



Clerk's Message from Susan Loucks

The Kingdom of God Is ... in Ashland?

Quakers have long held a radical idea when it comes to the idea of the Kingdom of God – the world where love, peace, justice, and community are fully realized. In Quaker theology, we don't get that place as some heavenly reward, putting up with things largely to earn eternal bliss down the road. Instead, we are supposed to see and manifest that world right here, right now, in our own communities and lives. This comes with both great responsibility and great hope. We need to see through the brokenness for what's underneath – and we can have faith that God actually, honestly, is there. (For more on this idea, check out the [Kingdom of God \(as Quakers see it\)](#) video on QuakerSpeak).

In mid-March a number of us gathered for our first-ever hybrid Representative Meeting, hosted warmly and capably by Friends of Broadmead Meeting. I can't speak for everyone, but the delight in gathering felt to me like a little taste of that Kingdom, in all aspects. We recognize that we have organizational imperfections and challenges and there is important work to be done. That doesn't stop us at all from meeting each other with love, creativity, and a really fabulous dessert table!



The meeting gave us the opportunity to generate ideas and self-organize into discussions on topics we cared about, ranging from "Ideas for Multi-age First Day School and Community Building for a Multi-Generational Meeting" and "How to Deepen Worship in this Hybrid World" to discussing the "Friends Urgent Call to Action" initiative around threats to U.S. democracy (see p. 14). I can speak from recent experience: if you've got a question or a passion about life as a Quaker, there are other people in our Yearly Meeting who would love to talk with you.

The Yearly Meeting gives us opportunities to build the Kingdom of God

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over and over. We start from a place of recognizing that we are the ones who can make our ideas reality. A single person saw an opportunity to spread the word about digital dangers and their relevance to Friends organizations, brought his gifts, and now we have [recorded programs](#) available to all. A group of dedicated Friends have lovingly dedicated time and energy to find a new way for us to meet in person, and voilà! – we have exciting programming and welcoming space to be together in Ashland, Ohio, this summer.

Wherever you see opportunities within Friends to bring the Kingdom of God more into our lives, you can look to the Yearly Meeting organization to create online spaces, publicize, and help with discernment. You can also look to the people in LEYM, whether or not they're engaged with the organization, and make connections with others interested in joining you – building towards something that can be as beautiful as starlings, shifting as one body in the sky.

Our understanding of mutual gifts and leadings is built on knowing each other, and that's why many of us are eagerly anticipating our opportunity to gather for Annual Meeting in June. During Representative Meeting, people spoke about how foundational Annual Meeting had been for their children (and grandchildren), how it had felt like "a family reunion with the relatives you wish you had." If you've never been to an Annual Meeting before, know you're welcome! I hope you'll consider joining and being part of what emerges. If you're already planning on coming, can't wait to see you! We hope you'll be intentional about including others in the invitation or even working with your Meetings to reduce any obstacles that might be in the way for others (such as travel or pet care, for those coming in person).

In Ashland this summer, at any place or time across our Yearly Meeting, thank you for being part of our movement towards a better world that we can experience now, together.



PDF copies of
The LEYM Bulletin
are available at
leym.org/leym-bulletins/

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LEYM 2023 Annual Meeting

“Navigating Anew”

June 15–18 at Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio

As we come together in person this year, for the first time since 2019, we are focused on creating a renewing experience. So much has changed since our last in-person Gathering that 2023 feels, in some ways, like a new beginning. We must gather, re-connect with one another, meet new Friends, and re-focus on the essence of LEYM as the Meeting steps into its new reality. Therefore, the theme for the 2023 LEYM Annual Gathering is *Navigating Anew*. We warmly invite all members, attenders, and acquaintances of LEYM to join the fun and worship on the weekend of June 15–18, 2023, on the campus of Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio.

There are several exciting changes, updates, and additions to the program this year:

- ◆ LEYM returns to in-person fellowship and will begin a new era at Ashland University!
- ◆ Plenary Speaker Emily Provance (see next page) will share her thoughts on “Navigating Anew.”
- ◆ Bible Study and Worship Sharing will be offered at *different* times, allowing you to participate in both!
- ◆ More time is reserved for relaxing, crafting, catching up with Friends, or meeting with interest groups.
- ◆ An additional workshop session allows for participation in more workshops!
- ◆ Evening “Collection” (10-minute worship) has been added to end our day together as a community.
- ◆ There will be opportunities to visit the Ashland Center for Nonviolence (ACN) and meet its administrators!
- ◆ Innovative workshops will help participants to promote spiritual growth, build fellowship, and raise awareness of global issues. (See the whole list on pages 6–8.)
- ◆ Participants will learn from members of LEYM as well as Friends from other Yearly Meetings and organizations!
- ◆ Orientation will be offered for newcomers.
- ◆ Children and teens are encouraged to join our youth and children’s program!
- ◆ While we very much hope that most people will be able to attend this in-person experience, the plenary session on Friday night and all sessions of the meeting for worship with attention to business will be available in hybrid form online for those who are not able to travel and join us in person.

Please help to create a strong return to in-person sessions by joining your Yearly Meeting in Ashland in June.

LEYM 2023 Annual Meeting

Introducing our Plenary Speaker, Emily Provance

Plenary Talk on Friday Evening, June 16

Growing up in Mormonism usually creates a comfortably supportive cocoon, though not so supportive to a young person seeking answers to questions that don't conform to that religion's structure, practices, and beliefs. Two years before her scheduled Mormon baptism at 8, Emily Provance asked why God talks to ONE guy who then conveys those words to others. That seemed to be an inefficient strategy when it made much more sense for an all-knowing God to speak directly to each person, individually.

Emily's parents, understanding that she was seeking answers they couldn't provide within their context, said, "You can believe, BUT don't make trouble." Emily needed the supportive protections that Brigham Young University provided a 17-year-old seeking another faith tradition but not yet experienced in that kind of quest outside Mormonism.

During Emily's 17-year quest, several Protestant religions didn't seem to fit her, while Quakers seemed to meld with Amish or Mennonites. Ultimately, when, on her second Sunday of Quaker meeting for worship, she heard, "There's God in all of us," Emily knew she had found a home.

Emily's first post-college job, as a high-pressured professional union stage manager for outdoor theater in southern Utah, taught her to work with a diverse team of souls including people and live animals. There she learned to work with "the people you have, not the people you wish you had."



Emily Provance

Team-building skills served Emily well, as she moved into her next calling – "what students need." Because she had not followed the traditional paths into education, she was considered "unqualified." Repeatedly, she creatively proved herself. To make a living in New York, Emily juggled many jobs, such as GED teacher, museum tutor, and tutor in phonics through the arts, in different schools, through multiple programs, under different mentors.

Finally, Emily felt a strong calling to travel in the ministry, and stepped away from educational paying jobs to work fulltime in ministry. She gave up her apartment, studied for a year, read, and talked to people to prepare to discern her way. Her clearness committee and Fifteenth Street Meeting gave her a travel minute to Britain, but her visa to Britain was denied.

Five years ago, Emily found her spiritual gift as an outsider who could guide institutions (Monthly and Yearly Meetings) through systemic institutional impediments to greater understanding of their potential. Friends don't have to work in silos (committees and Yearly Meetings). Instead, they can work cooperatively to initiate projects.

Emily brings to LEYM a wealth of practice in creative collaboration and celebration. Many of us have already experienced Emily's infectious joy-making as our paths have converged with hers. In preparation for her plenary, we highly recommend rereading her "Thoughts on Navigating Anew," in the Winter *Bulletin*.

LEYM 2023 Annual Meeting

Preliminary Schedule

Thursday, June 15	Friday, June 16	Saturday, June 17	Sunday, June 18
MORNING			
TRAVEL TO ASHLAND	Early Worship BREAKFAST Worship Sharing Bible Study Epistle Sharing Ashland Center for Non-violence Open House MFW w Attention to Business	Early Worship BREAKFAST Worship Sharing Bible Study Workshops Session 2	Early Worship BREAKFAST MFW w Attention to Business Epistle Sharing Meeting for Worship & Closing
Lunch	Newcomer Welcome Table	Topic or Group Tables	
AFTERNOON			
Executive Committee Meeting Onsite Check-in	MFW w Attention to Business Workshops Session 1	MFW w Attention to Business Workshop Sessions 3	Executive Committee Follow-up Meeting
Dinner			
EVENING			
Newcomer Orientation Opening Welcome Sessions	Plenary Session with Emily Provance Evening Collection Night Owl Movie Watching	Fun Social Activities Evening Collection Night Owl Movie Watching	

Calling All LEYM Youth and Children

We are so excited to be meeting in person and not staring at our Zoom screens during this summer's Annual Meeting. We have a wonderful program for children and youth up to age 18 and we encourage all to attend. There will be activities such as crafts, walks, indoor and outdoor games, worship among ourselves, and a whole slew of others, too numerous to name. Attending Annual Meeting is a great way to make new friends, many of whom may become lifelong Friends, while deepening your spirit of Quakerism and having fun.

LEYM 2023 Annual Meeting

“Navigating Anew”

Workshops

The nine workshops will be divided among three time slots – on late Friday afternoon, late Saturday morning, and late Saturday afternoon. Times for specific workshops will be announced later.

Building a Culture of Multi-Age Inclusion

Emily Provance, Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting

“Why aren't there more young people here?” It's a common question among Friends, and there are real answers. In this workshop, we'll talk about how the culture of Meetings often makes it harder for young people to participate fully and feel included. This won't be a conversation about building better children's programs or crafting activities for young adults. It will be about looking at the ways in which the Meeting, as a whole, goes about things.

What's truly amazing is that many of the changes we might make for young people actually make Quaker Meetings more accessible for nearly everyone. We'll have time for a survey of topics. Then, the group will decide which topics to explore in-depth with interactive activities. If you're interested in a preview of the content, you can read about it here: <https://quakeremily.wordpress.com/age-inclusion/>.

Finding ways to Support Peace in the Middle East

Hassan El-Tayyab, Friends Committee for National Legislation, Legislative Director for Middle East Policy

What do Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Marjorie Taylor Greene, the Koch Brothers, and the Raging Grannies all have in common? They all support the Yemen War Powers Resolution! Join us to reflect on how you can be a part of building diverse coalitions and finding new ways to navigate toward Middle East peace.

In this session, you will learn and co-create new ways to support peace in the Middle East with

Hassan El-Tayyab, FCNL legislative director for Middle East policy. Accounting for the larger regional context, Hassan will cover updates on FCNL's peace advocacy in Yemen and Israel/Palestine, highlighting connections between conflicts in the area and opportunities for advocates to make a difference. The session will include time for Q&A, small and large group discussion, and collective action.

Keeping Quakerism Alive: Distilling the Essence of Quakerism to Share with Newcomers

Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar Monthly Meeting; Barbara LeSage, North Columbus Monthly Meeting; Cassie Cammann, Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting

When people are drawn to Quakerism and wonder who we are and what it would mean to join with us, we often sidestep the question, speaking only of our personal experience or sending them to historical authorities. During this workshop, we'll explore a way to navigate this challenge anew: by getting clearer about sharing Quaker essentials ourselves, as individuals and as Meetings, and by having an experiential practice into which we can invite newcomers to discover their own answers. Spiritual Companion Groups support and witness each other's practice of these concrete Quaker essentials: 1) Listening with deep regard and intention to Inner Guidance, and 2) Supporting each other in living a life that aligns outward behavior with that Inner Guidance. We will discuss and experiment with both how this shared practice can strengthen Meetings by giving us a common touchstone of what it means to be Quaker, and also how it prepares us differently to offer it to others.

LEYM 2023 Annual Meeting

“Navigating Anew”

Workshops (*continued*)

Lending and Borrowing: Personal Ethics and Social Policy

John Howell, Athens Monthly Meeting

We all lend and borrow. Borrowing and lending require trust and they can build trust. They are part of the glue that holds societies together. Most lending is not done for profit. Lending for profit, usury, was long forbidden in the three major religions of Abrahamic origin. Why was that?

Do those reasons have any relevance for today, either for our personal decisions or for social policy? Why was the prohibition against usury abandoned? Today we are navigating a world of credit and debt. Lending for profit is taken for granted. What are the consequences of that in our personal lives and in society at large?

A presentation will look at some history of usury. It will look at our current global money system and see how lending for profit is built into it. It will consider consequences and peek into some alternatives, centralized and decentralized, to imagine how we might navigate anew. In open discussion, we will share our understandings of the money system and our own senses of moral guidelines in lending and borrowing. How might these influence our economic lives together as Friends?

Navigating Nonviolence: Faith and Practice

A collaboration between LEYM Friends and the Ashland Center for Nonviolence (ACN), housed on the Ashland University campus. Moderator: Dottie Stratton, Wooster Friends Meeting. Panelists: Bill Wartens, Birmingham Friends Meeting; Pam Melick, Detroit Friends Meeting; Craig Hovey, Executive Director Ashland Center for Nonviolence; Karen Liddy, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Ashland; Kevan Franklin, senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Wooster

This workshop extends the theme of “Navigating Anew” to the inclination to approach life’s conflicts with a commitment to nonviolent solutions. The round-table discussion will explore the ways that faith provides a foundation, guidance, and support for personal action. By including participants from various denominations, the discussion can become a conversation that explores the vibrant differences, as well as the commonalities, that are shared. Panelists will share their experiences of faith and practice, including areas of life and work in which they have endeavored to use or teach nonviolence.

Participants will join the discussion of questions of nonviolence in faith and practice, such as non-violent responses and actions; the relationship between faith and nonviolence; incongruities between beliefs and actions; and personal experiences of being called to nonviolent action.

The Poetry of Helen Morgan Brooks through the Eyes of Silent Worship

Paul Helbling, Broadmead Monthly Meeting

This workshop is “Navigating Anew” by the fact that this format has not been tried before in meeting for silent worship with a large group. Five poems have been chosen, which will be read aloud by pre-selected readers during the course of the worship. The first reader will read a poem out of the silent worship. Participants may speak from the silence on what the poem spoke to them. When the readers of each subsequent poem feel that the prior ministry is concluded, they will read the next poem, and the process of silent worship will begin again. There will be a short period of discussion and feedback at the end of the worship session.

LEYM 2023 Annual Meeting

“Navigating Anew”

Workshops (*continued*)

The Power of Enough

Jacqueline Stillwell,
Right Sharing of World Resources

What is essential? How much is enough? How is my use of time, energy, and “things” in right balance to free me to do God’s work, and to contribute to right order in our world? Through personal reflection, discussion, and worship sharing, we will explore queries to discover our power of enough. Right Sharing of World Resources facilitates educational opportunities to learn about right relationship and right sharing, and provides grants to groups of women in Africa, India, and Central America to launch micro-enterprise businesses that empower them to provide basic needs for their families.

ReGrounding Spiritual Community – Becoming a More Deeply “Faithful Meeting”

Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar Monthly Meeting;
Carolyn LeJuste, Red Cedar Monthly Meeting; and Mary Linda McKinney,
School of the Spirit

Re-establishing our routines and structures post-pandemic offers an opportunity to “navigate anew” by reflecting and choosing who and how we want to be together, rather than just returning to “business as usual.” In 2022, Red Cedar Meeting opted to take advantage of a new School of the Spirit program offering, “Faithful Meetings,” to commit as a community to a year of spiritual deepening during 2023. The discernment process involved in deciding to participate was itself an exercise in hearing each other’s hopes, fears, and assumptions. Working out the logistics has sometimes surprised us with the opportunity to listen differently to each other when we bump into difference. Setting aside large- and small-group time over nine months for shared learning and listening leads us further into “knowing and

being known in that which is eternal.” We will invite Red Cedar participants to share their ups and downs with the process, and Mary Linda McKinney, the School of the Spirit facilitator for the program, to describe the opportunities available to other meetings and answer questions.

The Arts and Spirituality: Spiritual Journey Visualized Through Collage

April VanLonden,
Valley Mills Monthly Meeting,
Western Yearly Meeting

As Friends, we share a history of eschewing the symbolic and entering into a holy space of silence where we, as a community, encounter and engage with the Divine. At the same time, our Society is filled with those who are gifted in creating what we know as Art, art in a variety of ways. For those of us not so gifted, we can and do create the artistic in our daily endeavors and utilize the art of those gifted, as we mature in our own individual and collective spiritual pathways.

In this workshop, participants will create their own collage, based upon spiritual prompts or queries, and each will be given ways to interpret their collages. Collages and insights will be shared by those willing to do so. This is a relatively simple practice that can be easily replicated by the participants in their home meetings and gatherings of spiritual communities.

Thanks to the LEYM Program Committee for the materials on pages 3–8:

Clémence Mershon (Erie Worship Group), clerk
Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham)
Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor)
Barbara LeSage (North Columbus)
Greg Mott (Broadmead)
Bill Warters (Birmingham)
Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead)

LEYM 2023 Annual Meeting

Registering for Annual Meeting

The new location of our Annual Meeting brings new opportunities and quite a few changes. Ashland University is eager to give us a good experience on their campus, but it may take us a bit of time to adjust to a new way of doing things. Those of you who have registered for Annual Meetings in the past will find familiar elements in this year's registration but also a few changes. The biggest change is that we need a separate registration form for **each room** that is being requested.

The Annual Meeting in-person registration form and instructions for the form appear on the next three pages. **This material is also available online at the Annual Meeting webpage at LEYM.org/annual.** (To pay for registration, go to <https://friendsfiduciary.org/lake-erie-yearly-meeting/>, click on GIVE NOW, and select "Event Registration – Annual Meeting," when asked for your Fund Choice.) You may have questions as you fill out the form. Please feel free to contact Sally Weaver Sommer, our registrar, at sallyweaversommer@gmail.com or 419-953-9455, with any questions you have. You can even give your information to her over the phone, and she will fill out the form for you, as you talk. Please don't let any difficulties with the form inhibit you from registering.

Please note the various **discounts** that are available:

- LEYM subsidizes the cost for **children and youth** (ages 18 and under). There is no charge for registration and lodging for children, and meals are discounted by 2/3.
- **Young Adult Friends** (ages 19–35) have their registration fee waived (though lodging and meal costs still apply).
- **First-time attenders** receive a 1/3 discount on all costs.

Friends needing assistance beyond what their monthly meeting can provide should contact the registrar at sallyweaversommer@gmail.com.

Online access to events will be limited. People wishing to attend remotely our Friday evening Plenary and various business sessions should register for Zoom access information at the Annual Meeting webpage at LEYM.org/annual.



LEYM 2023 Annual Meeting

Registration Instructions

- 1. Registration deadline and fee:** Registration forms should be sent to the registrar, **Sally Weaver Sommer, 118 S. Spring St., Bluffton, OH 45817, by May 10.** If submitting via email, use sally.weaver.sommer@gmail.com. Adults age 36 and up pay a registration fee of \$65, if the registration form is postmarked by Monday, May 10, or \$75, if postmarked thereafter. People who register after May 10 are not guaranteed a room on campus. Part-time participants must pay the full registration fee.
- 2. Registration form:** Please complete a registration form for each room requested or, if staying off campus, one form per household. Please see sections below for costs to first-time attenders, young adult friends, youth and children, and youth program workers. It is important that every person attending be listed on the registration form so that housing assignments can be made, meals are available, and program needs can be met.
- 3. On-campus lodging:** Housing fees at Ashland University are per room rather than per individual. Please fill out a separate registration form for each room you are registering for. Overnight attenders may stay in Amstutz Hall, a non-air conditioned building adjacent to the Convocation Center, where meetings and meals take place, or in Clayton Hall, an air-conditioned building a five-minute walk from the Convocation Center. Room charges in Amstutz Hall are \$40 per night for a double room and \$45 per night for a triple room. Room charges in Clayton Hall are \$55 per night for a double room. In Amstutz, double rooms have two non-bunked twin beds and triple rooms have three. The beds are higher off the ground than standard beds. (See photo.) We suggest you bring a step stool, if the height is a problem for you, and a fan, since there is no air conditioning in Amstutz Hall. In Clayton, double rooms have two bunked beds. Spare mattresses are not available, but sleeping on the floor is permitted. Whichever hall you choose, we suggest you bring a reading lamp since there is only an overhead light in all the rooms. Put a check mark in the box below each night the room will be used. In the Lodging Choice column, specify Non-AC Double (Amstutz), Non-AC Triple (Amstutz), or AC Double (Clayton). **If you wish to share a room with someone not in your household, each of you should register on a separate form and write your roommate's name in the line under your name. Only one of you should fill in the lodging choice, both should check linens if desired, and split the room cost as you choose. If you would like to share a room and would like us to assign a roommate, please write "roommate needed" on the line under your name and pay the appropriate percentage of the room fee.**
- 4. Linens, blankets, and pillow:** Put a check mark in the Linens column, if linens are desired. The \$25/stay cost covers top and bottom sheets, two small bath towels, and one washcloth. Alternatively, sheets and towels may be brought from home. Children and adults going to the pool will need to bring towels for swimming. The beds in the dorms are x-long twin size. **Blankets and pillows are not provided.**
- 5. Off-campus lodging:** Tent camping and cabins are available at Hickory Lakes Campground, 23 Twp. Rd. 1300, West Salem, Ohio 44287; Tel. 419-869-7587. The campground is about 30 minutes from Ashland University. Rates are \$43 per night for tent space for up to four people and \$75 per night for a cabin sleeping five. Hotels near Ashland University can be found at <https://www.booking.com/city/us/ashland-ohio.html>. For either camping or hotel, check the off-campus column on the registration form.

LEYM 2023 Annual Meeting

Registration Instructions *(continued)*

6. **On-campus lodging subtotal:** For lodging cost: multiply the number of nights staying by the cost per night of the chosen lodging. Add the linen cost if linens are desired. Enter the total in the Lodging Subtotal column.
7. **Meals:** Put a check mark in the box for each meal desired for attenders ages 3 and up. Cost per meal for attenders ages 13 and up are: breakfast \$9.25, lunch \$12.15, supper \$14.75. Cost per meal for those ages 3–12 are: breakfast \$7.40, lunch \$9.72, supper \$11.80. Add together the pre-discount cost of all meals and enter in the Meals Subtotal column. See below for discounts for youth and children.
8. **Adult Young Friends:** Put a check in the Adult Young Friend column, if ages 19–35 and wishing to be alerted about Adult Young Friends activities. The registration fee is waived for all Adult Young Friends.
9. **First Time Attenders:** First time attenders over age 18 are entitled to a discount of 1/3 off total costs. After calculating the “Total” for each adult, calculate 1/3 of Totals for all adults who are attending for the first time and enter the value in the discount column.
10. **Children and Youth:** Registrations for youth and children must be postmarked by Monday, May 10. There is no charge for registration and lodging for children ages 0–18, and meals are discounted by ¾. The total discount for each child should be entered in the discount column. A line on the registration form must be filled out for each child to assure a place in the Youth & Children’s Program, lodging, and meals. Children do not need to be toilet trained to participate in the program. A parent or guardian must complete the LEYM Parent or Guardian Consent & Permission Form for all children and youth ages 0–18. This form will be sent to parents or guardians of all children once the registration is received.
11. **Youth program workers:** The clerk of the Youth & Children’s Program will send a list of the program’s full-time workers. These Friends need to fill out a registration form. They will receive a discount for the full amount of their costs. This amount should be included in the discount field in the bottom box of the registration form.
12. **Contact Information:** Please fill out your address, phone number, monthly meeting, and email address. If an email address is specified, the registrar will notify you when your registration has been received. Please print clearly.
13. **Payment:** Please make checks payable to LEYM and mail along with your completed registration form to the registrar: Sally Weaver Sommer, 118 S. Spring St., Bluffton, OH 45817. Friends who prefer to pay online may do so by clicking on the “GIVE NOW” button at <https://friendsfiduciary.org/lake-erie-yearly-meeting/> and selecting “Event Registration–Annual Meeting” under Fund Choice.
14. **Financial Assistance:** We do not want anyone to stay away because of cost. Those desiring financial assistance should first contact their Monthly Meetings. If needs cannot be met by the Monthly Meeting, contact the registrar.
15. **Emergency Contact:** If someone needs to reach you while you are attending LEYM, they should call Ashland University’s security center at 419-207-5555.
16. **Don’t fret about the form: Call Sally!** Please contact Sally Weaver Sommer, registrar, at sally.weaver.sommer@gmail.com or 419-953-9455 if you have questions, no matter how small or large.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting 2023 Annual Meeting Registration Form (Please read registration instructions before completing form.)

Registration for Friends staying in one room: Friends ages 13 and up										Meals										Total Meal & Lodging cost		Registration		Discounts		Add Subtotals																			
Lodging										Meals										Total Meal & Lodging cost		Registration		Discounts		Add Subtotals																			
Fill in below if sleeping on campus										B=\$9.25; L=\$12.15; S=\$14.75										Add the lodging subtotal to the meals subtotal		On time (Postmarked by 5/10/2023) \$65 Late \$75		Youth ages 3-18 (2/3 of meals plus full lodging) First time attendee (1/3 of total cost)		Youth ages 3-18 (2/3 of meals plus full lodging) First time attendee (1/3 of total cost)																			
Nights (check) Th Fr Sa										Where? Non A/C Double Triple A/C D Double Triple										Fri Sat Sun										Lodging Subtotal		Meals Subtotal		Lodging plus meals											
Last Name, First Name										Nights (check) Th Fr Sa										Where? Non A/C Double Triple A/C D Double Triple										Fri Sat Sun										Lodging Subtotal		Meals Subtotal		Lodging plus meals	
Friends ages 0 through 12																																													
Last Name, First Name (Check a box for a room only if these children will be in a room by themselves.)																																													
Age																																													
Address:																																													
Monthly Meeting:																																													
Phone:																																													
E-mail:																																													
First-Time Attendee?										YES / NO																																			
Concerns:																																													
How many for vegetarian diet?																																													
Trouble with stairs?																																													
Trouble with walking?																																													
Use wheelchair?																																													
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Less Assistance																																													
Additional Donation																																													
Grand Total																																													
Paid in advance																																													
Due at check in																																													
Payable to: LEYM																																													

Mail completed Registration Form & check to: Sally Weaver Sommer, 118 S. Spring St. Bluffton, OH 45817. Make check payable to: LEYM. To send via email, use sallyweaversommer@gmail.com For online payment see registration instructions.

Registration Form

The paper registration form is at the left. Please be sure to **read the instructions** on the preceding three pages before filling it out. You may wish to make a paper copy.

Registration material will be available on the LEYM website after April 1. See LEYM.org/annual.

The Registration Deadline is Wednesday, May 10!

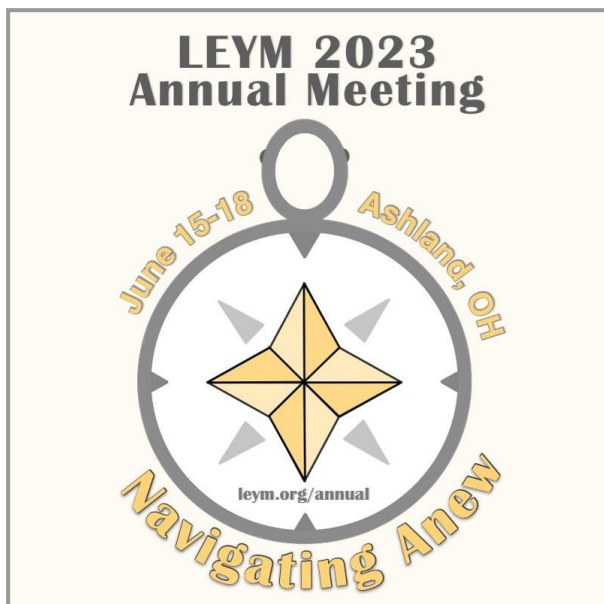
Friends who register after that date are not guaranteed a room in the dorm. **All youth and children must be registered by May 10**, regardless of where they are staying. Registration forms sent by snail mail must be postmarked by May 10.

Questions?

For questions large or small, don't hesitate to contact Sally Weaver Sommer, registrar, at sally.weaver.sommer@gmail.com or 419-953-9455.

Registration materials were provided by the Arrangements & Site Committee:

Jon Sommer, clerk, Sally Weaver Sommer, and Mary Igoe Meyers (all Broadmead), Mike Hinshaw (Wooster), and Bill Warters (Birmingham).



Ashland Center for Nonviolence

On Friday morning, remember the Open House at the Ashland Center for Nonviolence (nearby, on campus), whose founder and first Executive Director, the late John Stratton (Wooster Meeting), was active in LEYM. Watch for details.



Ashland University campus. Note the hammocks in the middle of the photo.

Attention, Young Adult Friends!

All who are ages 19–35 and interested in attending Annual Meeting and helping to create a Young Adult Friends group, please contact Ellerrie Brownfain at ellerieb@gmail.com.

Annual Meeting Business Sessions Agenda Deadline

Business session agendas and committee reports will be shared with attendees prior to Annual Meeting. Committee clerks are encouraged to send all potential action items and committee reports to the clerks by Saturday, May 27, in order to develop the schedule for each session. This deadline is needed to appropriately season and prepare for individual agenda items and the overall flow of our business. Please let the clerk know, if your committee processes require additional time to prepare. Agenda items submitted for consideration without prior notice will likely not be included in the business agenda.



Convocation Center, Heritage Room, site for meetings for worship and business sessions

Highlights of Representative Meeting

March 11, 2023, blended format, in person in Toledo and via Zoom

At Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's first experience of a blended Representative Meeting, on Saturday, March 11, there was much joy expressed in being together in person and online. About 25 Friends were in Toledo (hosted by Broadmead Meeting) and another 15 joined online. Using a morning theme of "Building Connection," Friends named topics and then all present chose which topical discussion group they wished to join. Among the topics were "Deepening Worship Online," "Threats to Democracy and a Friend's Call to Action," "Involving More Friends in Yearly Meeting," "Encouraging Ministry in Worship," and "Eliminating the Death Penalty in Ohio." After two sessions of discussion, insights were shared with the larger group.

The afternoon was devoted to business of the Yearly Meeting, with opportunity to hear updates on various committee activities, learn more about our financial situation, and see what is in store for us at Annual Meeting in Ashland, Ohio, June 15–18.

Thomas Taylor read an epistle from the Europe and Middle East Section of FWCC's Annual Meeting of May 2022, in which, in the face of the Ukraine War, they recognized that cultivating joyful relationships helps them do their work and, in a fractured, suffering world, they continue to respond to the promptings of love and truth. On

Sunday morning, they worshipped online with Friends in Kyiv.*

The Planning Committee for LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program announced that Marty Grundy (formerly a member of our Yearly Meeting) will be the facilitator for a fall retreat that once again will be at the Weber Center, Adrian, Michigan, September 8–10, 2023.

The Finance Committee anticipates some speculation will be necessary when we adopt a budget for 2023–24, because we will be doing that in mid-June, slightly before year-end figures become available for 2022–23. In particular, we may not know how attendance and costs of Annual Meeting will impact the freestanding Annual Meeting budget and what subsidies might be needed to continue to encourage Friends to attend. Our assessment per member is now lower than several years ago, and some Friends present urged the Committee to raise it as necessary to support attendance at Annual Meeting, especially for children and Young Adult Friends, where this money represents "paying it forward" to encourage future Friends.

* This and other Epistles from Yearly Meetings and Friends organizations can be read at https://fwcc.world/resources_cpt/epistles/ ([Epistles – FWCC](#)). ~ Eds.

What Is "The Quaker Call to Action"?

At Representative Meeting this year, Kathleen and Paul Helbling of Broadmead Meeting brought to Friends' attention the "Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends" that was distributed in May 2022, before the U.S. elections, by a group of concerned Friends. Originally signed by 19 Friends from across the country, many of whom have served in leadership positions for Friends organizations, the document voiced concerns

about forces at work in the U.S. and abroad that are undermining democracy. It also called for Quakers to endorse their statement and to act. In the months before the 2022 elections, hundreds of Friends participated in national Zoom calls, which are available at <https://quakercall.net>. Paul wrote: "These recordings lay out many different opinions and concerns that set the stage for the

Continued on next page

What is “The Quaker Call to Action”? *continued*

work of ‘The Quaker Call National Steering Committee’ and are interesting listening. Just recently, a national Zoom meeting was held to clarify the next steps for The Urgent Call.” There are two queries at the end of “The Call” that Paul asks us to consider:

1. What, if anything, is the Light Within calling Friends to do in response to the unprecedented rise of domestic extremism, white supremacy, and authoritarianism that is threatening the destruction of our democracy at home and abroad?

2. How can I/we respond with resolute love even while I/we may be struggling with fear, anger, apathy, or hate?

The group suggests consideration of many possible actions under the headings “Defending Truth,” “Working for True Equality and Justice for All,” “Promoting Free and Fair Elections,” and “Preparing for Non-Violent Resistance.”

To learn more, see <https://quakercall.net>.

Nominating Committee: A Message and a Greeting

The Nominating Committee has some good news to share and some even better news.

The good news is, our Yearly Meeting has come through the challenges of the pandemic of 2020–2022, and we are still a strong, vibrant Quaker community. We need to celebrate ourselves! We hope you’ll join us in sharing our appreciation for the many Friends who’ve served as officers, staff members, committee members, representatives to Quaker organizations, and volunteers during a difficult time, a time that disrupted our traditional modes of working together and forced us to learn new ways of being in community as a yearly meeting. Without their steady service, we couldn’t have done it.

Now the better news: we’re free at last to be an in-person community again during our Annual Meeting in Ashland this summer. With the theme of “Navigating Anew,” we’ll remind ourselves that revelation is ongoing, and the beloved community we sustained during the pandemic lives on into a new era.

For the Nominating Committee, this will be a special joy, as we can once again talk to Friends about opportunities to serve. You can expect us to buttonhole you at the breakfast table, in the halls, on the sidewalks of the campus, and in quiet

corners – wherever two Friends can come together. We’re especially eager to get to know *you*, Friend, who are new to us, and learn about your unique gifts and leadings.

We look forward to those conversations. LEYM offers so many opportunities to serve, there’s a place for everyone who feels led to contribute. You can learn more about LEYM’s organizational structure — our officers, committees, and so on — in our *Policies and Procedures* document, available online at <https://leym.org/policyprocedures-manual/>. In the meantime, if you have such a leading, we hope you’ll reach out to one of us on the Nominating Committee. We don’t need to wait until June to learn about you and where you feel led to serve.

With our thanks and appreciation,

Mike Holaday, clerk (mikeholaday@att.net)
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting

Rick Adams (radamswilliam@gmail.com)
North Columbus Monthly Meeting

Stephanie Charlot (mynaturalfamily@gmail.com)
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting

Wink Covintree (wcovintree@mac.com)
Birmingham Monthly Meeting

From the Ministry & Nurture Committee

State of the Meeting Reports: Be Creative!

Holding a meeting to discuss the state of a Monthly Meeting is a traditional and valuable activity for Meetings. There is an old Quaker greeting that is something like, “How is it with thy spirit, Friend?” This is the question one might ask in a State of the Meeting discussion: “How is it with the spirit of your Meeting, Friends?”

It’s an occasion for members to gather and consider if the Meeting is a boon to their individual and communal lives. It’s an opportunity to consider the structures and activities of your Meeting, and to ask if these are meeting the needs of your members.

In the past, the Ministry & Nurture Committee has provided questions that Meetings might use to structure the discussion, but answering the questions might limit the range of discussion. The things mentioned in the questions, such as vocal ministry, quality of the silence, work of committees, and support of members, may be instructive, but may, also, limit the range of responses.

We invite you to be as creative and free-thinking as you can when considering the state of your

Meeting. Maybe it needs to be approached as a collage, with colors or images expressing what you sense is your spirit. Maybe it could be structured around a metaphor, such as a glowing fire, composed of many sticks, big and small, with differing qualities of wood. And maybe it follows a traditional worship, with people speaking out of silence.

Primarily, we ask for your participation and response. The summary and the individual reports all become part of the *Annual Records*, published in the fall. Themes that emerge from the reports are used by Ministry & Nurture as guidelines for where we can be of use to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, and to structure our queries for the coming year.

State of the Meeting reports are due to the Ministry & Nurture Committee by May 15; please send your reports to quakerflo@comcast.net. This early deadline is required because the LEYM Annual Meeting, which is when our summary is due, will be held less than a month from this date.

2022 LEYM Query Responses

Several Meetings shared that the queries gave them value and benefit from the discussions.

1. In what ways has our Meeting been affected by the turmoil of the world around us?

Covid and the changes it caused to Meetings still are in the forefront of members’ minds. The effects of the changes are paradoxical. On the positive side, some Meetings are stronger, with new connections, new attenders and members, Friends from near and far, and accessibility for the homebound. One Meeting reactivated Ministry & Nurture with the access to videoconferencing. On the negative side, Covid has affected children’s participation, socialization skills have slipped,

collectively, we share a wound, and social connections between members/attenders have suffered.

The turmoil of the world has weighed heavily on the Meetings. There are feelings of heaviness, anxiety, and detachment. Polarization and political divisiveness are happening everywhere and are not a good place to be. “The turmoil of the world around us” is the turmoil within us. One Meeting has been overwhelmed with social issues, wanting to take action while feeling stretched to capacity. The war in Ukraine and the conflict in Yemen place stress on the steadfastness of our testimony on peace. Dealing with racism was mentioned by several Meetings.

Continued on next page

2. How might I use my own gifts from Spirit in responding to these new realities?

Gifts don't need to be grandiose, just being available and listening, the gift of awareness, seeking that of God in others, and a willingness to keep seeking solutions and additional truths. Meetings have responded with their gifts corporately as a Meeting, taking real social action in the world. One Meeting aptly said, "Recalling how both Christianity and Quakerism had their beginnings amid great turmoil similar to what we are currently experiencing, there is a sense that our spiritual lives, work on committees, and turning to God for comfort, direction, and encouragement offer opportunity." The gift of Quakerism can be

described in a three-word summary, "The Quaker way' – contemplation and social action, quiet peace, and duty to others." Another Meeting said the greatest sin is despair, and we should not give in to despair when we think about the world today. Quaker worship is a refuge from the world and a place to experience many gifts.

Corporate responses to turmoil have included refugee work, gun control, outreach to neighborhoods, working in a soup kitchen, and providing meals or assistance to neighbors for items not available through the SNAP program, including a tiny pantry. One non-social action corporate response was to participate in the Faithful Meetings program offered by School of the Spirit.

Scholarship Funds for Attending Quaker Colleges and Universities or for Quaker Organizational Internships/Fellowships

LEYM is committed to supporting young adult Friends who choose to attend Quaker colleges and universities for their undergraduate education, and individuals who will be participating in a post-secondary internship or fellowship for a Quaker organization. An eligible applicant:

- ♦ participates in the life of a monthly meeting or worship group that is a member of LEYM;
- ♦ is attending a member institution of the Friends Association for Higher Education as a degree-seeking student or is participating in a post-secondary internship or fellowship for a Quaker organization such as Quaker Voluntary Service, Friends Committee on National Legislation, American Friends Service Committee, Quaker United Nations Office, or Quaker Experiential Service and Training; and
- ♦ will be a student or intern/fellow during the school year following disbursement.

For consideration, applicants must send the LEYM treasurer the following:

- ♦ A letter from their Monthly Meeting clerk or worship group convener affirming their support and sharing how the applicant has participated in Quaker life, perhaps within their faith community or with Quaker camps or organizations.
- ♦ Proof of participation in one of the institutions listed above. This can be a print-out of their class registration or letter from the registrar.
- ♦ The address of the office where the check should be sent, along with student ID number or any additional information the treasurer should include when sending the check to the institution. In the case of an internship, the check will be sent directly to the student to offset living expenses.

Deadline: Normally the application deadline is March 1, but for 2023, the deadline has been extended to April 30. All materials should be received by the treasurer by that date. All eligible applicants will be considered, with the line item in LEYM's budget being evenly divided among them. The maximum scholarship per recipient per year is \$2000. Materials can be sent to: Tom Kangas, 3641 Weston Place, Columbus, OH 43214 or emailed to LEYMTreasurer@gmail.com.

GPQM Early-Spring Gathering, Saturday, April 8, on Zoom

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting invites you to join us on Zoom for an Early-Spring Gathering, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, April 8. We will share a program, friendship, and one item of business. The Zoom link can be obtained by writing us at gpqmcommunications@gmail.com.

Our presenter, **Desiraé Simmons**, will speak on “Black Lives Matter – What Are We Called to Do?” Desiraé is co-director of the Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice in Ann Arbor. Since moving to Ypsilanti from Boston, she has co-hosted a resistance march focused on the love, resilience, and history of activism in the community; organized for affordable housing, keeping a school within the Ypsilanti Community School district, and a Community Benefits Ordinance; and run for City Council as a nonpartisan candidate. She currently holds leadership positions within the Washtenaw County Democratic Party and serves on a citizen committee for housing affordability and accessibility. (See her bio at <https://www.icpj.org/blog/about/bios/>.)

Our schedule for the day is:

Worship

Report on Michigan Friends Center

Presentation by Desiraé Simmons (see above)

Small group discussion

Lunch and socializing

Closing worship

The **Spring Gathering of GPQM**, which includes a business session, is scheduled on Saturday, May 20, also 10:00 to 1:30, at the Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse. In addition, Brad Shaw, Red Cedar Friends Meeting, will speak on “Lessons from Quaker History: Activism within the Socioeconomic Realities of the Status Quo.”

Broadmead Monthly Meeting Friends Fall Retreat: “Hope and Witness in Dangerous Times” Presented by J. Brent Bill

Oct. 6–8, 2023

Friends are invited to join this in-person weekend retreat, to be held at the **St. Francis Spirituality Center, 200 St. Francis Ave, Tiffin, Ohio.**

J. Brent Bill is a Quaker minister, author, retreat leader, conservationist, and photographer. He has authored many books, articles, and fiction pieces and teaches writing at graduate school level and in adult continuing education courses. Brent holds degrees from Wilmington College and the Earlham School of Religion (in Quaker Studies). He lives on Ploughshares Farm, 40 acres of former Indiana farmland that is being restored to tall grass prairie and native Indiana hardwood forest. J. Brent Bill has led workshops and is a speaker on such topics as; “Beauty, Faith, Life and Love,” “Life Lessons from a Bad Quaker,” “The Sacred Compass: Spiritual Practices for Discernment,” and “Writing from the Heart: Telling Your Soul’s Stories.” The retreat is open to adults only. Watch for further details and registration information from Broadmead Meeting.

Susan Carpenter

Susan S. Carpenter died on March 9, 2023. She and her husband, Berch, were beloved members of Broadmead Monthly Meeting during the years that Susan taught English at Bluffton University. After Susan retired, they moved back to their home in Yellow Springs and soon thereafter transferred their membership to Yellow Springs Monthly Meeting. Many of you will remember Susan from the years she and Berch were editors of this *Bulletin* (2014–17). A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 20, at 2:00 pm at the Vernet Ecological Center in the Glen Helen Nature Preserve, Yellow Springs.



FGC Gathering 2023

FGC Gathering 2023 Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon, July 2–8

After a lively time at LEYM's Annual Meeting, get ready, pack your bags, and head off to Oregon for an in-person FGC Gathering, on July 2-8, at Western Oregon University, in Monmouth, only 15 miles from Oregon's capital, Salem.

EXPERIENCE: Around 1000 Quakers on a college campus! A week of deepening relationships. A week of renewed spirituality. A week of play. A week of focused exploration. Some call it Quaker Summer Camp for all ages. Some say it's like a family reunion.

We warmly invite all Friends to come. Seasoned Friends. Brand new Friends. Not quite yet Friends. Young Friends. Older Friends. Friends coming with family. Friends coming with children and youth. Friends coming alone.

Is the Gathering all things to all Friends? No. But we strive to provide a big place where everyone can find their own place. We budget and fundraise to help it be manageable.

We plan carefully, so that the experience can be safe for everyone. Marginalized groups including People of Color and LGBTQI+ can find community in the Gathering.

Friends from the west coast and throughout North America have been working for months, seeking the light together, to make this treasure available to all Friends.

If you have never been to the Gathering before, know that you are **especially welcome**. Come give it a try!

After three years of virtual Gatherings, our 2023 Gathering will feel like something new, and be a reunion at the same time.

We hope you will be a part of the gathering this year.

An Advance Program is in the postal mail on its way to Gathering Friends and Meetings throughout North America. If you don't receive one personally, contact us – we will send one to you!

Find more information at FGCgathering.org.

LEYM Calendar for 2023

April 8: Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting,
Early Spring Gathering, online (see p. 18)

May 10: Registration deadline for attending LEYM
Annual Meeting (see pp. 9-12)

May 15: Due date for State of the Meeting Reports.
Send to Flo Friender (quakerflo@comcast.net);
(see p. 16)

May 20: Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting,
Spring Gathering, Ann Arbor Friends
Meetinghouse (see p. 18)

May 27: Deadline for submitting to clerks action
items and related reports for Annual Sessions

June 15–18: LEYM Annual Meeting; Ashland
University, Ashland, Ohio (see pp. 3–13)

July 1: Due date for Statistical Reports

July 2–8: FGC Gathering, Western Oregon
University, Monmouth, Oregon (see p. 19 and
FGCgathering.org)

July 30: Due date, submissions for *Annual Records*

August 6: Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting,
Summer Gathering, Battle Creek

September 8–10: Spiritual Formation Retreat,
Weber Center, Adrian, Michigan

September 29 – October 1: Fall Youth Retreat,
Templed Hills Camp, Bellville, Ohio

LEYM Committee Clerks, 2022–23

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

Adult & Family Program
Clémence Ravaçon Mershon
andre14@earthlink.net

Advancement & Outreach
Joe Mills,
millrae@juno.com

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

Finance
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Ministry & Nurture
Shelley Kotz (Broadmead)
sh.s3ktz@gmail.com
& Flo Friender
quakerflo@comcast.net

Nominating
Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids)
mikeholaday@att.net

Publications & Archives
Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)
peggydaub@hotmail.com

Youth & Children's Program
Erika Smith (Detroit)
trass@usa.net

Minecraft Server Remains Open

Minecraft is an ongoing activity, available for the last two years to LEYM Friends young and old. Friends are welcome to jump in and out. If you wish to play or have questions, please contact Jonah Brownfain at brownfain@gmail.com or Ellerie Brownfain at ellerieb@gmail.com or 415-416-9903.