

LEYM Executive Committee

June 15, 2025

Present: Jack Smith (Clerk), Peggy Daub (Recording Clerk), Ellen Barnes (Finance), Claire Cohen (Peace & Justice), Jeff Cooper (Publications & Archives), Flo Friender (Ministry & Nurture), Dennis Gregg (Ministry & Nurture), Tom Kangas (Treasurer), Barbara Lesage (Advancement & Outreach), Carolyn Lejuste (Arrangements & Site), 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 after the close of our 2025 Annual Meeting at about 1:40 pm on Sunday, June 15, 2025, at Ashland University.

The incoming clerk, Jack Smith (Red Cedar), introduced himself and described how he hopes to be fully in the life of the Yearly Meeting. He is happy to seek and receive advice from the Executive Committee and may attend committee meetings to learn more about the organization. Since one of his duties for this Annual Meeting was to choose and read epistles from various Quaker gatherings, he wondered who would do that next year in the absence of an Assistant Clerk. Someone from Executive Committee might volunteer to do this, or there is also precedent for the Clerk asking another Friend to take on this task.

Jack asked us to consider how we communicate among ourselves and how we communicate with our constituent meetings and the individuals that are part of them. Do we need to continue keeping lists of all the individuals so that this could be used to communicate with them? Tom Kangas suggested that there are additional issues around the questions of how individual meetings collect the information, how accurate it is, and whether they are even willing to share their data with LEYM. He went on to describe some of the issues that arise if we intend to keep the data as an archival record of the history of our meeting and its members, including migration to newer formats and how the data would actually be shared with researchers. Dennis Gregg suggested that some of these problems could be solved by taking a snapshot of the data annually and sending it as a spreadsheet to our official archive at Swarthmore. Bill Warters asked if that would violate our members' privacy. Jeff Cooper suggested that the Clerk could ask our Database Manager for her ideas on how to approach this.

Bill Warters asked if we should continue to offer Zoom access to parts of our Annual Meeting. He has been able to provide access for the plenary talk and business sessions, but it takes a lot of effort and only about six people attended that way this year.

We agreed to have our next Executive Committee meeting by Zoom at 9:30 am on Saturday, September 6, 2025.

Diane Mott (Broadmead) asked the group if it would be useful to have a more accurate account of the costs associated with the Youth & Children's Program at our Annual Meeting. Currently, the clerks of the program are donating items but not recording them as costs. Tom Kangas, Treasurer, said it would be helpful if the Youth & Children's Program Committee were to provide a statement saying what they would like to be recorded.

Jack asked how we go about finding a host for our Representative Meeting in the spring. A few possibilities were suggested, including Detroit, Akron/Kent, and Athens. Jack will reach out to some meetings to ask them to host.

Jack said he liked the topics of the panels presented by the Advancement & Outreach Committee this year and had talked to Barbara LeSage about what's coming next. Barbara said there will be another session on hybrid meetings because there was a lot of interest and some unresolved issues. It would be nice to have a more general overview of basic Quakerism as a series of presentations. The Committee invited feedback and suggestions.

Jack said that a big motivator for him saying yes to serving as clerk was the opportunity to work on how we can increase communication. One topic of interest is communication with other yearly meetings in the area, especially Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Even though LEYM used to send representatives to some other yearly meetings, we have stopped that practice. Is there any possibility of having joint sessions on Zoom with other yearly meetings? Or combining some children's programs? Could we share the same campus, but have separate business meetings?

The Meeting closed at 2:40 pm.