LEYM Annual Meeting Minutes and Reports June 15 – 18, 2023

All sessions were held in a blended (hybrid) format with many participants in person at Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio, and a few online.

Clerks' Table: Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), clerk; Kate Enger (Athens), recording clerk.

Opening Session, Thursday, June 15, 2023

Friends were welcomed and introduced to some changes in this year's Annual Meeting via a multi-media presentation including a printed program and a skit. Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) presented a welcoming statement on behalf of the Adult Program Committee that explored this year's theme "Navigating Anew."

Welcoming Statement from Susan Hartman

On behalf of the Program Committee, I welcome you to our 2023 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting annual meeting. How wonderful to be with all of you in person this year in our new location of Ashland University. I want to acknowledge and thank all those who worked on the Program Committee this year: Clerk Clemence Mershon of Erie Worship Group and Pittsburgh; Ellerie Brownfain and Bill Warters, Birmingham; Greg Mott, and Sally Weaver-Summer, Broadmead; and Barbara LeSage, North Columbus. Each of them has contributed to both the creative and the practical needs of planning as we gather in person for the first time since 2019. I particularly want to thank them for sharing their ideas about this year's theme for our time together: *Navigating Anew*.

The word *navigation*, from the Latin *navis*, or *ship*, and *agere, to drive* describes the science and art of conducting a ship across the sea. Navigation still consists of the same basic parts, whether the navigator is a traditional sailor, a modern driver following GPS, or a yearly meeting on a metaphorical spiritual journey.

Consider what is needed for any navigation:

- first, a chosen destination or direction
- second, identification of your current position
- third, a course or a route that you intend to follow
- fourth, tools to measure where you are on your course and
- lastly, flexibility and tools to adjust your route if you get off course or encounter unexpected obstacles

We found ourselves wandering when a major storm (COVID) forced us to seek safety & shelter. As we start to come out of isolation, we have the opportunity and challenge to consider how we navigate in this new situation. Navigating anew will involve engaging with all five parts of navigation.

On a physical journey, a destination may be specific—to travel to a known place—or it may be one of exploration—to travel west to find uncharted territory. Without defining a goal, the traveler does not navigate, but simply wanders around, trying to avoid collisions. In our spiritual journey, we must ask ourselves, have we defined the journey we want to embark on? Is it toward a specific goal? In a specific direction? Has the storm led us to change our destination, or has it reinforced the direction of our prior spiritual journey?

The second vital step is identifying where the journey begins. If I don't allow my GPS app to access my current location, it can give me no directions. A prehistoric sailor on a foggy day before the invention of compass, sextant, or other modern tools, was literally "at sea" with no idea of which way to proceed. If our meeting does not know where it now is, it will find itself lost in trying to decide what direction to head. Where is our meeting starting our spiritual journey? Are we in the same place as we were four years ago, or do we need to determine our spiritual location now before we set off again?

Before the actual journey begins, the traveler must chart the course. The sailor maps out a proposed route from their own experience, their knowledge of stars, prevailing winds, and weather patterns. A sailor also relies on others' experience as recorded in existing maps, sky charts, logs, or books. Drivers may use a paper map or GPS to chart the best course to the proposed destination. Whatever the means, the more information the navigator has, the better a course can be charted. If a traveler knows that icebergs are likely to form in a northern sea in the winter, she may chart a more southern course. If a driver wants a more scenic route, he may avoid interstate highways in favor of country roads.

What spiritual tools or guidance does our meeting have to chart our course? Like the sailor, we have our own experience and knowledge of our prior journeys and seeking of the way. We seek the wisdom of our forebears who wrote about the courses of their spiritual journeys; we turn to our inner light and listen for guidance; we gather in community to seek the light and spirit through that community for guidance in love and unity. Like the physical navigator, if we have defined our priorities, what kind of route we want to follow, considering the values and testimonies that define the fixed points in our navigation system, we will find a course.

Then we are ready to start the actual journey. Navigating during the journey requires continuous checking of current location, the course, the actual conditions, and then adjusting as needed. No matter how well the course is planned and implemented, a sailing ship inevitably strays from the planned course, due to currents, winds, human error, or imprecision of a flat map in a round globe. The navigator constantly uses navigation tools, whether stars and compass or radio waves and satellites, to determine current location and what changes and corrections are needed.

In addition to going off course, the traveler may encounter unexpected obstacles—storms, icebergs, damage to the ship, illness of crew or passengers—which may require not just an adjustment back to course, but a decision to change the course, modify the destination, or even abandon the journey and return to the starting point.

Having the correct tools and the flexibility either to get back on course or to change our route or destination if needed are vital to our ability to navigate in our continuing changing environment. In our metaphorical journey, here is where we are navigating anew. We start assessing the damage from the storm; what still works? What's been destroyed, broken, or no longer useful? Do we get back on our old course, or plot a new one? What are the disciplines, exercises, or practices that keep us "in-shape" spiritually, ready to be called on & serve in a moment's notice, ready to set sail, and take the adventure we're called to do? What are the spiritual tools that can aid us in navigating a new terrain and keep us grounded deeply in spiritual rootedness? Are we yielding to listen to Spirit, even when it's hard or we don't like what's being asked of us or where we're being asked to go? Where are we headed? And is this still our best way forward????

Let us continue as a community to be clear in identifying our goals, recognizing our fixed points, seeking and responding to the guidance of spirit in community to adjust our course as we navigate together again.

YM2023-01 Out of a centering silence, Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) shared excerpts of the **Epistle of the 2023 South Central Yearly Meeting**. SCYM met in a hybrid fashion and shared their joy and gratitude in strengthening bonds of faith and friendship. Together, they addressed sources of suffering in the world, our nation, and within their yearly meeting. They were pleased to present a first draft of the SCYM *Faith and Practice*, and they plan to discern the leadings of Spirit in continuing this effort.

YM2023-02 Presiding clerk, Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), welcomed Friends to the 60th LEYM Annual Sessions here on the land of the Kaskaskia people.

YM2023-03 Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), from the Arrangements & Site Committee, presented **demographics about our attenders**, including ages, the number of first-time attenders, and Youth & Children Program participants.

By State			
OH	47		
PA	11		
MI	42	<u>By Age</u>	
DC	1	2-18	9
NH	1	19-34	3
IN	2	36+	96
NY	1	Total	108
MD	2		
CO	1	<u>First time</u>	21
<u>Total</u>	108		

YM2023-04 Our meeting was interrupted by a Tornado Warning. Friends were encouraged to remain in our windowless meeting room or take shelter in the basement as they felt led.

YM2023-05 Friends who were not able to attend Annual Sessions this year, and Friends who have passed on, but for whom we do not yet have a memorial minute, such as Linda Brandenberg (North Columbus), were recognized.

YM2023-06 Visitors and representatives of other organizations were welcomed, along with first time attenders.

YM2023-07 Susan Loucks, clerk, read a roll call. Numbers of attendees from each monthly meeting and worship group per the Registrar are:

Akron	3	Kalamazoo	6
Ann Arbor	8	Kent	0
Athens	8	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	6	North Columbus	9
Broadmead	14	Oberlin	4
Cleveland	5	Pittsburgh	7
Delaware	0	Red Cedar	9
Detroit	8	Wooster	4
Grand Rapids	3	LEYM (No MM)	1
Granville	2	Other	11
Holland	0	Total	108

YM2023-08 Memorial Minutes were read by Tom Kangas, Barbara LeSage, and Bob Roehm for North Columbus Monthly Meeting Friends Rose Conrad, Sue Fletcher, and Jim Perkins. The full texts of the memorial minutes will be available in the *Annual Records* and the LEYM website.

YM2023-09 Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) led an icebreaker activity.

Second Session, Friday, June 16, 2023

YM2023-10 Committees shared updates using a new, interactive format beginning with short introductions.

- Flo Friender (Kalamazoo): The Zoom clerks' chats organized by the Ministry & Nurture Committee have been appreciated. The Committee has been reading responses to queries and State of the Meeting reports and discerning the value of queries. They are seeking suggestions for making queries more useful to meetings.
- Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead): Arrangements & Site would like Friends to join the Committee. It is currently Broadmead-heavy.
- Clemence Mershon (Erie Worship Group): The Adult & Family Program Committee is looking for volunteers.
- Kathleen Helbling (Broadmead): Spiritual Formation, a Sub-Committee of the Ministry & Nurture Committee, announced the fall retreat will be held at the Weber Center, Adrian, Michigan. Marty Grundy, author of *A Call to Friends: Faithful Living in Desperate Times*, will lead the retreat in September. All are invited.
- Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar): The Finance Committee is navigating anew. Our finance report is where we are starting from, and the budget is the destination. There are budget choices to be made later in the weekend.
- Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor): The Publications & Archives Committee produces four publications a year. They need information by July 31 for this year's Annual *Records*. The Committee is producing suggestions for how to write memorial minutes.
- Joe Mills (Kalamazoo): He is the only member of Advancement & Outreach Committee at this point. He has visited other meetings to offer support and maintain connections. Should this committee be laid down?
- Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar): The Nominating Committee requested that Friends interested in serving on the Committee see Naming Committee members Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) or Donna Rodriguez (Broadmead). If you would like to volunteer for another committee, see the current Nominating Committee members: Stephanie Charlot, Rick Adams, or Mike Holaday.

Youth & Children Program Committee members were with the youngest friends, and not present at this meeting.

YM2023-11 Out of a centering silence, Thomas Taylor read the **Epistle from the 2023 Southern Africa Yearly Meeting Gathering**. Friends at that gathering focused on the theme, *Ubuntu*, which means acting for the sake of community and promoting community interests before individual interest. Friends experienced spiritual enrichment as they applied this theme to addressing social and environmental crises and healing from trauma. They announced that they will be hosting the World Plenary Meeting of FWCC in 2024.

YM2023-12 Epistle Committee

Clerk Susan Loucks sought volunteers to work on the Epistle Committee. Aran Reinhart (Broadmead) and Su Penn (Red Cedar) accepted this task.

YM2023-13 Arrangements & Site Committee Report

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) presented the Arrangements & Site Committee Report. We are getting to know this new site of Ashland University, and the Conference Director here has been very helpful. Friends were encouraged to take COVID precautions appropriate for their situations and to respect the precautions being taken by other Friends. Next year will likely be easier in terms of preparations because the committee recommends returning here to Ashland.

YM2023-14 Digital Communications Facilitator Report

Bill Warters (Birmingham) presented Digital Communications Facilitator report. Friends can sign up for e-mail alerts about LEYM events by using a link on the LEYM webpage (LEYM.org). About 5,000 people access the website each month. We are finding our stride in terms of meeting via Zoom. Bill presented a series of Zoom sessions to explore Digital Issues Awareness for Friends. Bill has publicized the opportunity for Friends to address other topics through online interactions, and Friends are encouraged to contact him with ideas for other topics that we can explore together. (The full report follows.)

Digital Communications Facilitator Report

Things are going well with regard to the online presence of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Our website, hosted on our own server since August of 2020, has served as a hub of information about activities happening across our region and as a way to bind together our group between in-person events like Representative and Yearly Meetings. Website traffic, i.e., visitors to our site, remains steady, with upticks often happening around major events like Annual Sessions or the release of a new issue of the *Bulletin*.

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits
Jan 2022	1,878	3,332	Jan 2023	5,628	7,300
Feb 2022	2,183	3,061	Feb 2023	4,480	6,099
Mar 2022	2,724	4,223	Mar 2023	4,461	7,137
Apr 2022	3,158	4,936	Apr 2023	1,961	3,336
May 2022	2,821	3,718	May 2023	2,543	4,710
Jun 2022	2,975	3,923	Jun 2023	0	0
Jul 2022	3,440	5,092	Jul 2023	0	0
Aug 2022	3,156	4,442	Aug 2023	0	0
Sep 2022	2,781	4,095	Sep 2023	0	0
Oct 2022	3,666	5,033	Oct 2023	0	0
Nov 2022	3,006	4,583	Nov 2023	0	0
Dec 2022	5,249	7,160	Dec 2023	0	0
Total	37,037	53,598	Total	19,073	28,582

2022 Website Visitor Tally

2023 Website Visitor Tally (through May 23rd)

The digital communications facilitator's (DCF) primary task is maintaining the LEYM website with current information and developing and posting new material. Additional central tasks include maintaining the LEYM server where our projects are hosted, managing the events calendar, posting news to social media, and hosting LEYM sponsored online events, including the online portions of the annual sessions. In addition, the DCF manages our email distribution lists and our online Airtable database tool for collecting information and managing registrations via online forms. A rough breakdown of time billed (in 10-minute increments) from April 2022 through April 2023 (167 hours) is as follows:

AREA of ACTIVITY	HOURS
Annual Sessions Work	80
Zoom-related Hosting and Scheduling	40
Website Updates	27
Research and Reporting	7
Mailing Lists and Correspondence	7
Online Database	4
Social Media Management	2
TOTAL HOURS (approximate)	167

The 2022 online-only Annual Meeting, which occupied much of the DCF's time, was particularly fulfilling and got very good reviews. The chosen theme "Many Roots, One Tree" proved to be quite engaging for the more than 135 Friends in attendance. Eight Monthly Meetings contributed visual "Story Trees" for our opening welcome session that helped paint a picture of the life of their Meetings over time. A gallery of these is archived and visible online at https://leym.org/story-tree-gallery/

The following quote taken from the meeting evaluation form provides an example of people's positive experience this last year: "Beyond merely the smooth registration process, the whole virtual aspect was so spot-on this year - the website so attractive and professional, links and calendar super-easy to find and intuitive, the daily emails making everyone feel connected and positive. I couldn't think of a single improvement. I so appreciate all the thoughtfulness followed by diligence in execution from the program committee. You went beyond giving us a program to giving us an experience together."

More recently, LEYM successfully held the March 2023 Representative Meeting in a hybrid format, with Broadmead MM hosting the event in Toledo, with Friends also joining online via Zoom. Thanks to the creativity of our Clerk, Friends were treated to a unique "Open Space" format that got people online and in the room talking together about topics that mattered to them. Fortunately, or unfortunately (depending on where you were), the online folks couldn't partake of the great food that was shared, including a truly amazing dessert table! Some new digital initiatives for LEYM in the last year included the development and presentation of a **Digital Issues Awareness for Friends** series of three webinars that were recorded and are now archived on the Peace, Justice and the Environment Interest group page https://leym.org/pje-interest-group/ The topics addressed were:

- Mis/Disinformation Awareness for Friends of the Truth
- UnFriendly Persuasion: Digital Dark Patterns Awareness
- Data Brokers and Modern Surveillance: Dangers for Marginalized People

Also new this year was the addition of a dedicated section of the website to support the emerging work of Spiritual Companioning support groups being led by LEYM Friends.

YM2023-15 The clerk welcomed Donna Lueke (Broadmead) into her new role as **Database Manager**, and thanked Lynda Rose (Athens) for her work in that role for the past few years.

YM2023-16 Treasurer's Report

Tom Kangas (North Columbus) presented the Treasurer's report. We expect this Annual Meeting to end in the black, as was the case with the last Annual Meeting, leading to modest increases in our Annual Meeting fund. Our overall financial health is good. Contributions from monthly meetings were lower than expected. (The full report and financial figures, updated to the end of the fiscal year, are below.)

Treasurer's report on fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 (FY22-23)

Financial report on Annual Meeting held July 2022

- This Annual Meeting, held online only, was financially simple
- We had very good donations from attendees (\$1,940)
- We paid honoraria to presenters (\$1,200)
- The net income from the event of \$740 was added to our Annual Meeting Fund, the balance of which rose to \$1,159

Financial report on Annual Meeting held June 2023

- This Annual Meeting's finances are not yet final, but the final results are expected to look a lot like this report
- The first income line represents the \$10,000 transferred from the General Fund to the Annual Meeting Fund last year to make sure that attendance at Annual Meeting would be affordable
- The next line (\$4,700) is the amount that the Finance Committee would like to see transferred back to the General Fund this fiscal year as it now seems that \$10,000 was more than was needed
- This year's registration payments have arrived through two channels: by paper check and by LEYM's new giving webpage hosted by Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC)
- The donations to Annual Meeting Fund this year are less than last year, and almost all of these donations arrived via check and not from online payments
- There are three main groups of expenses—those related to Ashland University, those related to our presenters, and those related to the Youth and Children program (the \$500 for which shown here is a rough estimate)
- We expect this Annual Meeting to end in the black with net income greater than \$1,000 being added to the Annual Meeting Fund
- Finance Committee would like to see the Annual Meeting fund end with a balance of around \$2,500

Considering Lake Erie Yearly Meeting overall, we are in good financial health.

Income

- General Fund contributions were received from all member Monthly Meetings (MM)
- MM contributions totaled \$22,915 which were \$3,090 less than expected
 - There was a significant increase in suggested/requested per-member contribution rate for this year—from \$25 to \$35, or 40%
 - The fact that we received only 88% of expected MM contributions suggests to me that the MMs may not have been readily responsive to the change, or membership has decreased
- The General Fund was the beneficiary this year of several contributions by check which totaled to \$2,435 and for which I don't recommend assuming will repeat next year
- Test donations to the General Fund totaling \$15 came in through our online giving page
- Also new this year is \$20 of interest income from a savings account was set up this year to hold cash not currently needed in the checking account
- LEYM investments held by FFC pays dividends twice yearly
 - The \$948 shown here \$948 represents only dividends paid in December 2022
 - o A second dividend will be paid this month and will be included in this fiscal year's activity

Expenses

- As this report is a on a fiscal year not yet ended, I have attempted to represent where I expect we will end the year, but in some cases I have had to estimate
- For example, the first two lines of General Fund expenses pertain to our contract workers
 - o Invoices are not yet in hand for most or all of the second half of this year (Jan-Jun)
 - The expense amounts shown here were increased to the maximum budgeted level
 - o I expect the actual expenses to be a little lower at year end than what's shown here
- Other than for Contract Workers, I think most of the other lines are fairly accurate for the year
- There are no line-items that are unfavorable when compared to the approved budget for the year
- Total General Fund expenses overall are only 82% of the approved budget, and this is mainly due to the reduction in the transfer from the General Fund to the Annual Meeting Fund

Funds – General Fund (GF)

- There is a \$2,757 pertaining to investments held by FFC
 - o we already \$948 dividends on the income report
 - The rest comes from financial market value recovery from last June through this March
 - I expect this figure to rise even more by the end of the 2nd calendar quarter
- The estimated GF ending balance of \$23,350 is okay in relation to our target balance for this fund

Funds – Other Funds

- The Travel Fund activity pertains to one of LEYM's representatives attending the AFSC 2023 Corporation Meeting in Philadelphia
- The Youth Activities Fund activity was for the Youth & Family Retreat held at the Templed Hills camp in September 2022
- The Quaker College & Service Scholarship Fund had another \$1,000 added to it this year
 - o This fund now stands at its maximum target balance, so it requires no further funding
 - There were no for scholarships paid out during this fiscal year
 - o And because no requests were received this Spring, nothing will be paid out next fiscal year

Statement of Financial Position

- The total treasury is estimated to be \$80,226, essentially the same as where it started the year
 - Reflects a \$3K increase in value of funds held by FFC, and

- A \$3K decrease in CNB accounts this year
- The balance shown as being held by Citizen National Bank is an estimate that includes
 - checks for Annual Meeting registration not yet deposited (and indeed, some not yet received as of this writing)
 - o certain payments for current year expenses not yet paid
- FFC
 - Over the nine months ended March 31, FFC accounts were credited with approximately
 - 2% in dividend income and
 - experienced a 4% increase in market value (compare to a 17% decrease in FY21-22)
 - o All dollars held by FFC are invested in the Quaker Growth & Income Fund

Financial report for last year's Annual Meeting:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Financial Report for Annual Meeting - July 28 - 31, 2022	
Income	
Donations from attendees	1,940.00
Total Income	\$ 1,940.00
Expenses	
Honoraria for presenters	1,200.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,200.00
Net Income <deficit> from Annual Meeting Activities</deficit>	\$ 740.00
Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of July 1, 2022 (surplus)	\$ 419.01
Net Income < Deficit> from Annual Meeting Activities	740.00
Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of September 31, 2022 (surplus)	1,159.01

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6/13/2023 9:10 PM Page 1 of 1

Financial report for this year's Annual Meeting:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting	Amounts update	d thro	ugh 6/12/2023
Financial Report for Annual Meeting - June 15 - 18, 2023			
Income			
Subsidy from LEYM General Fund			10,000.00
Return excess subsidy to LEYM GF			(4,700.00
Registrations from attendees paid online (via FFC)			7,429.15
Registrations from attendees via check			12,384.29
Donations from attendees		-	934.36
Total Income		\$	26,047.80
Expenses			
Ashland University			
Facilities	4,500.00		
Lodging	7,935.00		
Meals	8,975.16		
Purchased materials (e.g., linen packages/rental, cups, etc.)	1,224.00		
	22,634.16		22,634.16
Honoraria for presenters			1,100.00
Travel reimbursement for plenary speaker			440.00
Youth and Children program (t-shirts)			500.00
Online registration payment fees not covered by payors (FFC)			2.75
Total Expenses		\$	24,676.91
Net Income <deficit> from Annual Meeting activities</deficit>		\$	1,370.89
Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of September 31, 2022 (surplus)		\$	1,159.01
Net Income < Deficit > from Annual Meeting Activities June 2023			1,370.89
Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of June 30, 2023 (surplus)			2,529.90

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Income, 2022-23:

Contribution From	Amount	Deposit Date			
Akron Monthly Meeting	200	3/24/2023			
Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting	4,270	1/30/2023			
Athens Monthly Meeting	2,000	10/15/2022			
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	455	11/12/2022			
Broadmead Monthly Meeting	1,500	1/18/2023			
Cleveland Monthly Meeting	1,400	3/16/2023			
Delaware Monthly Meeting	75	4/3/2023			
Detroit Monthly Meeting	770	3/19/2023			
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting	490	1/10/2023			
Granville Monthly Meeting	805	12/7/2022			
Iolland Monthly Meeting	200	4/1/2023			
alamazoo Monthly Meeting	910	3/20/2023			
Kent Monthly Meeting	425	10/21/2022			
Mid-Ohio Valley Monthly Meeting	140	1/27/2023			
North Columbus Monthly Meeting	1,050	11/20/2022			
Oberlin Monthly Meeting	1,050	2/13/2023			
Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting	4,235	3/24/2023			
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting	2,415	1/7/2023		Actual as	Variance,
Nooster Monthly Meeting	525	8/26/2022	Expected, per budget	a % of Budget	favorable (unfavorable)
Subtotal - contributing MM or WG	22,915		26,005	88%	(3,090)
Individuals - via check	2,435				
Individuals - via FFC online	15				
Interest income from Savings Acct	20		In-kind	Total cont	ribution income
Total Cash Contribution Income	25,385		+ 104	25,489	
FFC Dividend Income (Base Acct only)	948				
Total Income	26,333	(cash income, ex	cluding in-kind)	
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Expenses, 2022-23:

LEYM General Fund Expenses - with comparison to Budget

For the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year (12 months end	ing June 30, 2023)			Variance,	Non-cash.	Total
Account	Actual Expense through 6/13/2023	Budget (annual)	Actual expense as a % of Budget	budget-to- actual, favorable (unfavorable)	in-kind donations through 6/13/2023	Expense, including in- kind, through 6/13/2023
Operations						
Contract Worker: Database Manager Contract Worker: Digital Comm Facil'r Insurance	3,900.00 6,199.46 597.00	3,900 6,200 650	100% 100% 92%	- 1 53	104.00 - -	4,004 6,199 597
Office/administration	797.48	1,500	53%	703	-	797
Advancement & Outreach Ministry & Nurture Publications	2,876.09	500 100 3,500	0% 0% 82%	500 100 624	-	- - 2,876
Members				A Martin Contractor		
Attend conference w/ Quaker values		600	0%	600	-	-
Organizations						
Friends General Conference Olney Friends School Swarthmore records project	6,500.00 3,500.00 150.00	6,500 3,500 150	100% 100% 100%	-	-	6,500 3,500 150
Subtotal cash expenditures	24,520	27,100	90%	2,580	104.00	24,624
Transfers from General Fund to other Funds						
Annual Meeting Fund Quaker College/Service Scholarshp Fund FWCC Travel Fund & Donation	5,300.00 1,000.00 1.800.00	10,000 1,000 1.800	53% 100% 100%	4,700		
Subtotal Transfers	8,100.00	12,800		4,700		
Totals - General Fund Expenses	32,620.03	39,900	82%	7,280		

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Funds held:

	LEYM Sun	nmary of Fu	nds for the	Fiscal Year	2022-2023			Floor/	Ceiling	
Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2022	Friends Fiduciary account activity ¹	Transfers between funds	Cash Income	Cash Expense	Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/13/2023	Sugge floor/c amoun each	sted eiling its for	Las activ prior FY22
Funds held in (i) Base account	with Friends Fidu	ciary Corp and	(ii) Citizens Nat	ional Bank						
General Fund ²	27,827.60	2,757.27	(8,100.00)	25,384.96	(24,520.03)	(4,477.80)	23,349.80	na	30,000	
Annual Meeting Fund ⁰	419.01		5,300.00	24,850.89	(28,040.00)	2,110.89	2,529.90	1,000	3,000	
Travel Fund	3,945.00		-	-	(909.30)	(909.30)	3,035.70	2,000	4,000	
Youth Activities Fund ⁴	5,536.78		982.51	840.00	(1,069.87)	752.64	6,289.42	4,000	8,000	
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	3,000.00		1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	4,000.00	2,000	4,000	
HS Teen Retreat Fund	6,892.64					-	6,892.64	3,000	6,000	FY17-
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649.00				-	-	1,649.00	na	2,000	FY19-
Spiritual Formation Fund	4,043.59		-	-	-	240	4,043.59	500	2,000	
Consultation Fund	3,143.68						3,143.68	500	2,000	FY11-
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00						3,500.00	na	na	FY13-
Work Projects Fund	2,182.39						2,182.39	na	2,000	FY17-
FWCC Travel Fund	6,239.83		900.00			900.00	7,139.83	na	9,000	
FWCC Travel Donation	2,700.00		900.00		-	900.00	3,600.00	na	9,000	
Funds held in separate accoun	t with Friends Fid	uciary Corp								
Granville Youth Fund ³	8,206.78	500.96	(175.26)			325.70	8,532.48	na	na	
Funds held by others - see Star	tement of Financia	al Position								
Prepaid Expense	1,145.00		(807.25)			(807.25)	337.75	na	na	
TOTAL	80,431.30	3,258.23	0.50	51,075.85	(54,539.20)	(205.12)	80,226.18			

NOTES> Funds other than the General Fund are managed through accounting and may be subsidized from the General Fund.

⁰ Annual Meeting Fund for FY2022-2023 contains activity for two Annual Meetings: one held July, 2022 and another held June, 2023.

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.

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ake Erie Yearly Meeting – Financial Position For the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2023) Accation of monetary assets		Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2022	Change in balance during the fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/13/2023				
The Citize		tional Bank of Bluffton, OH						
		Checking Account	27,795.59	(21,808.05)	5,987.54			
		Savings Account	12	18,519.96	18,519.96			
Sul	btotal o	of both CNB accounts	27,795.59	(3,288.09)	24,507.50			
Friends Fi	iduciar	y Corporation, Philadelphia, PA *						
Ge	eneral (I	Base) Account	44,428.93	2,757.27	47,186.20			
Act	tivity	Dividends Paid (and reinvested)		948.08				% of
incl	ludes:	Change in Portfolio Value, + or -		1,809.19			Total	Beg Bal
						Div P	d 1,123	29
Gra	anville	Youth Fund Account	8,206.78	325.70	8,532.48	∆Valu	e 2,135	49
4.04	tivity	Dividends Paid		175.26			3,258	69
	ludes:	 Change in Portfolio Value + or - 		325.70				
inci	iuues.	• Dividends disbursed by FFC to LEYM, recorded to	Youth Activ Fund	(175.26)				
Sul	btotal o	of both FFC accounts	52,635.71	3,082.97	55,718.68			
Total m	oneta	ry assets	80,431.30	(205.12)	80,226.18			
Notation:	: Prepa	id Expenses						
UCC	CR depos	sit for Youth Activities retreat, Sept 2023	237.75	10	237.75			
Web	ber Ctr o	deposit for Spiritual Formation retreat, Sep 2023	100.00		100.00			
			337.75	-	337.75			

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.

12/31/2022	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 (D	omestic, Global, Short-Term, plus Cash)		23.0%	5.6%
		71.4%	23.0%	5.6%

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Source> friendsfiduciary.org,

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YM2023-17 Finance Committee, Report no. 1

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Tom Kangas proposed changes to our policies to align current practices, the Financial Practices Manual, and *Policies and Procedures*. These changes will clarify the remuneration for Friends who provide services at Annual Meetings. Friends **approved** these changes, which appear below.

B. Guidelines Regarding Honoraria and Expenses for Annual Meetings (from *Policies and Procedures, Appendix F*)

- 1. Keynote speaker receives \$500 plus travel, registration, meals, and room. Clerk of Program Committee gives name to registrar and to treasurer.
- 2. Non-LEYM folks who give workshops **or lead Bible study** receive \$100 plus room, meals, and registration. Clerk of Program Committee gives names to registrar and treasurer.
- 3. LEYM folks who give workshops receive no honoraria or expenses.
- 4. Leaders of special evening programs receive up to \$150 plus room, meals, and registration. Clerk of Program Committee gives names to registrar and treasurer.¹⁹
- 5. One representative from FGC receives registration, meals, and room, **if this person is not an FGC employee.**²⁰ Presiding clerk gives name to registrar.
- 6. FGC pays registration, room, and meals for FGC staff.²⁰ Quaker organizations (e.g., AFSC, FCNL, FGC, FWCC, QVS, RSWR) pay registration, room, and meals for their staff who attend Annual Meeting to represent their organizations.
 - **a.** If such staff member also presents a workshop, the honorarium will be paid to their respective organization.

- **b.** A keynote speaker who is a staff member of Quaker organization is in a different category. Although they may direct that the honoraria from their keynote speech (and workshop, if applicable) be paid to their respective organization, the default is that honoraria and expenses for such person are handled as for any other keynote speaker.
- 7. People who work full time with the children's program receive registration, meals, and room. Clerk of Youth & Children Committee gives the list of workers to the registrar.
- 8. Registrar receives registration, meals, and room.
- 9. Bookstore manager receives registration, meals, and room.

These are guidelines and not strict rules. The presiding clerk, in consultation with the treasurer, can override these guidelines in any given year.²¹ Guidelines are approved by the Finance Committee. The monies to cover these honoraria come from registration fees paid by LEYM Annual Meeting attenders.

YM2023-18 Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) read a **memorial minute** for Shirley Wolfe, and Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) read one for Andrew Zweifler, both from Ann Arbor meeting. The memorial minutes will be available in the printed *Annual Records* and on the LEYM website.

Third Session, Friday, June 16, 2023

YM2023-19 Out of a centering silence, Thomas Taylor read the **Epistle from the 2023 Annual Sessions of the Great Plains Yearly Meeting**. The Great Plains Friends expressed excitement about gathering their theologically diverse and geographically separated group. They shared a sense that God had been moving in their hearts to revitalize the monthly and yearly meetings. Friends connected through music, workshops, and roundtable discussions. With hope and determination, they explored possibilities for sharing God's love and peace with a hurting world.

YM2023-20 Finance Committee, Report no. 2

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) presented the Finance Committee report and the first reading of the proposed budget for the coming year. This year's theme was appropriate, as the committee faced the challenge of projecting the new budget without the last fiscal year being completed.

The proposed budget includes an increase in pay for our Digital Communications Facilitator and Database Manager, and the hours for the Database Manager have been increased. Joann described some belt-tightening measures. For example, the money budgeted for some committees has not been utilized, so the amount set aside has been reduced. Olney Friends and FGC contributions were lowered.

The Ashland site is more expensive than Bluffton was. In order to avoid passing the increased cost to participants, the general fund was utilized to subsidize this year's Annual Meeting. Without that subsidy of \$10,000, the registration cost would have been \$135 rather than \$65. The proposed budget includes a subsidy of \$5,000 for next year's Annual Meeting. Registration represents only a portion of the costs for Friends to attend Annual Meeting.

The Committee suggests increasing the amount assessed annually for each member of monthly meetings from \$35 to \$42. This increase is actually a return to the amount assessed in the early 2010s. This number is suggested after finding that less than expected was provided to the yearly meeting from the monthly meetings this past year. The increased assessment would also help balance the overall budget. The decrease in income may have been due to a decrease in membership at our monthly meetings, though we do not know that for a fact.

In the past, we made a contribution to the Detroit Monthly Meeting's efforts to establish a new meetinghouse. They have now met for worship in their recently acquired building. The Finance Committee suggests another donation at some point, but currently the budget does not include a donation. Friends are encouraged to share with the Finance Committee information about last year's contributions from monthly meetings and thoughts on the importance of subsidizing the costs of registration for the Annual Sessions.

YM2023-21 Nominating Committee, Report no. 1

Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) shared the first reading of the Nominating Committee's proposed slate of nominees. The Committee is especially concerned about finding an assistant clerk who will become the clerk after Annual Sessions in 2024 and a recording clerk. The Ministry & Nurture Committee also needs two additional members. Friends who feel led to serve are encouraged to speak with Rick Adams or Stephanie Charlot, or to e-mail Mike Holaday.

Su Penn (Red Cedar) has agreed to be the *Bulletin* Editor. The Youth & Children Program Committee members are discussing changes that will be presented later in the weekend.

The Nominating Committee suggested adding a new position to the slate – a representative to Friends Peace Teams. The budget includes funds to cover transportation costs incurred by representatives to other organizations. Would we need to adjust the budget to support this new position? Friends are encouraged to speak to Friends who have been active on Friends Peace Teams or attend the lunch discussion about that group tomorrow. If the position is approved, Nominating Committee suggests that the position be filled by Don Buckingham (North Columbus).

The full Nominating Committee report is attached below under YM2023-34.

YM2023-22 Clerk's Report

Susan Loucks said we are a Phoenix rising into Ashland, and the Phoenix is transformed as it rises. Our Annual Meeting features a new setting, a new employee, and new types of programming. We demonstrate a real desire and real energy to be here. Some challenges that we face include the age of our leadership and the current diminished size of our youth program.

Friends were invited to engage in discernment - Where is Spirit leading us? How are we being called? Themes in Friends responses included the need to energize advancement and outreach activities at both the yearly meeting and in monthly meetings. The importance of encouraging and supporting young Friends to attend got significant attention, as did the value of reaching out to families with children and building connections between monthly meetings. Friends recognized the importance of joyful, creative activities to share our enthusiasm and spirituality.

This session closed with centering silence.

Fourth Session, Saturday, June 17, 2023

YM2023-23 Out of a centering silence, Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) read the **Epistle of the 2023 Netherlands Yearly Meeting**. Food, music, and outdoor activities provided Friends opportunities to enjoy meeting together in person again. Friends explored the theme of *Ubuntu* and Sustainability by providing a supportive community to manage the grief and fear that Friends feel for the destruction of creation and by sharing ways to take action for the preservation of creation.

YM2023-24 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

Shelley Kotz (Broadmead) presented an update on the work of the Ministry & Nurture Committee. The Committee has summarized the query responses and State of the Meeting reports from Monthly Meetings. Monthly Meetings reported various levels of success with adapting to hybrid meeting. The needs and geography of the meetings, and their access to good technology were important factors in their success. The Committee notes that some monthly meetings, and some First Day programs, are growing. The Committee plans online Yearly-Meeting-wide worship on July 26 at 7 pm. The Committee requests feedback and ideas about the use of queries. (The full report is appended below.)

YM2023-25 Youth & Children's Program Report

Diane Mott (Broadmead) reported on the Youth & Children's Program. Last year's Fall Youth Retreat included about 15 people who enjoyed hiking and re-connecting. Information on the upcoming Fall Youth Retreat will be sent out to the monthly meetings.

Eight children are enjoying the Annual Meeting together thanks to the help of teachers, teen Friends, and volunteers. The new location has met their needs and has facilitated inter-generational connection. Supporting the children and families is a key part of growing the Youth & Children's Program and our yearly meeting. Those who would like to work with the kids next year are invited to talk to Nominating Committee members or to Diane Mott. Non-parents are especially encouraged to share their time and talents. (The full report is below.)

Report from the Youth & Children's Program Committee

Eight children attended the Youth and Children's Program Annual Sessions. The age range was 2 – 16 years. Children attended from Athens, Broadmead, Cleveland, Detroit, and North Columbus monthly meetings. Erika Smith was clerk and teachers were Ellerie Brownfain, Cristin Graham, Diane Mott, Carla Pratt-Harrington, and Crista White. We are very thankful for volunteers Jonah Brownfain, Susan Hartman, Paul Helbling, Greg Mott, and Jayson Smith.

This year we had a multi-age group for most of our activities. On the first night, we got to know each other by playing games and hanging out together in the downstairs restroom because of the tornado warning. We spent time navigating in the new space of Ashland University. In the mornings, we visited the Center for Nonviolence, the hanging hammocks, and the octagonal porch swings, and we explored the green spaces on campus. In the afternoons we went to the Buckeye Imagination Museum and Kingwood Center Gardens. On Friday and Saturday nights we played music and games and did crafts with our intergenerational friends. We feel that the new location works well for the Youth and Children's Program.

Moving forward, the teachers and clerk of the Youth and Children's Committee wonder if a more generous scholarship for children might make attendance at Annual Sessions more accessible for families. We also like the Athens Meeting model of offering and announcing the availability of financial scholarships for Annual Sessions.

YM2023-26 Finance Committee, Report no. 3

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar), Finance Committee, presented the budget again. The final budget was not amended from the one previously presented. If committees need funds beyond what is budgeted, they can approach the clerk. The Committee will strive for more communication with and better data from the monthly meetings. The budget was **approved.** [NB: The budget as it appeared in *Annual Records 2023* is below.]

LEYM Budget

LEYM Budgets				Hist	tory		
			FY 2019-20		20-21	FY 2021-22	
General Fund E	General Fund Expenses		Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General	Contractor: Database Manager	625	1,330	1,400	2,905	2,500	2,898
	Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	3,000	3,021	3,100	4,237	5,100	5,570
	Insurance	500	500	500	500	500	597
	Administration	1,000	1,007	3,500	2,077	1,500	677
	Travel	2,000	1,043				
Committees	Advancement & Outreach	200		500	-	500	-
	Ministry & Nurture	50		50	-	100	-
	Publications	3,200	3,012	3,200	2,476	3,200	3,393
Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	1,000	-	1,000	400	1,000	-
Organizations	FGC	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,500	6,500
	Olney Friends School	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,500
	Swarthmore Records Project	100	100	100	100	150	150
	Detroit mtg hse contribution					1,000	1,000
Tranfers from	Travel Fund			2,957	2,957	1,200	1,200
General Fund	Youth Activity Fund	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-
to	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship Fund	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000
	Spiritual Formation	300	300	-	-	-	-
	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
	Total Expenses and Transfers =	25,775	24,112	29,107	28,453	29,550	28,285
General Fund I	ncome						
	Contributions Income	25,375	27,077	21,750	21,460	17,875	18,780
	FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)		1,284	1,000	1,474	1,000	1,728
	Total Income =	25,375	28,361	22,750	22,934	18,875	20,508
	Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(400)	4,249	(6,357)	(5,520)	(10,675)	(7,777)
			(005)		44.070		(0.050)
C. hter	FFC chg in portfolio value (Base)		(885)		11,272		(8,859)
Subtot	al Other Changes in General Fund =		(885)		11,272		(8,859)
	Total Change in General Fund =		3,364		5,753		(16,636)
# me	mbers used to produce above estimate = Suggested contribution per member =			725 \$30		715 \$25	
Travel rei	mbursement, with limits, rate per mile =	\$ 0.45		\$ 0.17		\$ 0.16	

38

LEYM Budget (continued)

LEYM Budgets	LEYM Budgets *Budget approved 07/31/2022 **Actual as of 6/30/2023					
	***Budget approved 06/16/2023	FY 2022-23			FY 2023-24	
General Fund Expenses		Budget*	Actual**		Budget***	Change
General	Contractor: Database Manager	3,900	2,828		4,320	420
	Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	6,200	4,996		6,500	300
	Insurance	650	597		650	
	Administration	1,500	1,035		1,200	(300)
Committees	Advancement & Outreach	500	-		100	(400)
	Ministry & Nurture	100	-		100	-
	Publications	3,500	2,876		3,500	-
	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	600	-		600	-
Organizations		6,500	6,500		6,000	(500)
	Olney Friends School	3,500	3,500		3,000	(500)
	Swarthmore Records Project	150	150		150	-
		-			-	-
Tranfers from		-			1,000	1,000
General Fund	Youth Activity Fund	-	-		-	-
to	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship Fund	1,000	1,000		-	(1,000)
	Annual Meeting Subsidy	10,000	10,000		5,000	(5,000)
	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,800	1,800		1,800	-
	Total Expenses and Transfers =	39,900	35,282		33,920	(5,980)
General Fund I						
	Contributions Income	26,005	25,390		27,510	1,505
	FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	1,500	1,916		1,500	-
	Total Income =	27,505	27,306		29,010	1,505
	Income - (Expenses and Transfers) = (12,395) (7,976) (4,910) 7,485					
FFC chg in portfolio value (Base)2,815Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =2,815						
Total Change in General Fund = (5,161)						
# members used to produce above estimate = 743 655 Suggested contribution per member = \$35 \$42 Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile = \$ 0.22 \$ 0.22						

39

YM2023-27 Publications & Archives Committee

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Publications & Archives Committee, suggested a *Policy and Procedures* update. The current policy (*Policy and Procedures* IV.B.3.c.) states that documents to be archived in the Annual Records will be submitted four weeks after the rise of Annual Sessions. The Committee suggests changing four weeks to six weeks. This change was **approved**.

Monthly meetings are encouraged to supply names of couples marrying under their care and the dates of their marriage to the Yearly Meeting so those marriages can be archived with the Yearly Meeting records.

YM2023-28 Nominating Committee, Report no. 2

Rick Adams (North Columbus), Nominating Committee, brought back the question of appointing a representative to Friends Peace Teams. Cassie Cammann (Ann Arbor) spoke about being led to serve on a working group with the Friends Peace Teams, and her support for the idea of LEYM choosing a Friends Peace Teams representative. Nominating Committee supports the addition of this position on the slate and recommends that the position be filled by Don Buckingham (North Columbus). Travel related to this position may be financially supported in the future. The addition of the position was **approved**.

YM 2023-29 John Howell (Athens) read a **memorial minute** for Marjorie Nelson Perisho, formerly of Athens Monthly Meeting. Shelley Kotz (Broadmead) read a memorial minute for Regula Kummer-Josi of Broadmead. Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) read a memorial minute for Hanna Deutsch Clampitt of Birmingham Meeting. Full minutes will be printed in the Annual Records and available on the LEYM website.

YM2023-30 Clerk Susan Loucks read a letter of introduction from FWCC for Norma Wallman. Hanae Togami from FGC's Ministry on Racism introduced herself and invited Friends to connect with her.

YM2023-31 Nominating Committee, Report no. 3

Rick Adams brought an update from Nominating committee. Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)will serve as recording clerk. Friends led to help with the Adult & Family Program Committee, the Youth & Children Program Committee, or to serve as assistant clerk are encouraged to speak to members of Nominating Committee.

After this business session, **organizational representatives** shared information in a new interactive panel discussion format. Each was asked to respond to the queries: Where is Spirit moving in the organization? How is LEYM tied to this organization?

- Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) and Clemence Mershon (Erie Worship Group encouraged monthly meetings to consider the important work that Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) does to connect Friends across cultures and across styles of worship, and to offer financial support as they are able.
- Don Buckingham (North Columbus) said that Friends Peace Teams work internationally toward healing and reconciliation.
- Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) reported that Olney Friends School hosted LEYM Annual Sessions for many years, and some of our members attended the school and found it to be life changing. The school embraces the spirit of community.
- John Howell (Athens) said that the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) speaks for us in Washington in terms of policy. They work to shift behavior not only in Washington, but globally,

using subtle, professional strategies. Empowering young people has been a focus, as has urging our government to seek solutions other than war.

- Bill Warters (Birmingham) relayed that the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) celebrates a long history of successfully supporting issues and individuals who address challenges including racism. The energy of their work is rising.
- Ellerie Brownfain and Marvin Barnes (Birmingham, presiding clerk of FGC Central Committee) said our yearly meeting was one of the first to help Friends General Conference (FGC) with an institutional assessment to address racism. That assessment has carried on and blossomed by informing the work of other institutions.

(See full reports appended below or speak to representatives for more information.)

Fifth Session, Sunday, June 18, 2023

YM2023-32 Out of the silence, Thomas Taylor read the **Epistle of the Ireland Yearly Meeting**. Friends met in hybrid fashion to explore the theme: Building Community Together. They drew from the wisdom of representatives and speakers who challenged them to address social injustice, war, and environmental destruction clearly and forcefully. Friends supported one another through thoughtful engagement, and they celebrated the success of their growing social media presence and the involvement of young Friends.

YM2023-33 Naming Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported on the work of the Naming Committee. Rick Adams, Wink Covintree, and Stephanie Charlot will continue on the Nominating Committee. The Naming Committee proposes the addition of Mike Hinshaw, Wooster, to that Committee. This addition was **approved.** The Naming Committee recommends that there be additions to Nominating Committee from the Eastern portion of our region. The clerk will support Nominating's ongoing work.

YM2023-34 Nominating Committee, Report no. 4

Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) reported on the work of the Nominating Committee. The work of all committee members is recognized with appreciation. The full slate appears below.

Some openings remain, such as assistant clerk, and members for the Advancement & Outreach Committee. Four open positions remain on the Adult & Family Program Committee. They welcome volunteers to help again. The Nominating slate will be available online in the advance documents for Friends to consult before the final version is archived.

Friends expressed gratitude to Mike Holaday for his years of service to this yearly meeting as he relocates. Specifically, Friends recalled him working tirelessly during annual sessions despite a lack of sleep, and his personal support of a Friend who was experiencing a significant family challenge. The slate as it appears below was **approved**.

LEYM Officers, Committee Members, & Representatives Final Slate, June 18, 2023

Officers				
<u>Role</u>		Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
Presiding Clerk	ExC	Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh	4	2024
Assistant Clerk	ExC	TBD	1	TBD
Recording Cler	k <i>ExC</i>	Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	1	2026
Treasurer ExC		Tom Kangas North Columbu	ıs 5	2024
		-		
Communicatio	ons and	Other Workers		
Bulletin Editor		Su Penn, Red Cedar	1	2024
Annual Record	s Editor	(appointed by Publications &	Archives)	
	Elise Y	oder, Pittsburgh	3	2024
Meeting Worke	rs (cont	racted by presiding clerk)		
Database Ma	nager	Donna Lueke, Broadmead	1	2024
Digital Comm	unicatio	ons Facilitator		
	Bill Wa	rters, Birmingham	5	2024
Bookstore	Valerie	Groszmann, Kalamazoo	20	2024
Committees				
Advancement				
		ars of Term: 3		
Joseph Mills, Kalamazoo, Clerk ExC			3	2024
Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar			1	2026
Susan Hartman, Ann Arbor			1	2026
Barbara LeSage, North Columbus			1	2026
OPEN (2 positio	ons)			
Earthcare				
	a is dorn	nant. No nominations were m	ada	
This committee	515 0011		aue.	
Finance				
# of Member	s:3 Ye	ars of Term: 3		
Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar, Clerk <i>ExC</i> 6 20			2024	
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham			3	2024
Aran Reinhart, Broadmead			2	2025
Treasurer serve	es ex offi	icio.		
Ministry & Nur				
		ep. from each monthly meeti	ng	
		o, Co-Clerk <i>ExC</i>	2	2025
		lamazoo, Co-Clerk <i>ExC</i>	2	2025
Shelley Kotz, B	roadme	ad	6	2024
Ellerie Brownfa	in, Birm	ingham	2	2025
Cathy Clifford,	Red Ceo	dar	1	2025
			4	0005

1

2025

Mark Hoover, Ann Arbor

Nominating

# of Members: 6; appointed by YM through Naming Committee; Years of Term: 3			
Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar, Co-Clerk ExC	2	2025	
Rick Adams, North Columbus, Co-Clerk ExC	3	2024	
Winifred Covintree, Birmingham	3	2024	
Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	1	2026	
OPEN (2)			

Peace & Justice. This committee is dormant. No nominations were made.

Publications & Archives # of Members: 4; Years of Term: 3		
Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor <i>ExC</i>	1	2026
Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	4	2025
Bob Roehm, North Columbus	7	2024
Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh	5	2025
Digital Communications Facilitator and Bulletin Editors serve	ex officio.	
Note: The Annual Meeting Planning Committee consists of the following thre	e committees.	
Adult & Family Program # of Members: 6; Years of Term: 3		
Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie WG, Clerk ExC	2	2025
Greg Mott, Broadmead	2	2025
OPEN (4)		
Arrangements & Site # of Members: 6; Years of Term: 3		
Jon Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk <i>ExC</i>	20	2025
Bill Warters, Birmingham	5	2024
Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	2	2025
Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead	8	2025
Janet Dando, Akron	1	2025
Carolyn Lejuste, Red Cedar	1	2026
Registrar (selected by committee): Sally Weaver Sommer		
Youth & Children Program		
# of Members: 12-16; Years of Term: 2 (Clerk only)		
Diane Mott, Broadmead, Clerk <i>ExC</i>	1	2025
Erika Smith, Detroit, Asst. Clerk	2	2024
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham (Fall Retreat assistant)		
Jonah Brownfain, Birmingham		
Cathy Clifford, Red Cedar		
Cristin Graham, Detroit		
Lee Monroe, Wooster		
Su Penn, Red Cedar		
Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens		

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

AFSC Corporation		
Bill Warters, Birmingham	6	2024
Paul Helbling, Broadmead	5	2025
Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead	5	2025
OPEN (1)		
	_	
FCNL General Committee (3-year terms; limited to two co		-
John Deikis, Ann Arbor	4	2026
John Howell, Athens	8	2025
Wink Covintree, Birmingham	1	2026
Michael Fuson, Granville	1	2026
FGC Central Committee (3-year terms; limited to two cons	secutive terms)
(LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee))
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	2	2025
Brad Shaw, Red Cedar	2	2025
Rick Adams, North Columbus	1	2026
		2020
FWCC (3-year terms)		
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	3	2024
Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie WG	3	2024
OPEN (2)		
FLGBTQC		
Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	9	2024
Olney Friends School		
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	5	2025
Greg Mott, Broadmead	2	2025
Quaker Earthcare Witness		
Richard Tucker, Ann Arbor	2	2025
Friends Peace Teams		
Don Buckingham, North Columbus	1	2026
	I	2020

YM2023-35 Our clerk invited Friends to give "one breath" reports about happenings here or at their monthly meetings.

- North Columbus will be moving into an accessible space and will be adding a once-a-month alternate-format worship session.
- Athens has added a Lawnchair Dance team to their advancement and outreach efforts.
- Tom and Nancy Taylor are key to the weekly Ann Arbor Meeting for Walking, which explores various parks.

- Kalamazoo reported that their Peace Park is appreciated by the community. They are collaborating with other faith groups to support two extended families of Afghan refugees.
- North Columbus is finishing their second year of Quakerism 101, and they hope to collaborate with other meetings on providing that support to newcomers.
- Ann Arbor meeting has been supporting a person in sanctuary. His health has improved, he is no longer in fear of deportation, and he is doing very well.
- Detroit Friends are worshipping in a new building after a five-year journey to have their own space.
- Broadmead has found some new Friends to help design their website, and they shared excitement about this project.

Friends expressed thanks to our clerk for her willingness to be creative and nudge us out of our cozy ruts. Experimentation is very much in line with the work of early Friends.

YM2023-36 The **youth and children** in attendance, along with their teachers, shared a power-point and poster board map that illustrated their explorations and adventures during Annual Meeting. They shared an Epistle that appears below, and that celebrates exploration of this new setting. This epistle was joyously accepted.

LEYM Youth and Children's Epistle

June 18, 2023 Dear Young Friends everywhere,

We are the youth and children at Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions. We really enjoyed exploring our new location at Ashland University.

While at Annual Sessions this year, we enjoyed:

- Making new friends
- Playing frisbee
- The swinging benches
- Hide and seek
- Running
- T-ball
- Kingwood Center Garden
- And scootering on the carpet roads of the Alumni Room.

The adults in the Youth and Children's program truly appreciate the adult helpers: Jonah Brownfain, Susan Hartman, Paul Helbling, Greg Mott, and Jayson Smith. This program is much stronger because of the loving support of the helpers and other adults in the Yearly Meeting.

We appreciate the kind, loving, and helpful manner in which the teens played with younger children, helped children safely get places, and helped adults move in and un-bunk beds in the dorm.

We thank the Program and Site and Arrangements Committees for taking the children's program's needs into consideration when planning activities that everyone could enjoy and making spaces that fit the needs of our program. Our hearts are touched when witnessing the incredible interactions of the children, teens, and adults. This has been a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Amaya, Zeke, Gigi, Andrew, Douglas, Rory, Cristin, Christa, Diane, Ellerie, Carla, and Erika

YM2023-37 Su Penn and Aran Reinhart shared the epistle for our 2023 Yearly Meeting. Friends enthusiastically **approved** the epistle. The full text follows:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of Friends Together in Ashland, Ohio, June 15-18, 2023

To Friends everywhere:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting greets you with affection and joy from our first in-person Annual Meeting since 2019, enriched by the virtual presence of some Friends who joined us via Zoom. After many years in the same location, we convened at a new campus this year, and were greeted on our opening evening by a tornado warning that disrupted our first business session of the year, sending some Friends to shelter on a lower level, catching some Friends as they were arriving and complicating registration and access to dormitories, and drawing some Friends, true Midwesterners all, outside to stand under the building's awning to watch the sky. No tornado was sighted, but heavy rain, thunder and lightning accompanied us as we settled damply into our lodging.

The rest of the weekend has featured clear, cool days with light breezes. Our children's program, though much smaller than in some previous years, found much to like about the new campus, including an indoor space closer to the rest of the meeting's activities, and outdoor spaces that included a beautiful circle of garden swings, leading to the invention of a new game called "Swingball." The small number of youth attenders led to teenagers and younger children spending the weekend together, which was enriching for all.

The drop-off in the number of small children among us, as well as the increased age of many stalwart and beloved Friends, prompted us to consider our future. "Where is spirit leading us?" we asked together. "Where are we being called?" Though we do not yet have the answer, we faithfully await clarity and new direction. We find that, despite the diminishments of age that affect many of us, our faith and fellowship remain powerful.

Friends offered eleven workshops during the weekend, on topics as diverse as nonviolence, Faithful Meetings, the poetry of Friend Helen Morgan Brooks, and Multi-Age Inclusion. The positive buzz about these workshops from those who attended spoke well of the many spiritual gifts being well-expressed among us.

We enjoyed an evening of sharing each other's gifts in an event we called a fair. Friends played board games and sang, while others taught juggling, steampunk creation, jewelry making, quilling, and more. It was an evening of joy and camaraderie as we learned more about each other's lives and talents outside of our shared life as Quakers.

We were blessed and challenged by our plenary speaker, Emily Provance, who spoke to us of inflexible ideas about limited models of faithfulness and happiness that can stifle spirit in some faith communities. She invited us to reflect on our relationship to these ideas, and offered us

guidance in the form of new truths, such as the reminder that there is always hope we can hear God together, and that deep listening, even to people with whom we disagree deeply, opens all involved to the possibility of transformation.

Some among us who identify as members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and Two-Spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) community found ourselves connecting with several of the college's cafeteria staff who are young trans and queer people. They seemed hungry to have accepting adults hear their stories, share their joys, empathize with their challenges, and coo over pictures of their pets and sweethearts. This intergenerational sharing enriched us all, and some of these connections seem likely to endure past the end of our time at Ashland. This generation of LGBTQIA2S+ people are growing up in an unprecedented time of acceptance and self-knowledge, but are imperiled by family rejection and targeted right-wing attacks in state legislatures across the USA. We hold these young people in our hearts and commend them to your care, and to the care of God.

Friends of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting send you our love from the American Midwest, where we faced a deadly natural peril but were unharmed by it, and where we renewed our affection for one another, our faithful connections, and our hopeful determination that our faith will bring us to a vital future. We look forward to sharing this future with Friends everywhere.

Susan Loucks, Presiding Clerk Su Penn, Aran Reinhart, Epistle Committee

Friends closed the Meeting for Business for these Annual Sessions at 10:21 am to prepare for Meeting for Worship.

Appended Written Reports

Several reports were included in the advance documents but not presented in Annual Sessions. These appear below.

Adult & Family Program Committee Report

The Adult & Family Program Committee began its planning for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's 2023 Annual Meeting in August 2022 when Susan Hartman shared notes and folders of what the Committee had done during three years of virtual Annual Meetings. Fortunately, most Friends who had served previously, continued on the Committee, so the steepest learning curve was for me, the only new member.

In addition to the challenges of planning for a completely new site and working with a new venue coordinator were an 8-week shorter timeline and an innovative schedule guided by recommendations from the 2020-2021 Ad-Hoc Visioning Committee, as well as helping the Children & Youth Committee to coordinate their program with us.

Meeting virtually for about two hours each session, more often than monthly, then weekly, the seven members diligently juggled personal schedules and the many tasks involved in planning a 3+ day Annual Meeting. Quickly, we agreed on the theme "Navigating Anew" and developed a list of speakers we wanted to invite. We sought the counsel of Executive Committee whose opinions coincided with ours. We felt it a good omen that our first choice of Plenary speaker agreed. Those initial quick successes turned out to be the easy parts.

Eventually we garnered so many excellent workshop topics that we reconfigured the schedule to allow for three workshop times. That meant imagining new ways to do committee work and the business of the Yearly Meeting so that we could have all the activities LEYM Friends love (worship & worship sharing, Bible study, workshops, Thursday night welcome, Friday night Plenary, Sat. Night fun, late night-movies, ways of sharing ideas, hobbies and work of Friends' organizations) and not have to make too many choices.

I feel immensely grateful for the many small and big tasks each member took on. The Friends who had already visited the site and venue helped us to visualize the challenges and advantages of a large, open space where we could again meet face to face. Team/Committee members: Ellerie Brownfain, Susan Hartman, Barbara LeSage, Greg Mott, Clemence Ravacon-Mershon, Bill Warters, and Sally Weaver Sommer, provided answers from Ashland to our many questions, letters to presenters, maps, messages, minutes, "navigating designs," original and quirky ideas, plans, and summaries to steer the program on its mid-June path. We hope that you feel the joy in our efforts to bring LEYM Friends together once again Face to Face. Please help us by filling out the evaluation form.

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon

Ministry & Nurture Committee Report to Annual Sessions 2023

Members of the LEYM Ministry & Nurture Committee are Flo Friender and Shelley Kotz (co-clerks), Ellerie Brownfain, Maryann Concannon, Valerie Groszmann, and Mark Hoover. The Committee met monthly from August 2022 to June 2023 via Zoom.

During the last year Ministry & Nurture facilitated several meetings of individuals in LEYM. Three Clerks' Chats were held. Members from M & N, acted as tech support and as a shepherd (holding the participants in the Light.) Former clerks from LEYM, and clerks or former clerks from individual meetings acted as the facilitators for these meetings. The meetings have been well received by the participants, many of whom have participated regularly. Participants in the group decide how often and when they would like to meet. They share concerns and seek help from each other regarding concerns.

In the fall, Ministry & Nurture also facilitated a meeting with Wooster Monthly Meeting to help them move forward in discerning whether to lay their meeting down or to continue as a monthly meeting. Joe Mills, a member of LEYM's Advancement & Outreach Committee also participated. LEYM Clerk, Susan Loucks, led the meeting and encouraged the members and attenders to speak about their concerns regarding the path forward. At the end, Susan also provided them with several excellent questions to consider in their ongoing discernment. Members from Wooster Meeting expressed gratitude for the sessions and indicated a sense of greater clarity in their ongoing discernment.

At this time, based on a request we have received, we are planning an all LEYM worship via Zoom on Wednesday, July 26.

A traditional activity of Ministry & Nurture has been writing and presenting a query for worship groups and meetings to consider during the fall of each year. Typically, the query is presented during Annual Sessions with a written notice and supplementary materials to help explore the topic of the query sent out in September. The queries are often based on concerns that seem to be arising in meetings as described in the State of the Meeting reports that are submitted in the spring.

The query for 2022 at annual sessions last July was:

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?

Responses were received through January A summary of the responses was completed prior to Representative Meeting and is available on the LEYM website and attached below.

The committee is currently working on a summary of the State of Meeting reports which will be available on the website and is attached below.

While a number of meetings do respond to the requests for Query and State of the Meeting reports in a timely way, some do not. Typically, it is necessary to contact meetings to remind them of the due dates for the reports. Nevertheless, there are always some reports that arrive well after that date. The deadlines are based on factors such as the time necessary to summarize and write a report and other activities that are planned. At the Representative Meeting held in March of this year, members of the Ministry & Nurture Committee raised concerns about trying to manage our schedule given the difficulty in obtaining the materials we need.

Our comments at Representative Meeting led to a lively discussion of queries and their usefulness. Many meetings seem not to see a value in the queries, which makes responding to them seem to be only a chore. Others appreciate the traditional nature and use of queries among Friends. The conversation gave the Ministry & Nurture Committee much to consider regarding queries. As a result, the Committee spent considerable time at recent meetings, considering the subject of queries: how to make them more relevant, how to better determine what is on the minds of meetings and members, and if we should even continue to provide queries at all. This discernment is ongoing.

If there is a query this year, it will be presented later. The committee believes, based on comments when we contacted meeting clerks to remind them of the query report deadline, that the announcement and information sent to clerks in the fall may not have caught the attention of clerks, especially if they were new to the position. We are thinking of ways to make sure the information is seen and understood.

The Ministry & Nurture Committee for LEYM seeks to be a resource for the individuals, worship groups, and monthly meetings of LEYM. We work best when we know what is needed. During Annual Sessions or at any time during the year, we urge you to contact us if you feel that there is some way that we can be of use to you or your meeting.

Summary of Responses to 2022 LEYM Query

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 home bound. 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.

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.

Summary of LEYM State of the Meeting Reports Spring 2023

(We are) "small, but mighty". "Our Meeting matters and is worth cherishing." "Our Meeting family is our spiritual rock in the midst of this somewhat troubled world."

These are a few of the sentences that meetings used in describing the state of their meetings. Twelve meetings responded to our request for State of the Meeting (SotM) reports. An item in the LEYM spring *Bulletin* encouraged meetings to try novel or creative ways of thinking about the state of their meetings, and several meetings responded with an image, metaphor, or design from the activity of considering the state of the meeting.

Change was a theme through many of the reports. Change is represented in the ongoing effects of the pandemic and its aftermath. Nearly all meetings are in person now, with some retaining a hybrid model and some going back to in-person only. Several of the hybrid meetings have concerns with a sense of separation between those who are present in person and those who are present online. There is a very real concern with this creating separation in the meetings.

Some meetings have adjusted well to hybrid meetings. A few factors seem to influence the sense of positivity. If a meeting had some far-flung members who found it time-consuming and difficult to get to

meeting, the option of attending virtually is welcome. Similarly, members who had physical issues that made it difficult to attend were grateful for the ease of attending from home. Finally, those meetings without a meeting house who meet in donated facilities with excellent audio-visual systems felt the awkwardness of a hybrid meeting less than those with a less adequate system.

Several meetings are adjusting to major to changes in their meeting place. One meeting that sold its meeting house more than a year ago, continues to adjust to its new space. Another, which was forced by eminent domain to move from its former meeting house, has found and purchased a new meeting house after years of exploring alternatives. Another meeting has made the difficult decision to sell their meeting house so that they can have a meeting space accessible to all. Given the profound significance in our spiritual lives of the physical space where we worship, these decisions are not done lightly. Each of these meetings has spent much time in discernment and in adjusting to the changes as they were accomplished.

Some meetings found that the turmoil of recent years has led to a smaller number of active members and attenders. However, many also acknowledge that the aging of the membership has played a role in this as people become less active due to diminished physical abilities. At the same time, there are meetings that have found new members, including families with children and report new activity in their first day schools. One meeting described recent years as bringing back some people who had once attended, new people who have become regular attenders, and some who were seekers that attended once or twice and not again. Meetings recognize their role in being part of someone's spiritual journey no matter how long the person is with them.

Quaker meetings and worship groups in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting approach the tradition of Quaker activism for justice and peace in multiple ways. Some primarily support members as they personally engage in addressing social concerns. Some meetings have relationships with other organizations that allow them to provide support on specific concerns. All meetings rely on their individual "experts" for ongoing education about various topics. Areas of social concern that meetings are engaged with include: Lake Erie water quality, sustainability issues, multifaith activities, relationships with neighboring diverse religious communities, racism, economic injustice, assisting a local Indian band in obtaining tribal recognition from the U.S. government, assisting immigrants, and other concerns.

In reading the State of the Meeting reports together, there is frequently a celebratory note: a sense of having made it through a storm. There is a recognition of change and of the constant need for our Quaker practices to achieve reconciliation where there is conflict, to discern our way forward in addressing our concerns, and to find ways to comfort and celebrate with one another in our individual lives. We know that we have been given tools of great value, and we remain committed to using those tools on our spiritual journey.

Spiritual Formation Committee Report, June 2023

The Spiritual Formation Committee has been working hard at planning the coming year's programming after missing a year of minimal programming. We began our planning by articulating our commitment to a program that encourages Friends to listen carefully to God's call in their lives. As our website says, "Through retreats and regular local group meetings, participants create with one another a close faith community for spiritual growth, mutual support, and encouragement. The group provides a structured, supportive community in which each member can discern the divine call and prepare to follow it." Our plans for the 2023-2024 year include a fall retreat at Weber Center, September 8-10, a check in session on Zoom on a Saturday in January, and a wrap up retreat in the spring. The fall retreat will prepare us for our year of individual spiritual practices and our participation in local groups meeting in

person or online throughout the months between the two retreats. We are delighted that Marty Grundy, once a member of Cleveland Monthly Meeting and instrumental in getting LEYM's Spiritual Formation program going, will be the facilitator for the 2023-2024 retreats. This year's theme is "Let Our Lives Speak; Using Words When Necessary."

Members of this year's Spiritual Formation Committee are Ellerie Brownfain, Olwen Pritchard, Barbara LeSage, Valerie Groszmann, Kathleen Helbling and Sally Weaver Sommer. Any of us would be delighted to talk with you about the program. Feel free to grab one of us during annual meeting and we'll sit down for a chat. Also, check out the Spiritual Formation Program display in the Alumni Room and the LEYM website for more information about spiritual formation in general and about this year's retreat in particular. We hope to see many of you at the Weber Center in September!

Sally Weaver Sommer Clerk of Spiritual Formation Committee

Nominating Committee Report

6th Month, 5th Day, 2023

The Nominating Committee reports that the yearly meeting will go into annual sessions once again this year with a number of open positions. Owing to expiring terms and some resignations, several of the most important positions became open this year, and we've not been able to fill them. The nominations to committees that we can make now follow the trend of recent years, which is to say most committees will have openings on the preliminary slate. Nominees for representatives to other Quaker organizations may increase this year.

Most notably, we haven't been able to identify a Friend to nominate as assistant clerk. Since the yearly meeting didn't find someone to step in when the position became open at rise of Annual Sessions last year (2022), if no one is appointed during the upcoming Annual Sessions, or by action of the Executive Committee afterward, the yearly meeting will lack both a presiding clerk and an assistant clerk when the current presiding clerk's four-year term expires next year (2024).

Of more immediate concern, perhaps, we haven't been able to find a nominee for recording clerk. We're also searching for an editor for the *Bulletin* and a new database manager. All three positions will become open at the rise of annual sessions. These positions call for particular skills, and since our committee knows little about Friends in the yearly meeting who might have these skills, we've asked for leads, without success so far.

The yearly meeting has three committees that have been dormant for several years: High School Teen Retreat, Earth Care, and Peace & Justice. Friends interested in re-invigorating any of these should let that be known during the Annual Meeting.

As we've mentioned before, the pandemic virtually froze the Nominating Committee's familiarity with the yearly meeting at 2019 levels. It seems likely that with a return to in-person annual meetings, the Committee will be able to get back to its previous form in the years ahead. In the meantime, we're eager to hear from Friends who feel called to service. We hope they'll make themselves known to us soon.

We'll present a preliminary slate of appointments for Friends' information early in the Annual Sessions, and a formal slate for approval later during the sessions.

With appreciation for all those who serve the yearly meeting, we are: Rick Adams, North Columbus; Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar; Wink Covintree, Birmingham; Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids, clerk

Publications and Archives Committee Report

All four of the expected publications the Committee oversees (three Bulletins and the Annual Records) were produced on time and under budget in 2022-23. Hurray!

We recently integrated two new areas of work: 1) checking the Minutes adopted by the Yearly Meeting to find any decisions that require changes in our Policies and Procedures, and 2) editing minutes from LEYM meetings to put them in a standard format for publication. We also format the Memorial Minutes added to the LEYM website and published in the Annual Records.

In the coming year, Elise Yoder will again serve as compiler of the Annual Records, with Jeff Cooper editing many parts of it. We are asking to receive materials for the Annual Records by July 31.

We are embarking on a project to consider how we might guide people writing memorial minutes for deceased Friends. We believe that some suggestions similar to those we use to guide the writing of State of the Meeting reports might be useful for Friends.

LEYM Publications & Archives Committee Rosemary Coffey, Jeff Cooper, Peggy Daub (Clerk), Bob Roehm

Youth and Children's Program Committee Report

June 17, 2023

On the weekend of September 23, 2022, eight families gathered for the LEYM Youth Retreat at Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio. There were nine adults and ten children ranging from kindergarten to ninth grade. Families came from Athens, Birmingham, Broadmead, Detroit, and Red Cedar Monthly Meetings. It was amazing to be back together with Friends.

Over the weekend, we went hiking, played games, beach volleyball, frisbee, gaga ball, ping pong, and air hockey, decorated and signed t-shirts for each other, made jewelry, and spent some time coloring with markers and colored pencils. On Saturday evening, we ordered pizza from a local pizzeria for supper. After supper, we had a bonfire with s'mores. The older youth and two adults stayed late at the bonfire, enjoying each other's company. On Sunday morning we had Worship Sharing before cleaning up Heritage Lodge and heading home. For most of us, the best part of the weekend was spending time with friends and making new friends.

Finances:

Twenty-one people registered for the 2022 retreat, and nineteen people attended the retreat. Two of the children were under the age of six. Heartland Conference UCC, who owns Templed Hills Camp, charges a flat rate for the nightly rental of Heritage Hall, and charges per person for provided meals for people over the age of five. We paid for three prepared meals for nineteen people over the age of 5 since this was the official number turned in and paid for before the retreat. LEYM asks for people over the age of five to pay \$70 for the retreat. The family not able to attend did not pay anything, and six people asked for full scholarships. One family paid for their five-year old, so I collected \$840 for twelve people. In 2020, LEYM cancelled the Youth Retreat and rolled most of the money already paid toward the retreat in 2021. The deposit was donated to Heartland UCC. In 2021, the Youth Retreat Clerk cancelled the retreat only a few weeks before the retreat because of extremely high Covid and hospitalization rates in

Richland County, Ohio, where the retreat is held. Heartland UCC generously rolled over the money to 2022. When I ordered meals for this year, the online registration site did not show meal credit from 2021, so I paid the full price of meals. After the retreat, Jill Frey at Heartland gave us credit of \$294 for the 2021 meals paid in the form of a discount for 2023.

	LEYM costs	Comments
	1100.00	Heritage Hall cost for two nights, paid in 2020 and 2021
	315.00	Templed Hills meals for 2021
	378.00	Templed Hills meals for 2022
	138.87	Cost for Pizza Saturday night and weekend snacks for 2022
	- 294.00	Overpay for meals in 2022. Credit for 2023
	- 840.00	Registration paid for 12 people in 2022
Total	797.37	Final Cost for LEYM Youth Retreat 2022

The table below shows the 2022 Youth Retreat cost breakdowns:

Representatives' Reports

AFSC Representatives Report

After several years of virtual-only annual meetings due to COVID, AFSC once again hosted the Annual Corporation Meeting in-person at Friends Center in Philadelphia on Thursday April 13 - Saturday, April 15. The 2023 theme was "Connecting for Lasting Change." Bill Warters, one of your LEYM Representatives to the Corporation, attended these sessions and brings back a detailed report, available at https://tinyurl.com/LEYMAFSCrep as a formatted PDF. AFSC's official epistle to YM's is also available at https://tinyurl.com/AFSCEpistle.

FGC Representatives Report

In the fall representatives from the FGC Yearly Meetings and affiliated Monthly Meetings gathered together for Central Committee. This year it was held in person and online. Central Committee consists of Representatives from these Yearly Meetings and co opted individuals who are appointed for their specific gifts. Central committee consists of many smaller committees. From Finance to Nominating, Personnel, Ministry on Racism and of course the LRCP. (Long Range Conference Planning). This committee deals with the policies and procedures that fine-tunes the gathering to make it happen. If you are interested in working on the summer Gathering, please reach out to FGC. They're always looking for volunteers. Of course, FGC is not just the summer Gathering. There are ways to be involved during the year from the annual fund to the spiritual deepening program. Please refer to the listing online and see how you can be part of this community.

One of the lesser-known committees is Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee (CIRC). They participate in dialogues and finds other ways for Friends to be active and involved in interfaith, ecumenical, and broader Quaker activities. As a member of this committee, I am blessed to be attending the FUM (Friends United Meeting) Triennial this summer at Kabarak University in Nakuru Kenya.

FGC is committed to become an anti-racist faith community. In 2018 an institutional assessment was started on becoming an anti-racist institution. The goal is to build an institution that could recognize and overcome structural racism. FGC is continually working towards this goal. This is evident in every piece

of work FGC does from small committee meetings, online programs to the summer gathering. Meetings are encouraged to contact FGC regarding the institutional assessment and anti-racism resources. For the past several years the FGC summer gathering has been online because of covid -19. However, last summer, after much discernment, Youth and Young Adult Friends, aged 0 - 35, met in person. This was deemed safer rather than having a larger gathering.

This year with much excitement the FGC gathering will be held in person at Western Oregon University in Monmoth Oregon. This is conveniently located only 20 minutes from the State's capital of Salem and an hour and a half from Portland. FGC is hoping Friends will be comfortable attending this year's gathering. Much research and discernment has gone into planning the program and the Covid Policy. If interested, please go to the FGC website. This year's theme is:" Listen, so that we may live." This year it's not only special because we haven't been meeting in person for a few years, but it's the first time in a generation it's being held in the Pacific Northwest. We hope to attract many attenders from the West Coast and those who wish to explore the beauty of the Pacific Northwest. FGC offers many programs that support individuals, Monthly and Yearly Meetings. These varied programs cost money to maintain. FGC needs financial help from all of us to maintain many of these programs. As a friend suggested \$5 a month or every couple months would significantly help to maintain our programs. And that is the price some of us pay for a cup of coffee or soda pop during the month.

FGC is also interested in your ideas, talents and gifts. Please reach out to our main office and let us know what you can offer and share.

Respectfully submitted, Ellerie Brownfain

FWCC Representatives Report

FWCC Section of the Americas was excited to hold its first truly hybrid Section Meeting March 23-26, 2023, at Haw River State Park near Greensboro, North Carolina. Despite a weak internet signal at the venue, Friends from all over the Western Hemisphere (including 13 attending from Latin America) were able to tune into Bible study, Meeting for Business, devotionals, several varieties of Worship, Home groups, and a Saturday evening Plenary with Noah Merrill speaking from New England. Regional meetings and Workshops occurred either in-person or online but not both simultaneously. The Section Meeting's theme focused on Becoming the Quakers the World needs, the theme of the 2022 World Quaker Day and the current Capital Campaign. Friends were introduced to the world-wide Capital Campaign and the 2024 FWCC Plenary in South Africa and on-line. Its theme will be Ubuntu (I am because you are). Since the Section of the Americas committees are now completely bi-lingual, a training for new interpreters was held in conjunction with the March 2023 Section Meeting. Further, a new program group (like a committee): Consultation (meetings to discuss a topic or to get advice) and Intervisitation (in-person visits to a Friends church or meetinghouse). was approved to carry out greater connections within the Section.

Spiritual preparation prior to the Section Meeting drew on 4 sub-themes, each with queries, a prayer focus and Bible passages. Spiritual preparation begins with nurturing the roots of our connection and devotion to God first. From there, we connect with the leaves on our branch: personal relationships in our families, local Meeting/Church and our yearly Meetings. From there, we connect with all the branches – the sacred community of our shared humanity. Finally, we reflect this love, rooted and grounded in God, into the actions we take in supporting peace and healing in our world through shining our light.

1: Loving God. Queries – How do I seek to deepen my devotion to God on a daily basis? What practices support my faith connection? Has my faith/devotion to God been shaken by outside world events and if so, how? Prayer Focus – I pray for the continued deepening of my connection and devotion to God

Matthew 22:37-38. Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5. Hear O Israel: The lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your Heart, with all your soul and with all your strength.

2: Loving Our Family, Neighbors, Church/Meeting Queries – How can the love of God shine through me in my family relationships? What gifts do I offer to show my love and support for neighbors and community? Are there other ways I may nurture and deepen these connections? Prayer Focus – I pray for God's love to nurture and support my compassion and understanding in my family relationships. I pray to know and understand my neighbors and community and to support them with heart and compassion.

Mark 12:30-31. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'. There is no other commandment greater than these".

1 John 4:20. If someone says, "I love God", and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen. How can he love God whom he has not seen?

3: Loving our World Queries – In what ways am I working towards healing our earth? How am I committing myself to wise use of resources? In what ways may I help with bringing peace when there is conflict, and supporting those in need of shelter? Prayer Focus – I pray for healing among nations and shelter for those who must move due to climate or politics. May I find the strength to offer compassion and love to those in need.

Leviticus 19:18. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

James 2. My brethren do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him "You sit here in a good place, and say to the poor man, You stand there" or "Sit here at my footstool, have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

4. Shining our Light. Queries – How might I continue to shine my light in the world? What special gifts do I have that I would like to offer? How do I renew my fire so my light might continue to shine? Prayer Focus – I pray for strength, courage, and hope as I share my love with the world.

Matthew 5:14. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life".

The worldwide Capital Campaign has numerous components. Some are projected for more immediate focus: Interactive Map and Quaker directory, Interpreters Training and Glossary, Consultations and Intervisitation. Others have a longer-term focus: Quaker Connect Pilot Project and Travel and Technology Quasi-Endowment Fund. Because 20% of the funds raised by the Section of the Americas is reserved for the functioning of the World Office in London which supports the other 3 Sections (Africa, Asia-West Pacific, Europe and Middle East), a large portion of the funds raised will underpin the future work of Quakers around.

One example of reaching beyond its geographic borders was the fellowship gathering organized by Friends in the Southwest Region. Small groups began with celebrations of what we like about our Friends' meetings and churches before Emily Provance, spoke about Listening to God Online. Since the Southwest Region includes Mexico City Meeting this gathering was bi-lingual Spanish/English. Friends from as far away as Guatemala joined this diverse gathering. The 2023 FWCC Section of the Americas visitor will be Executive Committee member Norma Walman from Western YM (Indiana).

Submitted by Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon

Olney Friends School Representative

On May 27, Olney Friends School is having its 185th commencement exercises. Eight students -- one each from South Africa, Ethiopia, and Uganda, and five from the US. We started the year with 29 students enrolled and expect a comparable number for 2023-2024.

Some educational highlights: In a transdisciplinary project, students from Humanities 9 and 10 and Chemistry classes learned how to blacksmith, crafting metal S-hooks with a forge using locally sourced coal. During our February Fridays this year, the Environmental Science class visited the Green Building Alliance in Pittsburgh. Students enjoyed teacher-led activities in winter hiking, wood carving, sewing with zippers, and group singing. Dr. Michael Luick-Thrams, a native of Iowa and professor of social history at the Universität Erfurt in Thüringen, Germany, presented about the Quaker-sponsored Scattergood Hostel for European Refugees in Iowa during the second World War. We also had a visit from the Wild at Hart Wildlife Rehabilitation group with ambassador animals including a woodchuck and a pair of flying squirrels.

By May first, we had raised 86% of the \$300,000 annual fund goal. This year's alumni reunion fundraising projects include upgrades in information technology, kitchen appliances, and faculty housing. Thanks to more financial support through grants and major gifts in early 2023, the Board of Trustees has approved funding for several much-needed renovation projects:

- Renovation of the Guindon (Boys) Dorm's second-floor bathroom
- New boiler and components for the Guindon Dorm's 47-year-old heating system
- New flooring in the Main Building's kitchen and storage rooms
- Energy-conserving replacement windows in the Towe Ranch faculty house
- Replacement of the failing retaining wall supporting the bicycle shed and parking lot.

The school is currently seeking an admissions director, art teacher, and assistant farmer. If interested give them a call.

Olney is grateful for LEYM's interest and support over the years. Individuals and monthly meetings are encouraged to help Olney. From financial contributions to volunteering as a guest speaker and sharing your talents and gifts.

Respectfully submitted, Ellerie Brownfain