

Digital Communications Facilitator (DCF) Report 2025-26 - **Summary Version**

Bill Warters, the LEYM DCF, continues to maintain LEYM's online presence via leym.org, email listservs, webinars, and Zoom. He plays a central role in preparing for and hosting Annual Meeting, including website, registration and Zoom support, and also supported the Representative Meeting hosted by Red Cedar Friends Meeting in March.

This year's programming included Spiritual Companionship sessions, a Spiritual Deepening and Vital Community webinar, a Trans Day of Remembrance vigil, the Living Peace webinar, Praying Like Quakers, ongoing Mystics Group discussions, wider access to AAFM's "What Does It Mean to be Quaker?" sessions, and a three-part Peace and Justice Book Discussion on The Dandelion Insurrection, which Bill developed and facilitated. He also created and presented a webinar on Gifts and Leadings among Friends.

Our website now attracts around 9,000 unique visitors monthly, though distinguishing human traffic from bot activity is increasingly difficult. This year brought significant security upgrades — two-factor authentication and a new firewall—plus a new staging site for testing major changes before going live. This will matter going forward, since our site's underlying theme is no longer supported by its original developer, meaning future updates will need careful testing.

The DCF billed an estimated 160-170 hours this year, similar to last year. Time breaks down roughly as: Annual Sessions work (46%), website updates (30%), Zoom-related tasks (12%), email (6%), research/reporting (4%), with small amounts for phone and social media.

Beyond regular duties, Bill developed several creative digital resources for Quakers, mostly on his own time, now hosted on the LEYM site:

- "Get to Know LEYM Meetings" video browser for Annual 2026
- LEYM Advices and Queries Browser, drawing on our 2012 booklet
- Interactive Quaker Peace Testimony History Timeline
- Gifts and Leadings Discernment Helper
- "Quaker Spicy Talk," a pass-and-play game on the Quaker Testimonies
- "On Friendly Terms" Quaker wordsearch puzzle
- "Navigating Conflict in Quaker Meetings" learning resource (under review)

These tools aren't yet widely advertised but offer new ways for Friends to engage with our tradition online.

Looking ahead, the DCF is exploring succession planning for a smooth transition of digital resources if he becomes unavailable or moves on. He's also exploring, at committee clerks' request, shared digital tools across LEYM committees—potentially via a Quaker Meetings Network platform with subsites per committee, which could also help consolidate our email listserv service under one system.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Warters (Birmingham Friends Meeting)