
3. Switch to a meeting date of June 15–18, which returns us to an older tradition for meeting earlier in the summer and will, we hope, mean lower temperatures and fewer other groups on campus.
4. Ask the Finance Committee to look into strategies for managing the additional cost.
5. Hold some business meetings via Zoom and spread them throughout the year, so that less time needs to be dedicated to business at Annual Sessions. The theme for the year would also be carried through the year and would influence activities planned.
6. Offer more intergenerational activities and more interest group activities.
7. Finally, the committee recommends that we retain some hybrid elements, so that Friends who cannot travel to the meeting can still be active participants.

LEYM Ad Hoc Site Committee Report, July 2022

Members: Sam Milford (Pittsburgh), Brianna Charlot (Red Cedar), Bill Warters (Birmingham and LEYM worker), Diane Mott (Broadmead and Youth & Children's Program), Jon Sommer (Broadmead and clerk of Arrangements & Site Committee), Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead and registrar)

Terminology used in this report: This report uses the terms Yearly Meeting, Annual Meeting, and Annual Sessions as defined in *LEYM Policies and Procedures*:

- Yearly Meeting (capitalized) – Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, the institution (a body of Friends)
- Annual Meeting – Our annual summer gathering of Friends in its entirety, including all activities from registration through checkout
- Annual Sessions – The sessions of meeting for worship with attention to business at Annual Meeting

Committee's charge: To take a proposal for the 2023 Annual Sessions and beyond to the 2022 Annual Sessions.

Background

The committee began its work by reviewing the report from the visioning committee. The following highlights from the report informed our work:

- Annual Meeting is a place for discerning and declaring shared values/ truths. Do we need forums for discussing an LEYM *Faith and Practice*?
- Annual Meeting should be a place that helps Friends get to know each other's gifts and backstories and special interests.
- Annual Meeting could be a venue for engagement and interaction among Quakers from different branches in our YM sessions or other events.
- We need to create a balance between meetings for business following strict Quaker process and other kinds of activities.
- Annual Meeting should be a place for spiritual growth.
- Annual Meeting should enhance our sense of wholeness within the entire LEYM family through more intergenerational activities.

Building on the report from the visioning committee, we concluded that it is time to rethink the format of our Annual Meeting. We believe that changing the balance during our Annual Meeting between conducting business and building community will contribute to the social and spiritual health of the Yearly Meeting. This would likely result in more time spent building community and a redesign of the ways business meetings and workshops have been a focus of Annual Meeting.

Thus, we articulated the following goals for the Yearly Meeting and the Annual Meetings:

- We will make business decisions using Quaker process.
- We will build connections among Friends from different MMs.
- We will provide opportunities for spiritual/personal growth through workshops, worship sharing, plenaries, and other activities.

- We will provide opportunities to learn about and share the gifts and talents of Friends both at the Annual Meeting and beyond.
- We will create opportunities for Friends to have fun with each other.
- We will encourage engagement between young Friends and older Friends.
- We will provide for children and youth to connect with other Quaker youth and to grow in a nurturing community.

In addition, we considered challenges and obstacles to meeting these goals:

- Resistance to change (though all the change we've gone through recently due to COVID may be reducing this resistance)
- Costs of bringing people together
- Time needed for Quaker process
- Difficulty in identifying and addressing Yearly Meeting concerns and needs
- Traditional practices making business meetings inaccessible and uninviting to some people
- Lack of flexibility in meeting needs of young Friends
- Parallel nature of children/youth and adult programs: no place for intersection
- COVID-related uncertainty

Recommendations

In consideration of all this, we bring the following recommendations to the 2022 Annual Sessions for Yearly Meeting to consider:

1. Hold the 2023 Annual Meeting at Ashland University June 15–18.
2. Request Finance Committee to explore forms of financial subsidies to ensure that our first year back in face-to-face meeting feels affordable.
3. Hold business sessions at multiple times throughout the year, starting with the 2023 Annual Meeting. Request the Executive Committee to set what agenda items are addressed at which meetings for business.
4. Create themes for our Annual Meetings which we can work together on throughout the weekend.
5. Create more intergenerational programming at our Annual Meetings.
6. Continue and perhaps expand programming throughout the year.
7. Include hybrid elements in our Annual Meetings.

Rationale for recommendations

Site for 2023 Annual Meeting: Bluffton University still has not made a decision about hosting outside groups in 2023, which meant the committee needed to explore an alternate site for the future. Committee members carefully considered what we need and want in a site for LEYM Annual Meetings. We investigated three schools that we anticipated might meet our criteria: Oberlin College, Baldwin Wallace University, and Ashland University. We eliminated the first two as options because the prices were inhibitive. Ashland's prices, while higher than Bluffton's prices, were much closer to what we considered doable. Two committee members made a preliminary visit to Ashland University on March 28. They brought back a positive report to the committee, resulting in a visit by the whole committee

on June 6. At the end of this visit, the committee made the decision to recommend Ashland as the site for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Ashland is centrally located (a bit farther for Michigan folks and Western Ohio folks, closer for North Central and Eastern Ohio folks, closer for Pennsylvania folks, about the same for Central and Southern Ohio folks, compared to Bluffton). The ambiance of Ashland's campus is not as pleasing as that of Bluffton's campus, and we will not have access to the wide range of rooms and other facilities without extra charge as we had at Bluffton. We saw a number of spaces on campus and several places off campus including parks, a swimming pool, and a bowling alley, that could be used for the Youth & Children's program. The dining service appears to be able to meet our needs more easily than Bluffton's dining service could. The non-air-conditioned dorms are reasonably priced and right next to the building where most of our sessions will be held. The air-conditioned dorm is a bit farther away and quite a bit more expensive. There are a number of reasonably priced motels in Ashland where attendees could stay. Ashland's conference director assured us that the campus is LGBTQ+ friendly. In addition, the Ashland Center for Nonviolence, founded by John Stratton, is eager to work with us.

The committee also started a list of retreat centers located in Ohio. We suggest that this list be considered for subsequent years.

Fees for attendance: The budget for Annual Meeting will be larger in 2023 than it has been in the past. Room and board charges will be higher than we are used to, plus we will now need to pay rental fees for all the meeting rooms we use. We want to ensure that cost of attendance does not deter people from coming to the 2023 Annual Meeting. Thus, we recommend that we consider larger discounts for attendance than we have had in the past. This will mean that the Annual Meeting will need to be subsidized by the General Fund.

Yearly Meeting business sessions: To make room during our Annual Meeting for more time to nurture the LEYM community, the committee recommends holding business sessions on Zoom at various times throughout the year in addition to the business sessions held during Annual Meeting. A schedule would need to be determined as to what business is conducted at what date. Doing this would open up space during the Annual Meeting, allowing for deepening relationships among Monthly Meetings and individuals and nurturing us spiritually. It would also give us time for more fun activities to do together.

Themes for Annual Meetings: We believe our Yearly Meeting could be strengthened by working more closely together during our Annual Meetings. Thus, we envision creating themes for our Annual Meetings that are conducive to ongoing work throughout the weekend. These could be themes related to the creation of an LEYM *Faith and Practice*, should we decide to move forward with this idea.

Cross-generational interaction: The parallel structure of our adult vs. youth and children programs inhibits interaction among generations. We believe that Yearly Meeting is weakened by this lack of interaction, which will likely result in further decline of Yearly Meeting membership in the future. Therefore, we envision planning more activities during our Annual Meetings in which Yearly Meeting attendees of all ages participate.

Programming throughout the year: We believe that encouraging interaction among members of different monthly meetings throughout the year will help us create a stronger Yearly Meeting

community. We would like to see the programming that we have conducted the last couple years continue and perhaps expand.

Hybrid elements of Annual Sessions: We know that there are people who cannot make the trip to an in-person Annual Meeting for a variety of reasons. We now have the technology to include these people in at least some of the activities during Annual Meeting. The plenary and some of the workshops are examples.

For answers to questions and a fuller report on Ashland University, please contact Sally Weaver Sommer at sallyweaversommer@gmail.com.

Meeting closed with silent worship at 12:00 noon.

Third Session: Friday, July 29, 2022 Minutes and Reports

YM2022-19 Out of the expectant silence that began at 10:30, Jo Posti, assistant clerk, read an epistle from Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends. Those Friends shared a sense of growth, connection, and development, following years of meeting virtually. They faced losses and changes with faith and trust, while aspiring to remain open to the breath of God and live in divine love.

YM2022-20 Susan Loucks, presiding clerk, read a Memorial Minute for Margaret (Eme) Kanost. Margaret served both in the U.S. and abroad, and was beloved by Friends and a large family. She was a member at Birmingham Monthly Meeting and attended Oberlin Monthly Meeting.

YM2022-21 Ministry & Nurture Committee. Flo Friender (Kalamazoo)

Flo read the query for next year:

“In what ways has our Meeting been affected by the turmoil of the world around us? How might I use my own gifts from Spirit in responding to these new realities?” Monthly Meetings will be asked to respond to this query and send their responses to the Ministry & Nurture Committee, whose members will summarize those responses.

YM2022-22 Spiritual Formation Fall Retreat. Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead)

The Spiritual Formation fall retreat will not be held this year. Instead, Spiritual Formation recommends studying J. Brent Bill’s book *Imagination and Spirit*. Spiritual formation could use more people on the committee, and Friends are encouraged to contact Sally or other members to express interest: sallyweaversommer@gmail.com.

YM2022-23 The clerk invited discussion about the recommendations made by the ad hoc site committee:

1. Hold the 2023 Annual Meeting at Ashland University, June 15-18, 2023. **Approved.**
2. Hold some business sessions at multiple times throughout the year, starting with the 2023 Annual Meeting. Some committee reports, for example, can be handled in these online meetings. We would still seek unity and clearness as a whole body. Executive Committee will continue to explore this idea and bring forth more specific recommendations for possibly implementing this process.

3. The first three of the following recommendations would be handled by the Adult & Family Program Committee, and the fourth responsibility would be shared with other interest groups and committees. **Approved.**

- Create themes for our Annual Meetings on which we can work together throughout the weekend.
- Create more intergenerational programming at our Annual Meetings.
- Include hybrid elements in our Annual Meetings.
- Continue and perhaps expand programming throughout the year.

YM2022-24 Treasurer's Report. Tom Kangas (North Columbus)

Tom reported that we are in good financial shape overall.

Treasurer's Written Report.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is in good financial health.

General Fund contributions were received from all member Monthly Meetings (MM). MM contributions totaled \$18,580, just a little more (4%) than expected. Compared to the year before, total MM contributions were down, but this was by design, because the suggested contribution rate had been reduced by \$5 to \$25 per MM member.

Expenditures and transfers from the General Fund totaled \$28,285. Overall, this was just a little less (96%) than the total amount budgeted. Four expense categories had unfavorable budget-to-actual variances for the year. These pertained to expenditures for our contract workers, insurance, and publications. None of these variances were particularly large relative to their annual budgeted total.

LEYM approved a deficit budget for FY21–22, with planned expenditures greater than planned income. The idea was to bring the General Fund balance down a bit. With some additional “help” from the decrease in the market value of the investments held on LEYM’s behalf by Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC), at fiscal year end, the General Fund balance is just below its suggested ceiling.

Besides the General Fund, other LEYM funds had activity this year, too:

- The Annual Meeting Fund activity resulted from the virtual Annual Sessions held one year ago;
- The Travel Fund had one expenditure, for our presiding clerk to attend an FGC Central Committee meeting;
- The Youth Activities Fund had: income from FFC, deferral of a “retreat facility down-payment” until fall 2022, other expenses related to a fall retreat, and support for one young Friend to attend Friends Music Camp;
- The Quaker College & Service Scholarship Fund shows only an addition of funds, because there were no scholarships requested or awarded for the 2021–2022 academic year; and
- The Spiritual Formation Fund’s activity was related to the annual retreat held this past September.

LEYM’s total treasury at year-end is \$80,431. The decrease of \$15K from the beginning of the year is split between the \$6K net cash outflow from our checking account at Citizens National Bank of Bluffton, Ohio, and the \$9K net decrease in value of funds held by FFC.

All dollars held by FFC are invested in the Quaker Growth & Income Fund. Over the twelve months ended June 30, FFC accounts were credited with approximately 3% in dividend income but also experienced a 17% decrease in market value.

LEYM General Fund Income

As of 6/30/2022

For the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2022)

Contribution From	Amount	Deposit Date			
Akron Monthly Meeting	125	6/18/2022			
Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting	3,075	1/24/2022			
Athens Monthly Meeting	1,600	11/23/2021			
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	350	11/4/2021			
Broadmead Monthly Meeting	1,500	1/27/2022			
Cleveland Monthly Meeting	1,000	6/7/2022			
Delaware Monthly Meeting	75	1/13/2022			
Detroit Monthly Meeting	550	2/15/2022			
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting	350	1/13/2022			
Granville Monthly Meeting	840	10/25/2021			
Holland Monthly Meeting	200	2/3/2022			
Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting	700	3/10/2022			
Kent Monthly Meeting	510	10/29/2021			
Mid-Ohio Valley Monthly Meeting	180	1/31/2022			
North Columbus Monthly Meeting	750	12/13/2021			
Oberlin Monthly Meeting	1,000	1/15/2022			
Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting	3,175	4/8/2022			
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting	2,225	11/18/2021			
Wooster Monthly Meeting	375	11/17/2021			
Contributing MM or WG subtotal	18,580		Expected, per budget	Actual as a % of Budget	Variance, favorable (unfavorable)
Individuals	200		17,875	104%	705
Total Cash Contribution Income	18,780		In-kind +	300	Total contribution income 19,080
FFC Dividend Income (Base Acct only)	1,728				
Total Income	20,508	(cash income, excluding in-kind)			

Treasurer's report continued on next page.

LEYM General Fund Expenses - with comparison to Budget

For the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2022)

Account	Actual Expense through 6/30/2022	Budget (annual)	Actual expense as a % of Budget	Variance, budget-to- actual, favorable (unfavorable)	Non-cash, in- kind donations through 6/30/2022	Total Expense through 6/30/2022
Operations						
Contract Worker: Database Manager	2,898.00	2,500	116%	(398)	300.00	3,198
Contract Worker: Digital Comm Facil'r	5,570.10	5,100	109%	(470)	-	5,570
Insurance	597.00	500	119%	(97)	-	597
Office Admin (incl. banking costs)	676.84	1,500	45%	823	-	677
Committees						
Advancement & Outreach	-	500	0%	500	-	-
Ministry & Nurture	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Publications	3,393.15	3,200	106%	(193)	-	3,393
Members						
Attend conference w/ Quaker values	-	1,000	0%	1,000	-	-
Organizations						
Friends General Conference	6,500.00	6,500	100%	-	-	6,500
Olney Friends School	3,500.00	3,500	100%	-	-	3,500
Swarthmore records project	150.00	150	100%	-	-	150
Detroit meeting house contribution	1,000.00	1,000	100%	-	-	1,000
Subtotal cash expenditures	24,285	25,550	95%	1,265	300.00	24,585
Transfers from General Fund to other Funds						
Travel Fund	1,200.00	1,200	100%	-	-	-
Quaker College/Service Scholarship Fund	1,000.00	1,000	100%	-	-	-
FWCC Travel Fund & Donation	1,800.00	1,800	100%	-	-	-
Subtotal Transfers	4,000.00	4,000		-		
Totals - General Fund Expenses	28,285.09	29,550	96%	1,265		

LEYM Summary of Funds for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2021	Friends Fiduciary account activity ¹	Transfers between funds	Cash Income	Cash Expense	Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/30/2022	Floor/ Suggested floor/ceiling amounts for each fund	Last activity prior to FY21-22
Funds held in (i) Base account with Friends Fiduciary Corp and (ii) Citizens National Bank checking account									
General Fund ²	44,463.88	(7,131.19)	(4,000.00)	18,780.00	(24,285.09)	(16,636.28)	27,827.60	na	30,000
Annual Meeting Fund	242.42			1,090.00	(913.41)	176.59	419.01	1,000	3,000
Travel Fund	2,807.00		1,200.00	-	(62.00)	1,138.00	3,945.00	2,000	4,000
Youth Activities Fund ⁴	7,137.16		(328.38)	-	(1,272.00)	(1,600.38)	5,536.78	4,000	8,000
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	2,000.00		1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	3,000.00	2,000	4,000
HS Teen Retreat Fund	6,892.64					-	6,892.64	3,000	6,000
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649.00					-	1,649.00	na	2,000
Spiritual Formation Fund	3,876.35		-	1,245.00	(1,077.76)	167.24	4,043.59	500	2,000
Consultation Fund	3,143.68					-	3,143.68	500	2,000
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00					-	3,500.00	na	na
Work Projects Fund	2,182.39					-	2,182.39	na	2,000
FWCC Travel Fund	5,339.83		900.00			900.00	6,239.83	na	9,000
FWCC Travel Donation	1,800.00		900.00			900.00	2,700.00	na	9,000
Funds held in separate account with Friends Fiduciary Corp									
Granville Youth Fund ³	9,880.56	(1,345.16)	(328.62)			(1,673.78)	8,206.78	na	na
Funds held by others - see Statement of Financial Position									
Prepaid Expense	488.00	-	657.00			657.00	1,145.00	na	na
TOTAL	95,402.91	(8,476.35)	-	21,115.00	(27,610.26)	(14,971.61)	80,431.30		

NOTES>

Funds other than the General Fund are managed through accounting and may be subsidized by the corresponding budget lines of the General Fund.

¹ Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC) activity includes dividends and net change portfolio value due to market conditions. See Balance Sheet for detail.

² FFC General (Base) Account activity is included here in LEYM's General Fund.

³ Granville Friends Youth Fund is a separate FFC account. FFC activity shown on this line reflects only that fund's change in portfolio value.

⁴ FFC dollars transferred to this line represent dividends paid to the Granville Friends Youth Fund during current fiscal year and credited to YAF.

⁵ Established in FY13-14 by a donation toward LEYM's Traveling Ministry Program, this fund has had no activity from inception to date.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting – Financial Position

For the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2022)

Location of monetary assets

	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2021	Change in balance during the fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/30/2022
The Citizens National Bank of Bluffton, OH	33,962.23	(6,166.64)	27,795.59
Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Philadelphia, PA *			
General (Base) Account	51,560.12	(7,131.19)	44,428.93
Activity • Dividends Paid (and reinvested)		1,728.04	
includes: • Change in Portfolio Value, + or -		(8,859.23)	
Granville Youth Fund Account	9,880.56	(1,673.78)	8,206.78
Activity • Dividends Paid		328.62	
includes: • Change in Portfolio Value + or -		(1,673.78)	
• Dividends disbursed by FFC to LEYM, recorded to Youth Activ Fund		(328.62)	
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	61,440.68	(8,804.97)	52,635.71
Total monetary assets	95,402.91	(14,971.61)	80,431.30

	Total	% of Beg
Div Pd	2,057	3%
ΔValue	(10,533)	-17%
	(8,476)	-14%

Notation: Prepaid Expenses

UCCR deposit for Youth Activities retreat, Sept 2022	388.00	657.00	1,045.00
Weber Ctr deposit for Spiritual Formation retreat, Sep 2022	100.00	-	100.00
	488.00	657.00	1,145.00

* Note> All of the funds with Friends Fiduciary Corporation are invested in FFC's Quaker Growth & Income Fund (QGIF).

The Quaker Growth & Income Fund is a diversified, co-mingled fund with allocations to equities, fixed income and real estate investment trusts (REITs). Its primary objective is to provide stable current income and long-term growth consistent with protecting principal investments against inflation over time. The fund adheres to Friends Fiduciary's Quaker-values investment guidelines and participates in our shareholder advocacy work. It is intended for investors with an investment horizon of five years or longer. The Fund has a standard income distribution policy based on the fund's total return.

Source> friendsfiduciary.org, 12/31/2021

HOLDINGS BY ASSET CLASS	Equity	Fixed Income	REITS
Global and International Equity	25.1%		
Small and Mid Cap Equity	17.7%		
Large Cap Equity	28.6%		
Fixed Income (Domestic, Global, Short-Term, plus Cash)	71.4%	22.9%	5.6%
		22.9%	5.6%

YM2022-25 Finance Committee, Report No. 1. Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar)

Joann presented the proposed budget. Changes in the budget are generally small. For example, there is an increase in hours and hourly wages for the digital communications facilitator and database manager. *See the approved budget at Minute YM2022-30.*

The Finance Committee has started discussing how to manage the increased cost of meeting at Ashland next year in such a way that all interested Friends can attend. They have the following recommendations:

- 1) Allocate \$10,000 from the General Fund reserves for supporting the costs of the Annual Sessions.
- 2) Return the contribution amount requested from Monthly Meetings to \$35 per person.

Friends also requested that Finance Committee look into investing in the Quaker Green Impact Fund.

YM2022-26 Ad hoc Committee on Organizational Structure. The Clerk

Susan Loucks described a plan to establish an ad hoc committee for organization/structure. The group will be charged with considering the current and potential value of our functions for the Yearly Meeting and Monthly Meetings and coming up with recommendations for an organizational structure that allows us to accomplish simply what we need to do. If you are interested in participating in this group, please contact the clerk at susanloucks@gmail.com.

Meeting rose at 12:00 noon.

Session Focused on Racism: Saturday, July 30, 2022

This focused session was designed to prepare and give participants a chance for discernment on a single topic, anti-racism, and departs from typical business format.

YM2022-27 This meeting started with silent worship at 10:30 a.m. The presiding clerk shared themes gathered from Monthly Meeting minutes on racism and police violence.

As Meetings and as a Yearly Meeting, we acknowledge that we mirror the racism that has been cultivated and institutionalized in the U.S. since its inception. We yearn to model a society transformed.

As we undertake that work in our Meetings, we notice patterns:

- We burn with the urgency of change, and yearn to anchor in Spirit-led community; these desires can compete, and require a commitment to balancing tensions with “both/and” thinking habits.
- We recognize that we often seek to avoid conflict, and when conflict emerges in this work, we are challenged in reaching deeper unity. Seeing this requires a commitment to deepen our skills of differing, and our willingness to stay at the table.
- The projects, educations, and actions we undertake often feel inadequate when we see the complexity and pervasiveness of the problem. Understanding the scope of change needed requires a commitment to cultivating grief, joy, and relationship to sustain the long-haul work.
- We dedicate and re-dedicate ourselves to meaningful movement in this work, and to doing so in ways that build our connections to each other, to God, and to our communities.

Out of silence, the clerk invited Friends to discuss the following: Considering this YM, what are we led to take on together as far as FAITH (beliefs we share?) or PRACTICES (behaviors to which we are called?)

Friends broke into small groups to discuss the above, then returned to the main meeting to share thoughts.

Friends appeared unified by determination to address racism both in our meetings and in our society. Three main themes emerged:

- 1) The need for internal exploration to identify areas in which we need to improve our functioning. Friends suggested, for example, checking over our policies and procedures, watching for patterns of both oppression and faithfulness in our interactions, and listening to Friends of color who are willing to share their experiences at our meetings.
- 2) The challenge of writing a statement of belief based on discussion, study, and spirit-led discernment.
- 3) Motivation to choose bite-sized ways to take action, preferably hand in hand with individuals and communities who have experienced racism, as well as other organizations that are making efforts to address racism.

The Executive Committee will be developing these ideas further and bringing them forward as possible next steps for supporting Monthly Meetings in their anti-racism work.

Friends closed this meeting at 12:00 noon.

Fifth Session: Sunday, July 31, 2022

Minutes and Reports

YM2022-28 Friends settled into silent worship at 1:00. Out of the silence, Jo Posti, assistant clerk, read an epistle from the 2022 Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. They celebrated the theme, “Welcome as You Are,” with intergenerational activities. Friends chose to oppose recent legislation harmful to LGBT and other individuals, such as the “Stop Woke Act,” and to support other people who stand up against oppression and discrimination. They explored and celebrated gifts that nurture families and communities.

YM2022-29 Nominating Committee, Report No. 2. Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids)

Mike presented a revised Nominating Committee slate.

The Peace & Justice and Earthcare Committees were not staffed. Their work has been largely taken up by interest groups. Friends interested in proposing an interest group topic or activity can do so through a form found on the LEYM webpage. The structure and function of these interest groups will be further discussed by the ad hoc committee on organization.

Advancement & Outreach Committee has only one member. Executive Committee will look at ways to pick up the tasks that would normally be handled by Advancement & Outreach and will consider whether the Committee should be regarded as dormant.

Friends who feel led to serve on a committee are encouraged to contact Nominating Committee members. All committees, with the exception of Executive, Nominating, and Finance Committees, are open to Friends to participate in without being officially named as a member of those committees. Interested Friends can contact the clerk of the committee with which they wish to work. Likewise, a Friend who feels led to serve as assistant clerk of the Yearly Meeting is also encouraged to contact the Nominating Committee.

The slate presented by the Nominating Committee was **approved**.

YM2022-30 Finance Committee, Report No. 2, Budget. Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar)

Joann presented a revised budget, which includes the Finance Committee’s recommendations to move \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Annual Meeting Fund and to increase the suggested per-member payment from Monthly Meetings to \$35 (from \$25 last year, and \$27 in the earlier presentation of the budget).

The budget was **approved**. *See below.*

We thanked the Finance Committee and the treasurer, Tom Kangas, for their work and the clarity of their presentation.

History						LEYM Budgets		** Actual as of 6/30/2022	(prelim budget, not approved)
FY 2018-19		FY 2019-20		FY 2020-21		Budget approved 07/30/2021		FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual			Budget	Change
2,400	2,215	625	1,330	1,400	2,905	General Fund Expenses			
500	500	3,000	3,021	3,100	4,237	General	Contractor: Database Manager	2,500	2,898
500	301	500	500	500	500		Contractor: Digital Comm Faci'r	5,100	5,570
2,000	2,069	1,000	1,007	3,500	2,077		Insurance	500	597
		2,000	1,043				Administration	1,500	677
							<==Travel		
200	15	200	-	500	-	Committees	Advancement & Outreach	500	-
50	-	50	-	50	-		Ministry & Nurture	100	-
3,200	2,854	3,200	3,012	3,200	2,476		Publications	3,200	3,393
1,000	(18)	1,000	-	1,000	400	Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	1,000	-
6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	Organizations	FGC	6,500	6,500
3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000		Olney Friends School	3,500	3,500
100	100	100	100	100	100		Swarthmore Records Project	150	150
							Detroit meeting hse contrib'n	1,000	1,000
	(3,412)			2,957	2,957	Tranfers from	Travel Fund	1,200	1,200
1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	General Fund	Youth Activity Fund	-	-
		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	to...	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship	1,000	1,000
300	300	300	300	-	-		<==Spir Form Annl Mtng ==>	-	-
1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800		FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,800	1,800
22,050	16,725	25,775	24,112	29,107	28,453	Total Expenses and Transfers =		29,550	28,285
						General Fund Income			
22,600	24,064	25,375	27,077	21,750	21,460		Contributions Income	17,875	18,780
1,000	1,196		1,284	1,000	1,474		FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	1,000	1,728
23,600	25,260	25,375	28,361	22,750	22,934	Total Income =		18,875	20,508
1,550	8,535	(400)	4,249	(6,357)	(5,520)	Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =		(10,675)	(7,777)
1,133		(885)		11,272		FFC chg in portfolio value (Base)		(8,859)	
1,133		(885)		11,272		Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =		(8,859)	
						Total Change in General Fund =		(16,636)	
600		725		725		# members used to produce above estimate =		715	
\$30		\$35		\$30		Suggested contribution per member =		\$25	
		\$ 0.45		\$ 0.17		Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =		\$ 0.16	
								743	
								\$35	
								\$ 0.22	

YM2022-31 The clerk invited Friends to give a brief report of the work on their committees or projects. Friends enthusiastically shared recent successful efforts and thanks for each other's efforts. Jo Posti was thanked for her many contributions during four years at the clerks' table.

YM2022-32 Jo Posti, assistant clerk, shared the epistle, and expressed gratitude to Susan Towner-Larsen and Susan Hartman for their contributions.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions Epistle July 27-31, 2022, Held Virtually

To Friends Everywhere:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gathered virtually for our Annual Sessions, July 27 through July 31, considering our theme, "Many Roots, One Tree." More than 130 Friends met for Bible study, expectant worship and worship sharing, business sessions, workshops, panels on various Quaker organizations, a plenary on our theme led by Christian Acemah, Head of Olney Friends School in Ohio, lunchtime chat groups, and a family-friendly evening of entertainment.

We launched right into our theme on Wednesday evening. The clerk of our Program Committee, Susan Hartman, inspired us to consider the multilayered dimensions of the metaphor, "Many Roots, One Tree,"

citing the pervasive, timeless symbolism of the tree across many cultures and through countless generations.

Our opening session featured an interactive roll call where our Monthly Meetings shared their “story trees”: short histories of how their Meetings took root in local communities throughout Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. We learned about Friends who helped each Meeting grow and how their roots of social justice and spiritual development have supported the new growth that hybrid worship and today’s equity movements demand.

As our gathering moved through times of worship and learning, panel discussions, and meetings for worship with attention to business, we found the images of a tree and roots to be both expansive and foundational, expertly woven through all we did together.

Roots, of course, are often thought of as our past – our individual childhood experiences, the places we come from, the culture we are a part of, our deep grounding values, the anchor that holds us in place. Yet roots of a tree are also alive and growing; they are the sources through which nourishment of water and minerals are absorbed from the soil, stored, and distributed to the rest of the tree. We know that roots can even serve as a means of communication or information between trees.

Our metaphor throughout the gathering often focused on the roots, but we also were reminded that they are not the only sources of the tree’s nutrition. The whole tree, including the roots themselves, is also nourished by the sugar that is produced in the leaves through photosynthesis, using the sun’s energy and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This sugar – the tree’s food – is stored in all parts of the tree and feeds the roots so they can do their work. In this complex system, each part of the tree relies on the others to maintain its health and growth.

As we considered ourselves and our organization, the metaphor seemed to expand before us, and grew to include not only the roots, trunk, branches, and leaves but also the sun – the source of light – that allows the tree to grow and produce food. Only with this light can the tree live and bear fruit.

The theme of new growth and our deep, intertwined roots unfolded in various ways during the week. In the keynote talk on Friday evening, Christian Acemah asked us to think together about “What Lies within this Tree with Many Roots?” He encouraged us to explore with him the questions: “What makes a nourishing, vibrant inside? What do we need to cultivate Spirit-led approaches to address apparent, latent, and emergent threats to the tree’s internal health?” Our two worship sharing times on Friday and Saturday considered the queries: “How do I experience the roots of my spiritual growth? How do we nurture our collective spiritual growth?” Our Bible study, led by April Vanlonden, considered first the Bible as a whole, and then our complex relationship to it as Quakers, our roots in it, both beautiful and “messy,” and why, in American culture today, we are wise to know something about the Bible and not to simply “ditch it.” We also explored the Exodus story, which is deeply rooted in many cultures and understood from radically different perspectives, several of which we looked at together.

The ten workshops on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday offered opportunities to stretch and expand our exploration of the theme, from the physical roots of gardening to exploring Quaker family trees; re-creating our “grounding roots” of public safety, conflict resolution, and peacemaking; exploring the roots of our personal spiritual journeys; considering the health and integrity of the whole “tree” – individual or organizational.

In a slightly new format this year, many of us attended three different panel sessions. Each panel introduced several Quaker organizations, with a representative of each organization briefly presenting a summary of the “roots and fruits” of the organization, with time for more in-depth information in separate breakout rooms.

We’ve explored creative ways to bring together our younger and older Friends during the pandemic. In addition to our annual evening of intergenerational entertainment, we again provided space within Minecraft for our middle and high school-aged Friends and young adult Friends to meet, build, and explore together.

Some of the most significant decisions we discerned during our time together are seeds for our future. Our ad hoc Site Committee has worked faithfully this year to identify a new location for our Annual Sessions, and we’re excited to share our plans to hold the 2023 Annual Meeting at Ashland University in Ohio, June 15–18. Just as planting a seed requires sun, rain, and protection, we see this decision as an opportunity to discern how we can better support Friends in affordability, whether we might spread business sessions across multiple times throughout the year, starting with the 2023 Annual Meeting, and how we can create more intergenerational programming at our Annual Meetings. We approach planning our 2023 sessions with the excitement of a gardener sorting fresh packets of seeds, overlooking a tilled bed, ready to support this season’s sprouts.

Throughout our many deep explorations of the tree and root metaphor, we were inspired to consider the solid, nourishing roots under and around us as a Yearly Meeting. Epistles from other Yearly Meetings, interwoven through our time together, helped us both center our souls and remind us of Friends beyond us, of our roots and branches reaching across miles and time, belovedly entwined. Explorations of the images of gardening, of seeds and new growth, provided firm foundation for our deep dives into life after the realities of COVID and offered hope throughout our considerations of the many present, urgent challenges before us as part of the global faith community.

We send on to other Yearly Meetings our assurances of Light and all that nourishes the roots and branches that connect us. We take with us the sense of having been deeply nourished by our time together and of carrying renewed visions of hope for vitality and growth in our future.

Susan Loucks, Presiding Clerk
Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

The epistle was **approved**.

Meeting closed at about 3:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Susan Loucks, Presiding Clerk
Jo Posti, Assistant Clerk
Kate Enger, Recording Clerk.

LEYM Officers, Committee Members, & Representatives

Nominating Committee Report, Final Slate, July 2022

Approved 7-31-2022. *Terms begin and end at rise of Annual Sessions.*

ExC = serves on LEYM Executive Committee.

To contact individual Friends listed below, see the Directory section, starting on p. xxx.

Officers

<u>Role</u>	<u>Name & Meeting</u>	<u>Year of Service</u>	<u>End Year</u>
Presiding Clerk <i>ExC</i>	Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh	3	2024
Assistant Clerk <i>ExC</i>	tbd		2026
Recording Clerk <i>ExC</i>	Kate Enger, Athens	3	2023
Treasurer <i>ExC</i>	Tom Kangas, North Columbus	4	2023

Communications and Other Workers

Bulletin Editors	Peggy Daub & Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor	6	2023
Annual Records Editor	Elise Yoder, Pittsburgh (appointed by Publications & Archives Committee)	2	2023
Database Manager	Lynda Rose, Athens (contracted by presiding clerk)	3	2023
Digital Communications Facilitator			
	Bill Warters, Birmingham	4	2023
Bookstore	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	19	2023

Committees

<u>Name/Meeting</u>	<u>Year of Service</u>	<u>End Year</u>
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Advancement & Outreach

# of Members: 6	Years of Term: 3		
Joseph Mills, Kalamazoo	Clerk, <i>ExC</i>	2	2024
5 open positions, tbd.		1	2025

Earthcare This committee is dormant. No nominations were made.
Normally 6 members plus interested Friends.

Finance

# of Members: 3	Years of Term: 3		
Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar	Clerk <i>ExC</i>	5	2024
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham		2	2024
Aran Reinhart, Broadmead		1	2025

Note: Treasurer serves *ex officio*

High School Teen Retreat Currently dormant.

Normally 3 adults with 3-year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2-year terms

Committees (continued):

<u>Name/Meeting</u>	<u>Year of Service</u>	<u>End Year</u>
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Ministry & Nurture

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each monthly meeting encouraged Years of Term: 3

Shelley Kotz, Broadmead	Co-Clerk <i>ExC</i>	4	2024
Flo Friender, Kalamazoo	Co-Clerk <i>ExC</i>	1	2025
Maryann Concannon, Red Cedar		3	2023
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo		1	2025
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham		1	2025
tbd		1	2025

Nominating

of Members: 6 (appointed by YM through Naming Committee)

Years of Term: 3

Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids	Clerk <i>ExC</i>	5	2024
Rick Adams, North Columbus		2	2023
Winifred Covintree, Birmingham		2	2023
Stefanie Charlot, Red Cedar		1	2025
2 open positions, tbd		1	2025

Peace & Justice This committee is dormant. No nominations were made. Normally 6 members plus representatives from monthly meetings.

Publications & Archives

of Members: 4 Years of Term: 3

Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	Clerk <i>ExC</i>	4	2022
George Hebben, Kalamazoo	Asst clerk	3	2023
Bob Roehm, North Columbus		6	2023
Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh		4	2025

Note: Digital Communications Facilitator and Bulletin Editors serve *ex officio*.

Annual Meeting Planning:**Adult & Family Program**

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon, Erie WG, Clerk, <i>ExC</i>	1	2025
Greg Mott, Broadmead	4	2025
4 open positions, tbd	1	2025

Volunteers: Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor), Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead),
Barbara LeSage (North Columbus), Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham)

Arrangements & Site

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Jon Sommer, Broadmead	Clerk <i>ExC</i>	19	2024
Bill Warters, Birmingham		5	2024
Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead		7	2025
Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead		7	2025
Mike Hinshaw, Wooster		1	2025

Registrar (selected by Committee): Sally Weaver Sommer

Committees (continued):

<u>Name/Meeting</u>	<u>Year of Service</u>	<u>End Year</u>
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Youth & Children Program

of Members: 12–16 Years of Term: 2 (Clerk only)

Erika Smith, Detroit	Clerk <i>ExC</i>	1	2024
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Christa White, Athens

Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham

Alfred Clapp III, Athens

Jenn Seif, Red Cedar

Cristin Graham, Detroit

This committee lacks an assistant clerk.

Diane Mott, Broadmead Fall retreat clerk

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham Fall retreat assistant

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

	<u>Name & Meeting</u>	<u>Year of Service</u>	<u>End Year</u>
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AFSC Corporation

	Bill Warters, Birmingham	5	2024
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	Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead	4	2025
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	Paul Helbling, Broadmead	4	2025
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	tbd	1	2025
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FCNL General Committee (3-year terms, limited to two consecutive terms)

FCNL Gen Cmte	John Howell, Athens	7	2025
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FCNL Gen Cmte	John Deikis, Ann Arbor	3	2023
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2 Open positions	tbd	1	2025
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Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations (continued)

	<u>Name & Meeting</u>	<u>Year of Service</u>	<u>End Year</u>
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FGC Central Committee (3-year terms, limited to two consecutive terms)

(LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee)

	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	1	2025
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	Brad Shaw, Red Cedar	1	2025
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2 Open postions	tbd	1	2025
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FWCC (3-year terms)

	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	2	2024
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	Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon	2	2024
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FLGBTQC	Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	8	2023
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Olney Friends School

	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	5	2024
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	Greg Mott, Broadmead	1	2025
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Quaker Earthcare Witness

	Richard Tucker, Ann Arbor	1	2025
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Written Reports

Several reports were posted to the LEYM website and included in the documents in advance, but not presented in Annual Sessions. These appear below.

Report from Ministry & Nurture Committee to Annual Sessions 2022

The Ministry & Nurture Committee met (via Zoom) at Annual Sessions 2021. Our membership was unchanged from the previous year and consisted of members Shelley Kotz and Becky Morehouse (co-clerks), Maryann Concannon, Lisa Klopfer, Linda Mills, and David Snyder; with faithful attendance and valuable participation from a Meeting representative, Flo Friender. One Friend had to drop out due to her husband's diagnosis of a critical illness. We missed her strong Spiritual guidance and have held her in Light and Love. During the second half of the year, another member began the process of moving to Maryland, which involved some time away from LEYM and limited his participation. Even so, he continued to be a grounding influence in our work.

Our first task of the new year was to find supplemental readings to accompany the Annual Query, which we sent to all clerks of Monthly Meetings and conveners of Worship Groups, along with the request to send us their responses by 1-15-22. We were pleased to receive 12 and, as always, we read and appreciated each one. (See summary in separate report.)

In the fall we accepted a report from the Spiritual Formation Planning group (which is "under the guidance of Ministry & Nurture of LEYM," as stated in our *Policies and Procedures*). Their fall retreat (via Zoom) with Marcelle Martin on the theme of "Going Deeper Together" led to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups forming their local Spiritual Formation groups for the year. A spring retreat for all followed in May. The Planning Group is considering themes and presenters for fall 2022.

Many Friends in LEYM have continued their involvement in Spirit Companion Groups (SCG) after the introduction of SCG in the fall Spiritual Formation Retreat of 2020. M&N has had ongoing correspondence with the leaders of SCGs to come to a mutual understanding of their relationship with LEYM. Our discernment continues.

Due to the enthusiastic response from Monthly Meeting clerks, we again offered 90-minute Clerks' Chats every other month, alternating between Saturday mornings and Friday evenings. We had guest shepherds/hosts (experienced LEYM clerks) and M&N members/techs to hold space and ground the experience. Clerk-initiated topics have included: how to handle the responsibilities of that position, how to deal with difficult people/situations, how to stay Spiritually grounded, how to navigate the balance of "online and in-person," and how to set agendas and clerk meetings for business. Clerks have asked us to continue these sessions in the coming year.

We have received 14 State of the Meeting reports, and our summary has been sent to LEYM clerks for inclusion in the *Annual Records* (see below). It is with gratefulness that we read these reports, and it is our hope that the process that Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups follow to determine the state of their meetings is a valuable and enriching experience.

A query for fall 2022 will be announced at Annual Sessions (see *Minute 2022-21*).

With thanks to the members and active participants of our committee, we submit this report,

Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) and Shelley Kotz (Broadmead)

Summary of LEYM State of the Meeting Reports, Spring 2022

With the COVID Pandemic still causing uncertainty and disruption, Meetings and Worship Groups in LEYM have been challenged in finding meaningful ways to gather for worship, business, and fellowship.

Most Meetings have offered “in-person” worship and meetings for worship for business this year, while carefully staying within CDC guidelines of mask wearing and keeping a distance while together. Most have also experimented with “hybrid solutions” using Zoom technology. This has allowed Friends and attenders to join from home and from far away and, in some cases, has drawn in newcomers who have found us online.

Some Friends feel that technology in the worship space is a distraction, and one Meeting is exploring having an alternative space to meet simultaneously with no technology. We long to be together but are mixed on whether hybrid meetings are here to stay. Committee meetings online have helped increase participation and saved on gas, thus helping the environment.

The depth and breadth of vocal ministry vary from Meeting to Meeting, with some reporting a richness and others reporting the desire for more spoken messages. For some, the quality of worship in the Zoom environment is not the same as when we were all together in person.

Friends find Spiritual enrichment in participating in small group discussions, Spiritual Formation Groups, and Spiritual Companion Groups.

Meetings have found creative ways to stay connected, such as planning outdoor activities, having intergenerational games in lieu of potlucks, hosting book and discussion groups online, Bible study, small groups meeting for a meal in homes, and a weekly walking group – rain or shine. Two Meetings joyfully celebrated a wedding/marriage under their care.

Many Meetings mentioned that we are an aging and predominantly white group. We long for a wider range of ages and a more diverse population. First Day School has been suspended in most Meetings, although some offered lessons and fellowship on Zoom. As COVID vaccines become available for younger children, some are making plans to revitalize their FDS in the coming fall.

Social justice work remains strong and takes a wide variety of forms. Many Meetings have made a commitment to become an anti-racist faith community. We are learning the history we were not taught in schools, reading books by authors of color, investing in Black-owned banks, hosting a rotating men’s shelter, contributing to food banks, and helping with refugee families.

Some Meetings are thinking about adding a testimony on justice to the existing SPICES.

One Meeting mentioned that they were being “stretched into unfamiliar choices.” Another wrote that they were “listening to one another with love and respect despite differences in experience and expression.” Another tells us that “Spiritual Nourishing enables them to act in the world.”

Our Meetings have had challenges, but many see the struggles as opportunities for evolving. We are in transition, and one Meeting said, “we may be moving toward being a community in a different way.”

Publications & Archives Committee Report, July 2022

Production of Annual Records and Bulletins:

The *LEYM Annual Records* and three issues of the *LEYM Bulletin* were published as usual this year. In 2020-21, we reduced the number of paper copies of the *Bulletin* by about 30% because many people were not meeting in person during the COVID-19 pandemic and so did not have ways to pick up copies at their places of worship. Issues are always available in PDF format at the LEYM website. This year, most meetinghouses were open again, so we resumed sending batches of publications for in-person distribution. The *Annual Records*, which we offered for the first time in PDF format in late 2020, was distributed again in that format to anyone who requested it, allowing us to reduce the number of paper copies by about 15%, compared to two years ago. Printing and mailing costs rose, resulting in a slight over-expenditure of our budget, even with reduced numbers printed and mailed.

Change in Responsibilities:

At the LEYM Sessions in July 2021, the Meeting agreed to give our committee responsibility for editing for consistency of language and format the minutes from Representative Meeting and Annual Sessions for the *Annual Records* and the website, and minutes from Executive Committee meetings for the website. During Representative Meeting in April 2022, a recommendation from the LEYM Executive Committee was accepted that our committee should take on responsibility for regular review of the *LEYM Policies and Procedures* publication for inconsistencies and necessary changes based on practice. Our committee has incorporated this additional work during the past year.

Going Forward:

We always welcome contributions that describe activities of Monthly Meetings or Worship Groups or the spiritually-based writings of individual Friends. The deadline for the Fall *Bulletin* is September 15. Jeff Cooper and Peggy Daub (both Ann Arbor) will continue as co-editors of the *Bulletin*. Elise Yoder (Pittsburgh) has agreed to compile the *LEYM Annual Records* again this year, with support from our committee.

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Clerk

Youth & Children Committee Report

During the LEYM Sessions of 2022, all youth are invited to participate in the Minecraft activities from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. from Wednesday night through Saturday night. This event will be hosted by Ellerie Brownfain, Jonah Brownfain, Gabe Mott, and Jenn Seif.

Young adults and teens who attend the Minecraft are invited afterwards to hang out and chat. An adult will be present during all Minecraft sessions.

An effort was made numerous times to spread the word by contacting clerks, parents of youth, and youth, inviting them to attend Yearly Meeting for Minecraft, our Saturday night sessions, and anything else that might be of interest.

We are planning to hold our annual Fall Retreat the third weekend in September unless COVID 19 numbers are a concern.

One of our members is researching how other Yearly Meetings handle low numbers of youth, wide gaps in age, and, at times, lack of interest in this committee. Hopefully, ideas will be brought forward that the Yearly Meeting can discuss in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham)

Christa White (Athens)

Database Manager Report

Resolved issues from 2021: Categories in Salesforce for identifying levels of activity in a Monthly Meeting are Member, Attender, Child Member, Inactive, and Archive. Archive was added to Salesforce this past year to hold information about those who are no longer involved in the Monthly Meeting. All children 18 years and younger are being identified as Child Members.

No “race” designations are being made in Salesforce.

Updates for each Monthly Meeting and for statistics will be sent to each individual Meeting clerk from the database manager. Success in updating LEYM records relies upon information returned to the database manager.

The two main goals of this database manager for the coming fiscal year are:

- 1.) Communicate and interact with each Monthly Meeting. To update information and return this information back to them in a form that will assist each Meeting’s record keeping.
- 2.) Focus on identifying each person in each Meeting as to their status (Member, Child Member, Attender, Inactive, or Archive). Identify each person’s phone # as being Mobile or Home. The phone numbers that were brought from the old Access database do not identify cell phone numbers.

Thoughtfully submitted,

Lynda Rose (Athens),

LEYM Database Manager