

Digital Communications Facilitator 2024-25 Report

The Digital Communications Facilitator (DCF) for LEYM serves to maintain our online presence and help Friends across LEYM connect with each other via the website (leym.org), email listservs, webinars and Zoom meetings. The DCF also plays a central role in preparing for, coordinating and helping to host our Annual Meeting, including hosting the Zoom portions of the program.

Some online events in the past year that the DCF helped promote and support included our regular Clerk's Chats, a new series from the Peace and Justice Committee supporting effective P&J Committee work at the meeting level, and another webinar series from Advancement and Outreach, this year focused on a range of topics of interest to monthly meetings including Fitting Space to Spirit, Hybrid Meetings, and supporting Families with Children. After moving away from posting on Twitter (now called X) as a place to share on social media, this year we rejuvenated our LEYM Facebook page and we have begun posting more regularly there. Look at the top right of our homepage for links to our Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/LEYMQuakers/>) and our YouTube account (<https://www.youtube.com/@lakeerieyearlymeeting>), which hosts recordings of many past events.

We have been using a time-tracking app set to record down to the 10-minute interval, making it easy to track quick website updates and other small tasks that accumulate over time. Most committee meetings that the DCF attended in a dual (volunteer and attending in my role as DCF) capacity were not included for billing. Time billed from June 1 2024 – June 1 2025 was just under 160 hours, distributed as follows

Annual Sessions Prep: 73 hours

Online Database: 8 hours

Research & Reporting: 3 hours

Website updates: 48 hours

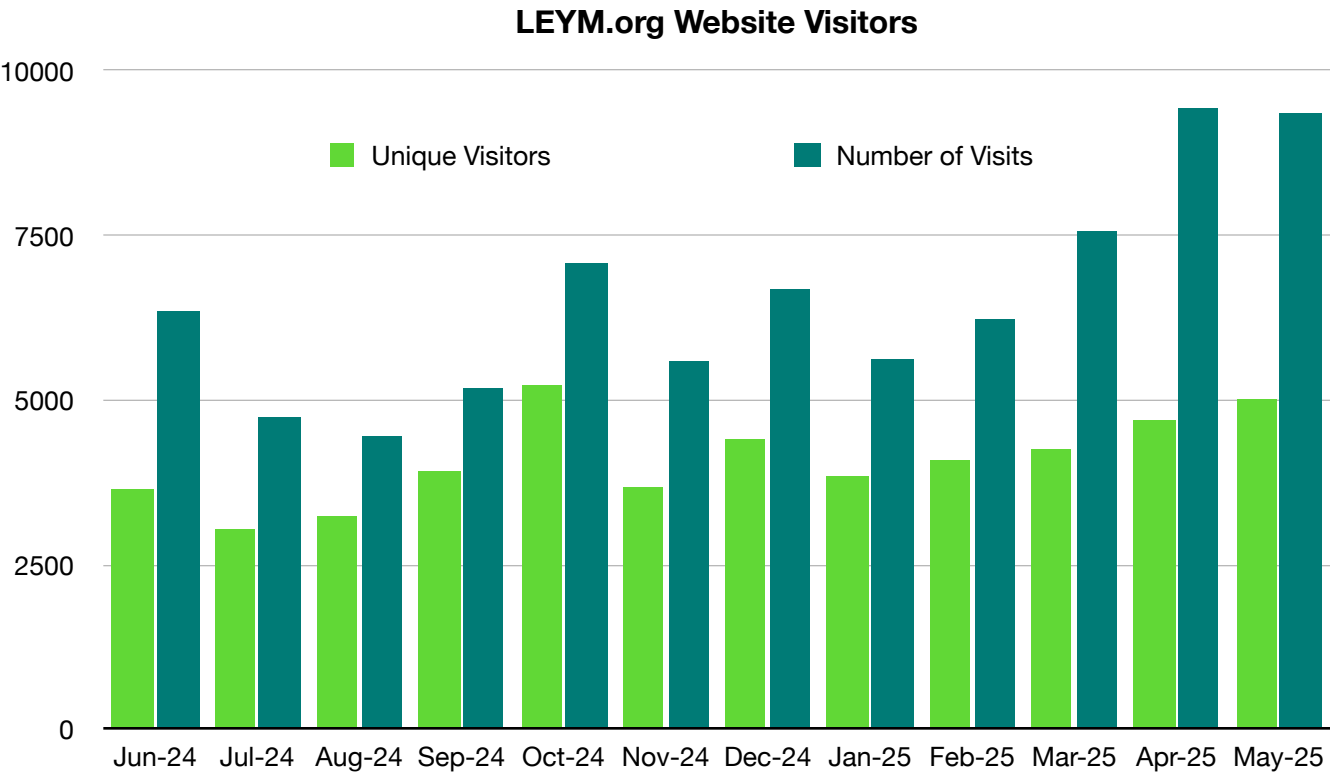
Zoom-related: 16 hours

Correspondence: 6 hours

Managing Email Accounts/Group Messages/Social: 6 hours

Much of the DCF’s time is devoted to preparing for and supporting Annual Meeting, and for the 2025 gathering we have again worked with the online service known as RegFox. The system has been working well, enabling the online registration of 120 participants as of this writing. Last year we experienced some challenges getting approval from our payment processor due to the unique nature of religious organizations’ status as nonprofits, but this year we have transitioned to a new payment processor that has approved our status as a nonprofit. Thanks go to Tom Kangas for staying with this process to completion.

Our website continues to provide valuable and accessible information for LEYM Friends and others from afar. Here’s the visitor statistics for June 2024 through the end of May 2025.

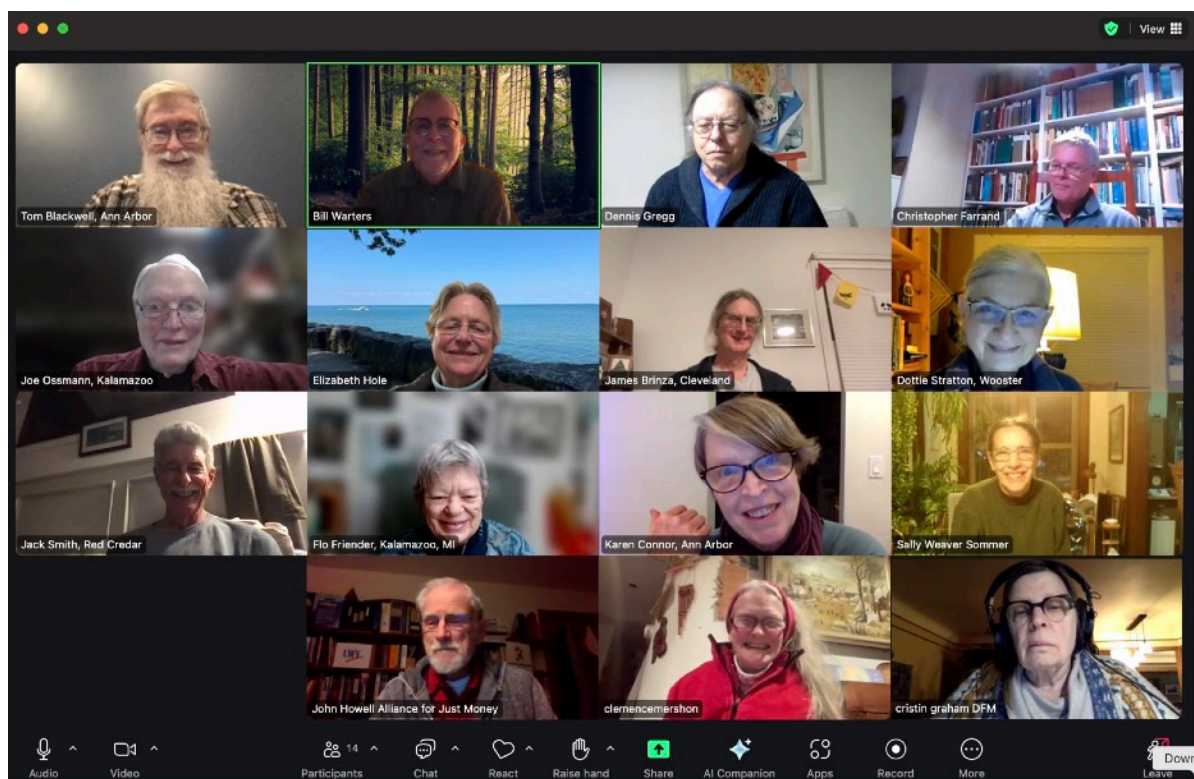


Some new website additions this year included the posting of a web version of the Annual Record (scrubbed of personal data - see <https://leym.org/annual-records/>), and the development of a page providing access to the

full-text and/or video recordings of past LEYM Plenary speakers. See <https://leym.org/plenary-talks-interviews-at-leym-annual-meeting/> Thanks to Jeff Cooper from Publications and Archives for his assistance on these items. Also in the works is an updated annotated collection of Quaker Resources from around the web, which will replace a more antiquated table of items that proved very hard to maintain.

It has been an honor to be able to serve Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for another year in this capacity. While my time is more precious since I became Clerk of Birmingham Friends Meeting in September of 2024, I still look forward to continuing in the role for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Warters (Birmingham Friends Meeting)



An LEYM Clerk's Chat hosted over Zoom