

LEYM Executive Committee

September 14, 2024

Present: Joe Mills (Clerk), Jack Smith (Assistant Clerk), Peggy Daub (Recording Clerk), Jeff Cooper (Publications & Archives), Christopher Farrand (Bulletin Editor), Flo Friender (Ministry & Nurture), Susan Hartman (Advancement & Outreach), Tom Kangas (Treasurer), Carolyn LeJuste (Arrangements & Site), Barbara LeSage (Advancement & Outreach), Diane Mott (Youth & Children's Program), Joann Neuroth (Finance), Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Adult & Family Program/Nominating), Bill Wartens (Digital Communications Facilitator)

The Meeting began at 10 am. All attended online.

EC24-09-01 The Minutes of the LEYM Executive Committee meetings on June 13 and June 16, 2024, were **approved** as distributed before this meeting.

EC24-09-02 Nominating Committee brought an additional nominee to serve on the Ministry & Nurture Committee for two years. Dennis Gregg (Ann Arbor) was **approved** to serve on the Ministry & Nurture Committee 2024-2026.

EC24-09-03 Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) and Barbara LeSage (North Columbus) reported that the Advancement & Outreach Committee is planning more online presentations. There will likely be five sessions in 2024-2025, focusing on topics that may be useful to monthly meetings such as attracting and retaining families in the Meeting community, questions about property (buying, selling, maintaining), current and future hybrid meetings, changing committee structures as expectations change, and meeting the needs of Seekers. The first event will be on the topic of property and is tentatively titled "Fitting Space to Spirit." The intent of these sessions will be to share information and find common concerns, commonalities, and differences.

In discussion, it was clarified that the sessions would be under the care of the Committee, not monthly meetings, as last year. The Committee was thanked for identifying good topics.

The Committee is also reviewing their charge as currently recorded in our *Policies and Procedures* and may propose changes.

EC24-09-04 Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon reported for the Adult & Family Program Committee. They will meet next week to continue discerning a topic and speaker for next year's Annual Meeting.

The Committee requested feedback/reactions to the Annual Meeting schedule as used this past summer. Notably, there were three workshop sessions, time for birds of a feather or other gatherings, and little time formally designated for committees to meet. A few committee clerks responded that they did not need a formal meeting time during Annual Meeting. However, it was suggested that having one such designated time seems important. It may be Thursday afternoon, as people are arriving, though that time may not be good for everyone. There was a request that clerks of committees let their members know in advance if their committee will meet or not, to avoid some confusion that was felt this year. Carolyn offered to help by having the Arrangements & Site Committee take care of posting information about committee meetings near the registration desk.

EC24-09-05 Diane Mott reported for the Children & Youth Program Committee. The Committee will send suggestions to the Arrangements & Site Committee soon about next year's Annual Meeting.

The Committee feels it didn't sufficiently advertise availability of a children's program in the descriptions for the adult program last year and intends to change that going forward.

This is the last year the Fall Youth Retreat can be held in the place they have used for several years,

and they are in desperate need for both a clerk and assistant clerk for this event in 2025. It is very helpful to have a clerk who does not have children at the retreat. She has spent some time looking for a new location but wonders if it makes sense to book a site now or wait until after a clerk is found. The need is for a site that can sleep 16-20 people and is located in northern or northwestern Ohio. It also seems that participation is dwindling.

In discussion, Diane explained further that this year's registrations for the retreat are quite low, but she knows of people who would have liked to attend this year and are unable to. The low registration will mean that the event will use more of LEYM's financial support than usual. A Friend noted that we are trying to build up the numbers of youth at our Annual Meeting and suggested concentrating on that for this year and try to increase support for the retreat later. A "gap year" for the retreat would disappoint some youth who want to continue attending the retreat. There is a modestly priced camp (Quaker Knoll) in Wilmington, Ohio, that families from Athens and Columbus who want to continue the retreat are interested in trying. Diane intends for the Committee to pursue Quaker Knoll for next year to see how it works, push to get more children at the Annual Meeting, and explore how to help monthly meetings grow their children's programs. A Friend recalled that some years ago we called every monthly meeting to learn what they were doing with children and families and if there were ways LEYM could help. The Committee has been in communication with clerks of monthly meetings, but the numbers of youth attending Annual Meeting are still low.

The full report follows:

*Youth & Children Program Committee Report
September 12, 2024*

- *The Youth & Children Program Committee has not met as a whole committee since LEYM Annual Meeting 2024.*
- *The Youth Retreat Clerk and Assistant Youth Retreat Clerk have been preparing for the annual LEYM K-12 Youth Retreat which will meet at Temples Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio, September 27 – 29, 2024. As of September 12, three children and five adults from three families are registered. We are waiting for confirmation from one more family with two children and one or two adults.*
- *This is the last year that Youth Retreat will be hosted by Temples Hills Camp which is being sold this fall or winter. Additionally, both the Retreat Clerk and Assistant Retreat Clerk are stepping down at the end of this year's youth retreat.*
- *The Youth & Children Program Committee seeks guidance about the next steps for the Youth Retreat.*

EC24-09-06 Flo Friender (Kalamazoo) reported for the Ministry & Nurture Committee. The Committee has met once and has three new members. They discussed the description of their responsibilities and work in *Policies & Procedures*, which led to a time of deep sharing on how to meet this charge. They have divided up their work so that Flo will serve as clerk, Tom Blackwell will be their recording clerk, Dennis Gregg will set up Zoom meetings for them, Ellerie Brownfain will keep in touch with wider circles of Friends, and Chris Farrand will communicate through his role as editor of the *LEYM Bulletin*.

EC24-09-07 Additional approvals to positions.

Flo Friender was **approved** to serve as co-clerk of the Ministry & Nurture Committee. Friends acknowledged and **approved** Clémence Ravaçon Mershon and Stephanie Charlot to serve as co-clerks

of the Nominating Committee.

EC24-09-08 Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported for the Publications & Archives Committee. The Committee thanked Christopher Farrand for producing the fall LEYM *Bulletin* in a timely way and as a beautiful issue. Jeff announced that the LEYM *Policies & Procedures* has been updated to reflect decisions made at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

The 2024 LEYM *Annual Records* is now in the proofreading stage and could go to the printer soon. It is 50 pages longer than last year, mainly because of a full transcript of the plenary talk and longer than usual reports attached to the minutes. This seems like an exception to recent editions, but Jeff wonders if people make reports longer if they know they're not presenting them orally.

Friends suggested that a summary of the plenary talk might be fine, and especially now that there are video recordings that can be viewed online.

Chris Farrand asked if the schedule for the fall *Bulletin* should be a little later to capture any actions taken at the fall LEYM Executive Committee and perhaps capture additional reports. Friends have appreciated an issue of the *Bulletin* that appears not too long after the Annual Meeting and includes a summary of what happened there.

EC24-09-09 Tom Kangas (North Columbus), Treasurer, brought three financial reports. The first two reports focused on final results compared to the estimates presented at our Annual Sessions. The financial report for our 2024 Annual Meeting showed an ending deficit of \$2,800, which was less than the approved subsidy of \$3,200, resulting in the excess \$400 going into the Annual Meeting's supporting fund, bringing it up to around \$3,000.

The second report showed final figures for fiscal year 2023-24 (ending June 30, 2024). Of note were a slight drop in the value of our monies in Friends Fiduciary Fund, increased spending for the work of our contracted employees, and \$2,900 transferred back into the General Fund when the ceiling on the High School Teen Retreat Fund was lowered (per our decision at Annual Sessions).

Tom also presented a report showing our financial position so far in the current fiscal year (as of September 13, 2024).

The full Treasurer's report is here, with the spreadsheets attached at the end of these minutes.

Treasurer's Report

I'm using a different format for the financial reports today because the principal information I want to convey is the final results for last year and compare that to the estimates I presented at Annual Sessions.

1. *Final financial results of Annual Meeting itself—i.e., June 13-16, 2024*
 - a. **Revenue:** very little change compared to the estimate presented during Annual Sessions
 - b. **Expenses:** there was a \$1600 increase in Ashland University fees due to meals and lodging
 - c. **Final net deficit before subsidy:** <\$2,800>
 - d. **Final subsidy from General Fund:** \$3,200
 - e. **Final year-end Annual Meeting Fund balance:** \$3,000
2. *Final financial results for the yearly meeting's General Fund for 12 months ended June 30, 2024*
Comparing final results to the estimates presented during Annual Sessions...
 - a. **Revenue:** miscellaneous changes including a \$500 decrease due to change in market value of investments held by Friends Fiduciary
 - b. **Expenses:** miscellaneous changes including a \$600 increase due to final contractor billing
 - c. **Transfers to and from General Fund:**
 - i. \$1200 increase in subsidy of the Annual Meeting fund by the General Fund

- ii. a return of \$2900 to the General Fund from the High School Teen Retreat Fund that was approved during Annual Sessions
 - d. **Net income:** end result was better than estimate by \$500
 - e. **Final year-end increase in General Fund for the year:** \$10,000
 - f. **Other Funds** with activity of note that was not already touched on
 - i. **Spiritual Formation Fund** slight increase because we started to see registrations come in for the Fall retreat
 - ii. **FWCC Travel Fund** ended the year higher than estimated because the reimbursement for airfare for LEYM's representative to the August World Plenary has not yet been disbursed
3. Financial results for first eleven weeks of fiscal year ending June 30, 2025
- a. **Revenue:** very little to date, monthly meetings have not been contacted yet
 - b. **Expenses:** we've had \$500 for printing/ mailing of Bulletin
 - c. **Transfers from the General Fund** are shown as approved in June
 - d. **Other Funds**
 - i. Differences since last fiscal year end for funds other than the General Fund represent transfers from the General Fund
 - ii. **Spiritual Formation Fund** increase is due to registrations for Fall retreat and the expenses of that event retreat not being recorded yet

EC24-09-10 Tom Kangas opened a discussion on how we can best do online registration for next year's Annual Meeting. Despite the problems caused by LEYM not having 501(c)3 status this year, we would like to continue online registration. Tom has been investigating several possible ways to do this.

It might be possible to get a confirmation letter from the IRS acknowledging our nonprofit status, but this could take some time and necessitate changes to our *Policies & Procedures* that would also take time to accomplish. The company we used last year (RegFox) has severed their relationship with the bank that would not accept us as a nonprofit and are handling this work themselves; they have said they might accept a letter confirming our tax identifying number as proof of our status as a religious body. Tom identified a snag in using that proof, as there was no record of the EIN (Employer Identification Number) that we thought we had; he has now obtained a new EIN for LEYM. In next steps, the financial institutions we use will need to be informed of the new EIN. The new number will be used as our identifier on payment records for our contracted workers. Joann Neuroth noted that if this route works, it would be wonderful, as it is much simpler than becoming a 501(c)3 organization.

Detroit Meeting acted as a fiscal intermediary for us this past year, and we gave them \$100 in appreciation. They may be willing to do this again.

EC24-09-11 Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported for the Finance Committee. She reminded us that at our Annual Sessions, the Ministry & Nurture and Advancement & Outreach Committees were asked to think how the \$3500 in our Travelling Ministry Fund might be used. The two committees have been advised of this request. Flo Friender (Kalamazoo) said the Committee has been considering intervisitation among meetings, and the funds could be useful there.

At Annual Sessions, we also agreed to wait one more year to see if appropriate use could be made of the Consultation Fund of \$3100. The money in this fund came from our General Fund and can be returned there if not used. Bill suggested that our reinvigorated Peace & Justice Committee might have ideas for meeting together that could make use of this fund. Or perhaps it could be used to help in outreach to families.

EC24-09-12 Bill Warters read a report from Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh), clerk of the Peace & Justice Committee. They have decided to focus this year on helping and strengthening individual peace committees in our component monthly meetings. They are surveying the meetings and getting a sense

of common themes. They have decided to hold quarterly workshops this year. The full report follows:

Peace & Justice Committee Report (Claire Cohen)

We've decided that for this upcoming year, our main focus will be on working with component Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to facilitate and strengthen their Peace and Justice Committees or, if they do not have a committee, their peace and justice work. First, we attempted to survey all the Meetings and Worship groups to get a sense of their concerns in this area. We sent out to 20 and got 6 back. There were common themes among the responders. From the feedback from that sample, we decided to plan to have four quarterly workshops for Meetings and Worship Groups over the upcoming year. One workshop would be held during the Annual Meeting in 2025. The workshops will cover creating and sustaining a P&J Committee in one's meeting, prioritizing issues to work on, gathering resources, how to work through conflict and improve communication.

Joann will make sure Claire knows fund are available if they wish to use them.

EC24-09-13 Clerk Joe Mills asked several questions regarding how we share information about our changing officers and representatives with other Quaker organizations and about how to discern where to send messages received. He recently received a request from FWCC and wondered if it were appropriate to send it to our representatives to that organization to answer. The information requested included address and phone number, contact person, general secretary, and 2025 sessions date.

Clémence reported that the clerk of the Nominating Committee is responsible for telling each of the organizations to which we name representatives who is appointed each year. She is currently doing that for FWCC, AFSC, and FGC. She will be in contact with them and provide other needed information as able. Susan Loucks, as our new database manager, might also be able to provide information when requested. Joe, Clémence, and Susan will work on this together.

Joe is forwarding incoming mail to appropriate people as needed and will continue to do so. Bill will check to make sure that mail addressed to the Gmail account for the clerk is being automatically forwarded to Joe's personal email address. He will do the same with the assistant clerk Gmail address for Jack.

EC24-09-14 It was **agreed** that the 2025 Representative Meeting for LEYM will be hybrid, with attendance both in person and online. Clémence will ask if Pittsburgh Meeting is willing and able to host, suggesting either March 8 or 15, 2025, as preferred dates.

EC24-09-15 Executive Committee **agreed** to hold January 18, 2025, 10am-1pm, as a time for our next meeting, as needed.

The meeting closed at about noon.