

*Report from the Advancement and Outreach Committee
To Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions 2025*

The Advancement and Outreach Committee has had a full year, with all six members actively involved in the committee and its activities.

We reviewed and expanded our vision for the committee, considering both “advancement” and “outreach” as we coordinated with the Ministry and Nurture Committee to help monthly meetings connect with each other and share resources and provided resources to folks in monthly meetings.

Highlights:

Panel Discussions to share resources and information among monthly meetings

We presented 3 workshops during the year, in a changed format from the 2023-2024 presentations. Each workshop addressed a different topic through a panel of Friends from 3 different monthly meetings, coordinated by a member of the committee. The new format provided time for participants to raise questions and items for discussion. Topics this year were 1) Fitting Space to Spirit: Challenges of where we worship (challenges, successes, concerns, whether we own, rent, buy, build, or share space) [Fitting Space to Spirit Video](#); 2) Hybrid Meetings: How have they affected us? [Hybrid Meeting Video](#); and 3) Families with Children in our Family of Friends [Families with Children Video](#). These events were recorded, and the videos are available through the above links or on the LEYM website.

Looking at the two different formats and focus from the past two years, the committee welcomes and is seeking feedback and ideas for what might most be needed or wanted for the upcoming year by our monthly meetings and worship groups.

Intervisitation and connection between meetings and worship groups and the yearly meeting

Again this year, after consultation with the Ministry and Nurture Committee, we read all the State of the Meeting Reports from monthly meetings. We found many

of these included not just lists of activities completed, but reflections and sharing about what was important to them, and how their community found joy and value in deepening their spiritual life and strengthening community and trust. Our excitement in reading these reports eventually led to the idea of asking meetings to share a small sample of their state of the meeting through constructing “puzzle pieces” illustrating their uniqueness. The intention is to put these puzzle pieces on display at the LEYM Annual Meeting for all to see and interact with, in the hope of offering an additional venue for sharing in the richness and ideas of our monthly meetings.

We also communicated with those meetings that did not have State of the Meeting reports printed in the Annual Records, and gave summary reports from those meetings at Representative Meeting in March.

Our discussion of intervisitation led us to focus this year on broadening understanding and knowledge about the yearly meeting among monthly meetings and worship groups, while also finding out from them what resources they might need from LEYM. We prepared a slide show, highlighting the various aspects of LEYM. Several committee members visited monthly meetings in person or by Zoom to share the slides and discuss the meetings’ relationships. The slide show was presented nine times after its initial showing at Representative Meeting, Six of these presentations included an intervisitation presence, while the others were given by Friends to their own meetings. In March, Representative Meeting approved a proposal brought by Advancement and Outreach and Ministry and Nurture committees, allowing money from the Traveling Ministry Fund to be used to support this intervisitation.

Website Review

We have started a review of the Advancement and Outreach materials on the LEYM website, but have not yet completed that work.

Submitted by the Advancement and Outreach Committee

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