

Excerpt from 2025 Annual Record

History and Description of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Established: Association of Friends Meetings, 1939; Association and Yearly Meeting, 1963; Yearly Meeting with Associate Members, 1969

Membership: 588 adult members (as of August 2025)

Meetings: 1 Quarterly Meeting, 19 Monthly Meetings, and 6 Worship Groups

Central Address: Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, c/o Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, 1420 Hill Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Publications: *LEYM Bulletin*, 3 times a year; *Annual Records*, annually; *Advices & Queries*; *Policies and Procedures*

Website: <http://leym.org>

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting began in 1939 as an association of Friends Meetings in Ohio, Michigan, western Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. It became a Yearly Meeting within the Association in 1963, and changed to a Yearly Meeting with associate meetings in 1969. All associated meetings are now part of the Yearly Meeting. The Annual Meeting is for inspiration and fellowship, with business meeting for consideration of basic policies; committee reports and responses to concerns brought by committees; and the naming of officers, representatives to Friends' organizations, and standing committees.

A Representative Meeting is held in the spring to handle business that has arisen since the previous Annual Sessions and to consider and season matters for the next Annual Sessions.

At present, the following standing committees are active: Advancement & Outreach, Arrangements & Site, Executive, Finance, Ministry & Nurture, Nominating, Peace & Justice, Program, Publications & Archives, and Youth & Children.

HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY

These committees meet and consult throughout the year to carry on the work of the Yearly Meeting. Committees of concern are set up as the occasion arises, made up of those persons under the weight of that concern, and are laid down when their work is complete.

Committees and representatives to Friends' organizations report to Annual Meeting and through the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records*. Electronic distribution of the *Bulletin* is the main means of distribution, supplemented by mailing several hard copies to each Monthly Meeting. The Lake Erie Yearly Meeting *Policies and Procedures* manual is revised from time to time. Since 1985, all member Meetings have been invited to participate in an annual process of responding to a set of queries, usually developed by the Ministry & Nurture Committee, on concerns arising from the membership. Summaries of the responses are published in the *Bulletin* and/or the *Annual Records*.

The focus of the Yearly Meeting budget is on supporting member Meetings, youth and children of the Yearly Meeting, and individuals engaged in spiritual formation and other ministries. The Yearly Meeting supports Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio. The Yearly Meeting does not donate directly to Friends' organizations outside our region other than Friends General Conference. All member Meetings and worship groups, and individual Friends, are encouraged to make contributions to these organizations.

LEYM values and interacts with the work of the local Meetings as well as national and worldwide Quaker organizations; accordingly, it has not developed an administrative structure requiring a paid staff except for a digital communications facilitator, a database manager, and, when needed, a coordinator for the Teen Retreat program.

NOTE: Green Pastures Quarter was laid down in 2026

The one Quarterly Meeting within LEYM, Green Pastures, consisting of seven Monthly Meetings and two Worship Groups in Lower Michigan, shares some program activity with Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. GPQM has financial and interactive relationships with the Michigan Area office of the American Friends Service Committee in Ypsilanti.