

## **LEYM Executive Committee**

**June 12, 2025**

Present: Joe Mills (Clerk), Jack Smith (Assistant Clerk), Peggy Daub (Recording Clerk), Jeff Cooper (Publications & Archives), Flo Friender (Ministry & Nurture), Dennis Gregg (Ministry & Nurture), Tom Kangas (Treasurer), Carolyn Lejuste (Arrangements & Site), Barbara LeSage (Advancement & Outreach), Diane Mott (Youth & Children Program), Joann Neuroth (Finance), Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Adult & Family Program/Nominating), Bill Warters (Digital Communications Facilitator)

The Executive Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting convened shortly after 1:30 pm on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at Ashland University, before the start of our Annual Sessions.

The group welcomed Dennis Gregg (Ann Arbor) as a member of the Ministry & Nurture Committee at this meeting.

Clerk Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) reported that he planned to bring a recommendation to the Annual Sessions that the Database Manager stop keeping records of all the members (or members/attenders) of our constituent monthly meetings. However, those monthly meetings who need help in keeping an account of their members can ask for help in doing so.

Bill Warters (Birmingham) announced plans for people who are attending our Annual Meeting to participate in a local “No Kings” demonstration against the current administration’s militarism and disregard for legal procedures when deporting people, on Saturday afternoon, June 14. All will be invited to attend the town’s demonstration in the center of Ashland (about 15 minutes’ walk from campus), and there will be a simultaneous peace vigil just across the street from where we are meeting at Ashland University, thanks to the planning of Dottie Stratton (Wooster), who sent notice to the Campus Security Office of Ashland University. Someone at the vigil will need to have a paper copy of this communication with the Campus Security Office in case questions arise. There will be materials available for people to make signs beforehand in a common area.

The times for the vigil and demonstration overlap with the first hour of our meeting for business Saturday afternoon, scheduled for 1:15-3:15 pm. The Executive Committee agreed that we should change the schedule so that the first 45 minutes of the business meeting will be devoted to a Meeting for Worship to uphold the vigil and demonstrations across the country, with regular business beginning at about 2:00 pm. This offers a third way of participating to Friends. Joanne Neuroth (Red Cedar) volunteered to anchor the Meeting for Worship. Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) volunteered to carry the communications with the Campus Security Office at the vigil.

The group agreed to make some adjustments to allow for this shortening of our schedule for business. The first reading of our annual epistle on Saturday was removed, with the time for reading it on Sunday moved earlier.

Clerk Joe Mills noted that we need people to serve on a Harassment Discernment Committee for the Annual Meeting. Our practice is to have one representative from Executive Committee, one from the Ministry & Nurture Committee, and at least one other Friend. Bill Warters and Carolyn Lejuste volunteered to serve but wish to do so only for the Annual Meeting, not continuing for a year's service. Our *Policy and Procedures* specifies that two members are named by the Executive Committee, and they then recruit other members during the Annual Meeting. The Executive Committee agreed to name Bill and Carolyn, and to let them serve as a two-person Committee if others cannot be found. Their names will be brought for approval by the Yearly Meeting at the opening session. This is an ongoing task that we need to keep in mind each year.

The main time for committee reports at these Annual Sessions will be Friday afternoon, with time for prospective new members of the committees to talk with current members in a breakout session near the end of the meeting.

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group) reported for the Nominating Committee. They have had fewer committee members than usual able to do the work this year. They do not have a candidate to serve as Assistant Clerk at this time and would like to ask the Executive Committee to take on the tasks of the Assistant Clerk, as was proposed last year.

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor), announced on behalf of the Publications Committee that the deadline for submissions for the Annual Records is July 31.

Joe briefly reviewed the proposed agenda for the business meetings over the next few days.

The meeting closed at 3:25 pm.