

Minutes of LEYM Executive Committee
September 19, 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), Cristin Graham (Youth and Children), Dennis Gregg (Ministry & Nurture), Tom Kangas (Treasurer), Carolyn Lejuste (Arrangements & Site), Joann Neuroth (Finance), Abbey Pratt-Harrington (Publications and Archives), Clemence Ravaçon-Mershon (Adult and Family Program/Nominating), Bob Roehm (Publications & Archives), Bill Wartens (Digital Communications Facilitator)

The meeting opened with settling worship at 10:00 am

1. 2027 Annual Meeting
Jack reported that we will return to Ashland University on June 17-20. A paragraph about the annual meeting has been added to the LEYM.org home page. A concern was raised that our current schedule often conflicts with Juneteenth (and Fathers Day). This was referred to the Site and Arrangements Committee for consideration as future meetings are planned.
2. Final Financial Report on 2026-27
Tom presented the final financial reports for the 2026 Annual Meeting and the 2025-2026 fiscal year. See the reports attached.
 - a. Both expenses and income for the annual meeting were up about 10% from last year. The whole subsidy (\$5000) was needed this year. The Annual Meeting Fund ended \$463 lower than it was a year ago. Tom noted that the budget for the coming year increases the subsidy from \$5000 to \$6000, with the goal of keeping the annual meeting affordable.
 - b. The 2025-2026 report, as updated since the annual sessions, shows some changes, with our total assets for the year increased from the June report by about \$13,000, much of it due to an increase in the market value of and dividends from our Friends Fiduciary Fund account.
3. Memorializing LEYM Friends at the Annual Meeting and in the Annual Records
Susan presented a brief description of our past and current practice of remembering deceased Friends at Annual Sessions, noting our inconsistent practices in past years. See the report attached.
 - a. In discussion, Friends reflected on our prior practices and shared thoughts from other yearly meetings. As we considered offering a meaningful way of remembering Friends who died each year, it seemed clear we were led to reinstate the practice of setting aside time during Annual Sessions for worshipful remembrances of Friends from those present, while also making all memorial minutes received available in full for Friends present to read – perhaps on a “memorial wall,” a display table, or other means – throughout

the Annual Meeting. We agreed that the Clerks and Ministry and Nurture Committee will bring a proposal reflecting this unity to the January Executive Committee meeting.

- b. Ministry and Nurture and other committees have also been considering memorial minutes more broadly, and have identified requests from monthly meetings for guidance in writing memorial minutes. It was noted that various monthly meetings follow different practices. Ministry and Nurture will be considering next steps in communicating with monthly meetings about the topic generally. The possibilities were raised of preparing a document to share or presenting a workshop on the topic either during the year or at Annual Meeting. In addition to Ministry and Nurture, Advancement and Outreach and Program committees may be involved in considering how to proceed and will update us at the January meeting.
4. Completing the Work on Laying Down GPQM
- a. Bill has modified our website to reflect the laying down of GPQM. The minutes and other content from GPQM are still available on the website. Members are asked to contact Bill or the Clerks if other needed changes are identified.
 - b. Peggy Daub has agreed to help with the editing of *Policies & Procedures* references to quarterly meetings. We may have a person willing to take over from Jeff Cooper for generally updating the manual, who will be preparing other edits as well.
 - c. The remaining funds from GPQM of \$425.06 have been transferred to LEYM.
5. Advancement and Outreach Community
- a. Jack reviewed the history of the establishment of the Quaker group in Wheelersburg, Ohio (Scioto Meeting) and its contact with the Athens meeting and LEYM. Athens has a committee working with Wheelersburg. The Wheelersburg group reports it is “not in a hurry” to move to monthly meeting status.
 - b. Stephanie reported that Advancement & Outreach has reviewed LEYM procedures for preparing and welcoming new meetings. At this time, Advancement & Outreach sees its primary task as supporting the Athens meeting in their responsibilities, and communicating with Scioto only as requested by Athens. Committee members have discussed visiting Scioto at a time that Athens Friends are also visiting there.
 - c. The committee is currently considering workshops for the year. The first workshop will probably be about minutes of concern. Follow-up sessions are not yet defined, but may discuss actual minutes of concern written by some of our monthly meetings. Peace and Justice Committee hopes to collaborate with these, since it expects minutes of concern to be a large part of its focus in the coming year.

6. Finance Committee (Full report is attached to these minutes)
 - a. Joanne reported on Friends Fiduciary's response to the question of investment in Israel's genocide and displacement. The answer was a thorough one, stating that FFC has a long-standing policy of not investing in companies that produce weapons, but recognizes that defining "weapons" has become much more complex. FFC now uses its active shareholder engagement and dialogue tools to work with companies whose products (such as drones, AI, etc.) are at risk of being weaponized. Friends urged the Finance Committee to share this information with member meetings, possibly through a Bulletin article.
 - b. The committee considered a request from Friends Peace Teams for a financial donation to support their work. The committee, while applauding the work of Friends Peace Teams, determined that such a donation is contrary to LEYM's current policies, specifically *Policies and Procedures* Section IV. A. 2.c, which limits contributions to Friends' extra-regional to FGC, while encouraging monthly meetings to contribute directly.

This led to a discussion about the wisdom of the current policy. The committee is not at this time recommending a change in the policy, feeling that such extra-regional contributions are more appropriate for monthly meetings. It was noted that such donations are more common in some yearly meetings with large endowments or budgets, which our meeting does not have. Support was expressed for maintaining the current policy, while reminding us of ways to communicate with monthly meetings directly about donations such as contacting Peace and Justice or other relevant committees within the monthly meetings.
7. Nominating Committee

Clemence reported and asked for approval of three Friends to our roster of Officers, Committee Members, and Representatives

The following persons were nominated and approved

 - Bob Roehm (North Columbus), LEYM rep to FLGBTQC
 - Brad Wade (Broadmead), Registrar
 - Cathy Clifford (Detroit), Assistant Clerk, Youth & Children's Program
8. Adult & Family Program

Clemence reported that the committee is considering inviting either Sarah Clark or someone else from QUNO as the plenary speaker for 2027 Annual Meeting and asked for comments. One concern was raised, encouraging the committee to consider the plenary speech as one with a spiritual message; for example, if a person is doing important work in the world, the focus might be more on the spiritual journey or leading that led to or informs that work rather than a political or other description of the organization or work being done.
9. (Added to the agenda) Claire, who is serving on the AFSC's nominating committee, reported on a concern that one or more of our representatives to AFSC are not currently members of monthly meetings, as required by the AFSC

policy. Nominating Committee and the representatives' local meetings are aware of this and will be working on resolving it.

10. Publications & Archives (discussion postponed because of time)
Jack noted that the committee is actively working on the 2026 Annual Records.
11. Exploring the Quaker Meeting Network (quaker.app) (discussion postponed because of time)
Bill emailed some information to members after the meeting.

The meeting closed about 11:45 am.

Next meeting: Saturday, January 9, 2027 10 am zoom

Attachments:

Annual Meeting June 18-21, 2026 financial statement

2026-09-16 LEYM financial summary for year ended June

Policies and practices concerning recognition of deceased Friends and chart

Finance report for 9.19.2026 Executive Committee

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Financial Report for Annual Meeting - June 18 - 21, 2026

Income

Registrations fees collected net of discounts, scholarships, and online registration system and payment processing fees	23,064
Donations	1,330
Net earnings from book table	15
Other miscellaneous income	400
Income	<u>24,809</u>

Expenses

Ashland University conference center charges Includes: \$6K venue rental, \$9K lodging, and \$12K meals	27,641
Honoraria for plenary speaker and workshop presenters	1,200
Youth and Children program (supplies, activities, t-shirts)	889
Other incidental expenses	541
Expenses	<u>30,271</u>

Net Income <Deficit> prior to subsidy from General Fund	<u>(5,463)</u>
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Subsidy from LEYM General Fund	Subsidy 5,000
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Annual Meeting Net Income <Deficit>	<u><u>(463)</u></u>
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Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of June 30, 2025	3,000
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Net Income <Deficit> from Annual Meeting June 2026	<u>(463)</u>
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Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of June 30, 2026	<u><u>2,537</u></u>
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Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
For the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2026)

As presented at
Annl Mtg mid-
June, 2026

Final figures for
the year as of
Sep 16, 2026

Difference
Favorable
<Unfav>

GENERAL FUND ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR

Income

Contributions	Member monthly meetings	27,269	27,521	252
	Other	613	1,013	400
FFC Dividend	Friends Fiduciary Corp - Base Acct	1,075	2,213	1,138
	Subtotal	28,957	30,747	1,790

Expenses

General	Contractor: Database Manager	1,335	1,338	(3)
	Contractor: Digital Comm Facilitator	3,744	4,979	(1,235)
	Insurance	613	613	-
	Administration	491	509	(19)
Committees	Advancement & Outreach	-	9	(9)
	Publications	3,427	3,427	-
Organizations	Friends General Conference	6,350	6,350	-
	Olney Friends School	3,175	3,175	-
	Swarthmore Records Project	150	150	-
	Subtotal	19,284	20,551	1,267

Net income or (loss), exclusive of transfers

9,673	10,196	523
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Transfers to or (from) the General Fund

From GF to...	Annual Meeting Fund	(5,000)	(5,000)	-
From GF to...	Travel Fund	(1,500)	(1,500)	-
From GF to...	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	(900)	(900)	-
To GF from...	Consultation Fund	3,144	3,144	-
	Subtotal	(4,256)	(4,256)	-

Unrealized gain or (loss)

Change in Market Value of FFC investments - over 12 mos	983	7,618	6,635
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Net change in General Fund - Increase(Decrease)

6,400	13,558	7,158
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ALL FUNDS - BALANCES

	Beginning Bal as of 7/1/2025	Ending Balance as of 6/30/2026	
General Fund	42,215	55,773	13,558
Annual Meeting Fund	3,000	2,537	(463)
Travel Fund	2,687	3,356	670
Youth Activities Fund	6,509	6,891	381
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	4,000	4,000	-
HS Teen Retreat Fund	4,000	4,000	-
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649	349	(1,300)
Spiritual Formation Fund	1,328	2,144	816
Consultation Fund	3,144	-	(3,144)
Traveling Ministries Fund	3,363	3,363	-
Work Projects Fund	2,182	2,182	-
FWCC Travel Fund	5,386	5,386	-
FWCC Travel Donation	900	1,800	900
Granville Youth Fund	9,960	11,198	1,238
Total	90,323	102,979	12,657

Some thoughts about receiving and sharing memorial minutes received from monthly meetings
Susan Hartman

At the prior Executive Committee meeting, we briefly discussed our practice concerning recognition of Friends who have died during the year. The number of memorial minutes read and the length of time taken to read them – along with the lack of opportunity for Friends to share with the community names of Friends for whom minutes were not read – were both mentioned. I have done some research on both the current policies and the practice in recent years to inform our consideration of this concern.

I. Policies and practices for publishing memorial minutes

Our Policies & Procedures manual (P&P) provides that the Annual Records – published each year by the Publications & Archives Committee – contain memorial minutes from constituent meetings and worship groups. It also provides that memorial minutes are posted on the website. (P&P, IV.B.1 and 3., <https://leym.org/policyprocedures-manual/>) The LEYM.org website page of memorial minutes (<https://leym.org/memorial-minutes/>) states that memorial minutes approved by a monthly meeting and sent to the LEYM Publications & Archives Committee are printed in the Annual Records and may appear on the web. Our Privacy Policy doesn't include any reference to memorial minutes.

The Annual Records, including the memorial minutes, are published on the website each year in the LEYM Annual Records tab. A few memorial minutes on the separate memorial minutes web page differ from the standard formatted versions in the Annual Records. This suggests that some monthly meetings have sent memorial minutes directly to the digital communications worker, before sending them to be read at Annual Sessions or printed in the Annual Records.

II. Policies and practices for reading memorial minutes and recognizing deaths at Annual Sessions

I could not find any language in P&P detailing the process for recognizing deceased Friends or reading memorial minutes during Annual Sessions, so I did a brief review of this year's minutes and the Annual Records of the past ten years to get a sense of how we have actually done this.

During the 2026 Annual Sessions, seven memorial minutes from monthly meetings were read aloud (a total of eight deaths, since one minute was for a couple.) No other deaths were recognized in the minutes. Since the Annual Records have not yet been published, I don't know if other memorial minutes will be included.

I reviewed the Annual Reports – including minutes of the Annual Sessions, memorial minutes, and members lost by death in the Monthly Meeting statistics – for the ten years of 2016-2025. See attached chart for details. We have recorded an average of about 8 memorial minutes per year since 2016. Deaths reported in Monthly Meeting statistics have usually been slightly higher than the number of memorial minutes recorded.

Some years, deceased Friends for whom no memorial minute was read were also named out of the silence at Annual Sessions. We stopped using the practice of setting aside a time during Annual Sessions for naming deceased Friends out of the silence when we started gathering in person again after the COVID pandemic. At the same time, we started reading a higher proportion of minutes aloud at Annual Sessions. It is not clear if this is because more minutes were submitted in time for Annual Sessions or if a choice was made to start reading all minutes received. Publication & Archives usually includes memorial minutes received within a month or two after Annual Sessions in the Annual

Records. This year, the Clerk sent an email reminder to monthly meeting clerks, asking for memorial minutes shortly before the Annual Meeting. I don't have information of whether that happened before.

III. Questions for discernment

How do we want to recognize Friends who have died during the past year at Annual Sessions?

Some questions that may be considered in this discernment

- Should we reinstitute the practice of designating a time during Annual Sessions for Friends to name and remember Friends who died in the past year?
- Should we read aloud all memorial minutes received in the past year at Annual Sessions?
- If we were to decide to limit reading aloud in some way, what should we read?
 - Read only minutes of Friends who were active in LEYM or well-known outside their own monthly meeting?
 - Read summaries of some or all minutes?
 - Set a time or word limit on what will be read?
 - Other?
- If we do not read all minutes received aloud at Annual Sessions, who should make the decision as to what will be read?
- Do we need to do anything different to assure that Monthly Meetings are aware of our policy around submitting (and reading) memorial minutes?

Deaths and memorial minutes, LEYM 2016-2026

Year	Minutes read at annual sessions	Deaths named from silence?	Minutes printed in Annual Records	Deaths reported from monthly meetings	Notes
2016	1	yes	3	5	
2017	2	yes	9	12	*
2018	0	yes	8	12	
2019	0	yes	6	7	
2020	0	yes	9	na	
2021	0	0	5	9	
2022	1	yes	8	10	
2023	8	0	8	13	
2024	3	0	6	8	
2025	8	0	9	9	**
2026	7	0			***

*summaries of minutes read are included in Sessions minutes

**5 full minutes, +3 brief summaries read

***one minute included two deaths

- **Checking with Friends Fiduciary about investments in companies strongly connected to Israel's genocide and displacement**

Friends Fiduciary (FF) has a long-standing policy of not investing in companies that produce or make weapons. They note however that it is becoming increasingly difficult to define what constitutes a "weapon" as technologies designed for other purposes are weaponized by combatants: drones playing lethal roles, artificial intelligence targeting strikes, facial recognition and biometric data being used to isolate and persecute minorities. For this reason, in late 2024 they convened a broad and extended consultation to help guide FF's investment decisions. A strong consensus emerged that beyond mere investment or disinvestment, something more was called for. FF feels called to active engagement and dialogue with companies whose products are at risk of being weaponized. Shareholder advocacy, where it has the opportunity to make a difference, can advocate for Quaker values with those in positions of corporate power.

Since then, FF is working to identify opportunities for dialogue and advocacy in what they call Conflict Affected and High Risk Areas (CAHRA) where corporations supply technologies that are being weaponized and need to increase accountability and responsibility for them -- Ukraine, China and (interestingly) the United States where they are working with multiple companies about technologies being supplied to ICE. Here's what they say specifically about this advocacy/dialogue work in Palestine:

In Israel and Palestine, where at least 70,000 people, many of them also civilians, have been killed since October 2023, and where discrimination and occupation exacerbate human rights challenges, injustice, and corporate risk, Friends Fiduciary is engaging large companies whose contracts with the Israeli Ministry of Defense and/or Israel Defense Forces may enable powerful technologies to be weaponized for targeting and surveillance purposes, as well as companies whose products may support discrimination in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

- **Request from Friends Peace Team for financial support from LEYM.**

The finance committee has considered the request from Friends Peace Teams for LEYM to make a donation to support their work. We applaud the work of the team, and encourage Monthly Meetings and individuals to support the peace teams as called. However, making such a donation would be contrary to LEYM's policies and procedures, specifically:

LEYM Policies and Procedures, section IV (Operations), part A (Financial Support and Fiscal Policy), subpart 2 (Budget), paragraph c states:

Yearly Meeting limits contributions to Friends' extra-regional organizations to Friends General Conference. Monthly meetings and individuals are encouraged to contribute directly to other Friends' organizations. On occasion, Friends' groups within the geographical area of the Yearly Meeting may receive financial support upon approval of the Yearly Meeting.

To make such a donation would require a change in LEYM's policy that would require discernment during LEYM's annual sessions. Several members of the finance committee do not support a policy change because it was adopted to allow Monthly Meetings to make their own contribution decisions rather than assessing those meetings annually and then making aggregate contribution decisions using the funds we gather from the monthly meetings.