

**LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 13-16, 2024**

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; Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Recording Clerk

SESSION 1: Thursday, June 13, 2024, 7:30pm – 9:00pm

YM 2024-01 Opening and reading of Epistle

Friends settled into waiting worship at 7:30 pm. Clerk Susan Loucks welcomed Friends and expressed her joy at gathering together, mindful of both our history and our future. She acknowledged the many gatherings that have been held on this land before we met here, including those of the Kaskaskia people.

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) read an epistle from the newly formed Central European Yearly Meeting. Fifty Friends from eleven countries met in Budapest, Hungary. They arose from previous groups known as Border Meeting, Quaker Spring Regional Gathering, and Central European Gathering, and now define themselves as a yearly meeting. They heard about key threads of Quakerism from Ben Pink Dandelion, learned about the archiving of their own history, accepted greetings from other Friends groups, and acknowledged the story they are writing as they continue gathering and growing. [The full text of this and other epistles read at these sessions may be found at https://fwcc.world/resources_cpt/epistles/.]

Susan thanked three Friends who volunteered to hold this session in Light. Other Friends will continue this practice as our sessions proceed.

YM 2024-02 Program Committee: Bill Warters reported

Bill Warters (Birmingham) welcomed Friends back to Ashland and reminded us of the tornado warning that occurred at our first session here in 2023. With our theme this year, "Friends Together: Outpouring of Spirit," Paulette Meier will appropriately share her experiences of Spirit by pouring out song with us. Bill briefly described many of the activities to come this weekend. He invited Friends to explore the campus and town as well as all that Friends will share through workshops, display tables, "birds of a feather" groups, the children and youth program, and more. Friends were invited to have breakfast in "anchor groups" each day. A new convenience this year is a mobile app. Bill also shared some statistics from the registration information: There are a total of 116 registrants for Annual Meeting, including 17 first time participants. Twelve youth (up to age 18) are registered. Registrants come from 14 monthly meetings and one worship group within our yearly meeting, and from nine states.

YM 2024-03 Roll Call (numbers determined from registration figures)

Akron	1	Broadmead	14
Ann Arbor	11	Cleveland	9
Athens	9	Delaware	0
Birmingham	7	Detroit	4

Grand Rapids	1	Oberlin	4
Granville	0	Pittsburgh	11
Holland	0	Red Cedar	5
Kalamazoo	8	Wooster	3
Kent	0	Erie Worship Group	1
Mid-Ohio Valley	0	LEYM (No Meeting)	6
North Columbus	9	Other	11

First time attenders were asked to introduce themselves. We welcomed: Paulette Meier, Community Friends Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting; Zoe Jannuzi, AFSC; Eli Koehn, Athens; Alexa Lake, Pittsburgh; Dennis Gregg, Ann Arbor; Rick Thomas, Ann Arbor; Karla Kauffman, Kalamazoo; Jerry and Ann Becker, friends of Paulette Meier; Liz Olson, North Columbus; Don Badgley, Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting; Vickey and Steve Finger, Cleveland; Nathan Kleban, Right Sharing of World Resources, Iowa City Friends Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

Friends were asked to remember and hold in prayer the following absent or deceased Friends: Terry Grant and Sue Emert, Red Cedar; Joyce Balderston, Wooster; Retta and Asghar Aghbar, Pittsburgh; Ellen and Marvin Barnes, Detroit; Margaret Walden and the late Leslie Walden, Cleveland.

YM 2024-04 Epistle Committee

The Clerk invited Friends to consider whether they are led to serve on a committee to write an epistle documenting this 2024 gathering of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Friends **approved** the following people to serve: Alexa Lake (Pittsburgh), Wink Covintree (Birmingham), and Flo Friender (Kalamazoo).

YM 2024-05 Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported on what he has learned about moving one's body.

Thomas invited us to welcome three virtual guests: 1) His grandmother, Margaret Fox Bentley Nicholson, whom he last saw in 1951, when she was 83 and mostly sitting. Thomas invited Friends to be mindful of the health dangers of sitting, and then to stand on toes and heels, one leg and then the other. 2) Henry Cadbury, the renowned Quaker scholar who led hiking and nature study in the Adirondacks during Thomas's youth, but died in a fall in his own home, reminding us of how we lose our balancing ability as we age. 3) Our inner physical selves (as he wore clothing showing skeletal structure), the underpinning of our whole being. He found it important to worship without sitting during the time of COVID. He invited Friends to join him at lunch to consider the following queries: 1) What have we learned during the time of Covid, political division, and the persistence of misinformation? and 2) What did I do for physical education as I grew up? What would I rather have done to learn about my body?

YM 2024-06 Janet Dando read a memorial minute for Adele Looney, both of Akron Meeting. The full text will be available in the *Annual Records* and on the LEYM website.

YM 2024-07 Naming Committee: Ellerie Brownfain reported

Members of the Naming Committee are Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor), and David Finke (Oberlin). They have been meeting for some months seeking Friends to serve on the Nominating Committee but have so far identified just one person to bring forward. Ellerie invited Friends to consider whether they feel led to serve in this way.

YM 2024-08 Announcements from the Clerk

Susan invited Friends to read advance documents before upcoming sessions. She also noted that the position of LEYM Database Manger is available as a paid position, and applicants are invited.

SESSION 2: Friday, June 14, 2024, 10:30am – 12:00pm

Before the business session, the Clerk invited committee clerks or a representative from committees to give a brief overview of their activities. Friends then had 15 minutes in which they could choose a few committees they wanted to know more about and visit the designated sites in the room.

YM 2024-09 Worship and reading of Epistle

From centering worship, Thomas Taylor read an epistle from South Central Yearly Meeting, which met in Bruceville, Texas, in March 2024. Friends met online for part of the week, noting how this useful practice has continued after the COVID epidemic, followed by sessions in person later in the week. They found a sense of unity and togetherness by reading excerpts from State of the Meeting reports, and from the epistles of other groups of Friends. Their keynote speaker, Pamela Haines, challenged them to “show up in service to the sacred,” recognizing that all moments, places, and people are sacred, but can be desecrated.

YM 2024-10 Treasurer’s Report: Tom Kangas reported

LEYM Treasurer Tom Kangas (North Columbus) led us on a tour of the Meeting’s current financial situation. He thanked Detroit Monthly Meeting and their Treasurer, Peter Dale, for acting as recipient of registration fees for our Annual Meeting. The bank used by the company whose software we used for registration would not send the funds directly to LEYM because we lack an official letter from the IRS stating that we are a 501(c)(3) organization. Detroit Meeting’s 501(c)(3) status has been certified by the IRS. The Finance Committee will consider whether obtaining such a letter should be pursued. Friends echoed gratitude to Detroit Meeting.

The financial balance of the Annual Meeting Fund is sound as projected through the end of the fiscal year (June 30). With a small increase in fees and a slightly higher number of Friends attending, plus generous donations from Wooster Monthly Meeting and individual Friends, it is projected that just \$2,000 will be needed to subsidize the fund, substantially less than the amount we allotted.

The overall condition of yearly meeting finances is healthy. We have a reliable revenue stream from our monthly meetings and we budget conservatively. All meetings have contributed and we are grateful for their support. Expenses were about \$10,000 lower than projected in the budget.

The full report and financial statement follow.

Treasurer's report to LEYM Annual Sessions

June 14, 2024

Figures presented are actual through Wednesday, June 11th, plus projected activity through year end.

Online Registration for Annual Meeting

- *Gratitude to the Arrangements & Site committee in general and to Bill Warters in particular, who got us set up with the RegFox online registration system*
- *Gratitude to Detroit Monthly Meeting in general and to their Treasurer Peter Dale in particular, who came to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's aid when we got into a situation with the payment processor for the RegFox system*
- *The situation was:*
 - *The very large bank that is currently processing payments for RegFox was perfectly happy to collect funds from the Yearly Meeting registrants who chose to pay online (about 2/3 of attenders)*
 - *The bank, however, would not release any of the collected funds to the Yearly Meeting because we had no letter certifying our 501(c)(3) status*
 - *The only place to obtain such a letter is from the IRS—a process that takes effort time and money—and which in the IRS' view is not actually required because...*
 - *The IRS views LEYM is an "association of churches," which categorically and automatically is a 501(c)(3)—no documentation required*
- *Gratitude again to Bill Warters for connecting LEYM with Detroit Friends Meeting which has a Letter of Determination from the IRS*
- *Detroit was able to step into the gap between the very large bank and LEYM and be the official recipient of LEYM's registration funds*
- *Detroit's process is then to send a check to LEYM for the funds they have received on our behalf*

Annual Meeting Fund

- **Income**
 - **Registration:** At \$22K, this amount is greater than last year by \$2500
 - **Donations:** At \$2K, this amount is greater than last year by \$1000; due to receipt of a one-time donation from Wooster MM for \$1500
- **Expenses**
 - **Facilities and meals at Ashland Univ:** This is of course the big expense; it's projected to be \$23K, just slightly higher than last year
 - **Other:** Projecting these other costs including honoraria etc. to be down just slightly overall compared to last year
- **Break-even**
 - *A few more people than last year and rates were raised a bit*
 - *So we came closer to breaking even than we did last year—within about a thousand dollars*
 - *To compare: last year's deficit prior to the subsidy was (\$4700)*
- **Subsidy**
 - *A year ago we approved a subsidy for this weekend's Annual Meeting of as much as \$5000*
 - *Finance Committee's goal is to leave the Annual Meeting Fund with a balance of \$3000*
 - *The actual subsidy can be a little less; it needs to be only \$2000 this year to get us there*

Overall assessment

- *Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is financially healthy*
- *The revenue stream from our member Monthly Meetings is reliable*
- *We budgeted conservatively*
- *Our actual results were well under budget*

General Fund

Income

- *Have received payments from all MMs—hooray!*
- *We are grateful for these contributions from MMs and also for contributions to the GF received from individuals!*
- *Dividend income from investments held by Friends Fiduciary Corp are also shown here*

Expenses

- *All of the variances of actual expenses compared to the budget are favorable—and some are large*
- *Database Manager expense is only 43% of budget*
- *Digital Communications Facilitator expense is projected to be only 64% of budget*
- *Committees are under budget—Publications & Archives is at 78% of budget*
- *Annual Meeting subsidy—as previously mentioned—was only 40% of original budget*
- *All told, we spent less than originally budgeted by \$10K*

LEYM Funds

- **General Fund**
 - *Already discussed but this page shows that the fund is likely to end the year at the high end of its desired range due, in part, to the contribution of \$6K of Friends Fiduciary Fund activity so far this year (which is part dividends and part change in investment market value)*
- **Annual Meeting Fund**
 - *Already discussed; leaving this fund with a balance at its desired ceiling*
- **Youth Activities and Spiritual Formation Funds**
 - *Activity in these funds reflects retreats held this year*
- **FWCC Travel Fund**
 - *This activity is related to LEYM's FWCC representative's travel to Johannesburg this coming August for a World Plenary session*
 - *Not absolutely certain these expenditures will all happen in this fiscal year but, if not, they will happen soon*
- **FWCC Travel Donation**
 - *This fund was fully expended with a transfer to FWCC for their use in helping others to travel to the World Plenary*

LEYM Balance Sheet

- **LEYM has its funds with two institutions**
 - *Citizen National Bank of Bluffton*
 - *Friends Fiduciary Corporation*
- **FFC holds 2/3 of LEYM's treasury, and activity includes:**
 - *Dividends which are steady and happen in December and June*
 - *Change in investment market value which is unpredictable*
 - *I didn't try to project change in market value for quarter ending June 30, 2024*
 - *The 9% change in market value seen here comes from activity through March 2024*

**Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Financial Report for 2024 Annual Meeting - June 13 - 16, 2024**

Income	
Registrations fees net of discounts and scholarships	22,084
Donations	1,966
Net earnings from bookstore	
Collected for Youth & Children Program t-shirts	
Payments for lost cards and keys	
	Total Income
	24,051
Expenses	
Ashland University conference charges	23,107
Honoraria for presenters (and travel for plenary speaker)	1,200
Youth and Children program (supplies, activities, t-shirts)	700
Office supplies	267
Online registration payment fees not covered by payors (FFC)	-
	Total Expenses
	25,274
Net Income <Deficit> prior to subsidy from General Fund	(1,224)
Original subsidy from LEYM General Fund	5,000
Return of excess subsidy to LEYM General Fund	(3,000)
Net subsidy	2,000
Net Income <Deficit> from Annual Meeting activities	776
Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of June 30, 2023 (surplus)	2,509
Net Income <Deficit> from Annual Meeting Activities June 2023	776
Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of June 30, 2024 (surplus)	3,286

LEYM General Fund Expenses - with comparison to Budget

For the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2024)

Account	Actual Expense through 6/13/2024	Budget (annual)	Actual expense as a % of Budget	Variance, budget-to-actual, favorable (unfavorable)	Non-cash, in-kind donations through 6/13/2024	Total Expense, including in-kind, through 6/13/2024
Operations						
Contract Worker: Database Manager	1,838.16	4,320	43%	2,482	-	1,838
Contract Worker: Digital Comm Facil'r	4,157.82	6,500	64%	2,342	-	4,158
Insurance	597.00	650	92%	53	-	597
Office/administration	478.44	1,200	40%	722	-	478
Committees						
Advancement & Outreach	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Ministry & Nurture	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Publications	2,722.28	3,500	78%	778	-	2,722
Members						
Attend conference w/ Quaker values	-	600	0%	600	-	-
Organizations						
Friends General Conference	6,000.00	6,000	100%	-	-	6,000
Olney Friends School	3,000.00	3,000	100%	-	-	3,000
Swarthmore records project	150.00	150	100%	-	-	150
Subtotal cash expenditures	18,944	26,120	73%	7,176	-	18,944
Transfers from General Fund to other Funds						
Annual Meeting Fund	2,000.00	5,000	40%	3,000	-	2,000
Travel Fund	1,000.00	1,000	100%	-	-	1,000
FWCC Travel Fund & Donation	1,800.00	1,800	100%	-	-	1,800
Subtotal Transfers	4,800.00	7,800		3,000		
Totals - General Fund Expenses	23,743.70	33,920	70%	10,176		

LEYM Summary of Funds for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Floor/ Ceiling

Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2023	Friends		Transfers between funds	Cash		Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/13/2024	Suggested floor/ceiling amounts for each fund	Last activity prior to FY23-24
		Fiduciary account activity ¹	Fiduciary account activity ¹		Income	Expense				
Funds held in (i) Base account with Friends Fiduciary Corp and (ii) Citizens National Bank										
General Fund ²	26,560.44	6,199.10	(4,800.00)	26,845.55	(18,943.70)	9,300.95	35,861.39	na	35,000	
Annual Meeting Fund	2,509.18		2,000.00	24,345.03	(25,568.60)	776.43	3,285.61	1,000	3,000	
Travel Fund	3,035.70		1,000.00	500.00	(1,790.45)	(290.45)	2,745.25	2,000	4,000	
Youth Activities Fund ⁴	6,464.70		(183.98)	970.00	(1,447.55)	(661.53)	5,803.17	4,000	8,000	FY22-23
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	4,000.00		-	-	-	-	4,000.00	2,000	4,000	
HS Teen Retreat Fund	6,892.64						6,892.64	3,000	6,000	FY17-18
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649.00						1,649.00	na	2,000	FY19-20
Spiritual Formation Fund	4,043.59		(50.00)	5,503.76	(7,113.59)	(1,659.83)	2,383.76	500	2,000	
Consultation Fund	3,143.68						3,143.68	500	2,000	FY11-12
Traveling Ministries Fund	3,500.00						3,500.00	na	na	FY13-14 ⁵
Work Projects Fund	2,182.39						2,182.39	na	2,000	FY17-18
FWCC Travel Fund	7,139.83		900.00	-	(3,754.00)	(2,854.00)	4,285.83	na	9,000	
FWCC Travel Donation	3,600.00		900.00		(4,500.00)	(3,600.00)	-	na	9,000	
Funds held in separate account with Friends Fiduciary Corp										
Granville Youth Fund ³	8,713.26	1,086.80	(353.27)			733.53	9,446.79	na	na	
Funds held by others - see Statement of Financial Position										
Prepaid Expense	337.75	-	587.25	-		587.25	925.00	na	na	
TOTAL	83,772.16	7,285.90	-	58,164.34	(63,117.89)	2,332.35	86,104.51			

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting – Financial Position

For the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2024)

Location of monetary assets

	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2023	Change in balance during the fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/13/2024
The Citizens National Bank of Bluffton, OH			
Checking Account	7,373.51	(3,778.83)	3,594.68
Savings Account	18,525.00	(821.45)	17,703.55
Subtotal of both CNB accounts	25,898.51	(4,600.28)	21,298.23
Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Philadelphia, PA *			
General (Base) Account	49,160.39	6,199.10	55,359.49
<i>Activity</i>		2,004.72	
• Dividends Paid (and reinvested)		2,004.72	
<i>includes:</i>		4,194.38	
• Change in Portfolio Value, + or -		4,194.38	
Granville Youth Fund Account	8,713.26	733.53	9,446.79
<i>Activity</i>		353.27	
• Dividends Paid		353.27	
<i>includes:</i>		733.53	
• Change in Portfolio Value + or -		733.53	
• Dividends disbursed by FFC to LEYM, recorded to Youth Active Fund		(353.27)	
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	57,873.65	6,932.63	64,806.28
Total monetary assets	83,772.16	2,332.35	86,104.51

Notation: Prepaid Expenses

Ashland Univ credit to be carried over to Jun 2024 Annl Mtg	45.00	45.00
UCCR deposit for Youth Activities retreat, Sept 2024	775.00	775.00
Weber Ctr deposit for Spiritual Formation retreat, Sep 2024	150.00	150.00
	970.00	970.00

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

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

Source> friendsfiduciary.org, 12/31/2022	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 (Domestic, Global, Short-Term, plus Cash)	71.4%	23.0%	5.6%

	Div Pd	Total	% of Beg Bal
△ Value	4,928	4,928	9%
		7,286	13%

YM 2024-11 Finance Committee, 2024-25 Budget: Joann Neuroth reported

The Finance Committee consists of Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar), Aran Reinhart (Broadmead), and Ellen Barnes (Detroit). Joann noted that, as usual, a “friendly audit” was done of LEYM financial records. Terry Grant (Red Cedar) did the audit this year and noted that the records kept by our Treasurer are in good order and a pleasure to review.

The Committee presented a draft budget:

- Expected expenses for next year were slightly lowered, based on this year’s experiences, and
- Contributions to Olney Friends School and Friends General Conference were slightly raised.
- There is still a subsidy for the Annual Meeting, to help us keep registration fees low.
- The per member expected contribution is proposed to be the same as it was this year, \$42.00.

A question was raised about whether the Arrangements & Site Committee’s discussion of where we will meet in the future was taken into consideration. Caroline LeJuste (Red Cedar) reported that we plan to return to Ashland University again next year.

A Friend asked the Finance Committee to consider using a Black-owned bank, noting Red Cedar Meeting recently moved to this practice.

YM 2024-12 Finance Committee, Proposed Changes to Travel Policy: Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported

The Committee brought a proposal to change our policy for travel reimbursement. For International Travel for FWCC, we use the FWCC Travel Fund to cover all associated costs of travel. Other people who travel on behalf of LEYM are reimbursed from the Travel Fund, with only actual travel costs covered in current practice. The Committee proposed that reimbursement from the Travel Fund change to include registration and lodging as well as travel costs when Friends travel on behalf of the Yearly Meeting. A clarification was added that this proposal would not affect how the fund to assist Friends in attending conferences with Quaker Values is used. Friends approved the proposal from Finance Committee to add reimbursement of registration and lodging costs, as well as travel costs, for Friends who travel on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

[The necessary changes to *Policies & Procedures* to reflect this change of policy are in a document following these minutes.]

YM 2024-13 Nominating Committee: Rick Adams (North Columbus) reported

The Nominating Committee reported that they are bringing Joe Mills’s (Kalamazoo) name forward to serve as Clerk of the Yearly Meeting for one year (2024-25). They will continue to strive to return to our regular cycle of a Clerk and Assistant Clerk, who will each serve four years in a staggered sequence. In the absence of an Assistant Clerk, Executive Committee has agreed to cover the basic duties of that position. Other vacancies in the slate were noted. Rick asked whether the absence of someone ready and able to serve as Clerk of our Yearly Meeting might be seen as an opportunity for us to consider where our energies as a Yearly Meeting are leading us.

YM 2024-14 Memorial Minutes

Dotty Stratton and Mike Hinshaw read memorial minutes for Phil Balderston, John Holliger, and Evelyn Kirkhart, all of Wooster Monthly Meeting. The full texts will be available in the *Annual Records* and on the LEYM website.

SESSION 3: Friday, June 14, 2024, 1:15pm – 3:15pm

YM 2024-15 Worship and reading of Epistle

From settling worship, Thomas Taylor read the epistle from Young Adult Friends of New York Yearly Meeting, who met at the Quaker United Nations Office in February 2024. After learning about the work of QUNO staff and discussing their project, “Youth, Peace, and Inclusion,” the group created two calls to action. The first is to organize an online meeting for YAFs globally who are interested in the work of QUNO. The second is a call to Friends everywhere to actively seek out young voices and listen deeply to their concerns. They identified a hunger among YAFs to be engaged in Quaker life, institutions, and process, and asked Friends to nurture this enthusiasm.

YM 2024-16 Clerk Susan Loucks invited further newcomers or representatives of organizations who have not yet done so to introduce themselves.

Zoe Januzzi of AFSC spoke of her work with the Palestine Activism Program and invited Friends to join weekly online meetings for worship. Joann Neuroth said she represented the School of the Spirit’s ministry program at our sessions and will be leading a new program entitled “God’s Promise Fulfilled,” which begins in 2025. Nathan Kleban of Right Sharing of World Resources invited Friends to attend a workshop he is giving today and join him at lunch tomorrow. Cassie Cammann (Ann Arbor) spoke of her work with Friends Peace Teams.

YM 2024-17 Worshipful Discernment: God’s purpose for LEYM this year

Susan Loucks, Clerk, introduced our remaining work in this business session as being to consider how God is leading us as a Yearly Meeting. She recognized that it is difficult to discern this issue if we are not all aware of the current work and activities of the Yearly Meeting. We need to go forward with constant attention to this question and she expects we will gain proficiency and comfort with it as we go along. Susan also shared the idea of “holy indifference,” in which we might move from the ideas and beliefs we hold as individuals to an attitude of not caring about things for oneself but what is good for all of us or the organization.

Friends were invited to share one- or two-word phrases to characterize their monthly meeting, and then to name the themes and trends among what was just heard. Those two questions were to help us understand what is going on in the rest of Yearly Meeting.

From worship sharing, Friends were invited to name one good thing our LEYM committees can do to respond to the current realities of our meetings. Susan read a list of items from yesterday’s LEYM Executive Committee, noting what they observed about our Yearly Meeting. Finally, in answer to the query “What is God calling LEYM to do in the next year?” the following items were named:

- It may not matter so much what we do but what is God calling us to be
- To create a place where Monthly Meetings and their people can feel welcome and explore, see people they don't see every day, go deeper, rest with each other, and support each other
- To reach out to the world from a spiritually grounded space
- To be a connector, a conduit; to continue this discernment and discussion using our fabulous technology to bring meetings together
- To explain Yearly Meeting functions to our membership
- To share the news that Quakers exist

[Friends' responses to the queries of briefly characterizing our Monthly Meetings, seeing themes from those answers, and identifying what LEYM committees might do to address the needs of local Meetings, are shared in an attached report.]

SESSION 4: Saturday, June 15, 2024, 1:15pm – 3:15pm

Before this business session, people who serve LEYM as representatives to other organizations shared information in an interactive panel format. Representatives and their reports were:

- Don Buckingham (North Columbus), **Friends Peace Teams** are intended to go into places where trauma has happened, especially from war, and help them heal. FPT welcomes feedback from Yearly Meetings to a query they recently formulated: What sustains our faith in justice and peace in the face of war and violence?
- Bill Warters (Birmingham), **AFSC** has now settled into its plan for 2020-2030; they will focus on peace and justice work. There is a strong program working in prisons in Michigan in which Bill participates. AFSC works internationally (Gaza) and on national issues (military area in Georgia). There is a policy allowing staff to participate in civil disobedience. Recently, AFSC changed their structure to focus on thematic areas, rather than regional work; they overcame the difficulties of change by hard laboring and careful listening. The terrible situation in Gaza and their care for and involvement there is a great challenge.
- John Howell (Athens), FCNL is a presence for Friends in Washington, DC, where they advocate for peace and sustainability. Last year, FCNL struggled to address abortion and reproductive rights, but they achieved a unified statement. There are advocacy teams in various parts of our Yearly Meeting that actively do lobbying. The Spring Lobby Day and paid internship programs offer opportunities for young Friends. It is extraordinary to watch a group of 100 people laboring together over a difficult issue of deep concern to all. The challenge for FCNL is to find a way a group that aspires to visionary change can work with politicians who serve at the will of the people and are very aware of the whims of public opinion.
- Clemence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie), FWCC is now beginning a capital campaign for FWCC. Later this summer, a World Plenary will be held in South Africa. A new Executive Secretary of the Section of the Americas will be named later this year.

[NB: See full reports from the Representatives below or speak to the representatives for more information.]

The Clerk invited anyone else to speak briefly about other organizations they wanted to bring to our attention.

- Jim Morgan (Pittsburgh) spoke of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund and invited Friends to learn more about Quakers in Bolivia.
- Dennis Gregg (Ann Arbor) spoke about “339 Manumissions and Beyond Project,” which has a mission to restore genealogical lines of early Friends who were enslaved and then freed.
- Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids) spoke of the Quaker Religious Education Collaboration.
- Claire Cohen spoke of an informal group of Quakers in Pittsburgh working for peace in Gaza/Israel that will sponsor an event September 5 featuring Joyce Aljouny and Walid Mosarsaa of AFSC.
- Sally Weaver Sommer spoke of Right Sharing of World Resources and invited monthly meetings to consider sponsoring a group of women through RSWR, as Broadmead Meeting has now done.
- John Howell spoke of the Quaker Institute for the Future, which has focused mainly on sustainability.

YM 2024-18 Worship and reading of Epistle

From the settling silence, Thomas Taylor read an epistle from the 46th General Meeting of Friends in Mexico, who met in May 2024. Together they considered “Living the Spirit of Ubuntu” and concluded that Jesus is perfect, but we are not, but imperfectly we must do the best we can to look for that of God and find strength and wisdom to act and empathize in community. They accepted the challenge of taking care of our biosphere and being the gardeners of our Earth.

YM 2024-19 Announcements

Jonah Brownfain (Birmingham) hopes to meet with other Young Adult Friends. Those in the right age group are invited to contact him. Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) announced that Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting will hold its annual worship and picnic in Quaker Park, Battle Creek, Michigan, on Sunday, August 4. Kalamazoo Meeting will celebrate its 70th anniversary on September 22. All are invited.

YM 2024-20 Finance Committee: Proposal to revise how some funds are used: Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported

The Committee believes that being good stewards of the Yearly Meeting’s resources means they should examine funds that are not being used. They have gathered information and are bringing recommendations regarding three funds that have been unused for many years. They are the Consultation Fund, the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund, and the Traveling Ministries Fund.

The Consultation Fund was created by transfers from our General Fund and was last used 13 years ago. It was meant to support gatherings of people from Monthly Meetings working in similar areas (e.g., Clerks, members of Ministry and Nurture Committees). The Finance Committee recommends dissolving the fund and returning the balance in it (ca \$3,100) to the General Fund. In discussion, Friends urged us to continue thinking about how we can best stay in communication with each other, using all available avenues. We were assured that there are

mechanisms for asking for funds outside of the regular budget as need arises. We also recognize that we now have other options beyond meeting in person to consult among ourselves, and that we can approve money to support in-person gatherings as there are leadings for them. A request was made to advertise the availability of the fund more widely.

Friends **approved** keeping the Consultation Fund for 2024-25 and, if it is not needed during that time, laying it down in the next budget. If the fund is laid down, the balance will be returned to the General Fund.

The current balance of nearly \$6,900 in the High School Teen Retreat Program was created by transfers from the General Fund. The fund has not been used in ten years. The Finance Committee proposes lowering the ceiling of the fund to \$4,000 and returning the overage to the General Fund. They hope that way will be found to use this fund to support teen activities in the Yearly Meeting. In discussion, it was clarified that youth activities are currently being supported by other funds that are not affected by this proposal.

Friends **approved** lowering the ceiling of the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund to \$4,000 and encouraging teens, parents, and others to identify ways in which the fund could support our teens being Quakers together. The overage currently in the fund (about \$2,900) will be returned to the General Fund.

The Travelling Ministry Fund was created by a restricted donation of \$3,500 in 2013-14, with the stated intention that it should be used for “travelling ministry.” The fund has never been used. The Ministry & Nurture Committee has had oversight of the fund since 2015. The Finance Committee recommends that the Advancement & Outreach and the Ministry & Nurture committees consider how to use these funds appropriately. In discussion, Mike Hinshaw (Wooster), who was Treasurer at the time the gift was first made, felt that the original donors would be comfortable with the Yearly Meeting changing how the money is used. We believe the intent was to support Friends from within LEYM who wish to engage in travelling ministry.

Friends **approved** asking our Advancement & Outreach and Ministry & Nurture committees to consider appropriate uses for this fund.

[The Finance Committee’s documentation of their research on this topic, with their proposals, is among the reports appended to these minutes.]

YM 2024-21 Finance Committee, Budget for 2024-25: Joann Neuroth reported

The budget was brought back for further consideration unchanged from how it was presented at our previous session on Friday.

Friends **approved** the LEYM Budget for 2024-25 as presented by the Finance Committee.
[See budget for 2024-25 on following page.]

LEYM Budgets

**Actual as of 6/13/2024

(prelim budget, not approved)

		History		FY 2022-23		FY 2023-24		FY 2024-25	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget*	Actual**	Budget	Change
FY 2020-21		Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Change
		1,400	2,905	2,500	2,898	4,320	1,838	3,575	(745)
		3,100	4,237	5,100	5,570	6,500	4,158	5,775	(725)
		500	500	500	597	650	597	650	-
		3,500	2,077	1,500	677	1,200	478	1,100	(100)
		500	-	500	-	100	-	100	-
		50	-	100	-	100	-	100	-
		3,200	2,476	3,200	3,393	3,500	2,722	3,500	-
		1,000	400	1,000	-	600	-	500	(100)
		6,000	6,000	6,500	6,500	6,000	6,000	6,200	200
		3,000	3,000	3,500	3,500	3,000	3,000	3,100	100
		100	100	150	150	150	150	150	-
		2,957	2,957	1,200	1,200	1,000	1,000	1,500	500
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	10,000	5,000	2,000	5,000	-
		1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	-
		29,107	28,453	29,550	28,285	33,920	23,744	33,050	(870)
General Fund Income									
		21,750	21,460	17,875	18,780	27,510	26,846	27,510	-
		1,000	1,474	1,000	1,728	1,500	2,005	2,000	500
		22,750	22,934	18,875	20,508	29,010	28,850	29,510	500
		(6,357)	(5,520)	(10,675)	(7,777)	(4,910)	5,107	(3,540)	1,370

*Budget approved 06/16/2023

		FY 2022-23		FY 2023-24		FY 2024-25			
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
General Fund Expenses									
	General	3,900	2,828	4,320	1,838	3,575	(745)		
	Contractor: Database Manager	6,200	4,996	6,500	4,158	5,775	(725)		
	Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	650	597	650	597	650	-		
	Insurance	1,500	1,035	1,200	478	1,100	(100)		
	Administration	500	-	100	-	100	-		
	Advancement & Outreach	100	-	100	-	100	-		
	Ministry & Nurture	3,500	2,876	3,500	2,722	3,500	-		
	Publications	600	-	600	-	500	(100)		
	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	6,500	6,500	6,000	6,000	6,200	200		
	FGC	3,500	3,500	3,000	3,000	3,100	100		
	Olney Friends School	150	150	150	150	150	-		
	Swarthmore Records Project	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	<== Detroit mtg hse contrib'n	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Travel Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,500	500		
	Youth Activity Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship Fund	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-		
	Annual Meeting subsidy	10,000	6,100	5,000	2,000	5,000	-		
	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	-		
	Total Expenses and Transfers =	39,900	31,382	33,920	23,744	33,050	(870)		
General Fund Income									
	Contributions Income	26,005	25,390	27,510	26,846	27,510	26,846	27,510	-
	FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	1,500	1,916	1,500	2,005	2,000	2,005	2,000	500
	Total Income =	27,505	27,306	29,010	28,850	29,510	28,850	29,510	500
	Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(12,395)	(4,076)	(4,910)	5,107	(3,540)	1,370	(3,540)	1,370

11,272	(8,859)	2,815	4,194
11,272	(8,859)	2,815	4,194
5,753	(16,636)	(1,261)	9,301
Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =			
Total Change in General Fund =			
725	715	743	655
\$ 0.17	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.22
\$ 30	\$ 25	\$ 35	\$ 42
\$ 0.17	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.22
# members used to produce above estimate =			
Suggested contribution per member =			
Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =			
20%			
0%			

YM 2024-22 Publications and Archives Committee: Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported Elise Yoder (Pittsburgh) will compile and edit the *Annual Records* for 2024 for the fourth consecutive year. Christopher Farrand (Cleveland) became editor of the *LEYM Bulletin* mid-year and produced Winter and Spring issues.

The Committee brought forward a proposal to put a version of our 2024 *Annual Records* on the LEYM website. To follow our privacy policy, the Directory and names of children would be removed; permission would be sought to publish summaries of presentations by the Plenary speaker and others. The changes would require only a little more work and no additional cost beyond the printed version. Friends **approved** the proposal to put a revised version of the 2024 *LEYM Annual Records* on the LEYM website.

The full report follows.

Publications and Archives Committee Report

All members of the Committee (Rosemary Coffey, Bob Roehm, Peggy Daub, and Jeff Cooper) contributed to preparing and proofreading the Annual Records, but it was ably compiled and edited by Elise Yoder, for which we are most grateful. We are pleased to announce that she has agreed to edit the Annual Records again this year, for the fourth consecutive edition. As usual, Committee members will be writing summaries of the workshops at this Meeting for the next issue of Annual Records.

We started the year without a Bulletin editor and had no Fall issue, but then Christopher Farrand offered his services and, after being approved, hit the ground running with a beautiful Winter issue, continuing his high standard in the Spring issue.

Jeff, in particular, strives to keep the Policies and Procedures manual up to date as new policies are approved by the Meeting or minor changes in practice are announced by committees. The latest version is posted on the website. Suggestions and comments on all publications are welcome.

Today, the Committee proposes producing, in addition to the printed version of the Annual Records, a separate pdf version of the Annual Records for posting on the LEYM website. To comply with the Yearly Meeting's privacy policy, we would remove the Directory section, along with names of children (in, for example, the children's epistles). In addition, posting transcriptions or summaries of plenary talks would require obtaining permission from the speaker(s). These changes would require only a little more work and no additional cost, and would, we believe, improve access to the Annual Records.

When this proposal was brought to Executive Committee in March, a Friend asked whether Monthly Meetings might have reservations about their State of the Meeting reports appearing on the website. Ministry & Nurture Committee asked this question of Monthly Meetings and heard no concerns.

We are asking the Meeting to make a decision on this recommendation.

Jeff Cooper, clerk of Publications & Archives

LEYM Publications & Archives Committee

Rosemary Coffey, Jeff Cooper (Clerk), Peggy Daub, Bob Roehm, Christopher Farrand (ex officio)

YM 2024-23 Executive Committee, Proposed amendments to *Policies & Procedures* on structure: Rick Adams reported

A working group from Executive Committee consisting of Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), Rick Adams (North Columbus), and Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) met a few times after Representative Meeting to consider the structure of committees in LEYM and ways in which the description of committees in our *Policies & Procedures* might be changed to allow more flexibility and to acknowledge the reality of how many people are currently able to serve LEYM through committee work. They propose the following:

1. Eliminate requirements for the number of people required on most committees by changing the language to say **suggested** numbers. Thus, language for most committees would change to “Composition: six members suggested, with two named each year.” Affected committees are Advancement & Outreach, Arrangements & Site, Adult Program, Ministry & Nurture, and Nominating. For Publications & Archives, wording would change to “Composition: four members suggested.” This proposal would not affect the Finance Committee or the Youth & Children Program Committee. In discussion, it was clarified that there is already a procedure for adding people to committees between Annual Meetings by seeking the approval of Executive Committee. There is no minimum but language could be added to say that if there are no more than three members named, the committee’s viability would be examined by Executive Committee.

Friends approved having a suggested number of six people serving on most committees rather than a requirement to do so. (Publications & Archives will have a suggested number of four members). When the number of committee members falls to three or fewer, Executive Committee will discern how or whether to cover the work of the Committee.

2. Remove language requiring meetings at certain times from all committee descriptions except Youth & Children. Language already in *Policies & Procedures* is sufficient to cover the expectation that committees meet or communicate as needed to do their work. Friends **approved** this proposal.

3. The working group recommended that we spend time each year at Annual Meeting discerning where the energy of the Yearly Meeting is led, and suggest that committees use that discernment to guide their priorities and activities. This proposal will be brought back for consideration at the next business session.

The full report follows.

Proposed Structural Changes from subgroup of Executive Committee

We considered information from Representative Meeting, and spent time considering possible new combinations of committees, changing P&P to create more flexibility around existing committees, or redrafting consistent guidance for P&P. We settled on creating more flexibility.

Note: Flexible participation in committees by people who are not officially members is already allowed for in P&P – we encourage continuing and growing use of informal participation, e.g., outsourcing a particular task to an individual. Committees may bring helpers on at their discretion.

The proposals are intended to

- *improve alignment between the slate and the number of available people to fill slots*
- *maintain a sense of the “committed core”, with some sense of advance notice if insufficient people are available to support a named function*

Proposal 1: *Eliminate requirements for number of people required on most committees, changing the language to be suggestions, rather than requirements, including*

- *Advancement & Outreach (currently 6) ,*
- *Earthcare and Peace & Justice (currently 6)*
- *Two planning subcommittees (Arrangements & Site, Adult Program (both currently 6)*
- *Ministry & Nurture (currently 6),*
- *Nominating (currently 6),*
- *Publications & Archives (currently 4).*

Note: we are not recommending a change for Finance, which requires 3 people, or the Youth & Children Program Subcommittee. The latter operates very differently from the description in P&P, and we ask for a volunteer to write new language describing the current practice, but no change is recommended at present.

Suggested replacement wording for the other committees is:

Composition: Six members suggested, with two named each year. If any committee falls to membership of three committed members, it is a signal for the Yearly Meeting to determine how or whether to cover the functions of that committee.

Proposal 2: *Update meeting requirements with current practice*

We recommend that requirements for meetings be struck from all committee descriptions except Youth & Children. The language on page 12 describing committees is sufficient:

“Committees meet or communicate as needed, especially to prepare for Representative Meeting and Annual Meeting.” [p. 12, P&P]

Proposal 3: *Recommendation that we spend time at Annual Meeting discerning where our energy is directed, and using that discernment as a charge to our committees, allowing them to set precedence among their duties, modify them as needed, work across committees, etc. to work towards those goals.*

YM 2024-24 Memorial Minute

Jim Brinza read a memorial minute for Linda Brandenburg, both from Cleveland Meeting. The full text will be available in the *Annual Records* and on the LEYM website.

SESSION 5: Sunday, June 16, 2024, 8:45am – 10:15am

YM 2024-25 Worship and reading of Epistle

From centering worship, Thomas Taylor read the epistle from the 362nd sessions of New England Yearly Meeting. More than 500 Friends gathered in Castleton, Vermont, and online in August 2023. They described those who presented to their gathering as speaking plain and true, with direct story and song. They heard from a working group that has been researching the involvement of New England Friends in the Indigenous Boarding School movement. The report illustrated one of the ways Friends participated in the genocide of indigenous people and provided lessons on how our discernment may be shaped and warped by our culture.

YM 2024-26 Naming Committee: Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) reported

The Committee brought forward two names to serve on Nominating Committee: Mary Igoe Meyers (Broadmead) and Clemence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group). Friends **approved** these names to serve on Nominating Committee.

YM 2024-27 Announcements

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported that cards to send to people who were not able to attend the Annual Meeting are on a table in the lobby, and Friends are invited to add personal greetings. Sally also gave instructions on check-out procedures from the dorms. Barbara LeSage (Columbus) announced that Don McCormick will be leading the fall retreat of the Spiritual Formation Program. Flyers are now available and all Friends are invited to participate. She also reminded Friends that evaluation forms for Quakerism 101 and these sessions are available.

YM 2024-28 Executive Committee, Proposed Amendments to P&P on Structure: Susan Loucks reported.

The third recommendation from the working group on structure was brought back for further consideration. The working group recommended that we spend time at Annual Meeting discerning where our energy is directed, and using that discernment as a charge to our committees, allowing them to set precedence among their duties, modify them as needed, work across committees, etc. to work towards those goals. Friends **approved** this recommendation.

The group looking at structure also considered what might be done if the positions of Clerk or Assistant Clerk of the Yearly Meeting are unfilled. They brought to Executive Committee a proposal that, in the absence of an Assistant Clerk, Executive Committee would do the necessary work. Executive Committee approved this proposal. It reads:

Proposal: While the Assistant Clerk position remains vacant, we propose that Executive Committee take responsibility for the following functions:

- a. When the Presiding Clerk is absent or unable to perform their duties or if that office becomes vacant, Executive Committee will determine who will perform the functions of the Presiding Clerk until the Nominating Committee can bring forward a name to be considered for Clerk.*
- b. Executive Committee will assist the Presiding Clerk with consultation, duties, and special assignments at the request of the Presiding Clerk.*
- c. A member of Executive Committee will convene the Epistle Committee and work with it during Annual Meeting.*

YM 2024-29 Nominating Committee: Stephanie Charlot reported

Serving on Nominating Committee this year were Rick Adams (North Columbus) and Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar) (co-clerks), Wink Covintree (Birmingham), and Mike Hinshaw (Wooster). The Nominating Committee presented a proposed slate of officers, representatives and committee members for 2024-25. Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) has agreed to be nominated to serve as clerk for one year. Jack Smith (Red Cedar) has agreed to be named Assistant Clerk with the intention of following the usual rotation of serving as presiding clerk after a year.

Friends **approved** the Nominating slate as presented, with gratitude for the faithfulness of the committee. The Nominating Committee report follows.

LEYM Officers, Committee Members, & Representatives
Final Slate, June 16, 2024 [with later updates as noted]

Officers

<u>Role</u>	<u>Name & Meeting</u>	<u>Year of Service</u>	<u>End Year</u>
Presiding Clerk <i>ExC</i>	Joe Mills, Kalamazoo NEW	1	2025
Assistant Clerk <i>ExC</i>	Jack Smith, Red Cedar NEW	1	2028
Recording Clerk <i>ExC</i>	Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	2	2026
Treasurer <i>ExC</i>	Tom Kangas, North Columbus	6	2025

Communications and Other Workers

Bulletin Editor	Christopher Farrand, Cleveland	2	2025
Annual Records Editor (appointed by Publications & Archives)	Elise Yoder, Pittsburgh	4	2024 (thru Oct)
Meeting Workers (contracted by presiding clerk)			
Database Manager	Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh *	1	2025
Digital Comms Facilitator	Bill Warters, Birmingham	6	2025
Bookstore	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	21	2025

* Contracted by presiding clerk after Annual Sessions

COMMITTEES (3-yr terms unless otherwise noted)

Advancement & Outreach

Suggested # of Members: 6

Susan Hartman, Ann Arbor, Co-Clerk <i>ExC</i>	2	2026
Barbara LeSage, North Columbus, Co-Clerk <i>ExC</i>	2	2026
Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar	2	2026
Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead	2	2026
Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh NEW	1	2027
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo NEW	1	2027

Earthcare This committee is dormant. No nominations were made.

Finance

of Members: 3

Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar, Clerk <i>ExC</i>	7	2027
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham	4	2027
Aran Reinhart, Broadmead	3	2025

Treasurer serves *ex officio*.

Ministry & Nurture

Suggested # of Members: 6 + 1 rep. from each monthly meeting

Flo Friender, Kalamazoo	3	2025
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	3	2025
Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead NEW	1	2027
Christopher Farrand, Cleveland NEW **	1	2027
OPEN		
OPEN		

** Approved by Executive Committee after Annual Sessions

Nominating

Suggested # of Members: 6, appointed by YM through Naming Committee.

Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar, Co-clerk ExC	3	2025
Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	2	2026
Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie WG, Co-clerk ExC NEW ***	1	2027
Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead NEW	1	2027
OPEN		
OPEN		

*** Selected as co-clerk by Naming Committee and the three clerks

Peace & Justice

Suggested # of Members: 6

Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh Clerk ExC NEW	1	2027
Don Buckingham, North Columbus NEW	1	2027
Paul Helbling, Broadmead NEW	1	2027

Publications & Archives

Suggested # of Members: 4

Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor, Clerk ExC	2	2026
Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	6	2025
Bob Roehm, North Columbus	8	2027
Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh	6	2025
Bulletin Editor serves <i>ex officio</i> .		

Note: The Annual Meeting Planning Committee consists of the following three committees.

Adult & Family Program

Suggested # of Members: 6

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie WG, Clerk ExC	3	2025
Greg Mott, Broadmead	3	2025
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	2	2026
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham NEW	1	2026
Wink Coventree, Birmingham NEW	1	2027
OPEN		

Arrangements & Site

Suggested # of Members: 6

Carolyn Lejuste, Red Cedar, Clerk ExC	2	2026
Bill Warters, Birmingham	6	2027
Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	3	2025
Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead	9	2025
Janet Dando, Akron	2	2026
Jon Sommer, Broadmead	21	2026
Registrar (selected by committee): Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead		

Youth & Children Program # of Members: 12-16 Years of Term: 2 (Clerk only)

Diane Mott, Broadmead, Clerk <i>ExC</i>	2	2025
Erika Smith, Detroit, Assistant Clerk	3	2025
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham		
Jonah Brownfain, Birmingham		
Cristin Graham, Detroit		
Su Penn, Red Cedar		
Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens		
Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead		
Cathy Clifford, Red Cedar		
Greg Mott, Broadmead		

REPS TO OTHER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONSYear of ServiceEnd Year**AFSC Corporation**

Bill Warters, Birmingham	7	2025
Paul Helbling, Broadmead	6	2025
Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead	6	2025
Chelsea Middlemiss, Red Cedar NEW	1	2027

FCNL General Committee (3-year terms, limited to two consecutive terms)

John Deikis, Ann Arbor	5	2026
John Howell, Athens	9	2025
Wink Covintree, Birmingham	2	2026
Michael Fuson, Granville	2	2026

FGC Central Committee (3-year terms, limited to two consecutive terms)

(LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee)

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	3	2025
Brad Shaw, Red Cedar	3	2025
Rick Adams, North Columbus	2	2026

FWCC (3-year terms)

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	4	2027
Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie WG	4	2027
Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids, NEW	1	2027
Mike Hinshaw, Wooster NEW	1	2027

FLGBTQC

Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	10	2025
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Olney Friends School

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	6	2025
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Quaker Earthcare Witness

Richard Tucker, Ann Arbor	3	2025
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Friends Peace Teams

Don Buckingham, North Columbus	2	2026
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YM 2024-30 Friends enthusiastically sent our love and greetings to be carried to Friends by Ellerie and Jonah Brownfain and Jana and Wayne Norlin as they attend meetings including Britain Yearly Meeting and the FWCC World Plenary in Johannesburg in July and August.

YM 2024-31 The Clerk invited Friends to share “one breath” reports about where Spirit is moving in their monthly meetings. A summary follows:

- Mary Igoe Meyers (Broadmead): they have begun to support a group of women in Guatemala through Right Sharing of World Resources
- Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh): many Friends have been inspired to strengthen their peace testimonies.
- Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar): they have been actively learning how to become an anti-racist community and have made a financial commitment through a community group working on reparations
- Bob Roehm (North Columbus): after 70 years in their Meetinghouse, they are now renting space that is more accessible and plan to sell their property
- Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor): they are striving to ensure that their budget is aligned with their values and, after setting aside money for reparations this year, they learned of the project to return what had been the John Woolman School property to the Nisenan Tribe and donated to that effort
- Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids): they now record people who share their personal spiritual journeys so that others can view them later
- David Finke (Oberlin): they held a very satisfying spirit-led session looking at FCNL priorities and considering a statement on reproductive rights
- Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor): they have encouraged Young Adult Friends by hosting and preparing dinners for them
- Cassie Cammann (Ann Arbor): they agreed to pay for travel for a young person in Asia to attend a gathering of Friends Peace Teams in Java this month
- John Howell (Athens): their deep sharing of personal spiritual journeys has led to them helping people in their community but outside the Meeting; helping others has brought them closer together
- Janet Dando (Akron): they have written minutes on the police shooting of Jayland Walker and on the death penalty in Ohio, then distributed them widely; they are supporting erection of a statue honoring Sojourner Truth in Akron and in worship they try to dig deeper
- Carla Pratt Harrington (Athens): the number of children in First Day School has grown from 2 to 12!
- Jack Smith (Red Cedar): they have participated in the School of the Spirit’s Faithful Meetings Project and found it both demanding and enriching
- Nancy Finke (Oberlin): activity in the Meeting has increased outside of worship, building community
- Barbara LeSage (North Columbus): it is exciting to see significant growth in their Meeting over the last seven years

YM 2024-32 Memorial Minute

Jeff Cooper read a memorial minute for Lois (Loie) Gilbert, both of Ann Arbor Meeting. The full text will be available in the *Annual Records* and on the LEYM website.

YM 2024-33 Report from the Youth Program

Although not all the children were still on campus, the children and adults who worked with them introduced themselves and described how they enjoyed meeting new people and spending time together during our Annual Meeting.

YM 2024-34 LEYM Epistle for this Annual Meeting

On behalf of the Epistle Committee, Alexa Lake (Pittsburgh) presented an epistle for the 2024 Annual Meeting of LEYM. The epistle was **approved** by Friends with gratitude. The full text follows:

To Friends everywhere, who have received a faith and a relationship with Spirit as precious as ours:

Greetings from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (LEYM).

On 6th Mo. 13, 2024, 116 Friends of Michigan, Ohio, and Western Pennsylvania, along with visitors from other states, gathered in Ashland, Ohio, for our Annual Meeting. First, we acknowledged our present: new and returning Friends broke bread together and, in conversation, caught each other up on our own monthly meetings, personal lives, and news of absent Friends. From the beginning, the intentional planning of the Program Committee encouraged us to go beyond our familiar social circles.

Second, we acknowledged our past: we once again found ourselves on the campus of Ashland University, whose facilities provided a comfortable setting for Friends to learn together, commune with one another, and listen for Spirit's will. We also appreciated that we were by no means the first to benefit from this place, recognizing the Kaskaskia people, this region's first inhabitants.

We learned from our Plenary presenter, Friend and singer Paulette Meier, how to practice an outpouring of Spirit—this year's theme—through plainsong and chants. Her practice of setting Spirit-imbued quotes from early Friends to a cappella chants had practical origins: when set to melodies, she found the task of remembering these words much easier. But, her practice soon grew into a meditative process itself. We experienced that, gathered in song, Friends' minds are in touch with their bodies; our spirits are bound to one another; and we feel connected to the wisdom of earlier Friends.

One of the many chants we were invited to sing in her plenary and subsequent workshop was excerpted from George Fox's Epistle #19:

Keep within. And when they say, "Look here or look there is Christ," go not forth, for Christ is within you. And those who try to draw your minds away from the teaching inside you, are opposed to Christ. For the measure's and the light of God is within, and the pearl is within you, though hidden. (1652)

Friends, we began each session of our worship with attention to business with an Epistle from Yearly Meetings the world over. Your words of news and of well-wishes inspired us as we looked within ourselves, asking how we can be a host to an outpouring of spirit.

We established a tradition of setting aside time to ask Spirit for LEYM's purpose in the next year. Admittedly, that's a big ask. But, through some structured sharing, we could discern the weightiest issues on our collective hearts. Our concerns were diverse: for example, growing meetings expressed difficulty integrating new seekers into our practices of worship. Other meetings haven't seen much growth but were heartened that their community felt truly gathered.

Our session was graced by an abundance of volunteers, whose work caring for children, moving furniture, assisting in the dining hall, and countless other functions made this experience available to all Friends, across the spectra of age, ability, and experience.

Eleven young Friends attended. The older group visited the Ohio Reformatory museum, and our youngest Friends asked how we yield an outpouring of spirit from nature (and played together at every available moment). The compassion of our youth programming and childcare volunteers was palpable.

Friends, Lake Erie is energized. Our format and sense of purpose has been transformed by the Friends who do the Yearly Meeting's work, especially our outgoing Clerk. After our final night, celebrating the 400th birthday of George Fox, we hunger for more. We are filled with Spirit. And, we want you to feel its outpouring from our hearts.

*Written for the sake of that Spirit who has moved through the Epistle Committee:
Flo Friender, Wink Covintree, & Alexa Lake
Submitted, Susan Loucks, Presiding Clerk*

YM 2024-35 Gratitude

A Friend rose to thank our outgoing Clerk, Susan Loucks, for her service. The Clerk noted that our work is distributive and shared by many.

The 2024 sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting closed in waiting worship.

REPORTS RELATED TO PRESENTATIONS AT BUSINESS MEETING:

Notes from Consideration of What LEYM is called to do in the next year
Finance Committee Supplementary Reports
 Proposed Changes to *Policy and Procedures* on Travel Reimbursement
 Background Information on Proposals Regarding Little Used Funds

Additional Notes from Consideration of What LEYM is called to do in the next year

One or two word phrases to characterize your meeting

- Aging but vital
- Concern about inadvertent racism
- Curious newcomers with spiritual hunger
- Welcoming and very close knit
- Querying, seeking, and growing
- Increasingly diverse
- Open to change
- Group of individuals, versus a group in community
- Composting with new life (or light?)
- Still not unified over use of technology
- Property rich, cash poor
- Delightfully resilient

- Love to listen deeply to each other
- Hungry for social justice
- Searching to use our abundant financial resources in ways that are appropriate with our values
- Growing and burgeoning with seekers
- Trying to figure out our path
- Wishing we had children
- Growing in diversity
- Branching out with peace and social justice
- A deepening silence in worship
- High on numbers of new seekers and children, Low on numbers of experienced Friends
- Less energy for caring for building (aging), but getting new people and hopeful

Themes and trends from the phrases shared above

- Many meetings are not where they want to be
- Increased numbers of newcomers and attenders
- Questions of sustainability (too many seekers and new attenders?)
- Fighting the good fight
- Fearing change
- Exploring ways into peace and justice work
- Deepening of silence and listening to each other
- Diversity awareness/aware of lack of diversity and wanting to do something

(Additional trends observed by Executive Committee)

- Baby steps in making LEYM-wide activities available online (Quakerism 101, clerks chats)
- Growth in energy toward AVP, Spiritual Formation, away from interest groups a la Earthcare and P&J
- Many meetings are seeing growth and many have challenges in integration of technology
- Continuing exploration of what it means to be hybrid
- Continuing questions of property/space, a place of physical movement

What LEYM committees could do to respond to the current reality:

- Support avenues of discernment for monthly meetings
 - How do the questions raised relate to our committee structure
 - Committees can look at their original description/why they were created, and broaden to change
 - Setting up mechanisms for intervisitation or communication about things we are wrestling with
 - Quakerism 101 was helpful and maybe additional education in clerk or how committees work could be useful
 - Using ways to bring together newcomers, seekers online in Q 101 or other
 - Could be support for program in which Friends would do inner seeking—e.g., how to be more welcoming to newcomers, etc.
 - YM might help with developing skills in group spiritual discernment, online easy
 - Include a YAF whenever possible, to hear them and allow them to become leaders
 - ADDED: noted large number of people who met together to talk about P&J and
 - Earthcare this morning – these committees are dormant, but they can be started up with little ado if there is energy to do so
-

Finance Committee: Proposed Revisions to Policies and Procedures

LEYM Policies & Procedures excerpts related to FWCC travel funds and the general Travel Fund, from P&P dated January, 2024. *[italicized notes in purple represent comments by Finance Committee]*

III. ORGANIZATION

D. Representatives to Quaker Organizations

2. **Organizations and Related Information**

d. Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas

- 1) Appointees must be members of the Religious Society of Friends.
- 2) Representatives to FWCC have three-year overlapping terms.
- 3) The number of representative positions available is determined by FWCC. FWCC may also co-opt LEYM Friends who are not representatives directly onto its committees.
- 4) In the past, LEYM has sent two representatives to the FWCC Triennials. Naming to future comparable meetings, at whatever interval, will be made according to the allotment assigned to LEYM by FWCC.
- 5) Representatives to FWCC international gatherings are named by the Nominating Committee in consultation with the clerk of LEYM and the clerk of the FWCC Representatives.
- 6) Representatives to FWCC are expected to assist with arrangements for regional meetings or the equivalent whenever they are scheduled. *[re-numbered from #7 to #6]*
- 7) LEYM provides reimbursement funds for representatives' attendance at the annual meeting of the Section of the Americas and international gatherings. ~~In the event that funds are not sufficient to cover costs, funds will be apportioned according to the stated financial needs of the named representatives.~~ *[re-numbered from #6 to #7]*
 - a. **Reimbursement for travel of LEYM's FWCC Representatives to regional FWCC gatherings and the annual meeting of the Section of the Americas comes from the Travel Fund (subject to the guidelines described in section IV. A. 3. b., below).** *[this is a clarification requested by Finance Committee that brings into LEYM Policies & Procedures existing guidance from the LEYM Financial Manual]*
 - b. **Reimbursement for travel of LEYM's FWCC Representatives to World Plenary Meetings of the Friends World Committee for Consultation comes from the FWCC Travel Fund.** *[this is a clarification requested by Finance Committee]*
 - i. **Reimbursable expenses include registration, travel, food, and lodging.** *[this is a clarification requested by Finance Committee]*
 - ii. **In the event that funds are not sufficient to cover costs, funds will be apportioned according to the stated needs of the named representatives.**

IV. OPERATIONS

A. Financial Support and Fiscal Policy

2. **Budget**

- a. The Lake Erie Yearly Meeting budget covers costs necessary for the functioning of the Yearly Meeting, such as publications, travel expenses for officers and representatives to Friends' organizations, office administration, and the Yearly Meeting's contribution to Friends General Conference. *[emphasis added by Finance Comm, temporarily, just for sake of this proposal]*
- b. The annual budget should include a proportional amount of the estimated travel expenses for two delegates to attend World Plenary Meetings of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. This money is transferred into the FWCC Travel Fund, where it builds until requested by LEYM representatives attending these meetings. Currently an equal amount is

budgeted to support enabling Friends from less affluent parts of the world to attend these World Plenary Meetings; this latter amount is transferred into the FWCC Travel Donation Fund. *[this item included because of its relevancy to policies under consideration]*

c. *[not included, not relevant]*

3. Expense Reporting and Reimbursement

a. Yearly Meeting officers, representatives, and committee members are asked to submit to the treasurer reports of out-of-pocket and in-kind expenses such as travel, long distance telephone charges, and postage, so that the cost of conducting Yearly Meeting business may be accurately known.

b. Travel Fund

- i. Yearly Meeting officers and representatives to Friends' organizations may receive reimbursement for travel expenses for business on behalf of the Yearly Meeting and for attendance at meetings of Friends' organizations. A committee member may be reimbursed for unusual expenses incurred on behalf of the Yearly Meeting if the presiding clerk provides written approval in advance. A copy of the Travel Expense Reporting Form appears in Appendix E.
 - ii. ~~The principal travel cost to be reimbursed~~ **Reimbursable costs include registration, transportation, and lodging is the transportation itself.** *[this is a change requested by Finance Committee]*
 - iii. If a Friend drives and requests reimbursement, the amount is calculated on a per-mile basis.
 - i. The current reimbursement rate, approved in ~~2022, is 22¢~~ **June, 2024 is 21¢** per mile. Any change to this rate is part of the budgeting process, proposed by Finance Committee and requiring approval by the Yearly Meeting. *[to conform to standard rate as updated by IRS in December, 2023]*
 - ii. **The incremental portion of mileage reimbursement above the 14 cents per mile standard charitable mileage expense rate is includable in the taxable income of the volunteer.** *[this note has been in the Travel Expense Form for several years; adding here because it's germane]*
 - iv. Friends are expected to cover their own food costs. ~~and, whenever possible, to arrange lodging with Friends in the area of travel.~~
 - v. **With regard to lodging:**
 - i. **When possible, Friends are asked to arrange lodging with Friends in the area of travel.**
 - ii. **If conference-offered lodging is available and the traveler chooses to stay at a higher-cost location, LEYM will reimburse up to the conference-offered lodging cost.** *[this is an addition by Finance Committee]*
 - vi. However, the intent of the Yearly Meeting is that no one be excluded from representing Lake Erie Yearly Meeting because of limited financial resources; thus, individuals may request reimbursement for additional travel-related expenses or take them as a tax-deductible contribution to the Yearly Meeting.
 - vii. **For special travel needs of Friends within the Yearly Meeting relating to Quaker work, the presiding clerk, the treasurer, and the clerk of the Finance Committee will consult with one another, and the presiding clerk will respond. Other officers, other committee clerks, and other members of the Finance committee may be consulted as needed.** *[this language was approved by Yearly Meeting as YM13-34, but was not previously represented in LEYM Policies & Procedures]*
- c. Monthly meetings are responsible for travel expenses of their representatives to Yearly Meeting who attend Representative Meeting or Annual Meeting.
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Finance Committee Proposed Revisions to Funds

This document contains

- descriptions of three funds unused by Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for many years
- recommendations from Finance Committee for the disposition of these funds

The three funds are:

- Consultation (page 1)
- High School Teen Retreat Program (page 3)
- Traveling Ministries (page 5)

Consultation Fund								
	Fiscal Year	Beginning Balance (July 1)	Known restricted donations	Subsidy from General Fund	Income	Expense	Subtotal: activity for this fiscal year	Ending Balance (June 30)
1	2023-2024	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	3,143.68
2	2022-2023	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	3,143.68
3	2021-2022	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	3,143.68
4	2020-2021	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	3,143.68
5	2019-2020	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	3,143.68
6	2018-2019	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	3,143.68
7	2017-2018	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	3,143.68
8	2016-2017	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	3,143.68
9	2015-2016	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	3,143.68
10	2014-2015	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	3,143.68
11	2013-2014	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	3,143.68
12	2012-2013	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	3,143.68
13	2011-2012	3,556.65	-	-	300.00	(712.97)	(412.97)	3,143.68
14	2010-2011	3,556.65	-	-	-	-	-	3,556.65
15	2009-2010	2,268.55	-	2,700.00	1,190.00	(2,601.90)	1,288.10	3,556.65
16	2008-2009	18.55	-	2,400.00	-	(150.00)	2,250.00	2,268.55
17	2007-2008	-	-	-	3,100.00	(3,081.45)	18.55	18.55

History of the Consultation Fund

This 2007 minute describes the sort of consultation work that led to the proposal in 2008 to create the fund.

Yearly Meeting minute YM07 - 31 Ministry & Nurture

November Consultation: The Committee has become aware of a need on the part of our local meetings' Ministry and Nurture (or otherwise named) Committees to gather and learn from each other, especially regarding the deepening of the spiritual life of the meeting. To this end, the Committee is working with [FGC's] Traveling Ministries Program to identify a leader for a weekend consultation, to be held November 16-18, 2007 at the Weber Center in Adrian, MI. Local meeting clerks and worship groups will receive a letter asking them to name the clerk of their Ministry and Nurture Committee, or a designate, to attend the consultation. Each meeting will be asked to contribute \$100 toward food

and housing expenses. LEYM will otherwise cover the cost of the facilitation. The seeds sown by this gathering will be further nurtured by the activities of [FGC's] traveling ministry project in spring 2008. See the report of the Advancement & Outreach Committee for more information about [FGC's] traveling ministry project.

This 2008 minute is the approved proposal to create the fund.

Yearly Meeting minute YM08 – 25.3 Ministry & Nurture

Spiritual Consultation: The great success of the November 2007 Spiritual Consultation for representatives of the monthly meeting Ministry and Nurture committees has encouraged Friends to continue the practice. Out of this gathering a need was expressed for such a consultation for LEYM monthly meeting clerks. Thus M&N is proposing funds be set aside to enable such a consultation under the oversight of the LEYM Executive Committee for the fall of 2009.

LEYM's Policies and Procedures today (i.e., 2024) contains no description of the Consultation Fund, but LEYM's Financial Manual has this:

II. Budget Categories and Funds

B. Budget Lines Supporting Funds / Funds Supported by Budget Lines

2. **Consultation Fund:** This fund was established to support the cost of consultations among monthly meeting clerks or representatives of monthly meeting Ministry and Nurture committees. [Recommended range: \$500 – \$2000]

The Consultation Fund has not been used for Consultation in 15 years.

The last use of that fund, 13 years ago, was not for the original purpose of the fund, but “to cover unbudgeted expenses for the FGC Quaker Quest workshop last fall” (YM12-18).

What latitude does the Yearly Meeting have with regards to the Consultation Fund?

As the current balance of the Consultation Fund was created by transfers from the General Fund, the Yearly Meeting has full latitude with regard to the disposition of this fund.

Finance Committee's proposal

We believe this fund could be dissolved and its balance returned to the General Fund and recommend doing so.

HS Teen Retreat Program Fund -- aka High School Program								
	Fiscal Year	Beginning Balance (July 1)	Known restricted donations	Subsidy from General Fund	Income	Expense	Subtotal: activity for this fiscal year	Ending Balance (June 30)
1	2023-2024	6,892.64	-	-	-	-	-	6,892.64
2	2022-2023	6,892.64	-	-	-	-	-	6,892.64
3	2021-2022	6,892.64	-	-	-	-	-	6,892.64
4	2020-2021	6,892.64	-	-	-	-	-	6,892.64
5	2019-2020	6,892.64	-	-	-	-	-	6,892.64
6	2018-2019	6,892.64	-	-	-	-	-	6,892.64
7	2017-2018	8,074.39	-	-	-	(1,181.75)	(1,181.75)	6,892.64
8	2016-2017	8,074.39	-	-	-	-	-	8,074.39
9	2015-2016	8,074.39	-	-	-	-	-	8,074.39
10	2014-2015	5,773.30	-	6,300.00	215.00	(4,213.91)	2,301.09	8,074.39
11	2013-2014	2,982.50	3,500.00	6,000.00	375.00	(7,084.20)	2,790.80	5,773.30
12	2012-2013	2,102.98	-	4,900.00	????	(4,020.48)	879.52	2,982.50
13	2011-2012	3,422.72	-	3,300.00	710.00	(5,329.74)	(1,319.74)	2,102.98
14	2010-2011	6,348.95	-	1,100.00	2,720.00	(6,746.23)	(2,926.23)	3,422.72
15	2009-2010	7,211.50	-	1,100.00	590.39	(2,552.94)	(862.55)	6,348.95
16	2008-2009	5,796.61	-	1,100.00	1,092.00	(777.11)	1,414.89	7,211.50
17	2007-2008	1,496.61	-	5,400.00	-	(1,100.00)	4,300.00	5,796.61
18	2006-2007	0.00	-	5,400.00	1,798.00	(5,701.39)	1,496.61	1,496.61
19	2005-2006	1,001.21	-	4,900.00	2,705.13	(8,606.34)	(1,001.21)	0.00
20	2004-2005	1,447.20	525.00	4,000.00	2,170.00	(7,140.99)	(445.99)	1,001.21
21	2003-2004	752.00	1,505.69	4,000.00	1,282.00	(6,092.49)	695.20	1,447.20
22	2002-2003	-	752.00	-	-	-	752.00	752.00

History of the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund

A description of the purpose of the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund

We established a High School Youth Program so that high school Friends, who experienced a paucity of Quaker teens in their meetings, could build community with other Quaker youth” (Clerk’s Report, YM10 - 6).

Note> Activities supported by this fund took place outside of LEYM’s Annual Meeting.

Fund name changed

Early in this fund’s history, it was referred to as the High School Program. Friends agreed to rename the program the “High School Teen Retreat Program” (YM10 – 10).

LEYM’s Policies and Procedures today (i.e., 2024) contain descriptions of the currently dormant roles of

- High School Teen Retreat Coordinator, and
- High School Teen Retreat Program Committee

LEYM’s Financial Manual describes the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund:

II. Budget Categories and Funds

B. Budget Lines Supporting Funds / Funds Supported by Budget Lines

4. **High School Youth Fund:** This fund supports the High School Teen Retreat Program – principally a stipend for the High School Teen Retreat Program Coordinator, along

with direct expenses of the program. (YM2003-26 & 43, and Report: Proposal for an LEYM High School Program and Coordinator, pp. 61-63.) It can also support the costs of drivers (including the Coordinator) transporting teens to the retreats, but does not support individual teens' participation in the program. [Recommended range: \$3000 – \$6000]

Policies and Procedures today (i.e., 2024) includes only a partial description of the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund that points all LEYM youth, including High Schoolers, to the Youth Activities Fund for assistance in attending various Quaker events:

Appendix D "Scholarships and Financial Assistance"

2. For Children and Teens

- b. Youth Activities and Conferences. LEYM's **Youth Activities Fund** can be used to help underwrite or provide scholarships for activities and conferences for the youth of the Yearly Meeting. This fund was established to help support events such as LEYM-sponsored youth trips to the FGC Gathering, but the use of the fund is not limited to that. It could, for instance, be used to help a youth attend Friends Music Camp. This fund cannot be used for scholarships to attend academic institutions. Friends wanting assistance from the fund should fill out the Youth Activities Fund Application (see next page, also available in the LEYM Financial Manual) and provide a letter of support from their monthly meeting.*
- c. **LEYM High School Retreats.** Funds to help teens attend LEYM High School retreats are available from LEYM's **Youth Activity Fund**. Teens can apply for a scholarship when they register for the retreat. Drivers (including the Coordinator) who transport teens to LEYM High School retreats can apply for reimbursement of their costs from the High School Retreat Fund. Apply to the Coordinator.*

The High School Teen Retreat Program Fund has seen no related activity in 10 years.

Seven years ago, a one-time, alternate use was approved and \$1,182 scholarships were paid for FGC Gathering.

YM2017-29 Finance Committee Report

Friends approved spending up to \$3000 from the High School Teen Retreat fund for scholarships to help LEYM high school-age students attend the 2018 FGC Gathering of Friends.

A one-time, alternate use of the High School Program funds was also approved in 2007:

RM07 - 17 Finance Committee - We approve contributing \$1,000 from our High School Youth Fund to the FWCC Triennial Travel & Accommodation Fund to enable Friends from economically deprived nations to attend the FWCC Triennial Meeting, to be held in Dublin, Ireland, 11-19 August, 2007.

What latitude does the Yearly Meeting have with regards to the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund?

As the current balance of the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund was created by transfers from the General Fund, the Yearly Meeting has full latitude with regard to the disposition of this fund.

Finance Committee's proposal

We don't believe the Yearly Meeting is ready to give up its intention to support Quaker teens to find and interact with each other. We also recognize that the YM hasn't used these funds in ten years. We propose to lower the ceiling for this fund from \$6,000 to \$4,000 and transfer the amount above the ceiling to the General Fund (i.e., \$2,892.64). Our hope will be to activate interest and use of these funds.

Traveling Ministries Fund								
	Fiscal Year	Beginning Balance (July 1)	Known restricted donations	Subsidy from General Fund	Income	Expense	Subtotal: activity for this fiscal year	Ending Balance (June 30)
1	2023-2024	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
2	2022-2023	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
3	2021-2022	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
4	2020-2021	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
5	2019-2020	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
6	2018-2019	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
7	2017-2018	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
8	2016-2017	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
9	2015-2016	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
10	2014-2015	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
11	2013-2014	-	3,500.00	-	-	-	3,500.00	3,500.00

History of the Traveling Ministries Fund

The donation that created the fund:

YM14 – 21 Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported [...that...] the Yearly Meeting has received a \$10,000 anonymous donation to be divided between the Traveling Ministry Program (\$3,500), the High School Teen Retreat Program (\$3,500), and the General Fund (\$3,000).

[The related Finance Committee Report represented the donor’s intention slightly differently...]

Finance Committee Report, Annual Meeting, 2014

- A. *Anonymous Donation. As you have heard from our treasurer, LEYM recently received an anonymous **donation** of \$10,000, **with the request that its use be** divided almost equally among the General Fund (\$3000), the High School Teen Retreat Program fund (\$3500), and “**Traveling ministries**” (also \$3500). The Finance Committee is immensely grateful to the donor and is striving to see that the money is spent as requested.*

The approved proposal at 2014 Annual Meeting to create a Traveling Ministries Fund

Finance Committee Report, Annual Meeting, 2014

- B. *Establishment of Funds and Budget Line.*

- 1. *To spend the portion of the anonymous gift for traveling ministries, we propose establishing a new fund for that purpose. Last year, we approved supporting Merry Stanford as a traveling minister with funding from the Advancement & Outreach Committee’s budget line; for the coming year, the proposed Traveling Ministries Fund would be used in precisely the same way as that budget line, supporting Merry’s work.*

Context: what was Merry Standford’s traveling ministry work?

YM13 – 43 Traveling Minute for Merry Stanford

Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer read a proposed Traveling Minute for Merry Stanford (Red Cedar). This was approved. The minute follows:

Dear Friends,

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting sends its love and greetings to you with this travel minute for Merry Stanford of Red Cedar Monthly Meeting (Lansing).

Red Cedar Friends Meeting has discerned that Merry has a Spirit-led call to visit monthly meetings for the purpose of worship, listening, and sharing the spiritual practice of Quaker dialogue, and has provided her with a traveling minute for that purpose. During our annual sessions in July 2013, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting united with Red Cedar Monthly Meeting in recognizing Merry Stanford's gifts of ministry and nurturing service through listening. This letter indicates our support for her leading to visit Friends in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.
[...]

YM14 - 29 Advancement and Outreach Committee Report

Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) reported for the committee. The full report follows.

The A&O Committee's policies and procedures call for the committee to engage in visitation with monthly meetings and worship groups. The committee is pleased to report that it has been aided in this work very materially during the last year by Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), whose calling to travel in ministry the committee endorsed at annual sessions in 2013. Merry visited four meetings between Sept. 2013 and March 2014: Athens MM, Kent MM, North Columbus MM, and Pine River MM. [...]

Oversight of the Traveling Ministries Fund is assigned to M&N in 2015

YM15-22 Roles of the Advancement and Outreach and Ministry and Nurture Committees

Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer reported for the Executive Committee on a concern that arose about overlap between, and lack of clarity about the roles of the Advancement and Outreach and the Ministry and Nurture Committees, [...]

The Executive Committee recommends the following be added to the responsibilities of the Ministry & Nurture Committee (6.b (6)):

Encourage and support Monthly Meetings as they recognize, publicly affirm, and practically support those individuals who exercise their gifts in faithful ministry. This includes but is not limited to:

- a. preparing minutes for traveling ministers to be approved by the Yearly Meeting.*
- b. overseeing the traveling ministries fund.*

Friends approved.

Current (i.e., 2024) LEYM Policies and Procedures describe the Fund:

Appendix D. Scholarships and Financial Assistance

1. For Adults

- g. **Traveling Ministries Fund:** This fund supports the travel costs of LEYM Friends whose travel in the ministry has been recognized by their monthly meeting and LEYM through a travel minute. It is administered by the Ministry & Nurture Committee.*

The Traveling Ministries Fund has been unused in the 11 years since its inception.

What latitude does the Yearly Meeting have with regards to the Traveling Ministries Fund?

LEYM is limited to expending these fund according to the donor's original intent to support "traveling ministries."

Finance Committee's proposal

We don't know what to do with this fund. We think that these funds were intended by their donor to be used by LEYM Friends who are traveling in the ministry, but nobody has used these funds in the decade since. We recommend that Advancement & Outreach and Ministry & Nurture figure out a way to spend these funds appropriately.