

Digital Communications Facilitator 2025-26 Report

Bill Warters, 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 in Ashland, including hosting the Zoom portions of the program and managing the online registration system. This year we also provided Zoom support for the Representative Meeting hosted by Red Cedar Friends Meeting in March. While not a central focus, we also periodically post to the revived LEYM Facebook page. Look at the top right of our homepage for links to our Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/LEYMQuakers/>) and to our YouTube account (<https://www.youtube.com/@lakeerieyearlymeeting>) where you can find archived recordings of many past events.

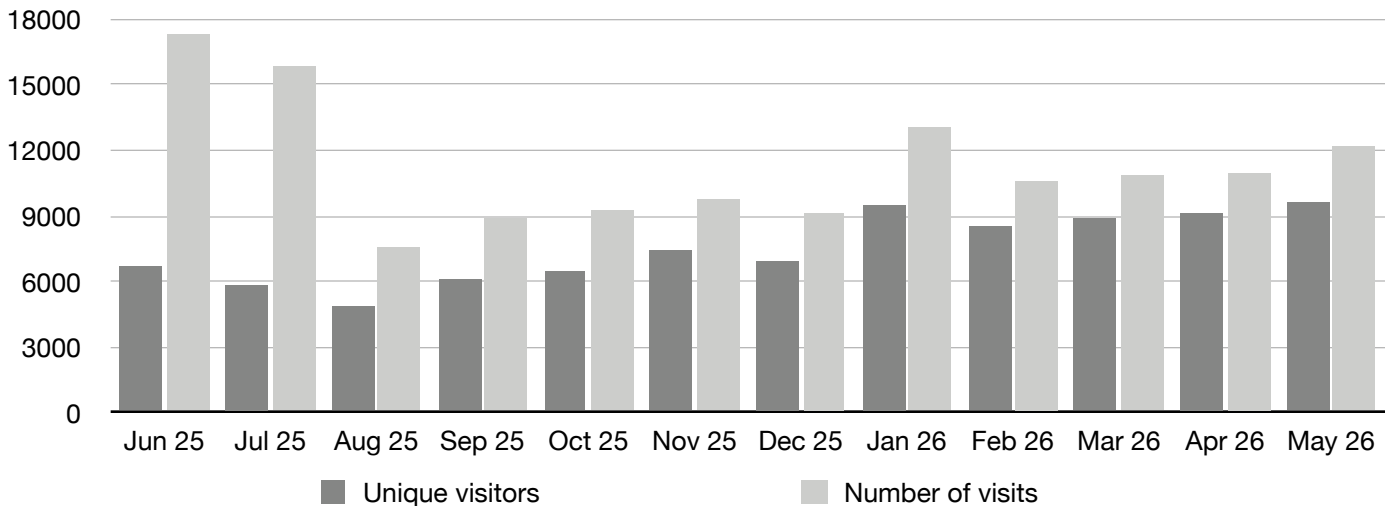
Here's a list of some of the specific offerings the DCF supported this year:

- *Spiritual Companionship Coaching Sessions* (March 19, May 7)
- *Spiritual Deepening and Vital Community* webinar (Feb 26)
- *Gifts and Leadings among Friends: An Exploration* webinar developed and presented by the DCF (Jan 6)
- Trans Day of Remembrance Online Vigil (Nov 18)
- *Living Peace: Three Quakers Share* webinar (Nov 5)
- *Praying Like Quakers* webinar (Oct 9)
- LEYM Spiritual Formation Mystics Group Discussion (July 17, Oct 16, Jan 15)
- *What Does It Mean to be Quaker?* - promoted wider access to AAFM's regular Zoom offering for Friends exploring Quakerism
- Hosted 3-part Peace and Justice Book Discussion entitled *Kind, Connected & Unafraid* exploring *The Dandelion Insurrection: Love and Revolution* by Rivera Sun. Developed and facilitated by the DCF. (July 29, Aug 5, Aug 12)

Website Traffic

Our website continues to attract a growing amount of traffic, currently at around 9000 unique visitors per month, although it is increasingly hard to tell which traffic is human and which is driven by search engine and ai bots.

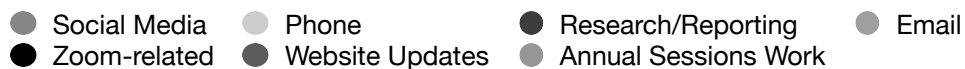
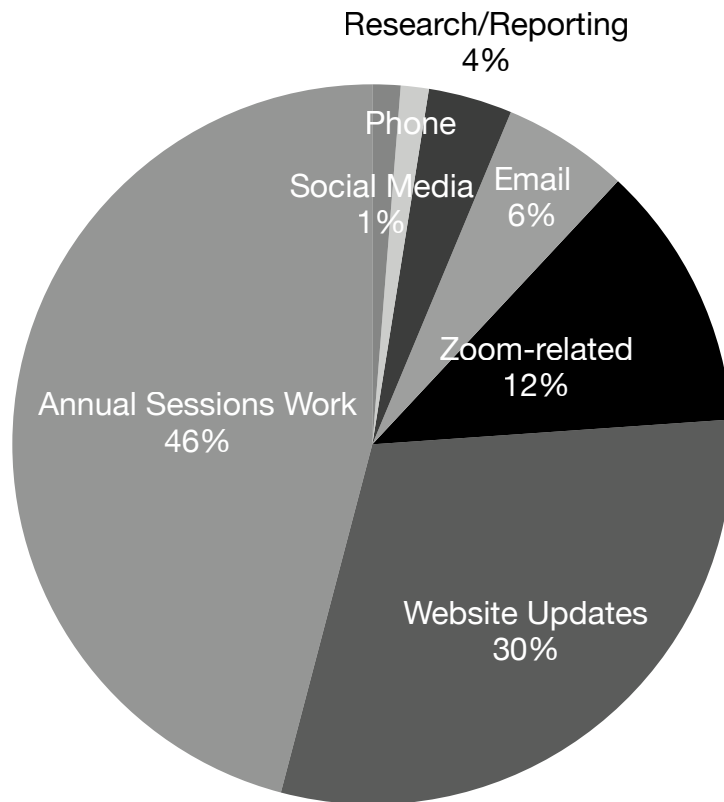
LEYM.ORG Website Traffic



The website requires regular attention, and this past year we stepped up our security features, moving to a two-factor authentication model and a new firewall to help strengthen protection against malicious actors. We also implemented a new “staging site” where significant design changes could be tested before being pushed to the public site. This may be important in the coming year, as the website theme and underlying structure of our site, while still fully functional, is no longer being supported by the original developer leading to problems over time. Thus we may need to consider some renovations that could break some things without careful testing.

Distribution of Billed Activity Hours

We use a time-tracking app set to record 10-minute intervals, designed 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. We changed time-tracking tools in January when the prior tool was no longer supported, so some changes make combining the category totals tricky. But as an estimate, the time billed to LEYM from June 1 2025 – June 1 2025 was between 160-170 hours, similar to last year, distributed as follows:



Special Creative Projects

This past year, Bill was on a roll creating a number of unique online resources specific to Quakers that are now hosted on the LEYM website. Aside from the video browser requested by the Advancement and Outreach Committee, these projects were all developed on his own time. Specific offerings, not yet well advertised, include:

- *Get to Know LEYM Meetings* video browser for LEYM Annual 2026
- *LEYM Advices and Queries Browser* drawing on our 2012 LEYM Advices and Queries booklet (<https://tools.leym.org/leymqqueries/>)
- *Interactive Quaker Peace Testimony History Timeline* (<https://leym.org/peace-testimony-history/>)
- *Gifts and Leadings Discernment Helper* (<https://tools.leym.org/gifts/>)
- *Quaker Spicy Talk* pass-and-play mobile game for hosting discussions on the Quaker Testimonies (<https://tools.leym.org/spicytalk/>)

- *On Friendly Terms* Quaker Wordsearch game (<https://leym.org/on-friendly-terms-wordsearch-puzzle/>)
- *Navigating Conflict in Quaker Meetings* online learning resource (under review before public release)

Looking Forward

A number of issues are being explored for the coming year, including thinking about practical ways to ensure a smooth transition of the website and digital resources if the current DCF is incapacitated or moves on to another position. Based on some inquiries from committee clerks, we are also exploring the possibility of creating a set of shared digital tools for all LEYM committees, making the transition from one set of clerks to another more seamless, while maintaining committee documents and offering integrated email listservs for each working group. One very practical possibility would be to subscribe to a Quaker Meetings Network meeting support site with each committee having their own subsite, which would also enable us to consolidate our email listserv (now hosted by electricembers) under one service. Further discernment will be required.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Warters (Birmingham Friends Meeting)