Minutes of LEYM Executive Committee
June 21, 2026

Present: Jack Smith (Clerk), Susan Hartman (Recording Clerk), Ellen Barnes (Finance), Cassie Cammann (Advancement and Outreach), Stephanie Charlot (Advancement and Outreach), Claire Cohen (Peace & Justice), Christin Graham (Youth and Children), Dennis Gregg (Ministry & Nurture), Tom Kangas (Treasurer), Carolyn LeJuste (Arrangements & Site), Mary Igoe Meyers (Nominating), Joann Neuroth (Finance), Clemence Ravaçon-Mershon (Adult and Family Program/Nominating), Bob Roehm (Publications & Archives), Bill Warters (Digital Communications Facilitator)

The Executive Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting convened after the close of our 2026 Annual Meeting at 1:00 pm on Sunday, June 21, 2025, at Ashland University.

1. We shared reflections on the annual meeting. In general, Friends agreed it was a good weekend, that business meetings went well and felt spirit-led. Some specific concerns and comments were raised:

- A concern was raised that the business agenda be more available in advance of each business session. Bill noted that a link to the agenda was included in the Friday morning email "Gazette." Other possibilities might include posting it in the lobby (noting that last-minute changes are sometimes made)
- A suggestion was made that providing pre-registration for workshops could assist in sending out resources to participants beforehand. We could also include a direct link in the workshop description to any resources or readings included.
- If we use Clark dormitory again next year, residents should be notified that there is a refrigerator available only on the ground floor.
- Relevant committees will consider these and other suggestions, which can be sent to the Arrangements and Site or Program committees.

2. We discussed several concerns around acoustics and ability to hear. We used a mike runner during business meetings. Next year we should be sure to have at least three mikes and assure that they are kept appropriately charged—one for the Clerk's table and two for the body, one on each side of the room. A suggestion was made that we also provide a mike for Sunday worship.

We noted that the noise level in the Alumni room, particularly the piano music, made hearing difficult for other activities happening simultaneously. The Arrangements and Site Committee will consider having the piano in a different room next year. Scheduled times and places for various types of music will be considered. It was also suggested that workshops not be held in the Alumni room, for the same reason.

3. Jack requested a volunteer from the Executive Committee (acting as Assistant Clerk again so far this year) to take on the responsibility for collecting memorial minutes, providing copies (for the reader, the records and the website), and assigning readers. Most Friends appreciated the distribution of memorial minutes through the several business sessions this year. We discussed briefly the challenge of time constraints if in the future we have many long minutes to read, We will revisit this issue as it arises. Friends recalled that in past sessions, we generally provided a time during business sessions for Friends to raise the names of persons from their meetings who had died in the last year and suggested we revive that practice.

4. Clerking workshops –Jack noted that the clerking gathering held during annual meeting helped identify a need for further workshops or education on clerking so that we can develop new leadership for the Yearly Meeting. Ministry & Nurture will take this on.

5. The Policies and Procedures Manual will need to be edited to reflect the laying down of GPQM. Jack asked for a volunteer to prepare a draft.

6. The Publications and Archives Committee does not yet have a person to serve as Annual Records editor. Bob will work with the committee to identify someone and hopes to have this finalized by August. Some names raised included those of Cheryl VanDeKerkhove (Red Cedar), Erika Smith (Detroit), and Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh). (Duties of the editor are outlined in Policies and Procedures, Section III.B.2.)

7. We briefly discussed the possibility of adopting Quaker.app – a digital platform providing websites, online tools, and "digital back office" services for Quaker meetings and groups, primarily in the UK but also available to US meetings. Quaker.app can provide shared documents, email groups, forums, sharing public links, calendars, links for meetings. The possibility was raised as a way to assist in transition for committees and might improve other aspects of our online usage. Bill reported that there would be only minor financial implications. We will consider this further at our September meeting, where we hope to get more of a visual sense of the app and, if it seems appropriate then, to consider next steps.

7. A question was raised concerning Friends Fiduciary Corporation's stance on investments in Israel. Friends noted that FFC has a policy that arose out of this concern. Finance Committee will follow up and report back.

8. Nominating Committee brought forward the name of Matt Butler (Ann Arbor) to serve as our second representative to the FGC Representative Council. The Executive

Committee **approved** the appointment of Matt Butler as a Representative to the FGC Representative Council.

We scheduled the next three Executive Committee meetings for the coming year:

- Saturday, September 19, 2026, 10-11:30 am on Zoom
- Saturday, January 9, 2027, 10-11:30 am on Zoom
- Friday, March 26, 2027, tentatively 6:30-8:00 pm (exact time to be determined) before Representative Meeting on March 27 in Toledo, OH, Broadmead Meeting as host.