

FWCC Report

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (LEYM)

June 2025 through June 2026

Ellerie Brownfain, FWCC Representative

This report covers the work of the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas from August 2025 through the present.

The Section observed World Quaker Day on October 5, 2025, with the theme “Love Your Neighbor,” drawn from Galatians 5:14. A special global online worship gathering followed on October 11, with Friends joining across time zones from the Pacific coast to Bolivia and Cuba.

Also in October, Friends World Committee published “As Way Opens,” a collection of spiritual reflections growing out of the 2025 Section Meeting theme, and shared the entries received from a section-wide hymn contest, with songs in English and Spanish reflecting the faith of Friends across the hemisphere.

In November 2025 the organization participated in a consultation convened by the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, joining other organizations focused on the lives and work of Friends in Bolivia.

Young Adult Friends from across the Section gathered online twice during this period, in September and December 2025, for worship and conversation and to build relationships across national, cultural, and theological boundaries.

Running through this entire period, the Section has been investing in several digital tools to strengthen its work. The Digital Quaker Glossary is an interactive and printable resource being built to make Quaker terms accessible across languages, supporting both interpreters and Friends who travel to visit Friends in other countries. The Section has conducted its business bilingually in Spanish and English for more than forty years and the glossary grows directly out of that commitment. Alongside it, FWCC maintains an interactive map at fwccdirectory.org where anyone can find Quaker meetings, churches, worship groups, and Friends’ projects across the Americas and around the world. The Section also publishes a regular digital newsletter, Friends World News, which keeps Friends informed about events, programs, and news from across the Americas. Please consider signing up at fwccamericas.org. All of these tools reflect the Section’s vision of a connected and accessible global Quaker community.

The 2026 Section Meeting was held online on March 21 under the theme “Love Your Neighbor.” More than 300 Friends gathered from across the Americas. I am pleased to report that a number of Friends from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting were among those who attended. The gathering began in worship sharing groups and then moved through worship and the business of the Section, including nominations and financial reports. Plenary speaker Colin Saxton opened the parable of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10

and gave a moving message, inviting Friends to examine what it truly means to love a neighbor and whether their meeting is a community of rest and healing for those who come seeking it.

In May 2026 a professional interpreter training was held in Greensboro, North Carolina. The goal was to move the Section away from its long reliance on a small pool of volunteers and toward a stable corps of compensated interpreters. Bilingual Friends and other fluent speakers were trained in the craft of interpretation so that the Section can draw on skilled and fairly paid professionals for its committees, events, and gatherings. This is a meaningful investment in equity and in the long-term health of the Section's bilingual life.

The 2027 Section Meeting is planned for March 18 through 21 at Quaker Haven Camp in Syracuse, Indiana and will be offered both in person and online.

Looking ahead, World Quaker Day is October 4, 2026 and the theme is "Let Peace Be Among Us," drawn from Hebrews 12:14. This is a wonderful opportunity for your meeting to reach across borders or across branches of Friends for a joint time of worship, whether via Zoom or in person. Such connections take some advance planning so now is a good time to begin thinking about it. If you would like help connecting with a meeting outside of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting please be in touch with me or any of your FWCC representatives.

Beginning July 1, representatives will meet quarterly via Zoom to share ideas and initiatives and to support one another in carrying forward the work of this organization. If you wish to get involved or have questions please do not hesitate to reach out to your representatives: Ellerie Brownfain, Clemence Mershon, Jana Norlan, and Mike Hinshaw.

The work of FWCC depends on the generosity of Friends across the Section. Personal contributions of any size are welcome and are tax deductible. Information about giving can be found at fwccamericas.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellerie Brownfain