

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Minutes
17th Day, Fifth Month, 2025
Michigan Friends Center, Chelsea, Michigan

Kevin Miller (Clerk) opened the Meeting at 10:30 a.m. with silent worship

Roll Call:

Ann Arbor	7	Birmingham	1	Detroit	3
Grand Rapids	1	Holland	0	Kalamazoo	1
Red Cedar	1	by Zoom	5		

1) An announcement was given that Bridget Moix of FCNL will be at the Kalamazoo Friends Meetinghouse on First Day 6/1/2025 at 1:30pm for a presentation followed by a potluck. Friends throughout the Quarterly Meeting are invited to attend both events.

2) Our Treasurer, Jeff Cooper, presented a **Treasurer's report** for the current fiscal year through 5/ 10/ 2025, showing contributions of \$9,648 (all Monthly Meeting assessments), expenditures of \$10,095 and an ending fund balance of \$2,487. All but a few hundred dollars were contributions to organizations. A \$300 donation was donated to the underground railroad museum Schoolcraft as part of our fall gathering.

3) The Finance Committee presented a **draft budget** for the 2025-2026 year. The projected revenue of \$9,848 with expenses at \$10,480 leaves a deficit of \$632 for the year. \$800 is budgeted for adult and youth programing. The per member contribution remains at \$36. A final budget will be presented for approval in September.

4) Richard Tucker shared a 2024 annual report **for Michigan Friends Center**. Finances are tight due to maintenance and improvements (including air conditioning) to the 30-year-old building. Appeals to foundations for grants are being made as additional income is needed. Family programs for Friends Lake Community including Halloween and New Years festivities and campfire sings, and pizza parties are becoming more regular. Also, environmental, spiritual singing, and meditation events are being held for the public. A session on Quaker processes may be planned. Quarterly Meeting has a group membership to the Center. The Center is exploring ways Michigan Friends Center can become better known to Friends in the wider area.

5) Friends started a discussion on the **future of the Quarterly Meeting** with our Clerk presenting three queries

- a. Is there a unique role for the Quarterly Meeting to play now and in the foreseeable future?
- b. If so, is there a way to recruit Friends to participate in this work?
- c. If the answer to either of the first two questions is no, how should we go about laying down the Quarterly Meeting? Are there ramifications we need to be sure to consider?

A comment was shared that under Friends practice that since Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting is a member of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, the laying down of the Quarterly Meeting requires the approval of the Yearly Meeting.

Meaningful comments:

Other Quarterly Meetings in the United States are active.

Zoom and email may be replacing in person socialization which may be necessary to revitalize the Quarter.

Need to revitalize a youth program and become more family focused bringing a broader community together. Wider fellowship opportunities are important.

Some Meetings in the Quarter are growing with increased attendance by young people.

For our gatherings, we need to emphasize program over business matters.

Sponsoring Clerking workshops in the past was valuable.

The Quarter should meet more often at its local Monthly meetings where Friends could share in the attractions and events at their locations. An example was given of meeting in Lansing, with an outing to a museum which would include children.

Changing leadership models, perhaps a group of a few Friends sharing leadership needs on their own. At least one Meeting itself serves as a “Committee of the Whole”

6) Kevin Miller is willing to **gather with Monthly and Yearly Meeting clerks** to discuss the above queries, to bring more leadership to the Quarterly Meeting, and to discuss how we best might proceed. Hopefully, we will be able to make a definitive decision about the future of the Quarter at our late summer or fall meeting.

7) Unsure that proper notice of this meeting has been given, we allow John Williams continuing to serve for another year on the **Finance Committee** and for Jeff Cooper to continue as **Treasurer**. These assignments can be confirmed at our next Meeting.

8) We want to continue the annual gathering for First Day worship at **Quaker Park in Battle Creek** with a potluck to follow in early August. Again, we will rent a Porta John. The Kalamazoo Meeting will decide on a particular date.

The Meeting concluded at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Joseph Mills, Recording Clerk