

LEYM Executive Committee
January 18, 2025

Present: Joe Mills (Clerk), Jack Smith (Assistant Clerk), Peggy Daub (Recording Clerk), Claire Cohen (Peace & Justice), Jeff Cooper (Publications & Archives), Flo Friender (Ministry & Nurture), Tom Kangas (Treasurer), Carolyn LeJuste (Arrangements & Site), Barbara LeSage (Advancement & Outreach), Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Adult & Family Program/Nominating), Bill Wartens (Digital Communications Facilitator)

The Meeting took place online and began with worship at 10:00 am.

The Executive Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting met to make plans for Representative Meeting, which is scheduled to be in Pittsburgh and online on Saturday, March 8, 2025. The discussion ranged over many topics, including the purpose of Representative Meeting, whether we should have a program during Rep Meeting, how to encourage people to attend, and whether time for committee meetings is necessary during it or not. We recognized that some of the ways we did things prior to COVID may not be necessary or logical now, when committees conduct their business throughout the year by online meetings and participants from monthly meetings are invited to attend webinars and discussions sponsored by LEYM committees at frequent intervals.

We decided on the following:

- 1) There will be a hybrid LEYM Executive Committee scheduled for the Friday evening before Representative Meeting, beginning at 6:30 at the Pittsburgh Meetinghouse with dinner for those in person. The business of the Meeting will be to discern business to be presented at business meeting the next day, as well as any other needs that arise. We will continue to assess whether this meeting is needed going forward, but it was suggested that if no business is identified we could enter into extended worship together.
- 2) We believe the focus of the Representative Meeting is to plan our Annual Meeting, to hear reports on the work of our committees, to provide information for representatives to Yearly Meeting to take back to their monthly meetings, and to build community and our spiritual connections through our time together.
- 3) The Advancement & Outreach Committee is developing a Power Point slide show that they plan to bring to many monthly meetings and worship groups in the spring. They hope it will create more interest in attending the Annual Meeting of LEYM among those who have not been involved. The Executive Committee applauded this effort. A time was added for the Committee to present the slide show at Representative Meeting and ask for feedback and questions. This might lead to a broad-based discussion of how LEYM presents itself to our constituent meetings and how we engage with each other.

Barbara LeSage (North Columbus), representing the A&O Committee, said they would like to use money from the Consultation Fund and/or the Traveling Ministry Fund to enable people to travel and make these presentations to monthly meetings and worship groups. At our Annual Sessions we had asked the A&O and M&N committees to consider together how the Traveling Ministry Fund, which has been unused for many years, might be used. It seems that if the two committees bring a proposal concerning its use to Representative Meeting, that body could discern whether it is in good order.

4) We want to retain some time for committees to meet during Representative Meeting, if they choose. The time need not be very long.

5) While we are in Pittsburgh we would like a time to hear about the process and outcome of making changes to the Pittsburgh Meetinghouse.

With these discussions in mind, the group agreed to the following schedule for Representative Meeting:

9:00-9:30 am Simple Breakfast

9:30-10:00 Meeting for Worship

10:00-10:15 Announcements

10:15-10:45 Tour and Presentation regarding changes to the Pittsburgh Meetinghouse

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-12:00 Presentation and Discussion of A&O slide show on LEYM

12:00-1:00 pm Lunch

1:00-1:30 Committee Meetings/Extended Lunch Break

1:30-4:00 Meeting for Business

We recognized that it may not be possible to have this changed version of the schedule available in the January *LEYM Bulletin*. Bill Warters can advertise it by later email, reminders, and announcements on the LEYM website.

Tom Kangas (North Columbus), Treasurer, presented a report.

a) The problems we experienced last year in receiving money from online registration for the Annual Meeting have been resolved because the online registration software company has a new payment processor who has agreed to work with us. In working through this change, LEYM obtained a new federal Employee Identification Number (EIN).

b) Terry Grant (Red Cedar) has begun an audit of the LEYM financial records through June 30, 2024.

c) Tom walked us through the updated financial report, and all seemed well.

LEYM Executive Committee thanked Tom for his faithful work as our Treasurer. (The full report is attached.)

Flo Friender (Kalamazoo), announced on behalf of the Ministry & Nurture Committee that reports on consideration of the annual query are due by March 1, and State of the Meeting reports by May 15.

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Adult & Family Program) announced that our plenary speaker for annual meeting will be Pamela Haines of Central Philadelphia Meeting, and the theme is “Mending Our Nets: The Power of Becoming Whole.” The deadline for workshop proposals is February 15.

The meeting ended in worship at noon.

**Treasurer's report to LEYM Executive Committee Meeting
January 18, 2025**

News items from the Treasurer's perspective

1. Registrants for last year's Annual Meeting enjoyed a new online registration system. The behind-the-scenes payment processor was another story; they would not transfer the registrants' funds LEYM because we have no Determination Letter from the IRS corroborating our tax-exempt status. Detroit Friends Meeting stepped in and saved the day last year. The situation has been rectified now because the online registration system changed their payment processor in September to one who is willing to do business directly with LEYM. The connection has been established and a test donation successfully flowed end-to-end. LEYM is ready to receive payments through this system for 2025 Annual Meeting registrations.
2. Although LEYM will not now contemplate applying for a Determination Letter, we did have to get a new federal Employer Identification Number. Our financial institutions have been properly notified.
3. The audit of LEYM's books for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, is underway. Finance Committee selected Terry Grant to be the auditor and on Jan 15, 2025, the records to be audited were transferred to the auditor.

Interim results for FY2024-2025 (as of Jan 17, 2025)

- **Income**
 - Have received payments from 9 of 19 MMs; Fin Comm has contacted all MMs with notice of the "assessment" for this year
 - We are grateful for these contributions from MMs and also for contributions to the GF received from individuals
- **Expenses**
 - Database Manager and Digital Comm Facilitator have both billed through Oct 2024
 - Completed items:
 - Insurance is fully paid for the year
 - payments to other organizations
 - transfers to other funds (from the general fund)
 - Publications spending is on track for the year
- **Statement of Financial Position**
 - No issues to report with either of our financial institutions
 - FFC paid December dividends as expected
 - Prepaid expenses: there is no deposit shown for the Fall 2025 Youth & Families retreat because none has been paid to date
- **LEYM Funds**
 - **General Fund**
 - All of the activity we've seen on prior pages is summarized in the top line here
 - **Annual Meeting Fund**
 - \$1,500 cash expense represents deposit paid to Ashland for June 2025
 - **Youth Activities Fund**
 - Activity shown is related to retreat last September
 - **Spiritual Formation Fund**
 - Activity shown is related to retreat last September
 - **FWCC Travel Fund**
 - The cash expenditure shown was for reimbursement to one representative to the World Plenary last August
 - **FWCC Travel Donation Fund**
 - This fund was fully expended last fiscal year in advance of the World Plenary