

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, Executive Committee

June 18, 2026

Present: Jack Smith (Red Cedar), Clerk, Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Recording Clerk, Jeff Cooper (Publications & Archives), Dennis Gregg (Ministry & Nurture), Susan Hartman (Advancement & Outreach), Tom Kangas (Treasurer), Carolyn Lejuste (Arrangements & Site), Barbara LeSage (Advancement & Outreach), Diane Mott (Youth & Children), Joann Neuroth (Finance), Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Adult & Family Program, Nominating), Bill Wartens (Digital Communications Facilitator)

The Executive Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gathered in worship at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio, at 1:40 pm on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

1. Epistle Writing Committee

Clerk Jack Smith (Red Cedar) reported that he has asked Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) to anchor the epistle writing committee for this year's Annual Meeting. Joann has asked Alexa Kay (Pittsburgh) to join her. One more Friend is needed.

2. Communications with Friends in Wheelersburg, Ohio

Jack Smith reported that he has been in further contact with Friends in Wheelersburg, Ohio, who inquired about becoming a Friends Meeting. The contact person is Michelle Martin, who was formerly part of Chestnut Hill Meeting, Philadelphia area. Wheelersburg is located about equidistant from meetings in Athens (Athens Friends Meeting) and Marietta (Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting). Jack invited Friends in Wheelersburg to attend some of our Annual Meeting, and a group was planning to come on Saturday but have had to cancel. Jack and Susan Hartman (A&O Committee) are planning to meet with co-clerks of Athens Meeting, Christa White and John Howell, over lunch during Annual Meeting to discuss the way forward in support of the group. The expected path would be for them to become a preparatory meeting under the care of Athens Meeting.

3. Sending Greetings and Thanks to Susan Loucks

Jack explained that Susan Loucks has a new job in Cincinnati and is resigning from her position as LEYM Database Manager. She will no longer be part of our yearly meeting. Jack suggested recognizing Susan's many contributions to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and wishing her well by providing a way for LEYM Friends to send greetings to her. The Ministry & Nurture Committee has prepared a card and will put it in an accessible place in our common room where all who wish to can sign.

4. New Database Manager

The Clerk is responsible for hiring a new Database Manager. Jack has offered Alexa Kay (Pittsburgh) this position and she has accepted. Susan Loucks will help Alexa transition into this work.

5. Naming Committee

Jack has asked Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) and Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh) to serve as a Naming Committee to find people to serve on our Nominating Committee, and both have agreed.

Clémence reported that there may not be any vacancies on Nominating to fill. She and Jack will confer.

6. Representative Meeting in Spring 2027

Jack announced that Broadmead Meeting has agreed to host next year's LEYM Representative Meeting. It will be Saturday, March 27, 2027, at the Victory Center in Toledo, Ohio.

7. Laying down Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Jack asked the Executive Committee to discern if it is in good order for LEYM to approve the laying down of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting. He noted that the word "approve" may or may not fit, as our oversight is not explicit in our Policies and Procedures. He would like to see that our actions reflect sadness on the loss of GPQM as well. Friends suggested that "accept" might be a better action than "approve," while noting sadness or regret. Friends noted some important GPQM accomplishments and felt it would be helpful to have some history of the organization in a report, as well as an account of how it is now being laid down. Jack asked Jeff Cooper and Susan Hartman (with input from Peggy Daub), all members of the GPQM Laying Down Committee, to write a report incorporating some elements of the history of GPQM as well as the process of laying it down and present it in one of our business sessions.

8. Information Collected for the LEYM Database

A decision is expected on this proposal. Jeff Cooper will present it on behalf of the Publications & Archives Committee.

9. Arrangements & Site Committee: Carolyn Lejuste reported.

The Committee is pleased that they were able to arrange with Ashland University for the "simple meal" without additional cost. There will be designated tables for discussing queries related to the simple meal. Jack asked if someone from the Committee could read the Memorial Minute for Stephen Dando. Clémence Ravaçon Mershon will read, with Carolyn Lejuste in support.

10. Adult & Family Program Committee: Clémence Ravaçon Mershon reported.

Nine people, including the Committee and others who volunteer to help it, have worked exceptionally hard this year on the program for this Annual Meeting. One of the important sources of input for their work is information on the evaluation forms at the end of the weekend.

11. Children & Youth Program Committee: Diane Mott reported.

They are expecting 13 youth in the program this year, ranging in age from 1 to 18.

12. Publications & Archives Committee: Jeff Cooper reported.

Two of our workshops do not yet have people assigned to summarize them for the *LEYM Annual Records*, and Jeff is looking for volunteers to do this work.

13. Peace & Justice Committee: Bill Warters reported.

Bill reported on a conversation with Claire Cohen in which they discussed the future of this Committee. One idea is to reframe it as a group to collect minutes expressing social concerns from monthly meetings and then share them with the Yearly Meeting so that other meetings can consider adopting them. Some Friends prefer having minutes arise from monthly meetings first,

and some hope to see us take action as well as writing minutes. We expect Claire to present this idea to the body during the Annual Sessions.

14. Digital Communications Facilitator: Bill Warters reported.

Bill has heard a concern about how to pass along the history of committee work when we have ever-changing memberships. The Quaker Meetings Network (Quaker.app) from Britain could help, as it provides space in which documents can be saved and shared with a group. It also supports convenient email groups and website design. He will continue to investigate this as an option for LEYM.

15. Nominating Committee: Clémence Ravaçon Mershon reported.

They have not been able to find someone to serve as Assistant Clerk for 2026-27.

16. Annual Meeting Agenda Review.

Several issues were brought up, including:

- ** draft agenda
- ** someone is needed to read the memorial minute for Don and Nancy Nagler. Susan Hartman will do it.
- ** confirmation that Nominating will present their first report Friday morning
- ** Jack has asked representatives from Quaker organization to limit their verbal reports to 500 words.
- ** a reader is needed for the Memorial Minute for John Templin.
- ** a reader is needed for the reports by Ellerie Brownfain for FGC and FWCC, as she will be with the children's program and not in business sessions. Jack will ask Brad Shaw to read the FGC report. Clémence volunteered to read the FWCC report.
- ** a reader for the Memorial Minute for Phil Clampitt is needed. Wink Covintree will do it.
- ** there is no report from FCNL yet

17. Ministry & Nurture Committee: Dennis Gregg reported.

The Committee is providing a folder containing State of the Meeting reports submitted to them. Friends will be invited to peruse them in the large activity room.

The Meeting closed at about 3:15 pm.