Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Minutes
2001 - 2026

The Minutes begin on page 4, after the Table of Contents.

Updated October 2026 with the Representative Meeting and Annual Sessions minutes for 2020–2026. Executive Committee minutes are not included.

How to find things in this PDF

1. Search everything: press Ctrl+F (Windows) or Cmd+F (Mac) and type a name, topic, or minute number such as YM2024-12.

2. Browse by year: open the Bookmarks panel (Adobe Reader: the ribbon icon at the left; Mac Preview: View > Table of Contents; web browsers: the sidebar icon). Click the arrow beside a year to see its meetings, then a meeting to see each minute and report.

3. Or click any meeting in the list below to jump straight to it.

Note: financial attachments and some tables from 2020 on appear as page images, so their numbers cannot be searched.

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2001

Representative Meeting	Third Month 3, 2001	UCC Church, Kent, OH

2002

Representative Meeting	March 2, 2002	Oberlin, Ohio
Annual Meeting	June 13-16, 2002	Bluffton, Ohio

2003

Representative Meeting	Third Month 1, 2003	Cleveland, Ohio
Annual Meeting	June 19-22, 2003	Bluffton, Ohio

2004

Representative Meeting	March 6, 2004	
Annual Meeting	June 17-20, 2004	Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

2005

Representative Meeting	March 5, 2005	
Annual Meeting	July 16-19, 2005	Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

2006

Representative Meeting	March 4, 2006	
Annual Meeting	July 15-28, 2006	Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

2007

Representative Meeting	March 3, 2007	
Annual Meeting	June 14-17, 2007	

2008

Representative Meeting	March 1, 2008	
Annual Meeting	June 12-15, 2008	

2009

Representative Meeting	March 7, 2009	
Annual Meeting	June 11-14, 2009	

2010

Representative Meeting	March 6, 2010	
Annual Meeting	July 29 - August 1, 2010	Bluffton University

2011

Executive Committee	April 1, 2011	
Representative Meeting	April 2, 2011	
Annual Meeting	July 28 - 31, 2011	Bluffton University

2012

Representative Meeting	March 31, 2012	Broadmead Friends Meeting
Annual Meeting	July 26-29, 2012	Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

2013

Representative Meeting	April 6, 2013	Pittsburgh Friends Meeting
Annual Meeting	July 25-28, 2013	Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

2014

Representative Meeting	April 5, 2014	Red Cedar Friends Meeting, Lansing, Michigan
Annual Meeting	July 24-27, 2014	Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

2015

Annual Meeting	July 30 - August 2, 2015	Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

2016

Representative Meeting	April 2, 2016	
Annual Meeting	July 28 – July 31, 2016	Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

2017

Representative Meeting	April 1, 2017	Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting
Annual Meeting	July 27 - July 30, 2017	Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

2018

Representative Meeting	April 14, 2018	Athens Friends Meeting
Annual Meeting	July 26 - July 29, 2018	Bluffton, Ohio

2019

Representative Meeting	April 6, 2019	
Annual Meeting	July 25 – July 28, 2019	Bluffton, Ohio

2020

Representative Meeting	April 4, 2020	Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Annual Meeting	July 30 – August 12, 2020	Virtual Meeting via Zoom

2021

Annual Meeting	July 28 – August 1, 2021	Virtual Meeting via Zoom

2022

Representative Meeting	April 2, 2022	Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Annual Meeting	July 27 – July 31, 2022	Virtual Meeting via Zoom

2023

Representative Meeting	March 11, 2023	Toledo, Ohio, and via Zoom
Annual Meeting	June 15 – 18, 2023	Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio

2024

Representative Meeting	March 9, 2024	Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Annual Meeting	June 13 – 16, 2024	Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio

2025

Representative Meeting	March 8, 2025	Pittsburgh Friends Meeting and via Zoom
Annual Meeting	June 12 – 15, 2025	Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio

2026

Representative Meeting	March 28, 2026	Red Cedar Friends Meeting, Lansing, Michigan, and via Zoom
Annual Meeting	June 18 – 21, 2026	Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Third Month 3, 2001
UCC Church, Kent, OH
Representative Meeting

Our Representative Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, gathering on the third day of the Third Month, 2001, in the UCC Church in Kent, Ohio, began with worship.

RM2001-1 Epistle from the Societe Religieuse des Amis, Assemblee de France

We have heard the epistle from the Societe Religieuse des Amis, Assemblee de France, held in Eighth Month 2000. We are reminded to listen to the Inner Voice that guides us in the way.

RM2001-2 Welcome

We are welcomed by Friends from Akron and Kent Meetings, who have cooperated to host us. We are grateful for their work and welcome.

RM2001-3 Roll call

The following numbers of Friends responded to the roll call:

Akron	6	Kalamazoo	3
Ann Arbor	8	Kent	8
Athens	4	Mid-Ohio Valley	2
Birmingham	3	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	8	North Columbus	2
Cleveland	2	Oberlin	3
Delaware	0	Pine River.	4
Detroit	1	Pittsburgh	7
Grand Rapids	1	Red Cedar	1
Granville	1	Wooster	1

The following nos. responded from worship groups. They are counted in their overseeing Monthly Mtg.

Albion Worship Group	1	Indiana Preparative Meeting.	0
Chelsea Allowed Worship Group	2	Manitou Worship Group	0
Erie Worship Group	1	Mansfield Area Worship Grp.	0
Fremont Worship Group	0	Sidney Worship Group	1
Holland Preparative Meeting.	0		

RM2001-4 Changes to LEYM Policies and Procedures

We have considered proposed changes to our LEYM Policies and Procedures Manual. We approve some minor grammatical wording and minor procedural changes which are attached. We refer the dates for *Bulletin* publication back to the committees.

RM2001-5 Worship

After a recess for committee meetings and lunch we regathered for worship and further consideration of the business of Representative Meeting.

RM2001-6 Epistle from Norway Yearly Meeting

We have heard the epistle from Vennenes Samfunn Kvekerne (Norway Yearly Meeting) held in Sixth Month 2000. We are called to listen carefully to God, learning to balance our individual and corporate hearings as we uphold our testimonies in love.

RM2001-7 Approval of 2000 Representative Meeting minutes with a correction to minute RM2000-8

Minute RM2000-8 of last Representative Meeting held in Perrysburg, Ohio, was corrected to replace the last two sentences with the following text: "A new FGC project is the $2,000,000 Nurturing Quakerism Campaign to raise funds for the support of meetings within FGC through new programs such as the Traveling Ministries Program." With this correction Friends approved the minutes as they are printed in the Spring 2000 LEYM *Bulletin*.

RM2001-8 Treasurer's report

We have received the Treasurer's report, which is attached. Five Monthly Meetings have not yet made their contributions to LEYM for this fiscal year. Friends are reminded that our Treasurer lives in Kendal at Oberlin, not Painesville, and checks need to be mailed to Connie Bimber, 156 Kendal Drive, Oberlin, OH 44074-1907. The address is also published in the LEYM *Bulletin*. Friends approve the report with gratitude.

RM2001-9 Finance and Budget Committee report

The Finance and Budget Committee recommends increasing the amount for travel in next year's budget. Since the surplus of five years ago has been pretty well spent down, the committee recommends the following changes: that registration for Yearly Meeting sessions be increased by $1 per person; and that the annual expected contribution be increased to $15 per member for Meetings that count children, and $17.50 for meetings that do not. There will probably be more increases in the next few years. Friends approve the increase of $1 for this year's Yearly Meeting registration fee. As of this time the Finance and Budget Committee has been able to find only "secondary insurance" for such things as youth trips and programs. The primary insurer is assumed to be that which is carried by the drivers of private vehicles. The committee is still looking for a solution to this situation.

RM2001-10 Publications Committee report

We have received the report of the Publications Committee, which is attached. The hope is that the *Annual Records* booklet will be published in mid-July. Any State of the Meeting or statistical reports that are received by June 1 will be included. In the section of the attached report listing future improvements of the *Annual Records*, we are informed that there are no plans for including a directory of all the youth members and all members and attenders of every Monthly Meeting. Eventually these directories will be a separate publication. Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting's State of the Quarter report will be included, but not its minutes. Friends expressed appreciation for the work of the committee and are pleased with the *Annual Records* booklet as it is developing. We understand that it is still a work in progress.

RM2001-11 History and Archives Committee report

We have heard an oral report from the History and Archives Committee. The committee asks for feedback in regard to the number of *Annual Records* booklets sent to each Meeting. Extra copies should be brought to Yearly Meeting to circulate to Meetings that might need more. The committee is now ready to turn its attention to collecting the history and records of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and its constituent Monthly Meetings, and getting them safely deposited in the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College.

RM2001-12 Ministry and Oversight Committee report

We have heard an oral report from the Ministry and Oversight Committee, which has been working on the responses to the set of queries sent out in mid-July. Fourteen of 20 Monthly Meetings and one Worship Group responded, representing 90% of the Yearly Meeting's membership. The committee has drafted a summary of the responses that will be available by our upcoming Yearly Meeting sessions. The committee is looking at how various Meetings use queries -- or not. The committee also looks at issues of ministry and oversight within the Monthly Meetings represented at its committee meetings. Friends appreciate the ongoing work of this committee.

RM2001-13 Advancement and Outreach Committee report

We have heard an oral report from the Advancement and Outreach Committee. It suffered a diminution of its members today. There seems to be some difficulty in intervisitation. Some of the larger Meetings, however, continue to reach out to smaller Meetings that they have helped form. There has been a little reaching out to campus Meetings, and the committee hopes to do more.

RM2001-14 Olney School update

The ad hoc committee to consider clearness around Olney School reported that the School is now operated by Friends of Olney, a non-profit board that is separate from Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative). Enrollment is up to 45 this year. The School is engaged in a capital campaign. It is sponsoring youth retreats and other youth activities.

The committee wants to know the extent of interest for support of Olney and will send a questionnaire to Monthly Meetings. It asks what we are doing as a Yearly Meeting and as Monthly Meetings about the education and socialization of youth in our areas.

RM2001-15 Schedule adjustments for Annual Sessions

The Adult Program Committee is trying to address the sense of time pressure in our Yearly Meeting business sessions and of over-scheduling during our Annual Meeting by adjusting the schedule. The theme of our upcoming Yearly Meeting is "Individual Will, Corporate Worship, Corporate Decision-making." Workshops and plenaries will focus on this theme. Committees will be expected to bring their reports in writing to the Yearly Meeting business sessions. The committee hopes to have Thursday dinner available at Bluffton College, and begin the meeting for business Thursday evening. Committees are invited to meet Thursday afternoon. Friends approve. The Committee brings the attached proposal for 2002. Friends are asked to consider this for a possible decision at Yearly Meeting. The committee invites feedback on the proposal. A suggestion has been made to consider inviting the Bluffton Mennonites to join us for some activities. We feel this is a good suggestion that needs more seasoning by Advancement and Outreach, Ministry and Oversight, and Adult Program committees.

RM2001-16 Youth and Children Program Subcommittee report

We have received a report from Youth and Children Program Subcommittee, which is attached. Additional volunteers arc needed from Monthly Meetings. Suggestions of names should be forwarded to the Nominating Committee. This year there will be sign-up sheets at Yearly Meeting requesting volunteers with specific talents and gifts. We are grateful for the good work of this committee.

RM2001-17 Site Committee report

The Site Committee reports that Lake Erie Yearly Meeting will be held June 14 to 17, 2001, at Bluffton College. We ask the committee to see if we can use Centennial Hall, which is air-conditioned and barrier-free. Friends are reminded that timely registration is very helpful.

RM2001-18 Report from Nominating Committee

We have heard a report from the Nominating Committee. This year the committee is trying to touch base with all who are currently serving to make sure that each Friend is still willing to serve in his or her present capacity. Friends are particularly needed for this year's Youth and Children Program sessions, and for next year's Finance and Budget, History and Archives, Adult and Family Program, Site, and Youth and Children Program committees. Friends are reminded that individual Monthly Meetings are asked to name a representative to Peace Committee and one to Ministry and Oversight Committee. It has been suggested that LEYM might want to facilitate Friends visiting other Yearly Meetings in our FWCC Lower Great Lakes Region: Eastern Region (Evangelical Friends International), Wilmington Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting), the east-central area of Canadian Yearly Meeting (Friends General Conference and FUM), and Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

RM2001-19 Peace Committee report

We have heard the report and a number of announcements from Peace Committee, which will be attached. Our attention is directed to IRS action against conscientious objectors to war taxes; the committee plans to draft a letter on this. The committee raises the concern about the blurring of church-state separation by the current administration in Washington, DC. The committee is also looking at issues around damage to the environment by mind-set and actions of some large corporations.

RM2001-20 Changes to Policies and Procedures

We turned again to the Policies and Procedures Manual. After much discussion, the timing of the fall *Bulletin* is returned again to the Publication and History and Archives committees. There is some uncertainty whether Representative Meeting or only our Yearly Meeting session can approve changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual. Nevertheless, we approve, and ask not to have brought to Yearly Meeting in Sixth Month, the attached changes to the following parts: p. 3: 4. LEYM *Bulletin*, b, d (1); p. 5: add new 5. LEYM *Annual Records* a, b, c, and d; p. 14: b. Responsibilities [of presiding clerk] (6), (7); p. 15: b (14); p. 16: 3. Recording Clerk, b (2) delete (c); p. 21: E. Standing Committees, 2nd paragraph; p. 22: 1. Advancement and Outreach, b (5); p. 25: c. Youth and Children Program; p. 26: 5. Nominating, b (1); p. 27: 6. History and Archives, a, b (1); p. 28: add new 8. Publications; p. 29-30: all of A and B.

RM2001-21 Report from GPQM

We have received and will attach a report from Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, which consists of all seven

Monthly Meetings in the lower peninsula of Michigan. An additional report was printed in the winter 2001 LEYM *Bulletin*. We appreciate learning more about the history and programs of this body.

RM2001-22 Report from our representatives to the FWCC Triennial

We have received a report about the FWCC Triennial, which is attached. It has been good to hear the personal experiences of our representative with the world-wide diversity of Friends and the underlying love and unity that can be heard when Friends stay together listening deeply to one another. We are asked to look at, for consideration at our Yearly Meeting session, the issues raised at the Triennial.

RM2001-23 Friends in Unity with Nature

We have heard a brief report from Friends in Unity with Nature. We are informed about Greenfire, a project that is in the process of acquiring land near Athens, Ohio, on which to build an ecologically-based wholistic community. There being no more time to consider business today, the meeting adjourns after a short period of worship. We plan, with divine assistance, to meet again on the first Seventh Day in Third Month, 2002.

Marty Grundy, Recording Clerk (Cleveland)

Reports

Changes to LEYM Policies & Procedures (missing)

Treasurer's report (missing)

Publications Committee

1. Report on Membership and Work of Publications Committee

   Members of the Publications Committee were approved for a period of one year at the 2000 Yearly Meeting. They are: Ann Brown, Leonora Cayard, Rosemary Coffey (clerk), Joseph Mills, Eric Starbuck (editor), and Ruth Taber. Most of the committee work was done by e-mail, with one in-person meeting in Akron in September.

2. Report on Publication of the *Annual Records* 2000

   The inaugural issue of the *Annual Records* booklet was completed in October 2000 as the Fall issue of our publications. Because of the challenges of producing our first booklet, we had decided to publish this year a Summer issue of the *Bulletin* to make needed information available quickly. In the future, we expect to publish the *Annual Records* booklet in the summer, followed by three issues of the *Bulletin* in the fall, winter, and spring.

   We had 500 copies printed at a shop near Pittsburgh. 405 of them were shipped by parcel post to each of the 20 monthly meetings and a few selected worship groups, each receiving about half as many as they have adult members (there were 869 adult members listed in the Yearly Meeting in June 2000). Each of 4 Yearly Meeting officers received one copy by first class mail. Two copies went to Friends Historical Library in Swarthmore, our official depository.

   In January 2001, after a list of recipient addresses was established, a total of 31 individual copies went by First Class mail to each of 14 Quaker libraries (including all branches of the Religious Society of Friends), to FGC and the other yearly meetings in FGC, to the Section of the Americas and the World Office of FWCC, and to the Library of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain. Several letters of appreciation have come in, including two warm ones from Britain.

   There are 65 copies still available for future needs.

   The expenses for the booklet are the following:

Printing and coil binding	$911.30
Postage	116.10
(book rate parcels $72.22, 1st Class 43.88)	
Packing supplies	29.25
Total	$1056.65

3. Report on Publication of the LEYM *Bulletin*

   Two issues of the *Bulletin* have been published since the 2000 Yearly Meeting, the Summer issue in August and the Winter issue in February 2001. Even though the expectation was that the size of the *Bulletin* could be somewhat reduced, the amount of material necessitated 12 pages for the Summer issue and 16 pages for the Winter issue.

   Susan Jeffers supplied the mailing labels. and Sandi Robison, Bruce Stull and Rosalita Rowe from Akron Meeting

helped with folding, stapling, labeling and sorting.

1200 copies were printed of the Summer issue, and 1000 of the Winter issue. The expenses for printing and mailing of the Summer issue were about $650.00, and for the Winter issue about $725.00. Requesting address service from the Post Office has made possible rapid updating of the LEYM mailing list. Even though the service costs from 59 to 78 cents per name, more than 100 address changes have been made so far, which will save the cost of return postage in the long run. The total cost of publications for this year is expected to come to about $3600.00.

The editor is currently using an extension of the bulk- mailing permit from the previous editor at the Post Office in Delaware, Ohio. To establish a permanent non-profit bulk-mailing permit in Akron, a copy of LEYM's 501(c)3 form is needed. Since at this time the form cannot be found, LEYM may have to apply for 501(c)3 status again. This will be taken care of as soon as possible.

4. Plans for Future Improvements of the *Annual Records* of LEYM

Several needed improvements are obvious and will be taken care of. These include obtaining complete information from all Yearly Meeting attenders (name, address. phone number, e-mail, and Monthly Meeting affiliation); more timely and complete returns from Monthly Meetings as to State of the Meeting reports and statistics; and information about the Web site.

Among suggested additions are the following:

- a directory of officers, committee members, representatives, and Monthly Meetings, including addresses, phone numbers and e-mail, helpful for all Yearly Meeting work;
- a youth directory to facilitate the youth work of the Yearly Meeting, perhaps even including the birth dates of each young person;
- a directory of officers of the Quarterly Meeting as well as its minutes and reports;
- a complete directory of members and attenders of all Monthly Meetings and worship groups; in other words, every Friend on the Yearly Meeting mailing list.

The Publications Committee is considering these suggestions, and recommendations for their implementation will be offered at the time of Yearly Meeting.

Report on Publications Schedule

The committee intends to continue the schedule of four print publications per year, the *Annual Reports* in the summer, followed by a Fall, Winter, and Spring issue of the *Bulletin*. Deadlines for submissions will be published in the *Annual Reports* as well as in the Calendar section of the *Bulletin*.

Adult Program Committee proposal (missing)

Youth & Children Program Subcommittee

1. Adhering to a strict registration deadline for youth registration worked very well last year, and will be followed again this year. This year's deadline will be May 9, 2001.
2. We will again send a letter to monthly meeting clerks explaining the strictness of the deadline.
3. We will again send an advance letter to parents this year. An addition to this letter will be an insert directed to parents of pre-schoolers. It will ask parents to leave their children in the leaders' care at Marbeck and not visit them during the program. Constant parent visits are disruptive to the program and confusing to the children. These constant interruptions do not demonstrate the support and respect for the leaders and their plans that the Subcommittee feels they deserve.
4. The Youth and Children Program Subcommittee has four vacant positions that need to be filled for LEYM 2001:
   a) assistant Youth and Children Program Subcommittee clerk
   b) assistant pre-school leader
   c) assistant elementary leader
   d) assistant upper elementary leader

Gretchen Dixon, co-clerk (Pittsburgh)

Peace Committee

Peace Committee Announcements:

1. "Is war illegal?" A thoughtful essay by Ed Pearson and Robert Randall is available on the War Tax Resisters listserv: wtr-s@igo.topica.com, or ask David Bassett to forward the text (drbassetesumich.edu).
2. Videos with highlights of the 8th International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns will be available after April 1, 2001, from: Peace Tax Foundation, 2121 Decatur Place, NS, Washington, DC 20003.
3. A Quaker Peace Roundtable will be held April 6-8, 2001, in State College, Pennsylvania. Among the speakers is Joe

Volk of FCNL. Contact FCNL for more information (245 2nd St., NE, Washington, DC 20002, 202-547-6000, www.fcnl.org).

Discussion items:

1. Jim Satterwhite and Olwen Pritchard of our yearly meeting are now subject to a lien on their house by the IRS, related to their open refusal to pay war taxes (see Winter LEYM *Bulletin*, 2001). Other members of LEYM, David and Miyo Bassett, have been subject to IRS action for 30 years as a consequence of their witness on war taxes. With the cooperation and consent of these Friends, we will draft a letter for consideration at LEYM Annual Meeting. Is IRS prosecution of religious witnesses to conscience regarding payment of taxes for the military a form of religious persecution?
2. Faith-based initiatives. The committee discussed George W. Bush's proposals to fund social programs through faith-based organizations. Concerns include the blurring of church-state separation, privatizing governmental responsibilities, use of public funds for sectarian organization exempt from employment non-discrimination, the inherent intrusiveness of rules accompanying federal funds, and the potential for weakening the integrity of faith-based organizations. For background information, see the Feb. 8, 2001, Legislative Action Message at www.fcnl.org, or write Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 2nd St NE, Washington, DC.
3. The committee also discussed a concern brought to us on the influence of large corporations in treating our planet, its resources, and its inhabitants as commodities to be owned and exploited. How do we relate this concern to our testimonies on the sacredness of life, and how do we begin to address such a broad concern?

Meg Hummon (Athens)

More changes to LEYM Policies & Procedures (missing)

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

The membership of GPQM consists of the seven Monthly Meetings and the several small Worship Groups of FC-oriented Friends in the lower Peninsula of Michigan. Since its early, informal days in the late 1940s, the Quarterly Meeting has provided opportunities for Friends from the smaller, isolated groups to get to know a wider group of Friends in the Spirit. Attendance was around 200 during the 1950s and '60s, but dwindled to around 75 in the 1970s once the QM had joined the new Lake Erie YM. Attendance at the meeting on September 15, 2000 gives a good sampling of the present level of participation:

Ann Arbor	12
Birmingham	8
Detroit	3
Kalamazoo	3
Pine River (includes Albion Worship Group)	3
Red Cedar	0
Holland Preparative Meeting	0
Albion Worship Group (included with Pine River)	1
Chelsea Worship Group	0
Fremont Worship Group	0
Manitou Worship Group	0
Visitors	1
Total Attenders and Visitors	32

GPQM meets for business twice a year -- the third weekends of May and September. Other gatherings are called if an invitation is received. Midwinter Quarter occurs typically when a Meeting sets a date, organizes a program and invites the QM to attend. In recent years, memorable events were hosted by Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor, the last being on Youth and Violence during January, 2000. The last two summers, Friends in Western Michigan (Kalamazoo) organized a meeting for worship in Quaker Park, Battle Creek, sharing interesting information about the history of Friends in the area. (See Minute 14 below).

Friends in the QM have spawned four institutions in SE Michigan: Friends Lake Community (1961), Friends School in Detroit (1963), The Michigan Area AFSC (c1964), and Michigan Friends Center (1990). GPQM takes an important role in the governance of both the Friends School and Center and receives reports about the work of AFSC.

In recent years, there has been a resurgence in the High School Program, thanks to good leadership from Eric Engel, Kri Anderson, and a lively group of high schoolers. This has been blended with the LEYM High School group.

Besides the problem of small attendance at meetings, other problems facing the QM include the difficulty the Nominating Committee encounters in finding Friends willing to fill leadership positions. In recent years, co-clerks served for four years

rather than the two they had agreed, until another Friend could be found to take on the work.

A sampling of interests and concerns of the QM can be seen in the following excerpted from the September 15 Meeting at Friends School in Detroit. The full set of minutes is available for the asking from the QM clerk.

GPQM - 9/00-1 Clerk

Tom Taylor, Assistant Clerk, announced that Barbara Frisbie had resigned as Clerk of GPQM in a letter dated 8/10/00. She said she was resigning because she was no longer active as a Friend within a Monthly Meeting. It had become clear to many Friends that a Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting needed to be participating in a constituent Monthly Meeting.

GPQM - 9/00-7 Friends School in Detroit

Friends School in Detroit Gil Leaf, Head of School. Hopefully the project regarding the Underground Railroad (discussed in the report) is the beginning of possible further and broader projects that also involve the larger community.

GPQM - 9/00-12 Report from Michigan Friends Center

A combined semi-annual report from Michigan Friends Center was brought to the attention of the Meeting. Information regarding events at Michigan Friends Center was highlighted.

GPQM - 9/00-13 Future Quarterly Meeting Gatherings

The attention of the Business Meeting was directed to the opportunity for a Monthly Meeting to plan and host the next Mid-Winter gathering. Friends were asked to consider this during lunch. In the past several years, the program of these gatherings has been planned by the host meeting.

Spring Quarterly Meeting will beheld on Saturday, May 19, 2001, 9 AM - 5 PM at Michigan Friends Center, Chelsea, MI.

GPQM - 9/00-14 Report on worship in Quaker Park

Worship in Quaker Park, in battle Creek on August 6, 2000. The Clerk and other Friends reported on this second annual event. We are grateful to Barbara Frisbie for having organized the meeting and making arrangements for Friends to gather afterward at the nearby historical museum. Friends' attention was directed to photographs of the event available on the table. Aspects of Quaker history in that area, the subject of last Spring's QM, was mentioned. The Evangelical Friends Church of Battle Creek (EFI, Eastern Region) had been invited to join in the worship and fellowship. GPQM feels led to worship in Quaker Park, Battle Creek, on Sunday, August 5, 2001 at 11 AM followed by a potluck.

GPQM - 9/00-15 High School Program report

The High School Program report was given by Kri Anderson, the newly approved high school coordinator. Kri introduced herself, her background and thoughts about plans for the group. Jim Roush and Celeste Eustis described the high schoolers' trip to South Manitou Island in August. Because of the natural beauty of the area and the rich companionship, the retreat was much appreciated. There were four adults (Jim Summers, Sarah Scott, Bill Riccobono, Sol Metz) and ten high school aged people, including teens from Ohio as well as from Michigan. Kri is also networking with Ohio and LEYM youth programs.

A November retreat is scheduled at Michigan Friends Center. The High School Program style is described as "have an event, reflect, then schedule from there." Hopefully, another retreat will be held in March 200l. In May 2001, an interfaith youth retreat will be held in Ann Arbor.

The High School Program requests that the Quarterly Meeting encourage adult presences for these retreats and activities.

GPQM - 9/00-19 Reporting regularly to LEYM

Don Nagler rose to ask that GPQM and its activities be described to LEYM on a regular basis. He feels that it would be helpful to the Yearly Meeting to know how our Quarterly Meeting operates. We are the only quarterly meeting thus far in LEYM and might serve as a model for other meetings in LEYM who may benefit from organizing into a Quarter.

The Quarterly Meeting authorizes the Clerk to send to the Publications Committee of LEYM the GPQM Minutes and Treasurer's reports.

A discussion of GPQM and how is it perceived by smaller Michigan Meetings and other LEYM Meetings outside of Michigan ensued. Issues of meeting isolation and visitation were raised. Participation (or lack thereof) in the Quarterly Meeting was also discussed. This as well as the encouragement of intervisitation was suggested as a future Business Meeting agenda.

GPQM - 9/00-20 GPQM Days at Michigan Friends Center

Friends were reminded that GPQM has six days of free usage at Michigan Friends Center and that these days were mainly to help encourage youth programs. The Quarterly Meeting reminds the High School Program and other Friends youth groups that these days may be drawn on for their needs.

Friends School in Detroit

Board of Trustees 2000-2001

Friends

Jeff Cooper (2)	2001
Nancy Taylor (1)	2001
Marvin Barnes (2)	2002
Susan Hartman (3)	2003
Michael McKay (3)	2003
Robin Warner (3)	2003
Peter Collins (2)	2003
Geoff Brieger (1)	2003

Non-Friends

Lynda Krupp (3)	2002
Kate Halladay (1)	2002
Charlene Snow (1)	2002
Patty Little (1)	2003
Ruth Seymour (1)	2003

The property, business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Trustees which shall consist of not less than 9 nor more than 21 members, the majority of whom shall be members of The Religious Society of Friends. (FSD by-laws, Article III, Section 1.)

Tom Taylor, clerk (Ann Arbor)

Friends World Committee for Consultation: 20th Triennial

I came home with tangible, totally unexpected gifts: a handmade Mexican box, a CD of peace songs written by Austrian children, a bag from Kenya, a doily from an isolated Friend in Finland. These gifts represented something more intangible, namely, spiritual community. I felt privileged to be at the 20th Triennial, along with others from LEYM: Rosemary Coffey and Zig Dermer, Richard Lee, and Clemence Ravacon Mershon. I am still sorting through what I received and what to share. From July 22nd to 30th, 260 Friends from 40 countries and many cultures, races, languages, ways of being and worshipping gathered together at Geneva Point, New Hampshire, in sight of Lake Winnipesaukee, the Lake of the Great Spirit. I was reminded, what we seek is not outward uniformity but inward unity.

The theme was "Friends: a people called to listen, gathered to seek, sent forth to serve." As it turned out, it wasn't easy to listen. First, everything was rendered into Spanish, French and English in the plenary sessions and the Meetings for Business. In my daily worship and sharing group, moreover, which included Friends from Kenya, Bolivia, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Mexico, the U.S., and El Salvador, I was one of the two participants responsible for interpreting everything that was said into and out of Spanish. I also interpreted for a healing group.

Second, listening was hard because I heard pain first-hand. This came through the concerns of those dealing with basic survival, or living in regions torn by violence, or unable to progress because of the simple need for a tractor; through the concerns of members of indigenous peoples torn from their land, of Friends devastated by seeing the dead from HIV/AIDS lying along roadsides, of caring Friends moved by horrid prison conditions, the plight of child soldiers, the threats to habitat and livelihoods by deforestation, the needs of Quaker and other refugees. It was a challenge to not reach for the pocketbook. Rather, we were all called to live lives "Centered on the Edge," cleaving to God, the immovable center, attempting to act in ways that the world considers impractical or irrational, like loving one another.

Third, it wasn't easy to hear differences between branches of the Religious Society of Friends. But I loved listening to a young Conservative Friend from North Carolina share her faith. Taking the time to listen, across barriers and differences, allowed many of us to hear "the place where words come from" as common concerns emerged. A related highlight for me was the Plenary Address by Simon Lamb, a young Irishman, on "Friends: A People Called to Listen" (see web site <http://homepage.eircom.neti-interfriendpublisher/ simonfwccaddress.html> for the text). There is a quiet place deep in the heart of each of us, he said, where God and humanity meet, and it is there that we search for a response to poverty in the world. Standing clearly within his evangelical framework, Simon challenged both evangelical Friends (to acknowledge the "priesthood of all believers") and liberal Friends (to beware of being so accommodating that the source of belief is lost). "If we are to learn to truly listen to God, then we must also learn to listen to each other within the Religious Society of Friends." Simon spoke non-judgmentally and prophetically; it seemed to me George Fox himself might have given a similar message.

Another highlight was listening to the joy expressed by our local hosts from New England YM; along with Friends from Cuban YM, they shared how they had developed a "Bridge of Love" to transcend differences. In 1991, a committee of New England Friends (FGC) began to foster contact with Cubans (FUM) and, since then, there have been a number of extended visits in both directions. They agreed to keep the focus on spirituality and relationship building, rather than on money. The love between them was evident. I enjoyed interpreting for Friends from Northern YM and El Salvador YM as they began a similar process.

I want to share more, about: (1) the Year of Jubilee and the efforts to cancel Third World debt payments; (2) QUNO's involvement in the UN's upcoming 3rd World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance in South Africa, Aug 29-Sept 6, 2001 (any LEYM youth interested in attending?); (3) preparations for the next World Gathering of Young Friends (LEYM youth - ages 18-35 - are invited to contact Gwen Erickson at <ericksoesguilford.edu> for details); (4) the Change Agent Peace Program (CAPP) for the Great Lakes Region in Africa, sponsored by Quaker Service Norway to strengthen local capacities for peace (and open to additional support from LEYM if Friends are interested); (5) the campaign for Quakers to plant 9000 trees between now and the 21st Triennial in New Zealand, January 2004 (to make up for the paper used by participants and the carbon dioxide damage caused by additional airplane travel). Please, Friends, ask me more about any of the above. Rosemary, Zig, and I would also be happy to visit your Meeting and talk with interested members in person, about both FWCC and the work Friends are doing in the world. Please let me know if you would welcome such a visit. You can reach me at <bethjoy311@netzero.net> or at 5220 Hedgewood Dr., #1024, Midland, MI 48640, (W) 517-667-6745 or (H) 517-832-5935. As David Purnell, Clerk, summarized in the final minute: We are called to become "prophets of joy."

Beth Joy Blackbird, representative (Pine River)

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
March 2, 2002
Oberlin, Ohio
Representative Meeting

At a gathering of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Representative Meeting at Kendal at Oberlin, Third Month 2, 2002, we began with worship and a welcome from Marcia Heckert of Kendal Corporation. We welcomed the following visitors: Linda Krupp and Ricky Moore from Friends School in Detroit, Ogden Hannaford of North Side, Chicago, Meeting sojourning at Oberlin, and first-time attender Shelby Conrad of North Columbus. After committee meetings and lunch, Representative Meeting settled again into worship in which we remembered Friends who have died recently. We have heard the epistle from Norway Yearly Meeting recounting what they are learning about being in community.

RM02-1 Roll Call

We have heard the roll call and the following numbers are present:

Akron	3	Kalamazoo	3
Ann Arbor	9	Kent	4
Athens	4	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	3	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	11	North Columbus	3
Cleveland	2	Oberlin	11
Delaware	0	Pine River	3
Detroit	1	Pittsburgh	3
Grand Rapids	1	Red Cedar	0
Granville	3	Wooster	3

The following numbers responded from worship groups. They are counted in their overseeing monthly meeting.

Albion Worship Group	1	Indiana Preparative Meeting	0
Chelsea Allowed Worship Group	2	Manitou Worship Group	0
Erie Worship Group	1	Mansfield Area Worship Group	0
Fremont Worship Group	0	Sidney Worship Group	0
Holland Preparative Meeting	0		

The total number responding to roll call is 67.

RM02-2 History and Archives Committee report

History and Archives Committee reports that it has completed its task of publishing the *Annual Records*, and has deposited many yearly meeting records at the Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College. Friends are invited to send memories of LEYM -- recent as well as older -- to Leonora Cayard. The report is attached.

RM02-3 Advancement and Outreach Committee report

Advancement and Outreach Committee reports that its work of intervisitation continues. They are continuing to explore ways to settle and strengthen new and small meetings. They oversee the ongoing development of the LEYM web page. The report is attached.

RM02-4 Publications Committee report

We have heard the report of the Publications Committee. Ninety copies of the *LEYM Membership Directory* have been printed. The Committee has evaluated the *Annual Records*: 400 were printed and mailed in August. Friends expressed their deep appreciation for the long hours of faithful labor on the part of Susan Jeffers and Eric Starbuck in editing and publishing the *Membership Directory* and *Annual Records*.

RM02-5 Report from the editor of the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records*

The Editor of the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records* reports that the US post office requires too much paperwork to change the bulk-mailing permit from Delaware to Akron, although a temporary expedient has been arranged. The LEYM

web site has been redesigned and enlarged. There is a page for each monthly meeting. Akron Meeting has found it gets more inquiries from visitors who have seen its web page than through any other form of outreach. Friends expressed their appreciation for the hard work of the Editor.

RM02-6 *Membership Directory*

The Editor of the *Membership Directory* asks individuals and meetings to inform Susan Jeffers and/or Eric Starbuck of all address changes. Next time, each monthly meeting will be asked to specify which addresses need to be changed, who is to receive mailings, and so on. It would be helpful if monthly meetings asked individuals who are enthusiastic or competent computer users to be in contact with Susan Jeffers at <susan@read-the-bible.org> to feel toward a sense of how God might lead us to use this technology.

RM02-7 Treasurer's report

We have heard the Treasurer's Report, which is attached. We are grateful to our Treasurer for her ongoing careful attention to our finances.

RM02-8 Finance and Budget Committee report

Finance and Budget Committee has developed a budget for next fiscal year that includes increases for FGC, Friends School in Detroit, Olney Friends School, clerk's fund, and youth activities fund, and adds a commitment of $500 per year for the next 10 years for the FGC Nurturing Quakerism Campaign. This would involve raising the recommended per-member contribution to $26. These issues will be considered at our Yearly Meeting sessions in Sixth Month. The report is attached.

RM02-9 Preliminary report from Nominating Committee

We have heard from the Nominating Committee that it appreciates receiving both the pre-registration list of those who planned to attend Representative Meeting and lists from each committee of those present in their meetings today. Thirty-eight out of 67 standing committee members, and nine out of 21 representatives to other Friends organizations have confirmed that they will continue to serve another year. Both Ministry and Oversight and Peace Committees would like to have representatives from every monthly meeting. Nominating Committee is willing to keep records of these Friends, but reminds us that it is the responsibility of the monthly meetings to name them.

RM02-10 Ministry and Oversight Committee report

We have heard an oral report from Ministry and Oversight Committee that it heard of the spiritual life in monthly meetings and is encouraged that some healthy new life is evidenced, especially through the use of small groups. The query for next fiscal year will be on peace. A booklet has been prepared compiling all the queries since 1985 that have been brought to the Yearly Meeting by Ministry and Oversight Committee. The Committee recommends that this be posted on the LEYM web site. The Committee also offers a Summary of Responses to Queries for 2001: Nurturing our Meeting Community.

RM02-11 Spiritual Formation Program report

The Spiritual Formation Program reports it is in its fourth year. Marty Grundy and Connie McPeak have facilitated the opening and closing retreats, and first Ruth Taber, then Valerie Groszmann, have organized a book table. The program consists of opening and closing weekend retreats and two local meetings a month, one to share personal spiritual journeys and the other to reflect on how a specific reading resonates with their lives. Any Friends who feel led to deepen their spiritual lives are especially urged to join at the opening retreat next fall in Brighton, Michigan.

RM02-12 Relationship with the Ohio Council of Churches

We are informed of the possibility of LEYM relating to the Ohio Council of Churches. We would have observer status at first, along with seven other groups. This relation would be realized most effectively by a Friend who feels led to ecumenical work, taking it on for a fairly long period of five or ten years. The relation is not creedal but refers to agreement with the purposes and work of the Council. This includes anti-racism, social action, and both ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. We ask the clerk to get additional information, season it, and bring it back to Yearly Meeting in Sixth Month.

RM02-13 Report from one of our representatives to FGC

We have heard an enthusiastic report from one of our representatives to Central Committee of Friends General Conference (FGC). It is attached.

RM02-14 Appointing representatives to FGC consultation on eldering

The Traveling Ministries Program of FGC is hosting a consultation in 11/2002 for two representatives from each FGC- affiliated yearly meeting, to explore how FGC and the yearly meetings might foster discerning, caring for, and eldering our local meetings in support of ministry. We approve asking Executive Committee to name two representatives to attend.

RM02-15 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting report

We have heard an oral report from Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting. It held a called meeting in Twelfth Month in regard to the perilous financial condition of Friends School in Detroit. Minutes of the meeting are available. Last week Grand Rapids MM hosted about 60 folks for the mid-winter gathering of GPQM on the theme of "Circles of Peace."

RM02-16 Report from Friends School in Detroit

Linda Krupp of Friends School in Detroit spoke briefly in gratitude for our spiritual and financial support. The school gives an excellent education grounded in Quaker values as well as solid academics. Admissions are up. The only difficulty is financial. Graduates of the school are noticed in local high schools as the students who move comfortably between racial groups, are active in student conflict resolution, and engage in peace actions.

RM02-17 Adult and Family Committee report

We have heard an oral report from the Adult and Family Committee. LEYM will be held 6/13-16/2002 at Bluffton College on the theme, "Testimonies, where Quaker rubber hits the road: moving from talking the talk to walking the walk". Steve Morehouse of Ann Arbor MM will be the plenary speaker on "The Spiritual Journey of an Imperfect Quaker". There will be opportunities for committees to meet Thursday afternoon and have lunch and dinner on campus. Workshops will be offered by Friends organizations this year, as an experiment. The Committee recommends that, if there are international visitors, the FWCC representatives or some other small group host the visitors and make arrangements for interpreters, travel, etc.

RM02-18 Report from the Youth and Children Committee

The Youth and Children Committee finds its new staffing format very helpful. The high school group hopes to have its own session with the plenary speaker this year. The service project will be to make and sell things to raise money for Friends School in Detroit.

RM02-19 Report from Arrangements and Site Committee

Arrangements and Site Committee informs us that Bluffton College's fees have risen slightly. There will be considerable construction around Marbeck Center this summer.

RM02-20 Changes to LEYM Policies and Procedures

Friends approved some minor changes in wording of the LEYM Policies and Procedures. We ask that the corrected Policies and Procedures be printed and made available at our upcoming yearly meeting sessions.

RM02-21 Peace Committee report

We have heard a report from the Peace Committee, which had a very full meeting, considering a number of important topics which they bring to our attention. A copy will be attached. The Committee drafted a letter in regard to "US government plans to overthrow the government of Iraq," which it suggests be sent to the White House and Senators of our four states, and that individuals use it to send to newspapers and members of Congress. Friends expressed appreciation for the letter, but also voiced reservations having to do with wording that seems to place all the blame on the US government, noting that there are ambiguities in the Middle East that led some Friends to suggest a more nuanced wording. Friends agree to forward this draft from the Peace Committee to monthly meetings to enable them to season it and use it as they are led. We appreciate the work of the Peace Committee in developing the letter and hope that we might return to this issue in Sixth Month.

RM02-22 Creation of Earth Care Committee of Concern for trial period

We have considered the proposal, brought up at last Sixth Month, and circulated to the monthly meetings, to create a committee on Earth Care. Its purpose would be to (1) ask, *What is the Earth and its Creator asking of us?*; (2) co-create an ongoing Earth Care ministry/faith and practice to include lifelong learning and education for all ages; (3) become a facilitator for these concerns and their implications for behavior for LEYM meetings and individuals; (4) enable local meetings to inform other meetings of their environmental concerns and activities; (5) exchange knowledge of environmental issues before, and decisions made by, our state and federal governments; (6) communicate with and support FCNL's Part IV *We Seek an Earth Restored*, and make LEYM aware of FCUN's work

and concerns. We approve this and agree that it shall be considered a committee of concern for a three-year trial period. The Nominating Committee will not be asked to name anyone to this new committee, and the core participants will select the convener. Bill Bliss has volunteered to serve in this capacity.

RM02-23 Thanks

We are grateful to Oberlin Meeting and Kendal for hosting us. The food was excellent as were the accommodations. We especially appreciate the work of Connie Bimber in making the arrangements.

RM02-24 Close

There being no further business the meeting is adjourned. Friends look forward to gathering for Yearly Meeting in Bluffton 6/13 to 6/16.

Marty Grundy, Recording Clerk

Reports

Report from LEYM History and Archives Committee

The History and Archives Committee completed its task of developing and producing the *Annual Records* in booklet format and turned over the production of future volumes to the newly appointed Publications Committee. The committee also sent as many historical records as we could find to our designated depository, the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College, and is encouraging all monthly meetings to deposit their records at the Friends Historical Library.

At the annual meeting in June 2001, the History and Archives Committee was asked to collect more information about the history of LEYM. The clerk of the committee sent out a letter "to all LEYM Friends" inviting them to contribute personal memories about Lake Erie Association / Yearly Meeting. A collection of our individual memories would not only help to tell the story of LEYM but would also be a record of God's leadings among us and how we tried to follow these leadings. One wonderful result of this invitation is a one-page handwritten letter from Elise Boulding sharing her reminiscences. We hope that there will be more contributions to this effort.

Leonora Cayard, clerk

Advancement and Outreach Committee report

The members of Advancement and Outreach Committee shared our experiences of visiting other meetings since June 2001. We were glad to have several Friends sit in on our meeting and share their experiences as well.

We will resume our practice of publishing articles in the *Bulletin*. Marvin Barnes (Birmingham MM) will write our next article and it will include suggestions of ways that meetings can reach out to Muslim groups.

Betty Ford (Grand Rapids MM) is planning to pursue a leading to contact each meeting in LEYM to record what outreach strategies each has employed.

We know that small meetings and worship groups would like to have more visitors. Advancement and Outreach Committee continues to work on arranging visits, possibly assigning committee members in a rotation.

Advancement and Outreach Committee plans to work with the Publications Committee to determine what help we can offer with the LEYM website, WWW. quaker.org/leym/

Erika T. Smith and John Savage, co-clerks

Treasurer's report (missing)

Finance and Budget Committee report

Present: Connie Bimber (Treasurer), Joe Davis, Zig Dermer, Linda Mills, and Don Nagler (clerk of LEYM)

1. Worked up a budget for 2002/03 adding $1030 to this year's budget of $19,560 for a total of $26,090. Increases are recommended in:

   FGC 70
   Friends School in Detroit ….285
   Clerk's Fund 190
   Youth Activities Fund 400
   Olney Friends School 85

   and a commitment to FGC's Nurturing Quakerism Campaign over a 10-year period of $5,000, or $500 a year.
2. The per member quotient thus increases to approximately $26 per member per year. We are much concerned that this year's contributions are not reaching the $22 previously encouraged.

3. Discussed yearly meeting content, cost, attendance, and length.
4. Discussed Friends Schools in Detroit and Olney

Joe Davis, clerk

Report from one of our representatives to FGC Central Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to be one of our yearly meeting's representatives to the Friends General Conference (FGC) Central Committee. I am much interested in group decision making, and at the meetings I attend I am learning more about Friends' process, clerking, and seasoning. Working on the Long Range Conference Planning committee suits me fine; I like to step back a bit and see a larger picture. The annual summer Gathering of Friends is under the care of the above mentioned LRPC. And it is only one of the good programs and projects of FGC.

Star Mary Castro

Peace Committee report

LEYM Peace Committee minutes from its meeting on Saturday. March 2, 2002 (10:10 AM to 12:20 PM)

1. Present (Monthly Meeting in parentheses): David Bassett (Ann Arbor) (clerk), Pat Birmingham (Oberlin), Isabel Bliss (Ann Arbor), Jack Brown (Oberlin), Katie Brown (Oberlin), Shelby Conrad (N. Columbus), Janet Dando (Akron) (recording), Steve Dando (Akron), Meg Hummon (Athens), Margaret Kanost (Birmingham), Karl Liske (Kent), Gerry McNabb (Oberlin), Jim Satterwhite (Broadmead). Also present: Lynda Krupp (parent & Board member, Friends School in Detroit)
2. Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is asking Friends to show support for Representative Dennis Kucinich's (10th CD, Ohio) proposal for the establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Peace. We might also send to Repr. Kucinich letters of commendation for his recent speech regarding the current administration's lack of concern for civil rights.
3. The Committee adopted a statement to suggest a Quakerly response to the possibility of war with Iraq. Friends may use this statement to:
    a. write a letter to the editor in their own communities;
    b. (if the Business Meeting approves the statement*) have the LEYM clerk send it to Senators in the four LEYM states, and to the President; (* the Business Meeting did not reach unity concerning this statement, so it was not approved by the Business Meeting);
    c. encourage individual Friends to write to their own Congressperson on this topic.
4. The Committee suggests that the Ministry and Oversight Committee pursue the idea of having this year's queries focus on the peace testimony. We suggest adding the following queries:
    a. "Do I consider that paying for war is a form of participation in war?"
    b. "How do I maintain my Testimony to Peace at a time when a mood of war prevails in the land?"
5. The Committee discussed the draft of a statement in support of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill (HR 1186). We decided to continue the discussion at Yearly Meeting in June, especially during the Peace Committee meeting time on Thursday, June 13 (that meeting time beginning at 4:00 PM).
6. It was suggested that the Planning Committee invite an intern from the Quaker UN Office in New York (and possibly from other Quaker organizations) to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting - this year if possible, or next year.
7. The Committee discussed House of Representatives Bill 3598, the Universal Military Training and Service Act of 2001. FCNL believes the bill is not likely to pass; but it may be the beginning of further efforts at such legislation. It is worth watching. In the meantime, Friends are encouraged to meet with young people, to help them be aware of their peace testimony, and help them to know about agencies that can assist with their conscientious objection to war.
8. We took note of the many references made to FCNL in our Committee meeting, as a source of information and inspiration in our work.

David Bassett, Peace Committee Clerk

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
June 13-16, 2002
Bluffton, Ohio

Thursday evening

YM2002-1 Worship, Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting

At our thirty-ninth session of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting held from Sixth Month 13 to 16, 2002, at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio, we began with worship. We have heard the epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting. Our Clerk, Don Nagler, reminds us that we gather for the purpose of finding God's will for us.

YM2002-2 Welcome to guests

We welcome the following guests: Sue Axtell from Earlham School of Religion; Ken Jacobsen from Olney Friends School and Stillwater MM, Ohio YM (Cons.); Susan Lee Barton, Midwest Field Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation, from Clear Creek MM, Ohio Valley YM; Scilla Wahrhaftig from the Quaker United Nations Office and Pittsburgh MM; Deborah Fisch, Coordinator of the Traveling Ministries Program of Friends General Conference, and Paulina MM, Iowa YM (Cons.); Bob Barnes from Right Sharing of World Resources and Alternatives to Violence, and Grass Valley MM, Pacific YM.

YM2002-3 First-time attenders

We welcome the following first-time attenders from LEYM meetings: Shelby Conrad and Jeannette Birkhoff (North Columbus MM), Nancy James (Pittsburgh MM), and Mathilda Navias and Dan Bell (Broadmead MM).

YM2002-4 Roll Call

Those attending from our twenty constituent monthly meetings, two preparative meetings (not counting those of Broadmead), and six worship groups have responded to the roll call. Everyone is listed under his or her monthly meeting. Those who attend a preparative meeting or worship group are listed twice. The first number represents adults; the second is the number of children and youth attending.

Meetings

Akron: 3,0
Ann Arbor: 13, 0
Athens: 8,7
Birmingham: 5, 2
Broadmead: 12, 2
Cleveland: 11, 10
Delaware: 0, 0
Detroit: 1 0
Grand Rapids: 4, 2
Granville: 6, 7
Kalamazoo: 3, 0
Kent: 4,0
Mid-Ohio Valley: 0, 0
Monongalia: 0, 0
North Columbus: 4, 0
Oberlin: 3, 0
Pine River: 2, 0
Pittsburgh: 9, 1
Red Cedar: 3, 1
Wooster: 3, 0

Worship Groups

Indiana PM (Pittsburgh): 0, 0
Holland PM (Grand Rapids): 0,
Albion WG (Red Cedar): 0, 0
Chelsea WG (Ann Arbor): 2, 0
Erie WG (Pittsburgh): 0, 0
Fremont WG (Grand Rapids): 0, 0
Manitou WG (Grand Rapids): 0, 0
Rock Road WG (Wooster): 0, 0

YM2002-5 Appointment of Naming Committee

We approve the following Friends to serve as a Naming Committee: Janet Smith, Susan Jeffers, and Star Mary Castro. We ask them to bring forth names of two Friends to serve on the Nominating Committee for three-year terms, plus one person to fill out the final years of another term. We also ask them to select their own convener from among themselves and to name the clerk of the Nominating Committee.

YM2002-6 Appointment of Epistle Committee

We approve the following Friends to serve on the Epistle Committee: Sally Weaver Sommer, Margaret Kanost, and John Howell.

YM2002-7 Letters of Introduction

We are reminded that Friends who have traveled to other meetings in the past year under a letter of introduction from LEYM should return their letter to the Clerk, so that the endorsements can be read to the Yearly Meeting. So far none have been returned.

YM2002-8 Announcements from Program Committee

We have heard announcements from the Program Committee.

YM2002-9 LEYM *Bulletin* editor report

We have heard the report of the LEYM *Bulletin* Editor, which is attached. We thank Eric Starbuck for his devoted work on our behalf. The LEYM web page is a good way for people who don't know us to find Friends. Folks are invited to help Eric discern how to improve our web page. The LEYM Membership Directory has been particularly useful, and we thank Susan Jeffers and Eric for their considerable efforts in producing it.

Friday morning

YM2002-10 Treasurer's report

We have heard a report from our Treasurer, who notes that it is not final because our fiscal year ends Sixth Month 30. As part of the intentional spend-down of our previous surplus, we overspent the general fund by about $3,000 this year. Two meetings (Delaware and Red Cedar) have not paid any contribution to LEYM yet this year. Not all meetings are contributing the suggested amount of $20 for those that count everyone or $22 for those that count only adults. We are reminded of some details of four of the funds mentioned in the Treasurer's report. The FWCC Triennial Fund accrues for three years in order to cover expenses of our representatives to that event. The Granville Friends Youth Fund is an endowment, of which we spend only the interest. The Youth Activity Fund was used this year for three scholarships to Friends Music Camp and to support the youth and teen retreats. The Spiritual Formation Group has its own budget and accounts to cover its fall and spring retreats and a few administrative expenses. Friends thank our Treasurer for her careful work.

YM2002-11 Budget, Covering expenses of LEYM representatives

The Finance and Budget Committee Report has been received and is attached. The budget is increased in part to cover a special $5,000 contribution to FGC's Nurturing Quakerism Campaign, spread over ten years. This will require increasing monthly meeting contributions to $26 per year for each adult member, for a total of a mere fifty cents a week. Our Policies and Procedures offers to pay travel expenses of LEYM representatives to FGC and other Quaker organizations -- if needed. But FGC Program Committee meetings are usually not covered by either LEYM or FGC. We are asked to consider the deeper question of a more equitable sharing of our personal and corporate financial resources. We approve the formation of an ad hoc committee to consider a way to deal with the issue of enabling representatives, regardless of economic ability, to serve. We approve Sally Weaver Sommer, Connie Bimber, Suzanne Howell, and one or two others to be named by the Clerk, to serve on this ad hoc committee and report back later in these sessions.

YM2002-12 Changes to Policies and Procedures

Even after the revisions to the LEYM Policies and Procedures approved at our last Representative

Meeting, Friends have found a few additional small changes that are needed to bring the document into line with our current practice. Today Friends approve these minor changes to Section I Introduction, 5. LEYM *Bulletin*; Section IV: Organization, A. Officers, 5. LEYM *Bulletin* Editor; and E. Standing Committees, 8. Publications Committee. Friends now approve the entire document as it has been amended over the past several sessions of Representative Meeting and Yearly Meeting, and direct that it be posted on the LEYM web page. We appreciate the work of all those who have worked on this over the years, especially Janet Smith and Marty Grundy, among others.

Friday afternoon

YM2002-13 Epistle from Ireland Yearly Meeting

We have heard the epistle from Ireland Yearly Meeting.

YM2002-14 History and Archives Committee report

We have heard a brief report from the History and Archives Committee, which will be attached later. Most of the Committee's work has been taken over by the Publications Committee. History and Archives asks each monthly meeting to send written memories of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and/or Association to the incoming clerk of the Committee.

YM2002-15 Publications Committee report

We have received a report from the Publications Committee, which is attached. We approve as an experiment this coming year to post on the LEYM web page and send by e-mail to all meeting clerks information and registration materials for the fall youth retreat, Spiritual Formation groups, and the FWCC Lower Great Lakes Regional Gathering. We are very grateful for all the work of the Publications Committee.

YM2002-16 Letter of Introduction, New first-time attender

We welcome visitor Martha Turner and have received a letter of introduction for her from South Bend MM (Ill. YM). We also welcome Joanne Neuroth of Red Cedar MM, attending LEYM for the first time.

YM2002-17 Advancement and Outreach Committee report

We have heard a report from Advancement and Outreach Committee, which has accomplished a great deal recently. It is attached. Meetings may want to borrow and copy materials developed by others within LEYM in order to save the cost of purchasing higher priced items from, for example, FGC.

YM2002-18 Ohio Council of Churches

As mentioned at Representative Meeting, LEYM has been invited to join the Ohio Council of Churches. Questions were raised in regard to the bulk of our membership residing outside of Ohio, and to the possibility that gays and lesbians may be excluded from the Council's work for social justice. We are informed that in central Ohio the major issues that the Council has been working against are casino gambling and the death penalty. Friends are not in unity with moving toward affiliation at this time and look forward to specific information on the issue of inclusion or exclusion of gays and lesbians. We ask our Clerk to inform the one inviting us to consider affiliation of the reasons that we are unable to move forward on this now.

YM2002-19 Spiritual Formation Program-West report

We have heard a report from the Spiritual Formation Program-west, which will be attached. We also heard an oral report from the Spiritual Formation Program-east, which had its opening and closing retreats at the Friends Center at Olney. Folks from Pittsburgh MM attended these, along with Friends from three other yearly meetings. The same leaders (Marty Grundy and Connie McPeak) facilitated the retreats for both programs.

YM2002-20 Report on the youth program

We have heard a summary of the youth program, which has appeared in the winter 2002 LEYM *Bulletin*.

There was a fall weekend retreat on simplicity and service at Greenfire, a winter retreat at Cleveland MM on Quaker witness in the world, and one in April at Olney Friends School on "Old MacDonald had some ecology issues." The teens anticipate going to Kentucky this summer, and to western Michigan sometime in the coming year. If you know of youth in your meeting who are not receiving information about the program, please inform Kri Anderson. We thank Kri for her good work with our youth.

YM2002-21 GPQM report

We have heard a report from Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, which was hosted most recently by Grand Rapids MM. The summer meeting for the past four or so years has been at Quaker Park in Battle Creek, which was the scene of considerable underground railroad activity. The Quarterly Meeting started as an informal fellowship but now serves Friends School in Detroit, the AFSC Ann Arbor office, and the Michigan Friends Center as their umbrella organization. But people seem to prefer to come and socialize rather than to conduct business. The Quarterly Meeting is having difficulty finding people willing to serve. On a more encouraging note, the spring program featured a report on the affiliation between Friends School in Detroit and a school in Afghanistan. The Michigan Friends Center is scheduling a number of interesting weekend programs for the coming year.

YM2002-22 Report on Friends School in Detroit

We have heard an animated and enthusiastic report on Friends School in Detroit, which will be attached. The School began in 1963 when African Americans in Detroit asked Friends there and in Ann Arbor for help in establishing a good school in downtown Detroit. This year the students are involved in affiliation with a school in Afghanistan, which has sensitized them to help people in Detroit from the Middle East deal with some of the misunderstanding and hostility directed at them since 9/11. The School is still facing financial difficulties, but intends to open in September. Several staff members had to be let go in order to balance the budget for the coming year. There is a new head of school, Dwight Wilson, and an anticipated enrollment of about 150. The ongoing Quaker Values Committee is helping staff and parents understand important aspects of Quakerism. The greater Detroit community is supporting the School. Friends are encouraged to send financial contributions.

YM2002-23 Report from the children and youth program

We have heard a report of the children and youth program in progress at these yearly meeting sessions. There are 7 preschool children, 9 elementary aged, 6 middle school, and 9 high school students, for a total of 31 young people and 11 adult volunteers. Saturday evening's intergenerational activity in Ramseyer will be an ice cream social with youth crafts and performances; donations will benefit Friends School in Detroit. We appreciate the good work of all these Friends.

YM2002-24 Program Committee report

The Program Committee reports that much of its work is done in September, so folks with ideas and suggestions should inform members of the Committee in a timely manner.

Saturday Morning

YM2002-25 Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting

We have heard the epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting held earlier this spring. We are grateful for 350 years of faithful witness to the Quaker vision of Gospel Order. We are touched by the many examples of British Friends' work for social justice in their communities.

YM2002-26 Report of the Naming Committee

The Naming Committee recommends Olwen Pritchard and David Stilwell (David as clerk) for full three-year terms on the Nominating Committee, and Lila Cornell to fill out the remainder of a two-year term. All three hope that the Nominating Committee can do more of its work outside yearly meeting sessions in the coming year. We approve the appointment of these Friends, but remind ourselves that we need to be careful not to ask individuals to take on multiple tasks that may make it difficult to accomplish the work of the Yearly Meeting, and also that we try to spread the work and its ownership as broadly as possible

among Friends.

YM2002-27 Approval to establish a committee of concern on Earth Care for a trial period

We have heard minute RM02-22 from Representative Meeting recommending the establishment of a committee of concern on Earth Care for a three-year trial period. David Lore, Dick Hogan, Al Conner, and Bill Bliss are its core, and it is open to everyone. They intend to establish an e-mail network. Friends approve the proposal for this committee of concern.

YM2002-28 Ministry and Oversight Committee report

We have heard a report from Ministry and Oversight Committee. The meeting responses to the LEYM queries of the last three years are available in a binder during yearly meeting. At other times the clerk of Ministry and Oversight Committee will e-mail copies upon request. This year Ministry and Oversight and Peace committees cooperated in generating the following queries for meetings to consider this coming year.

1. How do I live "in the virtue of that life and power that [takes] away the occasion of all wars"?
2. How do I and my meeting community witness to the peace testimony and work to build institutions of peace?
3. Do I consider that paying for war is a form of participation in war? What are our alternatives to paying for war?
4. How do I maintain my testimony to peace when a mood of war and violence prevails in the land?

A three to four page study guide will be sent that includes some alternate queries, a selection of advices, and some pithy quotations that may help meetings give deeper consideration to the queries. Meetings are requested to return their responses by 12/31. Friends thank these two committees for their work; we express our gratitude to God for the wonderful way that they were enabled to come into unity.

Ministry and Oversight has also listened to accounts of the spiritual life in some of our meetings, and will consider how to make better use of the narrative State of the Meeting reports.

YM2002-29 Report from one of our representatives to FGC

We have heard a report from one of our representatives to Friends General Conference (FGC) who also serves on the FGC Religious Education Committee. The report is attached. It is good to hear of the fine work of the Religious Education Committee and how Leonora Cayard tries to be a conduit for information to FGC and from the RE Committee back to our local meetings.

YM2002-30 Appointment of representatives to FGC consultation on eldering

The Traveling Ministries Program of Friends General Conference is hosting a consultation, to be held 11/15- 17/2002, to consider discernment and support of leadings and gifts of ministry and eldering. We approve the appointment of Connie McPeak and Merry Stanford as our representatives, and Joanne Neuroth as an alternate.

YM2002-31 Report on FCNL

We have heard a brief report of some of the issues being worked on by the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Since last Ninth Month it has focused on peaceful prevention of deadly conflict. A capital campaign has been launched to renovate the FCNL office, located in two nineteenth-century townhouses. The work will be done in environmentally sound ways. Meg Hummon and others are available to visit meetings to encourage participation in the campaign. We note with appreciation Meg's solid work as past clerk of FCNL.

YM2002-32 Report from the Quaker United Nations office

We have heard a report from the Quaker United Nations office (QUNO), which does the bulk of its work of effective diplomacy in the living room of Quaker House in New York City. In quiet conversation, very diverse people can speak with each other off the record to find ways forward on complex and divisive issues. QUNO works closely with other Friends organizations both here and abroad trying to prevent

violent conflict, along with a number of other issues. Quaker House is engaged in an endowment campaign, "Free at Fifty," and encourages the support of Friends.

YM2002-33 Report from one of our representatives to FWCC

We have heard a report from one of our five representatives to Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas, which will be attached. The summary of the March Annual Meeting will be in our Annual Records. Those who have not read Mary Lord's powerful address are invited to do so on the FWCC website at www.quaker.org/fwcc/Americas/. There will be a Conference on Friends' Responses to the Growing Danger of Wars and Terrorism at Guilford College 1/17-20/2003, to which we are invited to send two representatives. The Lower Great Lakes Regional Gathering will be held at Xenia, Ohio, 9/21/2002, on the theme "Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord." We are informed that Margaret Fraser is named incoming executive secretary, and Louise Salinas associate secretary, of the Section of the Americas.

Saturday Afternoon

YM2002-34 Welcome of additional visitors

We welcome more visitors: Jack Davis from Friends General Conference and Fall Creek MM (OVYM); David Culp on the FCNL staff in Washington DC; and Greg Coleridge, staff in the AFSC Akron office.

YM2002-35 Report from AFSC

We have heard an oral report from the American Friends Service Committee. Its emergency material assistance program has considered carefully what it should do in Afghanistan and has decided to rebuild schools. The PAZ Colombia project includes a set of materials on the emerging disaster in that country. A number of activities have been stepped up since 9/11, and many of them have accompanying educational materials. AFSC is nearing the end of a lengthy process of self-analysis and prioritizing. Work is ongoing to develop a 3-5 year plan for each of six major initiatives. Paul Lacey, of Clear Creek MM (Ohio Valley YM), is the new clerk of AFSC.

YM2002-36 Report on last fall's youth retreat

We have had a brief report on last fall's youth retreat, which increased its participation to 23 young people aged 6 to 13. A co-convener is still needed for the 10/4-6 retreat at Templed Hills this coming fall. Registration materials will be sent via e-mail to meeting clerks. Friends are asked to encourage elementary and middle school children in their meetings to attend.

YM2002-37 Addition to Policies and Procedures

The ad hoc committee reports guidelines for financing travel and related expenses when needed by LEYM representatives to other Quaker organizations and committees. These will be printed in the Fall LEYM *Bulletin*.

Friends approve the report, with the addition of a deadline two weeks before the close of pre-registration for those requesting financial assistance to attend LEYM. We ask that this policy be added to the LEYM Policies and Procedures, Section III. 3.

YM2002-38 Approval of LEYM endorsing Christian Peacemaker Teams

We have heard a thorough report from Peace Committee, which is attached. Friends approve the recommendation that LEYM endorse Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT). Friends decided, however, to stay with our current LEYM Policies and Procedures, which says that we do not fund organizations through the yearly meeting; therefore, we do not approve the Peace Committee recommendation to make a token contribution of $50 to CPT. We strongly approve the recommendation to encourage monthly meetings and individuals to generously support CPT financially and spiritually.

YM2002-39 Approval to support the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund

Peace Committee recommends support of the latest version of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund

(HR 1186). Friends approve the related minute, noting that this is an update of our action taken in 1983; it will be printed in the Fall LEYM *Bulletin*.

Friends also approve a slightly modified form of this minute to be sent as a letter to the eight Senators representing the states in which there are LEYM meetings. We also ask that the minute be posted on our web page and that copies be sent to monthly meeting clerks in the hope that our constituent meetings will send it to their local members of Congress.

YM2002-40 Timing of Yearly Meeting

We have considered the difficulty that having yearly meeting relatively early in June, as happened this year, prevents many families in Michigan and Pennsylvania from attending. We need the participation of these people. Friends approve gathering on the third Thursday next year, 6/19, assuming that Bluffton College is available then.

YM2002-41 Schedule for annual sessions

This year's sessions have been more relaxed, with additional time for business sessions and for people to converse. This has been made possible by cutting out some activities and adding committee time Thursday afternoon. Further discussions of the issue of lengthening the time of yearly meeting sessions and of the suggestion to move the venue farther east are tabled until another time.

YM2002-42 Authorization for the use of some of the current surplus

Friends approve that the Treasurer, Finance and Budget Committee, and Presiding Clerk may use some of the surplus if there are additional expenses, especially in regard to travel funds.

YM2002-43 Budget approval

There was some discomfort with approving the budget, given the possibility that the travel funds may be inadequate and necessitate drawing down the surplus. We agree to accept the report of the Finance and Budget Committee with an asterisk to remind ourselves that there may be a cost over run on travel, which will come out of our surplus. We are also reminded that some meetings have not paid their full contribution this year. Friends are pointedly reminded to submit lists of all expenses connected with representing the Yearly Meeting in other Quaker organizations and committees, whether or not they need any reimbursement, so that our Treasurer can get a better sense of what it actually costs to have representatives going to these meetings.

YM2002-44 Report on Friends Committee on Unity with Nature

We have heard an oral report from Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN), now in its fifteenth year. Dick Hogan met with the middle school youth today. FCUN has a number of working groups on a variety of issues such as a sustainable development project in Costa Rica, the spiritual nurturance group, Greenfire, and work as a non-governmental organization (NGO) at the United Nations. Quaker Ecologic Witness (QEW) has spun off to work with FCNL. FCUN has sent a questionnaire to monthly meetings, and requests its return by 9/1. A series of work camps and workdays has been planned at Greenfire this summer in preparation for a larger project on new types of construction. Our new committee of concern on Earth Care will work closely with FCUN, QEW, and Greenfire.

YM2002-45 Preliminary report from Nominating Committee, New committee formed

We have heard briefly from Nominating Committee in regard to the need for additional volunteers for specific service opportunities within the Yearly Meeting. The Committee recommends combining the History and Archives and Publications committees to form a single Publications and Archives Committee. Friends approve this, noting it will require yet another change in the LEYM Policies and Procedures.

Sunday Morning

YM2002-46 Memorials

We have remembered Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends who have died in the past year. "I am part of all I have met." We are blessed to have had these Friends walk with us. May our steps be an inspiration to those who follow us.

YM2002-47 Nominating Committee report, Changes to Policies & Procedures

We have heard the report of the Nominating Committee. There are still a few vacancies to be filled. Friends accept the report and express appreciation for the work of the Committee. Friends approve changing the wording of the LEYM Policies and Procedures to reflect that both FGC and FWCC inform us how many representatives we are to send them.

YM2002-48 Invitation to Midwest Regional Gathering of FWCC

Susan Lee Barton, FWCC Midwest field secretary, notes that our own Lower Great Lakes Regional Gathering on 9/21 conflicts with several events within LEYM. Therefore, she invites Friends to attend the Midwest Regional Gathering in Westfield, IN, on 9/7/2002.

YM2002-49 Epistle

We have heard the report of the Epistle Committee and thank these Friends for their good work in articulating our experience together these past few days. We accept the epistle as written, to be sent over our Clerk's signature to Friends in other yearly meetings around the world.

YM2002-50 Children's epistles

Our children joined us, bringing their infectious joy and energy. Many wore this year's tee shirts decorated with colorful footprints. There were seven pre-school children this year. We have heard a brief report of their busy time and viewed a colorful poster illustrating their activities. There were nine elementary school-aged children, and they read their epistle to us. The middle school group interviewed adult members of the YM to see how we "walk the walk." They read their epistle describing what they have learned and done. The high school group read an epistle written as a take-off on Genesis I and other familiar texts. We are informed that $495.55 was raised last night for the Friends School in Detroit. These epistles will be sent with the adult epistle to other yearly meetings in this country and around the world.

YM2002-51 Close

There being no further business, yearly meeting adjourns, proposing to meet again in Bluffton on 6/19/2003, God willing. Representative Meeting is scheduled for 3/1/2003, at a site to be determined.

Marty Grundy, Recording Clerk, Cleveland Friends Meeting

Committee Reports

The LEYM *Bulletin* and Associated Efforts

The Post Office has made doing the *Bulletin* a little harder than before. Our standard mail (bulk) permit is in Delaware, Ohio. The last two editors mailed from there. When I took the *Bulletin* on almost 2 years ago, I tried to switch it to Akron. There's a nine-page form and an independent audit required.

I appealed to Don Nagler, who has had trouble finding an auditor willing to do it for free. Or cheap.

So, Post Office regulations require that, if we want to mail standard rate (about 20 cents less per piece than regular mail), we have some hoops to jump through.

1) We must pay $125 per year to both Delaware and any subsidiary mailing location.

2) We must mail from Delaware at least once every two years.

This year, I mailed the Fall *Bulletin* from Delaware, thanks to the kind assistance of David Lore. We don't need to do it again until 2003.

However, it's costing an extra $125 a year. Anybody know an auditor who wants to do pro bono work?

This has caused us to wonder a little about other possibilities. Susan Jeffers had the idea of posting the *Bulletin* online. I tried it with the Winter and Spring 2002 *Bulletins.* You can go to www.quaker.org/leym/, go to the

Documents & Committees page, and click *Winter2002* or *Spring2002.*

Someday, perhaps, some members can unsubscribe from the paper copy and get it online. That will take many years to make much difference, but--

Paper	**Online**
$600 Printing (each time)	Free
5 days at the printer	1/2 hour to post
10-12 hours layout	10-12 hours layout
$200 Mailing	Free
10 hours sort to mail	None
30-40 days to deliver	30 seconds to download
Paper to recycle	Electrons
Clip and Mail responses	Click and E-mail

From my point of view, Online is far superior. If we can get it ALL online, the Post Office problem would go away. So would about $2500 of the Publications budget. Even if we decide to get a www.leym.org slot of our own, it would only cost maybe $250 a year. And we could feel ecologically superior to others, using less paper. Most important to me, two days mail sorting would be gone.

A couple of meetings have contacted me, wanting to put their own web pages on ours. Since we don't own the space we use, I felt uneasy about sharing it out. Instead, I recommended they contact Russell Nelson, who runs www.quaker.org, for their own space. He provides our page free of charge. (He could realistically charge $30 or more per month.) Wooster has managed to post there this spring, thanks to the efforts of Richard Renner.

Other things have happened this year.

The Web Page was redesigned. It includes a Meetings page with map and hyperlink to a page for each meeting, with address, clerk, phone, e-mail, and web site, if they have one. Also included are an address by Don Nagler, a reaction to the terrorism of September 11, a calendar, and links to Marty Grundy's YM 2001 plenary address, a photo album (courtesy of Bill Hummon, processed by me), and histories of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

I tried to hype it in this year's *Bulletins* to a near-total dearth of response. From which I conclude it is adequate, not worth complaining about, but few are using it. However, I have faith in cybermaniacs; this is the wave of the future, and I will attempt to support it. More to the point, a web page I did for Akron Friends Meeting about 5 years ago now accounts for more Meeting inquiries than all other sources combined.

Susan Jeffers and I have been working fairly closely. I redesigned the database she uses to track addresses and print labels this summer, after the *Annual Records* was done and to the proofreaders. Susan then improved it considerably on her own.

This made it easier to create the *Membership Directory.* However, the updates forced her to spend many evenings entering and correcting data. I volunteered to print and bind. After about 30 hours, I gave up and took it to a copy center to finish. I sincerely hope you appreciate that booklet. It cost far too many work hours to be dumped in a "don't look at" stack.

The A*nnual Records 2001* took shape last summer as well. People cooperated quite well this year; nearly every meeting responded with its State of the Meeting and Statistics. One thing I am extremely grateful for: Rosemary Coffey is a professional proofreader. She and Leonora Cayard went over it several times, then took it to the printer. I am VERY happy to have escaped that proofreading task.

I have also decided to relocate. The new place is still uncertain, because 1 haven't come up with a good job offer yet. I hope to stay in the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting area, because I enjoy doing this work. I'll let you know what happens.

All in all, it's been an interesting year. I overcame some difficulties. I learned not to volunteer for certain tasks. I learned that I do this kind of thing to help a good community, not for peace or good works. I learned more about mailing, web pages, publishing software, and databases. I've gotten familiar with the Internet employment ads in several cities. I also learned that the Yearly Meeting is lucky to have the services of Rosemary Coffey, Leonora Cayard, and Susan Jeffers.

Eric Starbuck, editor

Treasurer

FUNDS

	Opening Balance	Current Income	Expenses	Balance
General Fund	9,200.46	15,468.28	18,150.29	6,518.45
Annual Fund	9,480.86	12,645.50	10,395.35	11,731.01
Triennial Travel	2,930.95	1,240.00	--	4,170.95
Granville FrndsYF	5,510.60	222.11	222.11	5,510.60
Youth Act. Fund	293.15	2,050.52	2,185.76	157.91
Spiritual Formation	582.07	3,451.25	3,327.76	712.56
	28,005.09	35,077.66	34,281.27	28,801.48

BANK ACCOUNTS

	Opening Balance	Current Income	Debit	Balance
ACCOUNT				
Checking	12,252.68	39,022·47	32,019.16	19,255.99
Shorebank-Mar	5,050.66	153.38	3,204.04	2,000.00
Shorebank-Sept	5,191.15	100.72	3,256.98	2,034.89
Southshore Bank	5,510.60	222.11	222.11	5,510.60
Totals	28,005.09	39,498.68	38,702.29	28,801.48

INCOME

General Fund		
Income		
Meeting Donations		
Akron	352.00	
Ann Arbor	2,412.00	
Athens	900.00	
Birmingham	572.00	
Broadmead	750.00	
Cleveland	1,740.00	
Delaware	--	
Detroit	300.00	
Grand Rapids	262.50	
Granville	530.00	
Kalamazoo	924·00	
Kent	464.00	
Mid-Ohio Valley	150.00	
Monongalia	250.00	
N. Columbus	600.00	
Oberlin	340.00	
Pine River	270.00	
Pittsburgh	3,874.00	
Red Cedar	--	
Wooster	496.00	
Total Meeting Donations		15,186.50
Misc.		
Sales & Fees		
Interest		
Checking	27.68	
CDs	254.10	
Interest Total		281.78
Total		15,468.28

GENERAL FUND

Expenses	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Percent**
Travel	5,000.00	4,004.17	80
Office	310.00	311.33	100
Publications	4,400.00	4,382.09	100
FGC	4,430.00	4,430.00	100
Friends School in Detroit	2,215.00	2,215.00	100
Records Project	210.00	121.20	58
Advancement	130.00	131.50	100
Clerk's Fund	310.00	--	0
FWCC Travel	1,240.00	1,240.00	100
Youth Activities Fund	800.00	800.00	100
Olney Friends School	515.00	515.00	100
Total	**19,560.00**	**18,150.29**	**93**

ANNUAL MEETING	
Balance June 30, 2001	9,480.86
Expense	10,395.35
Income	12,615.50
Balance June 30, 2002	11,731.01
FWCC TRIENNIAL TRAVEL FUND	
Balance June 30, 2001	2,930.95
Expense	--
Income - Transfer	1,240.00
Balance June 30, 2002	4,170.95
GRANVILLE FRIENDS YOUTH FUND	
Balance July 1, 2000	5,510.60
Interest income	222.11
Transfer - Outgo	222.11
Balance June 30, 2002	5,510.60
YOUTH ACTIVITY FUND	
Balance July 1, 2001	293.15
Income - transfer	800.00
Income - interest	222.11
Income - Youth Retreat	1,028.11
Total Income This Year	2,050.52
Expense - Grants	1,000.00
Expense - Youth Retreat	1,185.76
Total Expense	2,185.76
Balance June 30, 2002	157.91
SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP	
Balance July 1, 2001	589.07
Income	3,451.25
Expense	3,327.76
Balance June 30, 2002	712.56

ANNUAL MEETING 2001	
Income	
Housing, commuter fees, meals	8,993.00
Registration	3,051.00
Donations	43.50
Total Income	12,087.50
Expenses	
Housing, commuter fees, meals	9,000.00
Program discounts	605.50
Scholarships	507.25
Swimming	167.00
Beverages	100.00
Copies	75·60
Undercharges	40.00
Bank Charge	6.00
Keynote Speaker	200.00
Youth Program: crafts, etc.	835.39
Total Expenses	11,536.74
Surplus 2001	550.76
Deficit 2000	(109.00)
Balance June 30, 2002	441.76

NOTE: Because of when our Annual Meeting is held, the finances span two fiscal years. This part of the Treasurer's Report puts the financial pieces of 2001 Annual Meeting together.

Connie Bimber, Treasurer

Finance & Budget

Proposed to LEYM, 6/14/02

Last Year's Budget (July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002)

Travel	$ 5,000.00
Office	$ 310.00
Publications	$ 4,400.00
FGC	$ 4,430.00
Friends School in Detroit	$ 2,215.00
Records Project	$ 210.00
Advancement	$ 130.00
Clerk's Fund	$ 310.00
FWCC Travel	$ 1,240.00
Youth Activities Fund	$ 800.00
Olney Friends School	$ 515.00
Total	$ 19,560.00

You have seen our Finance Committee report in the Spring *Bulletin*, 3/2/2002. However, the arithmetic was wrong. $1,030 added to this year's budget of $19,560 is $20,590, not $26,090. Please make this correction in your copy. The increase in several items was considered carefully and was the Committee's decision. These totaled about 5%.

Increases Recommended

FGC	$70.00
FGC ($5000 over 10 yrs)	$500.00
Friends School in Detroit	$285.00
Clerk's Fund	$190.00
Youth Activities Fund	$400.00
Olney Friends School	$85.00
Total	$1,530.00

The Representatives Assembly listened to FGC's program and the needs of its Nurturing Campaign and agreed to ask the Yearly Meeting to add a pledge of $5,000, payable at $500 per year. So the Finance Committee asks you to approve this General Fund budget for 2002-2003 as shown here, totaling $21,090.

Budget 2002-03

	2001-2002	Increase	2002-2003
Expense			
Travel	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Office	310.00	310.00	
Publications	4,400.00	4,400.00	
FGC	4,430.00	70.00	4,500.00
FGC ($5000 over 10 yrs)	500.00	500.00	
Friends School in Detroit	2,215.00	285.00	2,500.00
Records Project	210.00	210.00	
Advancement	130.00	130.00	
Clerk's Fund	310.00	190.00	500.00
FWCC Travel	1,240.00	1,240.00	
Youth Activities Fund	800.00	400.00	1,200.00
Olney Friends School	515.00	85.00	600.00
Totals	19,560.00	1,530.00	21,090.00

Donation per adult: 26.00

This results in a fair share of $26 per year from each adult member. We urge your cooperation in fulfilling this amount; the per-member share of only 50 cents per week for LEYM includes the special assessment for FGC's campaign.

Carrying out the work you propose by LEYM will require enthusiastic promotion of this year's giving. Many have not donated sufficiently to maintain LEYM's obligations. If you can help more, please do!

Joe Davis, clerk

History & Archives

The History and Archives Committee completed its task of developing and producing the *Annual Record*s in booklet format and turned over the production of future volumes to the newly appointed Publications and Archives Committee. The committee also sent as many historical records as we could find to our designated depository, the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College, and is encouraging all monthly meetings to deposit their records at the Friends Historical Library.

At the annual meeting in June 2001, the History and Archives Committee was asked to collect more information about the history of LEYM. The clerk of the committee sent out a letter "to all LEYM Friends" inviting them to contribute personal memories about LEA/YM. A collection of our individual memories would not only help to tell the story of LEYM but would also be a record of God's leadings among us and how we tried to follow these leadings. One wonderful result of this invitation is a one-page handwritten letter from Elise Boulding, sharing her reminiscences. We hope that there will be more contributions to this effort.

Leonora Cayard, clerk

Publications

Present: Leonora Cayard, Rosemary Coffey (clerk), Susan Jeffers, Joe Mills, Eric Starbuck

1. **The *Annual Records* Booklet**. After reviewing the *Annual Records* booklet for 2001, which we saw as an improvement over the initial booklet for 2000, we proposed a few changes for the current year in the ordering of items, but without altering the content over-all. We would like to remind monthly meetings that we would be glad to include brief obituaries of their members who have passed away since last summer if they will send them to the Editor immediately. We note also that we can publish State of the Meeting reports and Statistical Reports only if the Editor receives them by the end of next week, and ask Friends here present to check with their Clerks when they return home to be sure they have been sent either to the Recording Clerk of LEYM or directly to Eric Starbuck. If all goes smoothly, we hope to publish the *Annual Records 2002* booklet by the end of July.

2. **The *Membership Directory.*** The new *Directory* has four sections: the first lists members and attenders by monthly meeting; the second is an alphabetic listing of all members of LEYM; the third is a separate listing of children and youth by birth order from newborn to 1983; and the fourth has some last-minute additions. This is a work in progress, and we welcome comments for improvement. For example, we note penitently that the *Directory* would be a lot easier to read if the binding were along the left side rather than the top and encourage Friends to take their copies to a local copy shop and have them rebound accordingly; the same clasp can be cut and re-used. All Meetings and LEYM Committee clerks should have copies; if you don't have one and think you should, please see Eric Starbuck, who brought some with him. A new edition will probably not be produced before 2004; in the meantime, monthly meetings are asked to send changes and updates to Susan Jeffers by e-mail, if at all possible, so that she can paste them into her database without re-typing.

3. **The Publications Schedule**. We propose to retain this year's schedule whereby the *Annual Records* came out in late July/early August in place of the Summer issue of the *Bulletin*, while the Fall issue appeared in October, the Winter issue in January, and the Spring issue in April. With regard to the timely distribution of registration material for the youth retreat, the Spiritual Formation groups, and the Lower Great Lakes Regional Gathering, we make the following proposal:

a. that the people in charge of those events e-mail their registration forms and/or announcements directly to the LEYM Meeting Clerks as soon as possible, requesting that they be published in the Meeting newsletters or copied and made available to members and attenders; to that end Eric Starbuck will provide a complete group list of e-mail addresses of Meeting Clerks or contact persons, so only one e-mail, with the information pasted into it and attached, need be sent.

b. in addition, Rosemary Coffey will send a reminder to all Clerks and contact persons to look for the forms and pass them on to their newsletter editors.

We believe that this procedure will promptly and efficiently get the forms into the hands of those interested in attending these Fall events.

4. **Future Communication in LEYM**. Susan Jeffers and Eric Starbuck continue to urge our use of the LEYM web page established at http://www.quaker.org/leym/. Eric in particular would be grateful for feedback from anybody viewing that page regarding needed improvements to make it more useful.

Rosemary Coffey

Advancement & Outreach

Betty Ford has been collecting examples of outreach and visitor materials from LEYM meetings. We reviewed the materials for ideas that we can share with meetings in need. One concern that has emerged is that some meetings cannot afford to buy materials to distribute and, therefore, need to design their own.

We reviewed a new Inreach/Outreach packet from FGC. Copies are available on the FGC table.

The committee discussed our ongoing responsibility for the LEYM web page. We have some ideas for additions to the web page and we plan to continue coordinating with Eric Starbuck re the contents of the site.

We discussed a recent Policies and Procedures change in A&O's description to reflect our outreach mission. We support the change as it has been drafted, and we are grateful to Marty Grundy for catching the omission before publication.

We heard a presentation from Deborah Fisch on FGC's Traveling Ministries committee. We wanted to hear more about their work so that we could identify any overlap in their work and our ongoing intervisitation projects. Also, we asked what ideas, if any, they had for our outreach mission on the yearly meeting level.

We plan to publish three articles on outreach topics in the next two *Bulletin*s. We also hope to make these

articles and past outreach articles available on our website.

Our committee members continue to visit other meetings within and outside LEYM. We are pooling our experiences and trying to glean suggestions and guidelines that might help LEYM meetings advance.

John Savage and Erika Smith, Co-clerks

Spiritual Formation Group

Friends from Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo, Red Cedar and Broadmead meetings participated in the Spiritual Formation program this past year. A retreat at Emrich Conference Center, Brighton, MI, in September attracted 20 Friends to work with Marty Grundy and Connie McPeak (Cleveland Meeting) on defining our intention to connect with God and on selecting a spiritual practice to help move us forward toward our intention to be more aware of God's presence. Small groups continued through the year, sharing their experiences with God and discussing readings of Quaker literature. 21 Friends from our different meetings gathered again for the Spring Retreat at Michigan Friends Center in May, under the guidance again of Marty Grundy and Connie McPeak. Here, we reassessed what had moved us toward God and considered our next steps.

Not all participants have followed a spiritual discipline to the degree that they would have liked, but we have been aware of spiritual growth that has resulted in our midst. We have encouraged people to join and participate at their own comfort level. An oversight committee, consisting of Weaver Bloomfield, Valerie Groszmann, Janet Smith, Merry Stanford and Thomas Taylor, has planned the retreats and helped move the program along.

Valerie Groszmann

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Green Pasture QM met five times last year, including the usual Fall (Sept 15, 2001) and Spring (May 18, 2002) meetings for business plus a Winter gathering on Feb 23 at Grand Rapids on "Circle of Peace" and the Summer worship on Aug 5 in Quaker Park, Battle Creek. We also held a Specially Called Meeting for Business with attention to the financial crisis at Friends School in Detroit on December 1, 2001. The Quarter approved a one-time contribution to FSD of $3000 as a small gesture of support in a time of major financial distress -- a need which Friends' contributions alone will not be able to fill. A number of Friends are working valiantly to get the school started on a firmer basis in Fall 2002 and to begin to repay the loans taken out in order to complete the 2001-02 school year.

At our Spring meeting we had further discussion about the state of GPQM, examining the continuing low level of participation in most GPQM events. This problem was given ample illustration at the Spring meeting by the fact that an expert Naming Committee was unable to find anyone willing to serve on the QM Nominating Committee. The discussion was concluded with approval of the following minute:

Our Quarterly Meeting gives us a feeling of connection to each other and to those who have gone before us with their visions of building a community of faith. Because of these connections, we are not isolated. Among the suggestions to help bring us together and strengthen the Quarterly Meeting community were the following:

1. Ask each MM to send representatives to assure more responsible attendance;

2. Start a Newsletter, summarizing activities within the meetings of the QM so we come to know each other;

3. Devise a set of queries for meetings to respond to each year;

4. Ask our meetings to respond to [a special] set of queries about QM so we may hear from those Friends who don't attend as well as those who do;

5. Urge each attender to invite a Friend to come to QM.

In July 2002, Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) handed the responsibilities of QM clerk over to Nancy Nagler (Pine River), to whom all future correspondence for the QM should be addressed.

Thomas Taylor, retiring clerk

Friends School in Detroit

The school year for Friends School in Detroit (FSD) had just begun when the horrible events of September 11, 2001, took place. As throughout the world, the shock and horror of these events have had an exacting toll on the community. During the prior school year, efforts had begun to connect FSD with a school southeast of

Kabul, Afghanistan, in an effort to build goodwill links between children of the schools and to foster the commitment to the principles of nonviolence and peaceful resolution of conflict. Julie Poll, a teacher at FSD, has been instrumental in the building of this link. At the close of the prior school year, three phases of the linkage had been started: A fundraising effort began to help raise the funds needed to build a water well, Afghan students visited FSD, and Ms. Poll had a reciprocal visit at the Afghan school. This project spurred Wayne State University faculty involvement, resulting in equipment and resources being provided for the school. The Afghan school opened last March without much basic equipment. Currently, the school has 14 teachers and over 600 students, including both boys and girls. (The long-term plans include building a separate school for the girls.) It has multiple financial and support needs. There is hope that the relationship will grow to include intervisitations by families between the schools.

Subsequent to the events of September 11th, FSD has made concerted efforts at outreach to the Arab community of Detroit. These efforts include intervisitation with various Arab community organizations, a statement of support for our Arab friends, and an education effort to further understanding of Islam.

The 2001-2002 school year also started with the Board of Trustees having to deal with a number of serious problems which concerned the health and future of the FSD community. FSD has had to struggle with financial viability since its inception in 1963. Through the years the school community has been thankful for the contributions of benefactors and support organizations. This year, however, began with a large financial deficit and an outlook of possible larger deficits in the future if something was not done to correct this situation in the current school year. To address this need, the Board undertook the remedies of obtaining short-term financing, to handle the annual fund deficit for the current year, and long-term financing, in the form of a mortgage on school property, to handle needs that will present themselves as a new balanced budget and school administration are put into place. These efforts were hampered by the fallout from the events of September 11th.

In April of 2002, the Board announced the hiring of a new head of school, Dwight Wilson. Mr. Wilson, a Friend from Philadelphia, has an extensive background in the running and development of Friends schools. The board has given Mr. Wilson a challenge that will not be easy to meet, but there is a solid foundation to build upon.

The financial and other issues facing the Board this year have resulted in false rumors of the demise of the school or predictions of a dire future. The Board would like to emphasize that it is committed to opening the doors of Friends School in Detroit with an enrollment of 150 students and a balanced budget. To reach this goal the Board had to make changes in a number of areas. To reach a balanced budget with this lower number of students required the lay-off of 5 teachers and staff members. This staffing change has required a reshuffling to ensure proper coverage of all curriculum efforts. In the area of financial aid, the Board has put into place a couple of options allowing families in need to apply to external organizations that provide financial aid. These options relieve part of the burden on the annual operating funds and allow funds to be directed to other budgetary items.

Development of annual giving programs and a capital fund campaign were put into full gear throughout the year. As with any school, we find that the total cost of educating a student exceeds the revenue provided by tuition and fees.

Throughout its history, FSD has produced students with an excellent education and a good foundation for future learning. We find that our graduates are leaders in their various learning endeavors. Our current students excel in art, science and a variety of other subject areas. We also find that "Quaker Values" have an instrumental role in shaping their lives. Reports from other schools point out how our students live the values that they learn at FSD.

This community at Friends School in Detroit is a living, breathing entity that grows with each contribution of its members. The future will be a hard endeavor, but one which the Board of Trustees are committed to in Detroit.

Marvin Barnes
Ellen Barnes

$625.63 was raised for Friends School in Detroit at LEYM this year.

Religious Education Committee of Friends General Conference

I have been a member of the Religious Education Committee ever since 1999, when I was given the privilege

of representing LEYM on the FGC Central Committee. The Religious Education Committee seeks to nurture Quaker religious development on the monthly, quarterly and yearly meeting levels. Its members evaluate, write and edit religious education material for adults and children. They plan and conduct workshops and institutes to help Friends explore new ideas, activities and materials in religious education. The committee also distributes information and ideas by print and electronic means.

A recent effort of the committee is to create an up-to-date database of all FGC monthly meetings, their current clerks and their contact persons for religious education. This information will help the committee to communicate with individual educators to assess needs and develop materials to meet these needs. One need that we are aware of is for a CD with appropriate catchy songs for young children to help teachers and kids in First Day School to sing together. An exciting CD with popular Friendly musicians is in development.

Friends General Conference has made a solemn commitment to eradicate racism among FGC Friends and to help our constituent meetings to be welcoming, safe places for people of all backgrounds. A new standing committee, the Committee for Ministry on Racism, provides spiritual guidance and resources in this commitment. I urge LEYM to invite someone from this committee to participate in our Yearly Meeting program next year.

As its share in this ministry, the Religious Education Committee is planning a consultation to examine existing curriculum materials and develop new ones focused on increasing diversity among us. We are also overseeing the creation of a new book on the relationship between white Friends and Friends of Color that includes data on many individual Friends and documents the many instances of white superiority and racism in the Religious Society of Friends.

I see my participation in the Religious Education Committee of FGC as a two-way street: I can be a conduit of information from our monthly meetings and from LEYM to Friends General Conference, and also in the opposite direction. I hope LEYM Friends will allow me to be useful in both of these functions, and I urge all Friends who have questions or suggestions about religious education for adults or children to see if I can find helpful ideas or materials for them.

Leonora Cayard

Friends World Committee for Consultation

Report to LEYM Annual Meeting

I'm one of four representatives to FWCC, Section of the Americas.

1. A summary report of this year's FWCC gathering in Philadelphia in March will be in our *Annual Records* booklet, and copies are on the FWCC display table. Mary Lord's address at that session may be found on the FWCC website.

2. An outgrowth of that session is the special "Conference on Friends' Responses to the Growing Danger of Wars and Terrorism," Guilford College, Greensboro, NC, January 17-20, 2003. We hope that this yearly meeting will be able to send two delegates.

3. This fall there will be a regional FWCC gathering in Xenia, Ohio, on Saturday, September 21, with Regina Haag as speaker. A regional gathering is for the several yearly meetings in the Lower Great Lakes area, including Canada Yearly Meeting. We are aware this conflicts with Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting and with Pittsburgh Meeting's retreat. There will be another regional gathering in Indiana. See Susan Lee Barton for details.

4. We are very pleased that Susan Lee Barton, the FWCC staff member for the Lower Great Lakes region, will lead us in a workshop Saturday afternoon.

5. Special news is that Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, has a newly selected Executive Secretary. It is Margaret Fraser, a British Friend, who has been Dean of Pendle Hill and also attended Earlham School of Religion. The new Associate Secretary is Louise Salinas. Our own Rosemary Coffey was clerk of the Search Committee.

Report on Section of the Americas Annual Meeting, March 2002

In March 2002, all branches of Friends gathered in Philadelphia to consider "The Meaning of the Peace Testimony for Quakers Today." The gathering had a small representation of Friends from Central and South America in keeping with an established rotating pattern suggested by the Latin American Friends to free up available funds for purposes other than travel to Annual Meeting sessions. Nevertheless, translation into

Spanish -- or English -- was provided at all sessions.

Morning worship before breakfast took various forms, as each day Friends led those present in their particular form of worship.

The subject of Mary Lord's keynote address was: Can Love Really Overcome Violence and Hate? Reflections on Friends Peace Testimony. Mary Lord spoke from her long-time experience with FCNL and her more recent work as Coordinator of the AFSC No More Victims Campaign. She is now the new Interim Director of AFSC's Peace Building Unit. Having had these leadership positions, Mary Lord was able to share from her personal experiences and leadings in presenting her message. She spoke from a strong clear leading as she gave her message -- that we "are on the eve of a new and terrible global war" and that we need to be prepared for the difficult role of being "Quakers in wartime." It is both the political leadership of the US and the opponents in the Afghanistan war who are expanding the battle to include many other countries. The new US policy expands the use of nuclear weapons to the extent that the hands of the "Doomsday Clock" will be moved two minutes closer to midnight. There were alternatives to the path described above that were not taken by the US leadership: the road of international law; use of the International Criminal Court; ratification of international agreements that would stop the financing of terrorist groups; and strengthening the verification procedures on biological and chemical weapons. However, the United States did not take these steps, but chose the path of military action and magnification of the word "terrorism" to the extent that despots and dictators are using it as a cover for limiting human rights and committing atrocities.

But the path of war does not work, and those who think so are the naive ones -- not those who believe in pacifism. Mary Lord used the words of the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk to show that those who live by greed and violence will find that violence turned toward themselves (Habakkuk 2:1-8). Moreover, when Jesus rejected the temptations offered him by Satan in the desert by saying, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him," the essence of the peace testimony was expressed. In the Sermon on the Mount we are told to love our enemies ... and to love one another.

With these messages in mind, what can we Friends do today? We can make sure that our young adults are counseled about conscientious objection. Like Gandhi, Solidarity, and the Danish Resistance, we can begin the work of non-violent resistance. We can ask for the prayers and support of Friends around the world and people of color in our own country -- some of whom have been living through violent struggles and have messages to offer us. And we can work with our partners in peace -- the Brethren and Mennonites -- in articulating a new vision.

During the business sessions there was at first a move to lay aside participation on Peace Teams, a group that had become inactive in recent years, but from the floor a new concern was expressed that led to a concluding minute: "FWCC Section of the Americas will call a special conference as soon as possible for Friends' response to the growing dangers of global war and terrorism, following in the tradition of the four previous conferences sponsored in the past 70 years. We empower the Peace Issues Working Group working at these sessions to act on behalf of the Section to consult and collaborate with traditional peace churches and peace branches of other faiths on common action."

The Lower Great Lakes Region, of which LEYM is a part, now has a part-time FWCC staff member, Susan Lee Barton, who is based in Richmond, Indiana. She came to our regional gathering in October 2001 in Ohio, and she will be with us this June at Yearly Meeting. She is available to visit monthly or quarterly meetings. Susan can be reached at PO Box 2471, Richmond, IN 47375, 765-939-1449, or susanleeb@fwcc.quaker.org.

Margaret Kanost

Peace

Minutes June 13 - 15, 2002

Present: at one or more of the 4 PC meeting times: David Bassett (Clerk), Jeannette Birkhoff (recording), Shelby Conrad, Lila Cornell, Janet Dando, Richard Hogan, Meg Hummon, Margaret Kanost, Gerry McNabb, Nathan Riley, Scilla Wahrhaftig

1. After a period of silence, we had a brief round of introductions and brief reports of activities and concerns in each person's home area.

2. We considered some comments from Don Nagler regarding
   - issues and statements which are brought to the plenary Business Meeting;
   - some thoughts concerning extending the scope of the LEYM Peace Committee's outreach and impact,

with some reference made to the Iowa Peace Network.

3. We approved an idea, suggested by Shelby Conrad, of creating an e-mail LEYM Peace Network, open to those who might wish to participate, to facilitate sharing of information relating to items of potential PC interest. (We agreed that we would be selective in our submissions, to avoid "information overload.")

*4. Margaret Kanost, LEYM delegate to Friends World Committee for Consultation, informed us of the FWCC-sponsored "Conference on Friends' Responses to the Growing Danger of Wars and Terrorism," to be held at Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina, Jan 17-20, 2003. Peace Committee recommends that LEYM try to find funds to send a named representative to this Conference, with the LEYM Clerk to consult with appropriate committees in regard to naming this representative.

*5. Peace Committee considered the request from Jim Satterwhite that LEYM support Christian Peacemaker Teams. (Jim Satterwhite is a member of Bluffton Meeting and will become the Clerk of Peace Committee for the 2002-2003 year. He has previously served on a number of CPT missions and is presently serving with CPT in Hebron.) CPT was formed in 1984, with leadership by Mennonites, Brethren, and Quakers (especially those in Friends United Meeting). There is the hope of finding increased support from FGC Yearly Meetings.

Peace Committee developed the following minute, and hopes that the Yearly Meeting will be able to support it: "LEYM notes the courageous work of volunteers for Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) in areas of violent conflict. (1) LEYM endorses these efforts of CPT; (2) we are making a modest financial contribution to CPT; and (3) we strongly commend CPT for financial and spiritual support from our Monthly Meetings and from individuals."

6. Between 3:00 and 5:30 pm Thursday, we met jointly with members of the Ministry and Oversight Committee (Thomas Taylor, Clerk) to consider four peace queries (which had been brought forward from our two committees at Representative Meeting), and a supplemental Study Guide. After a period of careful and open discussion, we united on the wording of four queries (which will be included in the Ministry and Oversight Committee report), and on the addition to the Study Guide of some historic Quaker statements on conscience and on conscientious objection to the payment of military taxes.

*7. The Peace Committee gave further consideration (carried forward from the March meeting) to a minute in support of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act (HR 1186). (LEYM had indicated support of an earlier version of this Bill in 1983.) An effort, begun by Steve Olshewsky of Austin, Texas, Monthly Meeting, to gain widespread Quaker support for this legislation from FGC Monthly and Yearly Meetings has generated considerable support. The PC endorses a modified version of the original minute (originally approved by the Atlanta, GA, Monthly Meeting in Sept. 2001); requests LEYM's consideration of the minute (copies will be distributed); and hopes that LEYM would again support this minute and this legislation, which aims to extend the principle of conscientious objection to military service (COMS) to conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT).

8. On Friday morning, we heard a very interesting and informative report on Quaker work in the UN, particularly in the QUNO-New York office, from Scilla Wahrhaftig, member of Pittsburgh Meeting, and, for an 8-month period, staff member at QUNO- NY. She has been focusing her work under the heading "Terrorism-Global Problem in Need of Global Solutions; the UN's Alternative to the War on Terror." (A summary of this work is available on the QUNO web page, at www.QUNO.org). (Scilla also held a workshop Saturday afternoon, on QUNO's work.)

9. Regarding the issue of racism and discrimination, mention was made of a useful video titled The Color of Fear (information concerning this is available from David Yamamoto, Ann Arbor). There is a useful book on racism titled When Race Breaks Out; Conversations about Race and Racism in College Classrooms (Lang, 2001), written by Helen Fox, member of Ann Arbor Meeting.

10. In regard to developments in India and Pakistan, information was shared on Badshah Khan, a Muslim advocate of nonviolence in India and Pakistan. (A biography of his life is available from the FGC Bookstore). We also shared information concerning Right Sharing of World Resources and its work in India.

11. Peace Committee considered very briefly the following additional issues and areas of concern, and we circulated to committee members information regarding most of them: the Administration's policies concerning Iraq; increasing encroachments on civil rights in the US; Israel/Palestine issues; developments in Colombia; humanitarian aid for civilians in Afghanistan; nuclear weapons issues.

12. Finally, mention was made of the suit brought by 31 members of Congress against the Bush Administration for withdrawing from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Rep. Dennis Kucinich, the lead plaintiff, said that the President does not have the authority to unilaterally withdraw from a treaty, and should first seek the consent of the Congress.

    The Administration is planning to move ahead immediately with building a so-called "missile defense system" based in Alaska, which has great risk of re-igniting an arms race, and will be markedly expensive.

* items to be brought to the LEYM Meeting for Business, for consideration for possible action.

David Bassett

Nominating

Presiding Clerk	Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) 2nd yr
Assistant Clerk	Don Nagler (Pine River) 4th yr
Recording Clerk	Martha Grundy (Cleveland) 3rd yr
Treasurer	Connie Bimber (Oberlin) 2nd yr (6+2=8)
Bulletin Editor	Eric Starbuck (Akron) 2nd yr
Mailing Labels	Susan Jeffers (Ann Arbor) 2nd yr (6+2=8)
Program - 3 yr	C03: Dale Pratt-Harrington (Athens) 3rd yr 03: Nancy Nagler (Pine River) 3rd yr 04: Marge Liske (Kent) 2nd yr 04: ?? 05: Adrian Barnes (Detroit) 1st yr 05: Susan Jeffers (Ann Arbor) 1st yr
Advancement & Outreach - 3 yr	03: Erika Smith (Ann Arbor) 3rd yr 03: Marvin Barnes (Birmingham) 3rd yr 04: Betty Ford (Grand Rapids) 2nd yr C04: Deb Kociszewski (Broadmead) 4th yr 05: Kelly Helms (Ann Arbor) 1st yr 05: Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) 1st yr
Arrangements & Site - 3 yr	03: Claire Davis (Broadmead) 5th yr 03: Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) 2nd yr 04: Regula Kummer (Brdmead/Toledo) 2nd yr 05: Elena Tuhy (Granville) 1st yr 05: ?? 05: ??
Finance & Budget - 3 yr	03: Charles Drayer (Broadmead) 3rd yr 03: Zig Dermer (Pittsburgh) 2nd yr C04: Joe Davis (Broadmead) 5th yr 05: Linda Mills (Kalamazoo) 2nd yr (1+3=4)
Ministry & Oversight - 3 yr plus 1 per MM Oberlin: Richard Taylor Kent: Fred Feitler Pittsburgh: Dolores Avner Ann Arbor: Becky Morehouse	C03: Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) 3rd yr 03: Janet Smith (Broadmead/Toledo) 2nd yr 04: David Stillwell (Kent) 5th yr 04: Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) 2nd yr 05: Steve Morehouse (Ann Arbor) 1st yr 05: Star Mary Castro (Athens) 1st yr
Nominating - 3 yr members/clerk appointed by Naming Comm.	03: Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) 1st yr 03: David Lore (Granville) 2nd yr 04: Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) 4th yr 04: Lila Cornell (Pittsburgh) 1st yr C05: David Stilwell (Kent) 5th yr 05: Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead)
Peace - 3 yr plus 1 per MM	03: Peter Crowley (Cleveland) 3rd yr 03: Janet Dando (Akron) 3rd yr

	04: Lila Cornell (Pittsburgh) 2nd yr
	C05: David Bassett (Ann Arbor) 7th yr
	05: Gerry McNabb (Oberlin) 1st yr
Publications & Archives - 3 yr	03: Eric Starbuck (Akron) 3rd yr
	03: Leonora Cayard (Pittsburgh) 3rd yr
	C04: Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) 3rd yr
	04: Joseph Mills (Kalamazoo) 3rd yr
	05: ??
	05: ??
Youth & Children - 3 yr	C003: Donna Hawkins (Granville)
Youth & Children - 3 yr	C003: Joyce Callahan (Cleveland)
Pre-School Leader	03: Peter Crowley/Conleth Crotser (Cleveland)
Pre-School Asst	04: Seth/Sally Keyes (Cleveland)
Early Elem Leader	03: Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens)
Early Elem Asst	04: ??
Upper Elem Leader	03: Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor)
Upper Elem Asst	04: Steve Connor (Ann Arbor)
Middle School Leader	03: Pat Cambell (Ann Arbor)
Middle School Asst	04: Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead)
High School Leader	03: Mark Post (Grand Rapids)
High School Asst	04: Jon Sommer (Broadmead)
Fall Retreat Clerk	03: Vanessa Fuson (Granville)
Fall Retreat Asst	04: ??
Youth Members of Y&C	Abbey Pratt-Harrington (Athens)
	Bekah Sommer (Broadmead)
AFSC Rep - 3 yr	03: Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) 1st yr
4 reps	04: Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) 5th yr
	04: James Satterwhite (Broadmead) 4th yr
	05: Richard Taylor (Oberlin) 3rd yr
FCNL - 3 yr	03: Michael Fuson (Granville) 6th yr
	03: Gerry McNabb (Oberlin) 3rd yr
	04: Steve Dando (Akron) 2nd yr
	04: Marge Koester (Akron) 2nd yr
	05: Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) 4th yr
	05: ??
FCUN - 1 yr	Alan Connor (Ann Arbor)
FGC - 3 yr	03: Ginger Swank (Granville) 2nd yr
4 reps	04: Leonora Cayard (Pittsburgh) 4th yr
	C05: Star Mary Castro (Athens) 3rd yr
	05: Kri Anderston (Ann Arbor) 2nd yr
FLGC - 1 yr	Kate Eaton (N Columbus) 5th yr
FWCC - 3 yr	12/03: Richard Lee (Red Cedar) 6th yr+tri
4 reps, serve for calendar year! Note: Spanish speakers sought	12/04: Zig Dermer (Pittsburgh) 2nd yr
	C12/04: Beth Blackbird (Pine RIver) 5th yr+tri
	AC12/05: Margaret Kanost (B'ham) 4th yr
YFNA - 1 yr	Kri Anderson (Ann Arbor) 2nd yr
LEYM Bookstore	Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) 2nd yr
Olney Friends School - 1 yr	Bill Brown (Mid-Ohio Valley) 4th yr
William Penn House - 1 yr	Marge Koester (Akron) 2nd yr
Ohio YM (Conservative)	??

Canadian YM	??
EFI Eastern Region	??
Wilmington YM	??

Representative Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Cleveland, Ohio
Third Month 1, 2003

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Representative Meeting gathered in Cleveland, Ohio, on Third Month 1, 2003. We began with worship. We heard epistles from Northern Yearly Meeting and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

RM03-1 Roll Call

We have responded to the roll call, and find 56 adults present for our sessions today. There is no one here from any of the worship groups.

There are no visitors.

Akron 2
Ann Arbor 11
+ 1 infant
Athens 4
Birmingham 3
Broadmead 8
Cleveland 3
+ 2 children and 4 adults
working in the kitchen
Delaware 0
Detroit 0
Grand Rapids 0
Granville 3
Kalamazoo 3
Kent 5
Mid-Ohio Valley 0
Monongalia 0
North Columbus 2
Oberlin 3
Pine River 6
Pittsburgh 6
Red Cedar 0
Wooster 0

RM03-2 Executive Committee report

We have heard the minutes from the Executive Committee, which met last evening. They are attached.

RM03-3 Adult Program Committee report

We have heard from the Adult Program Committee that the theme for this year is *Engaging Fear with Spirit.* Instead of a plenary speaker there will be a panel discussion on our theme Friday evening, followed by worship sharing. Saturday morning will continue with more worship and worship sharing. Longer-time yearly meeting attenders are asked to host and welcome new attenders. We ask that these two designations (host and new attender) be included on the registration form. There will be six workshops, four of which will be on healing, addictions, Islam, and racism. Two have not yet been selected. After some discussion, and the consideration of several suggestions offered by Friends, we ask the Committee to revisit its decision to replace one hour of committee time with worship sharing.

Additional suggestions and comments can be sent to Dale Pratt-Harrington <dphdo@aol.com>.

RM03-4 Youth and Children Committee report

The report from the Youth and Children Committee has been received and is attached. There will be five age groups this year, with the high school group expected to be the largest. The Committee supports the concept of a part-time paid youth secretary to build on the work Kri Anderson is currently doing.

RM03-5 World Gathering of Young Friends

We have heard Kri Anderson's letter to Ann Arbor Meeting and Lake Erie Yearly Meeting regarding the planning committee for a World Gathering of Young Friends to be held in northern England in 2005. Friends appreciate the work Kri is doing and await a request from her for specific and feasible assistance. We ask the clerk to communicate with Kri.

RM03-6 Site Committee report

We have heard from the Site Committee that Marbeck Hall has been remodeled to provide more room. The Committee has worked to revise the registration form. Elena Tuhy has volunteered to be the registrar. May 28 is the deadline for registration. In order for children to participate they must be registered by this date. Clerks who want committee space

Thursday afternoon should contact Judy Greenberg in a timely fashion at <judywpg@buckeye-express.com>.

RM03-7 Advancement and Outreach Committee report

We have received a report from the Advancement and Outreach Committee, which is gratefully attached. Various monthly meetings and Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting have the care of worship groups, some of which have changed their status within the past year. These changes should be included in the monthly meeting state of the meeting reports. Friends are reminded to keep references to times and places of meetings for worship updated on the LEYM web page and other places.

RM03-8 Treasurer's report

Our Treasurer's report has been received, with gratitude for her careful stewardship of our finances. It is attached.

RM03-9 Contributions from meetings

An oral report from Finance and Budget Committee informs us that not all monthly meetings are promptly paying their suggested contribution of $26 per adult member. Our travel funds are already over budget (as suggested last year), because we are encouraging Friends to travel on LEYM business.

But Friends are reminded to please travel as economically as possible. The yearly meeting expects to pay all necessary travel expenses. The yearly meeting may be asked to increase the suggested donation per adult member from $26 this year to $28 next year to cover the higher costs of travel.

If the yearly meeting decides we should spend $5,000 per year for the service of a youth secretary, we would raise the suggested per adult donation an additional $5.50. Another possibility might be to establish a fund to which individuals could contribute, perhaps with matching funds. A more specific proposal will be brought to our annual meeting. Additional comments and suggestions may be sent to Zig Dermer at <RKCZLD@aol.com>. We are informed that new so-called security measures to be instituted on a trial basis at three airports call for flagging anyone who does not pass a government background check. This is likely to incur additional travel expenses for Friends who are active in peace and justice work.

RM03-10 Friends Music Camp Scholarships

We have heard a letter of thanks from Erin Diffenderfer for our support of her attendance at Friends Music Camp last summer. She asks for help to attend next summer. The letter is attached.

RM03-11 Ministry and Oversight Committee report

We have heard an oral report from Ministry and Oversight Committee.

The Committee sent peace queries to monthly meetings last July. Seventeen meetings (out of 20) returned responses, although seven of them were late.

M&O and Peace Committee met together this morning and summarized the responses. The Committee intends to send out another query this year with a deadline of 12/31/2003. The topic will be integrity, and the wording will be worked on during yearly meeting.

Because of the pain and uneasiness around the words "overseer" and "oversight," the Committee is wrestling with its name. Suggestions include Nurture, Ministry and Counsel, Oversight, Ministers and Elders, and retaining Ministry and Oversight. This will be considered further at yearly meeting time.

RM03-12 Travel Minute for James Satterwhite

Broadmead Monthly Meeting has approved a travel minute for James Satterwhite in support of his work with the Christian Peacemaker Teams and his leading to travel among Friends with a concern for peace in the Middle East. Representative Meeting approves the following minute:

Dear Friends,

We commend to your loving care and attention our beloved Friend, James Satterwhite. James will be traveling to various Friends Meetings and gatherings and to other groups interested in peace issues in the Middle East under a concern for current events in the Israeli/ Palestinian conflict.

James is a member of Broadmead Monthly Meeting in western Ohio and Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. He is currently serving on the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Peace Committee and as a representative from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting to the American Friends Service Committee Corporation.

James also is a member of the reserves of the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT). Since 1998 he has spent several months each summer in Hebron as part of the Hebron CPT team. His involvement in CPT comes out of a leading to participate in this witness, as does the imperative to share with others his experiences, observations, and concerns.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting unites with and lovingly supports this leading. We believe this commitment to be a gift of the Spirit, and his witness to Friends and other interested groups a valuable source of insight on this conflict, which he articulates with thoughtfulness, perception and the clarity of experience.

We hold James and his witness in the Light.

In peace and love,
Sally Weaver Sommer
Clerk, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

We look forward to occasional reports from Jim on his own work and experiences. These might appear on our web page.

RM03-13 Query responses

We have heard an oral report from the Peace Committee that met with Ministry and Oversight Committee to consider the query responses. Peace Committee approved an additional paragraph about conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT) and war tax resistance that they hope will be appended to the summary of query responses. It reads as follows:

War tax resistance is a form of nonviolent civil disobedience that requires us to endure various forms of oppression that governments or other "powers" often impose on those who "engage the powers" (to use Walter Wink's term).

But working to change the nation's laws so as to grant legal recognition of the right to conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT) is a perfectly legal endeavor, aiming to extend our right of conscientious objection to military service to COMT. In meetings' responses to this query, it appears that many persons speak of general tax resistance, when in fact they are thinking of war tax resistance (an important distinction to be made). It also appears that many who think about the topic of COMT think that this refers only to war tax resistance. While COMT includes war tax resistance (at present "illegal"), it also includes efforts at legislative change (not illegal).

Local meetings are encouraged to use the letter against impending war drafted by the Peace Committee at Representative Meeting last year (pp. 10-11 of the *Annual Records 2002)* and sent to each monthly meeting to send to local newspapers and members of Congress.

Friends are asked to encourage Senators and Representatives to become sponsors of the bill to permit COMT.

RM03-14 Nomination from Naming Committee

The Naming Committee brings forth the name of Verne Bechill to serve a three-year term on the Nominating Committee. Friends approve with gratitude.

RM03-15 Nominating Committee report

The Nominating Committee reports it worked well today. Nevertheless, Advancement and Outreach, Youth and Children, Arrangements and Site, and Publications and Archives committees need additional Friends who feel led to serve in these ways. We are encouraged to think of ways to include people from our monthly meetings who may not yet be actively involved in the yearly meeting. A form will be included in the LEYM *Bulletin* which can be used to let the Nominating Committee know of anyone's interest in serving on a specific committee.

RM03-16 Publications and Archives Committee report

Publications and Archives Committee presented its report, which is attached. The Archives part of the Committee has written a complete chronology of the yearly meeting and association. Now it is charged with getting written

reminiscences of our stories. Please send them to Leonora Cayard at <cayard@fyi. net>.

RM03-17 Earth Care Committee report

The Earth Care Committee gave an oral report informing us of the earth democracy movement as it has been articulated by some farmers in India. The Committee is seeking additional folks who are deeply energized and committed to the fundamentally interrelated issues of justice, sustainability, and peace. The Committee has assembled some good resources to help monthly meetings become more informed and to move toward radical change in the way we live on the earth and with each other. As the Committee currently has two members, it hopes that monthly meetings will encourage people to become active in this work. We have also heard an update on Greenfire and its many exciting activities.

RM03-18 Report from our FGC representatives

We have received a written report from one of our representatives to Friends General Conference (FGC), which will be printed in the LEYM *Bulletin.*

The FGC Religious Education Committee and Pendle Hill are co-sponsoring a workshop April 4-6 on *Nurturing Young Friends: Coming of Age in the Quaker Community.*

RM03-19 FWCC Triennial next January

Margaret Kanost and Zig Dermer expect to represent LEYM at the next Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Triennial in New Zealand next January. Monthly meetings are encouraged to explore the study booklet, *Being Faithful Witnesses: Serving God in a Changing World,* and respond to Margaret.

RM03-20 Weekend worskshops at Michigan Friends Center

Michigan Friends Center is sponsoring a series of transformative weekend workshops and retreats this spring and next fall. Visit their web site for the full schedule.

There being no further business the meeting closed with a short period of worship.

Sally Weaver Sommer, clerk
Marty Grundy, recording clerk

LEYM Executive Committee minutes

The Executive Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting met in Cleveland, Ohio, on Second Month 28, 2003. We began with worship. We are grateful for the faithfulness that brings us together to do God's work at this time when we are aware of the fragility of human relations.

We considered if it is time for LEYM seriously to consider funding a part-time youth worker. Does Kri Anderson put in so much time that she needs some actual compensation for her time, as well as her out of pocket expenses (which are mostly paid by Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting)? Are there benefits to our youth, and to the Religious Society of Friends, from building a strong and vibrant YM youth program? We have the foundations in place with the elementary school fall retreat and the activities Kri has been organizing. What is the next step? What more are we called to do?

Friends are in unity with the importance of supporting our youth, especially in high school and just beyond. We discussed the possibility of funding a youth secretary, perhaps something similar to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, which has invested in a part-time youth secretary. We are informed that the renewed energy put into their youth has galvanized and energized the entire yearly meeting. Among the things we need to decide are the relation with the Youth and Children Committee, how much money and time we expect at first, and how to build on what we have now. We ask Marty Grundy to meet with the Youth and Children Committee tomorrow morning to bring a rough proposal to Representative Meeting, to put something in writing for the spring LEYM *Bulletin,* and to prepare a more polished proposal for our Yearly Meeting sessions if way opens.

Our clerk expressed her considerations about how our committees function, the impact of this on our time together at yearly meeting, and how this shapes the spiritual life of our yearly meeting. One aspect involves each committee's collective memory of its work and process. In this regard, last year Bill Hummon did a lot of work for the Nominating Committee on its collective memory of who served in what capacities and for how long.

Publications and Archives Committee notes they have only four members (although there are six places); three of these are from Pittsburgh and all four have served for three years. Their issue is bringing in and teaching capable new people and gracefully releasing those who have served considerable time. The clerk of Ministry and Oversight Committee has written to each monthly meeting clerk asking who is their representative to LEYM's Ministry and Oversight Committee. In this way that Committee is slowly enlarging. We note that the pool of Friends who attend yearly meeting and are active and available to participate in committee work seems to be slowly shrinking. Each of us needs to draw newer members of our monthly meetings into the yearly meeting, to invite them to attend LEYM with us. We discussed a variety of possible ways the Nominating Committee might encourage more Friends to serve God through the yearly meeting. We are reminded that service is an important part of one's spiritual life and growth. We ask the Nominating Committee to send to the *Bulletin* editor short descriptions of the various committees with a request that folks consider how each of us may be led to serve. We want to encourage monthly meeting clerks to keep announcing the upcoming yearly meeting sessions in order to increase interest and attendance.

We considered the length and process of our yearly meeting business sessions. Some of the unseasoned conversations could be avoided if all new items of business are seasoned first either in a yearly meeting committee or by a monthly meeting before being presented to the yearly meeting.

We closed with a short period of worship.

Sally Weaver Sommer, clerk
Marty Grundy, recording clerk

Reports

Report of the Youth and Children Committee

There are five groups: preschool, early elementary, upper elementary, middle school, and high school. Our anticipated largest group (ca. 15 kids) is the High School age group.

We are aware that Nominating Committee continues to seek co-clerks for Children and Youth Committee, clerk and assistant clerk for fall youth retreat, and assistant for the high school group.

We support the concept of a part-time, paid youth secretary to build on the work Kri Anderson is currently doing.

Joyce Callahan, Donna Hawkins, co-clerks
Olwen Pritchard, Jon Sommer, and Conleth Crotser

Advancement and Outreach Committee report

Advancement and Outreach is blessed with wonderful committee members and thoughtful visitors whenever we meet. We continue to evolve as a committee, and seek new ways to serve Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

Advancement and Outreach has renewed its commitment to publishing articles on outreach-related topics in each LEYM *Bulletin.* Topics are discussed and seasoned several issues at a time.

Committee members continue to visit meetings within and outside LEYM, and have assembled a variety of outreach materials published by meetings. A display of those materials will be offered at the LEYM sessions in June 2003.

Advancement and Outreach has received news of a number of status changes within LEYM meetings and worship groups. This news prompted us to review the guidelines for our review of status changes. This news also reminds us to extend words of greeting and light to meetings and worship groups.

Advancement and Outreach has received and considered the statement prepared by Don Nagler and published in the Winter 2003 *Bulletin* as *Our Faith Community.* We find ourselves in unity with the statement and are comfortable with its addition to the LEYM web page.

We are grateful for the spirit and faithfulness of our committee members and visitors. We look forward to our continued work.

Deb Kociszewski, clerk

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Treasurer's Report July 1, 2002 to February 18, 2003

Connie Bimber, Treasurer

FUND	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	CURRENT BALANCE
General Fund	$ 6,518.45	$17,624.16	$18,322.54	$ 5,820.07
Annual Meeting	$11,731.01	$ 17.50	$10,291.64	$ 1,456.87
Triennial Travel	$ 4,170.95	$ 1,240.00	$ 790.00	$ 4,620.95
Granville Friends Y.F.	$ 5,510.60	$ 59.18	$ 59.18	$ 5,510.60
Youth Activity Fund	$ 157.91	$ 2,309.18	$ 1,084.81	$ 1,382.28
Spiritual Formation Grp	$ 712.56	$ 2,976.00	$ 2,125.21	$ 1,563.35
TOTALS	$28,801.48	$24,226.02	$32,673.38	$20,354.12

ACCOUNT	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	DEBITS	CURRENT BALANCE
Checking	$19,255.99	$21,660.79	$30,174.20	$10,742.58
Shorebank-March	$ 2,000.00	$ 32.96	$ -	$ 2,032.96
Shorebank-Sept	$ 2,034.89	$ 33.09	$ -	$ 2,067.98
Southshore Bank	$ 5,510.60	$ 59.18	$ 59.18	$ 5,510.60
TOTALS	$28,801.48	$21,786.02	$30,233.38	$20,354.12

GENERAL FUND INCOME	
MEETING DONATIONS	
Akron	$ -
Ann Arbor	$ 4,046.00
Athens	$ -
Birmingham	$ 572.00
Broadmead	$ 750.00
Cleveland	$ 2,000.00
Delaware	$ 400.00
Detroit	$ 300.00
Grand Rapids	$ 574.50
Granville	$ 530.00
Kalamazoo	$ 600.00
Kent	$ -
Mid-Ohio Valley	$ 195.00
Monongalia	$ 250.00
N. Columbus	$ -
Oberlin	$ 468.00
Pine River	$ 468.00
Pittsburgh	$ 4,023.02
Red Cedar	$ 1,728.00
Wooster	$ 540.00
Post Office Refund	$ 86.42
Sales and Fees	
INTEREST	
Checking	$ 27.17
CDs	$ 66.05
TOTAL	$17,624.16

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PERCENT
Travel	$ 5,000.00	$ 4,677.00	94%
Office	$ 310.00	$ 117.40	38%
Publications	$ 4,400.00	$ 2,988.04	68%
FGC	$ 4,500.00	$ 4,500.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00	100%
Records Project	$ 210.00	$ -	0%
Swarthmore Archiving	$ 100.00	$ -	0%
Advancement	$ 130.00	$ -	0%
Clerk's Fund	$ 500.00	$ -	0%
FWCC Travel	$ 1,240.00	$ 1,240.00	100%
Youth Activities Fund	$ 1,200.00	$ 1,200.00	100%
Olney Friends School	$ 600.00	$ 600.00	100%
FGC Nurturing Fund	$ 500.00	$ 500.00	100%
TOTAL	$21,190.00	$18,322.44	86%

ANNUAL MEETING	
Balance June 30, 2002	$11,731.01
Expense	$10,291.64
Income	$ 17.50
Balance Feb 18, 2003	$ 1,456.87

FWCC TRIENNIAL TRAVEL FUND	
Balance June 30, 2002	$ 4,170.95
Expense	$ 790.00
Income - transfer	$ 1,240.00
Balance Feb 18, 2003	$ 4,620.95

Treasurer's report

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Treasurer's Report July 1, 2002 to February 18, 2003

GRANVILLE FRIENDS YOUTH FUND	
Balance June 30, 2002	$ 5,510.60
Interest Income	$ 59.18
Transfer - outgo	$ 59.18
Balance Feb 18, 2003	$ 5,510.60

Earnings from this fund are transferred to the Youth Activity Fund

YOUTH ACTIVITY FUND		
Balance June 30, 2002		$ 157.91
Income - transfer	$ 1,200.00	
Income - interest	$ 59.18	
Income - Youth Retreat	$ 1,050.00	
Income this year	$ 2,309.18	
TOTAL INCOME		$ 2,467.09
Expense - grants	0	
Expense - Youth Retreat	$ 1,084.81	
TOTAL EXPENSE		$ 1,084.81
Balance Feb. 18, 2003		$ 1,382.28

SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP	
Balance June 30, 2002	$ 712.56
Income	$ 2,976.00
Expense	$ 2,125.21
Balance Feb 18, 2003	$ 1,563.35

ANNUAL MEETING 2002	
INCOME	
Housing, Meals, Etc.	$12,389.50
EXPENSES	
Bluffton College	$10,281.85
Reimbursements	$ 346.50
Honorariums	$ 250.00
Children's Program	$ 486.25
Copies - Adult Program	$ 9.79
TOTAL EXPENSE	$11,374.39
SURPLUS 2002 Annual Mtg	$ 1,015.11
Balance in Fund May 31, 02	$ 441.76
Balance Feb. 18, 2003	$ 1,456.87

Note: Because of when our Annual Meeting is held, the finances span two fiscal years. This part of the treasurer's report puts the financial pieces of the 2002 Annual Meeting together.

Report on Religious Education in Friends General Conference

by Leonora Cayard

I would like to preface my report with a statement I heard during the 2002 Central Committee meeting of FGC.

Quaker Religious Education is not [just] teaching about Quaker history or about Quaker heroes. It is opening the door to the Spirit, the Light -- it is witnessing, ministering, modeling.

The Religious Education Committee of Friends General Conference, on which I serve, provides spiritual nurture, guidance and resources for teachers of all age levels. There are a number of exciting books and curriculum materials in development, in addition to those already available from the Quaker Bookstore of FGC, www.quakerbooks.org. By the way, our Quaker Bookstore is not breaking even -- it needs more business, and all books, in print or not, are available from Quakerbooks!

Two important events for religious educators are offered by the Religious Education Committee. The first one is a weekend co-sponsored by Pendle Hill called *Nurturing Young Friends: Coming of Age in the Quaker Community.* Its leaders are our own Kri Anderson and her mother, Johanna Anderson. This will take place April 4-6, 2003, at Pendle Hill, and a few spaces may still be open. The web site www.fgcquaker.org gives access to a more detailed description and to a registration form to be filled out electronically.

The other one is the Religious Education Institute which takes place every four years. The next Institute will be offered in August 2004 and is titled *Illuminating our Divine Connections.* It will help us to deepen our own spiritual lives so that we can help our children and young people develop theirs.

I was quite impressed by the suggestion that we include our younger Friends in the committee work of the monthly and yearly meeting. Nothing can motivate a person more than being involved in the work of the Religious Society of Friends, serving the Light!

The term "young Friends," as it became clear to me, includes "Children" (from infancy though middle school), "Young Friends" (High School age) and "Young Adult Friends" (age 18 to 35). The rest of us are just "Friends."

Responses to Peace Queries

Ministry & Oversight and Peace Committee
by Thomas Taylor

Summary approved by Committees on Peace and M&O, 01 Mar 03

The following set of queries were agreed to at Annual Meeting in June 2002 and sent to all meetings in the YM with the request that a written response be returned to the clerk of M&O before the end of the year. Seventeen meetings had at least one gathering to consider and respond to the queries, several of them including accounts of actions they are taking on behalf of peace. The meetings that responded are listed at the bottom of this summary report. Our discussions were colored by intensely shared concern about the direction of our government toward war on Iraq. We were all called to be truthful; the call to action against this and all war is clear. These actions have included writing letters and calling representatives, senators, the White House and the press, organizing vigils, marches, witnessing to peace in places of conflict such as Palestine and Iraq, tax resistance, bumper stickers and buttons. North Columbus meeting has creatively placed a "peace tree" on its annual table at the Ohio State Fair, on which people were encouraged to hang letters of peace. Great response -- in the end over 300 letters had been written!

At this time when many in society show fear of "the other," reaching out to Muslim, Jewish and other religious and cultural groups is important for building bridges of peace. Friends often help to organize most of the above activities. Our impact tends to be greater than our numbers.

The queries we considered were as follows:

1. How do I live "in the virtue of that life and power that [takes} away the occasion of all wars"?

A consistent theme was finding and fostering peace within. To be grounded in the Spirit is a necessary first step. Prayer, spiritual discernment, worship, slowing the pace of life and being open to God's will should follow. Since the seeds of war lie in greed and acquisition of material goods beyond one's basic needs, a return to simpler living seems important. In consuming less, we will be able to provide more to others. Small daily acts of compassion help develop a culture of peace around us.

2. How do I and my Meeting community witness to the peace testimony and work to build institutions of peace?

Here is where the activities mentioned above come in. Many organizations we work with and through were

mentioned, such as AFSC, FCNL, Friends' schools, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Michigan Peace Team, and Women in Black. We have reached across racial lines, national boundaries and religious affiliations to reconcile differences, and support the development of all peoples. Many participate in social justice and peace organizations within their local communities. Some meetings financially support members' travel and other costs associated with peace work which "informs and provides experiences that give perspective and transform our attitudes and understandings." (Broadmead)

3. Do I consider that paying for war is a form of participation in war? What are our alternatives to paying for war?

We know this to be the case and so the answer is yes, but most are hard-pressed to avoid such participation. Friends are struggling with this issue and many express guilt over their compromises. *Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's* is one easy answer -- we have responsibilities to support legitimate governmental functions in a democracy. However, *Wear thy sword as long as thou canst* takes us deeper: as Friends, we are called to stand on faith -- what does our conscience -- our God, require of us? We honor those who are clear that they are conscientious objectors to military taxation and must refuse to pay for war. Relatively few of us are clear on this matter, nor willing to suffer the fines and hassles that often follow war tax resistance.

In response to the second part of the query, a number of alternatives were suggested:

- to live below a taxable income
- to be generous with our charitable giving
- to take a number of other legal deductions (such as State Tax Free Bond Funds or Roth IRAs)
- to engage in socially responsible investing
- to express our views on these issues to our friends and neighbors
- to use our own organizing and voting power to bring into office those who support and are in harmony with what we believe.

We all support FCNL's and other peace networks' efforts at writing and passing legislation to move the government from military spending to the funding of human needs, supporting social justice, and living at one with the environment. These legislative efforts include working for passage of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund bill. Some suggested that the query needs to show both sides of the coin: how do we avoid paying for war, and how do we pay for lasting peace?

4. How do I maintain my testimony to peace when a mood of war and violence prevails in the land?

The mood of violence and fear is of great concern to Friends in this country. Although the U.S. is bristling with guns, they do not make us safe. We must work to change ourselves first, carrying a vision of a peaceful world. We must live this vision of peace at home, in our community and nation.

This takes us back to living simply so that others may simply live. John Woolman was right -- we need to ensure that we use only our fair share of the world's resources, and we must work to ensure that all others share equally. An important witness to the Peace Testimony is how we teach our children, including learning to mediate and deal with conflict in creative ways, and in regard to conscientious objection to war.

There are many paths to peace and all of them are peaceful. We are led in different ways to bring about a just and peaceful world. Through our meeting communities we can encourage and support one another through discernment, prayer, and practical support so that our lives and actions reveal God's love for all.

Friends in LEYM remain steadfast in our testimony to peace. General satisfaction was expressed for LEYM's timely request to meetings to discuss the peace query in this way. Several groups noted that such query reviews are an on-going function to stimulate ideas, reading and action, and take us more deeply into the spiritual basis of our Peace Testimony. The advices and excerpts which accompanied the queries helped in the process and deepened our responses.

Responding meetings: Wooster, Pittsburgh, Pine River, Oberlin, North Columbus, Monongalia, Kent, Kalamazoo, Granville, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Cleveland, Broadmead, Birmingham, Athens, Ann Arbor, Akron.

Thomas Taylor, clerk, Ministry & Oversight Ctee, 07/00 - 06/03
David Bassett, clerk, Peace Ctee, 07/01 - 06/02
Jim Satterwhite, clerk, Peace Ctee, 07/02 - 06/03

Publications and Archives Committee report

LEYM Representative Meeting, March 1, 2003

Committee members present: Leonora Cayard, Rosemary Coffey (clerk), Joe Mills, Eric Starbuck

1. Web Site

   We reviewed the LEYM web site -- which includes a calendar, list of LEYM Meetings, copies of the quarterly *Bulletin* (but not the *Annual Records),* and our *Policies and Procedures* -- and made several suggestions for minor improvements, which Eric Starbuck will undertake to make. In general, we found it easy to navigate and expressed our appreciation to Eric for setting it up, maintaining it, and updating it.

2. Annual Records

   a. Number printed: We reduced the run from 500 copies in 2000, to 400 in 2001, and to 175 in 2002. It turned out that the last run was short, so we propose raising the number for 2003 to 250.

   b. Content: We are pleased with the new chronological format, which comprises an Introduction, Representative Meeting notes, Annual Meeting notes, and Monthly Meeting information. We are aware of some formatting problems in the last issue regarding discrepancies between the Nominating Committee report and the list of committee members in the back, and the unintentional shortening of an obituary, and will take special pains to see that these mistakes are not repeated.

   c. Meeting reports: Nearly all Meetings turned in their State of the Meeting reports, but many failed to submit their statistical forms in time to be included. To encourage more Meetings to participate, there will be a reminder in the Spring *Bulletin,* and Eric will send out follow-up e-mails in April and in May. At that time he will also ask for copies of any obituaries that are to be printed in the *Annual Records.*

   d. Timing: All content has to be in Eric's hands by the time of Annual Meeting, except for Minutes and Reports from Annual Meeting itself; these are to reach him by June 30, the end of our fiscal year, with an extra few days allowed for the Treasurer to balance the books. We plan to mail copies of the *Annual Records* to Meetings, LEYM officers, and committee clerks by the first week in August; given the interposition of the FGC Gathering, it is not realistic to expect publication any earlier.

   e. Fall activities: As we did in 2002, Eric will give an updated list of Meeting contact people to the leaders or representatives of the Youth Retreat, the Spiritual Formation program, and the FWCC Regional Gathering, so that they can e-mail their registration forms directly to Meeting Clerks with a request that they print them in local newsletters or have multiple copies made for local distribution. Rosemary will also send reminders to Clerks to look for the forms.

3. LEYM Directory

We hear that the Directory has been well used and propose, as previously indicated, to hold off on a new version until 2004. In the meantime, we will see if it is possible to produce a page or two of updates, to be distributed at Annual Meeting. In a future edition, we will consider just listing names of members and attenders under the Meeting headings, with full contact information to be placed in the alphabetic listing only.

4. LEYM Scrapbook

We wonder what happens to photos and other materials from each Annual Meeting. Should these be collected into a scrapbook that would then be available for perusal at subsequent Annual Meetings? Joe Mills will check with Donna Hawkins re past such endeavors and report back at Annual Meeting 2003.

5. Archives

Leonora reminded us that we continue to look for reminiscences of old-timers with regard to the early days of LEYM. Please check with some of your Meeting elders to see if they have memories to share for the Archives.

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
June 19-22, 2003
Bluffton, Ohio

YM2003-1 Worship and Epistle from New England Yearly Meeting

We began our fortieth session of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with worship. We are gathered at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio, on Sixth Month 19 to 22, 2003.

We have heard the epistle from New England Yearly Meeting in which Friends wrote of their experience of being broken open, and their hope that this will enable them individually and together to live the peace testimony more faithfully in spite of the discomfort this may bring. They also note the strong emotions and conflict that are aroused when important issues are raised. Love can grow when these are faced with God's help rather than avoided.

YM2003-2 Roll call

Friends attending these sessions from our constituent monthly meetings have responded to the roll call. These numbers will be adjusted through our days together so as to accurately count all those present.

Akron 3
Ann Arbor 20
Athens 15
Birmingham 5
Broadmead 16
Cleveland 13
Delaware 0
Detroit 0
Grand Rapids 4
Granville 8
Kalamazoo 3
Kent 3
Mid-Ohio 0
Monongalia 0
N. Columbus 3
Oberlin 4
Pine River 5
Pittsburgh 7
Red Cedar 3
Wooster 4

Indiana PM (under Pittsburgh) 0
Holland PM (under Grand Rapids) 0
Albion WG (under Red Cedar) 1
Erie WG (under Pittsburgh) 0
Fremont WG (under Grand Rapids) 0
Grand Traverse (Under Grand Rapids) 0
Manitou WG (under Grand Rapids) 0
Rock Road WG (under Wooster) 0

YM2003-3 Welcome

Our clerk welcomes us to these sessions in which we meet together to discern God's will for us. We trust that we will be given the strength and wisdom that are required to do the work God gives us, if we open ourselves to receive it. We especially appreciate the work of the Site and Program Committees and the bookstore coordinator. We welcome the members of LEYM who are attending our sessions for the first time. We also welcome the following visitors and have heard some of their travel minutes: Ellen Helmuth of Philadelphia YM, on the staff of Friends General Conference (FGC); Frances Forster of Pacific YM, representing FGC; Edward Sargent of Philadelphia YM, on the staff of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) and also representing Friends House in Moscow; William Taber of Ohio YM (Conservative) representing the Friends Center of Ohio Yearly Meeting; Steve Spyker representing Earlham School of Religion (ESR). Friends are invited to seek out these visitors to learn more about their organizations as well as to make them feel welcome among us.

YM2003-4 Naming Committee Appointments

We approve the following Friends to serve on a Naming Committee to bring forth the names of two Friends to serve three-year terms and one Friend to fill out an unexpired term on the Nominating Committee: Shirley Bechill, Richard Taylor, and Wallace Cayard.

YM2003-5 Visits to other Friends Bodies

Nancy and Don Nagler report that they visited Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) last summer, and Friends of Mountain View Meeting in Denver recently. Jim Satterwhite was given a minute at Representative meeting to travel among Friends with his concern for the Middle East. He expects to leave for Hebron on First Day and goes with our prayers.

YM2003-6 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting report

We have heard a report from our only quarterly meeting. Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting is made up of seven monthly meetings in the lower peninsula of Michigan plus one preparative meeting, and worship groups in Albion, Fremont, Manitou, and Traverse City. We are informed that a new worship group is forming in Tustin. Green Pastures Quarter meets four times a year, twice to conduct business and twice for building community. One of the latter is the mid-winter meeting which is hosted by different meetings in turn. The other is a mid-summer meeting for worship and picnic held at Quaker Park in Battle Creek. The Quarterly Meeting supports three institutions: the Michigan Friends Center, the Friends School in Detroit, and the AFSC office in Ann Arbor. Among its many programs, the Michigan Friends Center has hosted the Michigan Quaker Peace Forum.

YM2003-7 Spiritual Formation Program report

We have heard a report from the Spiritual Formation Program which is under the care of LEYM's Ministry and Oversight Committee. It is modeled on the Baltimore Yearly Meeting program. The northern group had 19 participants for its opening and closing weekend retreats at the Leaven Center. Next year the opening retreat will be 9/12-14 at the Michigan Friends Center on the theme of growing a blessed community: nurturing our meetings by tending to our spiritual roots. The facilitator will be Deborah Fisch of FGC's Traveling Ministries Program, with Elaine Emily as her spiritual companion/elder. The closing re treat will be 4/30-5/2/2004 at Michigan Friends Center.

Bill Taber reported that the eastern group will meet at the Friends Center at Olney 9112-14 and 5/14-16 with Katharine and Ken Jacobsen as facilitators.

Friday morning

YM2003-8 Worship, Epistle from Baltimore Yearly Meeting

We began this morning with worship. We have heard the epistle from Baltimore Yearly Meeting. We welcome those for whom this is their first time to attend LEYM sessions.

YM2003-9 Epistle Committee Appointments

We are informed that the committee to write this year's epistle consists of Don Nagler, Peter Wood, and Merry Stanford.

YM2003-10 Naming Committee report

The Naming Committee recommends that Miyo Bassett fill out the unexpired term on Nominating Committee, serving through the end of next year's sessions. Friends approve. The Naming Commit tee is still discerning which two Friends should be asked to serve three-year terms.

YM2003-11 Threshing Session

We adjourned to move into a threshing session mode in order to discuss the prospect of a youth secretary for LEYM.

Friday afternoon

YM2003-12 Bookstore report

We have heard a report from Valerie Groszmann who has organized the book store for us this year. Friends may request specific titles to be made available next year. We appreciate her work in ordering and organizing the display of the excellent assortment of materials.

YM2003-13 Nominating Needs

We are informed by the Nominating Committee of the need for Friends to serve on the Youth and Children Committee and the Publications and Archives Committee, as well as in several other positions.

YM2003-14 Change in composition of the Publications and Archives Committee

Friends approve changes to the composition of the Publications and Archives Committee to be added to the revisions already approved to the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Policies and Procedures reflecting the merger of the History and Archives and Publications Committees to form the new Publications and Archives Committee. The approved wording will appear on the LEYM web page, and is as follows:

a. Composition. The Publications and Archives Committee shall be composed of six members with three-year overlapping terms, two members to be named each year. In addition, it shall have ex officio members: the clerk or assistant clerk, the Editor of the *Annual Records,* and the Editor of the *Bulletin.* These last two may be the same person or two people; they shall have one-year, renewable terms.

YM2003-15 Report on Bulletin and Web Site

We have received a report from Eric Starbuck, editor of the LEYM *Bulletin* and web master. It is attached. We are grateful for the work of Eric and the many Friends who have helped get out the *Bulletin* and the *Annual Records* this past year.

YM2003-16 Meeting contacts with e-mail

Friends are reminded that each monthly meeting needs to appoint a contact person with email capability who will be responsible for receiving any information from the YM and making sure it gets into the hands of the appropriate person or to the meeting as a whole. The name of this email contact person should be sent to Eric Starbuck <ericstarbuck@att.net>.

YM2003-17 Publications and Archives Committee report

We have received the report from the Publications and Archives Committee, which is attached.

YM2003-18 Site Committee report

We have received a report from the Site Committee, which is attached. Friends approve meeting next year at Bluffton College 6/17-20/2004. Friends are pleased with our relationship with Bluffton College and we agree to continue meeting here. We release the Site Committee for now from looking for alternate places to hold our annual sessions.

YM2003-19 Youth and Children Committee report

We have heard a report from the Youth and Children Committee. Thanks to the solid work of predecessors Nancy Lynn Sharpless and Gretchen Dixon, the program is running smoothly without being too onerous for any of the adult leaders. There are 23 individuals in the program this year, including 13 high school students. Friends appreciate the good work of this Committee and all who volunteer their time and talent for our younger generation.

YM2003-20 Fall youth retreat report

We have heard a report from the fall youth retreat at which there were 21 children and 13 adults, all from Ohio. We have heard the epistles writ ten by the two groups of students at the retreat, which are attached. This coming year the youth retreat will be 10/3-5 at the same Templed Hills location.

YM2003-21 Advancement and Outreach Committee report

We have received a report from Advancement and Outreach Committee, which is attached. Even though the Chelsea Worship Group has been laid down, folks continue to meet once a month at 5:00 pm on the third Thursday. Call Bill Bliss at 734-475-9976 for more information. A group meets every Wednesday evening in Tustin, 12 miles outside of Cadillac, MI, but is not yet ready to be recognized as a worship group under the care of an LEYM monthly meeting.

YM2003-22 Observer status at the Ohio Council of Churches

Last year we considered a possible relationship with the Ohio Council of Churches of which Wilmington YM is thus far the only Quaker member. We are now informed that the Ohio Council is definitely inclusive of gays and lesbians in both policy and employee practices, but this policy is not in writing. We are further informed that there is no monetary cost for groups having observer status. It meets three times a year in Columbus. It would be possible for LEYM to be granted observer status and Bill Hummon had been quite interested in taking on this work. However, Bill has had serious health difficulties in the past few months. Friends are willing to move forward to being granted observer status at the Ohio Council of Churches if Bill Hummon is able to take up this work. If so, we ask the clerk to furnish him with a travel minute. If Bill is unable and nobody else comes forward, then we will not move forward at this time.

Saturday morning

YM2003-23 Worship, Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting

We gathered in worship, holding in God's love our registrar Elena Tuhy and her family in the face of the death of her father last night. We have heard the epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting.

YM2003-24 Naming Committee report

The Naming Committee brings forth the names of Robert Roehm and Dolores Avner to serve three-year terms on the Nominating Committee. Friends approve with gratitude.

YM2003-25 High school program report

Kri Anderson reports to us on the high school program. In August ten young people went white water rafting in Kentucky, visiting two young members of Cleveland Meeting who have moved there. In November four students did a service project in Grand Rapids. In January the big event was the "Quake that Rocked the Midwest" in which 29 high school students from four yearly meetings met in Evanston, Ill.: Lake Erie YM (10), Ohio Valley YM (3), Ilinois YM (12), and Northern YM (4). The theme was science fiction and scripture, with Don Smith and Paul Buckley as resource leaders. In April they met in Athens with Susan Jeffers on "munching on the bread of life: food imagery and the Bible." Next year an informal campout is planned in July at the Michigan Friends Center at which the group will say goodbye to graduating seniors. There will be a fall weekend in Pittsburgh on right relationships and gender with Evelyn Parry. The winter gathering on Martin Luther King, Jr. week end will be a second "Quake that Rocked the Midwest" with high school students from OVYM, IYM, and NYM. In April the program will be with Carolyn Lejuste on racism, perhaps to be held in Cleveland. Kri informs us that she has been involved with the FGC high school gathering for 13 years. She is also on the planning committee of the Young Quakes gathering held on Columbus Day weekend, which offers a rich opportunity for students within FGC to learn more about Quakerism and its biblical roots. A third thing she is involved with is YouthQuake, the once-every-three-years intra-Quaker winter gathering for high school students from across the spectrum of North American Quakerism. She is in touch with youth workers in FGC yearly meetings and informs us of the growing possibility of a workcamp at a school outside Moscow next June. Friends are enthusiastic about and grateful for the work Kri is doing with high school students.

YM2003-26 High School Program Coordinator

We have considered the proposal for an LEYM High School Program Coordinator / High School Youth Program, and approve it in principal. Friends are clear that (1) the Program Coordinator is not an employee of LEYM and that (2) the entire YM supports the idea of year-round high school programming. Friends have some questions about details so we ask the committee to give further consideration to the comments we have heard this morning. We ask them to redraft the proposal and bring it back to the YM.

Saturday afternoon

YM2003-27 Olney Friends School report

We have heard an oral report on Olney Friends School, which seems to be doing well this year. Their 5-year, $2 million capital campaign was successfully completed two years early. The Jacobsens send their thanks for the support LEYM provided during some difficult times in the recent past. Richard Sidwell has been named the new head of school. This year's graduating class of 19 included seven foreign students. Next year 30 of the student body will be from outside the USA.

YM2003-28 Ministry and Oversight Committee report

We have heard an oral report from Ministry and Oversight Committee, which also includes the Spiritual Formation Program which reported earlier. Many monthly meetings reported how helpful it was this past year to consider peace queries. They also found the accompanying advices and readings to be helpful. The Committee has been exploring many aspects of integrity, and the following queries are offered for consideration by our monthly meetings in the coming year:

1. What moves me to live with integrity? When do I have difficulty in witnessing to Truth? What gets in the way or blocks my being able to be faithful to this testimony?
2. How does our meeting live in the life and power to find wholeness, where we are responsible to one another and to our broader community?

Advices will be sent to each monthly meeting along with the queries by the end of next month. Responses are to be returned to the clerk of Ministry and Oversight by the end of 12/2003.

YM2003-29 Name Change to Ministry and Nurture Committee

Ministry and Oversight Committee has examined its name in light of the closeness of the word "oversight" to "overseer" which has such negative connotations from slave days. The Committee thinks the word "nurture" suits better so would like to have its name changed to Ministry and Nurture Committee. Friends approve the change. We ask the recording clerk and web master to make this change in the LEYM Policies and Procedures.

YM2003-30 Treasurer's report

We have received a report from our Treasurer. We are aware that the fiscal year ends 6/30 so that this is an interim

report. The final report will appear in the LEYM *Bulletin*. Most of our expenses come in the fall, but many monthly meetings do not pay their contributions until after the end of the calendar year. Therefore a cushion is necessary to facilitate a good cash flow. We appreciate the clarity of the report, as well as the faithful work behind it.

YM2003-31 Budget Approved

We approve the 2003-04 budget brought to us by the Finance and Budget Committee. The recommended fair share contribution will be $31 per person next year. Although not all meetings donated the requested $26 per adult this past year, all meetings gave something, and some meetings gave more so that this year our income exceeded the amount budgeted. The Finance Committee thanks Friends for this.

YM2003-32 Peace Committee: Conscientious objection to military taxation and war tax resistance

We have heard a report from the Peace Committee. Friends are asked to be aware of minute RM03-13 from Representative Meeting on pages 9-10 of the spring LEYM *Bulletin*. It explains more fully about conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT) and the difference between it and war tax resistance, that Peace Committee requested to be appended to the Responses to Peace Queries that are summarized on pages 14-15 of the *Bulletin*. As these two things have become physically separated, Friends are asked to read them together.

YM2003-33 Peace Committee report

Peace Committee will forward to each monthly meeting an invitation to help fund the restoration of the Ramallah Friends Meetinghouse to serve not only for worship but also as a peace center. A resolution from the Palestine/Israel Action Group of Ann Arbor MM and the Ann Arbor MM Peace and Social Concerns Committee urges the US government to suspend military arms sales to Israel and urges individuals and groups to divest their holdings from any companies that manufacture or sell arms, etc. to Israel. A packet of material will be forwarded to monthly meetings to "deepen conversations ... about the full nature of the humanitarian crisis in Israel/Palestine." Our attention is drawn by FCNL to the proposed Patriot II legislation and its infringement on civil liberties in this country. The ACLU brought suit in Denver against the local police designation of the Denver office of the AFSC as a subversive organization. We are reminded of the importance of supporting legislation allowing for the conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT).

YM2003-34 Preliminary report from Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee offers a preliminary report for Friends to consider before its final report, expected to be given First Day morning. If there are questions, concerns, or new leadings to serve, please speak to a member of the Nominating Commit tee.

YM2003-35 Earthcare Committee report

We have heard a lengthy report from the Earthcare committee of concern (see RM02-22) that suggests that earthcare become the organizing principle around which we focus and renew our daily life and practice, our communities, and YM. The committee enthusiastically recommends that all of us support sustainable agriculture and local economic communities. The committee offers to help local meetings learn more about all of this. We are informed that Greenfire has had a very active year in researching, teaching, modeling, and building the kind of ecologically-based community the Earthcare committee is promoting.

YM2003-36 Friends Committee on Unity with Nature report

We have heard a lengthy report from Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN). All monthly meetings are asked to do their own studies on sustainability and spirituality (there are study guides available), ecological justice, and simplicity. FCUN informs Friends about various legislation currently pending in Congress such as the clear skies initiative (which omits C02, healthy forests (that provides for cutting forests under various pretenses), the latest EP A proposals (to construct 6 new nuclear generating plants), and oil exploration off both coasts (ostensibly for pure exploration and not actual exploitation). Action alerts will be sent via e mail. FCUN is now an "organizational member" of FCNL, working to support a lobbyist for ecological and sustainable development issues. We are urged to work on sustainable local food sources.

YM2003-37 William Taber, programs of the Friends Center

We are delighted to welcome William Taber of Ohio YM (Cons.) to our sessions. He expresses his joy at being here after so many years of separation. Friends are asked to pick up brochures about the programs of the Friends Center of OYM held at Olney in Barnesville, Ohio.

Sunday morning

YM2003-38 Nominating Committee report

The Nominating Committee presents its final report which we accept with gratitude both to those Friends agreeing to serve God through our yearly meeting and to the Nominating Committee for its discernment in identifying these Friends. There are still a few opportunities for service, especially with the Youth and Children Committee, for which several Friends are considering if this is where they are called to serve.

YM2003-39 Report from our representatives to FCNL

Our representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) report on the work of the organization to hold back the unraveling of the social service network, the environmental safeguards, and the system of international cooperation that have been developed over the past century. FCNL has rewritten its basic statement of policy to be more clearly founded on our religious principles rather than specific legislative initiatives. Meetings and Friends across the country are supporting this direction. FCNL has distributed 20,000 "war is not the answer" lawn signs. It usually counts on 8,000 donor/activists. This past year the number has increased making it possible to bring in one person knowledgeable about civil rights and another one on military affairs issues. This year the building is being closed for renovations so the office is temporarily moved. Friends are encouraged to contribute to FCNL's capital campaign. Contact Mike Fuson at 740-587-4756 or <fuson@denison.edu> to invite someone to your meeting to talk about FCNL.

YM2003-40 FWCC report

Edward Sargent, visitor from Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), informs us of the peace conference called by FWCC at Guilford last winter that brought together Friends from all branches in North America. The plenary addresses are available on CDs. FWCC is the only organization dedicated to fostering communication across the divisions that separate Friends. Margaret Kanost and Zig Dermer are our representatives to attend the next FWCC Triennial, to be held in New Zealand 1/2004.

YM2003-41 Report on Friends School in Detroit

We have heard a short report on Friends School in Detroit. The school opened last fall in spite of its financial difficulties, there were 147 students, a mortgage was secured, and the school is functioning well under Dwight Wilson, its new head. Dwight visited us briefly yesterday to lead a workshop. He feels the school is a leading for him, and he is providing dynamic leadership.

YM2003LEYM *Bulletin).* We appreciateer LEYM *Bulletin)* and on the Religious Education Committee (in the spring

One of our representatives to Friends General Conference (FGC) has written reports on the annual Central Committee meeting (in the winter LEYM *Bulletin*) and on the Religious Educatinon Committee (in the spring LEYM *Bulletin*). We appreciate these reports appearing in our *Bulletin* so that Friends can refer to them at leisure and our time at YM sessions can be devoted to consideration of items requiring decisions.

YM2003-43 LEYM High School Program and Coordinator Approved

Friends accept and approve with enthusiasm the revised proposal for a Lake Erie Yearly Meeting High School Program and Coordinator which is attached. Friends are delighted by the opportunities that this program may make possible. One of these possibilities is a workcamp next June at a private school outside of Moscow. The head of school is a member of Moscow Meeting. Kri Anderson is in contact with other YMs (Baltimore, Illinois, New England, Ohio Valley, and Northern) to join in the project. The largest cost would be airfare. Friends approve that Kri continue to look into this project and if way opens to move forward on it. A number of Friends have offered their experience to help with various aspects of the workcamp project.

YM2003-44 Nominations for the new High School Youth Program Committee

We ask the Nominating Committee and the officers to bring forth names of Friends to serve on the High School Youth Program Committee, and for Executive Committee to give approval (or not) of these Friends. We hope this can be done quickly so that this new committee can begin functioning fairly soon.

YM2003-45 LEYM Epistle

We have heard the epistle for LEYM to send out to Friends everywhere. We approve it with some small changes and additions. We appreciate the depth of the epistle.

YM2003-46 *Bulletin* to be sent in electronic form

The Publications and Archives Committee will publish the LEYM *Bulletin* in electronic form this year with a limited

number of hard copies sent to each meeting for use by those who have no access to e mail or for newcomers. This is an experiment for one year, to be evaluated at our next YM sessions.

YM2003-47 Epistles from children and youth

We delight in the arrival of our children and youth. We have heard the epistle from the Upper Elementary class, and their dramatization of "The Faithful Wife" by Pearl S. Buck. The Lower Elementary class introduced themselves and told what they did together for the past few days. The Middle School Friends read their epistle which gave a good account of their time together. The High School group presented its epistle in the form of a poem, which, like much modern art and poetry caused some confusion and was a bit hard to follow for those without inside knowledge.

YM2003-48 Close

There being no further business the meeting concluded for our final meeting for worship.

Marty Grundy, recording clerk

Reports

Advancement and Outreach Committee

The Advancement and Outreach Committee continues its work during the LEYM annual meeting, developing projects to serve the yearly meeting. Ongoing projects include visitation of meetings, publication of articles in the *LEYM Bulletin* on topics related to outreach, and maintenance of the LEYM list of meetings.

Advancement and Outreach Committee has learned of changes in status for two meetings within LEYM. The Chelsea Worship Group has been laid down, but participants maintain informal contact with each other and meet occasionally. The Toledo Preparative Meeting has changed status to that of a worship group under the care of Broadmead Monthly Meeting. We note these changes with gratitude to the meetings who have taken on the care for these groups. During the LEYM opening business session, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting reported that a worship group has formed in Traverse City, Mich. The Committee will incorporate these changes into an updated list of meetings.

Through visitations with meetings both inside LEYM and beyond, Advancement and Outreach Committee has gathered materials of welcome used by a number of meetings. A collection of these materials is on display at LEYM. Friends can view these materials for ideas to create or update welcoming materials at their meetings. We note thanks to Betty Ford for her care in collecting and presenting these items.

Advancement and Outreach Committee continues to discuss ideas for the nurture of small meetings. The Committee is open to developing ideas into a project, as way opens.

Advancement and Outreach Committee is grateful for the participation of dear Friends in the work of the Committee. Erika Smith and Marvin Barnes complete their service on Advancement and Outreach Committee at the 2003 yearly meeting. We thank them for their enthusiasm and care throughout their involvement on the Committee. We look forward to welcoming new Committee members with the help of Nominating Committee.

Finance Committee

Joe Davis

$25,570.00 budget and 825 members = $ 30.99 fair share per person dues 2003-2004

HS Youth Program

Transfer General Fund	$4,000.00
Donations	$1,000.00
Total Income	$5,000.00
Stipend	$4,000.00
Program Expenses	$1,000.00

($752 already donated)

Treasurer's Report Year Ending 6/30/2003

Connie Bimber, Treasurer

FUNDS

	FUND BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	CURRENT BALANCE
General Fund	$ 6,518.45	$22,647.48	$21,688.96	$7,476.97
Annual Meeting	11,731.01	12,704.95	10,954.15	13,481.81
Triennial Travel	4,170.95	1,240.00	1,580.00	3,830.95
Granville Friends Y.F.	5,510.60	151.00	151.00	5,510.60
Youth Activity Fund	157.91	2,401.00	1,634.81	924.10
Spiritual Formation Grp	712.56	3,516.00	4,176.21	52.35
High School Program	0.00	752.00	0.00	752.00
TOTALS	$28,801.48	$43,412.43	$40,185.13	$32,028.78

ACCOUNT	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	DEBITS	CURRENT BALANCE
CHECKING	$19,255.99	$40,728.44	$37,594.13	$22,390.30
SHOREBANK -March	2,000.00	38.60	0.00	2,038.60
SHOREBANK - Sept	2,034.89	54.39	0.00	2,089.28
SOUTHSHORE BANK	5,510.60	151.00	151.00	5,510.60
TOTALS	$28,801.48	$40,972.43	$37,745.13	$32,028.78

ANNUAL MEETING

Balance June 30, 2002	$11,731.01
Expense	10,954.15
Income	12,704.95
Balance June 30, 2003	$13,481.81

FWCC TRIENNIAL TRAVEL FUND

Balance June 30, 2002	$4,170.95
Expense	1,580.00
Income - Transfer	1,240.00
Balance June 30, 2003	$3,830.95

GRANVILLE FRIENDS YOUTH FUND

Balance June 30, 2002	$5,510.60
Interest income	151.00
Transfer - outgo	151.00
Balance June 30, 2003	$5,510.60

Earnings from this fund are transferred to the Youth Activity Fund

SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP

Balance June 30, 2002	$712.56
Income	3,516.00
Expense	4,176.21
Balance June 30, 2003	$52.35

YOUTH ACTIVITY FUND

Balance June 30, 2002	$157.91
Income - transfer	1,200.00
Income - interest	151.00
Income - Youth Retreat	1,050.00
Income this year	2,401.00
TOTAL INCOME	$2,558.91
Expense - Grants	$550.00
Expense - youth retreat	1,084.81
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,634.81
Balance June 30, 2003	924.10

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM

	Budget	Actual
INCOME		
Donations	$1,000.00	$752.00
Transfer from Gen. Fund	4,000.00	
TOTAL INCOME	$5,000.00	$752.00
EXPENSE		
Program Expenses	$1,000.00	
Stipend	4,000.00	
TOTAL EXPENSE	$5,000.00	

Treasurer's Report Year Ending 6/30/2003

GENERAL FUND

INCOME			
Meeting Donations	N. Columbus		250.00
Akron	Oberlin		400.00
Ann Arbor	Pine River	520.00	468.00
Athens	Pittsburgh	4,046.00	468.00
Birmingham	Red Cedar	1,000.00	5,773.70
Broadmead	Wooster	572.00	1,728.00
Cleveland		750.00	540.00
Delaware	Misc.	2,000.00	
Detroit	Sales & Fees	400.00	116.42
Grand Rapids	Interest	300.00	
Granville	Checking 43.87	886.50	
Kalamazoo	CD's 92.99	530.00	
Kent		1,092.00	
Mid-Ohio Valley	TOTAL	475.00	136.86
Monongalia		195.00	22,647.48

GENERAL FUND

EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PERCENT
Travel	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,850.51	117
Office	310.00	201.12	65
Publications	4,400.00	4,968.01	113
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	100
Friends School in Detroit	2,500.00	2,500.00	100
Records Project	210.00	100.00	48
Advancement	130.00	29.32	23
Clerk's Fund	500.00	0.00	0
FWCC Travel	1,240.00	1,240.00	100
Youth Activities Fund	1,200.00	1,200.00	100
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	100
FGC Nurturing Fund	500.00	500.00	100
TOTAL	$21,090.00	$21,688.96	103

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Nominating Report

By David Stilwell, Clerk

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Officers

Office	Person	Years Served
Presiding Clerk	Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead	3
Assistant Clerk	Michael Fuson, Granville	1
Recording Clerk	Marty Grundy, Oberlin	4
Treasurer	Connie Bimber, Cleveland	9
Editor	Eric Starbuck, Akron	4
Labels	Susan Jeffers, Ann Arbor	9
LEYM Bookstore	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	4

LEYM Committees

*No Nominee - if you feel led, call David Stilwell at 330-670-0053.

People	**Years Served & End Year**
Advancement & Outreach	
Phil Balderston, Wooster	1 2006
Don Nagler, Pine River	1 2006

Kelly Helms, Ann Arbor 2 2005
Mathilda Navias, Broadmead 2 2005
Betty Ford, Grand Rapids 3 2004
Deb Kociszewski, Broadmead, Clerk 5 2004

Arrangements & Site
* 2004
Elena Tuhy, Granville 2 2004
Mary Meyers, Broadmead 2 2005
Regula Kummer, Broadmead 3 2004
Judy Greenberg, Broadmead, Clerk 4 2006

Finance & Budget
Erika Smith, Ann Arbor 1 2006
Zig Dermer, Pittsburgh 3 2006
Linda Mills, Kalamazoo 5 2005
Joe Davis, Broadmead, Clerk 6 2004

High School Youth Program
Merry Stanford, Red Cedar, Clerk 2004
Sheila Johnson, Ann Arbor 2004
Donna Hawkins, Granville 2004
Russia Trip
Kate Spry, Cleveland
Julia Bandow, Ann Arbor
Jim Satterwhite, Broadmead
Clemence Mershon, Pittsburgh

Ministry & Nurture
Shirley Bechill, Pine River 1 2006
Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor 2 2005
Star Mary Castro, Athens 2 2005
Merry Stanford, Red Cedar 3 2004
Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor, Clerk 4 2004
Janet Smith, Broadmead 4 2006
Ministry & Nurture Local Representatives
Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor
Suzanne Howell, Athens
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo
Fred Feitler, Kent
Dick Taylor, Oberlin
Don Ruswick, Pine River
Dolores Avner, Pittsburgh

Nominating
Mike Hinshaw, Wooster 2004
Miyo Bassett, Ann Arbor 2004
David Stilwell, Kent, Clerk 2005
Verne Bechill, Pine River 2005
Dolores Avner, Pittsburgh 2006
Bob Roehm, N Columbus 2006

Peace
Leroy Curtis, Wooster 1 2006
Nate Riley, Birmingham 1 2006
Gerry McNabb, Oberlin 2 2005
Lila Cornell, Pittsburgh 3 2004
Jim Satterwhite, Broadmead, Clerk 6 2004

David Bassett, Ann Arbor	8 2005

Program

Carolyn Diem, Ann Arbor	1 2004
Adrian Barnes, Detroit	2 2005
Susan Jeffers, Ann Arbor	2 2005
Margy Liske, Kent	3 2004
Nancy Nagler, Pine River	4 2004
Dale Pratt-Harrington, Athens, Clerk	4 2006

Publications & Archives

*	2005
Mitzi Ruswick, Pine River	1 2005
Marvin Barnes, Birmingham	1 2006
Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh, Clerk	3 2004
Joseph Mills, Kalamazoo	3 2004
Leonora Cayard, Pittsburgh	4 2006

Youth and Children

Youth & Children	Donna Hawkins, Granville, Clerk	2004
Youth & Children	Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	2005
Pre-School Leader	Seth Keyes, Cleveland	2004
Pre-School Leader	Sally Keyes, Cleveland	2004
Pre-School Asst	*	2005
Early Elem Leader.	Jon Sommer, Broadmead	2004
Early Elem Asst..	Peter Crowley, Cleveland	2005
Upper Elem Leader	Steve Connor, Ann Arbor	2004
Upper Elem Asst	Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead	2005
Fall Retreat Clerk	Kate Spry, Cleveland	2004
Fall Retreat Clerk	Carol Laursen, Cleveland	2004
F all Retreat Asst...	*	2005
Middle School Leader	Pat Campbell, Ann Arbor	2004
Middle School Asst	Vanessa Fuson, Granville	2005
High School Leader	Mark Post, Grand Rapids	2004
High School Asst..	Lander McLoyd, Ann Arbor	2005
Youth Member	Abby Pratt-Harrington, Athens	2004

Representatives to

AFSC	Dolores Avner, Pittsburgh	6 2004
AFSC	James Satterwhite, Broadmead.	5 2004
AFSC	Richard Taylor, Oberlin .	4 2005
AFSC	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster.	2 2006
FCNL	Steve Dando, Akron.	3 2004
FCNL	Marge Koester, Akron.	3 2004
FCNL	Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor.	5 2005
FCNL	David Snyder, Albion.	1 2005
FCNL	David Lore, Granville.	1 2006
FCNL	Lila Cornell, Pittsburgh.	1 2006
FCUN	Alan Connor, Ann Arbor.	1 2004
FGC	Leonora Cayard, Pittsburgh .	5 2004
FGC	Star Mary Castro, Athens .	4 2005
FGC	Kri Anderson, Ann Arbor.	3 2005
FGC	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo.	1 2006
FLGBTQC	*	
FWCC	Zig Dermer, Pittsburgh.	2 2004
FWCC	Clemence Mershon, Pittsburgh.	1 2004
FWCC	Margaret Kanost, Birmingham.	5 2005
FWCC	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster.	1 2006
William Penn House	*	

Olney Friends Schl.	Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor
Wilmington YM	*
Ohio YM Conserv	Leroy Curtis, Wooster
Canadian YM	*
EFI Eastern Region	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster

Ministry & Nurture

June 19-20, 2003
By Merry Stanford, recording; Thomas Taylor, clerk

Present: Thomas Taylor, clerk (Ann Arbor), Ellen Barnes (Birmingham), Shirley Bechill (Pine River), Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo), Don Ruswick (pine River), Steve Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Richard Taylor (Oberlin), Star Mary Castro (Athens), Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh), Merry Stanford, recording (Red Cedar)

Regrets received: Fred Feitler (Kent), Janet Smith (Broadmead), Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor)

Visitor (Friday): Michael Fuson (Granville)

MN 06/03 - 1. We began Thursday's session with a short period of silent worship. Friends then reviewed and accepted the minutes from 03/03 and accepted the agenda proposed by the clerk.

MN 06/03 - 2. Introductions. Friends introduced themselves.

- Thomas Taylor, appointed by Nominating Committee to remain clerk through Annual Meeting 2004
- Merry Stanford, named by Nominating Committee and Red Cedar Meeting
- Richard Taylor, named by Oberlin Meeting
- Star Mary Castro, named by Nominating Committee Steve Morehouse, named by Nominating Committee Valerie Groszmann, named by Kalamazoo Meeting
- Shirley Bechill, named by Pine River Meeting
- Ellen Barnes, named by Birmingham Meeting Dolores Avner, named by Pittsburgh Meeting

MN 06/03 - 3. Name of Committee. Discussion was continued from Third Month regarding the desire by some Friends to remove the word "oversight" from the name of our committee. One Friend questioned whether we are trying too hard to be politically correct out of guilt. Other Friends would like to see a change because of the hurt that has been experienced by use of the word "oversight" and its relationship to "overseer." [The original hurt was done to slaves by plantation "overseers," and the on-going oppression has meant that even the words are hurtful.[1]] An article by Susan Jeffers in the Spring 2003 *Bulletin* was noted: "If a car manufacturer is smart enough to realize that a name has unintended bad meanings for people it cares about selling to, how much more should a religious organization be smart enough to realize AND CHANGE a name that has unintended bad consequences for a group it cares about including?" [i.e.: GM had difficulty selling its "Nova" in Spanish-speaking countries, where "no va" means "doesn't go."] Several Friends reported that meetings within LEYM and in the wider Quaker world have changed their names by replacing the word "oversight" with "nurture" or "counsel."

The history of the committee's current name was shared, identifying that "Oversight" was chosen as an alternative to "Counsel," which had a legalistic connotation. Other problems with "oversight" included that it suggests power over others, as opposed to power from within. We considered that the traditional role of oversight was helping Friends to be faithful to their leadings, and wondered if this committee has been faithful to this role. However, Friends felt that tradition is not weighty enough to oppose the feelings of Friends who experience the word as violent. Friends pointed out both the mutability of word meanings and the richness of the English language, feeling that a word could be found that describes the committee's function without also deeply offending members of the Society.

Many Friends identified that their meetings' experience of this committee through the years has been one of nurture. Friends felt that "nurture" described all functions of the committee, including assisting in discernment of leadings, providing scholarships to Earlham School of Religion, assisting meetings having troubles, and encouraging gifts of ministry. A variety of suggested names were considered, among them Ministry and Worship, Ministry and Nurture, Worship and Nurture, and Spiritual Nurture. The word "ministry" was felt to describe a broad concept of Friends' relationships to each other and the world. Friends felt drawn to the name Ministry and Nurture, but decided to delay a final decision until the rest of our committee could be present on Friday. The reconvened meeting approved the name "Ministry and Nurture."

MN 06/03 - 4. Queries and Advices on Integrity:

Friends discussed the meaning of integrity. Definitions considered included the condition of everything fitting together in a

[1] Note: This minute was approved by the committee at its meeting. Explanatory notes have been added [in brackets] by the clerk in the editing process.

way that is whole; of being whole or undivided; completeness; living up to one's values; letting one's life speak. Friends considered the meanings of "personal vs. corporate integrity." We are part of our communities: our meetings, neighborhoods, cities, states, countries, and businesses. Examples were shared about how Friends could contribute to the corporate integrity of their meetings and other groups by holding them accountable to the group's vision. Friends reflected that a common assumption regarding "living with integrity" is to become perfect or complete, disregarding the brokenness of human beings or the complexity of moral decisions. Friends also considered the difference between values and testimonies. It was observed that Integrity or Truth was one of Friends' testimonies, and these queries should be more limited to that specific testimony. The issues of both speaking truth and being open to others' truths were felt to be important. Friends felt that these various facets of integrity should be included in an introduction to the queries or in the advices.

Friends considered several queries provided by the clerk and other Friends. We considered how to phrase the queries to encourage individuals' deep reflection, and to encourage Meetings to develop a cohesive, coherent community response, rather than a list of individual responses. We appeared to be in unity to choose queries that apply both to our Meetings and to individuals, and developed the following:

1. What moves me to live with integrity? When do I have difficulty in witnessing to truth? What gets in the way or blocks my being able to be faithful to this testimony?

2. How does our Meeting live in the life and the power to find wholeness, where we are responsible to one another and to our broader community?

[During the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Yearly Meeting, the words "to

truth" (italicized above) were added to the query.]

Specific suggestions for the published queries were as follows:

- including the title of the Catherine Whitmire book and fuller citation if appropriate
- if appropriate, providing a full bibliographical citation for the Britain Yearly Meeting book, *Questions of Integrity: A Quaker Perspective*. (Thomas will determine if it is still available, and whether it should be placed on the website.)
- • adding as an Advice, from BYM *Faith and Practice* 1.02.37: "Taking oaths implies a double standard .... "
- adding as an Advice, from page 7 of *Testimony of Integrity* by Wilmer Cooper: "Testimonies grow out of our inward religious experience and are intended to give outward expression to the leading of the Spirit of God within."

MN 06/03 - 5. The Life of Our Meetings. The clerk shared copies of six State of the Meeting reports from meetings that were not represented around our circle. Information from the reports was shared with the committee. We hope that State of the Meeting reports can be sent to committee members earlier so that Friends may absorb them before coming to Bluffton. Some of those present shared how the life of the Spirit is moving in their meetings. We were sorry that lack of committee time prevented a more thorough sharing of the lives of our meetings. However, none of our meeting communities reported special concerns or that they are experiencing distress requiring M&N Committee attention.

MN 06/03 - 6. We ended Friday's session with a very brief period of worship and hastened to join Friends gathering for the plenary meeting for worship.

Some Advices and Quotes - Lake Erie YM - June, 2003

With reference to the Queries in the column to the left, to which responses are invited from meetings by December 31,2003, here are some advices and quotes - and a few more queries - to aid in personal and group consideration of the above queries. These have been chosen from various sources to introduce and to illuminate a number of facets of Friends' testimony on Integrity, or call it truth, honesty or wholeness.

1. Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life. (Britain YM, Quaker Faith & Practice, 1.02.1)

2. Testimonies grow out of our inward religious experience and are intended to give outward expression to the leading of the Spirit of God within; or put another way, they are formed by the voice of conscience illuminated by the Light of Christ within. (Wilmer Cooper, The Testimony of Integrity, 1991. p.7)

3. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. (attrib. to Jesus in Jerusalem Bible, Lube 16:10)

4. So from now on, there must be no more lies: let all of us speak the truth to one another, since we are all parts of one another. Even if you are angry, you must not sin; never let the sun set on your anger, or else you will give the devil a foothold. Anyone who was a thief must stop stealing; he should try to find some useful manual work instead, and be able to do some good by helping others who are in need. Guard against foul talk; let your words be for the improvement of others, as occasion offers, and do good to your listeners. (Jerusalem Bible, Ephesians 4:25-29)

5. Above all, my brothers, do not swear by heaven or by the earth, or use any oaths at all. If you mean "yes," you must say "yes"; if you mean "no," say "no." Otherwise you make yourselves liable to judgment. (Jerusalem Bible, James 5:12)

6. They gave me the book to swear on, and the book saith, Swear not at all: But I told them, if they could prove that after Christ Jesus and his apostles had forbidden men to swear, they had allowed it, I would swear. Thus I said, and my allegiance lies in truth and faithfulness, not in swearing. (George Fox, Journal, 1664)

7. Taking oaths implies a double standard of truth; in choosing to affirm instead, be aware of the claim to integrity that you are making. (Britain YM QF&P, 1.02.37)

8. The deeper meaning of simplicity can be seen in the stand of Friends against the taking of oaths. Friends believe that their work should be accepted at any time among all persons and thus [uphold] the right to stand simply on their own word rather than swearing on the bible or before God, a witness which has gained recognition in modern legal practice. (Faith and Practice, North Carolina YM [Cons.], 1983.)

9. There's no safe dallying with truth. (Isaac Penington - 17th c., in Jan Hoffman talk, 1995 - nyym.org/wilton/sgm2.html)

10. A neighbor ... desired me to write his will: I took notes, and, amongst other things, he told me to which of his children he gave his young Negro: I considered the pain and distress he was in, and knew not how it would end, so I wrote his will, save only that part concerning his slave, and carrying it to his bedside, read it to him, and then told him in a friendly way, that I could not write any instruments by which my fellow-creatures were made slaves, without bringing trouble on my own mind. I let him know that I charged nothing for what I had done, and desired to be excused from doing the other part in the way he proposed. The we had a serious conference on the subject, and at length, he agreeing to set her free, I finished his will. (John Woolman, Journal, 1756)

11. Creeds are milestones, doctrines are interpretations: Truth, as George Fox was continually asserting, [is] a seed with the power of growth, not a fixed crystal, be its facets never so beautiful. (John Wilhelm Rowntree, 1904, in Britain YM QF&P, 27.21)

12. The integrity of some Dutch Friends I have met showed itself during the war in their willingness to tell lies to save their Jewish friends from the Gestapo or from starvation. (Kenneth C. Barnes, 1972, in Britain YM QF&P, 20.44)

13. All of us ... are diminished and dishonored when we do not meet each other halfway. How can we in truth and lovingly help one another in this? Because we must remember that truth without love is violence. And love without truth is sentimentality. We do need both. (Muriel Bishop, "Integrity," 1990, in New York YM F&P, 1998)

14. When Fox said he was to turn people "to the Truth in the heart," he intended to avoid at all costs a second-hand knowledge of God. He wanted to confront his hearers with the penetrating question, "What canst thou say?" Not what someone else says, or even what the Bible says. It must be the kind of truth that lays hold of us in a very personal way. It is truth which requires a response from us and will not let us rest until we have translated it into action. (Wilmer Cooper, The Testimony of Integrity, p.14)

15. Refusing to face moral complexity can be a form of running away, or refusing to face the necessarily unpleasant consequences of the values we adopt. It can amount to an attempt to avoid our personal Gethsemane. (John Punshon, Testimony & Tradition, Quaker Home Service, 1990. p.4)

16. Truth is a path, not a possession. (attrib. Damaris Parber-Rhodes in Questions of Integrity, London YM, 1993)

17. Nonviolence and truth are inseparable and presuppose one another. There is no god higher than truth. (Mohandas K. Gandhi, From Hobhouse, True Patriotism, 1939)

18. James invites us to live together in a life marked by a spiritual practice: integrity. This integrity is shaped by the divinely given gift of wisdom, which enables us to move from envy and loveless ambition to concrete expressions of compassion, justice, and peacemaking. (See advice #s above and paper by Michael Birkel, "Practically Spiritual: Justice & Integrity" - www.earlham.edu/-birbemi/birbel_l.html.)

19. Integrity for me means my outward actions line up like a plumb line to God who is present in my deepest Center. (Janet Hoffman in Catherine Whitmire, Plain Living, 2001, p.38)

20. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1)

Integrity as wholeness is a consequence of God's nature, not our action; and right ordering of our action is a consequence of living into God's nature. (Susan Jeffers, 2003)

Some more queries (for contemplation):

1. If pressure is brought upon you to lower your standard of integrity, are you prepared to resist it? Our responsibilities to God and our neighbour may involve us in taking unpopular stands. Do not let the desire to be sociable, or the fear of seeming peculiar determine your decisions ....

Consider which of the ways to happiness offered by society are truly fulfilling and which are potentially corrupting and destructive. Be discriminating when choosing means of entertainment and information. Resist the desire to acquire possessions or income through unethical investment, speculation or games of chance.

In view of the harm done by the use of alcohol, tobacco and other habit-forming drugs, consider whether you should limit your use of them or refrain from using them altogether. Remember that any use of alcohol or drugs may impair judgment

and put both the user and others in danger. (Britain YM Advices & Queries, 38, 39, 40)

2. How do I manage my commitments so that over- commitment, worry and stress do not diminish my integrity? .. Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me? (Philadelphia YM, Faith & Practice, 1997, p.214)

3 Do we seek to attain the highest standards of personal conduct? Do we keep to simplicity and moderation in speech, in manner of living, and in the pursuit of our vocations? Do we refrain from habits and activities likely to cause harm? (Ann Arbor Meeting Handbook, 1995, p.43)

4. Am I living by values that will help create a better, more sustainable future for the world? (Catherine Whitmire, Plain Living, 2001, p.41)

Recommended for further reading and group discussion:

Wilmer Cooper, *The Testimony of Integrity in the Religious Society of Friends*. Pendle Hill Pamphlet 296. (Highly recommended -- a prophetic call for Friends to "undergird all of their outward testimonies with ... Integrity, .. the essential Quaker testimony.")

Proposal for an LEYM High School Program and Coordinator

By Marty Grundy, Don Nagler, Connie Bimber, Sally Weaver Sommer, Kri Anderson

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting recognizes the importance of a vital, ongoing program for high school Friends. The purpose of this program is to create a spiritual community in which they can explore, deepen, and express their Quaker faith and practice. It expects to have a minimum of four weekend events each year. These will be held in a variety of locations so as to be accessible to our wide geographic diversity. Each event will have a theme and workshops addressing aspects of our tradition and the ways we are called to live it. Service projects will also be included.

In order to facilitate and coordinate this High School Youth Program, LEYM intends to contract for the services of its High School Program Coordinator. We expect the Program Coordinator to attend LEYM sessions and to provide liaison with the high school program that occurs during the YM sessions, but the Program Coordinator will not be responsible for the high school program during the annual meeting. The Program Coordinator shall also notify our LEYM youth of opportunities in the larger Quaker world.

In order to provide support and ensure accountability, there shall be a High School Youth Program Committee. It shall consist of a clerk, a representative from the LEYM Youth and Children Committee, another member, and a representative from the support committee in the home meeting of the Program Coordinator. This Committee shall meet with the Program Coordinator at least once a year and as many other times as are needed, plus keeping in close touch by phone and/or e mail. The Committee will work with the Program Coordinator to create a budget each year. It will also seek to discern annually how the Spirit is moving within the Program.

We propose that LEYM fund the High School Youth Program with a budget of $5,000 per year. This will be established as a separate fund with balances carrying over from year to year. Of this, $4,000 per year will be billed to LEYM by the High School Program Coordinator, to be paid quarterly. The remaining $1,000 will be used for direct expenses of the Program. Currently, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting had budgeted $700 for the coming year for the Program's expenses. We recommend that, as expenses are incurred, the bills be sent to the GPQM treasurer, as in past years, until the $700 is exhausted. Then bills will be sent to the LEYM treasurer. We expect there to be a significant carry-over to the following year, when there is a good chance that GPQM will phase out its contributions to the Program.

The entire $5,000 will be a regular part of the LEYM budget and as such will be a transfer to the High School Youth Program. The first year or more, we expect that $1,000 of the $5,000 will be donated directly to LEYM from individuals and from meetings that want to contribute above their annual assessment. Already $752 has been donated for the High School Youth Program.

We see this High School Youth Program as the beginning. It is likely to expand as way opens and we hear and heed Divine guidance.

Peace Committee

Notes from LEYM Peace Committee meetings, held at annual LEYM gathering
(Taken by Sadie Taylor; slightly revised by David Bassett)

Meeting #1. June 19, 2003. 3:00-5:30 PM

Present: Jim Satterwhite (convener), David Bassett, Lila Cornell, Leroy Curtis, Sadie Taylor

1. We discussed the request for support for rebuilding the Quaker Meeting House in Ramallah (West Bank, Palestine), and for the Quaker presence and witness in Ramallah ("Ramallah Monthly Meeting Project"). Contributions for the latter can

be sent to: The General Secretary's Office, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1515 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. We agreed to distribute copies of the flier, prepared by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, titled "An Invitation to Join in Support of The Ramallah Friends," and to ask that this information be included in the Peace Committee minutes to be sent to LEYM members following our annual meeting.

2. Resolution on Arms Divestment and Cessation of Military Aid to Israel. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee (P&SCC) and the Palestine-Israel Action Group (PIAG) of the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting (AAFM) have brought to the LEYM Peace Committee this Resolution, which has been adopted by the PIAG and the P&SCC of the AAFM. (A very similar resolution has also been adopted by the Middle East Task Force of the Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice [ICPJ] of Ann Arbor. These resolutions are quite similar to others that have been developed at various universities in the US.) The P&SCC/PIAG and the ICPJ resolutions focus on ending US government military aid and arms support to Israel; and call on individuals and institutions to divest themselves "from all companies that manufacture or sell arms and other military hardware to Israel," in order to bring about certain conditions (relating to UN resolutions) which, if complied with, should move toward resolution of the Israel! Palestine conflict.

The Peace Committee approved the distribution of the request, contained in a covering letter from the P&SCC and the PIAG, which "urge[s] monthly and yearly Meetings to deepen conversations with their members about the full humanitarian crisis in Israeli Palestine, with the goal of developing their own resolutions and actions on this issue." The Peace Committee will distribute the covering letter and the resolution to representatives from each of the LEYM Monthly Meetings, and to as many worship groups as possible, along with some supporting documents - an outline of the specific "divestment and cessation of military aid" campaign that is underway in Ann Arbor; an essay by David Glick, of the Coalition of Jews for Justice, Berkeley, CA, titled "Anti-Semitism is wrong; criticizing Israel is not"; an outline by Betsy Barlow (of the ICPJ, Ann Arbor) titled "Ending Israel's occupation of Palestine is in the interest of Palestinians, Israelis, and US citizens"; and a brief summary (with maps) from the World Bank Report titled "The Separation Fence will hurt Palestinians immensely."

3. The Peace Committee noted that the attachment to the LEYM responses to the four Peace Queries (which the Peace Committee approved at our March 2003 Representative Meeting would be attached as an integral part of the LEYM responses to the Peace Queries) was not attached, but was printed separately on page 9 of the Spring 2003 LEYM *Bulletin*. (The attachment deals with the distinction between general tax resistance and conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT), and to the fact that acting to implement COMT includes both civil disobedience approaches and the perfectly legal approach of working to change federal tax laws to gain recognition of the right of COMT.

The Peace Committee wished to call attention of the *Bulletin* editor, and of LEYM members, that it is our wish that this attachment be included with the LEYM responses to the Peace Queries, whenever the latter are published.

4. David Bassett reminded the Peace Committee about the FCNL process to revise the 1994 "Statement of Legislative Policy." Whereas specific mention was made, in the 1994 version, of two specific forms of legislation directly relevant to the Quaker Peace testimony (namely, the Selective Service Act and the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill), it appears that specific mention of these bills is not going to appear in the newly revised Statement of Legislative Policy (which will be considered for approval at the November 2003 FCNL General Committee meetings).

5. Note was taken of FCNL's important Info-Line e mail message of June 18, 2003 (see www.fcnl.org), pertaining to the "USA Patriot Act" (phase I, already approved by Congress, and phase II, currently being brought to Congress); the severe erosion of civil liberties brought about by these Acts; and Attorney General John Ashcroft's testimony before the House Judiciary Committee in mid-June (with Observations by FCNL concerning this testimony.)

Jeanne Herrick-Stare is currently directing her full attention, at FCNL, to issues dealing with civil liberties.

We agreed to make available copies of this Info-Line message at the plenary LEYM sessions this weekend.

6. Regarding the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill (reintroduced in Congress on May 8 by Rep. John Lewis and 28 original co-sponsors as HR 2037), mention was made of the need for those supporting this Bill to seek sponsorship by their Representative and Senators; and of the need for financial support (preferably included as a line item in annual Monthly Meeting budgets) for the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (NCPTF), reached at 2121 Decatur Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008; tel. 888-PEACE TAX). NCPTF works in Washington, DC, with supporters nationwide, to effect passage of the Bill. Useful resource materials are available from the NCPTF office.

7. Jim Satterwhite will be leaving on June 22 to go to Hebron, to work (as he has done for a number of years) with the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) group there. One may obtain reports of CPT activities from their newsletter, or via their email or website (cpt@igc.org; www.cpt.org).

We are deeply grateful for Jim's courageous and dedicated service, and his continuing witness.

8. Jim Satterwhite recommended Hebron Journal, a book by Art & Peggy Gish, which provides helpful insight on the Israel-lPalestine conflict and on the role of CPT. He also mentioned Tinderbox; US Middle East Policy and the Roots of Terrorism, by Stephen Zunes.

9. Jim Satterwhite reported on a lien that the IRS had recently placed upon Bluffton College, because one of its employees

(himself) had, for reasons of conscience, not paid a portion of his current military taxes. (This had also been done by IRS a few years ago. On that occasion, Bluffton College reported to the IRS the conscientious basis of Jim's witness, and that that was a decision made by him - although the College supported the right of individuals to make such witnesses based on conscience.) The IRS subsequently withdrew the lien. In view of the new lien placed upon the College, it will be necessary for Jim to request again that the College act in similar manner with the IRS, in the hope that IRS will again withdraw the lien placed on the College.

Meeting #2. June 19, 2003.6:30-7:30 PM

10. Jim Satterwhite recommended the Jewish Voice for Peace publication "From Jew to Jew," which states reasons for opposing the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Also recommended was an essay by Jeff Halper of the Committee Against Home Demolitions, titled "The Link - A most ungenerous offer."

Meeting #3. June 20, 2003. 8:45 PM

Present: Jim Satterwhite (convener), David Bassett, Lila Cornell, Leroy Curtis, Carolyn Diem, David Green, Nate Riley, Sadie Taylor, Peter Wood

We reviewed most of the topics mentioned above.

11. Mention was made of the semantic problem of various nations and groups that speak of "legitimate violence" (i.e., state-supported violence) and "non-legitimate violence" (violence that comes from individuals or groups that are not state-supported). We agreed that efforts should be made to counter all types of violence. State-supported violence often receives much greater funding; being "state-supported" does not make it more acceptable.

12. Clerkship of Peace Committee for 2003-2004.

After some brief discussion, we asked if Jim Satterwhite would be willing to continue in this role for another year. We were very grateful that he has agreed to do this.

Publications and Archives

By Rosemary Coffey

1. Web Site

   Several changes have been made to the LEYM web site in accordance with suggestions made at Representative Meeting, such as correcting spelling errors, making titles larger and more colorful, and adding the LEYM *Bulletin*s as they appear. In the future we plan to include a copy of the statistical report form, so that clerks who may experience difficulty in opening the form as an e-mail attachment from the Recording Clerk will have an easy alternative.

2. *Annual Records*

   We confirm our previously stated plan to print 250 copies of the 2003 edition. We will see that each Meeting receives enough copies to supply all of its members who are on LEYM committees, with several additional copies for Meeting libraries and others who may be interested. Copies will also go to Quaker libraries and organizations, as in the past.

3. State of the Meeting Reports and Statistical Reports

   Many Meeting and statistical reports have not been turned in as requested. We hope that Eric Starbuck, editor of the *Annual Records*, will receive these by June 30. Members of the committee will be reminding Friends present who come from Meetings whose reports are missing to encourage their Clerks to get them in. We can't print them if we don't have them. Similarly, if any of your members have died in the past year, we will be happy to print their obituaries in the *Annual Records*, but only if you send them in.

4. LEYM Directory

   We understand that Susan Jeffers is ready to pass on the Directory database to another Friend willing to take responsibility for it. This job has three or four parts, essentially between the months of January and May of 2004: (a) soliciting updates from Meeting Clerks; (b) using these to update the database; (c) printing out one copy per the Publication & Archives Committee's guidelines; and, possibly, (d) arranging for a certain number of copies to be printed, though other members of the committee are willing to do that. Please see the LEYM Nominating Committee if you are led to take on this job.

5. LEYM Scrapbooks

   We are also looking for someone to take over responsibility for LEYM scrapbooks. There is one on the Registration table that covers the years 1993-1997, and another with photos from 1998 and three more envelopes of photos that need to be sorted, inserted, and identified. Also needed is a scrapbook for recent years, including this one. Again, please see the Nominating Committee if you are led to take on this job. Both of these, by the way - the Directory

position and the Scrapbook position - can be carried out on your own time and do not require you to attend any meetings!

6. Archives

   Monthly Meetings are encouraged to name a person responsible for Archives to be deposited at Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore. There are copies of the procedures for doing so - enough for one for each Meeting. Please come and get one. We also want to bring to your attention this little volume from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, available from the FGC Bookstore titled "Handbook on Records: Their Creation, Maintenance, and Preservation in the Meeting." On the front cover it asks: "Do you know where your documents are tonight?" How many of you can answer "Yes"?

Editor's Report: LEYM *Bulletin*

By Eric Starbuck

This year has seen a number of changes in the way the job gets done without many changes in the publication itself.

I moved to Pittsburgh shortly after Yearly Meeting in June of 2002, and that has made a great deal of difference. One unfortunate difference was that the mailing permit was not transferred in a timely fashion, so the Fall *Bulletin* went out in late November rather than early October. Another, better, difference is that, with the help of volunteers from Pittsburgh Friends Meeting, labeling and sorting is much less onerous than it was in Akron with only one or two helpers.

As we are finding our way, *Bulletin* expenses have risen, but I hope, when procedures are in place, that they will go back down next year. Some of the unforeseen expenses were: driving the Fall *Bulletin* to Columbus for mailing; trying a new form of bundling, which turned out more expensive and less of a time saver than we thought; and postage costs going up during the summer.

The web page has a new look, and its construction is simpler this year - that is, instead of a separate page for every meeting and worship group, they're all on one page. This is much less work for me, and, once visitors get to the contact information page, they can scroll up and down to look at several meetings more quickly.

We offer for download the Policies and Procedures, the History of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, the LEYM Queries Booklet, the plenary talks from 2001 and 2002 by Marty Grundy and Steve Morehouse, and photo albums of the 2001 and 2002 Annual Gatherings by Bill Hummon.

There is also a calendar of LEYM events, as well as those scheduled by Michigan Friends Center, Friends Center of Ohio Yearly Meeting, and other organizations of interest.

The *Bulletins* are also published on the Web, and I still prefer the electronic version to the paper version - not so much for the beauty as for the convenience.

	Paper	Web
Layout	10 hours	10 hours
Label & Bundle or Upload	2-3 hours	1 minute
Deliver	Up to 6 weeks	Minutes

Many thanks to the contributors and to Bill Hummon for the photography. Thanks especially to volunteers who have helped label and bundle: Harriet and Ted Paxson, Mark and Cathy LeSchack, Tim Field, Jennifer Brower, Rosemary Coffey, Zig Dermer, and Leonora and Wallace Cayard.

Leonora Cayard and Rosemary Coffey have helped immeasurably. Not only have they done much proofreading (which I need more than I like to admit), but Leonora took charge of getting the Pittsburgh mailing permit and drove the completed *Bulletin* to Columbus for the fall mailing. Thanks also to Susan Jeffers for her hard work and dependability doing the labels.

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Representative Meeting
March 6, 2004

Representative Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gathered for worship followed by consideration of our business on Third Month sixth, 2004, at the First Methodist Church in Perrysburg, Ohio. We have heard the epistle from New England Yearly Meeting. We are reminded that we need one another, in commu-nity, to discern God's will and live faithfully.

RM04-3-1 Welcome

Our clerk gave a special welcome to Al Connor, Thomas Burnett, Shelby Conrad, Jim Bow, and Charlie Burnett, who are attending for the first or second time.

RM04-3-2 Committee reports vs. information

We have heard a minute from the Executive Committee, which met last night, suggesting that committees discern which items of their business need to come to the whole body for consideration and which are information that can be published in the *Bulletin* or *Annual Records*.

RM04-3-3 Break of meeting

We broke to meet in committees, and have a good lunch provided by women of the First United Methodist Church where we are meeting.

RM04-3-4 Worship & Epistle from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

We reassembled in worship. We have heard the epistle from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

RM04-3-5 Roll Call

Answering the roll call are 58 folks from the following meetings:

Akron 0	Ann Arbor 8	Athens 4	Birmingham 3	Broadmead 14	Cleveland 0	Columbus 4
Delaware 0	Detroit 0	Grand Rapids 0	Granville 0	Kalamazoo 3	Kent 3	Mid-Ohio Val. 0
Monongalia 0	N. Oberlin 3	Pine River 4	Pittsburgh 6	Red Cedar 0	Wooster 3	

There was one Friend present from a worship group, and she is also included in the monthly meeting totals above.

Albion 0	Erie 1	Fremont 0	Holland 0	Indiana 0	Manitou 0	Rio Grande 0
Rock Road 0	Sidney 0	Traverse City 0				

RM04-3-6 Death of Ralph Liske

We mourn the recent death of Ralph Liske, a member of Kent Meeting and at one time clerk of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. He would have been 94 years old tomorrow.

RM04-3-7 Executive Committee Report

We have heard the minutes of the Executive Committee, which met last evening. They raise several new issues. [See minutes RM04-3-22 and RM04-3-23.]

RM04-3-8 Plans for Yearly Meeting

We have heard the report from the Program Committee. This year's Yearly Meeting is scheduled for Sixth Month 17-20; the theme is "Integrity: Growing Wholeness from Our Roots." The plenary speaker is Michael Birkel. The committee is trying to shift the schedule to allow more time for fellowship and spiritual reflection, while cutting the scheduled time for business from ten to eight hours.

RM04-3-9 No report from Youth & Children Committee

The Youth & Children Committee plans to meet at a later date so has no report today.

RM04-3-10 Arrangements & Site Committee report

The Arrangements & Site Committee reports it is negotiating with Bluffton College for more space. The committee intends to experiment with mailing registration forms this spring. The committee asked for affirmation that the same registration fee should be charged even if a participant only attends part of the time. Currently this is $31 if pre-registered, and $41 for late registration. After some discussion there is no clarity on Registration fees for part time attenders. We ask the clerk to help the Arrangements & Site Committee develop a policy for this coming session of Yearly Meeting.

RM04-3-11 Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

We have heard the report from Advancement & Outreach Committee, which is attached.

RM04-3-12 Report on FWCC Triennial in New Zealand

Margaret Kanost and Zig Dermer represented Lake Erie Yearly Meeting at the FWCC Triennial in New Zealand in First Month. Margaret took photos of her meeting and the Quaker Peace Park in Battle Creek. She described her small group, made up of Friends from around the world. Zig reported on the purpose of FWCC to bring Friends together across our divisions. There will be a World Gathering of Young Friends (ages 18-35) in England in August 2005. Each yearly meeting may appoint two representatives. Funds will be needed. Elgon East Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends, in western Kenya is looking for a sister monthly or yearly meeting. Pittsburgh may be interested and wonders if LEYM might be. A pastor there is requesting Christian books. We are informed that the FWCC World Office in London has exhausted its financial reserves and is seeking additional contributions. One quarter of all donations to the FWCC Section of the Americas go to the World Office; additional funds can be specially earmarked. The next triennial is scheduled for Ireland in 2007.

RM04-3-13 Earthcare Committee of Concern Report

We have heard a report that the Earthcare Committee of Concern considered its purpose and vision of our right relation with the earth, right use of natural resources, sustainable agriculture, and similar issues. They also want to act to influence legislation that encourages biodiversity, and to enable Friends to take collective action on all levels of government. They have approved a set of queries, which are available in a flyer. There will be a weekend at Greenfire, April 16-18, on "Permaculture: An Extension of Friends Practice?" The Greenfire project continues its educational programs. A separate entity has been created to serve as a land trust. We are asked to hold Noah Hogan in our prayers as he struggles with major surgery on both legs.

RM04-3-14 Our **Treasurer** reports that five meetings have not yet sent in any contribution this fiscal year, and not all meetings that have sent money have paid the recommended $31 per adult member. Nevertheless, our major expenses have been paid. It is especially helpful if meetings can make their payment in the fall when most of the bills come due. We are informed that the checks from the fall youth retreat got lost in the mail. If your child attended, it would be very helpful if you would send the Treasurer a replacement check. The proposed youth trip to Russia has been postponed. Friends appreciate the faithful and careful work of the Treasurer.

RM04-3-15 Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee reports that it greatly appreciates the Treasurer's faithful service. The travel budget, having been increased, seems adequate this year. A recommendation has been made that LEYM budget

$2,000 to send two representatives to the World Gathering of Young Friends in England in August 2005. The Committee recommends that $1,000 of this be taken from current reserves, and an additional $1,000 be added to next year's budget. Friends approve. Our representatives to FWCC recommend that, in light of the FWCC World Office's financial duress, LEYM make a direct contribution of $500 to the World Office in London, the money being reallocated from various lines in this year's budget that are underspent. Friends approve. We are unclear as to the cause of FWCC's overspent budgets for the past few years. We ask that, with our check, our clerk send a letter that asks questions about what procedures are being instituted to prevent such difficulties in the future. We are reminded that the Yearly Meeting can only function well when each monthly meeting fulfills its financial and participatory obligations. We ask the clerk to write to the meetings that have not made a contribution this year, reminding them of the value of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and their responsibility to it.

RM04-3-16 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

We have heard the report from Ministry & Nurture Committee, which is attached.

RM04-3-17 Peace Committee Report

Peace Committee discussed a number of issues. The Friends School in Detroit is partnered with a school in Afghanistan. The Christian Peacemaker Teams need more volunteers and funds. Clémence Mershon will participate in the African Great Lakes Initiative this summer and will seek ways when she returns to share her experiences. The IRS is distraining Jim Satterwhite's wages, allowing him only $500 per month. Friends are reminded to be sure all members and attenders are registered and urged to vote in the next general election. Ohio recently passed a "Defense of Marriage Act" that seems to pro-hibit domestic partner benefits for anyone in state employment, among other ills. Peace Committee expects to propose at Yearly Meeting some action in response.

RM04-3-18 African Great Lakes Initiative

Clémence Mershon reports that she expects to participate in a work camp in Rwanda in July and August, using Alternatives to Violence Project techniques under the auspices of the African Great Lakes Initiative (part of the Friends Peace Teams).

RM04-3-19 National Campaign for Peace Tax Fund

We are reminded that the National Campaign for Peace Tax Fund is giving free bumper strips with their message, "Taxes for Peace not War."

RM04-3-20 Nominating Committee matters

Nominating Committee asks Friends to consider seriously how you might serve Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. The *LEYM Policies and Procedures* are a little ambiguous as to whether the Nominating Committee is to name clerks to the various committees. We ask the presiding clerk to bring some language to Yearly Meeting to clarify the *Procedures*.

RM04-3-21 Publications & Archives Committee Report

We have heard a report from the Publications & Archives Committee, which is responsible for publishing the Directory, *Annual Records*, and *Bulletin*. The committee appre-ciates the work of Susan Jeffers in creating the original data base, Don Ruswick for taking it over and updating it, and Eric Starbuck for printing the new *Member Directory 2004*. The meetings that have not sent information on their members have been referred to Advancement & Outreach Committee. The *Annual Records* are published thanks to a lot of work by Eric Starbuck, and Friends seem generally satisfied with the format. The *Bulletin* this year is experimenting with electronic publishing, with only a few hard copies mailed to each meeting. Complaints about the fall issue resulted in improvements in both formats for the winter issue, and so far there have been no complaints about this issue. The committee is asked about people who do not use computers and do not attend their meetings and therefore do not know about these ways of obtaining a *Bulletin*. The committee recommends e-mailing the following message to each monthly meeting clerk. Friends approve.

In the interest of conservation of resources – including paper, the cost of printing and postage, and labor – the Publications & Archives Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting has this year changed the method of distributing the *LEYM Bulletin*. As you may have noticed, the entire *Bulletin* is being posted on-line at < from where it is easily downloadable, in whole or in part. In addition, a limited number of copies have been mailed to each Meeting and Worship Group for those who prefer to have a hard copy. This procedure has seemed to satisfy most Friends.

It has, however, come to the committee's attention that there may well be Friends who find it difficult to access the Internet them-selves or to pick up a printed copy of the *Bulletin* from their Monthly Meeting. If you are one of those, and want to read the *Bulletin* on a regular basis, please send your name and address to Eric Starbuck, Editor, at <ericstarbuck@att.net> or 815 Pitt St., Apt. 3L, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221-2881, and you will receive a copy directly by mail.

RM04-3-22 New description of LEYM for FWCC

FWCC's description of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting in its *Friends Around the World* is outdated and needs to be revised to reflect more accurately who we are. Thomas Taylor, David Bassett, Mike Fuson, and Clémence Mershon are asked to draft something to bring to Yearly Meeting if there is time before FWCC's publishing deadline for its new edition. If the deadline comes before our Yearly Meeting sessions, then we ask them to circulate the draft within the Executive Committee for approval.

RM04-3-23 Fall Gatherings

The Executive Committee thought a fall gathering might be a good thing for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Don Nagler, Nancy Nagler, Connie Bimber, and Dale Pratt-Harrington are asked to bring a recommendation to our Yearly Meeting sessions. We are informed that LEYM's representatives are responsible for planning the Lower Great Lakes Regional Gathering of FWCC this fall. Green Pastures Quarter, the Spiritual Formation Program, and several monthly meetings all have fall retreat weekends.

RM04-3-24 YoungQuakes

We are informed that the next YoungQuakes (age 14-18) gathering will be Oct. 8-11 in Wisconsin. Please encourage high school Friends in your meeting to attend – and make it feasible for them to do so.

RM04-3-25 FGC Religious Educators Institute

The Friends General Conference Religious Educators Institute will be held Aug. 19-22, 2004, at Camp Asbury, Silver Lake, New York. It is suggested that each month-ly meeting send someone from its First Day School Committee to this weekend. The FGC Religious Education Committee is also putting together anti-racism resources for all age levels.

RM04-3-26 Closing worship

There being no further business, the meeting is concluded with worship.

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
June 17-20, 2004
Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting met for its 41st session on Sixth Month 17, 2004, at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio. We began with worship. We have heard the epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting challenging us to live more fully and faithfully into God-centered lives, and to proclaim the Truth we find. Our clerk Sally Weaver Sommer welcomed us to worship, fellowship, and the conduct of our business, all with attentiveness to the Spirit's leading.

YM2004-1 Roll Call

We have heard the roll call of people attending from our constituent monthly and preparative meetings and worship groups. The final official tally will be inserted later. We miss four members because of health issues who have participated faithfully in our Yearly Meeting for many years: Bill and Isabel Bliss and Leonora and Wallace Cayard. Personal notes and letters would be appreciated by them.

Akron	5	Kalamazoo	14
Ann Arbor	19	Kent	5
Athens	19	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	6	Monongalia	2
Broadmead	14	N. Columbus	2
Cleveland	14	Oberlin	4
Delaware	0	Pine River	4
Detroit	8	Pittsburgh	7
Grand Rapids	2	Red Cedar	4
Granville	8	Wooster	2

Albion (under Red Cedar)	2
Erie (under Pittsburgh)	1
Fremont (under Grand Rapids)	0
Holland PM (under Grand Rapids)	0
Indiana PM (under Pittsburgh)	0
Manitou (under Grand Rapids)	0
Rio Grande	0
Rock Road (under Wooster)	0
Sidney (under Broadmead)	0
Grand Traverse (under Grand Rapids)	0

YM2004-2 First-timer introductions

Folks who are attending Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for the first time were asked to introduce themselves. Travel minutes have been read for Julie Harlow from Davis Monthly Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting, with a concern about Friends House Moscow; Deborah Fisch of Paulina Monthly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), who is coordinator of Friends General Conference (FGC)'s Traveling Ministries Pro-gram; Ed Dreby of Mt. Holly Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, from Quaker EarthCare Witness; Susan Lee Barton of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, field staff of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC); Dave French of Madison Monthly Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting, visiting under FGC's Yearly Meeting Visitor Program.

YM2004-3 Travel letter for Zig Dermer and Rosemary Coffey

We have heard some of the endorsements on our travel letter for Zig Dermer and Rosemary Coffey, who visited Ireland with the Friendly FolkDancers in April, which was the 350th anniversary of Friends in Ireland.

YM2004-4 Naming Committee

We approve Margaret Kanost, Nancy Nagler, and Bill Hummon to serve on the Naming Committee to bring forth names of two Friends to serve three-year terms on the Nominating Committee.

YM2004-5 Epistle Committee

Assistant clerk Mike Fuson, Ellen Barnes, and Peter Wood are approved to serve on the Epistle Committee.

YM2004-6 Naming Committee Clerks: Change to Policies and Procedures

The language of our *Policies and Procedures* [Section IV, E. Standing Committees, 5. Nominating Committee] regarding the task of the Nominating Committee to name committee clerks has been somewhat ambiguous. Friends, therefore, approve the following change:

(1) To discern and to secure acceptance of, in advance of Yearly Meeting, nominations for officers and such committee and subcommittee members and representatives to other Friends' organizations, including yearly meetings within our Lower Great Lakes region of FWCC, as are called for by current activities of the Yearly Meeting. Thus most of the work is done at Repre-sentative Meeting. In addition, those attending Yearly Meeting who desire committee or other assignments should so state on their application forms; this information and the names of all persons attending LEYM shall be promptly passed on to the Nominating Committee.

(2) To name, after consulting with current committees, a clerk for each standing committee by the rise of Yearly Meeting.

(3) To function throughout the year to fill vacancies as they occur or additional positions as they are needed.

(4) To advise the Yearly Meeting when a committee may need to be laid down.

(5) To choose which representatives to FWCC may attend the Triennial. (Selection shall normally be of someone who has not previously attended.)

(6) To provide, promptly at the close of Yearly Meeting, an accurate, complete list of all appointments to the Yearly Meeting Clerks, the clerk of each standing committee, and the Bulletin Editor.

(7) To keep accurate records of each individual's initial year of appointment to a committee so that the limit of six consecutive years is not exceeded.

YM2004-7

We have heard a minute from Executive Committee that was read and affirmed at Representative Meeting in Third Month, 2004. It is printed on page 9 of the Spring 2004 LEYM *Bulletin*.

EC04-3-2 Lessons for LEYM from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Business Sessions

Don Nagler reported on his experience at Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), where all reports are in writing and are read by reading clerks. This fosters the sense of ongoing worship, with less conversation from the floor. It requires committee work ahead of time. It is felt that our Yearly Meeting sessions tend to have lengthy reports with little time for prayerful reflection on issues that need discernment. On the other hand, some value our informality. Friends seem to prefer that each committee discern which few things it wants to bring to the attention of the entire body, especially those things that need further discernment. All the rest of the committees' work can be included in the published reports. It may help to have a committee report its issue or question and then lay it over to allow time for anyone with questions to speak with committee members. Then at a later session the body can perhaps arrive at a decision more smoothly. Friends agree we want to be more disciplined in our committee reports, differentiating between information and things that need input from the larger body. The reports should be brief, with more

communication between committee clerks and the presiding clerk in order to build the agenda. We are reminded to help create a culture in which the clerk has been given authority to discern on whom to call to speak, and that we are not a "town meeting" in which everyone has the right to speak.

YM2004-8 Preserving institutional memory on committees

As members rotate off committees and new Friends come on, a great deal of institutional memory seems to get lost. We are reminded of our current *Policies and Procedures* that specifies that each committee is responsible for preparing its own policies and procedures and seeing that these get passed on to incoming clerks. Current clerks of committees that have no written outlines of procedures, history of past and current projects, and/or a file of committee minutes are asked to work on getting such things into a notebook or folder to pass on to future clerks.

Each committee shall develop its own set of procedures (in manual form) to guide its continuing work. Copies of these committee manuals shall go to the Clerk of LEYM and all respective committee members. Retiring committee clerks and members are responsible for passing their copies on to their replacements. The procedures may well include times when the committee will meet during the year, and the expected time when a committee report will be written, published, and submitted to the Clerk of LEYM.

YM2004-9 Report on Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

We have heard a report from the outgoing clerk of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, which has responsibility for Friends School in Detroit, support for the Michigan area office of the AFSC, and several other things. The Quarterly Meeting has gotten under the weight of a concern for the small worship groups, especially those that don't meet every week. Monthly meetings outside of Michigan that do not have these opportuni-ties for meeting together are encouraged to consider forming quarterly meetings.

YM2004-10 Worship and Epistle from the Quaker Consultation on Prevention of Violent Conflict

We reconvened Sixth Day morning, with worship. We have heard the epistle from the Quaker Consultation on Prevention of Violent Conflict, held in Burundi. Amid the horror and devastation left in the wake of violence, we witness miracles of reconciliation and peace making, sense the faith and work of Friends in Africa, and hear their call for a renewal of our testi-mony to the power of God to enable us to live and work creative-ly for peace, justice, and the integrity of creation.

YM2004-11 Welcome to newcomers

We again welcome those who are attending LEYM for the first time. We have heard a letter of introduction for Paul Buckley of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, from Earlham School of Religion (ESR); Paul has recently published his translation into modern English of a number of works by William Penn. We welcome Roy Joe and Ruth E. Stuckey of Campus Friends Meeting, Wilmington Yearly Meeting, sojourning members of Monte Verde Monthly Meeting, who are representing FWCC.

YM2004-12 Report on the FWCC Triennial held in New Zealand in January of 2004

We have heard a report from our representatives sent from LEYM to the FWCC Triennial held in New Zealand in First Month, 2004. Margaret Kanost's more detailed report is available in the Spring 2004 LEYM *Bulletin*, pages 20-21. Today she shared more personal stories and a number of objects reflect-ing Aotearoa/New Zealand. We are informed of a prayer request for 350 Congolese Friends who have fled their homes in the past week as civil war has broken out again in their country. Our representatives report on the financial difficulties of FWCC. We are reminded that LEYM's general policy is not to make direct donations to organizations, but to rely on monthly meetings to do this. Twenty-five percent of all contributions to the Section of the Americas is passed on to the FWCC World Office in London. Along with its primary function of connecting Friends across our theological, geographical, and institutional boundaries, FWCC also sponsors the Quaker United Nations Offices in New York and Geneva (in conjunction with the AFSC and British Friends). LEYM is part of the Lower Great Lakes Region of

FWCC's Section of the Americas. The regional group meets once a year. This fall it is the turn of LEYM to be host, and the venue will be Friends School in Detroit, October 2 and 3. Help is needed; volunteers are requested to contact Margaret Kanost, Zig Dermer, or Susan Lee Barton, who is the FWCC staff person, located in Richmond, IN. She is available to help provide information and resources to ten yearly meetings in mid-America.

YM2004-13 Report on the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund

We are informed of the work of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund. A resolution has recently been introduced to the New York City Council urging Congress to enact and the President to sign H.R. 2037, the "Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act." Plans are underway by the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund to hold hearings to highlight the sufferings of citizens who are conscientiously objecting to paying military taxes. The tenth international conference will be held in Brussels. Friends approve that a travel minute be provided for our member David Bassett as he attends the conference, expressing our support of his faithful work on this concern.

YM2004-14 Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

We have heard a report from Advancement & Outreach Committee, which is attached.

YM2004-15 Worship

We re-gathered in the afternoon for worship. We are grateful for all the gifts bestowed on us.

YM2004-16 Arrangements & Site Committee Report

We have heard a report from the Arrangements & Site Committee, which is attached. Next year there may have to be a $20 refundable deposit for keys, since LEYM was billed for the cost of several keys not returned last year.

YM2004-17 Publications & Archives Committee Report

We have heard a report from the Publications & Archives Committee, which is attached. If anyone has photographs from our 1999 sessions, they would be appreciated for inclusion in our LEYM scrapbook. Please send donated pictures to Joe Mills. The time has come to reassess the current experi-ment of posting the LEYM *Bulletin* on the web, printing only 250 copies instead of 1000, and mailing them mostly to archives and in bulk to meetings. This method saves considerable time and effort. As there are no complaints, Friends approve continuing this way of distributing the *Bulletin*. We are very grateful to all the work that Eric Starbuck has done as *Bulletin* editor, editor of the *Annual Records*, web master, and database and Directory compiler.

YM2004-18 African Great Lakes Initiative

Clémence Mershon intends to leave July 5 for Rwanda to volunteer with the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI). They plan to build classrooms for children orphaned by the genocide. She expects to return Aug. 23 and would delight in invitations to visit meetings to tell of her experiences and the work of Friends in that area. Our prayers go with Clémence in this work.

YM2004-19 Youth & Children Committee Report

We have heard a report from the Youth & Children Committee. There are 20 children and young people here now, and about ten more are expected on the weekend. There are 11 high school students, who miss the three additional Friends who usually attend high school functions. Our thanks go to all the people who are working with our children and youth this session. The fall 2003 youth retreat was so successful that the parents and children organized and held another weekend in March 2004 in Cleveland.

YM2004-20 Program Committee Report

We have heard a report from the Program Committee, which is attached. We appreciate the work of the commit-tee in organizing the schedule and events at these sessions.

YM2004-21 Report on Quaker EarthCare Witness

We have heard a report from Quaker EarthCare Witness, formerly known as Friends Committee in Unity with Nature. It is now affiliated with FCNL and intends to work more closely with monthly meetings. The focus is to restore the eco-logical integrity of the earth. We are informed that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting now sees the connection between this goal, working for peace, and the spiritual life of individuals and meetings.

YM2004-22 Advancement & Outreach Committee and Policies and Procedures

Advancement & Outreach Committee informs us that, after receiving feedback and taking the matter under further consideration, it withdraws its recommended changes in our *Policies and Procedures*. Advancement & Outreach intends to consider the entire section on membership and hopes to bring some recommendations about it to Representative Meeting in 2005.

YM2004-23 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

We have heard an oral report from Ministry & Nurture Committee. Twelve of the twenty monthly meetings have submitted narrative state of the meeting reports. Some of the meetings returned responses to the queries, and these have been filed in a notebook. The Committee would like Program Commit-tee to reinstate small worship sharing groups during yearly meeting. The following psalm/query is offered to monthly meetings for this coming year:

How long, O God, how long must we remain complacent in our spiritual and physical relationships with the earth and sun which sustain us? How may we alter these relationships in a restorative way?

YM2004-24 Report on FGC's Traveling Ministries Program

Deborah Fisch, FGC staff, who works with the Traveling Ministries Program as well as several other FGC programs, spoke to us. The main work of the Traveling Ministries Program is to facilitate visits to meetings by seasoned Friends. The TMP also hosts an annual retreat for those who travel in the ministry. Every other year it holds a consultation for representatives from yearly meetings affiliated with FGC. LEYM is invited to name two Friends to attend the consultation in November on nurturing ministry in our meetings. Deborah asks, in this time of rapid change, when decisions are being made in our name as citizens in a great world power, what has God given to us for the world? What are we doing to prepare ourselves to be instruments for this message? As Friends have traveled in the ministry under the TMP, they have heard a great hunger and yearning for solid spiritual food. We could again learn to speak boldly to each other of what God has given us, so that we can then have the courage to speak to the world that so desperately needs the message of God’s love and presence, that the Divine Spirit is available to instruct and guide us all into a more rightly ordered way of life.

YM2004-25 Worship; Epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative); First-timer introductions

We gathered on Seventh Day morning in worship, and heard the epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). Again, first-time attenders to LEYM were given an opportunity to introduce themselves. We are delighted with all the folks who are tasting our yearly meeting. We also welcome Leanne Jablonski, a Marianist sister who works with the Ohio Council of Churches’ Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign, and Patricia Powers of Sandy Springs Monthly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, staff lobbyist for FCNL with a particular interest in Native American issues.

YM2004-26 Report on LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program

We have heard a report, which is attached, from the Spiritual Formation Program Committee, which for seven years has been providing encouragement and a program for spiritual nurture for individuals and, through them, our meetings. The cost of the program has risen, especially for the opening and closing weekend retreats. The committee has requested from the Finance Committee funds for scholarships. The committee is sponsoring a retreat for individuals and for spiritual friends, Sept. 10-12, at the Leaven Center in Michigan.

YM2004-27 Report on Michigan Friends Center

We have heard an oral report about the Michigan Friends Center, which is under the care of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting and in relationship with Friends Lake Cooperative Community. This past year it has hosted a number of excellent programs on a variety of topics. The upcoming schedule is avail-able on the web.

YM2004-28 Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer has reported on the finances of LEYM, and her report is attached. After July 1, Erika Smith will deposit the checks, while Connie Bimber will continue to receive and pay bills. All checks should be sent to Erika Smith at 19425 Argyle Crescent, Detroit, MI 48203-1401. We are deeply grateful for the care that Connie Bimber has devoted to LEYM's finances for the past ten years.

YM2004-29 Finance Committee Report

We have heard a report from the Finance Committee. At Representative Meeting it was recommended that we make a special one-time contribution of $500 to the World Office of FWCC. It was also recommended that we raise $2,000 to support the participation of two representatives to the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends (aged 18-35) at the Univer-sity of Lancaster, England. Regarding this, $1,000 is to be transferred from reserves and $500 from the youth activities fund; the rest already has been donated. The Spiritual Formation Program has asked for a line item of $500 for supplies and scholarships, which the Finance Committee recommends. Finance Committee therefore recommends a total budget for next year of $26,070, which comes to about $31 per member. While this is not a formal assessment, Friends are reminded that we all have a responsibility to support our yearly meeting. Friends request that a copy of the proposed budget may be viewed during its consideration by the yearly meeting. The Finance Committee is asked to do this for next year. In order for the Finance Commit-tee to be able to furnish a copy, requests for new or changed budget amounts should be forwarded to Finance Committee by a specific date to be determined. Friends are reminded that the budget is given a first reading at Representative Meeting and the report of Finance Committee's recommendations have been printed in the spring LEYM *Bulletin*, on page 11. Friends will consider the budget for final action later in our yearly meeting sessions.

YM2004-30 We have heard a report from the Peace Commit-tee. Our attention is drawn to Friends School in Detroit's "Kids 4 Afghan Kids" program. In six years the project has blossomed. The school (grades 1-7) has nearly doubled in enrollment, and planning is underway to construct a middle school building and eventually a high school. The health clinic is receiving solid support from the International Medical Corps. There is an en-larged orphanage for 50 boys. See their website at www.kids4 afghankids.com for more information. Our attention is also drawn to H. R. 2037, the "Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act." Peace Committee recommends a minute in response to Ohio's so-called "Defense of Marriage Act"; Friends will take this up again later in our sessions, after time to consider it further.

YM2004-31 Concerns about the American Friends Service Committee

We have heard a report of some of the changes in the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) that have an impact on local offices. The Michigan area office has had two programs. One is on criminal justice, the other has worked to educate against bigotry or restrictive legislation directed at lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people. The AFSC is facing a financial crisis as expenses rise and donations in this country remain flat, while international funding is actually shrinking. Major questions about the direction in which the national office seems to be heading include devolving programs, corporate

reorganization and governance, and employee background checks. After considerable discussion, Friends ask that a letter be drafted to be sent by LEYM to the executive director and the clerk of the AFSC board. Marvin Barnes, Dolores Avner, Jim Satterwhite, and Marty Grundy are asked to bring a draft to us tomorrow. Individual Friends are encouraged to seek out members of the AFSC board for additional information and dialogue.

YM2004-32 Report on Friends School in Detroit

We have heard a report about the Friends School in Detroit, where there are many exciting and encouraging new developments. The report is attached. Financial help continues to be needed.

YM2004-33 LEYM Fall Retreat

The proposal to hold an LEYM fall retreat has been considered by the committee named at Representative Meeting. The purpose of the fall retreat would be fellowship. The fall youth retreat is scheduled for Oct. 15-17, and there had been a hope to hold the adult retreat concurrently. While the Templed Hills facility doesn't seem adequate to these dual needs, there is a nearby retreat center, Heartlands, which might be available for adults. Friends generally approve the idea of a fall retreat, but that it be held in 2005. We ask Executive Committee to find two central Ohio Friends to join the planning committee.

YM2004-34 Report on the high school youth program

We have heard a report from the high school youth program with its staff support from Kri Anderson; it is attached. There have been four weekend events, including one with high school students from Northern YM, Illinois YM, and Ohio Valley YM. The committee recommends that the program be continued, which Friends are glad to approve. The committee further recommends – and Friends approve – that a more permanent committee be appointed to care for the high school youth program. This would have two-year staggered terms for one or two teens, a parent, a liaison with the YM high school program, a person to serve as clerk, and the program coordinator in an ex officio capacity. This committee would be entirely separate from the committee in Ann Arbor Meeting that supports and cares for Kri's ministry. We are informed that a committee of LEYM and Baltimore YM people has been formed to plan a work camp for 16-18 year olds to go to Moscow in Sixth Month 2005. The cost is expected to be about $1,300 per person.

YM2004-35 Worship

We gathered again on First Day morning for our final session, beginning with a brief time of worship.

YM2004-36 Appoint representatives to the consultation on nurturing ministry in our meetings

We approve Connie Bimber and Nancy Nagler to be our LEYM representatives to the FGC Traveling Ministries Program consultation on nurturing ministry in our meetings. It will be held November 14-16, 2004, near Pittsburgh.

YM2004-37 Milestones reached by Broadmead and Kalamazoo Meetings

We are informed that Broadmead Monthly Meeting is 30 years old this month, and Kalamazoo was established 50 years ago. The latter plans to host a celebration Sept. 10-12. We are delighted in the life and growth these milestones symbolize.

YM2004-38 Nominations approved

We have heard the final report of the Nominating Committee, which is attached and will be published in the *Annual Records*. Friends approve the recommendations of the committee. The committee will attempt to find Friends willing and able to serve in the few remaining open positions. We authorize the Executive Committee to consider and approve – or not – these additional names. We are grateful for the work of the Nominating Committee.

YM2004-39 Minute opposing "Defense of Marriage"-type amendments to state & federal constitutions

Peace Committee brings again to our attention its concern about movements in Ohio and Michigan to put

constitutional amendments on the November ballot to ban recognition of same-gender marriage or civil unions. We approve the following minute, which we direct to be sent to a number of political officials and Quaker organizations.

> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting affirms there is that of God in each person, without regard to sexual orientation. On that basis, we oppose attempts to adopt discriminatory "Defense of Marriage"-type amendments to state and federal constitutions. We believe that such constitutional amendments would make it extremely difficult for a national consensus on this issue to evolve, and that such pre-emptive amendments would be contrary to our under-standing of the spirit of God's love.

YM2004-40 Report from Earthcare Committee of Concern

We have heard a report from the Earthcare committee of concern, which is attached. Monthly meetings are urged to earnestly consider the queries this year on earth care. Members of the committee of concern are available to monthly meetings or individuals for additional information.

YM2004-41 LEYM Letter of Concern to AFSC approved

Friends appointed to draft a letter to the AFSC bring the following, which is attached. Friends approve that this be sent over our clerk's signature to the clerk of the AFSC board and to the executive director, with a copy to the Michigan area office.

YM2004-42 Arrangements & Site Committee Report

We are informed by the Arrangements & Site Committee that 147 people have attended over the four days of our yearly meeting sessions. We thank Bill Greenberg for the colorful and helpful spreadsheet he printed out that has facilitated the registration process. We approve meeting here again, June 16-19, 2005.

YM2004-43 Final changes to and approval of the budget

Finance Committee brings the following minutes, which Friends now approve:

We were informed by our FWCC representatives that the 20-year World Gathering of Young Friends (18 to 35 years) is planned for August 2005 at Lancaster University, England, and that LEYM could send two participants. One representative recommended that LEYM plan to send participants and that we establish a special fund to assist in their expenses, with a minimum goal of $2,000. This recommendation was approved by Representative Meeting. The Finance Committee recommended that $1,000 from the General Fund reserve and $500 from the Youth Activity Fund be transferred to the fund, and that special gifts be solicited for the remainder. The treasurer has since received $700 for this purpose and we need your approval for these actions. (Approved)

An FWCC representative reported on the critical condition of the London Headquarters Office of FWCC, whose treasury and reserves are almost exhausted; he asks that a one-time contribution of $500 be made by LEYM to ameliorate the situation. The Representative Meeting approved. We need your post-approval of this action, minute RM04-3-15. (Approved)

The Spiritual Formation Group has requested support of $500 for its 2004-05 budget, to be used for scholarships and supplies. The Finance Committee recommends approval. (Approved)

The treasurer recommends no other changes in the 2004-05 expense budget from the current 2003-04 budget. With the $500 just approved for Spiritual Formation, the Finance Committee recommends a 2004-05 budget total of $26,070 and requests approval. (Approved)

Friends approve the 2004-05 budget as offered in minute YM2004-29.

There was some discussion about the $200 already donated to LEYM above the $2,000 earmarked for the World Gathering of Young Friends. A difficulty with supporting this event is that it is being planned by an ad hoc committee that does not have 501(c)3 status. Friends approve that any funds above what is needed (up to $2,000) for the expenses of our own two LEYM representa-tives to the World Gathering be used to help provide assistance to yearly meeting representatives from other parts of the world. We ask

the Executive Committee to investigate how this might be done within our procedures. Friends and monthly meetings are encouraged to make additional contributions to assist the World Gathering of Young Friends. Finance Committee thanks Michael Fuson for developing an operating procedure; it is currently being used by our treasurer.

YM2004-44 Report on the Friends Committee on National Legislation

We are informed that the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) capital campaign has been a resounding success. Because of the current political situation in our nation, FCNL has significantly expanded its program and staff. Friends are encouraged to contribute generously right now, before FCNL's fiscal year ends on 6/30.

YM2004-45 Epistle

We delight in the presence of the entire yearly meeting family to hear one another's epistles. We have heard and approve the message from the adult sessions. We are grateful that our epistle committee has reported with integrity on our time together, and that we are sending a message of hope into the larger world of Friends.

YM2004-46 Epistles from the Children and Teens

The middle school class read their epistle, which explained how they explored the concept of integrity. It also described their very full schedule. The pre-school reported on its play-dough- and art-filled times together. The early elementary class of four showed us their self-portraits and read their epistle describing what they did. The upper elementary class took turns reading their epistle to us. The high school group presented its epistle in the form of an Integrity Anonymous meeting skit. It concluded with the "integrity prayer," which sums up their understanding of the concept:

Integrity is the honor that comes from honesty and kindness, while being strong enough to openly stand and live by what you believe.

YM2004-47 Appointments to the Nominating Committee

The Naming Committee recommends that Connie McPeak Green be appointed to the Nominating Committee for a three-year term. Friends approve with appreciation. The Naming Committee intends to recommend to the Executive Committee the name of a second Friend for final approval. Friends agree with this arrangement.

YM2004-48 Closing

There being no further business we conclude, hoping to meet again Sixth Month 16, 2005, here at Bluffton College, God willing.

Committee Reports

Advancement & Outreach

The Advancement & Outreach Committee was blessed at our meetings yesterday with the fellowship of Dave French and Merry Stanford. Dave offered insight and experience from his involvement with FGC Advancement & Outreach Committee and Northern Yearly Meeting. Merry carried a concern about inter-visitation among Friends in LEYM from Ministry & Nurture Committee. We were moved by the vision shared by Merry and grateful for the spiritual foundation of the concern.

Advancement & Outreach continues to be grateful for news of meetings and worship groups within LEYM. We look forward to visiting meetings and deepening our connections.

We are developing articles to be published in future *Bulletins*. We are moving forward on a concern to help monthly meetings develop or refine web sites. We also plan to work with Eric Starbuck to refine the Yearly Meeting web site and possibly develop new material for it.

ITEM FOR YEARLY MEETING ACTION: Proposed revisions to *Policies & Procedures Manual*.

Acting Clerk,
Mathilda Navias

Finance & Budget

Several transactions recommended at Representative Meeting, 3/6/04, require your action in this sequence. We were informed by our FWCC representatives that the 20-year World Gathering of Young Friends (18 to 35 years) is planned for August 2005 at Lancaster University, England, and that LEYM could send two participants. One representative recommended that LEYM plan to send participants and that we establish a special fund to assist in their expenses, with a minimum goal of $2,000. This recom-mendation was approved by Representative Meeting. The Finance Committee recommended that $1,000 from the General Fund reserve and $500 from the Youth Activity Fund be transferred to the fund, and that special gifts be solicited for the remainder. The treasurer has since received $700 for this purpose and we need your approval for these actions. (Approved)

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The Spiritual Formation Group has requested support of $500 for its 2004-05 budget, to be used for scholarships and supplies. The Finance Committee recommends approval. (Approved)

The treasurer recommends no other changes in the 2004-05 expense budget from the current 2003-04 budget. With the $500 just approved for Spiritual Formation, the Finance Committee recommends a 2004-05 budget total of $26,070 and requests approval. (Approved)

The Fair Share contribution for next year will be $31 per mem-ber, unchanged from the current year. To accomplish our LEYM plans, we need Monthly Meeting cooperation to reach or exceed this goal.

We close with thanks to Asst. Clerk Michael Fuson for his Finance Committee Working Procedures, which Treasurer Connie Bimber has been using.

Finance and Budget Committee
Joe Davis, clerk

Treasurer's Report

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Treasurer's Report July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2004
By Connie Bimber

FUND	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	CURRENT BALANCE
General Fund	7,476.97	22,956.04	23,916.46	$6,516.55
Annual Meeting	13,481.81	15,731.46	26,251.77	$2,961.50
Triennial Travel	3,830.95	1,240.00	4,764.11	$306.84
Granville Friends Y.F.	5,510.60	185.66	185.66	$5,510.60
Youth Activity Fund	924.10	1,625.66	2,428.25	$121.51
Spiritual Formation Grp	52.35	3,217.64	2,846.03	$423.96
High School Program	$752.00	6,787.69	6,092.49	$1,447.20
World Gathering Y.F.		2,650.00		$2,650.00
TOTALS	32,028.78	54,394.15	66,484.77	$19,938.16

ACCOUNT	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	DEBITS	CURRENT BALANCE
CHECKING	22,390.30	46,222.42	58,359.11	$10,253.61
SHOREBANK – March	2,038.60	21.46	0.00	$2,060.06
SHOREBANK - Sept	2,089.28	24.61	0.00	$2,113.89
SOUTHSHORE BANK	5,510.60	185.66	185.66	$5,510.60
TOTALS	32,028.78	46,454.15	58,544.77	$19,938.16

General Fund – INCOME

Akron	496.00	
Ann Arbor	4,216.00	
Athens	1,200.00	
Birmingham	784.00	
Broadmead	750.00	
Cleveland	2,666.00	
Delaware	372.00	
Detroit	300.00	
Grand Rapids	756.00	
Granville	600.00	
Kalamazoo	1,333.00	
Kent	624.00	
Mid-Ohio Valley	165.00	
Monongalia	250.00	
N. Columbus	0.00	
Oberlin	558.00	
Pine River	496.00	
Pittsburgh	5,455.62	
Red Cedar	660.00	
Wooster	806.00	
Misc.	377.42	
Sales & Fees	0.00	
Checking		42.93
CDs		46.07
Interest	91.00	

TOTAL	22,865.04	

General Fund – EXPENSES

EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PERCENT
World Gathering of Young Friends*		$1,000.00	
Travel	$5,500.00	$4,666.15	85%
Office	$300.00	$116.05	39%
Publications	$4,400.00	$3,169.26	72%
FGC	$4,500.00	$4,500.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	$2,500.00	$2,500.00	100%
Records Project	$200.00	$100.00	50%
Advancement	$130.00	$0.00	0%
Clerk's Fund	$500.00	$35.00	7%
FWCC Travel*	$1,240.00	$1,240.00	100%
Youth Activity Fund*	$1,200.00	$1,200.00	100%
Olney Friends School	$600.00	$600.00	100%
FGC Nurturing Fund	$500.00	$500.00	100%
High School Youth Fund*	$4,000.00	$4,000.00	100%
Misc		$290.00	
Totals	$25,570.00	$23,916.46	94%

* = transfers

Annual Meeting

Balance June 30,2003	$13,481.81
Expense	26,251.77
Income	$15,731.46

Balance June 30, 2004	$2,961.50

FWCC Triennial Travel Fund

Balance June 30, 2003	$3,830.95
Expense	$4,764.11
Income - Transfer	$1,240.00
Balance June 30, 2004	$306.84

Granville Friends Youth Fund

Balance June 30, 2003	$5,510.60
Interest income	$185.66
Transfer - outgo	$185.66
Balance June 30, 2004	$5,510.60

Earnings are transferred to the Youth Activity Fund.

Youth Activity Fund

Balance June 30, 2003		$924.10
Income - transfer	$1,200.00	
Income - interest	$185.66	
Income - Youth Retreat	$240.00	
Total Income this year		$1,625.66
TOTAL INCOME		$2,549.76
Expense - Grants	$1,103.25	
Expense - World Gathering	$500.00	
Expense - youth retreat	$825.00	
Total Expense		$2,428.25
Balance June 30, 2004		$121.51

Spiritual Formation Group

Balance June 30, 2003	$52.35
Income	$3,217.64
Expense	$2,846.03

Balance June 30, 2004	$423.96

High School Youth Program

Income	Budget	Actual
From Green Pastures QM		$540.69
Donations	$1,000.00	$1,032.00
Transfer from Gen. Fund	$4,000.00	$4,000.00
Retreats	$0	$1,282.00
Fund Raising		$685.00
Total Income	$5,000.00	$7,539.69

Note - Donations include $752 donated last year.

Expense	Budget	Actual
Program expenses	$1,000.00	$427.50
Stipend	$4,000.00	$4,000.00
Retreats		$1,264.99
T-shirts		$400.00
Total Expense	$5,000.00	$6,092.49
Balance June 30, 2004		$1,447.20

World Gathering of Young Friends

Income

Transfer fm General Fund	$1,000.00
Transfer fm Youth Activity F.	$500.00
Donations	$1,150.00
Total Income	$2,650.00

High School Youth Program

June 16, 2004

Program Activities

Kri Anderson, Program Coordinator, conducted four successful quarterly retreats with and on behalf of LEYM youth, as per LEYM's agreement with her. These events were:

1. An informal summer retreat with eight young people at Michigan Friends Center. Activities including camping, swimming, worshipping together, and enjoying each other's company.
2. A fall retreat over Halloween weekend at Pittsburgh Meeting, with a theme of mask-making. Ten young people parti-cipated, and they reported that they want to go back to Pittsburgh sometime because of the beautiful meeting house and the won-derful hospitality! The event pulled in some Pittsburgh kids that had not yet been to Annual Meeting. The Meeting joined the retreat for a potluck and talent show on Saturday evening, and the young people joined the Meeting for worship on Sunday.
3. The Second Annual Quake that Rocked the Midwest was held in Evanston, Illinois, over the Martin Luther King, Jr., weekend in January, involving youth from Northern YM, Illinois YM, Ohio Valley YM, and LEYM. 20 young people attended, with about 6 from LEYM. Workshops were led by Carolyn Lejuste (LEYM) on peacework, Breeze Luetke-Stahlman (IYM) on exploring the Quaker testimonies using radio, and Nancy Duncan (IYM) on healthy sexuality. It was an opportunity for these Midwestern Quaker youth to get together and build com-munity, strengthening their sense of cohesion and identity as Midwestern Quakers. The shared meeting for worship at Evan-ston Meeting was very powerful. Many young people spoke in meeting who had never spoken before. Adults also spoke to the power of the youth presence. Feedback from meetings has generally been that hosting youth retreats, and having youth present, really enlivens and freshens the life of the meeting.
4. A retreat was held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, March 19-21, 2004, in which eight young people of LEYM participated. Susan Jeffers presented passages in the Bible dealing with power: the powers that be, personal power, and the power of God. Young Friends attended a peace rally at the University of Michigan and a ska concert performed by a band that includes one of our young Friends.

The High School Youth Program had also tentatively planned a trip to Russia in June 2004. That trip was postponed until June 2005, and will be a joint project of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Young Friends who are 16 through 18 years old are invited to apply soon. A planning committee has been formed, including Kri Anderson, LEYM, and Marcia Holiday and Stu Breyer, both of BYM. Friends House Moscow has been involved in advising the planning committee regarding logistics. The next step is soliciting applications, determining participants, and raising funds. The committee anticipates costs at $1300 per person; fundraising by the participants will reduce that cost to themselves or to the Yearly Meeting. Activities will include service work at a local school, a visit to Friends House Moscow, including a presentation on FHM's Quaker witness in Russia and Europe, and sightseeing. There will be a ratio of one adult to each five or six young Friends.

Recommendations

1. Based on the successful completion of this first pilot year of the High School Youth Program, the committee heartily recommends that this program be continued.
2. The committee recognized that input was needed from signif-icant persons who were not represented on the committee. We therefore recommend that the High School Youth Program Com-mittee be comprised of one or two high school youth, a parent representative, a liaison representative of the High School Pro-gram of the annual sessions of LEYM, and a clerk. The Program Coordinator should serve as ex-officio member of the committee.

The Committee also recommends to the incoming committee that guidelines be drafted and distributed to meetings that volunteer to host a youth retreat. Kri has begun drafting these guidelines, and will work with the new committee to finalize them.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the young people of LEYM through the work of this program.

Respectfully submitted,
Merry Stanford, Clerk

Nominating

By David Stilwell, Clerk

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Officers

Office	Person	Year
Presiding Clerk	Michael Fuson, Granville	2
Assistant Clerk	Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead	4
Recording Clerk	Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor	1
Treasurer	Connie Bimber, Oberlin	10
LEYM Bookstore	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	4
Bulletin Editor	Eric Starbuck, Pittsburgh	5
Production	Publication Committee members with assistance of many others	

LEYM Committees

*No Nominee – if you feel led, call David Stilwell at 330-670-0053.

People	Years Served & End Year
Advancement & Outreach	
Kelly Helms, Ann Arbor	3 2005
Mathilda Navias, Broadmead, Clerk	3 2005
Phil Balderston, Wooster	2 2006
Don Nagler, Pine River	2 2006
John Savage, N. Columbus	1 2007
Leslie Walden, Detroit	1 2007
Arrangements & Site	
Elena Tuhy, Granville	3 2005
Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead	3 2005
Judy Greenberg, Broadmead, Clerk	5 2006
Frank Kennedy, Broadmead	1 2006
Regula Kummer, Broadmead	4 2007
Jon Sommer, Broadmead	1 2007
Finance & Budget	
Linda Mills, Kalamazoo, Clerk	6 2005
Zig Dermer, Pittsburgh	4 2006
Erika Smith, Ann Arbor	2 2006
Treasurer, ex officio	
Ministry & Nurture	
Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor	3 2005
Star Mary Castro, Athens	2 2005
Janet Smith, Broadmead	5 2006
Shirley Bechill, Pine River	2 2006
Merry Stanford, Red Cedar, Clerk	4 2007
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	1 2007

Ministry & Nurture Local Representatives

Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor
Suzanne Howell, Athens
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham
Fred Feitler, Kent
Dick Taylor, Oberlin
Dolores Avner, Pittsburgh

Nominating

David Stilwell, Kent, Clerk	2005
Verne Bechill, Pine River	2005
Dolores Avner, Pittsburgh	2006
Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	2004
Bob Roehm, N. Columbus	2006
Connie McPeak Green, Cleveland	2007

Peace

Betty Ford, Grand Rapids	1	2007
Gerry McNabb, Oberlin	3	2005
Leroy Curtis, Wooster	2	2006
Nate Riley, Birmingham	2	2006
David Lore, Granville, Clerk	1	2007
Sadie Taylor, Oberlin	1	2007

Program

Adrian Barnes, Detroit	3	2005
Nancy Nagler, Pine River, Clerk	5	2005
Dale Pratt-Harrington, Athens	5	2006
Margy Liske, Kent	4	2006
Peter Woods, Red Cedar	1	2007
Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	1	2007

Publications & Archives

*		2005
*		2005
Leonora Cayard, Pittsburgh	5	2006
Marvin Barnes, Birmingham	2	2006
Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh, Clerk	4	2007
Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor	1	2007

Youth and Children

Youth & Children	Conlith Crotser, Cleveland, Clerk	2005
Youth & Children	Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens	2006
Pre-School Leader	Susan Gallagher, Akron	2005
Pre-School Asst	Joyce Balderston, Wooster	2006
Early Elem Leader	Peter Crowley, Cleveland	2005
Early Elem Asst	*	
Upper Elem Leader	Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead	2005
Upper Elem Asst	Joe Mills, Kalamazoo	2006
Fall Retreat Clerk	Kate Spry, Cleveland	2005
Fall Retreat Asst	John Edgerton	2006
Middle School Leader	Vanessa Fuson, Granville	2005
Middle School Asst	*	
High School Leader	*	
High School Asst	*	

Youth Member	*	
Representatives to		
AFSC	Richard Taylor, Oberlin, Clerk	4 2005
AFSC	James Satterwhite, Broadmead	6 2005
AFSC	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	2 2006
AFSC	David Basset, Ann Arbor	1 2007
FCNL	Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor, Clrk	6 2005
FCNL	David Snyder, Albion	2 2005
FCNL	David Lore, Granville	2 2006
FCNL	Lila Cornell, Pittsburgh	2 2006
FCNL	Marge Nelson, Athens	1 2007
Q Earthcare Witness	Alan Connor, Ann Arbor	1 2005
FGC	Leonora Cayard, Pittsburgh	6 2005
FGC	Star Mary Castro, Athens, Clerk	5 2005
FGC	Kri Anderson, Ann Arbor	4 2005
FGC	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	2 2006
FLGBTQC	Bob Roehm, N. Columbus	1 2005
FWCC	Margaret Kanost, Birmingham	6 2005
FWCC	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	2 2006
FWCC	Raelyn Joyce, Kalamazoo	1 2007
FWCC	Zig Dermer, Pittsburgh	3 2007
William Penn House	*	
Olney Friends Schl	Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor	
Wilmington YM	*	
Ohio YM Conserv	Leroy Curtis, Wooster	
Canadian YM	Bob Orr, Detroit	
EFI Eastern Region	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	

Ministry & Nurture

Minutes – March 6, 2004 (approved June 18, 2004)

Present: Thomas Taylor, clerk (Ann Arbor), Ellen Barnes, recorder (Birmingham), Shirley Bechill (Pine River), Fred Feitler (Kent), Michael Fuson (Granville), Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo), Bill Hummon (vice Star Mary Castro, Athens), Steve Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Janet Smith (Broadmead), Richard Taylor (Oberlin).

Regrets: Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), Star Mary Castro, Suzanne Howell (Athens), Kathy Stackhouse (Pittsburgh)

MN 03/04 – 1. After a plenary session of silent worship, we gathered in a separate room and introduced ourselves. Friends then reviewed the agenda, adding two items.

MN 03/04 – 2. Minutes of June 2003. We reviewed the minutes of our meetings in June 2003 and note that approval of the Minutes of March 2003 should have included a correction in the report from Kalamazoo Meeting. That report should not have included the Quarterly Meeting event at Quaker Park, Battle Creek, in August. The note on that event should be listed in the minutes as a separate item.

Further correction: at the June meeting, Don Ruswick was the representative from Pine River and Shirley Bechill was a visitor.

The June amended minutes were approved, including the bracket-ed notes of explanation by the clerk.

MN 03/04 – 3. Integrity Queries – Summary of Responses. We have received summaries of meeting responses from Thomas Taylor and Janet Smith. Thomas has also provided a further draft, which incorporates passages from both. After additional discus-sion and editing by the group, the further draft was approved. The summary of responses will be submitted for publication in the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records* (2004).

This year we received 12 responses from meetings, whereas last year 17 meetings responded. This is in spite of an additional reminder letter sent to meeting clerks in October. We considered reasons for this shortfall in responses. It may be that integrity is a personal area, so it was difficult for Friends to open up in a group setting. The complexity of several of the questions may be off-putting. Some may feel that they are being coerced by a group of outsiders to do a meaningless exercise. Some felt that the June-December period is too busy a time for this. Upon reflection, we felt that this is the only schedule that works. In spite of these problems, several meetings find the queries process enriching. It is at the local level – Friends meeting Friends face to face – that the real benefit is felt. We ask that Friends help their meetings find the appropriate time and format to address the queries. Meet-ings use a variety of community-building ways and settings, including 20 minutes after meeting for worship or as part of business meeting, a specially called business meeting, an evening gathering or two, neighborhood "thoughtlucks," intergenerational pizza parties, or a meeting retreat lasting a full day or a weekend. Our present process of queries continues to be a good way to invite the participation of numbers of Friends in their meetings in nurturing our spiritual vitality.

Survey: We discussed the possibility of developing a survey to ascertain the value of the query process and agreed to incorporate a simple set of questions about the process in the cover letter to the next set of queries. The clerk agreed to draft a letter for us to approve in June, asking such questions as:

What are the benefits to the meeting and to individuals of this annual YM query process?

How does your meeting currently handle the queries?

Have you any further suggestions of how your meeting might be given spiritual nurture?

We explored other ways of making the individual meeting responses available to Friends, such as reading some out in YM plenary or publishing them on the YM web page. Currently, the M&N clerk stores them in a notebook, which is made available during YM sessions. [Later thoughts from the clerk: Copies may also be obtained from the M&N clerk by e-mail or post. Other members of M&N may wish to print them off and make a packet of meeting responses available to their own meetings.]

MN 03/04 – 4. Spiritual Nurture in our Meetings: One Friend asked what happens to the State of the Meeting reports. This will need to be investigated and discussed further. Some reports have been sent to the clerk of M&N on occasion, and then have been copied for study in our M&N meetings. However, this has been somewhat haphazard. We note that State of the Meeting reports are generated in a variety of ways, with varying degrees of meeting involvement.

Friends shared their recollections of the history of the Spiritual Formation Program in relation to M&N, including received reports and designated Friends to carry out oversight and reports. Some of us have led SF groups. In the past couple of years, SF has seemed quite self-sufficient, so the bridges with M&N have been neglected. The program is still officially under the care of this committee, and we welcome reports, will respond to re-quests, and are happy to help publicize workshops and the forma-tion of groups.

We wish to encourage that sufficient time be made for daily worship sharing at Yearly Meeting sessions. We will discuss the matter with members of the Program Committee, offering our services to help form the queries used to guide the process.

We have been asked to give consideration to identifying Friends with spiritual gifts who might be encouraged to visit in meetings around the YM. We hope to discuss this concern further in June, when Merry Stanford, who recently brought it to the attention of clerk, can be with us. To develop such gifts, perhaps we might help Friends who feel they have a leading that can be tested in their own meetings to attend workshops or sessions of the School of the Spirit. The Yearly Meeting does not currently have a line for this kind of aid in its budget.

MN 03/04 – 5. Current Concerns: Time moving on, we had a brief sharing of issues of current concern in our meetings. These include draft counseling, racism, diversity, building community and reaching out to people who drift away from meeting.

MN 30/04 – 6. Queries for 2004: Spiritual Basis of Earthcare. We agreed that the queries for 2004 should be on Earthcare, with particular attention to its spiritual dimensions. This seems partic-ularly timely with the potential devastating effect of many of our government's current policies on the environment, such as oil exploration in environmentally sensitive areas and the relaxing of emissions laws. The spiritual basis of Friends' testimony in this area needs our attention, so that we may be sufficiently grounded to play our part locally and nationally. Ministry & Nurture will consult with the Earthcare committee of concern, as we form these queries and after they have been drafted. We will then sub-mit the queries to our YM sessions in June for approval and send them to meetings by 30 June, with responses invited by the end of December.

MN 03/04 – 7. LEYM Faith & Practice: The clerk informed us that the Executive Committee has been reminded that LEYM has no Book of Faith & Practice and that this may be the time to begin writing one from our present documents. This is a potential focus for our annual session in 2005, with Jan Hoffman or anoth-er Friend invited to help us explore what would be involved and what the costs and benefits might be.

MN 06/03 – 8. We ended the session with a very brief period of worship and adjourned to lunch.

Ellen Barnes, recorder
Thomas Taylor, clerk

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Queries on Integrity
Summary of Meeting Responses, March 2004

The very personal area of "Integrity" may have been difficult for Friends to discuss in a group setting. This year, only slightly more than half (12) of our 21 meetings responded to the queries, and several of those responses were received well after the 31 December deadline.* Previously, as many as 17 meetings have responded. Busyness or other important matters may have also been contributing factors for the lower level of response. Even so, several meetings reported deep and meaningful sharing, and thanks were expressed for the set of quotes (provided with the queries as supportive material), which broadened our under-standing of this central Friends' testimony. One meeting (Ann Arbor) held a special session to study and discuss the Wilmer Cooper pamphlet, *The Testimony of Integrity in the Religious Society of Friends.* Cooper's definition of integrity may stand at the heart of Friends' religious striving for wholeness: integrity is to live in alignment with one's spiritual beliefs.

1. What moves me to live with integrity? When do I have difficulty in witnessing to Truth? What gets in the way or blocks my being able to be faithful to this testimony?

Many of us thought of the lasting effect of early influences, such as family values, expectations, and teachings on goodness reflecting the goodness of God and the teachings of Jesus. We were also expected to be an example and witness to these teachings. Being moved to live with integrity also is found in experience with the Quaker traditions, especially the testimonies and advices and queries. Silent Meeting for Worship provides a centering to wait expectantly and with integrity for God's Truth.

Some saw Truth as a universal opening up or living so we are able to see through the diversions and distractions of daily life. We also talked of discovering the Truth by opening to the Light and putting ourselves in the place of others. The process may be similar to the natural inclination of a plant to grow toward sun-light, or that we have an inborn inclination to grow into the nature of God. Truth is that value which we associate with God, which reflects the spirit of God, and therefore this moves us to live with intent to be faithful to the testimony of integrity that helps us seek Truth (God). What moves us also is the desire to live truthfully and faithfully to our inner spiritual authenticity.

Several spoke of feeling uncomfortable in situations where integrity is lacking; the discomfort helps pull us back to a right relationship with God and each other. Holding a difficult issue in the Light may bring a pang of conscience and prepare us for a second opportunity. Patience is required to be still and know the truth. In situations of serious conflict, as in divorce, both parties must acknowledge that one person's truth may not be the other's.

Speaking truth appears most difficult when it reveals a personal flaw, when we are in a large group (i.e., in situations with co-workers), or when we believe we lack knowledge or words to answer what we know as intuitive truth. Sometimes we hesitate, waiting for someone *else* to speak truth, thus opening the com-fortable path for us to do likewise. We are tempted by expediency to cut corners. Strong feelings or emotions can often impede our intentions to act with integrity, including the emotions of fear, anger, shame, jealousy, feelings of

peer pressure, or hopeless-ness. Do we lose our integrity if we fail to speak out against injustice? Witnessing can also mean taking time to listen and share deeply with another person.

2. How does our meeting live in the life and power to find wholeness, where we are responsible to one another and to our broader community?

All meetings expressed a sense of support for one another and mutual encouragement to grow. Foremost in our meeting life is Meeting for Worship, where we find wholeness and a deepening oneness. From our worship experience we develop a sense of openness, caring, and trust. Through trust we are able to share deeply, and to give and receive witness as Friends, offering loving support to those with concerns and ministering to those who have needs. By reading our advices and queries and "being true" to our testimonies, we grow in understanding of our personal responsibilities to each other and to the meeting.

With every Friends gathering – worship, committee meetings, retreats, discussions, social gatherings, political demonstrations – we feel a sense of community, which enables us to reach out to others in a variety of ways. Several meetings wrote of taking their turns with local soup kitchens or homeless shelter projects, while others wrote of working to meet our global responsibilities.

Some questions continue to challenge us: How spiritually centered are our many commitments? Do we really hold each other accountable to live faithfully? One way we can stay close to the "life and power" and act on our responsibilities to each other is by daily intention to practice the Presence. One person put it, "The meeting gives me hope that I can become a person of integrity, by devoting myself to serving others in true and meaningful ways." With such interdependence in our world today, we are all responsible to our own inner sense of integrity and for each other.

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* Meetings responding: Akron, Ann Arbor, Athens, Birming-ham, Broadmead, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Kent, Oberlin, Pine River, Wooster. Copies of the individual meeting responses may be obtained from Thomas Taylor, clerk of M&N (by post or e-mail). They are also enclosed in a notebook that is made available at Yearly Meeting sessions in June.

Approved by LEYM Committee on Ministry & Nurture, March 6, 2004.

Peace

Peace Committee "notes," from June 17-20, 2004

(Sent by David Basset, at request of Jim Satterwhite, Peace Committee Clerk, in Hebron with Christian Peacemaker Teams)

The Peace Committee (PC) met on several occasions on June 17-18. Jim Satterwhite gave a report to the Meeting for Business on June 19.

Persons attending one or more PC meetings included David Bassett, Leroy Curtis, David Lore, Nate Riley, Jim Satterwhite, Sadie Taylor. (List may be incomplete.) Regrets: Lila Cornell.

1. Support for school in Afghanistan. We heard a report of the collaborative efforts to support the Jamaludine Wardak Elemen-tary School in Afghanistan. This report was sent to us by Julie Poll, teacher at Friends School in Detroit, and Board member of Kids 4 Afghan Kids. Julie has visited the school during two summers, and reports on the increase in this elementary school from 650 students (25 girls) in 2001 to 1000 students (450 girls), grades 1-7, in 2003. There are plans and hopes to construct a middle school and ultimately a high school. Also adjoining the school are a health clinic and an orphanage.

Julie expressed the hope, and PC endorsed this request, for indi-viduals or Meetings to make contributions to help the school. Contributions can be made (by check), payable to Kids 4 Afghan Kids (a 501(c)(3) organization; thus gifts are tax-deductible); 9936 Hambleton, Livonia, MI 48150; tel.: 734-762-0569.

Further information regarding the Afghanistan school project is available from Julie Poll, Friends School in Detroit, 1100 St. Aubin Blvd., Detroit, MI 48207; tel.: 313-259-6722.

2. Conscientious objection to military taxation. The PC encourages individuals and Meetings to continue to support the concept of, and the legislative work regarding, the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act (HR 2037 in the108th Congress). This Bill, when passed, would affirm the religious freedom of taxpayers who are conscientiously opposed to participation in war.

An important new development was the introduction, in New York City on May 19, 2004, by Council Member Bill Perkins (9th District, Manhattan) of Resolution 367 in support of the Peace Tax Fund Bill. The resolution affirms the rights of conscientious objectors to have "alternative service for their drafted dollars." Letters in support of this Resolution, from Meetings or individuals (especially from those with ties to this area of New York City), would be helpful. It is hoped that other communities might follow the example of this New York resolution.

(Information on both these topics is available at www.peacetaxfund.org).

3. Response to "Defense of Marriage" amendments to the Constitution. David Lore alerted us to the active efforts in Ohio to introduce a "Defense of Marriage" amendment to the state constitution. Following active discussion, the PC agreed on wording for a statement that would be brought to the LEYM Meeting for Business, with the aims of informing Friends of the discriminatory nature of such amendments and encouraging efforts to oppose such initiatives in Ohio or in other states.

The PC resolution reads: "Lake Erie Yearly Meeting affirms there is that of God in each person, without regard to sexual orientation. On that basis, we oppose attempts to adopt discrim-inatory 'Defense of marriage'-type amendments to state and federal constitutions. We believe that such constitutional amendments would make it extremely difficult for a national consensus on this issue to evolve, and that such pre-emptive amendments would be contrary to our understanding of the spirit of God's Love."

4. Contact persons for FCNL. We were apprised of the importance of having each Monthly Meeting appoint an FCNL contact person, and to inform FCNL of such appointments. (An important current FCNL initiative is the prevention of deadly conflict.)

Publications & Archives

NOTES FROM LEYM ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 2004

I. Annual Meeting Scrapbooks

Joe Mills, despite officially leaving the committee as of the close of Annual Meeting, kindly agreed to take the scrapbooks home with him again and continue working on them. He identified some photos from 1993, which he will insert in the proper place, and will choose among those from 1998 to add to those already filed. Others were left on a table in the display room for Friends to peruse and select; those remaining were to be discarded. Friends were asked to send him any spare photos from 1999, and Eric Starbuck promised to provide some from 2000 to 2003. Bill Hummon was taking photos at this gathering, so we hope to have some from 2004 in due course. Thus, with a little help from our friends, we look forward to having the scrapbooks up to date by next Annual Meeting.

II. LEYM *Bulletin*

Continuation of the past year's experiment with making the *Bulletin* available on-line, along with sending a few copies to each Monthly Meeting, was approved by Meeting for Business. We noted that we had increased the number of printed copies, in response to requests from some Meetings, and invited people to let us know if they truly wanted a copy sent to their homes. (So far, only 3-4 requests for personal copies had been received.)

We reminded Meeting that, from the financial perspective, it was obviously better to print 250 copies rather than the 1000 we were printing before. From the labor perspective, also, clearly it was easier to send a pile of copies to 30 or so Meetings rather than address, sort, band, and mail individual copies. Access on-line was made easier in the course of the year, so that it was now possible to print only those sections desired or the entire issue.

Our new committee member, Jeff Cooper of Ann Arbor, undertook to check costs at local printers with a view to taking over the printing and mailing of the *Bulletin* three times a year. The Clerk will check back with him some time before October, when the Fall issue will be ready.

III. New Staff Needed

We informed the Meeting that the job originally titled "*Bulletin* Editor" has now morphed into four separate parts: (1) writer and editor of the *Bulletin* three times a year; (2) compiler and editor of the *Annual Records* every summer; (3) maintainer and updater of the LEYM web site; and (4) updater of the LEYM database and compiler of the biennial LEYM Directory.

Eric Starbuck, who had been filling all four of these roles for some time, gave us his one-year notice of resignation. We, there-fore, invited the Nominating Committee to look for Friends interested in being considered for any of these positions, singly or in combination. After various consultations, we came up with a plan for this transitional year, involving a major commitment from each member of the committee. It looks like this:

(a) Eric Starbuck will continue as *Bulletin* editor;

(b) Marvin Barnes will update the web site, beginning in October with the Fall *Bulletin*;

(c) Leslie Walden of the Advancement & Outreach Commit-tee will take on the database and, if it works out, the next edition of the Directory;

(d) Rosemary Coffey will work with Eric this year on the *Annual Records*, taking over the editing once Eric has compiled the contents, with the hope of taking it on altogether next year;

(e) Leonora Cayard, who was not able to be present at this meeting, will be asked to continue as Archivist for LEYM and also take responsibility for printing and directing the mailing of the *Annual Records*, as well as proofreading the *Records* and the thrice-yearly *Bulletins*.

All these commitments will be re-examined at Representative Meeting next March in light of what happens between now and then.

IV. Business at Annual Meeting

Other business involved assigning reporters to the concurrent workshops as follows: Marvin to Old Testament sources of Quakerism; Jennifer Brower to Earthcare; Eric to Healing; Joe to Teaching Integrity; and Rosemary to FCNL on Native Americans. We failed to appoint anyone to cover Michael Birkel's plenary, but fortunately Rosemary realized it in time and did so herself. We decided not to cover the interest groups formally, but invited the leaders to submit a report if they wanted to.

We also assigned committee members to check with Marty Grundy on missing statistical reports and with Thomas Taylor on missing state of the meeting reports. It looked like most were in or on their way by the end of the sessions.

In addition, Rosemary consulted again with Advancement & Outreach re the relative silence and lack of participation of Delaware and Mid-Ohio Valley monthly meetings. Mathilda Navias, incoming Clerk, and Merry Stanford, incoming clerk of Ministry & Nurture, planned to follow up in the coming months. In the meantime, Rosemary also spoke to an attender from Monongalia Meeting, asking her to check with her clerk regarding submission of the meeting's statistical report, as the numbers in the 2003 *Annual Records* were clearly incorrect.

Rosemary K. Coffey, Clerk

Spiritual Formation Program

2004 Annual Report

The LEYM Spiritual Formation Program has, at our best count, been in existence for seven years. The program's goal is to assist individuals and meetings in deepening and enlivening their experience of the Spirit. We have focused through the years on different themes, from establishing individual spiritual practice to growing the blessed community. Each year we have invited a retreat leader and traveling companion to lead us in the opening and closing retreat.

Through the years many Friends of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting have received the benefits of spiritual nurture offered through the program. Although we have conducted evaluation of every retreat, this year we are also conducting an evaluation of the year-long program. This evaluation is still in process, but Friends have told us so far that, as a result of the program, they have initiated daily spiritual practice, been "prepared" for becoming a respon-sive member of the meeting community, formed exceptionally meaningful spiritual relationships, and experienced nurture, love, and patience. One Friend noted that the program had been the most important activity of his or her monthly meeting involvement, and that, because of this group, s/he has remained involved in the monthly meeting. Friends have mentioned that they have learned what it means to be Quaker through their involvement in this program. Clearly, the Friends who have responded have been changed. We believe that, over time, these changes have a direct impact on the spiritual life of the monthly meetings of these Friends.

The program has also changed in response to fresh ideas brought by participants. Originally, the Spiritual Formation Program was modeled on a similar program offered by Baltimore Yearly Meeting, consisting of an opening and closing yearly meeting retreat, and twice-monthly meetings of local meeting groups. The focus was divided equally between study and sharing one's spirit-ual experience and journey. Our structure is now more flexible than it was in the early years. The concept of a spiritual nurture group was extended to include spiritual friendships between two people. In some cases, individuals participate in the retreats without even being part of a spiritual nurture group or friendship. One group does not participate in a shared reading, but shares the treasure of individual reading with each other. One group meets monthly, rather than twice monthly. There are active groups or participants in Red Cedar, Pine River, Broadmead, and Kalamazoo meetings. There has been some interest in reaching out beyond the monthly meetings.

The program itself is not costly, although there has been a cost for materials and dissemination that we would like to recoup next year through a small program fee of about $25 for all who participate in the yearlong program. The retreats, however, incur higher costs, mostly in the form of travel reimbursement for the retreat leaders, plus lodging and food costs. We have sometimes been able to provide a stipend for leaders, but that has not been possible in the past two years at all. The cost of providing the program, including retreats, has risen to $225 per person for next year. Last year we cut costs by asking participants to bring pot-luck for some of our meals, and using the Michigan Friends Center in conjunction with a Green Pastures Quarterly event for our fall retreat, where camping and hospitality were available. While we are continuing to consider similar cost-cutting measures for future years, we do not want to lose the intensity of the retreat environment, which adds so much more to the spiritual experience of the participants, through communal practices such as Grand Silence.

We continue to encourage spiritual nurture groups to attend the retreats, but some members find that the expenses prohibit them from participating. We are especially concerned in helping those who absolutely do not have the resources to attend. Many monthly meetings have some resources to assist in this way, but meetings vary in their ability to provide this kind of support, and worship groups typically do not have the means to provide full support for this kind of activity.

The planning committee requests a $500 line item for scholarships in the general budget to provide partial assistance to those who desire to deepen their experience of the Spirit through the full experience of the Spiritual Nurture Program, but do not have the financial means.

Letter to American Friends Service Committee concerning Reorganization

To Paul Lacey, clerk of the AFSC Board
Mary Ellen McNish, Executive Director, AFSC

Dear Friends,

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, gathered at our annual sessions in Bluffton, Ohio, affirms the traditional AFSC goals of service and witness. We are grateful for how well these have been imple-mented over the years by the Michigan area office. In particular, Friends have appreciated the criminal justice program and the LGBT rights program.

In recent months there has been increasing concern about certain actions and the corporate reorganization of AFSC. These concerns seem to fall into three categories. One is the national personnel practice regarding the quality and methods of employ-ee background checks. Second, the corporate reorganization that seems to be emerging does not appear to uphold Quaker princi-ples. The work of the AFSC has been particularly valuable over the years because projects have been generated in response to local grassroots needs. Third, members of our Yearly Meeting are feeling fear and pain around the possibility that the two strong Michigan area office programs will be laid down, and how that might be done. This concern derives particularly because of the way in which the Grand Rapids and Detroit offices were devolved and closed. In addition, the perception is that new national priorities will not reflect local conditions and needs. We are aware that many of these same concerns have arisen in other areas of the country and among the corporation board members representing our Yearly Meeting.

We implore you to pay attention to these concerns before you seriously erode the grassroots Quaker support you have been working so hard to rebuild after it was weakened in the past.

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,
Sally Weaver Sommer, clerk

Cc: Michigan Area Office

AFSC Emergency Material and Assistance Program

June 25, 2004

Dear Friends,

While many of you are by now aware of the closing of the Indiana EMAP office and collection center, I would like to provide some explanation and perspective to this decision.

The American Friends Service Committee is facing a difficult process of reevaluating focus objectives in light of present and anticipated fiscal realities. Peace building and migration have been identified as the two focus goals that most need our concen-trated resources. The unfortunate result of this is that, nationally and within the regional offices, budget cuts must be made that will result in the elimination of some staff and program work and the postponement of other focus goal objectives.

In order to manage a fiscal responsibility that will allow program work within the Great Lakes Region to successfully address the focus goals of peace building and migration (immigration), the Richmond, Indiana, Emergency & Material Assistance Program (EMAP) operation will close. Humanitarian service remains one of AFSC's original focus objectives, and EMAP work will continue at the national level.

My position and the Great Lakes Region EMAP Collection Center will be laid down at the end of June. The EMAP Center in High Point, NC, continues to collect large quantities of handmade items for use in both domestic and overseas relief work, and also participates in EMAP kit campaigns. I hope you will want to continue to support humanitarian relief and encourage you to ship future donations to Peggie Baxter, Program Director in High Point. The address is 606 East Springfield Road, High Point NC 27263. Peggie can be reached at 336-885-6921 or by e-mail to Pbaxter @afsc.org. If you do not know Peggie,

you will find her a delightful person, who will appreciate your support every bit as much as I have. EMAP centers also continue to operate in Cambridge, MA, and San Francisco, CA, as well as at the national office in Philadelphia.

Program work in peace building, economic justice, criminal justice, and Africa Initiative continues in the Great Lakes Region through its Chicago, Dayton and Akron, OH, and Ann Arbor, MI, offices. Please consider these programs for future support as well.

To the meetings and individual Friends who have supported the EMAP program, I want to thank you again for helping AFSC serve others in times of crisis. I have been richly blessed from the three years I have served the Emergency & Material Assistance Program, largely in respect to the many Friends I have encoun-tered through my work. May you continue to be blessed in Spirit.

In peace,
Bonnie Nicholson, Project Coordinator
Emergency & Material Assistance Program
American Friends Service Committee

Detroit Friends School

WHERE ARE WE AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME?

In brief, quoting Martin Luther King, Jr., "We're not where we want to be, we're not where we ought to be, but thank God, we're not where we were."

Through extraordinary grace, this past year we:

- abandoned split classes that put together the 2nd and 3rd grades and the 4th and 5th grades
- added two new teachers, an administrative assistant, a morning kindergarten teaching assistant and a half-time librarian
- strengthened both the math and science departments with the addition of a lower-school teacher dedicated to those academic areas
- offered remedial help by adding twice-a-week language arts and math help sessions
- celebrated on 9/11 our second annual Love Thy Neighbor Day
- joined the other 79 American and 20 international Friends Schools in celebrating Peace Day, during which we were led in a peace demonstration by our Student Leadership Council
- brought the entire eighth grade class to Mexico for 9 days to stay at La Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City, in order to visit the Campo, originally started by AFSC members, with all tickets for sixteen persons donated by board members, students' grand-parents, and faculty
- applauded our students who demonstrated no resistance to the expanding of the community service requirement to include 5th and 6th graders and joined the Positive Energy Team made up of 4 students from the 4th-8th grade who meet with the Headmaster monthly and are responsible for building support and positive thinking throughout the community
- added a geography course and a drama course
- replaced computers in the computer lab with nearly 30 models and a server donated by parents and a member of LEYM
- added wireless internet connectors so that most of the school can access the internet from the classroom as well
- placed all of our eighth graders in their high school of first choice, including half of our class going to the most selective private high schools in the area, with eighty percent of those receiving major financial support
- did not raise tuition a single dime.

Next year we will add:

- Spanish remedial help
- a dance course taught by a member of the Detroit Ballet
- a Coordinator of Quaker Programs
- a full-time custodian

- more hours to the Physical Education program
- a Dean of Faculty so that I can concentrate on being Head-master/Director of Development/Dean of Students
- a 40th Anniversary Capital Campaign aiming to raise at least $3,000,000.

As you are aware, a little over two years ago Friends School was seriously considering closing the doors. We are not even close to being out of the economic woods, but neither are paydays in jeopardy nor is there a question as to whether or not we are a Friends school.

At the same time, our salaries are so low that when a young woman moved from Detroit Public Schools this year to join our lower school faculty she was forced to take a $20,000 pay cut. To help retain experienced teachers and enhance the facilities we need Friends to step forward with contributions. I know inde-pendent school tuition is not exactly "tip money," but I also know that Friends schools in New York City, Philadelphia, Cambridge and Washington – where Chelsea Clinton was educated – cost more than $24,000 a year and that a dozen years ago the least expensive Philadelphia area school was $9,000. Our tuition for the oldest students barely tops $8,000. The average percentage of parents on financial aid in sister NAIS schools is 11% of families. Already we assist more than 40%; the goal is to find financial aid money for as many as 50% of our families. Why? We seek to serve a population that is both economically and racially diverse. While extending our hand, we have students from homes where both parents are professionals side by side with several students with one or more parents incarcerated or in a drug rehabilitation facility or who have not seen a parent in years.

In this anniversary year of Brown v. Board of Education, you have undoubtedly read reports of the increasing segregation in housing and schools in many parts of the country. Detroit is one of the country's most residentially segregated metropolitan areas, and yet, right in the heart of the city, we are the most integrated independent school in Michigan, perhaps in the country, with not only a student body that welcomes all, but a staff, faculty, and board of trustees that reflect that diversity. Detroit will be getting a lot of attention in the next couple of years as it prepares to host the Super Bowl. Whether this infusion will be enough to help the city mark the start of a new era is still uncertain, but we need to be poised, at this critical juncture, to be a showpiece in the city's array of options. For the new housing that is being built to attract stable families, good schooling must be at hand, and, while we as Quakers may know that education comes more from the heart and mind than the bricks and mortar, a deteriorating physical plant turns many a prospective parent away.

I have made no secret in wanting to make Friends School in Detroit the preeminent independent school in the area of Ameri-can urban education. To do so will begin with good luck and require several essential pieces of long-range planning. Here is a partial list of visions:

- We need to upgrade our physical appearance. The fields are worn, the landscape unattended, gymnasium unacceptable, carpeting in tatters, building with very little gloss.
- I recommend a language lab to improve our foreign language department.
- We need to continue the diversity initiatives that have seen us bring together African-, Arab-, Asian-, European- and Latin- American children in a three-part Envisioning a New World Conference and five-week Summer Enrichment Program, confer with Ethiopian Jews and Armenian-Americans, and do commu-nity service with severely disabled students and the city's homeless.
- I recommend we bolster the program that has focused on teaching a Quaker Value a month and inviting in numerous Quaker speakers.
- We need to renew our commitment to staff development, affording them the time and the means to attend seminars or courses to continue to enrich their teaching.
- With air conditioning throughout the building, rather than in only six rooms, we could provide a strong summer school pro-gram, allowing other students the opportunity to see what a Friends School education might offer.
- To keep our middle school program strong, we will need a larger gym that can also provide more adequate performance space.

To do these, we need help now, we need help in the near future, and we need help that will continue. We need help from local individuals and corporations, and we are actively seeking it, with a new database being developed, trying to recover and recultivate as many former students and families as possible, not merely those who graduated from our program. That effort, if successful, could more than treble our alumni base. Every month we meet with corporate sponsors who might be interested in assisting the work we do in aiding the city.

We need help from national organizations, and we seek it regu-larly as well. We appreciate the cooperative effort AFSC made with us, using our students' artwork for a greeting card and allowing our school to sell a certain number of the cards as well, and their offer to help us with planned giving recruitment.

Through Green Pastures Quarterly, we are the only Friends school in the care of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. We always appreciate your support, moral and fiscal. We have spoken within our Quaker values committee this year about how we can create more field trips for our students for overnight visits to other parts of the Midwest, attending meeting in the process, as our eighth graders have done for the past three years.

We can use present help. But at this particular juncture, the most powerful support you can give us is to help create the seeds of donations that will encourage others to give as well. Our mater-ials are simple, but our need is great. Please, let us know, by e-mail or snail mail, how much you can donate now, how much you can pledge in the coming three years, and whether you would like to be contacted to consider planned giving through your estate. When others see your commitment, they will be moved to follow suit. We need their help. We need yours.

Forgive me for being bold enough to say we need you. Thank you for your continued support. We welcome both your suggestions and your questions.

Dwight Wilson

Epistles

Children's and Teen's Epistles

Pre-School Epistle

Dear Friends,

The pre-school group at LEYM included newcomers Lily Herold and Noah Fox. We were joined by Samantha Keyes Sunday morning.

We decorated shirts, played with play dough, finger painted and created many pieces of art work.

Early Elementary School Epistle

We are a growing group of friends. We talked about growing and looked at things growing around us. We drew life-sized pictures of ourselves to show how big we are now, so we can see how we change.

We visited a farm where we fed chicks and ducks, looked at nesting hens and petted sheep and goats, and planted tomato plants. We saw a lot of corn growing on the way to the farm.

Saturday morning we visited the farmers' market. It was cloudy and cool and there were no strawberries. We ate peas and cinnamon rolls.

After the market we flew kites. Amani said, "It's like walking a dog, only up in the sky." Serenity's kite flew up on the first try. Sam made his kite come down, and then soar back up again. We lay in the grass and watched the kites fly, and watched the sky turn blue.

Then we knew we could go swimming again. The lake was deeper than we remembered, because of all the rain, but it was just as much fun.

We look forward to coming together next year to see how we've grown.

Serenity, Amani, Andrew, and Sam

Upper Elementary School Epistle

We made a hotel Thursday night, called Future Mania. We did not have many customers at first, but many more came later.

We made special designs that we could put on our T-shirts and window designs. We also put the designs that we chose on the stained glass windows.

We went to the track and we ran around the track. We cheered on a lady who ran 2 miles. We jumped on the "squishy thing," and we cheered her on.

We went swimming at the lake and the lake was flooded so there was hardly any beach. There were lots of children shoving each other off the dock.

Our teacher Steve brought in some artwork that he got from the Internet. We watched a movie and there was a mad person at the end. We drew designs all over Steve's shirt. There were pigs swimming in the lake and he was one of them.

When we went swimming I got onto the dock. Steve or Zack pushed me off the dock.

I made a collection of leaves on a poster for 4-H. And I made a family tree and some stained glass for the window.

I made a sand crab at the beach.

I found a dead crawdad and put it on Noah's sand crab.

We found cats in the bushes by the greenhouse. There were at least 7 kittens and the mother. They were really timid. Someone found a bag of cat food and we spread it to get the cats to follow. Some of the kittens were hurt and only the mother would let us pet her. We identified a cat who was fuzzy and white and we called her Fuzz Ball.

Ian Lore, Meg Diffenderfer, Brianna Edgerton,
Jody Pratt-Harrington, Brittany Crotser Crowley,
Sara Turner, Bradie Conner, Noah Hogan, and Sydney Keyes

Middle School Epistle

This year at LEYM we, the Middle School class, learned about integrity. Integrity means to do what you believe, and keep at that belief. We discussed integrity when we learned about Jesus and the three temptations. We also talked about how integrity affects our lives. We watched a movie called "Finding Nemo," where we talked about how the characters show integrity.

We also learned that the conscientious objectors in World War II refused to fight. While refusing to fight these COs improved the lives of people who were mentally ill. They desegregated the federal prisons. We also learned how COs volunteered for risky medical experiments.

We helped the community by making sure the ice cream at a local coffee shop wasn't poisonous, by eating some. With the arrival of three more people, our class played soccer and played with a parachute. After that, we had to go to sleep.

Saturday morning, we drew some interesting pictures and took part in an auction. We were auctioning off different things or events that could happen to you in life. The things you bought demonstrated what means the most to you.

Later we had a fun time at the nature preserve. Before we left Bill Hummon hunted us down and took a few pictures of our group. We came back from the nature preserve and ate lunch. We then talked about the civil rights movement and how integrity played a part in it. We ate dinner and attended the ice cream social. Our group watched the high school skit and all of the youth joined in a game of Kick the Can.

Shannon Pratt-Harrington, Will Smith, Julie Cross, Monica Edgerton, and Jessica Warmke

High School Epistle

Skit of an Integrity Anonymous meeting

Zach: I'm Zach. I have been clean for three months.

Group: Hi, Zach.

Micah: This is the Integrity Anonymous meeting; the NA meeting is down the hall.

Zach: Oh, okay. Thank you.

Abby: Hi, I'm Abby. I've been integriful for 17 years. [claps] I can honestly say that this weekend I did not go on a nature walk and participated in "the process." Thank you.

Psyche: I've been integritis for 3 days. I can honestly say that I have gone on no nature walks and I have been sleep deprived. My sponsor Jim came and spoke about the Christian Peacemaker Teams which filled us with integritive thoughts and hopes. Thank you.

Two Erins [in unison]: Our name is Erin. We have been integri-fied for one month. We honestly made masks that looked just like us – NOT! We quietly sat in meeting for worship, and can truthfully say we didn't go on any nature walks.

Micah: My name is George integritationisatonalised for I've gone on lots of nature walks, and went to every meeting for worship. I slept through the ice cream social, didn't play any mafia games and have never been God.

Erin: Is your last name Bush?

Lea: I have been integrigorious for 2 days. I was inspired to be integriful after hearing Michael speak. I went on no nature walks, and I cleaned up with integrity. Thank you.

C: I have been integrafinatious for 3 weeks. No, I did not go on any nature walks. Pat helped me find my integrity talking about FCNL. I napped for integrity on the dock, and then I was burnt, and then . . . I was picalized by apple cider vinegar. I went to Mexico which is all brown except for the colorful martinis. . .

Psyche: It's margaritas, and AA is down the hall.

Group recites the "integrity prayer": Integrity is the honor that comes from honesty and kindness while being strong enough to openly stand and live by what you believe.

Erin Diffenderfer, Psyche Castro, Zach Ford, Erin Hogan, Abby Pratt-Harrington, Micah Sommer, Lea, C, and 3 more

Adult Epistle

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Sixth Month 17-20, 2004

To Friends Everywhere:

We welcome you from the 2004 gathering of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting held at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio. We are sur-rounded by fertile farm fields and many of us have a distinct sense of place here: the motto of our Mennonite hosts embla-zoned about the campus, "The Truth Makes Free"; the faint but lovely aroma of the linden trees.

The theme of our gathering has been "Integrity: Growing Whole-ness From Our Roots." Early Friends spoke frequently and fervently about Truth. We find that a central aspect of integrity continues to be how to speak honestly about our experience. Building on this, our plenary speaker, Michael Birkel of Earlham College, said, "Integrity means to be engaged in the world…. [It] takes us to the wider world…. [It is the] expression of our gathered hope for a transformed world."

Michael Birkel emphasized that integrity has inward and outward dimensions. "We expect the spirit to transform us as individuals and then to guide us to go out and transform society." We saw both these dimensions echoed throughout our gathering. In workshops and our plenary we examined how we draw nourishment from our roots in the Bible and the experiences of early Friends. We explored how discernment of leadings is essential to a Truthful life.

Many of our workshops exemplified the outward witness called forth by inward discernment. We heard about the work of Friends House Moscow and Friends' witness to the U.S. Congress upholding the rights of Native Americans. We listened as our earthcare committee described how "the dream drives the action." We discussed how integrity is fostered in our families.

The future of our Society is rooted in our youth, and we were joyous to hear of the growing success of the high school program of our Yearly Meeting. We were also inspired to hear of the sense of hope, expectation, and achievement surrounding Friends School of Detroit, a racially and economically diverse school in the heart of urban Detroit. Friends School seems to exemplify another comment of our plenary speaker: "By practicing integrity we can be agents of hope for one another…. Integrity can be an agent of social change."

In Lake Erie Yearly Meeting it is our practice each year to compose a query for consideration by our monthly meetings. As must surely be the case in other Meetings, these queries are usually the result of a careful and deliberate search for clearness. This year, as we appeared to be reaching the end of such a process in our committee, one Friend spoke and offered a com-plete alternative. As a young tree takes root and thrives in care-fully prepared ground, so the rightness of this query grew in our hearts and minds.

How long, oh God, how long must we remain complacent in our spiritual and physical relationships with earth and sun which sustain us? How may we alter these relationships in a restorative way?

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,
Sally Weaver Sommer, Clerk

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Representative Meeting
March 5, 2005
Hosted by Ann Arbor Friends Meeting

RM2005 3-1 Worship and Introductions

Friends gathered soon after the appointed time, and the meeting opened with silent worship. Our Clerk, Michael Fuson (Granville), welcomed Friends and introduced those at the table: Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead, Asst. Clerk) and Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor, Recording Clerk). Thomas talked about the ministry of hospitality, introduced Sheila Johnson (housing arrangements), and shared information about the arrangements for the day. Friends new to Representative Meeting were asked to introduce themselves.

RM2005 3-2 Break; Worship and Epistle from Pacific Yearly Meeting

We broke to meet in committees, and enjoyed a good lunch provided by Ann Arbor Friend Janice Summers and the Meeting's Committee on Ministry and Counsel.

We reassembled in worship and heard the epistle from Pacific Yearly Meeting. While we met in worship for business, we held our Nominating Committee in the Light, since they felt led to continue their meeting with a large agenda yet to complete.

RM2005 3-3 Roll Call

The Recording Clerk called the roll of Friends from our constituent monthly and preparative meetings and worship groups. The count was as follows:

Monthly Meetings

Akron	0
Ann Arbor	14
Athens	2
Birmingham	5
Broadmead	5
Cleveland	3
Delaware	0
Detroit	0
Grand Rapids	0
Granville	4
Kalamazoo	3
Kent	2
Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Monongalia	0
North Columbus	2
Oberlin	3
Pine River	4
Pittsburgh	4
Red Cedar	3
Wooster	0

Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups

Albion (under Red Cedar)	0
Indiana (Pittsburgh)	0
Erie (Pittsburgh)	0
Manitou (Grand Rapids)	0
Fremont (Grand Rapids)	0
Rio Grande	0
Holland (Grand Rapids)	0
Grand Traverse (Grand Rapids)	0

LEYM attenders:	54
Other attenders:	0
Total attenders:	54

Pine River Friends tell us that there is a new worship group in Tustin near Cadillac, MI, with 8 current attenders.

RM2005 3-4 Death of Isabel Bliss

We mourn the death of Isabel Bliss, a member of Ann Arbor Meeting and previously of Cleveland Meeting. Isabel was Clerk of LEYM in 1957 and then again in 1983-86. She passed away at her home in Chelsea on June 24, 2004. Her memorial was printed in the Winter 2005 LEYM *Bulletin*.

RM2005 3-5 Report from Executive Committee

Executive Committee met last evening. The Recording Clerk read minutes on the four items they discussed: 1) the possibility of holding an LEYM Fall Retreat, 2) the High School Youth Program, 3) an audit or review of the YM accounts, and 4) the suggestion of developing an LEYM Book on Faith & Practice.

Friends spoke to the suggestion of holding a YM retreat in the Fall. There are a number of other Friends activities in the Fall, including Spiritual Formation retreats, which are available to any interested Friends, and so we feel it best not to plan a Fall retreat at this time. Perhaps another time of year would be more appropriate. Since interest in the idea continues, we ask the Clerk and Executive Committee to add two Friends to the existing planning committee, and ask them to develop a hypothetical program and then poll the MMs to see what interest develops.

RM2005 3-6 Program Committee

Nancy Nagler (Pine River) told us that the committee has done much of their work successfully by a combination of e-mail and conference call. The YM theme for this year is to be "The Ground of our Being; Listening to Earth & Spirit." Kim Carlisle of Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting (SAYMA) has agreed to be the plenary speaker. His wife, Susan, will join us as well, leading us in consideration of our testimony to simplicity.

The Annual Meeting sessions will include small worship sharing groups and will have more time after lunch to allow space for relaxed conversation. Paul Tinkerhess (Ann Arbor) will lead us in song one evening as part of the ice cream social. We encourage greater involvement of representatives from the Quaker agencies the YM supports.

RM2005 3-7 Youth & Children Committee

Conleth Crotser (Cleveland) has reported to us. Their report is attached.

RM2005 3-8 Arrangements & Site Committee

Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) informed us about site arrangements at Bluffton University (sic) for our Annual Meeting this June 16-19. The committee's report is attached.

RM2005 3-9 Advancement & Outreach Committee

See attached report from Mathilda Navias (Broadmead). The committee asks whether Friends might be allowed to participate in the committee meetings on Thursday only, if their schedule prevents them from attending all of the YM sessions.

We ask the Clerk to consult with both the Advancement and Outreach and Arrangements and Site Committees in order to jointly develop a policy on the matter.

RM2005 3-10 Treasurer

Connie Bimber (Oberlin) commented on the attached Treasurer's Report. This year, the YM has been able to give scholarships for the Spiritual Formation retreats. Some representatives to Quaker organizations have not asked for reimbursement. Whether they are reimbursed or not, we encourage Friends to submit an expenses form. Donations are still coming in to enable Young Friends from economically deprived areas to attend the World Gathering of YFs. Kri Anderson encouraged us to include Youthquake in the YM budget. We encourage the Finance Committee to consider this request.

RM2005 3-11 Finance Committee

Linda Mills (Kalamazoo) reported. The committee report and preliminary budget for 2005-06 are attached. We ask Finance Committee to look over our past records and ascertain the commitments we have made to support high school youth programs and bring a recommendation to our Annual Meeting in June.

RM2005 3-12 Nominating Committee

Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) reported that the following Friends have agreed to serve: Erika Smith (Ann Arbor, Treasurer), Connie Bimber (Oberlin, Assistant Treasurer), Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor, LEYM *Bulletin* Editor), Leslie Walden (Detroit, *Directory* Editor). Friends are still being sought for many positions. We are encouraged to support this process and prayerfully consider how we might best serve our YM.

Four young people have indicated interest in attending the World Gathering of Young Friends (18- to 35-year-olds)

to be held in England this August. These applicants are being asked to write a brief statement of why they wish to attend (due April 1). Recommendations will be presented to the clerk for discussion and decision with the Executive Committee.

RM2005 3-13 Ministry & Nurture

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) reported to us that a summary of the responses to the query on earthcare will be printed in the *Bulletin*. Our query for this year will be on the theme, "Active Faith, Living Practice." The queries and advices on the theme will be developed at our Annual Meeting.

Brochures were distributed for Spiritual Formation retreats to be held at the Leaven Center (near Lansing) Sept. 9-11, 2005, and May 5-7, 2006, led by Phil Fitz; and at Pittsburgh Meetinghouse October 14-16, 2005, and May 19-21, 2006, led by Bill Taber.

Visitation for the purpose of spiritual nurture brought visitors to Wooster Meeting and Albion and Fremont worship groups. The committee recommended that Friends visit other meetings and groups. Visits by our clerk would be welcome.

RM2005 3-14 Publication & Archives

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) reported. The written report is attached.

RM2005 3-15 Peace

David Lore (Granville) told us that the committee has sent letters to members of congress in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia to protest constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriages.

The committee expects to address issues of conscientious objection and opposition to increased military recruitment in high schools. We encourage our meetings to document the religious convictions of our young people for the purpose of supporting their case for becoming conscientious objectors should this become necessary.

Other issues the committee is looking toward working on are the death penalty and prison conditions.

RM2005 3-16 Earthcare Committee of Concern

Dick Hogan (Athens) reported passionately for the committee. His written report is attached.

Al Connor (Ann Arbor) told us of action items concerning the privatization of water supply. The Central American Free Trade Agreement is reported to include the making of all surface and underground water into a tradable commodity.

We will need to consider the future of this "committee of concern," a temporary status in the YM. These Friends have been working on important issues over the past three years. Clearly, Earthcare is of general concern to our YM community.

RM2005 3-17 Noah Hogan's operation

Our hearts go out to the Hogan family as Noah undergoes further operations on his legs.

RM2005 3-18 AFSC

Further Minute YM2004-31, Richard Taylor (Oberlin) told us of developments in the AFSC regarding concerns about governance and about the Ann Arbor AFSC office. Following our meeting in June 2004, a letter was written to the central offices. In July, AFSC Clerk Paul Lacey met with concerned Friends in Ann Arbor. While concerns about the Ann Arbor office and its programs have been alleviated for the short term, long term outcomes are not certain.

RM2005 3-19 Travel minutes for Connie McPeak Green, Marty Grundy, and David Green

We approve the Clerk's endorse ment of a traveling minute for Connie McPeak Green (Cleveland) and Marty Grundy (Cleveland) as well as one for David Green (Cleveland).

RM2005 3-20 Reaching out to local peace groups

Bill Bliss (Ann Arbor) reminded us to reach out to local peace groups in our areas. This has been successful in Chelsea, MI. A meeting is planned with FCNL national staff at Michigan Friends Center next month.

RM2005 3-21 Closing worship; Date of next year's meeting

Grateful for our time together and for God's grace, we entered a period of silent worship to close the meeting. We next gather at Bluffton University in Ohio on 16-19 June 2005 for our Annual Meeting.

Reports

Children & Youth Committee Report

Five members of the committee were present. We still need two assistant leaders (for lower elementary & middle school groups) and one primary leader (for high school).

We discussed possibilities for nominating committee to consider: 1) asking recent high school grad/young adults back (those who have been out at least two years, 2) asking meeting reps to return to each of their monthly meetings and invite those they know who like working with children, 3) Kri Anderson and friend are willing to help with the high school group.

We will have a game/craft evening Thursday to which everyone is invited - during the opening meeting for worship. We await the Program Committee schedule so leaders will know what hours we will be responsible for the youth & children. We discussed suggesting each group might perform an earthcare-related service project. If fundraising is the chosen service project, we chose Greenfire as the beneficiary. We will plan on all the groups, except the nursery/preschool group, to attend the first few minutes of meetings for worship. We would like to give the children and youth report at the beginning of a meeting for business.

As in the past, we would like to have children & youth register by the deadline. If a child/family register late, we will negotiate with the appropriate teacher whether that child will join the class or not. This is because, in the past, teachers have felt overwhelmed with too many added children. The registration form should make it clear that a child does not have to be toilet trained to be in the program. This may entail hiring/recruiting one extra person for the nursery/preschool group as has been done in the past.

At the request of the meeting clerk, we are looking more closely at our committee finances.

We look forward to being with our children & youth during Yearly Meeting and invite others to enjoy this experience as well.

Conleth Crotser, Convener

Arrangements & Site Committee Report

Changes this year:

1) We will be using a new dorm (Neufeld) instead of Brendell. Ramseyer will be used as in the past.
2) Camping will be behind the new dorm rather than in the river bottom.
3) Fees: The university has given us a special price for lodging: adults, $19, children $12.
4) Meals have gone up $.25 apiece for adults, and children's meals will cost $.50 more for breakfast and $1 more for lunch and supper.
5) Registration fee is going up from $31 to $32 for adults and $6 for children.

We always need to confer with the Finance, Youth and Program Committees to clarify details regarding their needs. We thank these committees for their graciousness with these interruptions.

Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

Pamphlets for newcomers and those interested in becoming members

We are revising the list of pamphlets for newcomers that we recommend and distribute to monthly meetings.

A&O Workshop at Yearly Meeting

A number of meetings are interested in bringing in new people. A&O plans to host a workshop on outreach during the workshop session at Yearly Meeting. Dave French from Friends General Conference A&O will help facilitate. His workshop title is: “Is Outreach a Dirty Word?”

New worship groups

1) Worship Group in Tustin, MI: Don Ruswick (also of Pine River), www.tustinfriends.org.
2) Circleville Friends Worship Group (south of Columbus): Brad Cotton, roundtownquaker@hotmail.com, (740) 474-1837. Currently meets Sundays at 6:00 pm.
3) Bill Bliss is seeing if he can reactivate the Chelsea Worship Group.

Other changes:

Rock Run Worship Group (Mansfield, OH) has been merged into Wooster Meeting.

Report on project to help meetings set up or revise a web site

1) Sent mailing in October to clerks of all monthly meetings encouraging then to create a web site or check their current one. Included a page of suggestions for what to include, what not to include, etc.
2) Followed up in February with an e-mail to meeting contacts using a list provided by Eric Starbuck. Inquired about whether meeting had acted on mailing, found it helpful, and status of a web site. Received replies from a number of meetings, including several that would like to put up a web site but need help. A&O has a list of Friends currently serving as web masters for their meeting who have agreed to help others, and will follow up with those meetings asking for help.

   The A&O Committee has been in touch with FGC's A&O Committee on issues around meeting web sites.

LEYM Web Site

The A&O Committee and Publications Committee have joint oversight of LEYM's web site. We met with the Publications Committee over lunch to discuss our mutual responsibility.

A&O proposed that there be two people to maintain the web site — a web master who would handle the technical aspects and be an *ex officio* member of the Publications Committee, and one who would have a concern for content and format and be an *ex officio* member of the Advancement & Outreach Committee. Web sites can be set up in a way that makes it easy for someone other than the web master to edit them.

We will work to get monthly meetings to send their newsletter to the Editor of the *Bulletin* and the LEYM Clerk.

Mathilda Navias, Clerk

Finance Committee Report and Proposed Budget

The committee requests that Nominating Committee provide another member for Finance and Budget.

The Treasurer reported that fair share payments have been received from all but the following meetings: Akron, Athens, Broadmead, Cleveland, and Red Cedar. We ask that, if the full fair share amount per adult member cannot be met, that some amount be sent. The Youth Activity Fund has again not received the checks for the Fall youth retreat. We recommend that another person be put in charge of the handling of finances of that activity in the future.

A recommendation came to us for scholarships for YouthQuake. The committee recommends an increase in the line item in order to encourage LEYM youth to attend.

We will have the last two years of the books reviewed in the near future.

Linda Mills, Clerk

Proposed LEYM Budget for 2005-2006

Travel	2004-2005	2005-2006
Office	$ 5500.00	$ 5500.00
Publications	300.00	300.00
FGC	4400.00	3400.00
Friends School Detroit	4500.00	4500.00
Records Project	2500.00	2500.00
Advancement	200.00	100.00
Clerk's Fund	130.00	130.00
FWCC Travel*	500.00	500.00
Youth Activity Fund*	1240.00	1240.00
Olney Friends School	1200.00	2700.00
FGC Nurturing Fund	600.00	600.00
High School Youth	500.00	500.00
Fund*	4000.00	4000.00
Spiritual Formation*	500.00	600.00
	26,070.00	$26,570.00

Ministry & Nurture Committee Minutes

MN-3/05-1: The committee received responses to the 2004-2005 query on Earthcare from the following meetings: Akron, Ann Arbor, Athens, Birmingham, Broadmead, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Kent, Oberlin, Pine River, Pittsburgh, and Red Cedar. Having reflected before Representative Meeting on these, the committee engaged in a worship sharing session to identify emerging themes from the meetings' responses. With the help of Janet Smith, the committee's summary will be published in the next *Bulletin*.

MN-3/05-2: The Clerk passed out a list of the query themes that have been used by LEYM for the past 19 years. The Executive Committee made the request that the Ministry & Nurture Committee consider a query for the coming year themed on the faith and the practice of the yearly meeting, in preparation for the time when the yearly meeting will consider the possibility of developing a written document that articulates our faith and practice. This was framed by the committee as: Who are we as a people? What are we about? How do our written words reflect this?

The value and reasons for developing a Faith & Practice were discussed. Concerns were expressed about the value of developing a query on this theme. After some discussion, the committee determined that **the theme of the 2005-2006 query should be on the active faith and the living practice of our monthly meetings and our yearly meeting**. We might also want to ask the meetings of the Yearly Meeting how they use written Faith & Practice(s) in their business and worship. We agreed that the queries should be framed in such a way as to invite Friends to inwardly engage in a transformational process, rather than responding from the intellect only.

MN-3/05-3: The committee affirmed our appreciation to the Program Committee for the past practice of providing small group worship sharing during Yearly Meeting. **We request of the Program Committee that time be set aside during the 2005 and subsequent Yearly Meetings for specific times for worship sharing among small groups of Friends.**

MN-3/05-4: A Spiritual Formation Program report was made by Shirley Bechill and Merry Stanford. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Spiritual Nurture Program was presented as a potential new name for the Spiritual Formation Program. We deferred action on this for a later time. Announcements of the program for 2005-2006 were distributed. The program will occur in two sites this year: Leaven Center, in Michigan, September 9-11, 2005, and May 5-7, 2006, and Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, October 14-16, 2005, and May 19-21, 2006. Leaders for the program will be Bill Taber (Pittsburgh) and Phil Fitz (Michigan), pending approval by Phil's care committee. An updated brochure was also distributed and is attached. Funds provided by LEYM have been adequate for this year. Scholarship monies have been well used. A slight increase in participation fees to meet next year's costs is being considered.

MN-3/05-5: One of the activities that the committee agreed to engage in, at its meeting in June, was visitation of worship groups and monthly meetings, for the purpose of spiritual nurture. Shirley Bechill reported on her visitation, with Verne Bechill, to the Fremont Worship Group. Fremont WG is a very active group, and expressed appreciation for the visit. As a result of the visit, two Friends from Fremont WG participated in the Spiritual Formation Program this year. Janet Smith reported on her visit, with Regula Kummer, to Wooster Meeting. Only three persons were present, but a rich worship time was experienced. Merry Stanford reported on her visit, with Peter Wood and two other Friends from Red Cedar Meeting, to Albion Worship Group. The worship group is quite small, and the addition of four Friends was very well received. Worship was deep. Additional requests for visitation have been received from Bluffton Worship Group and Oberlin Monthly Meeting. Fred Feitler offered to meet with Albion and Bluffton worship groups in the future.

The committee requests all members of Yearly Meeting to consider visiting other meetings for the purpose of spiritual nurture and social fellowship. The blessings that come to the visitor and the meeting are significant. The committee also commended to the presiding clerk of the YM the past practice of visiting monthly meetings. We deferred the suggestion of issuing a letter of introduction for visitors from the committee, and closed with a period of worship.

The Earth Care Query: How Our Meetings Responded

Ministry and Nurture Committee
March 2005

"How long, O God, how long must roe remain complacent. in our spiritual and physical relationships with earth and sun which sustain us?

How may we alter these relationships in a restorative way?"

This lamentation became an urgent. invitation for worshipful reflection and a reminder to once again return to and value the wisdom of Friends' testimonies. The testimonies speak to the sacredness of all life, to simplicity, justice and non-violence, and offer us spiritual guidance for the loving stewardship of our planet Earth.

We are deeply aware of the seriousness of the environmental crisis. The sense of our Meetings reflects "a heaviness of heart and a deep concern when recognizing the state of the environment in our nation and in our world. We acknowledge the decline in world grain harvests, global climatic change, inappropriate use of groundwater, loss of

valuable topsoil, and inadequate government action to preserve our fragile environment." In our reflections we acknowledge the damage we have done and accept that we remain too complacent and unthinking in our life-styles. We do not pay enough attention to how we have contributed to the deep wounds inflicted on mother Earth through consumerism, the needless overuse and waste of the Earth's resources, violence, war, selfishness, greed, and human injustice.

There is a feeling among us, as individuals, that it is difficult to make an impact upon this assault. We speak of trying to make a difference, and feeling proud of our commitment. But we are frustrated that perhaps the difference we make isn't enough. Our questions reflected our frustration and revealed our anxiety about the future of our world. We asked, "Is restoration possible? Will human nature change sufficiently to accomplish this? Will our current administration admit to and deal with the many environmental problems and make policy changes? What will we leave for future generations?"

Yet we paradoxically live with a sense of hope and determination in the face of this anxiety.We offered each other scores of thoughtful ideas and practical ways to take personal responsibility. Both individually and corporately we consume less to use fewer of the earth's resources, and support Friends' and other earth care organizations. We are determined to show respect for the Earth, love it for its beauty, take responsibility for leaving a lighter human footprint, and support each other in carrying out this commitment. We feel led to "retain a spiritual fervor" about the care of the Earth and to let this fervor, part of our continuing spiritual growth, act as a catalyst for deeper caring and constant attention to what we can do and what we can accomplish.

We asked practical questions that demonstrated our commitment to change: "How much does the average consumer need to know about the environmental crisis in order to take ownership and respond'? How do we 'evangelize' our concerns to convince others to live more simply and consume less? How do we support each other in living against the tide of consumerism'?" One Friend reminded us that because the restoration of the earth is so critical to all life on this planet, we may need to be willing to die for it.

We remain "a hopeful people, not willing to give up hope that through our witness, someday, decision making in our country will change to better the possibilities of restoration." Our shared hope reflects the positive impact of those who are working to make the difference, and the recognition that "through darkness there is light." We are reminded that "with God, all things are possible," and that we must be willing to be led in the path of restoration.

Friends feel "deeply humbled" as we reflect upon the gifts received from the beauty and bounty of nature and the "past and present experiences" we have been given with earth and sun. We acknowledge the weight of our responsibility. We know that we must make choices, work to make changes, and use the best means at our disposal, including our modern technology, to propel ourselves and our society into loving and fruitful care of the Earth.

Our actions must continually affirm the whole of life as sacred. "Earth care remains our sacred stewardship, because it is through this care and love that we are in connectedness" with and strengthened by that Divine Power, the source of our being.

Publications & Archives Committee Report

I. Concerns raised by Advancement & Outreach Committee

Publications and Advancement & Outreach committee members met over lunch to discuss issues of interest to both, namely:

* Web site input: technical and content (Eric Starbuck may help here)

* Copyright procedures for LEYM documents

* Directory format for the future (still needs some fine tuning)

II. LEYM *Bulletin.* We discussed the preferred length of the *Bulletin* and decided to aim for 12-16 pages per issue, although aware that on some occasions more may be required. In the Fall issue we will try to summarize, highlight, or excerpt reports made to Annual Meeting, rather than duplicate what was previously printed in the *Annual Records*.

III. Annual Records

a. We noted that the 2004 edition had slightly fewer pages than the 2003 edition and that we've probably eliminated all the duplication that we can. We suggest reducing the font size from 12 to 11 point for 2005 to see if that saves significant additional pages.

b. We also noted that the timing of the printing of the *Annual Records* is really not urgent, and that getting it into Meeting hands by early August should be acceptable. That would reduce the anxiety of the editors during July,

when they may be at the FGC Gathering right in the middle of the production period.

IV. Nominating Committee. The Clerk volunteered to inform Nominating Committee that the Publications Committee still needs two additional members. Moreover, Leonora Cayard and Rosemary Coffey, both of Pittsburgh Meeting, are ready to move on to other assignments as Way opens.

V. Future Commitments. Jeff Cooper valiantly volunteered to take over editing, compiling, and printing the LEYM *Bulletin* three times a year.

Rosemary Coffey reluctantly agreed to edit, compile, and print the *Annual Records* for the year 2005 only, though she would be glad to turn this task over to someone else as the Nominating Committee may suggest.

Peace Committee Report

On March 5, 2005, the Peace Committee met during Representative Meeting with three members present (David Lore, clerk; Nate Riley and Sadie Taylor), along with former committee member David Bassett and visitor David Green.

The status of the same-sex marriage issue was discussed. Under a resolution adopted last year at LEYM, letters had been sent to the Congressional delegations from our meeting's four-state area urging rejection of state or federal constitutional amendments banning recognition or benefits for same-sex couples. While Congress has yet to act on such an amendment, 13 states last year subsequently enacted such constitutional barriers. Most if not all of these acts are now being challenged in the courts.

On the basis of written comments from monthly meetings and committee members, our discussion focused on three areas of principal concern for 2005: conscientious objection, the death penalty and prison reform.

In view of the war in Iraq and the possibility of a draft, we see a need to revisit and update our ability to promote the choice of conscientious objection. Such efforts, already underway in some meetings, should indeed begin within the meeting as Friends educate themselves on the law and document the faith background of their young men and women who in the future may need to seek CO status. Beyond that, we hope to help all meetings develop programs to work with schools, parents and youth in their communities and to make sure young people considering military service know their options and recognize the moral and economic ramifications of their decision.

Recent rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court in regard to the death penalty were discussed in relation to the larger concerns about the warehousing of prisoners across America.

While seeking an end to capital punishment, we recognize that this could lead to life sentences or long periods of incarceration for those convicted of murder. Friends have a long tradition of working for rehabilitative rather than punitive prisons. And so, while we continue to oppose the death penalty, we cannot lose sight of the need to treat all prisoners humanely and prepare them for an eventual return to society.

Before making further recommendations, committee members agreed to seek advice from AFSC offices in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Dayton, Ohio, staffs already active on death penalty and prison reform issues.

Earthcare Committee of Concern Report

The Earthcare Committee is still seeking ways to draw LEYM into an awareness of the importance of taking care of our earth family as a primary element of the foundation for all our testimonies. We recognize that many LEYM Friends work on an individual basis to care for the Creation, of which we have been so blessed to be a part, but worry that every day brings new signs of deterioration — even faster than predicted — and that our witness on testimonies is missing the boat if we do not actively address this great danger of our time, a danger that early Friends could hardly conceive of.

Our committee had three representatives at the Quaker Earthcare Witness meeting in Burlington, NJ, in October 2004, and we were moved by the energy and spirit moving Philadelphia YM and other YMs concerning the care of our earth family.

We have met twice already this year and further refined our goals. They are:

1) To nurture the wholeness and integrity of the two bio-regions represented by LEYM, and

2) To work at local, state and federal levels of government toward sustainable policies that defer to the people affected, in accordance with the 10 principles of Earth Democracy.

We undertook an ambitious list of objectives for this year in support of these goals, including preparing a booklet on our goals and objectives, information about Earth Democracy and Bio-regions, a list of resources, and a few "beginning" suggestions for use in monthly and yearly meetings. Also, we expressed in our objectives the intention of communicating with the Peace Committee concerning Earth Democracy and how our committees might work together. We will present a workshop this June [at Annual Meeting] introducing the concept of Earth Democracy and focusing on our bio-regions.

Our committee wavers between excitement for this journey and discouragement with the difficulty of enlisting Friends in

Fund	Opening Balance	Income	Expenses	Current Balance
General Fund	$ 6,516.55	$ 14,383.78	$18,356.65	$ 2,543.68
Annual Meeting	$ 2,961.50	$ 56.00	$ -	$ 3,017.50
Triennial Travel	$ 306.84	$ 1,240.00	$ -	$ 1,546.84
Granville Friends Y.F.	$ 5,510.60	$ 140.01	$ 140.01	$ 5,510.60
Youth Activity Fund	$ 121.51	$ 1,480.01	$ 650.25	$ 951.27
Spiritual Formation Group	$ 423.96	$ 5,202.50	$ 2,442.41	$ 3,184.05
High School Program	$ 1,447.20	$ 5,840.00	$ 5,966.25	$ 1,320.95
World Gathering Y.F.	$ 2,650.00	$ 200.00	$ 850.00	$ 2,000.00
	$ 19,938.16	$ 28,542.30	$28,405.57	$ 20,074.89

Account	Opening Balance	Income	Debits	Current Balance
Checking	$ 10,253.61	$ 21,427.11	$21,325.56	$ 10,355.16
Shorebank-March	$ 2,060.06	$ 13.59	$ -	$ 2,073.65
Shorebank-Sept	$ 2,113.89	$ 21.59	$ -	$ 2,135.48
Southshore Bank	$ 5,510.60	$ 140.01	$ 140.01	$ 5,510.60
	$ 19,938.16	$ 21,602.30	$21,465.57	$ 20,074.89

General Fund

Income	
Akron	$ -
Ann Arbor	$ 4,154.00
Athens	$ -
Birmingham	$ 682.00
Broadmead	$ -
Cleveland	$ -
Delaware	$ 372.00
Detroit	$ 300.00
Grand Rapids	$ 546.75
Granville	$ 806.00
Kalamazoo	$ 300.00
Kent	$ 620.00
Mid-Ohio Valley	$ 150.00
Monongalia	$ 250.00
N Columbus	$ 400.00
Oberlin	$ 558.00
Pine River	$ 527.00
Pittsburgh	$ 3,890.36
Red Cedar	$ -
Wooster	$ 775.00
Sales & Fees	$ -
Checking	$ 17.49
CDS	$ 35.18
Interest	$ 52.67
TOTAL	$ 14,383.78

Expenses	Budget	Actual	Percent
Travel	$ 5,500.00	$ 1,838.20	33%
Office	$ 300.00	$ 76.90	26%
Publications	$ 4,400.00	$ 1,801.55	41%
FGC	$ 4,500.00	$ 4,500.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00	100%
Records Project	$ 200.00	$ 100.00	50%
Advancement	$ 130.00	$ -	0%
Clerk's Fund	$ 500.00	$ -	0%
FWCC Travel*	$ 1,240.00	$ 1,240.00	100%
Youth Activity Fund*	$ 1,200.00	$ 1,200.00	100%
Olney Friends School	$ 600.00	$ 600.00	100%
FGC Nurturing Fund	$ 500.00	$ -	0%
High School Youth Fund*	$ 4,000.00	$ 4,000.00	100%
Spiritual Formation*	$ 500.00	$ 500.00	100%
TOTAL	$ 26,070.00	$ 18,356.65	70%

* Transfers

Treasurer's Report

Annual Meeting	
Balance July 1, 2004	$ 2,961.50
Expense	$ -
Income	$ 56.00
Balance Feb 28, 2005	$ 3,017.50

FWCC Triennial Travel Fund	
Balance July 1, 2004	$ 306.84
Expense	$ -
Income - Transfer	$ 1,240.00
Balance Feb 28, 2005	$ 1,546.84

Granville Friends Youth Fund	
Balance July 1, 2004	$ 5,510.60
Interest Income	$ 140.01
Transfer - Outgo	$ 140.01
Balance Feb 28, 2005	$ 5,510.60

Youth Activity Fund	
Balance July 1, 2004	$ 121.51
Income - Transfer	$ 1,200.00
Income - Interest	$ 140.01
Income - Youth Retreat	$ 140.00
Total Income This Year	$ 1,340.01
Total Income	$ 1,340.01
Expense - Grants	$ -
Expense - Youth Retreat	$ 650.25
Total Expense	$ 650.25
Balance Feb 28, 2005	$ 689.76

Spiritual Formation Group	
Balance July 1, 2004	$ 423.96
Income	$ 5,202.50
Expense	$ 2,442.41
Balance Feb 28, 2005	$ 3,184.05

(Income includes transfer of $500 from General Fund)

World Gathering of Young Friends	
Balance from Last Year	$ 2,650.00
Donations	$ 200.00
Sent to World Gathering	$ 850.00
Total	$ 2,000.00

High School Youth Program	**Budget**	**Actual**
Balance carried forward		$ 1,447.20
Donations	$ 1,000.00	$ -
Transfer from General Fund	$ 4,000.00	$ 4,000.00
Retreats		$ 1,840.00
Fund Raising		$ -
Total Income	$ 5,000.00	$ 7,287.20
Expense		
Program Expenses	$ 1,000.00	
Stipend	$ 4,000.00	$ 3,000.00
Retreats		$ 2,966.25
Total Expense	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,966.25
Balance Feb 28, 2005		$ 1,320.95

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Proposed Budget	**2004-2005**	**2005-2006**
Travel	$ 5,500.00	$ 5,500.00
Office	$ 300.00	$ 300.00
Publications	$ 4,400.00	$ 3,400.00
FGC	$ 4,500.00	$ 4,500.00
Friends School Detroit	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00
Records Project	$ 200.00	$ 100.00
Advancement	$ 130.00	$ 130.00
Clerk's Fund	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
FWCC Travel	$ 1,240.00	$ 1,240.00
Youth Activity Fund	$ 1,200.00	$ 2,700.00
Olney Friends School	$ 600.00	$ 600.00
FGC Nurturing Fund	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
High School Youth Fund	$ 4,000.00	$ 4,000.00
Spiritual Formation	$ 500.00	$ 600.00
TOTAL	$ 26.070.00	$ 26.570.00

Connie Bimber

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
July 16-19, 2005
Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

Minutes and Committee Reports

YM05 - 1 Worship and Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting

The 42nd Session of LEYM was held at Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio. We began with worship, during which we heard the reading of the Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting, which met in Perth in January 2005. They were particularly aware of their relations to the Aboriginal people of Western Australia and the need to respond to the devastation by the Tsunami to other peoples in the Indian Ocean region.

YM05 - 2 Welcome and Introduction of the Clerks

Our Clerk, Michael Fuson (Granville), welcomed Friends and introduced our annual meeting theme as well as those at the table: Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead, Asst. Clerk) and Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor, Recording Clerk).

Travel Minutes have been read on behalf of Kim Carlyle (Swannanoa Valley, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association), and Roy Joe and Ruth Stuckey (Campus Meeting, Wilmington and Ohio Valley YMs, representing Friends World Committee for Consultation).

Other Friends new to LEYM were asked to introduce themselves: Judith Morrigan (Red Cedar), Ken & Katharine Jacobsen (Chicago & Friends Center, Barnesville, OH), Karen Nippert (Granville), Bill Warters (Birmingham) and Susan Carlyle (Swannanoa Valley).

YM05 - 3 Roll Call

The Recording Clerk called the roll of Friends from our constituent monthly and preparative meetings and worship groups. The count (corrected against registration numbers) was as follows:

Monthly Meetings

Akron	1	Kalamazoo	5
Ann Arbor	28	Kent	6
Athens	10	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	8	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	21	North Columbus	2
Cleveland	19	Oberlin	4
Delaware	0	Pine River	4
Detroit	2	Pittsburgh	14
Grand Rapids	1	Red Cedar	9
Granville	6	Wooster	4

Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups

Albion (under Red Cedar)	0	Grd Traverse (Grd Rpds)	0
Circleville (N Columbus)	*0*	*Holland (Grand Rapids)*	*0*
Erie (Pittsburgh)	1	Indiana (Pittsburgh)	0
Fremont (Grand Rapids)	0	Manitou (Grand Rapids)	0
Gallipolis (Grand Rapids)	0	Tustin (Pine River)	0

LEYM attenders	144
Other attenders	9
Total attenders:	153

YM05 - 4 Memorial Worship

We mourned the death of several Friends in our Yearly Meeting. Isabel Bliss (Ann Arbor) passed away on June 24, 2004, shortly after our annual sessions. An account of her life was printed in the LEYM *Bulletin*, Winter 2005. Pegg Stilwell, long active in the Yearly Meeting, suffered a fall this Spring and her

health deteriorated quickly. A memorial service has yet to be arranged. Other lives of people active in our monthly meetings were also remembered in our worship.

YM05 - 5 Naming Committee

We approve the names of Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh), Lila Cornell (Pittsburgh) and Kri Anderson (Ann Arbor) to serve on this committee to bring names of two Friends to serve three-year terms and one Friend to serve a two-year term on the Nominating Committee.

YM05 - 6 Epistle Committee

Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), Nancy Nagler (Pine River) and Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) were approved to serve on the Epistle Committee and to report back to us as way opens.

YM05 - 7 Reminders

We have received useful practical information from members of the Program, Site and Youth & Children committees, including helpful reminders to welcome and beFriend people who are new to the YM, and to be punctual to begin and conclude our meetings at the times agreed.

YM05 - 8 Reminders about Process

The Clerk reminded those reporting to the meeting to submit their reports in writing so as to facilitate minuting and accuracy of reporting. He also reminded us to conduct our business in worship, allowing space for guidance of the Spirit and allowing the Clerk to guide the flow of matters before the meeting.

YM05 - 9 About Nominations

Verne Bechill (Pine River) spoke to us for the Nominating Committee, asking us to be open to service in the Yearly Meeting. He also introduced members of the committee.

YM05 - 10 Newcomers and Greetings from David Bassett

We reconvened on Friday morning after the refreshment of a night's sleep and our worship-sharing groups. Other Friends new to LEYM introduced themselves. They were: Phil Clampitt (Birmingham), Messon Gbah (Ann Arbor), Bob Fisher (Ann Arbor), Susan Wilson (Ann Arbor), Nancy James (Pittsburgh), Su Hansen (Ann Arbor).

We have received greetings from David Bassett. He and Miyo have recently moved from Ann Arbor to Rochester, New York. We will miss them.

YM05 - 11 AFSC

Richard Taylor (Oberlin) gave a short verbal report, summarizing some of the points covered in the following report:

AFSC Report by Max Heirich (Ann Arbor)

Positive new developments: The Eyes Wide Open memorial to the human costs of the Iraq War, developed in the Great Lakes Region, is continuing to have high impact across the country. (It will be in Ann Arbor during Art Fair, July 20-22, 2005.) The Together in Faith Conference in Ypsilanti, Michigan, last summer had high impact in the LGBT and its allied community, attracting participants from across the country. Its follow-up is scheduled for Ypsilanti August 5-7, 2005. A new Fair Trade Olive Oil campaign will bring volunteers to Palestine, help set up sales outlets for Palestinian olive oil production, and let volunteers speak about what they have seen. At a national level, the Board's Simplicity Committee has delivered its report about AFSC restructuring to the Board and the Corporation. The report strongly affirms the principle of joint governance between Regions and the National Board (and the International Program Committee and the National Board) for deciding on programs and supervising them, and for allocating funds to operate programs. The report was accepted in principle and referred to the National Board's Executive Committee for implementation at the Board meeting in March 2005.

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting invited Paul Lacey, clerk of the AFSC National Board, and members of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting to a Threshing Session in July 2004, in which there was frank discussion of most problems that had been of concern to us, and a commitment by both the Great Lakes Region director and the clerk of the GLR Executive Committee's program committee to advocate strongly for both of the Ann Arbor AFSC programs that seemed in potential jeopardy because of AFSC's emphasis on its current more narrowly focused Strategic Plan and its First Focus on Peace and Immigration issues.

The potential national AFSC crisis that was brewing over staff conscientious resistance to allowing criminal background checks to be run on staff (in response to liability insurance demands and Board concerns about possible youth vulnerability) has been avoided. Already-hired AFSC staff were exempted from this requirement unless they worked with youth. The companies originally contacted about doing this work, which sold information to various security agencies within the U.S. government, were replaced by Oxford, an agency that does these checks for religious groups and has no contracts with government agencies. It adapted its procedures to reflect Quaker testimonies and concerns. However, some programs (such as Ann Arbor's LGBT Issues program) dropped their youth component, and other programs shifted supervisory duties so that staff with strong conscientious objection would not be terminated because of this policy.

Other problems continue. AFSC is being sued by the three Chicago staff of its former African American Community Empowerment Program for wrongful termination. This has put "on hold" activities of a Lessons Learned Committee set up to review the process involved in that decision, and the issues it raised within two regions concerning AFSC due process, possible institutional racism, and governing versus advisory roles for regional executive committees. A national workshop for senior administrators on Diversity issues identified some issues for increased staff awareness. Resignations in response to the AFSC controversies of the preceding year seem to be slowing down, and these controversies seem to be getting on a more productive track. The wounds of that decision and the mistrust it engendered can heal with careful tending.

Meanwhile, the Ann Arbor LGBT Issues program has entered into dialogue with the Region about possible devolvement, in order to let the program not only continue but grow. In the meantime the LGBT program network within AFSC recognizes that AFSC has a strong commitment to LGBT rights and recognition, but also believes AFSC must be constructively challenged around the question of where LGBT programming fits within AFSC's strategic and financial priorities.

At the June 2005 meeting of the National AFSC Board, Lee O'Neill, the chief financial officer, and the Finance Committee will propose a new Unified Budget procedure for AFSC. Regional directors and the clerk of the National Board, when asked about how it will work, all reported that they had not seen enough of the plan to know. We should watch these developments with special interest, to see both how they enable a national focus and how they protect the principle of joint governance in setting priorities for regional program development.

What parts of the Simplicity Committee report will be implemented by the AFSC National Executive Committee remains to be seen. This might be an appropriate time for LEYM to express its appreciation for the Simplicity Committee's recommendations and its hope that the spirit of the report will be fully implemented.

YM05 - 12 FWCC

Zig Dermer (Pittsburgh) has told us of the work of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. Liberal Friends, such as ourselves, constitute only about 10% of the world's Quakers. Through FWCC, Friends of all traditions learn about each other's worship and witness. A regional meeting was held at Friends School in Detroit last Autumn. The next regional meeting will be hosted at Barnesville, Ohio, by Ohio YM (Conservative), in October 2005.

The FWCC Section of the Americas Annual Meeting was held in Tempe, Arizona, this past April. The next Section meeting will be hosted by Guatemalan Friends in Chiquimula on the third weekend in March 2006. This will be the first Section meeting ever to be held in Central America. In 2007, the next Triennial Meeting will be hosted by Ireland YM. LEYM will support the travel of two Friends appointed to represent us there. FWCC is instituting a capital campaign, hoping to build an endowment so its work of bridge building may continue.

YM05 - 13 Olney Friends School

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor), member of the Olney Board, reported to us as follows:

Olney Friends School Representative Report

Olney began the 2004-05 year with 67 students: 23 international students from 13 different countries, and 45 students from 16 states. There is 100% acceptance of graduating seniors into 4-year colleges; among the colleges this year's seniors will attend are Haverford, Oberlin, Earlham and Carleton.

Olney completed the two million dollar capital campaign (so ably led by Katharine Jacobsen) in three years instead of five, and we were able to exceed the $200,000 Annual Fund Campaign in 2004. We are purchasing Top Campus from Ohio Yearly Meeting – this is the 65 acres on which all the school buildings stand, plus the hockey and soccer fields and lake. We continue to manage approximately 300 additional acres that include the

school farm and Plummer Woods.

Olney was featured in the spring issue of Teaching Tolerance in an article about holistic education titled, "Body, Mind and Spirit." The Headmaster, Rich Sidwell, said, "While there are plenty of schools that promote being smart as the pinnacle, Olney Friends School believes in a deep commitment to goodness as well as intelligence."

Is Olney out of the woods yet? No. There is still a great financial need, since most students receive some scholarship aid and the income from tuition is way too low to cover costs. The buildings of this 168-year-old school are in constant need of repair and updating. Recruitment of new students is always a challenge, and over the summer we're hoping to double the number of incoming freshmen from 8 to 16. Additionally, we're looking for 2 or 3 new Board members, having lost 3 when they joined the school administration. If you are interested in enrollment information, or would like to make a financial contribution or consider service as a Board member, please speak to me sometime this weekend.

YM05 - 14 FGC

Kri Anderson (Ann Arbor), LEYM representative to Friends General Conference, has reported to us on behalf of herself and the other LEYM representatives, Valerie Groszmann and Star Mary Castro.

FGC Representatives Report

FGC continues to seek the will of God in its service to the various monthly and yearly meetings under its care. The spirit is alive and busy within FGC! The LEYM representatives considered their involvement in various committees and settled upon a few things to share with the body.

At Central Committee sessions this fall, we heard the following statement describing our experience as a corporate body of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, and queer Friends:

Our experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Our experience has been that our Gatherings and Central Committee work have been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends. We will never go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God, as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of FGC together.

FGC invites us to consider and share back about our experience. We are invited to dwell deep, to "know one another in that which is eternal," to consider the words of this minute and epistle, and to be open to the presence and guidance of the Spirit.

Two of your representatives serve on the Religious Education Committee. Valerie Groszmann also serves on the Traveling Ministries Committee. We wanted to alert Friends to a few upcoming books and curricula in process. *Wrestling with our Faith Tradition*, by Lloyd Lee Wilson, should be ready by this summer's Gathering. *Living with a Concern for the Ministry* (tentative title), by Brian Drayton, should be ready by Christmas. Additionally, regarding the 2004 publication *Lives that Speak – 20th Century Quakers*, originally conceived as a book for young people, adults have been finding that this serves them also.

Kri Anderson serves FGC as its representative to the YouthQuake planning committee. YouthQuake is a triennial event bringing together youth aged 14-20 from across the theological spectrum of Quakerism. Issues about sexual orientation have been a source of tension among the members of the planning committee, but this year's committee members are endeavoring to listen deeply to the movement of the Spirit as they plan the conference. LEYM has had a number of youth participate in past YouthQuakes, and we are encouraged to consider expanding our financial support to make that opportunity possible for a greater number of youth.

Another movement afoot within FGC is the growing energy about Youth Ministry. We recognize that there are many needs among high school and post-high school Friends that are currently unmet. FGC sponsored a consultation with representation from Friends of all ages earlier this year. Over the weekend, the need was expressed for opportunities for connections among young Friends of similar ages. The desire and refreshment found in gatherings of Friends of similar ages and life transitions was strongly affirmed. However, perhaps more powerful and unexpected was a parallel and less met need for the building of a true intergenerational community that will invigorate and nourish each of us and the Religious Society of Friends. The power of such a blessed community could be breathtaking. Faithfully building authentic and deep intergenerational ties may require nothing short of a cultural shift in the Religious Society of Friends, a shift that is not modeled in our larger society. But the rewards could be tremendous.

We were challenged to respond to the following query: Can we really find that of God, based in mutual respect and reciprocal nurturance, between all of us, regardless of age?

This searching continues, and FGC invites all monthly and yearly meetings to consider issues of intergenerational community. We are still in a discernment process about what FGC can provide in response to these needs. We feel deeply led to expand our work in this area, as well as continuing work through the Committee for Ministry on Racism, and Traveling Ministry. As FGC grows its programming to respond to needs identified, FGC's need for financial support grows as well. Friends are asked to consider their support of this organization.

Lastly, two of your representatives have been active in the Yearly Meeting Visitors program. Valerie Groszmann has visited North Carolina YM –Conservative on two occasions, and plans to attend New York YM later this year. Kri Anderson has visited Northern YM on two occasions, and also attended North Pacific YM sessions last year. These opportunities allow us to observe, learn from and share with other yearly meetings for a greater understanding of the needs and richness of our larger community of Friends. Differences from our own yearly meeting have been enriching and broadening in understanding how the Spirit moves among us.

This summer's Gathering will be held in Blacksburg, Virginia, and we look forward to seeing familiar faces there. Next summer, we are excited about taking the Gathering farther west than it has ever been, to Tacoma, Washington, on the campus of Pacific Lutheran University. It's not too early to begin thinking about the Quaker caravan across the country!

We also wish to recognize Leonora Cayard, who stepped down as a representative to FGC this year so that she could care for her husband. We thank Friend Leonora for her dedicated service to Friends General Conference for many years, and we'll miss her. It is a great joy and blessing to serve Lake Erie YM as representatives to this great organization, and we are thankful for the opportunity to do so.

YM05 - 15 High School Youth Program Committee

We have approved language to add to our LEYM *Policies & Procedures* manual that describes the composition and responsibilities of the High School Youth Program Committee. The text reads as follows:

Section IV: Organization

E. Standing Committees

8. High School Youth Program Committee

a. Composition. The High School Youth Program Committee will consist of three adult members with 3-year overlapping terms and two high school aged members with 2-year overlapping terms. The High School Youth Program coordinator will be an ex officio member. The adult members shall be chosen to give representation to parents of high school youth and to the persons presenting the Yearly Meeting high school program.

b. Responsibilities. The High School Youth Program Committee has the following responsibilities:

1) To oversee the activities of the High School Youth Program. The High School Youth Program is normally expected to consist of four quarterly retreats and is independent of the program at the annual sessions of the Yearly Meeting.

2) To support and supervise the activities of the High School Youth Program coordinator. It is expected that consultation between the coordinator and the committee (by telephone or e-mail) will occur before each retreat.

3) To report and seek guidance, as required, at each Representative Meeting and Yearly Meeting.

We ask the Committee to write a position description for the High School Youth Program Coordinator and bring it to our annual sessions next year for approval and eventual inclusion in LEYM *Policies & Procedures*.

YM05 - 16 Epistle from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

The Epistle from Philadelphia YM was read. "We are one in the Spirit: Celebrating 50 years of Reunification" of the Yearly Meeting (Orthodox with Hicksite) was the theme. They have been challenged to follow through on their reintegrated Quaker witness by engaging in transformative action.

YM05 - 17 Bookstore

Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) reviewed for us the process in the bookstore: books must be paid for

before they are removed from the room. Payments may begin on Saturday during meal times. We are grateful to Valerie for making these resources a continuing vital part of our annual sessions.

YM05 - 18 Advancement & Outreach

Mathilda Navias (Broad-mead) reported to us on the work of the committee. She invited Friends to join the workshop, "Is outreach a dirty word?" on Saturday after-noon, exploring Friends and outreach.

Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

We have approved a new packet of 5 pamphlets for newcomers to distribute to meetings. We plan to order 100 sets and get at least one set to every meeting and worship group in LEYM. Committee members will then distribute additional sets as they visit meetings or as requested. We have chosen a set recommended by Red Cedar Meeting put out by Philadelphia YM.

Since Representative Meeting in March, members of A&O have visited the following groups: Albion WG, Birmingham MM, Mid-Ohio Valley MM. Additional visits are planned.

We discussed our oversight of the Yearly Meeting web site. Following up on discussion with members of the Nominating Committee, we decided that our committee can take responsibility for the web site's content with our existing members rather than adding a web editor as an additional ex-officio member of the committee. The technical aspects of the web site will still be the responsibility of the web master under the guidance of the Publications Committee.

We would like to remind Friends to check their meeting's listing in the QuakerFinder.com website. We have discovered that some LEYM meetings' contact information is no longer up to date.

We have put outreach materials in the display area – some to view and some to take away.

YM05 - 19 Arrangements & Site Committee

Mary Igoe Meyers (Broadmead) reported for the Committee.

Arrangements & Site Committee Report

by Judy Greenberg (Broadmead)

Pre-registration went very well this year, with 145 people pre-registered. Fewer people seemed to have trouble with the forms. We appreciate Friends taking the time to fill them out carefully and including the name of their meeting.

We had the usual challenge of finding enough rooms for all our meetings in Marbeck Center. As always, there have been several bobbles in the arrange-ments, but as always Friends coped with a good spirit.

The new catering company the University has employed has been disappoint-ing. We're working with the cook and the University to see what can be done yet this weekend. We'll expect the food to be better next year. Also, we're aware of the difficulties with the dorms and are trying to address these. We need an approximate count now for how many more blankets are needed in each dorm.

The dates being held for us next year are June 15-18.

We thank members of the Arrangements & Site Committee for all their work. Broadmead Meeting, although it is small in numbers, does a large job to make our meetings run comfortably, year in and year out.

YM05 - 20 Program Committee

Margy Liske (Kent), Co-Clerk, has reported to us:

Program Committee Report

The Program Committee entered the age of technology this year through the good offices of Merry Stanford, who advised Peter Wood to have us all get together via conference calls (a mode, Peter explained, that Merry and the Spiritual Formation folks had found most helpful). Behold! Together in one virtual room we conferred several times, October, November and December, by which time we had considered several topics, eventually focused on the theme of our annual Query, settled on "The Ground of our Being: Listening to Earth and Spirit," researched potential plenary speakers, and selected one, Kim Carlyle. We were most appreciative of Michael Fuson's willingness to gather with us through our deliberations.

Kim responded most graciously and, after meeting with his monthly meeting support committee, agreed wholeheartedly to our request. We continued to be in touch with Kim and Susan [Carlyle], who also kindly

agreed to present a workshop.

At Representative Meeting we were able to plan the schedule for June, tally potential expenses, and confirm four of the five workshop topics and leaders. With the Iraq war (or the second American war?) we found our fifth topic: Draft Counseling, and continued working on the program details, ever grateful for the endless patience and good will of the Site & Arrangements Committee, as the members received and processed our many questions and requests.

Now "the proof is in the pudding" and we sincerely hope we've prepared a program through which we may all be nurtured and speak to one another's condition.

[Note: the leaders and workshops for Saturday were:

1. Susan Carlyle — Simple Living: Practical Applications of our Testimony

2. Kim Carlyle — Caring for Creation: Lessons from Noah (PowerPoint presentation)

3. Richard Lee — Meeting for Worship for Healing

4. Su Hansen — The Draft and Draft Counseling

5. Mathilda Navias — Is Outreach a Dirty Word?]

The Clerk expressed the Yearly Meeting's appreciation for the work of our Program Committee, which provides the vital theme and programming, giving our Annual Meeting depth and focus.

YM05 - 21 Treasurer's Report

Connie Bimber (Oberlin), our Treasurer, took us through her preliminary report. This is the earliest that meetings have completed their annual donations to their Yearly Meeting. [See later for the final report.]

We minute our deep appreciation to Connie Bimber for the skillful and diligent service she has given to the care of its finances over the past ten years. Connie, we will miss your work as Treasurer.

YM05 - 22 Finance & Budget Committee

Linda Mills (Kalamazoo), Committee Clerk, reported to us on the work of the Committee. The budget for 2005-06 is attached.

Finance & Budget Committee Report

Several requests were received for consideration by the Finance & Budget Committee. At Representative Meeting in March the Committee was asked to review the history of support for the ongoing High School Youth Program. In the past, funding for programming has come from donations and retreat fees. The Committee would like to recommend an increase of $500 to the High School Youth Program budget for programming.

The stipend for the position of High School Youth Coordinator has not been increased. The Committee feels a raise is in order and recommends an increase of $400 added to the High School Youth Program. That would make a total increase to the High School Youth Program of $900.

The Committee was asked to consider funding for YouthQuake. An increase in the Youth Activity Fund of $1,500 would allow for scholarships to that Quaker event as well as other activities.

The Spiritual Formation line item is increased by $100 to cover some scholarships to the new Spiritual Formation group forming in the Pittsburgh area.

In anticipation of a request from Ministry & Nurture, the Committee would like to recommend a new line item for that Committee of $200.

The Committee also recommends decreases in the Publications & Archives Committee budget for the following year. With the recommended changes to the budget, the per adult member fair share will be $34 for 2005-2006 (up from $31).

Due to the high cost of sending representatives to the World Gathering of Young Friends, the Committee approved moving $1,000 from the General Fund surplus to the WGYF line item. This would allow about $1,500 per person for expenses.

The committee is in the process of arranging for a two-year review of the books. Any suggestions of persons who might serve in that capacity would be appreciated. Please see the Clerk of this Committee following the rise of meeting.

The Committee welcomes Erika Smith as the new Treasurer as of July 1, 2005. We express our deep gratitude

to Connie Bimber for her many years of service as Treasurer and financial guide. Connie will remain on the Committee for another year to ease the transition.

We note that the publications expenditures may be over budget next year because of the bi-annual publications schedule of the LEYM Directory. We approve the budget as presented and also approve the transfer of $1,000 from the General Fund to the World Gathering of Young Friends line item, noting the increased support for our Quaker youth this budget represents.

YM05 - 23 Publications & Archives

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) reported for the Committee.

Publications & Archives Committee Report

1. This committee does not have as many members as it is entitled to. We hope interested people will let the Nominating Committee know that they would like to join us. We need a web master, as has already been mentioned; an archivist; an editor for the *Annual Records 2006* and beyond; and/or a new Clerk.

2. We want to thank all of you who have sent in your State of the Meeting and statistical reports. We also print obituaries of members who have died since last June, but can't include them unless you mail them in. Please do so if you haven't already. We also print a Clerk's Report if it comes in on time.

3. Those of you who are taking digital photos here at Annual Meeting are invited to e-mail them to Jeff Cooper (cooperdaub@hotmail.com) for inclusion in the forthcoming *Bulletins* and the LEYM web site.

4. The Committee really needs to have the names of your Monthly Meeting newsletter editors, so that we can send them material for those newsletters. Please tell me who they are, as we also need to remind them to send copies of their newsletters to Jeff Cooper, who is now producing the LEYM *Bulletin*.

5. In early Fall we'll be asking you for your most recent meeting directories. If all goes well, the new LEYM Directory should be in your hands by this time next year. If we don't have the updated information in time, then, obviously, many of your Meeting's entries will be incorrect.

6. Having heard no objections recently, we plan to continue printing 250 copies of the *Bulletin* three times a year and 125 copies of the *Annual Records*.

7. Finally we plan to scan our guidelines regarding what Monthly Meeting material is considered archival into a computer and will e-mail copies to Meeting archivists for their information.

We minute our appreciation to Leonora Cayard (Pittsburgh) who is leaving the Publications & Archives Committee. It is Leonora who had the vision to initiate the publication of an LEYM *Annual Records* booklet. We are also grateful to Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh) who has edited our LEYM *Bulletin* for the past five years.

YM05 - 24 Introduction of newcomers

We began this morning's session with a new awareness, awakened by last night's talk given by Kim Carlyle (Swannanoa Valley MM, SAYMA). Kim reminded us that we are Earth enlivened by Spirit. We look forward to workshops on the topic of ecological awareness this afternoon led by Kim and Susan Carlyle.

Friends new to LEYM introduced themselves: Carolyn LeJuste & Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar), Ruth Fraser (San Francisco MM, Pacific YM), Greg and Diane Mott (Broadmead).

YM05 - 25 Youth & Children

Conleth Crotser conveyed the following information:

Youth & Children Committee Report

Thirty-three children and youth registered this year, ranging in age from 2 months to 18 years. They were split into five age groups in the care of ten leaders as well as the Committee co-conveners. We had one family volunteer to create this year's tee shirts and, thanks to them, you will see all the Youth & Children (Y&C) program participants wandering around in bright yellow. We also had several folks kindly volunteer to drive out to the lake where we swim each year and help keep everyone happy and safe.

The group leaders were all very kind and willing to be flexible, which was a great help for two significant reasons. For one, the age groups we expected were somewhat different from the groups we actually have. In particular, we have five children under the age of three, all essentially new to the Y&C program. In addition, we recruited five of

the ten leaders after March Representative Meeting – one as late as one week before Annual Meeting. For these reasons the group leaders shifted their expectations and plans for which group they would be responsible with great success.

We also had help from the Arrangements & Site Committee and one of the Y&C leaders who lives in Bluffton in picking classrooms appropriate to each group; in arranging access to Ramseyer and the new dorm, Neufeld, next to it for classrooms, with the all important field for running and ball games; and especially in having all the locations close together. This has simplified some of the work of the Committee and been very helpful.

On Sunday each group will present their experiences for the weekend – varied, exciting and sometimes surprising. Any activities of the Y&C Committee are open to any adult who cares to join us, especially the afternoon swimming sessions and the evening craft and game sessions.

Several families, including some new families this year, attend LEYM primarily for the friendships, enjoyment and nurture their children receive here. The Y&C participants are, numerically, a small part of the overall Annual Meeting, but Annual Meeting is a big part of the lives of the Y&C. Please keep the Y&C participants (adults and young ones alike) in mind whenever you plan the YM program, or plan to participate in LEYM.

We are grateful to the Committee and adult leaders for responding to last-minute needs and making it possible for several parents of our youngest children to attend YM sessions, some for the first time in a while.

YM05 - 26 FCNL

Ruth Fraser (Pacific YM), West Coast staff of Friends Committee on National Legislation, has told us of the newly rebuilt listed "green" building on Capitol Hill, which is soon to be ready for use by FCNL staff and guests.

"Iraq – a STEP Resolution" (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace) is being proposed as a way forward in Iraq. A Republican sponsor is being sought. Quaker bodies are encouraged to support this proposal as well. (See also Peace Minute, YM05 - 27).

The FCNL Internship program continues to be a way for college graduates to do real hands-on work with staff on Capital Hill. We are encouraged to recommend candidates for this opportunity.

Ann Arbor Young Friends have recently participated in a trip to Washington for a Youth Lobby Day organized by FCNL. It was a marvelous educational experience for them.

YM05 - 27 Peace Committee

David Lore (Granville) has reported to us:

Peace Committee Report

In a world of hurt, it's difficult to decide where to begin. The Peace Commit-tee over recent months has discussed a number of areas where our yearly and monthly meetings could help influence events for the better, at least to a limited degree. The scarce amount of time we can devote to this as a yearly meeting is frustrating to all of us, but it's heartening to hear during our session about all the good work being done by our member monthly meetings and individual Friends.

With about 15 committee members and visitors present during meetings June 16-17, the focus was on the Iraq war, developments in the debate on the death penalty, election reform and social responsibility in our investments.

Bill Bliss (Ann Arbor) encouraged Friends to establish links with peace and anti-war groups in their areas, pointing to the success the Friends Center in Michigan has had in acquainting such groups with material and programs from FCNL. "The whole tide is changing," Bill said. "A lot of people are against the war and we need to reach out to them."

Our committee considered and endorsed FCNL's STEP resolution on withdrawal from Iraq, and we recommend LEYM approve this document as well. The resolution calls on Congress to declare that "it is the policy of the United States to withdraw all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq." While many on our Committee felt this FCNL document was not strong enough, the consensus was it was a useful first step, and one that draws attention to opposition to permanent U.S. bases in Iraq.

David Lore drew our attention to a recent Associated Press study about inequalities – largely racial ones – in use of the death penalty in Ohio. We ask LEYM to approve a minute calling on Ohio Gov. Bob Taft and members of the Ohio Legislature to act on long-delayed legislation to create a 20-member Capital Case

Commission to investigate such problems. The minute notes that such a commission in Illinois recommended abolishing the death penalty, and that action on a similar study in Pennsylvania is also pending.

Our committee also decided to pass along information to monthly meetings on two interesting campaigns. Carolyn Diem (Ann Arbor) shared that her meeting as well as the Presbyterian Church USA and the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church are urging those concerned about the Israeli-Palestinian situation to review investments that might contribute to Middle Eastern unrest. Specifically, the call is to divest Fidelity mutual funds buying Israeli bonds, or to work as shareholders for such divestiture by the bond funds. After some debate as to whether this was an effective or fair-minded strategy to curb Israeli violence, it was agreed to inform meetings on the issue while emphasizing the need for social responsibility in all types of investments.

Also, in Ohio, a non-partisan campaign of progressive organizations is seeking to qualify three election reform issues for this November's ballot. The Reform Ohio Now (RON) amendments, according to David Lore, would establish nonpartisan state boards to redraw Congressional and state legislative districts and administer elections, taking those duties over from political officeholders and the Ohio Secretary of State. The package also includes an amendment rolling back recent assembly action raising the limit on individual campaign contributions each year from $2,000 to $20,000.

The committee agreed to pass information on these amendments on to Ohio LEYM meetings for information only.

Finally, Nate Riley (Birmingham) told us of his meeting's work to educate young people and their parents of their rights in dealing with ever more aggressive military recruiters. Meetings are encouraged to develop such programs, and committee members Nate Riley and Betty Ford (Grand Rapids) are available to help.

The Committee has brought to us the FCNL Iraq STEP Resolution (see below), asking that LEYM give its endorsement, holding all involved people in our prayers. We **approve** the resolution and ask that copies be sent appropriately.

We ask that the Peace Committee revisit its proposed text for a resolution concerning the creation of a Capital Case Commission regarding the Ohio death penalty to report back to us at a future session.

Iraq STEP Resolution (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace)

Whereas President George W. Bush stated on April 13, 2004, that "as a proud and independent people, Iraqis do not support an indefinite occupation and neither does America" and that the U.S. will remain in Iraq "as long as necessary and not one day more";

Whereas Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld assured the Senate Armed Services Committee on February 17, 2005, that "we have no intention, at the present time, of putting permanent bases in Iraq";

Whereas the Wall Street Journal reported in February 2005 that 60% of the people in the United States think that the Bush administration should set a public or private timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq;

Whereas former Secretary of State James Baker, former Pentagon official Anthony Cordesman, the International Crisis Group, and other respected leaders and analysts have said that it is critical that the U.S. government declare now its intention to fully withdraw from Iraq;

Whereas political parties opposed to the ongoing U.S. military presence won the overwhelming majority of votes in Iraq's January 2005 election and a clear majority of voters interviewed in exit polls cited their desire to see an end to the military occupation as a major impetus for voting;

Whereas the perception that the U.S. intends to permanently occupy Iraq aids insurgent groups in recruiting supporters and fuels violent activity;

Whereas many insurgent groups have expressed a willingness to engage in political dialogue if the U.S. clearly states its intention to withdraw from Iraq;

Whereas we can best honor the lives and memories of all who have died in Iraq by expediting the end of the war, bringing U.S. troops home as quickly as possible, and supporting the Iraqi people in rebuilding their country;

Whereas a clear statement of intent to fully withdraw U.S. troops and bases does not imply the setting of a particular deadline, time frame, or exit strategy;

Whereas such a statement would send a strong signal to the people of Iraq and the international community that the United States does not have imperial intentions in Iraq and affirms that the Iraqi people will regain through their elected representatives the full exercise of national sovereignty, including control over security and public safety;

Therefore, be it resolved that LEYM of the Religious Society of Friends holds in our prayers the people of Iraq, the U.S. troops and international troops and humanitarian workers in Iraq, the leaders of Iraq and the United States, and all others affected by this war;

Be it also resolved that LEYM calls on the United States Congress to adopt a sense of the Congress resolution declaring: “It is the policy of the United States to withdraw all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq”;

Be it also resolved that LEYM will present a copy of this resolution to the members of Congress who represent the district in which the congregation is based;

And be it also resolved that LEYM will send a copy of this resolution to member monthly meetings as well as to the local media.

YM05 - 28 Earthcare Committee of Concern

Al Connor (Ann Arbor) has reported to us on behalf of the Committee.

Earthcare Committee of Concern Report

The Earthcare Committee met April 30, 2005, at Greenfire Eco-village. It was the sense of those at the meeting that the Committee has two major goals: 1) To nurture the wholeness and integrity of the two major bioregions of LEYM (the Great Lakes Basin and the Ohio River Basin); 2) To work at local, state and federal levels of government toward sustainable policies that defer to the people affected.

Two leadings were articulated at the meeting. 1) Regeneration of the Earth is necessary for social justice and peace on Earth to exist. The bioregions in which LEYM exists are parts of the Earth that LEYM Quakers (and others) can help restore and regenerate. This is a spiritually based leading that requires each of us to reflect on our lifestyle and consider how we might change it to live in harmony with the nature of our bioregions. 2) To take action derived from our spiritual discernment, to educate and persuade local, state and federal governments, local and regional planning agencies and corporate executives to adopt legislation, policies and actions that enable Earth regeneration and prevent further ecological, economic and socio-cultural degradation.

For LEYM to activate those leadings and progress toward those goals much personal reflection, group worship and interpersonal dialogue in monthly meetings is needed. Friends among us are led to take diverse action and paths. Such diversity is good. Members from our monthly meetings need to pursue their diverse leadings individually and corporately to be examples of spiritually led people who live in harmony with nature rather than in conflict with it.

A critical mass of spiritually led and knowledgeable LEYM Friends is needed to educate and persuade legislators, planners and corporate executives to adopt earth regenerative policies and practices. Thus, the Earthcare Committee feels the need for representatives from many monthly meetings to become active with the core members of the Committee. A wider and more diverse membership is needed to increase the Committee's spiritual depth and broaden its environmental, economic and socio-cultural base and to reach out to neighboring faith communities that are concerned about sustainability and care of the earth in their bio-region.

The Committee, with Judy Greenberg’s editorship, has compiled a small Earthcare booklet that includes our goals, leadings and concerns. Its purpose is to share with monthly meetings some basic concepts and points that are important to us. We hope each monthly meeting will take one and make copies for its members.

This committee of concern has worked creatively for the past three years. In light of the depth of our on-going

and growing concern about care of the earth, we heed the call and agree that a new, standing Earthcare Committee should now be formed. We ask the Nominating Committee to include membership for this committee in its slate at our Annual Meeting in 2006. During the intervening year, we ask the committee of concern to continue this work on our behalf.

We **approve** the following language for the Earthcare Committee to be printed in the LEYM *Policies & Procedures* manual:

Section IV: Organization

E. Standing Committees

9. Earthcare Committee

a. Composition. The Earthcare Committee shall be composed of six members. Each shall serve a three-year, staggered term, with two new members added each year unless a member whose term has expired is nominated and agrees to serve a second three-year term. Committee meetings are open and other Friends are invited to participate.
b. Clerk. Selection of the clerk shall be made by the Nominating Committee. Primary duties of the clerk shall include presiding at Committee meetings, arranging for telephone conferences if necessary, sending group e-mail messages, and arranging agendas with consultation with other Committee members. S/he shall also write appropriate letters or arrange for them to be written.
c. Responsibilities and functions:
    1) To help us reflect upon our lifestyles, consider how they might be more earth-friendly, and encourage and help one another reorder our priorities and practices as needed.
    2) To bring information about Earthcare issues, concerns, and actions of monthly meetings to the Committee and inform monthly meetings of Earthcare issues, concerns, and actions.
    3) To receive reports from various Friends' organizations and share them with the monthly meetings and LEYM.
    4) To share resources and information with other faith communities and other organizations in the areas in which monthly meetings are located.

We were not in unity on the wording of a fifth responsibility that was in the draft, and so it was held back for further consideration at Representative Meeting in March 2006. It reads:

    5) To educate and persuade local, state, and federal governments and corporations in the region to adopt legislation, policies, and actions enabling earth regeneration and preventing further ecological degradation.

YM05 - 29 Ministry & Nurture

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), Committee Clerk, shared the following with us:

Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

The Ministry & Nurture Committee (M&N) has been involved this year with several major initiatives on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

1. Queries and Advices: In March at Representative Meeting, exploring the possibility of developing a LEYM *Faith & Practice*, the Executive Committee asked M&N to consider focusing its annual query on the theme of "Faith & Practice." The Committee considered this request at length, and felt clear to proceed with queries focused on an active faith and living practice. The Committee sought simple queries that could invite Friends to inwardly engage in a transformational process, rather than an intellectual one. We were led, through worship and discussion, to recommend the following queries:

* In what ways has the Living Presence awakened my faith and turned me around?
* As a Meeting, how do we support each other in being faithful?

2. 2004-2005 Spiritual Formation Program: The LEYM Spiritual Formation Program, which is under the care of M&N, has been in existence for eight years. The program's goal is to assist individuals and meetings in deepening and enlivening their experience of the Spirit. The theme for 2004-2005 was "Discerning Gifts of the Spirit," led by Susan Jeffers of Ann Arbor MM, with Sarah Christensen eldering. The evaluation of the yearlong program revealed how the program has supported the spiritual growth of Friends who participated. One Friend noted that, in a year of personal stress, the program definitely made it possible to feel loved,

nurtured and supported, and helped this Friend see God's spirit of Love in the midst of difficulty. Another wrote that the program kept the Friend focused and in touch with his or her own deep desire to remain on the path of spiritual growth. Another: "The program kept me honest, accountable to myself, my intention, and the Spirit who laid this discipline upon me. Sometimes I experience it as a burden; the program made it easier for me to keep on truckin'." We believe that, over time, these changes have a direct impact on the spiritual life of the monthly meetings of these participants.

3. 2005-2006 Spiritual Formation Program: In 2005-2006, there will be two sites for the Spiritual Formation Program. The Michigan program retreats will again take place at the Leaven Center, September 9-11, 2005, and May 5-7, 2006. Phil Fitz of New England YM will lead the retreats on the theme "Living in the Presence of God," with Becky Phipps eldering. A program will also be launched at Pittsburgh MM this year, with Fran Taber leading, and Katharine Jacobsen serving as elder. Registration flyers and brochures are available here at YM and will be available on the YM web site.

4. Consultation of Monthly Meetings on Ministry & Nurture: One of the responsibilities of M&N is to arrange regular YM workshops for clerks and members of local M&N committees. The Committee will sponsor an LEYM Consultation of the M&N committees of the MMs in April 2006. We feel that there is much that our MM committees could learn from each other, such as ways to encourage Spirit-led vocal ministry, build spiritual nurture groups and spiritual friendships, support those who provide ministry or witness in the world, prepare for the final affairs of one's life. Two representatives from each MM's M&N committee (or equivalent committee) will be invited to attend. A line item of $200 has been requested [from the YM] to help support the Consultation.

5. State of the Meeting Reports: The M&N Committee is aware that the processes used by our MMs to develop the State of the Meeting reports, and the contents of the reports, vary widely. Because M&N is charged with the care of the spiritual life of the YM, and because the State of the Meeting reports are a primary avenue of communication regarding the spiritual life of the MMs, we propose some suggested guidelines for the preparation of these reports. The Committee also recommends that the Clerk of M&N should annually send out the request to meetings, including the suggestions (see below). Reports will continue to be sent to the Clerk of Publications and to the Clerk of M&N.

Suggested Guidelines for State of the Meeting Reports

The State of the Meeting Report should be completed by each M&N Committee, presiding Clerk, or other appropriate person identified by the MM. The report should assess the meeting's spiritual condition and needs. The MM then thoughtfully considers this draft and gives it final approval.

The report may be prepared in reference to the annual queries provided by the YM, and could cover such matters as:

1. Spiritual condition of the Meetings, both strengths and failings.
2. Nature of meetings for worship during the year, including the quality of the silence, content and quality of the vocal ministry.
3. Meetings for business during the year, including the range of concerns considered, attendance of members, implementation of meeting's decisions.
4. Contributions of committees such as Peace and Social Justice, Religious Education, Ministry & Nurture, and others.
5. That which is most needed to deepen the spiritual life of the meeting and to strengthen its witness of Friends' testimonies to the world.
6. Key events during the year that helped build the meeting in the Life.

The State of the Meeting Report should be sent to the clerk of LEYM's M&N Committee and to the Editor of the LEYM *Annual Records* [or Publications clerk] by 31 May of each year.

6. Visitation: Members of M&N conducted some visitations in the past year to worship groups and meetings, including Albion WG, Fremont WG, and Wooster MM. The visitors found opportunities to nurture, and be nurtured by, these Friends' communities. With the Advancement & Outreach Committee, we encourage all Friends of the YM to consider visiting other meetings and worship groups, especially small and isolated ones, for the deepened relation-ship in the Spirit that such visitation provides.

7. Role of M&N: We wish to remind Friends that one of the roles of the M&N Committee is to consult with local M&N committees as requested by the local committees. Any meetings facing issues related to spiritual or pastoral concerns are invited to contact the Clerk of LEYM M&N.

We also wish to remind Friends that each MM is asked to name a represent-ative to the M&N Committee who is able to be present at Representative and Yearly sessions. The presence of representatives from all the MMs is crucial to fully discern and provide care for the spiritual welfare of the YM.

We thank Merry for her report. Friends expressed their gratitude that M&N is developing a set of suggested guidelines to ease and focus preparation of their annual State of the Meeting reports.

YM05 - 30 High School Youth Program

Carolyn LeJuste, Clerk of the Committee, reported, using notes from Kri Anderson, program coordinator:

High School Youth Program Report

There have been 3 LEYM-sponsored retreats since our last Yearly Meeting. The fourth planned retreat did not materialize.

ACTIVITIES:

The Summer Rafting Trip Aug 3-6 in West Virginia was a wild success. Six students and two adults (Kri and her friend Erin, another school social worker from Chicago) shared old stories and created new.

The Fall Retreat had scheduling complications and so was unable to happen.

As in the past, the Winter Retreat, "The 3rd Annual Quake that Rocked the Midwest," was held, over Martin Luther King weekend, in Evanston, IL. This event, organized through LEYM, invites high school youth from four Great Lakes Yearly Meetings for a three-day weekend that includes a trip to the city. This year, there were 44 people in attendance – 33 high school youth and 9 adults, including our presenter from Canadian Yearly Meeting, Evalyn Parry. There were 9 people from LEYM, 14 from Illinois Yearly Meeting, 10 from Northern Yearly Meeting, 8 from Ohio Yearly Meeting. The word about this gathering spreads from other gatherings, YouthQuakes and FGC's summer gathering, etc., increasing the number of high school students in attendance each year.

The Spring Retreat was held in East Lansing, under the care of Red Cedar Monthly Meeting, with great help from Carolyn LeJuste and the Nolan/Baker family who hosted the event in their home. We had 10 youth and 2 adults.

Way has not opened for the Russia Trip at this time, so it has been laid down for now. Thanks to all the Friends who have offered their support – we may need you still!

COMMITTEE WORK:

The High School Youth Committee Clerk, Carolyn LeJuste, met with Kri Anderson to plan the work of the committee during the upcoming year. We ask all the Monthly Meetings of LEYM who are interested in supporting this program to indicate their interest and willingness to host one of the seasonal high school retreats this year. Talk to Carolyn or Kri about your leadings. The committee will offer an outline of the local planning tasks as well as ongoing support from this committee.

The Committee will continue to discern ways to strengthen this program in order that it be a seasoned and long lasting initiative of LEYM.

YM05 - 31 Friends School in Detroit

Head of School, Dwight Wilson (Ann Arbor), spoke to us of the work of the school. With very few Quakers in the city of Detroit, FSD has the large task of bringing Quaker values to the city. The School has recently been reaccredited by ISACS (Independent Schools Association) with the comment that, although the program is strong, the School needs to improve and expand its physical plant. The School needs our prayers, Friends to serve on the Board, and contributions to both the regular budget and the Capital Campaign.

YM05 - 32 World Gathering of Young Friends

The Clerk informed us that Matt Hogan (Athens) and Becka Sommer (Broadmead) will represent our YM at the gathering this summer in Lancaster, England.

YM05 - 33 2006 Representative Meeting

Representative Meeting 2006 will be hosted by Pittsburgh Meeting on Friday and Saturday, March 3-4, 2006.

YM05 - 34 Welcome of newcomers

We welcome Chip and Valerie Cooper (Cleveland) and Deborah Calhoun (AFSC, NE Ohio, Akron) who are with us for the first time.

YM05 - 35

Approval of Signatures. Erika Smith, Treasurer, Connie Bimber, Assistant Treasurer, and Michael Fuson, Clerk, are authorized to sign checks, open and close certificates of deposit, and execute other financial transactions on behalf of LEYM.

YM05 - 36 Nominating Committee

Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) and Connie Green (Cleveland) gave us an interim report. We look forward to their completed report at tomorrow's meeting for business and give our blessing to the Committee.

YM05 - 37 Welcome of visitors

We welcome visitors Vaughn and Miriam Peebles from Wabash Meeting (Indiana YM) and White Rose Meeting (Ohio Valley YM).

YM05 - 38 LEYM Fall Retreat

Any interested Friends, particularly those from Central or NE Ohio, are encouraged to come forward to join the committee that is working on the holding of a YM Fall retreat for the purpose of fellowship and worship. We trust that this event will not compete with the traditional Fall retreat for young people.

YM05 - 39 Peace Committee.

Further to Minute YM05 - 27, David Lore has proposed a revised minute on the death penalty to send to the Ohio State Legislature. We are not in unity on this matter and return the minute to the Peace Committee, which is at liberty to release it on its own behalf.

YM05 - 40 Young Friends' Epistles

We have been witness to living epistles from various groups of Young Friends. Those messages that have been presented in written form are included in the Epistle Section below (pp. 61-63).

YM05 - 41 Naming Committee

Rosemary Coffey reported that the following Friends have agreed to have their names brought forward to serve on the Nominating Committee: Abbey Pratt-Harrington (Athens – two-year term), Nancy Nagler (Pine River – three-year term), Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead – three-year term). These names were approved.

YM05 - 42 Nominating Committee

Further to Minute YM05 - 36, Dolores Avner and Connie Green reported on the results of their further work. We approve the slate they have presented (see below) with thanks to the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee Report

LEYM Officers

Office	Person	Year
Presiding Clerk	Michael Fuson, Granville	3
Assistant Clerk	Shirley Bechill, Pine River	1
Recording Clerk	Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor	2
Treasurer	Erika Smith, Ann Arbor	1
Assistant Treasurer	Connie Bimber, Oberlin	1
LEYM Bookstore	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	5
Bulletin Editor	Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor	1
Production	Publication & Archives Committee members	

LEYM Committees

*No Nominee – if you feel led, call Dolores Avner (412-361-8304) or Connie Green (216-226-9925)

People	Years Serving & End Year
Advancement & Outreach	
Phil Balderston, Wooster	3 2006
Don Nagler, Pine River	3 2006
John Savage, N. Columbus	2 2007
Leslie Walden, Detroit	2 2007
Kelly Helms, Ann Arbor	4 2008
Mathilda Navias, Broadmead, Clerk	4 2008
Arrangements & Site	
Judy Greenberg, Broadmead, Clerk	6 2006
Frank Kennedy, Broadmead	2 2006
Regula Kummer, Broadmead/Toledo	5 2007
Jon Sommer, Broadmead	2 2007
Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	1 2008
Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead	4 2008
Finance & Budget	
Zig Dermer, Pittsburgh, Clerk	4 2006
David Green, Cleveland	1 2007
Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead	1 2008
Treasurer, Asst. Treasurer, ex officio	

People	Years Serving & End Year
Ministry & Nurture	
Margy Liske, Kent	1 2006
Janet Smith, Broadmead	6 2006
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	2 2007
Merry Stanford, Red Cedar, Clerk	5 2007
Star Mary Castro, Athens	4 2008
Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor	4 2008

Ministry & Nurture Local Representatives

Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo
Suzanne Howell, Athens	Fred Feitler, Kent
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham	Dick Taylor, Oberlin

Nominating

Dolores Avner, Pittsburgh, Co-Clerk	2006
Bob Roehm, N. Columbus	2006
Connie McPeak Green, Cleveland, Co-Clerk	2007

Abbey Pratt-Harrington, Athens	2007
Nancy Nagler, Pine River	2008
Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead	2008

Peace

Leroy Curtis, Wooster	3 2006
Nate Riley, Birmingham	3 2006
David Lore, Granville, Clerk	2 2007
Sadie Taylor, Oberlin	2 2007
Betty Ford, Grand Rapids	2 2008
James Satterwhite, Broadmead	1 2008

Program

Linda Mills, Kalamazoo	1 2006
Dale Pratt-Harrington, Athens	6 2006
Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor, Co-Clerk	2 2007
Peter Wood, Red Cedar, Co-Clerk	2 2007
Marty Grundy, Cleveland	1 2008
Eric Starbuck, Pittsburgh	1 2008

People	**Years Serving & End Year**

Publications & Archives

Marvin Barnes, Birmingham	3 2006
Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh, Clerk	6 2006
Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor	2 2007
Nancy E. James, Pittsburgh	1 2008
Bill Warters, Birmingham	1 2008

Youth & Children

Clerk	Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens	2006
Asst. Clerk	Joyce Callahan, Cleveland	2007
Pre-School Leader	Joyce Balderston, Wooster	2006
Pre-School Asst.	Susan Jeffers, Ann Arbor	2007
Early Elem Leader	Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	2006
Early Elem Asst.	Tim Damon, Cleveland	2007
Upper Elem Leader	Peter Crowley, Cleveland	2006
Upper Elem Asst.	Angela Suarez, Pittsburgh	2007
Fall Retreat Clerk	John Edgerton, Akron	2006
Fall Retreat Asst.	Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens	2007
Middle School Leader	Clémence Mershon, Pittsburgh	2006
Middle School Asst.	Joe Mills, Kalamazoo	2007
High School Leader	Paul Burkholder, Ann Arbor	2006
High School Asst.	Bekah Sommer, Broadmead	2007
Youth Member	Erin Diffenderfer, Cleveland	

Representatives to the following organizations:

AFSC	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	3 2006
AFSC	Richard Taylor, Oberlin, Clerk	5 2007
AFSC	Don Nagler, Pine River	1 2008
AFSC	Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar	1 2008
FCNL	Lila Cornell, Pittsburgh	3 2006
FCNL	David Lore, Granville	3 2006
FCNL	Marge Nelson, Athens	2 2007
FCNL	Nate Riley, Birmingham	2 2007
FCNL	Meg Hummon, Athens	1 2008
FNCL	David Snyder, Albion	3 2008

Q Earthcare Witness	Alan Connor, Ann Arbor		2006
FGC	Star Mary Castro, Athens, Clerk	6	2006
FGC	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	3	2006
FGC	Kri Anderson, Ann Arbor	5	2007
FGC	Shirley Bechill, Pine River	2	2007
FLGBTQC	Bob Roehm, N. Columbus		2005
FWCC	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	3	2006
FWCC	Zig Dermer, Pittsburgh, Clerk	4	2007
FWCC	Raelyn Joyce, Kalamazoo	2	2007
FWCC	Dale Pratt-Harrington, Athens	1	2008
William Penn House	*		
Olney Friends School	Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor		
Wilmington YM	*		
Ohio YM Conserv.	LeRoy Curtis, Wooster		
Canadian YM	Bob Orr, Detroit		
EFI Eastern Region	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster		

H.S. Youth Program

Carolyn Lejuste, Red Cedar, Clerk	1	2006
Dale Pratt-Harrington, Athens	1	2007
Christa Pratt-Harrington, Athens	1	
Micah Sommer, Broadmead	1	
Y & C Representative *		

YM05 - 43 LEYM Epistle

We have listened to the reading of the YM Epistle and thank the Epistle Committee for capturing the spirit and substance of our time together. (See pp. 63-65, below.) Our meeting closed in deeply quiet worship.

Treasurer's Report
LEYM
Treasurer's Report July 1, 2004, to June 30, 2005

By Connie Bimber

FUND	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	CURRENT BALANCE
General Fund	$ 6,516.55	$ 24,245.63	$ 23,090.44	$ 7,671.74
Annual Meeting	2,961.50	15,203.84	1,002.75	17,162.59
Triennial Travel	306.84	1,240.00	0.00	1,546.84
Granville Friends Y.F.	5,510.60	185.16	185.16	5,510.60
Youth Activity Fund	21.51	2,265.16	2,392.97	(6.30)
Spiritual Form-ation Group	423.96	6,037.50	4,846.76	1,614.70
High School Program	1,447.20	6,695.00	7,140.99	1,001.21
World Gather-ing of Young Friends	2,650.00	1,200.00	3,850.00	0.00
TOTALS	$ 19,938.16	$ 57,072.29	$ 42,509.07	$ 34,501.38

ACCOUNT	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	DEBITS	CURRENT BALANCE
CHECKING	$10,253.61	$48,892.76	$58,383.91	$ 762.46
SHOREBANK – March	2,060.06	24.75	0.00	2,084.81
SHOREBANK – Sept	2,113.89	29.62	0.00	2,143.51
SOUTHSHORE BANK	5,510.60	185.16	185.16	5,510.60

ACCOUNT	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	DEBITS	CURRENT BALANCE
CREDIT UNION ONE	24,000.00	0.00	0.00	24,000.00
TOTALS	$43,938.16	$49,132.29	$58,569.07	$34,501.38

General Fund – INCOME

MEETING	DONATIONS
Akron	$ 540.00
Ann Arbor	4,154.00
Athens	1,800.00
Birmingham	682.00
Broadmead	750.00
Cleveland	2,759.00
Delaware	372.00
Detroit	300.00
Grand Rapids	729.00
Granville	806.00
Kalamazoo	1,302.00
Kent	620.00
Mid-Ohio Val.	150.00
Monongalia	250.00
N. Columbus	400.00
Oberlin	558.00
Pine River	527.00
Pittsburgh	5,308.52
Red Cedar	1,116.00
Wooster	775.00
Misc.	66.00
Sales & Fees	200.00
Interest	81.11
TOTAL	$ 24,245.63

General Fund – EXPENSES [* = transfers]

EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PERCENT
Misc.	$	$ 66.00	
Travel	5,500.00	4,499.03	81.80%
Office	300.00	201.21	67.07%
Publications	4,400.00	2,102.70	47.79%
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	100.00%
Friends Schl in Detroit	2,500.00	2,500.00	100.00%
Records Project	200.00	100.00	50.00%
Advancement	130.00	81.50	62.69%
Clerk's Fund	500.00	--	0.00%
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00	1,240.00	100.00%
Youth Activity Fund*	1,200.00	1,200.00	100.00%
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	100.00%
FGC Nurturing Fund	500.00	500.00	100.00%
EXPENSES	**BUDGET**	**ACTUAL**	**PERCENT**
High Schl Youth Fund*	4,000.00	4,000.00	100.00%
Spiritual Formation*	500.00	500.00	100.00%
World Gathering YF	0.00	1,000.00	
TOTALS	$ 26,070.00	$ 23,090.44	88.57%

ANNUAL MEETING

BALANCE July 1, 2004	$ 2,961.50
Expense	1,002.75
Income	15,203.84
BALANCE June 30, 2005	$ 17,162.59

FWCC TRIENNIAL TRAVEL FUND

BALANCE July 1, 2004	$ 306.84
Expense	0.00
Income – Transfer	1,240.00
BALANCE June 30, 2005	$ 1,546.84

GRANVILLE FRIENDS YOUTH FUND ‡

BALANCE July 1, 2004	$ 5,510.60
Interest income	185.16
Transfer - outgo	185.16
BALANCE June 30, 2005	$ 5,510.60

‡Earnings are transferred to the Youth Activity Fund.

YOUTH ACTIVITY FUND

BALANCE July 1, 2004		$ 121.51
Income – transfer	$ 1,200.00	
Income – interest	185.16	
Income – Youth Retreat	880.00	
Total Income this year		$ 2,265.26
TOTAL INCOME		$ 2,386.67
Expense – Grants	$,300.00	
Expense – World Gath YF	1,092.97	
Expense – youth retreat	--	
Total Expense		$ 2,392.97
BALANCE June 30, 2005		$ (6.30)

SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP

BALANCE July 1, 2004	$ 423.96
Income‡	6,037.50
Expense	4,848.76
BALANCE June 30, 2005	$ 1,614.70

‡Includes transfer of $500 from General Fund.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM

INCOME	Budget	Actual
BAL. carried forward		$ 1,447.20
Donations	$ 1,000.00	525.00
Transfers fr. Gen. Fund	4,000.00	4,000.00
Retreats	--	2,170.00
INCOME	Budget	Actual
Fund Raising	--	--
Total Income	$ 5,000.00	$ 8,142.20
EXPENSES		
Program expenses	$ 1,000.00	$ --
Stipend	4,000.00	4,000.00
Retreats	--	3,140.99
Total Expenses	$ 5,000.00	$ 7,140.99
BALANCE June 30, 2005		$ 1,001.21

WORLD GATHERING OF YOUNG FRIENDS

INCOME	
Balance from last year	$ 2,650.00
Donations	200.00
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00
Total Income	$ 3,850.00
EXPENSES	
LEYM Representatives	$ 3,000.00
Donation to WGYF	850.00
Total Expenses	$ 3,850.00
BALANCE June 30, 2005	0.00

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Representative Meeting March 4, 2006

Hosted by Pittsburgh Friends Meeting

RM2006-3-1 Opening Worship

The meeting opened with unprogrammed worship. Our Clerk, Michael Fuson (Granville), welcomed Friends and spoke of the value of meeting where our constituent meetings worship. He thanked Pittsburgh Friends for making us feel welcome and hosting us so effectively. Friends new to Representative Meeting were asked to introduce themselves.

RM2006-3-2 We broke to meet in committees for the morning, and then enjoyed a good lunch provided by Pittsburgh Friends.

We reassembled in worship and Assistant Clerk Shirley Bechill (Pine River) read the epistle from the World Gathering of Young Friends, held in Lancaster, UK, during August, 2005. Young Friends gathered there felt "the Spirit at work in all of us, calling us not to judge one another's forms of worship but to examine our own hearts, find our own calling. We are called to take what we have experienced here and give it back to our communities."

RM2005-3-3 The Recording Clerk, Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), called the roll of Friends from our constituent monthly meetings, preparative meetings and worship groups. The count was as follows:

Monthly Meetings:

Akron	2	Kalamazoo	2
Ann Arbor	4	Kent	2
Athens	2	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	2	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	9	North Columbus	3
Cleveland	6-4	Oberlin	1
Delaware	0	Pine River	4
Detroit	2	Pittsburgh	7
Grand Rapids	1	Red Cedar	2
Granville	2	Wooster	2

Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups

Albion (under Red Cedar)	0	Indiana (Pittsburgh)	0
Erie (Pittsburgh)	1	Manitou (Grand Rapids)	0
Fremont (Grand Rapids)	0	Rio Grande	0
Holland (Grand Rapids)	0	Grand Traverse	0

LEYM attenders: 54

Other attenders: 0

Total attenders: 54

RM2005-3-4 Executive Committee

Executive Committee met last evening. The Clerk reported to us that they discussed the proposal that LEYM develop a new set of Queries to be made available to local meetings. We expect to move forward with this leading at our yearly meeting sessions in June.

RM2006-3-5 Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee report was given by Connie Green (Cleveland).

Nominating Committee Report

We have immediate needs in a few areas:

1. We are in need of a new Treasurer.

2. We need two members for Finance Committee.

3. We need an assistant recording clerk.

In assessing the reality of our size and functions as a Yearly Meeting, the Nominating Committee would like to offer a change in the approach we take to filling committee positions.

We have identified two categories or types of committees, the Administration and Maintenance (A&M) committees, which are directly responsible for the operation of the Yearly Meeting, and the Spiritual Life committees, which nurture our faith and practice.

The A&M committees, which are Program, Site, Finance, Publications & Archives, and Youth & Children, would continue to have positions filled as is our current practice. We would also continue to nominate representatives to Quaker organizations. We would also continue to nominate the clerk, assistant clerk, recording clerk, assistant recording clerk and treasurer.

We believe the Spiritual Life committees of Ministry & Nurture, Advancement & Outreach, Peace, and Earthcare should have their membership rise up from the monthly meeting level. Monthly meetings better know the gifts and interests of their members. The clerks of these committees would continue to be nominated by the Nominating Committee. We believe this change in structure would better reflect our size, commitment and energy as a yearly meeting.

We ask Friends to reflect on this proposal and the problems it seeks to address. This issue will be brought to our Annual Meeting in June.

RM2006-3-6 Program Committee.

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported that “Moved by Faith within Community” will be the theme of our Annual Meeting. The main speaker will be Michael Wajda, and five workshops will be offered on the theme.

Singing will be somewhat more organized than it has been in recent years. Worship sharing will be in the same format as last year, and the Saturday night intergenerational activity may include dancing.

RM2006-3-7 Youth & Children Committee

Conleth Crotser (Cleveland) reported to us.

Youth & Children Committee Report

We are excited to have a complete committee this year. A letter which briefly explains our program and expectations for children and adults will be sent to parents and submitted to the *Bulletin*.

We hope to have at least one youth meeting for worship during LEYM.

We will be creating a banner as a community-building exercise on Thursday and Friday evenings.

We are pleased that older children again will be part of worship sharing groups. In an effort to support them we will be asking adults to be buddies with them during this time. Be willing to say “yes” if you are asked.

Youth program sessions need to end on time to allow leaders to have the time they need to connect, rest, etc. Parents may need to leave meetings that run over, to be with their children. Please be sensitive and encouraging to parents in this situation so they can leave meeting when they need to.

As always, anyone is welcome to join in any of the children or youth activities. Who knows, you might find it enjoyable enough to join the committee. Certainly, the experience is likely to enhance your annual meeting in a very special and delightful way.

RM2006-3-8 Arrangements & Site Committee

Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) reported for the committee. We were informed about site arrangements at Bluffton University for our Annual Meeting this June 16-19.

Arrangements & Site Committee Report

Bluffton's conference registration hasn't reached us yet, but we have some information from the conference director about the arrangements this year. Our main dorms will be the Hirschy annex and Ramseyer, giving an AC and a non-AC choice as in the past.

Since the food has been a concern, the conference director plans to send us menus and a diagram of the salad bar. They will work with us to provide more satisfactory choices for vegetarians and vegans.

Reminders:

1. The registrar needs a list of all full-time youth leaders, official invitees, plenary speaker and companion, and non-LEYM Quakers giving workshops, to figure charges.

2. Committee clerks planning to convene their committees on Thursday and Friday should inform A&S clerk at least two days in advance so rooms can be assigned and committee members directed to the right room when they appear.

We look forward to a splendid YM this year and hope to make Friends as comfortable and accommodated as possible.

We appreciate the proactive approach our Arrangements & Site Committee is taking to provide a comfortable and pleasant yearly meeting experience.

RM2006-3-9 Ministry & Nurture

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) reported.

Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

1. **Consultation:** At the last annual gathering of LEYM, the committee discussed holding a consultation for ministry and nurture committees of the monthly meetings. That is being tentatively scheduled for April 2007, in a central location of the yearly meeting. The purpose of the one-day session will be to learn how to encourage spirit-led vocal ministry, build spiritual nurture groups and spiritual friendships, support those who provide ministry or witness in the world, and prepare for the final affairs of one's life.
2. **12-step Meetings at YM:** Feedback from the evaluations of the June gathering at Bluffton indicate that Friends appreciated the 12-step meeting that was sponsored by Ministry & Nurture, and requested the option of having a space set aside for daily meetings during the gathering. Ministry & Nurture will continue to work with the Program Committee to ensure that these meeting spaces continue to be offered.
3. **Spiritual Formation Program:** This year the Ministry & Nurture Committee has sponsored two retreat locations for the LEYM Spiritual Formation Program: one at the Leaven Center in Lyons, Michigan; the other at Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting.
   a) *Fall Retreat in Michigan:* 22 people participated in the fall retreat, held September 9-11, 2005. Phil Fitz, of New England Yearly Meeting, was scheduled to co-lead the retreat with Beckey Phipps, but was absent due to an accident. Beckey led the retreat on the theme "Living in the Presence," leading an early morning Bible study in addition to large and small group exercises. Participants also led each other in experiencing their chosen spiritual practices, from reflective reading to toning and drumming. Evaluations indicated that participants felt the retreat "grounded them in the spiritual formation group process," "gifted them with peace and space to explore inner promptings," "focused their spiritual search," supported their varied individual and collective spiritual experience, and "gave them a very positive experience of eldering and being eldered." There are now spiritual formation groups meeting regularly throughout the year in Pine River, Red Cedar, Ann Arbor/Birmingham, and Broadmead meetings involving 32 people. The program is proving to be an outreach ministry to non-Friends in three of the groups.
   b) *Fall Retreat in Pittsburgh*: The October retreat was led by Fran Taber and Katharine Jacobsen of Ohio Yearly Meeting (C) on the theme "Follow your Path to the Center." Two additional spiritual formation groups spun off from the retreat. There are now four spiritual formation groups meeting regularly in Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting.

c) *Spring Retreats, 2006:* The spring retreats are scheduled for May 5-7 at the Leaven Center, and May 19-21 at Pittsburgh.

d) *2006-2007 Program:* Next year's dates for the Michigan retreats are September 8-10, 2006, and May 4-6, 2007, at the Leaven Center. Pittsburgh is not planning a retreat program for next year.

4. **Summary of Meeting Responses to the Annual Query:** Each year Ministry and Nurture sends a set of queries to the monthly meetings, inviting their responses. Summary follows.

Summary of Monthly Meeting Responses to the 2005 Queries

In what ways has the Living Presence awakened my faith and turned me around? As a Meeting how do we support each other in being faithful?

These queries, developed by the Ministry & Nurture Committee at the 2005 annual gathering of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, elicited responses from 11 meetings. Although there were some common themes, there seemed also to be a good deal of variation between and within the meetings.

We referred to the Divine in several of our responses, variously describing the Divine as "God's Love," "Holy Spirit," "Spirit," "Divine stirring," "Living presence," "Seed of Christ," and "Light." In many of our responses, however, there was no reference at all to the role of divine guidance in the process of spiritual transformation.

Within our meetings we experience both discomfort with the terminology "being turned around" and appreciation of the experience of "turning." Many Friends are critical of the words, associating the phrase with the evangelical experience of being born again, which is alien to their own condition. "Being turned around" was an experience commonly described by early Friends in their journals. Today, however, we variously describe our experience of "turning" as more gradual, using other words to describe the experience: "maturing," "transformation beginning with a Divine stirring in the soul," "adjusting or modifying one's course of action," "gaining new awareness," "looking back from the vantage point of years and seeing the change," "a flower unfolding," and "experiencing grace-filled moments." One Friend offered the metaphor of walking backwards in the right direction, and needing to turn around in order to walk forward. There is great respect among us for this gradual experience of spiritual transformation.

However, it is well to note that, while the process is gradual for most of us, some Friends admit or hint at powerful mystical experiences, or sudden experiences of love which have moved them to a state of grace. These experiences have, indeed, "turned them around"; but some Friends have not spoken openly of their experiences for fear of being met with skepticism. In fact, our responses to the queries indicate that some among us openly – and perhaps regularly – communicate skepticism about such experiences. We need to find a better way of creating safety for those Friends among us who have experienced sudden, as well as gradual, turnings so that we may learn more fully from each other about the many ways that the Spirit moves among us.

"Faithful" was also a term that proved challenging for many Friends. The question seeming to be asked by many of our meetings was "faithful to whom or to what?" We addressed this challenge by confirming that faith is a very personal thing, that a person's spiritual journey is a sacred one, and that faith includes a sense of trust that we are not alone, that the Living Presence is, indeed, present. We have a deeply-felt respect for the importance of authentic personal experience on the spiritual journey.

We are quite clear about the ways we provide care and support to each other. We try to be examples for each other, to hold each other in the Light, to listen deeply to each other, and to offer opportunities for clearness. We join together in actions for peace and social justice. We are very appreciative of the caring we find in our meetings. We find it growth-producing to be vulnerable to each other, to be of service to others, to be accepted and accepting in ways that may not be possible in other corners of the world, to be free to develop a personal understanding of faith, and to be in regular attendance at Meeting for Worship. We sometimes struggle with reaching out to each other when there is need, for fear of meddling; but others among us encourage us to risk making a mistake, rather than leaving a Friend to suffer alone. We also wonder if we are providing enough support for marriages that take place under our care. We are eager to find ways of being more connected to each other, through friendly gatherings of small numbers of Friends for meals, study, or discussion.

However, we may not be clear about how it is that we support each other in being faithful. Perhaps we should first consider more deeply the role of divine guidance in discerning just what it is we are being called, as Friends, to do or to be in the world. What is our gift to the world? And are we being faithful to the giving of that gift?

RM2006-3-10 Publications & Archives

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported for Rosemary Coffey, who was returning from Australia.

Publications & Archives Committee Report

1. Unfinished business.

   a) We remind Nominating Committee that our committee still needs one or two more members.

   b) We remind monthly meetings to give us contact information for their newsletter editors. As *Bulletin* editor, Jeff sometimes distributes notices for potential publication in MM newsletters. Too, Jeff should be receiving MM newsletters, but currently receives only three or four; Friends are asked to remind their MM editors to send newsletters to Jeff via email or snail mail (*cooperdaub@hotmail.com*; 1506 Arborview Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103).

2. Deadline for Winter Bulletin.

   We propose changing the deadline from December 15 to January 1, as December 15 falls at a busy time for both contributors and Jeff. January 1 would need to be understood as a firm deadline.

3. Reviewing materials from Advancement & Outreach Committee (A&O).

   a) A proposed new form for collecting information for Monthly Meeting Statistical Reports in the *Annual Records*. This second draft incorporates many suggestions made in response to an earlier draft. The form proposes collecting information on worship groups and preparative meetings (contact persons, time and location of worship, etc.) directly from the local contact; we recommend collecting such information from the MM that has care for the worship group/preparative meeting (if there is one). We believe that the two committees and the Recording Clerk together can decide on the best way to proceed. [We also had thoughts on formatting and on requesting full information on MM committees, which we conveyed directly to A&O.]

   b) A review from A&O on information in the Statistical Reports, the *Annual Records* in general, and the *Directory*. We supported many of A&O's recommendations, especially the following:

      1. The LEYM web site should make available a web page for any MM that wants one - or a link to the MM's own web site.
      2. We should distinguish between members (of the Religious Society of Friends) and MM attenders in the LEYM *Directory*, if this does not effect delay in its publication.

      We have a different perspective, however, on two issues:

      3. We should continue to include the brief LEYM history and record of clerks in the *Annual Records*.
      4. We should include summaries of the plenary address and the workshops in both the *Annual Records* and the fall *Bulletin*.

4. LEYM Directory 2006.

   Leslie Walden had generously offered to produce this publication, but for health-related reasons cannot complete it before the Annual Meeting. He has collected much data, but cannot convert it into a finished product. We urgently request a volunteer to take on this important project. Leslie and Marvin Barnes can generate reports that can be sent to MMs for final corrections.

5. Annual Records 2005.

   Extra copies of this useful reference source were offered to Friends. Nancy E. James will edit Annual Records 2006.

RM2006-3-11 Peace Committee

David Lore (Granville) reported.

Peace Committee Report

National and international, federal and state issues of concern were taken up during our two-hour meeting in Pittsburgh. Agreement was reached to contact monthly meetings this spring, urging that they ask their respective Congressional representatives to oppose President Bush's recent proposal to provide India with nuclear fuel and technology in contravention of U.S. law and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Meetings are directed to House Concurrent Resolution 158, supported by Friends Committee on National Legislation, which urges diplomacy and other non-military responses to terrorism and adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which India has never signed. Congress should reject Bush's proposed unilateral waiver for India on the basis that it likely will result in India increasing its stockpile of nuclear weapons, in increased tensions among India, Pakistan and China, and in the weakening of treaty curbs on the development of nuclear weapons by other non-signatory countries, including Iran.

Friends agreed to continue research on the following issues for possible action during Yearly Meeting in June:

1. Re-affirmation of FCNL's STEP (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace) resolution on Iraq, and especially STEP's call for eventual withdrawal of U.S. troops with no permanent U.S. bases left behind. The need was noted for continuing education in Friends Meetings on the history and culture of the Middle East.
2. There is concern that some Quaker meetings and peace groups, including some in Ohio, have been under surveillance by local police, the FBI and the Department of Defense because of their opposition to the Iraq war and military recruitment.
3. The genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan continues, despite recent efforts by the U.S. and others to intervene with African Union peacekeepers. FCNL in January recommended the Bush administration increase diplomatic efforts to end the violence and increase humanitarian assistance while working with the UN and NATO to strengthen the peacekeeping force.
4. Friends join others in opposing mistreatment and torture of alleged terrorists held by the U.S. in prisons and detention centers around the world, in contravention of the Geneva Accords and other international treaties as well as the recently adopted "McCain amendment" in Congress. A number of yearly and monthly meetings are sponsoring a Quaker conference on Torture at Guilford College, June 2-4, 2006.
5. Several issues of concern are likely to be on this November's state ballots in our region. These include initiatives to abolish Affirmative Action programs (Michigan), raise the state minimum wage (Michigan and Ohio), and bar homosexuals from adopting children or serving as foster parents (Ohio).

It should be noted that only seven of LEYM's 20 monthly meetings were represented at this session of the Peace Committee. All monthly meetings are encouraged to designate representatives to participate during Yearly Meeting in June so that the committee can benefit from their knowledge and experience.

RM2006-3-12 Earthcare Committee of Concern

Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) reported. The committee met only briefly this morning, since few of its members were present and Judy Greenberg had other responsibilities. The group feels that the issue of earthcare should have a fundamental place in the YM's work - it underlies all our testimonies. Some of our meetings have committees working in this area. The YM committee is just beginning to form and do its work; it is hoped that new leadership will arise to guide our efforts around the concern.

Meetings were encouraged to include earthcare as a priority when they report to FCNL about its lobbying priorities at the 110th Congress.

RM2006-3-13 Advancement & Outreach

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) reported.

Advancement & Outreach Report

Contact Information for Meetings in LEYM. The Advancement & Outreach Committee, in cooperation with the Publications & Archives Committee, has put a lot of work into creating an up-to-date list of all the monthly meetings and worship groups in LEYM. It includes contact information for the use of people wanting to attend the meeting as well as full mailing addresses that can be used by the yearly meeting and yearly meeting committees for mailings to meetings. It clarifies what worship groups are under the care of a meeting. We believe that the information is reasonably accurate as of August of 2005.

A&O recommends that this information be included in the yearly meeting database and be updated regularly.

Monthly Meeting Web Sites. A&O has completed developing materials to help monthly meetings put up web sites. Copies of the pamphlet we wrote have been sent to those monthly meetings that expressed an interest. More are available.

LEYM Web Site. We have been working with Bill Warters, the new webmaster, and the Publications & Archives Committee on re-designing the yearly meeting web site. A new design is currently on-line. A&O is asking Bill for some further changes in format, such as a larger font, to make it more usable and appealing.

We are working on new text for the home page and will be sending that to Bill soon. We are also working on additional pages for seekers.

Bill is hoping to make one web page available to each meeting that wants him to post basic information without putting up its own web site.

Annual Records. A&O is working with the Publications & Archives Committee and Thomas Taylor, LEYM Recording Clerk, on revising how statistical and contact information is gathered from meetings and published in the *Annual Records*. We have asked yearly meeting committees and officers to look at the *Annual Records* and let A&O know of any changes they would suggest.

We would like to get revised statistical report forms ready for use this summer. We hope to make forms available both on-line and through regular mail so that meetings that have the information available in electronic format can send it in easily, which will also minimize the number of mistakes made when typing in hand-written information.

RM2006-3-14 Finance & Budget

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported. We are grateful to Sally for agreeing to serve as clerk of Finance Committee in the absence of Zig Dermer, now living in Vietnam. We are saddened that Erika Smith has had to resign as our YM Treasurer and are grateful to Connie Bimber (Oberlin, Assistant Treasurer) for agreeing to serve in her stead.

We approved that YM should cover the registration, room, and board expenses of David Zarembka and David Bucura, who will present the African Great Lakes Initiative work at Annual Meeting. We hope they will have time to present to the young people as part of their time at YM.

Finance & Budget Committee Report

The make-up of the Finance & BudgetCcommittee has changed since appointments were made at last year's annual sessions. Zig Dermer has resigned as clerk of the committee. Sally Weaver Sommer has been appointed to serve as clerk. In addition, Erika Smith has resigned as treasurer, and Connie Bimber, currently assistant treasurer, has agreed to serve as treasurer through this year's annual sessions. Michael Fuson met with the committee today and we thank him for helping out during this transition.

The presiding clerk and the Finance Committee have been working on a transition plan. We are aware that some of you have requested reimbursements that you have not received and others have sent checks that have not cleared the bank. These are being taken care of, and you should receive reimbursements within a few weeks. Between now and the annual meeting sessions in June, please send checks and requests for reimbursement to Connie Bimber. Her address, phone number, and e-mail address are printed in the *Annual Records*. Sally will e-mail this information to all meeting treasurers.

The committee reviewed expected expenses for the Annual Meeting. Calculations suggest that keeping the registration fees equal to last year's registration fees will provide sufficient funds to cover expenses.

The committee reviewed the 2005-06 budget. We do not have current data on income and expenses for this fiscal year. Our estimates at this time suggest that we will propose that the 2006-07 budget be the same as the 2005-06 budget.

RM2006-3-15 FGC

Shirley Bechill (Pine River) reported that the Friends General Conference Central Committee has met recently; there were a number of young people at the meeting, bringing new liveliness to the committee. There is a new standing committee on youth, which brings new challenges and opportunities.

Sally Weaver Sommer, Assistant Finance chair for FGC, told us that FGC is in the middle of a feasibility study for a possible new fundraising campaign. The seed money is there. Funds will be sought for the benefit of programs in traveling in the ministry, youth, combating racism, etc.

RM2006-3-16 Christian Peacemaker Teams

Jim Satterwhite (Broadmead) has told us that the four Christian Peacemaker Team captives are still being held. Jim reminded us that CPT workers take the same risks as those faced by military personnel. Iraqis' lives are also constantly in danger from abductions as well.

RM2006-3-17 FCNL

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported. FCNL staff and committee meetings are back in the very green building on Capitol Hill. Friends are encouraged to visit and to use the facility to see their representatives. Meetings are encouraged to participate in the priorities-setting process for the FCNL lobbying work with the 110th Congress. The materials were sent to meetings and churches in early January. The deadline is April 30.

RM2006-3-18 FWCC

Clémence Mershon (Pittsburgh) reported. The Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas Meeting will be held later this month in Chiquimula, Guatemala. Five Friends from LEYM plan to attend; Clémence expects to travel among Central American meetings after the FWCC Section meeting.

RM2006-3-19 LEYM Bulletin deadline

Jeff Cooper reminded us that the deadline to receive materials for the next issue of the *LEYM Bulletin* will be March 15.

RM2006-3-20 FLGBTQC

Shirley Bechill and Bob Roehm (North Columbus) have let us know that the FLGBTQC met near Flint, MI, last month and it was a delightful event. The group’s application to meet next at an FUM Quaker site in North Carolina was turned down, but they have been accepted at an Episcopal facility.

RM2006-3-21 Closing worship

We entered a period of unprogrammed worship to close the meeting. We look forward to our Annual Meeting, planned for Bluffton University in Ohio, on 15-18 June, 2006.

Thomas Taylor, Recording Clerk
Michael Fuson, Clerk

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
July 15-28, 2006
Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

Minutes and Committee Reports

YM06 - 1 Worship and Letter from Britain Yearly Meeting

The 43rd Session of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting was held at Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio. We began with worship, during which we heard the reading of the Letter of Greeting from Britain Yearly Meeting. Friends in Britain are aware of the connections between Friends world-wide. They were grateful for our letter of fellowship following the London bombing last year.

YM06 - 2 Welcomes

Our Clerk, Michael Fuson (Granville), welcomed Friends and visitors to our yearly sessions, speaking of the value of this annual opportunity to be with Friends in the region. He also introduced Friends at the table, Shirley Bechill, Assistant Clerk (Pine River), and Thomas Taylor, Recording Clerk (Ann Arbor).

A traveling minute from Friends General Conference on behalf of Dave French (Madison, WI), who is visiting with us this year from the FGC Yearly Meeting Visitors Program, was read. Michael also read a minute introducing Elizabeth Oldham (St Louis, IL YM), our visitor from Friends World Committee for Consultation. We welcomed David Zarembka (St Louis, IL YM), here to introduce his work with the Africa Great Lakes Initiative; David was last with LEYM when he served as treasurer 22 years ago. Also representing AGLI was David Bucura, past Clerk of Rwanda YM. Susan Lee Barton, FWCC Midwest Coordinator, brought greetings from Clear Creek Meeting (Ohio Valley YM).

Those attending annual sessions for the first time introduced themselves: Ruth Carey (Ann Arbor), Joy Pryor (Grand Rapids), Aaron Scherb (FCNL), and Michael Wajda (Goshen Meeting, Philadelphia YM), our plenary speaker.

YM06 - 3 Roll Call

The Recording Clerk called the roll of Friends from our constituent monthly and preparative meetings and worship groups. The count (corrected against registration numbers) was as follows:

Monthly Meetings:

Akron	2	Kalamazoo	4
Ann Arbor	24	Kent	4
Athens	12	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	15	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	21	North Columbus	4
Cleveland	22	Oberlin	2
Delaware	0	Pine River	4
Detroit	5	Pittsburgh	14
Grand Rapids	2	Red Cedar	12
Granville	4	Wooster	8

Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups

Albion (under Red Cedar)	1	Grand Traverse (Pine River)	0
Circleville (N Columbus)	0	Holland (Grand Rapids)	0
Erie (Pittsburgh)	1	Indiana (Pittsburgh)	0
Fremont (Grand Rapids)	0	Manitou (Grand Rapids)	0
Gallipolis	0	Tustin (Pine River)	0

LEYM attenders	160
Other attenders	9
Total attenders	169

YM06 - 4 We mourned the death of two Friends in our Yearly Meeting.

Fran Elliot (Ann Arbor) died on November 15, 2005. She and her husband, Joe, were active in the civil rights struggle in Arkansas and peace activities in Ann Arbor. She lived a life of simplicity, honesty and justice, expecting her family to do the same.

Peter Collins (Ann Arbor) died on January 20, 2006. He was helpful to Friends in Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting and Friends School in Detroit with legal advice, pro bono.

YM06 - 5 Arrangements and Site Committee

Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) welcomed us and reported for the committee with practical information about the physical arrangements. The 169 registrants are a new record for the YM.

YM06 - 6 Business agenda

The Clerk outlined our business agenda for upcoming sessions and asked that we make our reports brief, submitting them in writing to assure accuracy and to save time in minuting. The Assistant Clerk will be responsible for reading out announcements to the meeting.

YM06 - 7 Epistle Committee

Phil Balderson (Wooster) and Abbey Pratt-Harrington (Athens) were approved to serve with Shirley Bechill, Assistant Clerk, on the Epistle Committee and to report back to us as way opens.

YM06 - 8 Naming Committee

We approve the names of Margie Liske, Sally Weaver Sommer and Peter Wood to serve on the Naming Committee to bring names of two Friends to serve three-year terms on the Nominating Committee. We ask them to report to us later this weekend.

YM06 - 9 Nominating Committee

Connie Green (Cleveland) reported to us that Youth and Children Committee is in particular need to be filled this year but there are several other positions that need to be filled. Nominating Committee brought us a proposal to restructure our committees. In order for us to study the proposal, we asked that it be typed, duplicated and distributed.

Nominating Committee Proposal - June 15, 2006

In considering the reality of our size and functions as a yearly meeting, the Nominating Committee would like to offer for your consideration a change in the approach to how we fill committee positions. We think it might be helpful to rethink the committee structure in terms of two categories: maintenance committees (Nominating, Program, Arrangements & Site, Ministry & Nurture, Finance & Budget, Youth & Children, Publications & Archives) and committees of concern (Peace, Earth Care, Advancement & Outreach).

The Nominating Committee would nominate clerks for all committees. All members of the maintenance committees would also be named by the Nominating Committee.

The committees of concern would have their membership made up of those yearly meeting attenders who feel drawn to those committees as well as members/attenders sent by their monthly meetings to represent them. The committees of concern would function as networks where monthly meetings could report on the work they are doing and exchange ideas. The committees of concern clerks would function as facilitators. Perhaps reports of these committees to the yearly meeting could be in the form of a summary of what monthly meetings are doing, as we believe the real work of these committees happens at the monthly meeting level. We suggest that these committees of concern could meet at a different time at yearly meeting sessions than the maintenance committees so there might be more participation in each. We also suggest that membership on the maintenance committees be decreased to two-year terms for four members with the option of serving three terms.

We believe these changes in our structure would better reflect our size, function and energy as a yearly meeting. We invite you to hold these ideas in the Light. (See Minute 24.)

YM06 - 10 Visitors and first time attenders

The Clerk welcomed more visitors and first time attenders. The following Friends stood and introduced themselves: Ed Waisanen (Ann Arbor), Robbie Griffith (Wooster), Beth Amoriya (Athens), Laura & David Lockledge (Cleveland), Dustin Misosky (Pittsburgh), Trisha Lachman (Athens), Shelley Kotz (Broadmead).

The Assistant Clerk read the following announcements:

a) 12-step meeting later today - all Anons are welcome.

b) Friends School in Detroit display includes packets for people to take to their meetings - please check the table and take the one home to your literature table.

c) The 2006 ***LEYM Directory*** needs attenders to check their names and addresses in a blue binder at the Registration table.

Reports from Wider Quaker Organizations

YM06 - 11 World Gathering of Young Friends

Becka Sommer reported on her attendance at the YM Gathering in Lancaster, England, in August 2005. Two young Friends were invited to attend from each yearly meeting. Visas were denied to a number of African and Indian Young Friends, so a second gathering was held in Kenya.

At both gatherings, Young Friends learned about Quaker history, overcame language barriers, and experienced the variety of Quaker worship styles from around the world, led by Friends from each region. Issues of Friends worldwide were discussed in small groups. The group understood the importance of building *puentes,* bridges between Friends in different areas E-mail and pen-pal lists have enabled on-going dialogue. Young Friends want the connective energy to keep going - the growing and learning from other Quaker cultures. We appreciate Becka's report and the spirit with which it was brought.

YM06 - 12 Friends General Conference

Our representatives, Shirley Bechill (Pine River), Star Mary Castro (Athens), Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo), and Kri Burkander (Ann Arbor) reported about FCG programs on traveling ministry, couples enrichment, religious education, publishing, book tables, high school program, annual gathering, youth ministries, nominating, and long range planning. This year's gathering is to be held in western Washington this year - a bold step, which is working. FGC is striving to raise new money for all these projects.

Dave French (Madison, WI) spoke about his work as Assistant Clerk of the FGC Advancement & Outreach Committee. Search in www. quakerfinder.org for the online Directory of Isolated Friends in North America if you want to be contacted by Friends. In a fundraising feasibility study, respondents felt that FGC was uniquely equipped to build bridges across different varieties of Quakerism in North America. If any organization could do it, FGC may be able to, because of the variety of programs FGC has developed over the last decade. Dave invited us to attend future FGC Gatherings in Wisconsin (2007) and Johnstown, PA (2008). He is assisting Katie Nolan (Red Cedar) in arranging a train trip to this year's gathering in Tacoma.

YM06 - 13 Friends World Committee for Consultation

Representatives Margaret Kanost (Birmingham) and Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) told us of the FWCC Section of the Americas annual meeting hosted by Guatemala Friends in March 2006. We learned of individual Friends they got to know during the meeting and on tours afterwards. They visited Friends churches in Chiquimula during the meeting. Friends in Guatemala represent a large percentage of Protestant churches in the country. The main talk was given by Duduzile Mtshazo, FWCC Clerk, from Central & Southern Africa YM. Attenders learned about the Progresso Scholarship program in Guatemala for needy students, many of whom are Mayan. This is sponsored by Redwood Forest Meeting in Santa Rosa, CA. They sell Guatemalan woven products and receive annual donations to fund the scholarships.

The next FWCC Triennial meeting is scheduled for August 2007 in Dublin, Ireland. Mike Hinshaw and Raelyn Joyce (Kalamazoo) have been chosen to represent LEYM there. A regional meeting is scheduled for September 29 - October 1 in Wilmington, Ohio. Mike encouraged us to contribute to the campaign that FWCC is mounting to build its finances.

YM06 - 14 America Friends Service Committee

Mike Hinshaw, representative, attended the annual corporation meeting on our behalf. His report has been printed in the ***LEYM Bulletin.***

YM06 - 15 Friends Committee on National Legislation

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), past representative and member of the FCNL Policy Committee, reported to us on our Quaker lobby in Washington. The FCNL Policy Committee met last weekend and absorbed the responses from 200 meetings and churches to the call for priorities to bring to the 110th congress beginning early next year. The spiritual basis of our political work was evident from many of the responses, such as encouraging the U.S. to pull its troops and bases out of Iraq, but with care to the needs of the Iraqi people. Earthcare and a budgetary shift from military to human needs at home and abroad were also emphasized in the responses.

Thomas introduced Aaron Scherb, FCNL staff member working on nuclear issues. Aaron will be conducting a lobbying workshop this afternoon at 6:00. Friends are encouraged to come and learn how they might effectively bring their concerns to our senators and representatives in congress.

YM06 - 16 Epistle from Intermountain Yearly Meeting

Shirley Bechill read to us the Epistle from Intermountain YM, meeting at Ghost Ranch, NM. Friends gathered there listened to the voices, the birds, the sounds of prophecy. Like God, *prophecy* is really a verb - to move and transform ourselves into a new Peaceable Kingdom. They exhorted Friends to be bolder, to love more and to listen.

YM06 - 17 Prayers for Bassett Family

We have learned that our friend Miyo Bassett (Ann Arbor) is recovering from a serious operation in Rochester, NY. Miyo and the Bassett family are in our thoughts and prayers.

YM06 - 18 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Don Nagler (Pine River) reported to us on the work of GPQM, an association of seven monthly meetings and four worship groups in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. GPQM holds two business meetings a year and one for worship, plus a picnic in August and a mid-winter gathering for fellowship and celebration. He told us of recent gatherings and upcoming events at Michigan Friends Center. The Michigan Area AFSC office in Ann Arbor, Friends School in Detroit and Michigan Friends Center are all supported by and report to GPQM.

YM06 - 19 Treasurer's Report

We are grateful to Connie Bimber (Oberlin) for reassuming the responsibilities of YM Treasurer after a nine-month hiatus. Connie reviewed the opening and closing fund balances and reported that some meetings' checks have not been received. This matter is being investigated. (See pp. 47-51 below for Treasurer's Report figures.)

YM06 - 20 Finance Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported for the committee:

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee reviewed the final financial report for 2004-05 and the preliminary report for 2005-06. The general conclusion is that the yearly meeting is financially sound.

We reviewed the list of meetings that have not yet contributed this fiscal year. Sally will contact these meetings to solicit their contributions. Those who are at the sessions from these meetings could help her by contacting her.

The high school youth program ran a deficit this year. This deficit came about because of an overpayment for the fall retreat which will be recovered in fall '06. We will transfer between $250 and $300 from this year's clerk's fund to the high school fund to make up this deficit.

The yearly meeting financial books are being reviewed, but the results are not yet in because of the transitions in the treasurer position over the past year.

Guidelines regarding honoraria and expenses for the yearly meeting annual gatherings were approved. These guidelines have been given to the Registrar and the Program Committee. We have added to the guidelines that the annual meeting financial report will be included in the fall *Bulletin* of each year.

The Finance Committee proposes that the budget for fiscal year 06-07 be identical to the budget for fiscal year 05-06, except that the high school youth fund be increased by $500. (See attachment.) We want to encourage the high school program to grow and develop. The clerk of the Finance Committee will send a letter to each of

the meetings discussing the budget, reporting that the new share per member will be $35, and asking meetings to send checks to Connie Bimber.

YM06 - 21 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) reported for the committee.

Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

Supporting Meetings. A number of the smaller meetings and worship groups in LEYM have few active Friends. The Advancement & Outreach Committee continues to struggle to figure out ways that LEYM can support these meetings and worship groups. We have compiled a list of suggestions for ways a monthly meeting can support a worship group or preparative meeting under its care. Copies are available from the committee.

Re-design of the Yearly Meeting Web Site. A&O has been working with Bill Warters on his re-design of the yearly meeting web site. A new design and new text went on-line in 2006. A&O will be adding brief descriptions of Quaker worship, business, and testimonies. We hope that these will encourage seekers to contact Friends.

The web site is a great way to make information available to interested Friends; we urge LEYM committees to consider whether they have information that would be useful to post on their committee's web page.

Helping Monthly Meetings Set Up Web Sites. A&O has been working to help monthly meetings and worship groups set up web sites. We encourage every meeting and worship group to have a web site that gives seekers the information they need in order to attend meeting for worship. Wooster Meeting reports that three families have walked in their door in the last year after finding them through their web site.

We have put together a pamphlet called "Is Your Quaker Meeting Thinking of Setting Up a Web Site?" It offers help to meetings in setting up or reviewing a web site. Copies are available on the A&O display table along with other outreach materials. Meetings that do not feel up to creating and maintaining their own web site now have the option of having a page of static information on the yearly meeting web site. Interested groups should contact Bill Warters.

In this last year, four groups put up web sites: Akron MM, Circleville WG, Birmingham MM, and Kalamazoo MM. Birmingham's site is a static site hosted on the yearly meeting web site. Of the 22 monthly and preparative meetings in LEYM, 11 currently have web sites. Of the 9 worship groups, 3 have web sites. Any meeting that would like help in figuring out how to get a web site up can contact the clerk of A&O.

Gathering Information on Meetings and Worship Groups. Every year, LEYM asks each meeting and worship group to send current contact information for meeting officers, tell how many members they have, and give the number of people at a typical meeting for worship. A&O has worked with Thomas Taylor, LEYM Recording Clerk, to revise the statistical report form we use for this in an attempt to collect unambiguous mailing addresses for meetings, to make the form easier to fill out, and to capture new information such as meeting web sites. The new form was distributed both by e-mail and by regular mail, and meetings had the option of sending in the report electronically.

The information gathered will be printed in the *Annual Records*, used to update meetings' information on the yearly meeting web site, and entered in the yearly meeting database. If anyone has feedback on the new statistical form, please give it to Mathilda Navias, Clerk of A&O (mathilda1@lycos.com or 419 448-0578).

Yearly Meeting committees and officers who want to communicate with meetings on yearly meeting business can get a mailing list or e-mail addresses from the manager of the yearly meeting database (Mathilda Navias).

YM06 - 22 Ministry & Nurture Committee.

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) thanked the Friends serving on the Committee for their hard and valuable work.

Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

1. State of the Meeting Reports. The committee prepared for the Yearly Meeting Session before arriving by reading the State of the Meeting Reports that had been submitted. We then read, out of the silence, portions of the reports that jumped out at us. Our experience of reading these reports was deeply satisfying. We found them rich, full of detail regarding the spiritual conditions of our local meetings. Several meetings used the suggested worship-sharing format to glean a full sense of the spiritual state of the meeting. We are glad that the State of the Meeting Guidelines appear to have nourished such rich sharing among us.

2. LEYM Consultation. The committee is working with the Traveling Ministry Program of FGC to identify a

leader for a Saturday consultation to be held in April 2007. The goal for the consultation is to help members of ministry and nurture committees of monthly meetings consider ways to deepen Friends' experience of Meeting for Worship and share ideas. Concerns that the committee identified that could be addressed include: enabling Spirit-led vocal ministry, dealing with ministry that does not appear to be Spirit-led, helping inexperienced attenders come to understand the process of Quaker worship, the role of a "holding ministry" in Meeting for Worship, being open to receive the call to minister, deep listening to messages, and preparation for worship. Two sites are being considered: Oberlin Friends Meeting and Perrysburg, both with overnight hospitality for those Friends needing it.

3. Executive Committee Request. At Representative Meeting, the Executive Committee made a request regarding each committee developing a set of queries relevant to its function. The committee discussed and agreed on the following, all to be provided to local meetings through the summer clerk's mailing from the Ministry and Nurture Committee clerk.

This year we will provide an annual query, focused on a significant issue facing our meetings, as we have for the last twenty years.

We will publish an updated booklet of the LEYM queries to be mailed in the summer clerk's packet to the monthly meetings. This will be published both in paper and on the website.

Local meetings will be invited to submit ideas for queries focused on pertinent topics of faith and practice, which will be considered next year by this committee. The committee agreed to accept topics and rough ideas, as well as polished queries.

Friends in local meetings will be invited to submit brief stories (up to 1,000 words) of their faith journeys, to be collected and published in an as yet undetermined way.

4. Query for 2006. The discussion and selection of a query usually takes a great deal of time. This year we discerned, with measured discussion and prayerful consideration, the query topic and queries in all of 1.5 hours! Our topic this year is Discernment.

What do I understand "divine guidance" and "discernment" to mean?

How do I experience divine guidance and discernment in my life and in our life as a Meeting?

What are we, as Friends, being called to do or to be in the world <u>at this time</u>?

5. Spiritual Formation Program: The Spiritual Formation Program has been under the care of Ministry and Nurture for several years. As this program grows, the benefits are observed in our monthly and yearly meetings. Some participants in the program shared that they are able to reach a greater depth and share more openly in Spiritual Formation worship than in that of their monthly meetings, and that this nourishes their spirits. The program next year will be led by Beckey Phipps and Phil Fitz of New England Yearly Meeting at the Leaven Center near Lyons, Michigan, September 8-10. Registration forms, brochures, and program flyers were distributed, and will be available on the LEYM website.

6. N**urture of New Clerks:** The committee has noticed that sometimes meetings do not submit State of the Meeting Reports, and wonder if this might be due to the fact that incoming clerks may not be aware of these requests from the Yearly Meeting. We recommend to the Executive Committee the development of a packet of information, including a timeline indicating when things are requested, and the purpose they serve in the Yearly Meeting.

7. Seventh Guideline for SOM Reports: We were prompted to consider whether the local meeting's "ongoing connections to the wider Quaker community" should be added to the potential topics for consideration in the State of the Meeting Report Guidelines. The committee concluded that this is a valuable addition, and will add it to the document that is circulated to the clerks in late summer and post it on the website.

8. TMP Consultation: The FGC Traveling Ministries Program has requested two representatives of each Yearly Meeting to serve at a consultation to be held in November near Pittsburgh. It will be the role of our representatives to represent LEYM at the consultation, and to report back to the YM. Following a lengthy but faithful Strawberry Creek process, the names of Kri Burkander (Ann Arbor) and Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) were put forward as representatives.

YM06 - 23 <u>Costa Rica Intergenerational trip</u>. John Barrie (Ann Arbor) has told us of the trip he and his wife, Karen Connor, took to San José and Monteverde, Costa Rica. They were interested to learn how effective Quakers have been in the area in starting such institutions as the national park system, a Friends school and a coffee cooperative. John and Karen have consulted with Kri Burkander about taking a group of YM high schoolers to Costa Rica to have a similar experience. With them, Kri is eager to help enable

this proposal. We look forward to learning more about this exciting project as plans develop.

YM06 - 24 Nominating Committee

Connie Green has told us of the structural and personnel problems that led to their proposal outlined in Minute 9, above:

The Nominating Committee faces a challenge. We are seeking your help.

We have an average of about 120 attenders, including children, at Yearly Meeting sessions. Fewer than 60 attend Representative Meeting. We have about 92 positions of service in the YM to fill. It is not possible to serve on more than one committee at a time, regardless of level of interest or energy, because all committees meet at the same time. Some committee positions have been difficult to fill due to apparent lack of interest or energy.

Ideally, the work of the Nominating Committee should be one of spiritual discernment but, due to the sheer volume and time constraints, and numbers of available and willing attenders, it becomes a secular exercise of filling slots.

After thirty years of using the present committee formula, it might be time to reevaluate and re-vision how we might be faithful to the leadings of the Spirit.

In order to discuss this matter at our meeting tomorrow, the Clerk asked us to study the outline of problems and the proposal together and to consider the following three issues. Is it right to:

a) change the size of our committees,

b) have two different types of committees,

c) structure our YM program so some Friends can serve on two committees at the same time? (See Minute 29.)

YM06 - 25 Plenary address

We have been inspired and encouraged by last night's plenary address from Michael Wajda (Goshen MM, Philadelphia YM) on “Expectant Listening.” His words will echo for us for the remainder of our time together and beyond.

(See text of address on pp. 52-67 below.)

YM06 - 26 Peace Committee

David Lore (Granville) reported.

Peace Committee Report

This election year should signal “Ears Wide Open” in terms of Congressional and state legislative attentiveness to the concerns of the electorate. Members of the Religious Society of Friends, although often adverse to partisan politics, should take advantage of this window of opportunity to make our views known on issues of war and peace, human rights, and political and economic justice.

During Lake Erie Yearly Meeting in Bluffton, Ohio, Peace Committee members, Monthly Meeting representatives and visitors discussed concerns as well as opportunities to effect change. We ask individual Friends and Monthly Meetings to inform themselves and consider action on:

The U.S.-India Nuclear Pact: The Bush administration is proposing to waive restrictions on India under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but there is growing Congressional and international opposition to such a deal, especially given sanctions being considered against Iran.

Permanent U.S. Bases in Iraq: In 2005, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting endorsed FCNL’s proposal for the eventual withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq with no permanent U.S. bases left behind. This STEP (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace) plan has gained support, to the extent that both the House and the Senate this year included a ban on permanent Iraqi bases in the $94.5 billion emergency Iraq War spending bill. This language was removed, however, earlier this month in Conference Committee. The issue of a permanent U.S. “boot print” in Iraq remains a concern for Friends and non-Friends alike.

Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund: House Resolution 2631 - the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act - would require the Treasury to certify for record-keeping purposes those Americans who in their tax filings declare themselves Conscientious Objectors opposed to participation in war in any form. Although this would not constrain military spending - at least in the foreseeable future - sponsors feel it would alert Americans to the opportunity to register dissent to war spending through their tax filings and measure the scope of such opposition.

Palestinian Christians: Two Congressmen have drafted a resolution which claims to be intended to defend Palestinian Christians. The draft resolution, and its accompanying letter, badly misrepresent the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, claiming that the emigration of Palestinian Christians is caused by their persecution by Muslims, promoted by the Palestinian Authority. It appears that those who drafted this resolution did not consult with Palestinian Christian leaders, who feel it reflects a pro-Israel political agenda. It is also clear that the resolution would hurt Palestinian Christians more than help them.

Dr. Salim Munayer, academic dean of Bethlehem Bible College, has written an incisive critique and response to this Congressional resolution. For a copy of Dr. Munayer's report, contact James Satterwhite at Broadmead Monthly Meeting (satterwhitej@bluffton.edu).

Peace Committee also is happy to announce that Clemence Ravaçon-Mershon, (Pittsburgh and Erie Worship Group) has agreed to serve as our committee representative and liaison to the Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board.

After discussion and a few edits, the Yearly Meeting **approved** the following Minute brought to it by the Peace Committee:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Minute on Raising the Federal Minimum Wage

> As U.S. citizens, we say we stand for economic justice: the freedom to work to achieve a better life for ourselves and our families and receive fair value for our labor.
>
> As Quakers, we believe in equitable sharing of the world's resources, the value of labor, and the lessening of disparity between rich and poor in terms of opportunity.
>
> As a matter of fairness and economic justice, therefore, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting asserts that it is well past time for Congress to take up and adopt a substantial increase in the federal minimum wage. The current minimum wage, $5.15 an hour (or about $10,700 a year), has been in effect for nearly a decade and is simply inadequate to support an individual worker, let alone a family.
>
> When adjusted for inflation, the current minimum wage is the lowest it has been in the last half-century, according to a study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research.
>
> Currently, several states are considering raising their state minimum wages above this $5.15 standard. In addition, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee recently voted 37-27 to raise the federal minimum wage to $7.25 an hour. But the full House is not expected to follow suit.
>
> As a matter of economic justice, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting calls on state legislators and members of Congress to act quickly and responsibly to raise the minimum wage on behalf of all working people in the United States.

A proposed minute on closing the Guantánamo Bay Detention Center and like places of incarceration was referred back to Peace Committee for further seasoning.

YM06 - 27 Arrangements & Site Committee

Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) and Mary Igoe Meyers (Broadmead) gave us practical details about check-out and reported that:

Things seem to be going smoothly now, as Friends are adapting to what appear to be the normal annoying little bobbles of arrangements. Thank you, profusely, for your cheerful forbearance!

We are scheduled here next year for June 14-17 if this is agreeable to LEYM. The final count of attendance is attached. (See Roll Call above, Minute 3.)

The work of the site committee is complex but very rewarding. Thank you very much for the many expressions of appreciation we've received. It's a wonderful working group, responsible and fun.

YM06 - 28 <u>Earthcare</u>

Ann Sprague (Detroit) reported for the committee.

Earthcare Committee Report

The Earthcare Committee has reconstituted itself through outreach and has new members representing several monthly meetings.

The committee participated in this meeting by planning the workshop titled "Eat It As Long As You Can" that Jon and Sally Sommer will present today. As part of this the film, "Diet For a New America," based on the book by John Robbins, will be shown. One goal of the committee is to continue to present a workshop concerning the environment at future Yearly Meetings.

The committee previewed a film on climate change called ***The Great Warming*** that we considered showing at this meeting. Although the film conveys the urgency of our current situation, we came to the decision that it would be more useful in the context of a larger workshop where discussion and clarification could occur. This might be undertaken in the future as a program at Michigan Friends Center.

Our review of committee goals was deeply influenced by the Nominating Committee proposal that suggested our committee should function primarily as a networking group. We began to focus on how we might do that more effectively. The committee had already begun the process of outreach recently and plans to do that more systematically this year. By identifying contacts in each meeting, gathering information from those meetings, and then integrating and sharing that information, we hope that we can identify environmental concerns, interests and resources within the LEYM community.

In our role as a conduit for information and networking we have also begun the process of establishing a presence on the LEYM website

We would also like to work this year toward identifying three, or possibly four, regional meeting clusters. Clusters that are close-by geographically could more easily meet for educational activities and would be able to work together on issues of local concern. Centering down in our own environments seems to be a particularly important grounding for work on earthcare concerns.

A significant awareness that emerged from our discussion is that some people view environmental action as needing special skills, knowledge or training. In fact, as in all other areas of service, a sense of caring and the nudgings of the Spirit are the only requirements for involvement.

YM06 - 29 Nominating Committee

Connie Green told us of the various YM responsibilities yet to be accepted. The Clerk opened the meeting for contributions concerning the committee restructuring proposal given in Minute 9 and the problems outlined in Minute 24. Several questions concerning practical implications of the proposal were raised and responded to. These are issues that will need to be clarified over time. In the meantime, we need to hold our Nominating Committee in the Light and step forward and take on responsibilities so the work of the YM can continue.

YM06 - 30 Friends Peace Teams/African Great Lakes Initiative

David Zarembka (St Louis, IL YM) reported on this work, which started in the early 1990s. We learned that more people died from violence in Africa than were killed in WWI. The African Great Lakes Initiative started when David and others on FPT went to Burundi and Rwanda to learn of the needs in peacemaking activities. The first program there was in the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). African Quakers have also been working to heal the intertribal wounds of recent years, including healing companions: Tutsi and Hutu pairs who learn to forgive and understand each other. David encouraged us to attend the workshop led by David Bucura (Rwanda) on this work.

YM06 - 31 Book Display

Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) communicated her joy and frustrations of arranging and staffing book sales at our YM sessions. She gave us clear instructions of how to purchase books while they are still available.

YM06 - 32 Epistle from Iowa YM (Conservative)

The Assistant Clerk read the Epistle from Iowa YM (Conservative). The young people at IYM(C) enjoyed working on a Habitat for Humanity project. The YM continues to explore what it means to be a group of Conservative Friends. They are in the process of revising their Book of Discipline into a book of Faith & Practice.

YM06 - 33 Newcomers

The clerk welcomed newcomers. Robert Marks (Bowling Green, attending Toledo Worship Group, Broadmead) introduced himself.

YM06 - 34 Quaker Earthcare Witness

Al Connor (Ann Arbor) reported.

Quaker Earthcare Witness Report

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) continues to hold that we are called to live in "Right Relationship with Creation.." We recognize that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God. As parts of God's Creation, humans need to work to restore the earth's ecological integrity. Doing that requires:

- halting the accumulation of ecologically disruptive substances into the biosphere
- limiting the amount of land used for human purposes
- restoring degraded land to biodiversity and fertility
- stabilizing human population
- decreasing the production and consumption of energy and material goods
- reducing the generation of waste
- redesigning the institutions of government, enterprise and finance to be consistent with reality and the laws of nature
- enabling people everywhere to strengthen and sustain family and community and live in ecologically, economically and socially sustainable ways.

QEW affirms:

- the UN is the appropriate institution for governments and NGOs to advance this agenda
- the principles of the Earth Charter and the Interfaith Working Group for international trade should be followed
- trade should be promoted for purposes that protect and enhance local food security, the earth's biological productivity and general health
- access to the global commons: healthy air, health soil, safe, fresh water and essentials of life

QEW is concerned that many YMs that are not members of FGC have not named representatives to QEW. It is making a concerted effort to reach out to Friends United Meeting.

Some members of QEW have been working on a curriculum for adults and high school youth. The curriculum is concerned with spiritual bases for social, environmental and economic justice and sustainability of the earth, communities and all forms of life on earth. Margaret Mansfield and Ed Dreby of Mt. Holly, NJ MM (Philadelphia YM) are leaders of that effort. QEW is now an official nongovernmental organization (NGO) observer at the UN. Our two observers attend open meetings of the General Assembly and Security Council. They also meet with representatives of other NGOs and with representatives of various nations and UN agencies.

QEW is inspired by the long-term environmental protection and energy policy adopted by Friends Committee for National Legislation as a legislative policy. We are concerned that there is not support for and input to FCNL from more individual Friends and monthly meetings. Via a standing committee, Quaker Earthcare Witness - National Legislation (QEW-NL), QEW has established a link with FCNL and its environmental lobbyist, Ned Stowe. This enables FCNL to provide QEW with updates and alerts on pending energy and climate change legislation and enables QEW to reciprocate.

We were reminded that QEW started 25 years ago as Friends Committee on Unity with Nature under the leadership of LEYM Friends, Bill and Isabel Bliss (Ann Arbor) - the FCUN office was in the Bliss home.

YM06 - 35 Program Committee

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported, first asking that members of the Committee stand to be recognized.

Program Committee Report

The Program Committee's work manifests itself in the skeleton of the Yearly Meeting gathering. Our hope is that, by creating a strong frame for the 72 hours we spend together each June, all who attend can use that frame for the basis of a sound structure of worship, fellowship, yearly meeting business, and spiritual growth.

In order to determine how we might create a better frame for our individual and corporate structures, we distribute an evaluation form at the end of each Yearly Meeting. We consider the feedback from the evaluation forms carefully, and have found them exceedingly useful. We ask that all attendees watch for the evaluation forms to appear Saturday night and Sunday morning, and fill them in before leaving Bluffton so that we can

have as much feedback as possible.

The Program Committee notes that a recurring issue that has been brought to our attention is the fact that for several years the Yearly Meeting has not followed its previous practice of inviting a report at business meeting from one of four national groups (AFSC, FCNL, FGC, and FWCC) each year on a rotating basis. We lift this up as a concern to be considered more widely within the Yearly Meeting.

YM06 - 36 Youth & Children Committee

Carla Pratt-Harrington reported, thanking all who have participated in the program and also the parents who brought young people to take part.

Youth & Children Committee Report

LEYM Youth & Children Committee had 31 young people in our program this year, ranging from one to eighteen years of age. Children were organized into five classes accord to age and grade. The Nominating Committee gave us a list of ten wonderfully competent and committed leaders and two co-conveners last June. We were then able to spend more time planning and being more available to the process this spring. Thank you, Nominating Committee. One parent volunteer created our T-shirt design again this year. (Several extras are available for purchase.) We borrowed wagons and a six-seater stroller for our youngest children, thanks to Macklin Intergenerational Center. These were greatly used and appreciated by adults and children.

On Friday we spent time learning a few folk dances, thanks to a parent volunteer. Some children did not want to dance but later commented that this was fun! As usual, we have crafts available Friday and Saturday evenings and swimming in the afternoons. Thank you, volunteer chaperones. And thanks to the Site and Program Committees for responding to our needs and for being flexible with our children. A special thanks to parents who are meeting and picking up children on time so that group leaders can have the time they need.

As we send these young people into adulthood we are aware they may need their own program and support in the near future. The teens are currently processing how this might come to pass. (See Minutes 41, 43.)

YM06 - 38 Publications & Archives Committee

Rosemary Coffey reported for the Committee.

Publications & Archives Committee Report

In order for the ***Annual Records*** of this Yearly Meeting to be complete, we need State of the Meeting Reports from the following eight monthly meetings: Akron, Birmingham, Delaware, Kalamazoo, Mid-Ohio Valley, Monongalia, North Columbus, and Wooster. We are also missing reports from Holland and Indiana Preparative Meetings. If anyone here can expedite the receipt of these reports, that would be very helpful.

Similarly, we would like to include obituaries of meeting members in the ***Annual Records***. We have heard of two deaths in Ann Arbor Meeting, but have not received formal write-ups of these. There may be others in other meetings that should be included; we'll do so if you tell us about them.

Our ***Bulletin*** editor, Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor), would appreciate being on the mailing list for monthly meeting newsletters, so that he can draw on their contents for the **LEYM *Bulletin***, as appropriate. Please see that he is on the mailing list for your Meeting's newsletter.

With regard to the deadline for the Winter ***Bulletin***, we are changing that from December 15 to January 1, as the editor finds that he doesn't start work on it till after the Christmas holidays. We hope this will reduce the holiday stress on others as well.

We've been sending a certain number of ***Bulletins*** and ***Annual Records*** booklets to meetings without much feedback regarding whether this number is appropriate or not. Please let us know if your Meeting needs more of either of these or fewer.

We'd be happy to receive copies of photos of Yearly Meeting folk for the ***Bulletin*** and the LEYM website. Please send them to Jeff Cooper and Bill Warters, respectively. Also re the website: we want you to notice a new function, on the home page, that allows for "e-mail alerts" in the case of something you'd like to disseminate quickly; again, let Bill Warters know if you want to use this. Also, Bill is prepared to create web pages for monthly meetings who do not already have one.

Finally, we bring to you for action the issue of the ***LEYM Directory***. Les Walden, who had been preparing a new edition for March 2006, has been unable to finish because of health problems; Mathilda Navias has felt called to take over. However, this has turned out to be even more of a job than she had anticipated, so she now asks us to consider whether we really need such a publication. Originally, we wanted a current database in order to mail the quarterly ***Bulletins*** to individuals; now that we send them in bulk to the meetings instead, that

purpose is no longer served. We have heard from Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting that they really appreciate the document; and yet, we're talking about just 7 meetings, and suspect that GPQM could readily get current copies of each of those meetings' directories every year and find them more accurate than ours. In terms of people active in the YM, the ***Annual Records*** have up-to-date information on attenders at Annual Meeting and committee members and officers.

So … what do you think? Can we produce a directory for this year and then lay it down? Or are there people here who can't possibly do without it? We need your advice.

The question of laying the ***LEYM Directory*** down can be decided at a future meeting of LEYM, since it has been an every-two-years publication and the 2006 edition is still in the works.

YM06 - 39 Peace Committee

Further to Minute 26, we **approve** the following Minute, thank the Peace Committee and ask them to send the two Minutes they have brought to us for approval to our constituent meetings requesting that they be forwarded to appropriate members of congress and senators as well as to the local press.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Minute on Closure of Guantánamo Bay Detention Center

> The recent suicide of three detainees at the Guant**á**namo Bay detention facility operated by the U.S. military in Cuba has again exposed America to worldwide criticism as to the way suspected terrorists there are denied basic human and legal rights afforded under both U.S. and international law.
>
> So far, only a handful of the more than 300 detainees at Guant**á**namo Bay have been charged or allowed hearings by military tribunal.
>
> Attorneys have been outspoken in their criticism of U.S. policy at Guant**á**namo and even Allied governments have called for closure. President Bush says he'd like to see Guant**á**namo closed as well.
>
> Yet the prison, even now, is being expanded rather than removed, and its operations remain cloaked under a thick veil of military security.
>
> In keeping with our testimonies on peace and justice, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (Quakers) calls on the U.S. government to close the Guant**á**namo facility while affording Guant**á**namo detainees - as well as others held in similar circumstances by the U.S. -both humane treatment and due process under U.S. and international law.
>
> Closing of the facility would be in compliance with the laws and stated principles of the United States. By observing moral, legal and ethical standards, we invite others to do the same.

YM06 - 40 Nominations Proposal

Further to Minutes 9, 24 and 29, Friends have already shared a number of questions regarding our consideration of changing committee structure and the nominating process. The Clerk opened the floor to Friends to speak to broader concerns related to these issues. A number of Friends offered their thoughts and suggestions, including the need to stimulate wider involvement from all our meetings. The Clerk thanked the nominating Committee for stimulating this discussion. This is an important step in an ongoing process of testing whether our structures fit our needs and God's calling.

YM06 - 41 Young Adult Friends

Becka Sommer (Broadmead) and Abbey Pratt-Harrington (Athens) brought a concern to us regarding a new program and/or space for young adult Friends at Yearly Meeting. It would be useful to have a chance to learn about the way LEYM works and how their energies might be used. This will require liaison with the Program Committee. The Clerk asked those who feel called to work on this process to make their interest known by the end of these sessions. We are heartened by this request - Friends asking for what they need. We are reminded that FGC has resources, including a new Youth Ministries Committee, to help meet this need.

YM06 - 42 Nominating Committee

Connie Green (Cleveland) and Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) acknowledged those Friends going off committees. We are grateful for the contributions these Friends have made to the YM's work.

Connie Green then read the names of Friends who have agreed to take on new committee and representative responsibilities as well as the names of committee clerks. The full lists are posted outside the Banquet Room. (See below, pp. 43-46.)

A question about the membership of Earthcare Committee was raised as well as another about co-clerks of Site & Arrangements. The Clerk asked the Nominating Committee to revisit these two matters and report to the Executive Committee, which will act on behalf of the YM. The report and the Clerk's request to the Nominating Committee were approved.

YM06 - 43 Youth & Children Reports (See pp. 75-79 below.)

Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens) read the epistle from the toddlers

The Elementary group's epistle was read and dioramas shown and described.

Upper elementary group told us who they were and showed us in action what they like to do.

Middle schoolers acted out their YM experiences as their report was read.

High schoolers entertained us with a talking epistle over bluesy rhythm and chords on Micah's guitar: "Did anyone hear what he said? I think it was about listening."

YM06 - 44 Naming Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) laid the following names before the meeting to serve on Nominating Committee for three years: Judy Greenberg (Broadmead), Fred Feitler (Kent).

YM06 - 45 Epistle

Abbey Pratt-Harrington (Athens) read the Epistle. (See pp. 73-75 below.) Following brief edits from the floor, the Epistle was approved. We thank the Epistle Committee for its work on our behalf.

[The Recording Clerk plans to send this Epistle together with the Youth & Children reports to other YMs and Quaker organizations in the United States and to other selected YMs in other parts of the world. Insofar as possible, electronic media will be used. We hope to post these messages on the LEYM website.]

YM06 - 46 Thanks to Bluffton University

We are grateful to Bluffton University for hosting this meeting - the response to our various needs for space and quiet as well as improvements in the meal service were noticed and appreciated.

YM06 - 47 Clerk

We note that our Clerk, Michael Fuson, is ending his term of service as Presiding Clerk at the close of this meeting. We thank him for his patience and his calm nudging to stay on track, and for allowing time and space for the Spirit to work in our midst.

Michael Fuson, Clerk
Shirley Bechill, Assistant Clerk
Thomas Taylor, Recording Clerk

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Representative Meeting
March 3, 2007

Hosted by Red Cedar Friends Meeting at Edgewood United Church, East Lansing, Michigan

RM07 - 1 Worship; Epistle from Japan Yearly Meeting

The meeting opened with unprogrammed worship, mindful of those still traveling to meet with us, and of the tragic bus accident in Atlanta which took the lives of six in the Bluffton University community.

The Epistle to Friends everywhere from Japan YM was read. It tells us of the need to keep up the fabric of Friends Center, Tokyo, as well as the spiritual vitality of their dwindling membership. They are considering the ways in which development of a book of *Faith & Practice* might stimulate their spiritual growth and clarify YM processes - in this, the 120th year of their life as a yearly meeting.

The Clerk, Shirley Bechill (Pine River), welcomed us and thanked Red Cedar Friends for hosting us so warmly.

Regrets have been received from Michael Fuson (Granville, Assistant Clerk), Bob Roehm (North Columbus), and Jim Crowfoot (Ann Arbor).

RM07 - 2 Roll Call

The Recording Clerk, Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), called the roll of Friends from our constituent meetings and groups. The count was as follows:

Monthly Meetings

Akron	0	Kalamazoo	3
Ann Arbor	5	Kent	2
Athens	0	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	3	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	7	North Columbus	0
Cleveland	4	Oberlin	2
Delaware	0	Pine River	4
Detroit	3	Pittsburgh	5
Grand Rapids	0	Red Cedar	6
Granville	1	Wooster	0

Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups:

Albion, Circleville, Erie, Fremont, Gallipolis, Holland, Indiana, Manitou, and Tustin - 0

LEYM attenders: 45

Other attenders: 0

Total attenders: 45

[This list has been updated since the roll was called.]

RM07 - 3 Travel

Four Friends from Broadmead have arrived, having been held up by car trouble. Sally Weaver Sommer shared with us some of the experience at Bluffton University after the tragedy in Atlanta. The events have drawn the community together.

RM07 - 4 Committees Meet

We broke into committees to do YM work for the remainder of the morning.

RM07 - 5 Bluffton University Baseball Team Tragedy

Back together after lunch, we heard the following minute proposed by David Lore (Granville). He had been asked to draft it during the break. Approved.

> It is with great sorrow that we learned during our Representative Meeting today of the devastating accident which took the lives of four members of the Bluffton University Baseball team, their driver and his wife and injured 29 others.
>
> Since LEYM meets on their campus each June, we are connected with Bluffton University and have always felt welcomed by the students, faculty and staff.
>
> We hold in the light both those lost and injured and their families and loved ones. May God over time bring healing to the entire Bluffton community during these dark days of mourning.

RM07 - 6 High School Youth Program

Carolyn Lejuste (Red Cedar) read a draft of the charge to the new HSYP Committee and a draft job description of the Program Coordinator.

High School Youth Program Committee Charge

The HS Youth Program Committee of LEYM holds in concern the spiritual life of the youth, who are rising ninth grade through rising college age of our individual monthly meetings. In this service the Committee will:

1. Coordinate, with the Finance Committee, to contract with a private consultant to act as the High School Youth Program Coordinator.
2. Advise and support the High School Youth Program Coordinator as he/she performs his/her duties.
3. Assist the HS Coordinator in keeping an updated database of eligible youth for the HS program.
4. Identify and nurture Friends in monthly meetings who are interested in working with HS youth.

High School Program Coordinator - Job Description:

The purpose of the High School Program Coordinator position is to nurture the spiritual life of high school youth throughout the Yearly Meeting.

Specific Tasks:

1. Plan and Coordinate four (4) youth retreats per year that are scattered geographically throughout the Yearly Meeting to maximize participation of youth throughout the region.
    a. One of these four retreats has historically been “The Quake that Rocked the Midwest,” held over Martin Luther King weekend at the Evanston, Illinois Meeting House in partnership with other Midwest yearly meetings.
    b. These retreats are to be both fun and educational for the youth.
    c. The retreats are an opportunity for youth to develop leadership skills by fully participating in the identification of themes, workshops, and workshop presenters.
    d. With the youth, identify individuals throughout the YM who can offer Quaker-related workshops on various topics of religious education.
2. Build and maintain relationships with other youth workers within LEYM, other yearly meetings, and FGC.
3. Maintain an updated database of high school youth through-out the Yearly Meeting.
4. Send LEYM HS youth timely information about upcoming YM and national Quaker youth opportunities and events.
5. Make all information available to the LEYM webmaster.
6. Submit reports of each event to the Yearly Meeting Clerk in a timely manner.
7. Submit required paperwork, reports, and invoices to the Yearly Meeting Clerk and Finance

Committee annually.

Several changes were suggested and incorporated (above). We approve these documents provisionally, and encourage the HSYP Committee to proceed to advertise for a new Coordinator. We expect to check the details of these documents before June, and to give final approval at our Annual Meeting. We thank Kri Burkander for all the work she has done for our High School youth, and for developing this program, which has become a model for other yearly meetings.

RM07 - 7 Program Committee

Marty Grundy (Cleveland) reported.

Program Committee Report

The Program Committee met to plan the program for Yearly Meeting 2007. The theme for the Yearly Meeting is "Living Our Witness to Peace." Our plenary speaker will be Mary Lord.

Workshops will include:

* Mary Lord, Living Our Witness to Peace

* Jerry Knutson, Discernment

* Richard Lee, Meeting for Healing

* Earthcare, Who Owns Water?

* Peter Wood and Verne Bechill, Relationship Enrichment

* Jennie Dove-Isbell, Quaker Ethics and Philanthropy

The Saturday evening schedule will be a bit different: it has been moved up half an hour, so the dance starts at 7pm, followed by a WATERMELON social at 8:30, followed at 9:00 by a vigil. If we can afford it, we will ask for a display of AFSC's *Eyes Wide Open*. Whether it comes or not, we are asking the Young Adults to lead the vigil.

Worship Sharing will continue, but there will be a question on the registration form as to whether registrants wish to worship-share.

Bible Study will continue as in the past.

If we can, we will schedule a nature hike during Spiritual Renewal Time on Friday afternoon.

RM07 - 8 Children & Youth Committee

Joyce Callahan (Cleveland) reported.

Children & Youth Committee Report

The Children & Youth Committee reviewed the LEYM policy regard-ing adult-to-child ratio and feel comfortable maintaining the two adults per group requirement.

We intend to include information in the Spring *Bulletin* regarding prompt registration, the expectation of participation by the children, and LEYM policy with a focus on keeping children safe.

We are very grateful for the dedicated work of the Nominating Committee, as the children's program has a full complement of group leaders for the coming YM sessions.

The Committee Clerk will write a letter to each monthly meeting inviting all children and youth to attend YM.

We look forward to working with our wonderful youth at LEYM.

RM07 - 9 Arrangements & Site Committee

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reported.

Arrangements & Site Committee Report

The Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Annual Meeting will be held June 14-17, 2007, on the campus of Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio.

Registrar for the Annual Meeting is Mary Igoe Meyers of Broadmead Monthly Meeting. Beyond individual registrations, the Registrar will need lists of full-time youth leaders, official invitees, plenary speaker, and

others whose expenses are covered at the Annual Meeting.

Faced with an increase in the minimum wage, Bluffton University has made some adjustments in their rates for 2007 to offset their increased staffing costs. These include an increase in all dorm rates by $1.00 per night for both adults and children. Camping rates increase to $10.00 per night for adults and $5.00 per night for children, and the commuter fee increases to $4.00 per day per person. Other rates are:

Adult meals: Breakfast, $4.95; lunch, $6.25; and supper, $7.55.

Child meals: Breakfast, $3.40; lunch, $4.70; and supper, $5.45.

Child rates now include children 3- 7 years of age (formerly 3- 12 years of age). Children 2 and under are free, as before.

RM07 - 10 Ministry & Nurture Committee

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) reported.

Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

1. **Query Responses**: We considered the responses of 12 meetings to the annual queries. We have heard personally from some Friends that the queries were transformative for their relationships in their local meetings. We have heard from others that the annual queries provide one of few opportunities that their local meetings have to gather together for worship sharing, and that the sharing is very rich. The Committee was glad to hear this, since the richness did not always show up in the meeting responses which we received.

   We noticed that our meetings focused quite a bit on discerning internal meeting matters, and that our meetings are eager and capable at helping individuals discern their leadings to serve. We also noticed that our meetings are generally not talking much about their discernment of corporate witness in the world. Although our meetings are involved in many activities focused on peace and social justice, it is not clear that discernment of divine guidance is part of this activity. We wonder if our local meetings are missing opportunities to discern together how to act and be in the world as a community of Friends.

   We considered how, as a committee, to help our meetings nurture their corporate experience of the Spirit.

   We wondered, based on the pattern of receiving responses from only half of the meetings and worship groups, whether other prac-tices might be more useful to our local meetings. The Committee will be discerning whether to continue with the annual query.
2. **Set of LEYM Queries**: The Committee briefly considered whether to collect and/or develop a set of queries for regular use of the monthly meetings. We will continue in this discernment
3. **Consultation**: We will be sponsoring a consultation for members of Ministry and Nurture committees in the fall for the purpose of helping meetings deepen their corporate experience of the Spirit. (This is an activity that was postponed from this spring.) Registration and dates will be available at the June gathering.
4. **Traveling Friends**: We will also be sponsoring, with Advance-ment & Outreach Committee, two Friends from the FGC Traveling Ministries Program to visit LEYM meetings for the purpose of spiritual nurture. See the Advancement & Outreach report for details of the project.
5. **Spiritual Formation Program**

   Fall 2007 Retreat: The fall retreat at the Leaven Center near Lyons, Michigan on September 8-10, 2006, was led by Phil Fitz and Beckey Phipps, of New England Yearly Meeting, on the theme "A Year of Living Prayerfully." 23 Friends participated, and ongoing groups continue in Pine River, Red Cedar, Birming-ham, Oberlin, and Broadmead meetings. Ongoing groups continue in Pittsburgh Meeting as well, which began with a retreat spon-sored by the Spiritual Formation Program in 2005.

   Program Evaluation: Participants reported that the fall retreat gave them time to think about their relationships with the divine, each other, and the world; helped them find new ways to center; and helped them renew and refocus on their spiritual intentions. They also reported that the exercises

used by Beckey and Phil expanded and nourished their understanding of and practice of prayer. One of the exercises moved participants experientially to an under-standing of the differences between individual worship and communal worship.

Spring 2008 Retreat: The spring retreat is scheduled for May 4-6, 2007 at Leaven Center.

Save the dates: Retreats are scheduled for September 7-9, 2007 and May 2-4, 2008 in Michigan. Registration information will be made available at the June gathering in Bluffton and on the web.

6. ***Policies and Procedures***: The Committee began addressing the *Policies and Procedures of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting* as they pertain to the Ministry & Nurture Committee. We will continue this work over the next months.
7. **Committee Meetings**: The Committee has found that two meetings per year, even with frequent e-mail contacts, is not enough to accomplish the work of this committee. We will be expanding our contact to phone meetings and perhaps an additional face-to-face meeting.

RM07 - 11 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) reported.

Advancement & Outreach Committee

FGC Advancement & Outreach Consultation, March 30-April 1 outside Pittsburgh. Mathilda Navias and one of two possible Friends from Green Pastures Quarter will be attending as LEYM's represen-tatives. (Note: it will be Laura Pickering Ford of Kalamazoo Meeting.)

Privacy policy for publications. Copies of a proposed policy have been distributed to each committee. Please get any suggestions to Mathilda. A&O will be sending a copy to each monthly meeting clerk with the request to bring it to their business meeting so that Friends are prepared for it to come up for decision at Yearly Meeting.

Meeting visits. A&O is working with Ministry & Nurture and FGC's Traveling Ministries Program to arrange for a seasoned Friend and a traveling companion to visit LEYM meetings and worship groups. This will be coordinated with the consultation for monthly meeting Ministry & Nurture committee members M&N is planning so that the same Friend will serve as a resource person for the consultation and then visit LEYM Friends.

Report on FGC A&O Committee work. Mathilda Navias has been co-opted onto this committee.

The pamphlet that LEYM's A&O Committee wrote on how to set up a website for a monthly meeting will be put on FGC A&O's website for download. The committee will also distribute printed copies for free at the upcoming A&O Consultation and the Gathering.

The committee is working on a new pamphlet in the "Friends and ..." series on Friends and Science.

Monthly Meeting websites. New since Yearly Meeting: Broadmead Meeting has gotten a website up and running.

RM07 - 12 Friends School in Detroit

The Friends School in Detroit has asked if it might send its Newsletter to the list of Friends on our entire YM database. "Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting has chief administrative responsibility for and ownership of Friends School in Detroit" (LEYM Policies and Procedures, revised 2004) and we include the school on the list of Quaker organizations we support as a Yearly Meeting.

We agree to provide the information for a mailing one time this year. The school may request to use the database in future years, at which time we will revisit this question. Friends who wish to opt out of this or future mailings may do so by notifying the person in charge of the database, presently Mathilda Navias.

RM07 - 13 Publications & Archives Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported.

Publications & Archives Committee Report

1. ***LEYM Directory***. This publication is undoubtedly useful, but is it used enough to warrant the laborious task of producing it? Currently, it is published every two years; might the interval be

longer? Need we publish it at all? The Committee plans to survey LEYM officers and committee clerks, monthly meetings, worship groups, and readership of the *Bulletin*. Please respond to Jeff Cooper with your thoughts and suggestions.

2. ***Annual Records 2007***. We are grateful that Nancy James has agreed to produce this publication again, but with the proviso that it will not be completed until early September because she has other summer commitments. *Policies and Procedures* says the *Annual Records* should be completed in July. If September publication is acceptable, we'll have the benefit of an experienced editor. If this is not acceptable, we'll need help recruiting someone willing to produce the *Annual Records* in July.
3. For this year only, we want to try setting the **Fall *Bulletin*** deadline at September 1 (not Sept. 15). We hope this will enable us to publicize more autumn events in a timely manner.
4. **Structure of the P&A Committee**. Currently, we have four persons, three of whom focus individually on specific large tasks (*Annual Records*, website, *Bulletin*). We would like to have two more Friends:
   a) One to deal with copying and distributing the *Annual Records*
   b) One to help Bill Warters fulfill the great potential of the website. For this, we recommend a young adult.

Regarding item 2 above, we agree that if the *Annual Records* needs to come out in September, then we ask the Nominating Committee to make its final report available to committee clerks by the end of July so that committee work can commence. We will try this arrangement for this one year and reassess.

We thank Friends who do this arduous work of *Directory*, *Annual Records*, website, and *Bulletin* for their efforts on behalf of LEYM.

RM07 - 14 Nominating Committee

Connie Green (Cleveland) reported.

Nominating Committee Report

1. Nominating Committee is working on more effective methods for finding and then recommending monthly meeting members for Yearly Meeting positions. We hope to survey meeting clerks in the very near future.
2. We have asked each LEYM committee to write a short job description and estimate usual number of meetings per year, useful talents, and methods by which the committee communicates during the year. We hope to have these available at LEYM sessions registration in June.
3. We hope to have a quick survey at LEYM registration of which committees attenders are currently serving on and where they might wish to serve in the future as well as recommendations of where they may believe other Friends might be rightly used.
4. We have started looking at the *Policies and Procedures* and will continue this work.
5. We are asking the Yearly Meeting to clarify the process of naming visitors to other yearly meetings. What is the responsibility of the Yearly Meeting to those named and what is the responsibility of the named visitor to the Yearly Meeting?

The question of visiting the sessions of other yearly meetings was discussed (point 5 above). Our current practice is that people who wish to visit another yearly meeting may ask the Nominating Committee to appoint them. They can go with a letter of introduction from the LEYM clerk. We have been asked to consider the practice of naming Friends as visitors to other YMs on our behalf. They would go with a traveling minute, have some financial support, and would be expected to bring back a report to our yearly meeting.

We ask clerks of Finance, Nominating, and Ministry & Nurture Committees to meet with the Clerks to consider these issues and to bring a recommendation to yearly meeting.

RM07 - 15 Naming Committee

The Clerk proposed that we appoint Verne Bechill and Janet Smith as a Naming Committee to name two Friends to serve on the Nominating Committee. The proposal was approved. We ask these Friends to report early in our June sessions.

RM07 - 16 Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer, Connie Bimber (Oberlin), distributed her report, discussed and answered questions. (See Treasurer's Report which follows these Minutes, pp. 18-21.)

We accept the report.

RM07 - 17 Finance Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported.

During the Finance Committee's meeting it reviewed the Treasurer's report. It is satisfied that our Yearly Meeting's finances are in order for this year. Five monthly meetings have not yet made their contributions, but each is expected to do so soon.

The Finance Committee recognizes the oversight of not including the full 2006-07 budget in the Annual Records and will make sure that in the future the full budget is printed. The budget was printed in the Fall Bulletin.

The Finance Committee received a request to make a $1000 contribution to FWCC to help Friends from low income countries attend the FWCC triennial in August. The Committee recommends that $1000 be transferred from the High School Youth Program fund to the FWCC Triennial Travel Fund.

Requests for changes in the next fiscal year's budget have not been received. The Finance Committee is considering increasing the annual transfer to the FWCC Triennial Travel fund from $1240.00 to $1500.00. This change would not change the per member annual assessment of $35.

We approve contributing $1,000 from our High School Youth Fund to the FWCC Triennial Travel & Accommodation Fund to enable Friends from economically deprived nations to attend the FWCC Triennial Meeting, to be held in Dublin, Ireland, 11-19 August, 2007.

We are concerned about the added cost for young people attending our YM sessions and agree to ask the Finance Committee to offset this expense by up to $400, to be taken from the Youth Activity Fund. We ask the Finance Committee to look at this question and bring a recommendation to us for how this will be handled in future years.

RM07 - 18 Peace Committee

David Lore (Granville) reported.

Peace Committee Report

Through a survey form and interviews, the Peace Committee this spring hopes to get a picture for Yearly Meeting of the peace and justice activities of its member monthly meetings and worship groups. While we expect much of this will center on the Iraqi war, it is anti-cipated that meetings are also active on other national issues as well as state and local concerns. By gathering this information, we hope to determine what matters most right now to LEYM Quakers and share ideas and resources.

We are also looking right now at a possible minute for Yearly Meeting in June supporting moratoriums on the death penalty in Ohio and Pennsylvania. In Ohio, at least, the election of a new Democratic governor has put the issue of the death penalty back on the Statehouse agenda.

In June 2006, Yearly Meeting approved minutes supporting increases in state and federal minimum wage standards and calling for the closure of the Guantánamo Bay detention facility in Cuba. The Com-mittee subsequently notified each monthly meeting and worship group of these actions and urged them to follow up through minutes or letters to their area state and federal legislators as well as the news media.

RM07 - 19 Earthcare Committee

Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) reported.

The Committee met at Judy Greenberg's home in the autumn. They plan to offer a workshop on water at our Annual Meeting in June, using the video "Who Owns the Water," followed by a panel and discussion.

RM07 - 20 FGC Gathering

Friends were encouraged to register for the FGC Gathering early even though FGC is planning to serve a greater number of Friends than last year. Online registration is recommended and is expected to be available by March 29.

We concluded in worship with a few moments of thankfulness.

Shirley Bechill, Clerk
Thomas Taylor, Recording Clerk

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Treasurer's Report
February 28, 2007

Fund	Opening Balance	Income	Expenses	Current Balance
General Fund	$5,898.87	$16,799.68	$23,722.60	-$1,024.05
Annual Meeting	19,925.48		17,128.06	2,797.42
Triennial Travel	2,786.84	1,240.00	2,350.00	1,676.84
Granville Friends Youth Fund	5,510.60	107.67	107.67	5,510.60
Youth Activity Fund	1,837.48	3,344.13	789.74	4,391.87
Spiritual Formation	2,612.33	3,990.00	2,248.52	4,353.81
High School Program	0.00	7,198.00	4,701.39	2,496.61
Totals	$38,571.60	$32,679.48	$51,047.98	$20,203.10

Account	Opening Balance	Income	Debits	Current Balance
Shorebank CD - March	$2,118.29	42.49		$2,160.78
Shorebank CD - September	$2,189.46	39.19		$2,228.65
Southshore Bank CD	$5,510.60	217.13	217.13	$5,510.60
Lorain National Bank - checking	$28,753.25	$22,305.13	$40,755.31	$10,303.07
Totals	$38,571.60	$22,603.94	$40,972.44	$20,203.10

Treasurer's Report
February 28, 2007

General Fund - Income

Meeting	Contribution
Akron	$50.00
Ann Arbor	$4,725.00
Athens	$3,800.00
Birmingham	0.00
Broadmead	0.00
Cleveland	0.00
Delaware	$372.00
Detroit	$300.00
Grand Rapids	$391.00
Granville	$832.00
Kalamazoo	$1,400.00
Kent	$612.00
Mid-Ohio Valley	$135.00
Monongalia	$490.00
North Columbus	$500.00
Oberlin	$665.00
Pine River	0.00
Pittsburgh	$1,732.00
Red Cedar	0.00
Wooster	$714.00
Misc., Sales & Fees	
Interest	$81.68
Totals	$16,799.68

Treasurer's Report

February 28, 2007

General Fund - Expenses

(* = transfers)	Budget	Actual	Percent
Travel	$5,500.00	$3,263.30	59.33%
Office	$300.00	25.85	8.62
Publications	$3,400.00	2,393.45	70.40
Advancement	$130.00	0.00	0.00
Ministry & Nurture	$200.00	0.00	0.00
Clerk's Fund	$500.00	0.00	0.00
FGC	$4,500.00	4,500.00	100.00
FGC - Special Program	$500.00	500.00	100.00
Records Project	$100.00	0.00	0.00
FWCC Travel*	$1,240.00	1,240.00	100.00
Youth Activity Fund*	$2,700.00	2,700.00	100.00
High School Youth Fund*	$5,400.00	5,400.00	100.00
Spiritual Formation*	$600.00	600.00	100.00
Friends School in Detroit	$2,500.00	2,500.00	100.00
Olney Friends School	$600.00	600.00	100.00
Misc.			
Totals	$28,170.00	$23,722.60	84.21%

(Note: $9,340.00 are transfers)

Annual Meeting

Balance	July 1, 2006	$19,925.48
Expenses		$17,128.06
Income		$0.00
Balance	Feb. 28, 2007	$2,797.42

FWCC Triennial Travel Fund

Balance	July 1, 2006	$2,786.84
Expenses		$2,350.00
Income - transfer		$1,240.00
Balance	Feb. 28, 2007	$1,676.84

Granville Friends Youth Fund

Balance	July 1, 2006	$5,510.60
Interest income		$217.13
Transfer to Youth Activity Fund		$217.13
Balance	Feb. 28, 2007	$5,510.60

Youth Activity Fund

Balance	July 1, 2006	$1,837.48
Transfer from General Fund		$2,700.00
Interest from Granville Fund		$217.13
Youth Retreat		$427.00
Total Income		$5,181.61
Expenses - Grants		$0.00
Expense - Youth Retreat		$789.74
Total Expenses		$789.74
Balance	Feb. 28, 2007	$4,391.87

Spiritual Formation Group

Balance	July 1, 2006	$2,612.33

Transfer from General Fund		600.00
Income from retreats		$3,390.00
Total Income		$6,602.33
Expenses		$2,248.52
Balance	Feb. 28, 2007	$4,353.81

High School Youth Program

Income	**Budget**	**Actual**
Balance	$0.00	
Transfer - General Fund	$5,400.00	$5,400.00
Clerk's Fund Retreats		$1,798.00
Grants - Youth Activities F.	_____	_____
Total Income	$5,400.00	$7,198.00
Expenses		
Program Expenses	$500.00	-
Stipend	$4,400.00	$2,300.00
Retreats	_____	$2,401.39
Total Expenses	$4,900.00	$4,701.39
Balance	Feb. 28, 2007	$2,496.61

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
June 14-17, 2007

Morning Session

YM07 - 1 Worship, Introductions

The 44th session of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting was held at Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio. We began with worship, reminded that we are basically spiritual beings having a human experience. The Spirit brings us together and holds us close.

Our Clerk, Shirley Bechill (Pine River), welcomed Friends and visitors to Annual Meeting, sharing together in worship. She introduced others at the table: Michael Fuson, Assistant Clerk (Granville), and Thomas Taylor, Recording Clerk (Ann Arbor). The Clerk asked those here for the first time and visitors to the YM to introduce themselves:

Roland Kreager, Right Sharing of World Resources (Community Friends Meeting, Ohio Valley YM)
Jennie Dove-Isbell, Earlham School of Religion (Baltimore YM)
Jay O'Hara, FCNL staff representative
Susan Lee Barton, FWCC Midwest Field Staff (Clear Creek Meeting, Ohio Valley YM)
Beckey Phipps, FGC (Fresh Pond MM, New England YM)
Deborah Fisch, FGC Associate Secretary for Programs and Traveling Ministries (Paullina MM, Iowa YM, Conservative)

A Traveling Minute from Iowa YM, Conservative on behalf of Deborah Fisch was read. Letters of Travel from Friends General Conference on behalf of Deborah Fisch and Beckey Phipps were read. Other Friends with us during the YM sessions were: Mary Lord (AFSC), our plenary speaker, and Vaughn and Miriam Peebles (White Rose Friends, Ohio Valley YM).

YM07 - 2 Roll Call

The Recording Clerk called the roll of Friends from our monthly and preparative meetings and worship groups. The count (corrected against registration numbers) was as follows:

Monthly Meetings

Akron	1	Kalamazoo	6
Ann Arbor	22	Kent	4
Athens	11	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	8	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	21	North Columbus	3
Cleveland	20	Oberlin	3
Delaware	0	Pine River	6
Detroit	3	Pittsburgh	10
Grand Rapids	3	Red Cedar	8
Granville	6	Wooster	5

Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups

Chelsea WG	1	Erie WG (Pittsburgh)	1

(Others not represented at Yearly Meeting)

LEYM members and attenders:	140
Other attenders from AFSC, FCNL, FGC, FWCC, RSWR, ESR, Ohio Valley YM:	9
Total in attendance:	**149**

YM07 - 3 Arrangements & Site Committee

Clerk, Jon Sommer (Broadmead), welcomed us to Bluffton University and explained some of the practical details to make our time here comfortable.

YM07 - 4 Program Committee

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Clerk of the Program Committee, told us details about signing up for worship sharing groups. She also informed us of other opportunities in the program of which we can avail ourselves.

YM07 - 5 Casa de los Amigos, Mexico DF

Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids) told us briefly about the Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City and its ongoing and new programs. She offered leaflets for us to take home to our meetings.

YM07 - 6 Naming Committee

Verne Bechill (Pine River) brought three names to us which the Naming Committee nominates for service on the Nominating Committee. They are all willing to serve: Phil Balderston (Wooster, 3 years), Peter Wood (Red Cedar, 1 year), and Star Mary Castro (Athens, 3 years). These names were approved, with Peter Wood and Star Mary Castro serving as Co-Clerks of the Nominating Committee.

YM07 - 7 Epistle Committee

The names of Nancy Nagler (Pine River) and Peter Wood (Red Cedar) were approved to serve with Michael Fuson, Assistant Clerk, to write our Epistle.

YM07 - 8 Memorials

We continued our worship, remembering the lives of several Friends, particularly those who have been active in LEYM, who have died within the past year. A memorial minute for Miyo Bassett (Ann Arbor) was read and Friends responded with warm personal memories of Miyo. We have been blessed by her presence among us.

We heard the reading of a memorial minute for David Mills (Ann Arbor). Ann Arbor Meeting held a memorial service to remember David in November 2006, in which family and friends expressed the zest with which he lived.

We remember Dorothy Fischer (North Columbus), the meeting's oldest and longest serving member.

We also remember the lives of Mary Lou Young (North Columbus), Dorothy Bower and four other Friends from Pittsburgh Meeting, and Florence Standing Guindon from Wooster Meeting.

YM07 - 9 Reading of Epistle from Britain YM, Welcome

During continuing worship, our Assistant Clerk read the Epistle from Britain YM, dated May 2007. "Let us listen faithfully to each other and to God."

We then welcomed other Friends with us for the first time.

YM07 - 10 Friends General Conference

Deborah Fisch, FGC Staff, told us about current activities of FGC. Their work continues to change and respond to new challenges. The newest and growing programs are Youth Ministries, Ministry and Racism, and Traveling Ministries. The FGC website *quakerfinder.org* is a good way to locate Quakers in any area of North America. Just type in the ZIP code or city. The FGC office staff has grown from 9 to 20, so the space in Philadelphia has been remodeled extensively. Friends are welcome to visit the offices when in town. LEYM Friends present who serve on FGC committees were acknowledged.

YM07 - 11 Right Sharing of World Resources

Roland Kreager, RSWR staff, spoke to us about the work of RSWR. They disburse c. $250,000 annually to around 50 partner organizations running small projects around the world. They also organize conferences on such subjects as "best practices." This is part of a much broader movement of micro-enterprises at the grass roots level that is a growing economic and social force.

YM07 - 12 Friends Committee on National Legislation

Jay O'Hara, second year intern with FCNL, spoke about FCNL work on Iraq over the past several months. An Iraq Study Group was set up with participation from the U.S. Institute of Peace to look in a non-partisan way at the developments in Iraq. After the November 2006 elections, FCNL outlined four steps that should be taken there, including setting a withdrawal date in order to precipitate internal negotiation and great efforts at diplomacy. FCNL lobbied heavily on these points, and they became part of the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group. FCNL can point to a number of such success stories using both grass roots support and lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill. LEYM Friends serving on various FCNL committees were acknowledged.

YM07 - 13 American Friends Service Committee

Friends spoke of the various ways in which AFSC is working within our YM area, particularly in the offices in Ann Arbor (MI), Pittsburgh (PA), and Tioga Falls (OH).

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), member of the AFSC International Programs Executive Committee, told us of the difficult budgetary situation AFSC finds itself in now that special funding from foreign government development agencies for international programs is no longer in the pipeline. AFSC is at a crucial point of needing to assess its priorities, particularly looking at the balance between domestic and international programs. We are asked to hold the work AFSC is doing throughout the world in our thoughts and prayers.

YM07 - 14 Adult Young Friends

A group of eight Adult Young Friends introduced themselves. We rejoice at the success of this new group in our midst.

YM07 - 15 Friends World Committee for Consultation

Susan Lee Barton (FWCC Midwest Field Staff) introduced herself and turned the microphone over to Clerk of YM representatives to FWCC, Mike Hinshaw. Mike is also Clerk of the FWCC Lower Great Lakes Region.

Report of the Friends World Committee for Consultation
Section of the Americas
Including the **Annual Meeting -** Providence, Rhode Island
March 15 - 18, 2007 - Held at Moses Brown School

We took as our theme: "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly...." (II Corinthians 9:8)

FWCC, a Quaker organization which spans all the various branches of Quakerism, brings us together as one family in God and acts in the name of Quakers at the United Nations, with the World Council of Churches, and with like believers through the Wider Quaker Fellowship. There is a special feeling of joy when we gather to experience the variety of worship and practice found along the wide trajectory of Quakerism.

Just a few of the highlights from our **Annual Meeting** sessions were:

- A report of ongoing work at the UN to bring together diplomats for informal discussions, which would be very unlikely to occur without the facilities and gentle promptings of the Quaker UN Offices in New York and Geneva. There have been many occasions when these informal discussions eventually resulted in substantial, helpful agreements.
- Natalie Moran, of EFI Eastern Region, one of the participants, reported on the most recent **Quaker Youth Pilgrimage** in our own Midwest. A group of young Friends from Europe and North and Central America were able to learn about the wide variety of Quakers existing in our area. (Ohio

has six yearly meetings.) Natalie spoke movingly about the love and caring room given for expression and welcoming spirit which was a part of the group experience. These types of interactions are invaluable to the development of the future leaders in Quakerism. The next QYP will be held in 2008 in Europe, with an emphasis on Ireland. Leaders were to have been selected last June. Young Friends, 16 to 18, are encouraged to apply to be pilgrims by September. See the FWCC website: *fwccamericas.org*.

- Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Director of Peace and Nonviolence Studies at the University of Rhode Island, spoke to us about the possibilities and consequences of giving abundantly. He reminded us to give (not until it hurts, but) until we can abide with that injunction to become "...a cheerful giver." He spoke to us of his special efforts to promote better cooperation between community and police.
- We were given an insightful history of New England, the religious repression which existed in colonial days, the beginnings of NEYM (1661), and sidebars on Providence and Moses Brown, New England industrial and social development, and the establishment of the Moses Brown School. The local hosts were warm and welcoming and the arrangements were excellent.
- FWCC is considering a request for affiliation from the **Quaker Youth Opportunities Project**. Friends are encouraged to refer to their website (*ysop.org*) for young people's volunteer possibilities.
- We were reminded that Friends in the U.S. need to make it abundantly clear to our government that it is an unnatural interference with our deeply felt need to gather and worship together with our sisters and brothers when the U.S. State Department refuses to issue **visas to Cuban Friends** who would like to attend our meetings. We miss their presence and loving fellowship.

On a personal note, I enjoyed very much our **small worship group**, which met three times during the Annual Meeting. We were led by Mario Chavez Castro from Bolivia and our worship was in Spanish.

During our sessions there appeared three unresolved issues:

- What does it mean to be “affiliated” with FWCC? Should we have different words to describe relationships with constituent YMs as opposed to other Friends' organizations?
- Does it represent good stewardship to continue to operate with budget deficits?
- What are the implications of making the Peace Issues Working Group a standing committee of the section?

These three issues will be considered further at the 2008 Annual Meeting.

Attendees from LEYM were: Clémence Mershon, Rosemary Coffey, Raelyn Joyce, Jana Norlin, Thomas Taylor, and Mike Hinshaw. Raelyn and Mike are the two LEYM representatives who will be attending the Triennial in August. Wish them well. At least three other Friends from LEYM will be attending the Triennial as well: Rosemary Coffey and Thomas and Nancy Taylor.

We are all invited to attend the **celebration of the 70th year of the founding of FWCC**, which will be held in Swarthmore (PA) on September 14-16 this year. Again, please refer to the *fwccamericas.org* website for all the detail.

The **Triennial** gathering of Friends from all the world will be held this year in Dublin, Ireland with the theme "Finding the Prophetic Voice for our Time." Raelyn and Mike are reading the study booklet and would welcome comments from Friends on our subject. FWCC seems to be reaching consensus on holding a **World Conference of Friends,** held irregularly at about 20-25 year intervals, in 2012. A World Conference is larger than the Triennial and conducts minimal business. Its primary purpose is to celebrate the fellowship of all Friends and to learn from one another. All are welcomed to apply for places, which are usually allocated proportionate to world Quaker demography. The site has not yet been selected.

The Annual Meeting for the Section of the Americas for 2008 will be held in Morgantown, Indiana, south of Indianapolis. ALL Friends in the section are welcome to attend. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting folks as it will be almost in our backyard. See you there!

Su servidor, Mike Hinshaw,
with the assistance of the other attendees

Jana Norlin told us of an FWCC-sponsored workshop for interpreters which was held in Richmond (IN) on May 20-25.

YM07 - 16 Earlham School of Religion

Jennie Dove-Isbell told us about her workshop at these sessions as well as the Earlham School of Religion. Jennie mentioned that Quaker historian Tom Hamm claims that the Earlham School of Religion and FWCC are the only Quaker organizations that try and span the entire spectrum of Quakerism. Jennie characterized the range of events and programs offered by ESR, such as a variety of degree programs, pastors' conferences, and writers' workshops. She invited Friends to talk with her over lunch "about ESR, money, or Jesus. That's what I like to talk about."

YM07 - 17 Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns

Bob Roehm (North Columbus) spoke to us about the history of this group and its name. They meet twice a year, once on Presidents' Day weekend in various locations and again at the FGC Gathering. The Clerk spoke to us of the depth of worship she experienced with this group at the FGC Gathering.

YM07 - 18 Adult Young Friends

Bekah Sommer thanked the YM for its support of this new group and told us about the program and their plans for the future. We are invited to join this evening's vigil.

YM07 - 19 Program Committee

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported.

Program Committee Report

The "Adult and Family Program Subcommittee" (as we are formally known) is responsible for establishing a theme for the yearly meeting and arranging for speakers, workshops, worship sharing, recreational activities, and the schedule for our time together here. The Committee (consisting of Beth Amoriya, Marty Grundy, Linda Mills, Becky Morehouse, Eric Starbuck, and myself) began the work for this year's meeting by contemplating possible themes in a series of conference telephone calls last fall. We eventually settled on a desire to focus on the current war our country is engaged in, and what the peace testimony means in our lives during a time of war. We were also influenced by the remarkable instances of forgiveness shown by the Amish community in Pennsylvania in answer to violence toward their children. From that foundation we worked on wording a title to capture the essence of the theme ("Living our Witness to Peace") and finding someone to speak to our needs at the Plenary session tonight, before turning to planning workshops, worship sharing, and a fun activity for Saturday night.

Our work is informed by the evaluations that attendees fill in at the end of each yearly gathering. Last year's evaluations were exceedingly positive; we considered them carefully, and read the many helpful observations written on them. The nature walk to be offered during Spiritual Practice time this afternoon grew out of a suggestion that we include opportunities to learn more about this place in which we meet. One of the challenges our committee faces regularly is weighing the requests to add more items to the program against the requests to provide more free time.

This year we have had the pleasure of working with the new Young Adult Friends group leaders. We invited them to plan the vigil after our Plenary speaker tonight, and have been impressed by their enthusiasm, their care in working with others, and the depth of their love for the Yearly Meeting.

One of our challenges during the next year will be discerning how Bible Study should best proceed without Susan Jeffers' leadership.

If you have any suggestions about the program or schedule, you are always most welcome to share them with someone on the Program Committee, or on the evaluations.

YM07 - 20 Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer, Connie Bimber (Oberlin), presented her report, describing the purpose for and activity in each fund. She made travel forms available for use of those needing reimbursement for authorized travel on behalf of the YM. Travel forms are also available on the LEYM website. We thank Connie for this detailed work on our behalf.

YM07 - 21 Finance Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer reported.

Finance Committee Report

Each year the Finance Committee reviews the contributions from monthly meetings to the Yearly Meeting. There are a variety of circumstances that make it difficult for meetings to meet the suggestion for annual contributions. It would be helpful to the Finance Committee if monthly meetings would notify the Treasurer or the Clerk of the Finance Committee of these difficulties during the fiscal year.

The Granville Friends Youth Fund is an "endowment" whose earnings are used to fund youth activities throughout the Yearly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting has been blessed by involvement of the youth and children in the Yearly Meeting that this fund encourages. The Finance Committee recommends that we move $500 from the general fund balance to the Granville Friends Youth Fund.

Cari Burke performed an audit of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's financial records. The Finance Committee reviewed the audit report. The report states that "overall, the books were comprehensive, understandable, and logical. No errors were discovered during the testing performed." The Committee discussed each of the auditor's suggestions and is making some changes in procedures in response.

The Finance Committee brings the following minute for consideration by the yearly meeting:

> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting will donate $200 to the Bluffton University memorial scholarship fund in memory of the five baseball players and the driver and his wife who lost their lives in the March 2, 2007 bus accident. This payment will be taken out of the 2006-07 Clerk's fund.

The bank holding the Yearly Meeting's accounts is requiring us to provide a minute stating who is authorized to sign Yearly Meeting checks. The Finance Committee brings the following minute to the Yearly Meeting for its consideration:

> By this minute, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting authorizes as signators to all of its checking accounts and certificates of deposit the following officers of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting:
> Constance D. Bimber, Treasurer
> Sally Weaver Sommer, Clerk of Finance Committee
> Shirley Bechill, Presiding Clerk of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

The Finance Committee considered a request to make a one-time contribution to the FWCC Founders Fund. The Committee discerned that in keeping with our practice of not making donations to a wide range of Quaker organizations we will not recommend making this contribution. We recommend that monthly meetings consider making contributions to this fund.

As of this time, the Finance Committee has received only one request for a change in the Yearly Meeting's budget. The Committee proposes that the budget for fiscal year 07-08 be identical to the budget for fiscal year 06-07 except that the budget line for Ministry & Nurture be increased by $600 to help cover expenses for the fall consultation which it is planning. This proposed budget implies an increase from $35 to $36 in the suggestion for per-member contributions.

We approve the Committee's recommendations above. [Note: In Minute YM07 - 33 below, a further $750 was added to the budget and the per-member contribution was raised to $37.]

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING
TREASURER'S REPORT, June 30, 2007

Fund	Opening Balance	Income	Expenses	Current Balance
General Fund	$5,898.87	$25,979.08	$25,865.51	$6,012.44
Annual Meeting	$19,925.48	$16,781.75	$18,267.14	$18,440.99
Triennial Fund	$2,786.84	$1,240.00	$2,350	$1,676.84
Granville Friends Youth Fund	$5,510.60	$270.07	$270.07	$5,510.60
Youth Activity Fund	$1,837.48	$3,397.07	$1,589.74	$3,644.81
Spiritual Formation	$2,612.33	$5,325.00	$4,144.31	$3,793.02
High School Program	$0.00	$7,198.00	$5,701.39	$1,496.61
TOTALS	$38,571.60	$60,190.97	$58,188.16	$40,574.41

Account	Opening Balance	Income	Debits	Current Balance
Shorebank CD – Mar.	$2,118.29	$85.12		$2,203.41
Shorebank CD – Sept.	$2,189.46	$83.16		$2,272.62
Southshore Bank CD	$5,510.60	$270.07	$270.07	$5,510.60
Lorain National Bank – Checking	$28,753.25	$49,812.62	$47,978.09	$30,578.78
TOTALS	$38,571.60	$50,250.97	$48,248.16	$40,574.41

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING
TREASURER'S REPORT, June 30, 2007

General Fund - Income

Meeting	**Contribution**
Akron	$50.00
Ann Arbor	$4,725.00
Athens	$3,800.00
Birmingham	$806.00
Broadmead	$825.00
Cleveland	$0.00
Delaware	$744.00
Detroit	$300.00
Grand Rapids	$805.00
Granville	$832.00
Kalamazoo	$1,400.00
Kent	$612.00
Mid-Ohio Valley	$135.00
Monongalia	$490.00
North Columbus	$500.00
Oberlin	$665.00
Pine River	$490.00
Pittsburgh	$6,135.00
Red Cedar	$1,575.00
Wooster	$714.00
Misc.	$7.80
Sales and Fees	$200.00
Interest	$168.28
TOTALS	$25,979.08

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT June 30, 2007

General Fund - Expenses

(* = transfers)	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PERCENT
Travel	$5,500.00	$4,791.00	87.11%
Office	$300.00	$52.40	17.47%
Publications	$3,400.00	$2,770.92	81.50%
Advancement	$130.00	$11.19	8.61%
Ministry & Nurture	$200.00	$100.00	50.00%
Clerk's Fund	$500.00	$0.00	0.00%
FGC	$4,500.00	$4,500.00	100.00%
FGC - Special Prgm	$500.00	$500.00	100.00%
Records Project	$100.00	$100.00	100.00%
FWCC Travel*	$1,240.00	$1,240.00	100.00%
Youth Activity Fund*	$2,700.00	$2,700.00	100.00%
High Schl Youth Fund*	$5,400.00	$5,400.00	100.00%
Spiritual Formation*	$600.00	$600.00	100.00%
Friends Schl in Detroit	$2,500.00	$2,500.00	100.00%
Olney Friends Schl	$600.00	$600.00	100.00%
Misc			
TOTALS	$28,170.00	$25,865.51	91.82%

Note: $9,340 are transfers.

Annual Meeting

Balance	July 1, 2006	$19,925.48
Expenses		$18,267.14
Income		$16,781.75
Balance	June 30, 2007	$18,440.09

FWCC Triennial Travel Fund

Balance	July 1, 2006	$2,786.84
Expenses		$2,350.00
Income - Transfer		$1,240.00
Balance	June 30, 2007	$1,676.84

Granville Friends Youth Fund

Balance	July 1, 2006	$5,510.60
Interest Income		$270.07
Transfer to Youth Activity Fund		$270.07
Balance	June 30, 2007	$5,510.60

Youth Activity Fund

Balance	July 1, 2006	$1,837.48
Transfer from Gen Fund		$2,700.00
Interest fm Granville Fnd		$270.07
Youth Retreat		$427.00
Total Income		$5,234.55
Expenses - Grants		$800.00
Expense - Youth Retreat		$789.74
Total Expenses		$1,589.74
Balance	June 30, 2007	$3,644.81

High School Youth Program

Income	**Budget**	**Actual**
Balance	$0.00	$ -
Transfer- Gen. Fnd	$5,400.00	$5,400.00
Clerk's Fund		
Retreats		$1,798.00
Grants - Youth A.F		$ -
Total Income	$5,400.00	$7,198.00
Expenses		
Program expenses	$500.00	$ -
Stipend	$4,400.00	$3,300.00
Retreats		$2,401.39
Total Expenses	$4,900.00	$5,701.39
Balance	June 30,'07	$1,496.61

Spiritual Formation Group

Balance	July 1,'06	$2,612.33
Transfer from General Fund		$600.00
Income from retreats		$4,725.00

Total Income		$7,937.33
Expenses		$4,144.31
Balance	June 30,'07	$3,793.02

Budget – July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

General Fund Expenses

(* = transfers)	Budget 05-06	Actual 05-06	Budget 06-07	Actual 06-07	Difference	Budget 07-08	Difference
Travel	5,500.00	4,187.09	5,500.00	4,791.00	709.00	5,500.00	0.00
Office	300.00	144.63	300.00	40.90	259.10	300.00	0.00
Publications	3,400.00	2,092.42	3,400.00	2,766.87	633.13	3,400.00	0.00
Advancement	130.00	60.61	130.00	0.00	130.00	880.00	750.00
Ministry & Nurture	200.00	0.00	200.00	100.00	100.00	800.00	600.00
Clerk's Fund	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	0.00
FGC - Special Program	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
Records project	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00	1,240.00	1,240.00	1,240.00	0.00	1,240.00	0.00
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	2,700.00	0.00
High School Youth Fund*	4,900.00	4,900.00	5,400.00	5,400.00	0.00	5,400.00	0.00
Spiritual Formation*	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00
Friends School in Detroit	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00
Misc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS	27,670.00	24,124.75	28,170.00	25,838.77	2,331.23	29,520.00	1,350.00
Per member assessment			$35.21			$37.23	

YM07 - 22 Publications & Archives

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported.

Publications & Archives Committee Report

1. *Annual Records 2007*. At Representative Meeting, we announced that Nancy James would produce this publication, but that it would not be completed until September. That plan has since been revised. Mathilda Navias (of Advancement & Outreach) and Jeff Cooper will jointly produce this *Annual Records* and hope to mail it before Labor Day. This year's edition will probably include, as an experiment, a mini-directory including all Friends whose contact information would otherwise be listed anywhere within the *Annual Records*.
2. Reporting on Workshops. One of P&A's responsibilities is writing reports on the workshops offered at Annual Meeting. As there are six workshops this year but only four current members of P&A, the Committee seeks volunteers to report on the workshops "Relationship Enrichment" and "Meeting for Healing."
3. Makeup of Our Committee. The two previous items reflect the Committee's need for two more members, so that we can accomplish our work without going outside the Committee.
4. Reminders.
   a. The Committee has received (for the *Annual Records*) State of the Meeting Reports and Statistical Reports from about two thirds of the monthly meetings within LEYM. Monthly meetings that have not yet sent us these reports are encouraged to do so.
   b. Monthly meetings that publish newsletters should send them to the LEYM *Bulletin* editor, Jeff Cooper. Delivery via e-mail is welcome.
   c. Our website, *leym.quaker.org*, contains abundant useful information. Friends are encouraged to explore it.
5. New column in LEYM *Bulletin*. As space permits, the *Bulletin* editor will attempt to share more news of interesting activities of the monthly meetings. In particular, such news will focus on activities related to the theme of the upcoming or previous Annual Meeting (i.e., "Living our Witness to Peace" for the fall 2007 issue), though other news from monthly meetings is also welcome. The editor hopes to include too more news of Adult Young Friends and Youth.
6. LEYM *Directory*. Since Representative Meeting, we have attempted to survey LEYM meetings and worship groups, officers and clerks of LEYM, and the readership of the *Bulletin* about the future of the LEYM *Directory*, in particular whether printed publication every two years is worth the considerable labor entailed, especially when the *Annual Records* provides contact information for those actively involved in LEYM as well as officers, committee clerks, and contact persons of monthly meetings, preparative meetings, and worship groups. The survey asked: "Should we continue to publish the LEYM *Directory*: Every two years (next in 2008)? Every three (or more years)? Not at all?"

   The relatively few responses covered a broad spectrum of opinions. Some Friends say they use the *Directory* nearly every day, and urged us not to change the current practice, while others said they never consult the *Directory*, and thought the time and effort required to produce it could be put to better uses. Some thought that publication at three-year intervals would suffice, but others said the two-year schedule is essential to maintaining current information. Some Friends suggested that we could save money by placing the directory data online, while others adamantly opposed making contact information available online in any form. A few Friends made suggestions for ways forward.

   The wide range of opinions about the *Directory*'s usefulness challenges LEYM in seeking unity on how to proceed. P&A has tried to keep in mind the various responses in developing a proposal for Friends to consider. This proposal involves a database which a) has limited access; b) is self-sustaining (at least in theory); c) provides autonomy for monthly meetings; and d) is less expensive than the printed directory, despite some costs associated with maintaining the database on a full-time server.

   The Proposal. P&A would first provide each meeting and worship group with the most recent data for their own portion of the database, in a format that can be easily edited and updated. Each meeting or worship group would choose one, two, or more Friends to have access to this database;

one or more of these Friends would be responsible for updating on a schedule convenient to themselves (perhaps when a new MM directory is published). Access would be controlled by a system of double passwords. Individual meetings and worship groups could decide how much contact information they wish to place online (for access by other Friends within LEYM). As a second step, P&A would enable those Friends with access to the database to see directory information that the other meetings and worship groups have chosen to make available.

How would individual Friends obtain contact information about Friends in other meetings or worship groups? The first step might be to check the *Annual Records*, which should be readily available at every meeting. To learn about a few Friends at other meetings, one would ask the appointed contact person(s) within one's own meeting to seek this information in the database. To learn about a large number of Friends at another meeting, one would contact that meeting directly. (The system is designed to discourage broad mining of the database for mailing lists or other forms of solicitation. The relatively few Friends who now consult the printed directory frequently could ask their local meeting to appoint them as one of the Friends with direct access to the database.)

The database would continue to provide an alphabetical list of all Friends therein (though full contact information might be provided only under the directories for individual meetings and worship groups), and would continue to include the current section on children (listing them by year of birth, with their home meeting, but providing no contact information). These sections would be updated automatically as the directories of meetings are updated.

What will move meetings to update their section of the database?
1) Good will. 2) Receiving more individual requests for contact information when the database becomes outdated. 3) The database will facilitate the creation of a messaging system or the production of lists and printouts within a meeting or worship group. Moreover, the online interface would simplify the updating of the local mailing list and the administration of the list by new volunteers who may have different software but have access to the web.

Responses Invited. Under the current practice, the next printed directory is not due until summer 2008. Friends are invited to consider this alternative proposal, and communicate their thoughts to the Committee before Representative Meeting (in March 2008).

YM07 - 23 Reading of Selections from the Epistle from Southeastern YM

Michael Fuson, Assistant Clerk, read to us selections from the Epistle from Southeastern YM. This YM has had a struggle with its relationship with Friends United Meeting because of much discomfort with that organization's policy of exclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. They found unity in a two-year suspension of their relationship with FUM. They intend laying down the relationship with FUM at the end of the two-year period if there is not unity in renewing the connection.

We hold Southeastern YM and FUM Friends in loving concern as they struggle with this issue.

YM07 - 24 Peace

David Lore (Granville) reported on behalf of the Committee.

Peace Committee Report

Our monthly meetings and worship groups are actively engaged in the struggle for peace and justice but a recent Yearly Meeting survey found more than a few Friends who feel frustrated and sometimes even checkmated by the great number of seemingly intractable problems besetting the world right now.

"The terrible thickets of injustice and violence, large and small, all around us, seem to have demoralized many people," responded the Ann Arbor Meeting to the LEYM Peace Committee survey. "I think many people are just too sad to work on articulating opposition to things that are so obviously wrong that the opposition should not have to be articulated at all."

Cleveland Meeting reported Friends there active across a wide spectrum of concerns, including the Iraq war, healthcare access, and the needs of the homeless. "However, the Meeting as a whole is searching for its collective calling on a social concern."

"Which of these (issues) call to us," asked one Friend. "What do we do? I don't know. Perhaps this sense of faltering itself should be brought to LEYM."

While our committee has to be humble in responding to such a challenge, discussions during Yearly Meeting did bring forth these suggestions:

- Join with other groups, local and national, to effect change. Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union, and other groups, for example, called for volunteers to join a "Day of Action to Restore Law and Justice" for June 26, 2007, to contact Congress to end abuses at the Guantánamo Bay detention facility and restore basic procedural and human rights to the nearly 400 men still held there without recourse to a fair trial. With criticism, both in Washington and internationally, increasing as to how the U.S. is handling so-called "enemy combatants," and a Guantánamo closure resolution now before the Senate (S 1469, Harkin), this is the time to "speak truth to power" once again about this stain on our national character.
- Extend the debate beyond Congress, the White House, and the news media, by enlisting support from local and state officials and school and civic organizations. City councils, for example, are beginning to speak out against the Iraq war. Cities for Peace Day in Washington, DC on July 31 will see council members and city officials from across the country come to the Capitol to testify. Council members from five cities – Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo, Cincinnati, Duluth, and Gary – recently agreed to come together on a joint resolution opposing the occupation. (See *www.michiganpeaceworks.org/ccrp.html*.) Monthly meetings are encouraged to take up this campaign in their own home towns.
- Where there is no consensus in a Meeting as to which "outrages" to engage as a group, be open to dialogue and, where appropriate, support the leadings of individual Friends.
- Sometimes, all this requires is listening. "For the last two years," writes Joshua Mendel from Cleveland MM, "I have clerked a different sort of Peace, Environmental, and Social Concerns Committee. Four to seven people have met consistently to hold open a space each month….the goal at the highest level is to ensure that whatever members are doing in the world, it comes from and remains in touch with Spirit."
- Tap the resources within your MM and LEYM in preparation for forums or retreats on peace and justice issues. Peace Committee member Jim Satterwhite (*satterwhitej@bluffton.edu*), for example, has worked extensively in the Middle East as part of Christian Peacemaker Teams. Although the Israeli-Palestine deadlock and the current fighting between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority appears to be hopelessly confusing and intractable, Jim immediately recommended that Friends contact him and/or avail themselves of alternative sources such as *Abunimah News* (*alinews@electronicintifada.net*) and The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (*www.icahd.org*).

Peace Committee this year also revisited its action two years ago calling on Ohio state legislators to create a Capital Case Commission to determine whether the death sentence is being meted out inequitably based on the defendant's race, economic status, and county of residence.

In view of rapidly evolving public and political opinion as to the humaneness of "murderous retribution," we ask Yearly Meeting this year to approve a new resolution calling for the abandonment of the death penalty in Ohio and Pennsylvania and renewed activism by monthly meetings, in cooperation with other like-minded groups, to bring American justice in line with international standards.

We agree with the spirit of the statement from the Committee on the death penalty. We ask the Committee to review the facts and rewrite the section on Friends' history with the death penalty and bring the minute back at a later session. (See Minute YM07 – 35.)

YM07 - 25 Earthcare

Jim Crowfoot (Ann Arbor) reported, in heart-felt gratitude for the bountiful care we enjoy on this beautiful planet. He gave the following report.

Earthcare Committee Report

Over the past year the Earthcare Committee has continued working to initiate and support Earthcare information and activities within LEYM. In summary, we did the following:

1. Conducted and analyzed a survey of its members' goals for the Committee and for strengthening Earthcare as a spiritual and practical focus throughout LEYM.
2. Sought contact people at each of LEYM's monthly and preparatory meetings and worship groups in

order to create two-way communication channels between this committee and these groups.

3. Established an Earthcare section on LEYM's website, selected the materials to be displayed there, and enlisted Bill Warters' services as webmaster to implement these decisions.
4. Planned a workshop for the 2007 LEYM gathering.
5. Prepared and distributed an Earthcare Committee Newsletter to meeting contact persons and other interested individuals in LEYM just prior to this (2007) LEYM gathering.

This year the Earthcare Committee had new Co-Clerks and several new members. Six of these members were appointed by LEYM, and they are supplemented by additional active Committee participants committed to doing the work of this LEYM committee. To integrate all these individuals and to refocus the Committee, a survey was prepared and filled out by each member.

At the same time, efforts were initiated to establish an Earthcare section on LEYM's website to make the materials of this committee more accessible throughout the Yearly Meeting. The Committee had already prepared several excellent print materials, including a pamphlet on Earthcare for local meetings and they were selected to be included in the website.

To follow up its written survey of its members, the Committee met for a day in early December 2006 in Toledo, at the home of Judy Greenberg. At this meeting we worshiped together and discussed the results of the survey along with other topics, including an Earthcare workshop for the June 2007 LEYM meeting. A workshop committee was appointed.

To date these volunteer Earthcare representatives exist in the following monthly meetings and other groups:

> Albion, Mark Lelle; Ann Arbor, Judy Wenzel; Athens, Carla Pratt-Harrington; Birmingham, Phil Clampitt; Broadmead (including Bluffton, Findlay, & Toledo), Judy Greenberg; Chelsea, Bill Bliss; Circleville, Brad Cotton; Cleveland, Sue Nelson; Delaware, Steve & Kathy Semmler; Detroit, Ann Sprague; Erie, Clémence Mershon; Fremont, Sharon Daly; Gallipolis, Evelyn Kirkhart; Grand Rapids, Mark Post; Granville, Mari McLean; Holland, Larry Dickie; Kalamazoo, Raelyn Joyce; Kent, Karl Liske; Manitou, Penny Herd; Mid-Ohio Valley, Jane Hearne; Monongalia, Luise VanKeuren; North Columbus, Shelby Conrad; Oberlin, David Snyder; Pine River, Ruth Nowland; Pittsburgh, Mary Davidson; Red Cedar, Becky Payne; Tustin, Mitzi & Don Ruswick; Wooster, Phil Balderston

During early 2007, workshop planning continued for the June event "Who Owns Water?" In preparation for the workshop, planning committee watched and discussed the outstanding documentary *Thirst* and decided to prepare and use an edited version of it as part of the up-coming workshop. Additionally, the Committee planned for a panel of respondents to this documentary and the issues it raises for LEYM meetings and members. Also, plans were made to gather and display during the LEYM gathering materials that provide useful information and enlarge on the growing threats to humans' rights to water, including privatization, demands exceeding supplies, and changing patterns of precipitation. The Committee will offer this workshop today, Saturday, June 16.

In April Phil Clampitt, Co-Clerk of this Committee, attended a national Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee meeting in Chicago that was planned to include leaders of Earthcare Committees – or comparable groups – among the various yearly meetings.

Just prior to this June 2007 LEYM gathering, Judy Greenberg initiated an LEYM Earthcare Committee Newsletter to share some of the Earthcare activities that have been completed and are being planned by LEYM's monthly meetings. Also this newsletter provides to meeting contact persons and other individual LEYM members up-to-date information about the resources that are available from the Yearly Meeting's Earthcare Committee and how to access these resources.

As our country's and our planet's environmental difficulties become more acute and more visible, so do the increasing needs and opportunities to make changes that protect the environment and its eco-systems and advance human justice and well being. LEYM and its constituent meetings and groups are called to begin and/or step up Earthcare as an integral spiritual emphasis as well as an area for social action and behavioral changes by these groups and their individual members. The Earthcare Committee is committed to continuing and hopefully expanding the support of the LEYM for this area of Quaker spiritualities, testimonies, and practices.

LEYM Earthcare Committee, 2006-2007: Phil Clampitt* (Birmingham) & Jim Crowfoot* (Ann Arbor), Co-Clerks; Bill Bliss (Ann Arbor), Alan Connor* (Ann Arbor), Judy Greenberg (Broadmead), Dick Hogan*

(Athens), Margaret Kanost (Birmingham), Helen Söderberg* (Red Cedar), Ann Sprague* (Detroit). (*) denotes appointees of LEYM.

We encourage Friends to work on environmental issues in their own communities.

YM07 - 26 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Don Nagler (Pine River) told us of the history, constituency, and quarterly activities of GPQM.

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

This is the 50th year of the Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM). It was formed in 1957 in order to better support the work of the American Friends Service Committee in Michigan, initially in the Ann Arbor Office. It subsequently became involved in the creation of the Friends School in Detroit, of which it has ownership. It also helps to administer the Michigan Friends Center with the Friends Lake Cooperative Community.

GPQM currently consists of seven monthly meetings: Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Pine River, and Red Cedar; one large meeting, four medium-sized, and two small meetings. In addition there is one preparative meeting (Holland) under Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting, and five worship groups, all of which are under the care of monthly meetings, in Albion, Chelsea, Fremont, Manitou, and Tustin.

Two meetings for worship with attention to business are held the third Saturday in September at the Friends School in Detroit and the third Saturday in May at the Michigan Friends Center. A mid-winter gathering, generally in February, is sponsored by a monthly meeting. On the first Sunday in August, Hiroshima Day, a worship and picnic are held at Quaker Park in Battle Creek, Michigan.

At the Spring Meeting this year, Stephen Angell, from the Earlham School of Religion, gave the annual talk entitled “Essentials of Quakerism.” His theme was developed from his reading of the LEYM-2000 Query on Membership. The talk was lively and drew upon interesting historical statements and references. A discussion by Friends in attendance was only terminated by a break for relaxation and lunch.

Grand Rapids Meeting led the Mid-Winter Gathering at the Dominican Center in Grand Rapids on February 24. Over 60 Friends participated in worship, worship-sharing, discussion, singing, and dancing—a time of rich fellowship and inspiration.

Cathi Deyo of Grand Rapids Meeting has for the past three years led enlivening intergenerational activities in camping, canoeing, and other events of celebration which have helped to develop our community appreciation.

Lonnie Valentine, Professor of Peace and Justice Studies at the Earlham School of Religion, will give the talk in Spring Quarterly, 2008. LEYM Friends are invited to attend.

We welcome Laura Ford from Kalamazoo Meeting as presiding clerk of GPQM for the 2007-08 year. She attended the Outreach Consultation sponsored by FGC at the end of March on behalf of GPQM and LEYM.

YM07 - 27 Friends School in Detroit

Dwight Wilson (Ann Arbor), School Head, reported to us on developments at the school.

Friends School in Detroit

Friends School in Detroit has prepared and approved the second Five-Year Strategic Plan of my tenure. The first component is Academic Excellence because we understand ourselves to be a college preparatory school with the responsibility of maintaining the Quaker Tradition of inquisitiveness rather than rote learning. We measure our success by the records of our graduates. For example: for the second straight year, each graduate was accepted in her or his first choice school; current graduates in high school are presidents of classes at Olney Friends School and Cranbrook School; in September 2002, graduates attended Harvard, Brown, Michigan, and other world-recognized schools.

I was unable to attend LEYM last year because I was selected by the National Association of Independent Schools as one of a nine-member delegation to China, where we were hosted by the Chinese government. In September 2006 we added Chinese to our curriculum as a required 6th grade course and middle school elective. Next year Chinese will be required from grades 1st through 7th. Since my arrival in 2002, I have also added to our curriculum ballet, community service from 1st - 6th grades (it already existed for 7th - 8th), critical thinking, drama, vocal music.

What makes a Quaker school? The following Quaker values are woven into our curriculum: appreciation of grace, community building, consistency, diversity, environmental stewardship, forgiveness, generosity, honesty, joy, justice/equity, kindness, love, modesty, non-violent conflict resolution, optimism, patience, peacemaking, pursuit of academic excellence, respecting others and self, sacredness of life, selflessness, sharing with our neighbors, simple lifestyles, spirituality.

We received a second award in three years for a curriculum that promotes social justice, equality, and diversity in all subject areas. We continue to have Human Rights as a weekly required course for all middle schoolers and this year we will have our third biennial Envisioning a New World Conference for three days, during which only the students are permitted to speak as they build the America that should exist. The delegates look at all areas from education and health care through social support systems and the role of the military. Over the years, invitees have included delegates from the Arab-American and Latin-American Community, public and independent schools.

One of the primary challenges for us is maintaining a multicultural community. Our community is strong and diverse racially, geographically, ethnically, religiously, and economically. We are committed to representing the Southeast Michigan region and the wider world. By all accounts, ours is the most racially balanced school in NAIS. We look for racial diversity in students, faculty, administration, and trustees. That said, each year we lose between 8 - 12 students whose families relocate to the suburbs, and relatively few European-Americans move to Detroit. Each year we pray for more Ann Arbor students. Although we have five employees who live in Ann Arbor, including two Quakers, we only have one Ann Arbor student and he is not a Quaker. Our few Quaker students are Detroiters.

The area in which we continue to have the most concern is financial stability. Last year the second of the four Detroit city independent schools closed, and often we were hard pressed to stay the course. We need increased financial support from the Religious Society of Friends, our families, alumni, and philanthropic organizations. At a time when the *Wall Street Journal* reports numerous independent schools are charging over $30,000, our highest tuition just passed $9,000. At a time when Detroit Public School teachers went out on strike for being underpaid, our employees make less than 67% of their salaries. At a time when General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler and their suppliers announce massive layoffs, we struggle to keep moving forward. That said, we have steadily increased enrollment, reaching 165 this year. On September 1, 2002, the year in which I arrived, we had only 113. We are bucking the enrollment trends of our 27 sister independent schools in the state, but we are not out of the woods. With debt from the years before my arrival still to finish paying off, earlier reserves needing to be rebuilt, and a building old enough to need major renovation in its structural systems, without more support from you and like-minded people, I am not sure how long we can be the leader. If I may quote Kwame Kilpatrick, Detroit's mayor, if the Religious Society of Friends does not support us, "Nobody else is coming to save us."

Leadership is not a spectator sport. Despite having one child in law school and another in an out-of-state university, our family believes enough to give at least 4% of adult income to Friends School in Detroit. We would be happy if others gave at least 1%.

In closing, we are grateful to the oversight given to us by Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting and by the several Quaker trustees who keep our school moving in the Quaker tradition. It has been a good year and it is our prayer that next year shall be even better.

We are grateful for Dwight's presence here at our YM sessions and thank him for the work he and FSD staff are doing at that unique school in the middle of a struggling city. We also appreciate the field trips the school takes to our meeting communities. We recognize the financial challenges faced by the school and acknowledge the opportunities this affords us to contribute.

YM07 - 28 Arrangements & Site Committee

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reviewed details of our departures. He also gave us the final number of registrants at this Annual Meeting - 149 (see roll call above).

YM07 - 29 Youth & Children Committee

Joyce Callahan (Cleveland) and Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) reported.

Youth & Children Committee Report

We are blessed to have 22 children with us this year: 8 preschoolers, 7 elementary, 4 junior high, 3 high

schoolers. Eleven adults have been giving their time and love to our children. We are especially thankful for the two Bluffton students, Chantele and Leandra, who've been chasing the toddlers.

The Youth program has been running very smoothly. We thank the parents, youth program participants, and YM for their support in making this happen. The Program Committee has shared its queries with the young people and the Adult Young Friends have reached out to the high schoolers in such activities as conducting the Peace Vigil and walking to the farmers' market. These sharings create a sense of being included in the wider YM.

The Assistant Clerks of the Youth Program have been learning "how to" at the elbow of Joyce Callahan, who has shared with us her 15 years of connection with the program. We are looking forward to passing along this core of experience to the Assistant Clerks at next year's YM; we are looking forward to learning who this might be.

We want to invite you to consider working with our children next year.

We are grateful to the Friends working with the young people. We ask them to carry our thanks to the teachers as well as the Adult Young Friends, who organized the *Eyes Wide Open* vigil which followed upon Mary Lord's peace lecture on Friday evening.

YM07 - 30 YM 2008

We agreed to meet at Bluffton University on June 19-22 next year and ask the Arrangements & Site Committee to make the necessary arrangements. [Note: This was later changed to 12-15 June.]

YM07 - 31 Ministry & Nurture

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) reported.

Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

1. **State of Meeting Reports:** The Committee is pleased that meetings are attempting to use the guidelines suggested for the formulation of the state of the meeting reports. Many meetings are reporting more fully on the spiritual condition of their meetings, as well as reporting the many worthwhile projects accomplished by their committees, and the very positive qualities of the monthly meetings. We are happy to receive this news of our monthly meetings. One meeting also reported quite fully on the challenges it is facing as well as the spiritual gifts of its members in facing these challenges. This report reminded the Committee that the state of the meeting report is intended to be a process of self-examination by the meeting. The Committee plans next year to refine the guidelines to reflect this purpose of the report, and to provide ideas about how to engage the whole meeting in the process of self-examination.
2. **Spiritual Formation Program:** Two retreats on the theme "A Year of Living Prayerfully" nourished local spiritual nurture groups in Pine River, Red Cedar, Birmingham, Oberlin, and Broadmead Meetings. Spiritual nurture groups also continued in Pittsburgh Meeting, without affiliation this year with the LEYM program. The retreats were held at the Leaven Center in Michigan, led by Beckey Phipps and Phil Fitz of New England Yearly Meeting. The goals of the retreats were to become more aware of spiritual capacity for inward listening in relationship with God, to receive spiritual nurture, to become familiar with the process of conducting a spiritual formation group, and to become familiar with the spiritual practices used by other Friends. Participants expressed in the evaluation their appreciation for the gifts brought by the workshop leaders, and that the workshops expanded and nourished their concepts and practice of prayer. Save the following dates for next year's program, to be repeated at the Leaven Center: September 7-9, 2007 and May 2-4, 2008. Individuals and spiritual friendship groups are all welcome.
   A flyer with more details is available on our website.
3. **Policies and Procedures:** The committees were asked by the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting to review and revise as necessary the portion of the policies and procedures pertaining to their committees. Ministry & Nurture Committee reviewed its portion of the policies and procedures and made several minor changes, which have been submitted to the Recording Clerk for consideration. As part of its discussion, however, the Committee became aware of a potentially significant need within the Yearly Meeting to provide more support and nurture to individual Friends to develop capacities for providing spiritual nurture among the monthly meetings and Yearly Meeting. We also became aware that, as family economies

become more challenged, families with children may need more support than their monthly meetings can provide in order to participate fully in the spiritual life of the Yearly Meeting session. Ministry & Nurture will bring these concerns to the Executive Committee for more seasoning.

4. **November Consultation:** The Committee has become aware of a need on the part of our local meetings' Ministry and Nurture (or otherwise named) Committees to gather and learn from each other, especially regarding the deepening of the spiritual life of the meeting. To this end, the Committee is working with the Traveling Ministries Program to identify a leader for a weekend consultation, to be held November 16-18, 2007 at the Weber Center in Adrian, MI. Local meeting clerks and worship groups will receive a letter asking them to name the clerk of their Ministry and Nurture Committee, or a designate, to attend the consultation. Each meeting will be asked to contribute $100 toward food and housing expenses. LEYM will otherwise cover the cost of the facilitation. The seeds sown by this gathering will be further nurtured by the activities of the traveling ministry project in spring 2008. See the report of the Advancement & Outreach Committee for more information about the traveling ministry project.
5. **Annual Query:** After reviewing the queries developed by this committee since 1985, the Committee realized that the testimony of Simplicity had not yet been addressed. We started with a query from North Pacific Yearly Meeting to develop the following set of queries. We offer them for the consideration of your local meetings:
   - Do we keep our lives uncluttered by things and activities?
   - What conditions of our lives overwhelm us?
   - How may our habits and addictions be caused by things such as media, social expectations, or personal shortcomings?
   - Do we accept commitments beyond our strength and light?
   - How can we center our lives each day in awareness of the Light so that all things take their rightful place?

YM07 - 32 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) reported.

Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

Here are resources for advancement and outreach we would like to bring to Friends' attention:

- FGC has just completed a major redesign of their website. The A&O pages have been substantially redone. A wealth of resources for newcomers and deepening the life of the meeting are available online and for download.
- FGC's Traveling Ministries Program can find seasoned Friends with gifts for leading retreats, for consulting on issues that arise in meetings, and for other services to Friends.
- The A&O web page on LEYM's website has materials for reading and download.
- LEYM offers a spiritual formation program.
- We have just learned that ESR has a traveling ministers program.
- We have put A&O materials in the display area, including a binder with various meetings' welcome pamphlets that you can browse for ideas.
- FGC A&O has developed Inreach/Outreach literature and workshops. These arose from an understanding that outreach needs to be accompanied by work to deepen the spiritual life of the community—that is, inreach.

Friends are raising up that the best way to attract and keep new people is to have a vital, spiritually rich, and personally engaging worshiping community. Putting information about the meeting where people can find it is also critical. The meeting or worship group should be willing to work on being a spiritually rich community with the people it already has.

There are a number of things meetings can do to become more visible and welcoming. They can be done a few at a time. Some are easy, such as asking newcomers if they'd like to receive the meeting news-letter, having a portable or permanent sign that shows where you worship, and keeping your meeting's listing on *quakerfinder.org* up to date. A list of suggestions and things to think about titled "Inreach/ Outreach Review" is posted on the Advancement & Outreach page on LEYM's website and copies are available upstairs in the display area.

Meeting websites in LEYM. For meetings and worship groups in LEYM, the easiest and potentially most effective outreach tool is a website that gives basic information on when and where you meet for worship and how to contact someone. Meetings currently submit that information to LEYM in their annual Statistical Reports. The infor-mation is on LEYM's website in a scrollable list under "Find a Meeting." While the list provides basic information, it is not very welcoming.

LEYM's webmaster is ready to put your information on a web page along with additional material your meeting chooses. This could include a description of your First Day school program, whom to contact if visitors are bringing children for the first time, meeting history or traditions, or a photograph of meeting Friends or the meeting house.

Of the 32 meetings and worship groups in LEYM, currently 15 have a web presence; 17 do not. Our A&O Committee urges all meetings and worship groups that do not already have a website to let Bill Warters put one up for you. Please talk to Bill, Rosemary Coffey, or me to get that process going. Members of A&O will be contacting groups not represented here this weekend about setting up a website.

We are submitting for your consideration a proposed privacy policy for Friends' contact information in print and web publications issued by Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

> I.B.6. **Privacy Policy for contact information in print and web publications issued by LEYM**
>
> a. E-mail addresses for anyone under 18 will not be included in data published in any form.
>
> b. Contact information (addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses) distributed by LEYM in print will not be made available to the general public.
>
> c. No contact information will be published on the web without the consent of the individual. Accepting service as a YM officer, clerk of a monthly or preparative meeting, or contact person for a worship group will constitute consent. Contact information will usually consist of phone number and e-mail address, not an individual's physical address.
>
> d. Friends General Conference (FGC) is the only Friends' organization which may use the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting mailing list for its appeals and other member household mailings. Other uses of LEYM's mailing list must be approved by LEYM.
>
> [This would replace I.B.5.d.3&4 in ***LEYM Policies and Procedures***.]

We approved this Privacy Policy for Friends' contact information and ask the A&O Committee to put the points into a form consistent with the LEYM Policies and Procedures so that they may be incorporated into our document. [This has been done - as presented above.]

Further questions have been raised by Ann Arbor and Athens Friends about publishing names and pictures on the web in the *Bulletin* and meeting newsletters. The Committee plans to follow up on these questions separately.

We will be posting a template for "What Do Quakers Say" business cards on the A&O page on LEYM's website. You can print these on business card stock and put your meeting information or whatever you want on the other side.

Friends in Traverse City, Michigan: The information I am about to present has been gathered through e-mails and phone calls over the last six months. I might not have all the details correct, and am sure there is information that can be added.

> [*A&O's report on Friends in Traverse City is here summarized by the* Annual Records *editors.*]
> Seven or eight years ago, Friends originally from Pine River and Red Cedar Meetings formed an unprogrammed worship group in Tra-verse City. About two years ago, they began meeting in the church building of Friends of the Light, a meeting established in Traverse City in the 1800s by Friends from Indiana Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting). Friends of the Light has a long history of relation-ships with LEYM Friends. Recently, the worship group merged with Friends of the Light, which now holds two worship services each Sunday, one unprogrammed and one semi-programmed. Friends of the Light recently decided to explore a possible dual affiliation with Indiana and Lake Erie Yearly Meetings. Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting likewise plans to explore a possible relationship with Friends of the Light, with the A&O Committee's assistance. We expect this to be a slow and deliberate process. Whatever the outcome, we hope that Friends in Traverse City and in LEYM will be enriched by getting to know one another better.

Circleville Worship Group asked Athens Meeting to consider taking them under the Meeting's care in November of 2006. Things have moved slowly, but visits and consideration are now moving forward.

Holland Preparative Meeting, which is under the care of Grand Rapids Meeting in Green Pastures Quarter, is looking at moving to monthly meeting status.

As you heard from Ministry & Nurture, A&O is working on setting up visits to meetings and worship groups throughout LEYM by a sea-soned Friend and a traveling companion. These will probably occur in two different week-long trips in the fall or spring. Once the Traveling Ministries Program has helped us find the visiting Friend, we will be contacting meetings and worship groups to set up dates and figure out other logistics.

In response to questions from Friends, Deborah Fisch (FGC) explained further the reasons for and process of the Traveling Ministries Program, which visits the meetings in a YM. Reports back to the YM give a sense of how the spirit is faring among Friends in the YM rather than betraying confidences. Some Friends spoke with enthusi-asm about the prospect of a program of visiting Friends in our midst.

YM07 - 33 Budget

Finance Committee Clerk, Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), reported.

With plans being made for Traveling Ministry visits, we approve adding $750 to the budget which was presented yesterday, changing the per-capita assessment to $37, based on a total of 792 adult members. (Minute 21 above). We approve the budget as thus amended, with a total of $880 in the Advancement & Outreach line. (See the budget on pp. 36-37.)

We approve continuing the present mileage policy and ask the Finance Committee to look further at the question of mileage reimbursement and report back to a future meeting.

YM07 - 34 High School Youth Program document

Michael Fuson (Asst Clerk) has studied the charge to the Committee drafted and tentatively approved at our Representative Meeting on March 3 (Minute RM07 - 6). He presented to us substantive revisions to the charge and job description so that it fits more appropriately into our *Policies and Procedures* and roles of LEYM officers. We approve the following recommended text and thank Carolyn Lejuste for her work on the Committee during the past year as well as Michael Fuson for his recent work on the document.

High School Youth Program

Proposed Language for *LEYM Policies and Procedures*, Section IV: Organization, Part E. Standing Committees

8. HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM

a. *Composition.* The High School Youth Program Committee shall be composed of five members, three adult members with three-year overlapping terms, one to be named each year, two high school aged members with two-year overlapping terms, one to be named each year.

b. *Responsibilities.* The High School Youth Program Committee holds in concern the spiritual life of the high school aged youth of our individual monthly meetings. In this service the Committee will:

(1) Coordinate with the Clerk to select and to contract with a private consultant to act as High School Youth Program Coordinator.

(2) Support and supervise the activities of the High School Youth Program Coordinator. It is expected that consultation between the Coordinator and the Committee (by telephone or e-mail) will occur before and after each retreat.

(3) Assist the Coordinator in keeping an updated database of eligible youth for the High School Youth Program.

(4) Identify and nurture Friends in monthly meetings who are interested in working with high school youth.

c. *Responsibilities of High School Youth Program Coordinator.* In order to nurture the spiritual life of high school youth throughout the Yearly Meeting, the Coordinator shall:

(1) In consultation with the High School Youth Program Committee, plan, coordinate, and evaluate four (4) youth retreats per year, independent of the Annual Meeting, that are scattered geographically throughout the Yearly Meeting in order to maximize participation of youth throughout the region.
   (a) The retreats are to be both fun and spiritually nourishing for the youth.
   (b) The retreats are an opportunity for youth to develop leadership skills by fully participating in the identification of themes, workshops, and workshop presenters.
   (c) The retreats should seek to utilize individuals throughout the Yearly Meeting who can offer Quaker-related workshops on various topics of religious education.
   (d) One of these four retreats has historically been "The Quake that Rocked the Midwest," held over Martin Luther King weekend at the Evanston, IL meeting house in partnership with other Midwestern yearly meetings.

(2) Build and maintain relationships with other youth workers within LEYM, other yearly meetings, and FGC.

(3) Maintain an updated database of eligible youth for the High School Youth Program.

(4) Send eligible LEYM youth timely information about upcoming LEYM and national Quaker youth opportunities and events.

(5) Make information about all events available to the LEYM webmaster on a timely basis.

(6) Submit all bills and receipts to the Yearly Meeting Treasurer in a timely manner. Submit a complete financial report annually.

YM07 - 35 Peace

[Further to Minute YM07-24, above] David Lore brought us proposed new wording on a draft minute calling for abolition of the death penalty. We now approve this minute, with thanks to David and the Peace Committee.

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

MINUTE ON ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

June 16, 2007

In 2005, the Peace Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting contacted legislators and media organizations in support of state legislation to create a Capital Case Commission to determine whether the death sentence in Ohio was being applied in a discriminatory way, particularly in regard to the race of the defendant.

Although the Ohio Legislature failed to impose a moratorium and initiate such a review, there is reason to believe that such an appeal would attract more support today due to the election of a new progressive governor and polling showing declining public support for capital punishment. Gov. Ted Strickland has said he opposes the death penalty but is bound to follow the dictates of Ohio law.

And in Pennsylvania, a committee of the state Supreme Court proposed a pause in executions to determine whether sentencing is equitable. So far, Gov. Edward` Rendell has opposed such action, now being promoted by the Pennsylvania Moratorium Coalition, a lobbying group of activists, attorneys, and former Death Row inmates.

Two national surveys this month found support for the death penalty declining, to the point that 58 percent surveyed approve of a moratorium and by a small majority prefer life imprisonment as an alternative sentence. Factors influencing this shift in recent years include the release of some 200 Death Row inmates on the basis of new DNA evidence, and a number of botched executions which support the charge that lethal injections are inhumane.

In the Religious Society of Friends, there is broad consensus sup-porting the sanctity of life and prohibitions against torture and use of the death penalty, a position adopted now by most nations. Our Yearly Meeting commends government officials in Michigan and West Virginia who long ago halted the killing of prisoners and today con-tinue to resist pressure to reinstate this horrible penalty.

"The real security for human life is to be found in a reverence for it. A deep reverence for human life is worth more than a thousand executions in the prevention of murder; and is, in fact, the great security for human life.

The law of capital punishment while pretending to support this reverence, does, in fact, tend to destroy it."

(Friend John Bright, 1868)

MINUTE:

> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting again calls for the abolition of the death penalty by all states still retaining it, including Ohio and Pennsylvania. We encourage monthly meetings to press the case with renewed vigor through contacts with state governors, legislators, and the news media. In this effort, we encourage Friends to work with like-minded groups such as AFSC, Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union, and state organizations such as the Pennsylvania Moratorium Coalition and Ohioans to Stop Executions.

YM07 - 36 FGC Gathering, June 28 - July 5, Johnstown, PA

We have heard from Ellen and Marvin Barnes, who have agreed to serve as Clerks of this gathering. They encouraged us to attend the event at this lovely setting within the area of our YM. The site is well above any possibility of flooding. Work grants are available.

YM07 - 37 Traveling Minute

Shirley Bechill (YM Clerk) read the traveling minute from Clear Creek MM (Ohio Valley YM) on behalf of Susan Lee Barton. We have been blessed by Susan Lee's presence among us during these days.

YM07 - 38 Nominating Committee

Olwen Pritchard reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee, thanking the following Friends who are stepping down from their positions at the end of these annual sessions:

Assistant Clerk: Michael Fuson
Advancement & Outreach: Phil Balderston and Leslie Walden
Arrangements & Site: Mike Hinshaw
Ministry & Nurture: Merry Stanford and Star Mary Castro
Nominating: Connie Green, Olwen Pritchard, and Abbey Pratt-Harrington
Peace: Sadie Taylor
Program: Beth Amoriya
Youth & Children: Joyce Callahan, Susan Jeffers, Helen Söderberg, Joe Mills, and Bekah Sommer, and Carla Pratt-Harrington for Fall Retreat clerk work.
AFSC: Richard Taylor and Don Nagler
FCNL: Marge Nelson
FGC: Shirley Bechill and Kri Burkander
FWCC: Raelyn Joyce and Dale Pratt-Harrington

She then read the names of people who have agreed to serve as YM officers and new members on committees. (See the full Nominating Committee slate on pp. 167-171) Some committee clerkships have yet to be finalized. We approve the report and thank the Nominating Committee for their faithful and diligent service.

YM07 - 39 Epistle

Michael Fuson (Asst Clerk) read the draft Epistle (see pp. 70-71 below). With one small but significant edit, the Epistle was approved.

YM07 - 40 Young People's Epistles

We enjoyed the reports and epistles from the Young People. Before they came in, Thomas Taylor (Recording Clerk) told us of conversations he and Shirley Bechill (Clerk) had with leadership of the children and young people's programs, inviting them to decide with the young people whether their report was going to be an Epistle to all Friends Everywhere, or a report only intended for Friends gathered at the YM sessions. Their reports follow the YM Epistle on pp. 72-74, below. We thank the young people for bringing us such joy, as well as the caregivers who gave of their time and tender skill.

Our thanks to the AYF and High School groups for providing us with the experience similar to that of the AFSC *Eyes Wide Open* project on Friday night. After Mary Lord's plenary talk on the Annual Meeting theme, we were led along a sidewalk path where the 479 names of American military personnel from our LEYM states of Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania killed in Iraq were written on the sidewalk. We walked solemnly along, reading the names and holding the name and age of an Iraqi killed there. Then, with darkness approaching, we called out the names of the Iraqi dead and remembered them as well as the American deaths we had been mourning.

YM07 - 41 Susan Jeffers - Bible Study

Eric Starbuck proposed the following minute of thanks to Susan Jeffers for leading our Bible Study at 6:30 AM each morning of our YM sessions over several years. The minute was warmly accepted.

> We wish to express appreciation to Susan Jeffers for her dedication in giving Bible Study at Yearly Meeting for at least a decade. Her expertise and her inspirational words have made Yearly Meeting a deeper experience for many of us.
>
> Susan picks Biblical quotes concerning the Yearly Meeting theme. We read the quote and discuss it. If we ask for the Greek, or for other erudition, Susan gives it. Sometimes she gives a viewpoint we haven't thought about. It's quiet and deep. We get a lot more than the words out of it.
>
> Thanks, Susan.

YM07 - 42 Thanks to Bluffton University

We are grateful to Bluffton University for hosting us over the past four days. We feel that they have been particularly responsive to our needs this year.

YM07 - 43 Closing

We have felt we have been held in the Light in a special way this year, grateful to those who have held the Yearly Meeting in their prayers. We depart, to reconvene at Bluffton University on 19-22 June, 2008. [Note: This was later changed to 12-15 June.]

Shirley Bechill, Clerk
Thomas Taylor, Recording Clerk

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Representative Meeting
March 1, 2008

Hosted by North Columbus Friends Meeting
at Summit United Methodist Church, Columbus, Ohio

Morning Session

RM08 - 1 Opening Worship, Reading of Epistle from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Friends gathered at the appointed hour. Out of the opening worship, our Assistant Clerk, Merry Stanford, read from the 2007 Epistle of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. This Yearly Meeting is undergoing a renewal of shared energy from younger Friends and is challenging itself to build bridges and connections throughout all the spectrums of the Religious Society of Friends.

RM08 - 2 Welcome

Our Clerk, Shirley Bechill, welcomed us and thanked North Columbus Friends for hosting us. Bob Roehm, of North Columbus Friends Meeting, further welcomed us and shared the significance of the location of today's meeting. In 1938 North Columbus started meeting at this location when it was the Wesley Foundation. In 1953, North Colum-bus Friends Meeting moved to its present location when the building was torn down and replaced by the present building for Summit United Methodist Church. We expressed our appreciation to Bob Roehm and Shelby Conrad of North Columbus for coordinating all the preparations and arrangements and for the efforts of numerous other North Columbus Friends in hosting us.

RM08 - 3 Roll Call

The calling of the roll of Friends from constituent meetings and groups gave the following count:

Akron	0	Kalamazoo	2
Ann Arbor	5	Kent	2
Athens	2	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	4	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	8	North Columbus	11
Cleveland	4	Oberlin	3
Delaware	0	Pine River	4
Detroit	0	Pittsburgh	3
Grand Rapids	5	Red Cedar	1
Granville	3	Wooster	3

No preparative meetings or worship groups were represented
Total attendance: 60

RM08 - 4 Survey Material for Committees

Our Assistant Clerk requested that committee clerks share with their committees the survey material that was passed out at last night's Executive Committee meeting [see RM08-10].

RM08 - 5 Announcements

Our Clerk identified the location of restrooms and places for committee meetings. Mathilda Navias left a contact information sheet for all meetings and worship groups for Friends present to review and confirm as accurate or correct as necessary. We broke for committee meetings at 9:50 AM.

Afternoon Session

RM08 - 6 Worship

We resumed with worship focused on the need for healing of Friends dear to us and concluded by affirming our trust in God's healing power.

RM08 - 7 Reading of Northwest Yearly Meeting Epistle

Our Assistant Clerk shared the 2007 Epistle from Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church. Northwest Friends were moved by a story about transforming forgiveness out of the genocide in Burundi and are feeling positive growth from changes in committee and administrative structures.

RM08 - 8 Earthcare Committee

Phil Clampitt shared a proposal on organizing ride sharing to Yearly Meeting sessions. Coordination would begin with local meetings. As necessary, coordinating efforts will extend up to the Earthcare Committee, which will forward to Helen Söderberg the names of individuals still needing or offering rides. Friends unable to arrange needed transportation can contact her at 517-655-8553. We approved the proposal. Phil also presented information about a workshop on sustainable living in our home watersheds to be offered at our Annual Session.

RM08 - 9 High School Youth Program Committee

Michael Fuson reported that although she resigned a year ago, Kri Burkander oversaw a winter retreat last January. The process of finding her replacement is just beginning. Suggested names for a High School Youth Program Coordinator are welcomed from all Friends in the Yearly Meeting. The Committee, which is now completely formed, is in the process of updating a list of all Friends of high school age.

RM08 - 10 Survey of LEYM Friends about Attending Annual Sessions

Merry Stanford reported for the ad hoc Survey Committee (consisting of herself, Mathilda Navias, Michael Fuson, and Jon Sommer). As a result of a concern raised at Yearly Meeting last summer, they were charged by the Executive Committee with developing a survey questionnaire for the purpose of determining how more Friends can be encouraged to attend our summer Annual Sessions. Advantages of an electronic versus a paper survey were discussed. Fourteen basic questions have been proposed, with supplemental questions bringing the total to about 25 questions. Yearly Meeting committees have reviewed the survey and suggested changes. Friends approved conducting the survey in electronic form when the committee has finalized the questions. Clerks, representatives, newsletter editors, and other contacts of Meetings will receive an explanatory letter and the URL link to the survey and will be requested to shepherd the responsive process through their respective meetings.

RM08 - 11 Publication & Archives Committee

Jeff Cooper reported the Committee is looking at more website features. Google features may allow committee clerks to update calendars, edit parts of the site, and organize free conference calls. Bill Warters, our Webmaster, appreciates feedback about Friends' use of the Yearly Meeting website and encourages committees who have not done so to create web pages by contacting him.

Jeff will edit and Marvin Barnes will mail the *Annual Records* for 2008. Cooperation of Friends will be needed in compiling the *AR*. The directory of Friends in the *Annual Records* will continue to include officers, committee members, and representatives of Yearly Meeting and officers, committee clerks, and contact persons of monthly meetings and worship groups as well as Annual Session attenders. The Committee proposes that a new complete printed directory be prepared this year. Friends approved that a new directory go forward, with final details (including the listing of children) to be considered at our Annual Session.

The Committee suggests we reconsider whether Yearly Meeting needs a Secretary or Meeting Worker with the responsibility of maintaining our database and coordinating communications. Volunteers to undertake these tasks are becoming more difficult to find.

RM08 - 12 Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer reported that the Yearly Meeting's financial position is in good shape. Most meetings have paid their contributions and fund balances have generally increased. A detailed report is attached. Connie Bimber paid $325 to Templed Hills for a fall youth retreat deposit but received no checks for those attending the retreat nor requests for expense reimbursement. Sally Weaver Sommer will investigate this further.

RM08 - 13 Finance Committee; Individuals' Costs that are Covered at Annual Sessions

Sally Weaver Sommer reported the Committee has removed the $6 registration fee for high school attenders at the Annual Session; at this time all other fees for this year's Annual Session will remain unchanged. Families needing financial help should contact their monthly meeting and the Registrar. Such help should be willingly forthcoming. The Committee has decided that the Bookstore Manager's costs (including registration) will be covered by Yearly Meeting. Plenary speakers, outside workshop leaders, leaders of special meeting programs, an FGC representative, Registrar, and youth program volunteers continue to receive some cost concession in attending annual gatherings. The Clerk in consultation with the Treasurer may grant additional cost waivers. The Committee continues to work on the mileage reimbursement policy. The Committee is considering transferring $2000 from the High School Fund to the Granville Youth Fund. The 2008 budget is under consideration with no significant changes contemplated at this time.

RM08 - 14 Advancement & Outreach

Mathilda Navias reported that the Committee has been helping meetings and worship groups to establish websites. Twelve meetings and worship groups out of a total of 32 still do not have websites. The Committee has checked our Yearly Meeting website and the Quaker Finder listings and verified or taken steps to assure that all monthly meetings and worship groups within the Yearly Meeting are up to date.

Mary Ann Downey and a companion are scheduled to visit meetings and worship groups in the eastern part of the Yearly Meeting geographic area this April and in the western part next fall. Meeting clerks and conveners have been notified. A few meetings have arranged for the visit and others are encouraged to do so.

Holland Preparative Meeting is moving toward monthly meeting status. Grand Rapids Meeting, its affiliated monthly meeting, is supportive and Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting will review this at its next session in May and report to Yearly Meeting. Buckhannon Worship Group, of Buckhannon, West Virginia (contact Grace Harris), is seeking preparative meeting status under Monongalia Monthly Meeting. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th First Days at 10:00 am, at West Virginia Wesleyan College. Mid-Ohio Valley, Monongalia, and Charlottesville Meetings hold an annual fall gathering. Monongalia will make the arrangements for 2008 and Advancement & Outreach hopes one of its members will attend.

A copy of North Pacific Yearly Meeting's *Survival Sourcebook: The Care and Maintenance of Small Meetings and Worship Groups* has been posted to the Advancement & Outreach page of the Yearly Meeting website. This is a helpful resource; North Pacific is planning to revise it, possibly with the collaboration of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

FGC's *Inreach/Outreach Workshops* have been given in three of our meetings. The workshop offers practical ways to encourage seekers to attend and to foster a healthy meeting community. Meetings are encouraged to hold the workshop for a retreat; arrangements for holding a workshop should be made through Deborah Fisch, coordinator of Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries Program.

An outreach workshop, a conference for Friends of color, a Young Adult Friends Conference, and a conference on religious education are all coming to the Midwest in 2008. Notices concerning these conferences were made available at Representative Meeting. Quaker Quest, a British outreach program, is generating excitement in the United States. Friends General Conference is helping meetings learn about this program and train leaders for it. A monthly meeting in our Yearly Meeting has undertaken a program similar to Quaker Quest.

RM08 - 15 Arrangement & Site

Annual Meeting dates are 6/12-15/ 2008. Vanessa Fuson will be the Registrar. The sessions should be free of campus construction.

RM08 - 16 Ministry & Nurture

Ministry & Nurture reports that it found the query responses (from 16 meetings) quite moving. They will be placed on the website with the appropriate monthly meeting's permission, along with a suggested

process for responding to queries. In response to concerns shared, notice of possible web placement of query responses will be given to monthly meetings along with the new query. The Committee proposes consulting with monthly meetings before undertaking the development of a set of queries for the Yearly Meeting itself.

Another Ministry & Nurture Spiritual Consultation is being considered year after next and the Committee recommends the consideration of an additional consultation (perhaps for meeting clerks) before then. Akron and Kent Meetings are planning a joint worship meeting later this month. Five nearby meetings in Ohio are considering some kind of area gathering for worship and socializing. The Spiritual Formation groups will continue and leaders will be announced soon.

Jerry Knutson of Pittsburgh Meeting will begin his Earlham School of Religion Cooper Scholarship this fall with the first two years of the three-year program funded by ESR. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting was delighted to recommend him for the scholarship.

The Committee felt positive about the guidelines for composing State of the Meeting reports and will publish the guidelines, adding a sentence regarding the Committee's discerning of the meetings' spiritual condition and need for nurturing. The reports can serve as a springboard for a Yearly Meeting query.

RM08 - 17 Nominating

We approved the Committee's proposal that Abbey Pratt-Harrington serve a three-year term and Jody Pratt-Harrington serve a two-year term on the High School Youth Program Committee. The Executive Committee has appointed Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki and Laura Ford (both of Kalamazoo) to the Advancement & Outreach Committee. Friends affirmed these appointments. Some key positions remain to be addressed: Dolores and David Avner have served faithfully as clerks of the Youth & Children's Program Committee and someone needs to learn this assignment from them. We also honor the work of Connie Bimber, our longstanding Treasurer, but realize we must find a person willing to learn from her and take over the position of Treasurer. All Friends are asked to ask if they themselves are, or know someone who may be, called to serve in these areas.

Nominating Committee plans to develop job descriptions for perusal by yearly meeting attenders in an effort to improve the nominating process. The Committee is frustrated in its work; it feels it is behind in its charge and is discussing how to improve its work and increase the pool of Friends to draw upon. More seasoning is needed and all Friends need to be mindful of the Committee's struggle to find nominees. Finally, the Committee thanks Committee member Fred Feitler for his service although he was unable to attend today because of his chemotherapy treatments.

RM08 - 18 Children's Program

The Children's Program is assuming a similar number of youth attending our Annual Gathering for 2008 as for 2007. Some group leaders are still needed. A fall retreat occurred with eight children attending. An email will go to parents announcing and describing the youth program for the upcoming Annual Session.

RM08 - 19 Program Committee

The Program Committee reported that Annual Meeting will occur 6/12-15/2008 with the theme of "Peacemaking from the Inside Out." Helen Horn will be the plenary speaker. Thursday will have committee meetings, a nature walk by the Earthcare Committee, and an introductory business meeting. Friday will feature Bible study led by Marty Grundy, worship sharing (optional), business meeting, singing, campus hikes, and evening activities perhaps led by Young Friends and Earthcare. Saturday will provide workshops on: Discernment (Jerry Knutson), Earthcare, "Everything You Wanted to Know about Quakerism but Were Afraid to Ask," further exploration of the plenary topic (Helen Horn), Ministry on Healing (Richard Lee), and Working with Media for Peace and Justice (David Lore), all followed by an evening dance and watermelon social.

New aspects may include: microphones at meals for announcements, an Earthcare room, self-directed hikes, table tents for group representatives at meal times, and a lunch session for webmasters. An idea of carbon offsets (example: planting a tree to offset our carbon use during Annual Meeting) was referred to the Earthcare Committee.

RM08 - 20 Peace Committee

The Peace Committee is considering an open letter to presidential candidates on Palestine, focusing on the root issues such as unemployment and settlement removal. Jim Satterwhite, with his past Middle East experience, will propose a draft of such a letter for consideration at our Annual Meeting.

North Columbus is working with Brethren and Mennonite groups on packets for high school guidance counselors which include alternatives to military enlistment and material dispelling misinformation from recruiters. Monthly meetings undertaking similar projects are requested to inform the Peace Committee of their efforts. The Committee will gather further information on this initiative to determine whether other monthly meetings should consider this program. The Committee encourages monthly meetings to respond to FCNL's current priorities survey and to share their responses with Peace Committee clerk, David Lore, at *dlore@johnstown.net*.

After a few announcements, we concluded at 4:40 PM with worship, giving thanks for our fellowship together and looking forward to our Annual Session some three months hence.

Shirley Bechill, Clerk
Joseph Mills, Recording Clerk

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Treasurer's Report
February 24, 2008

Fund	Opening Balance	Income	Expenses	Current Balance
General Fund	$6,012.44	$20,985.96	$25,363.53	$1,634.87
Annual Meeting	18,440.09	40.75	14,074.48	4,406.36
Triennial Travel	1,676.84	1,240.00	1,210.39	1,706.45
Granville Friends Youth Fund	5,510.60	672.06	172.06	6,010.60
Youth Activity Fund	3,644.81	2,872.06	325.00	6,191.87
Spiritual Formation	3,793.02	3,105.00	2,089.02	4,809.00
High School Program	1,496.61	5,400.00	0.00	6,896.61
Consultation	00.00	3,100.00	3,081.45	18.55
Totals	$40,574.41	$37,415.83	$46,315.93	$31,674.31

Account	Opening Balance	Income	Debits	Current Balance
Shorebank CD - March	$2,203.41	66.39		$2,269.80
Shorebank CD - September	$2,272.62	70.57		$2,343.19
Southshore Bank CD	$5,510.60	672.06	172.06	$6,010.60
Lorain National Bank - checking	$30,587.78	26,066.81	35,603.87	$21,050.72
Totals	$40,574.41	$26,875.83	$35,775.93	$31,674.31

Treasurer's Report
February 24, 2008

General Fund - Income

Meeting	Contribution
Akron	$0.00
Ann Arbor	$5,106.00
Athens	$2,200.00
Birmingham	$682.00
Broadmead	$825.00
Cleveland	$2,380.00
Delaware	$0.00
Detroit	$0.00
Grand Rapids	$400.00
Granville	$832.00
Kalamazoo	$1,591.00
Kent	$630.00
Mid-Ohio Valley	$180.00
Monongalia	$490.00
North Columbus	$800.00
Oberlin	$0.00
Pine River	$592.00
Pittsburgh	$1,591.00
Red Cedar	$1,850.00
Wooster	$525.00
Misc.	$0.00
Sales & Fees	$175.00
Interest	$136.96
Totals	$20,985.96

Treasurer's Report
February 24, 2008

General Fund - Expenses

(* = transfers)	Budget	Actual	Percent
Travel	$5,500.00	$3,585.71	65.19%
Office	$300.00	$70.12	23.37%
Publications	$3,400.00	$2,204.70	64.84%
Advancement	$880.00	$0.00	0.00%
Ministry & Nurture*	$800.00	$600.00	75.00%
Clerk's Fund	$500.00	$363.00	72.60%
FGC	$4,500.00	$4,500.00	100.00%
FGC - Special Program	$500.00	$500.00	100.00%
Records Project	$100.00	$0.00	0.00%
FWCC Travel*	$1,240.00	$1,240.00	100.00%
Youth Activity Fund*	$2,700.00	$2,700.00	100.00%
High School Youth Fund*	$5,400.00	$5,400.00	100.00%
Spiritual Formation*	$600.00	$600.00	100.00%
Friends School in Detroit	$2,500.00	$2,500.00	100.00%
Olney Friends School	$600.00	$600.00	100.00%
Granville Youth Fund*		$500.00	
Totals	$29,520.00	$25,363.53	85.92%

(Note: $11,040.00 are transfers to other funds)

Annual Meeting

Balance	July 1, 2007	$18,440.09
Expenses		$14,074.48
Income		$40.75
Balance	Feb. 24, 2008	$4,406.36

FWCC Triennial Travel Fund

Balance	July 1, 2007	$1,676.84
Expenses		$1,210.39
Income - transfer		$1,240.00
Balance	Feb. 24, 2008	$1,706.45

Granville Friends Youth Fund

Balance	July 1, 2007	$5,510.60
Interest income		$172.06
Transfer to Youth Activity Fund		$172.06
Transfer from General Fund		$500.00
Balance	Feb. 24, 2008	$6,010.60

Youth Activity Fund

Balance	July 1, 2007	$3,644.81
Transfer from General Fund		$2,700.00
Interest from Granville Fund		$172.06
Youth Retreat		$0.00
Total Income		$6,516.87
Expenses - Grants		$0.00
Expense - Youth Retreat		$325.00
Total Expenses		$325.00
Balance	Feb. 24, 2008	$6,191.87

High School Youth Program

Income	**Budget**	**Actual**
Balance	$1,496.61	$1,496.61
Transfer - General Fund	$5,400.00	$5,400.00
Clerk's Fund		
Retreats		$ --
Grants - Youth Activities F.	_____	$ _____
Total Income	$6,896.61	$6,896.61
Expenses		
Program Expenses	$500.00	$ --
Stipend	$4,400.00	$ --
Retreats		$ --
Total Expenses	$4,900.00	$0.00
Balance Feb. 24, 2008		$6,896.61

Spiritual Formation Group		
Balance	July 1, 2007	$3,793.02
Transfer from General Fund		$600.00
Income from retreats		$2,505.00
Total Income		$6,898.02
Expenses		$2,089.02
Balance	Feb. 24, 2008	$4,809.00

Consultation		
Income		--
Transfer from Gen. Fund		$600.00
Participants		$2,500.00
Total Income		$3,100.00
Expenses		$3,081.45
Balance	Feb. 24, 2008	$18.55

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
45th Annual Sessions
June 12-15, 2008
Bluffton University

Thursday Evening Session

YM08 - 1 Opening Worship and Reading of Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the 45th Annual Sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with worship, out of which our Assistant Clerk, Merry Stanford, read the Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting. Our Friends in Britain discovered the transforming nature of spiritual power and responsibility and how it can empower Friends of all diversity to minister in this world.

YM08 - 2 Introductions and Welcomes

Our Clerk, Shirley Bechill, introduced the Clerks' table: Shirley Bechill (Pine River), Presiding Clerk; Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), Assistant Clerk; and Joseph Mills (Kalamazoo), Recording Clerk. Shirley reminded us of traditional Friends' practices expected in our Annual Sessions and shared a reading from New England Yearly Meeting. Our Clerk welcomed new attenders who introduced themselves: Judith Inskeep (FWCC) from New York Yearly Meeting, Elaine Wilson and Max Heirich from Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting, and Sue Axtell from the Earlham School of Religion.

YM08 - 3 Roll Call

The calling of the roll of Friends from constituent meetings and groups gave the following count (corrected against registrations):

Monthly Meetings

Akron	2	Kalamazoo	5
Ann Arbor	19	Kent	4
Athens	11	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	9	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	18	North Columbus	5
Cleveland	14	Oberlin	2
Delaware	0	Pine River	6
Detroit	4	Pittsburgh	8
Grand Rapids	3	Red Cedar	7
Granville	3	Wooster	4
Holland	0		

Preparative Meetings, Worship Groups, and Visitors

Erie Worship Group	1	Visitors	6

Total in attendance: 131

YM08 - 4 Memorials

Our Clerk invited Friends to respectfully share names of Friends who have passed on: Marion Stow (Manitou Worship Group and North Columbus); Walt Scheider, Charles Van Boven, and Barbara Neal (Ann Arbor); Frederick Durham (Kalamazoo); Marjorie Prellwitz, Harry Olson, and Edwin Betz (Pittsburgh); and Miriam Doan (North Columbus). We hold them all in our hearts.

YM08 - 5 Epistle Committee

The Clerk invited two Friends to serve with Merry Stanford on the Epistle Committee. No names were forthcoming at this time and we held this over until our next session.

Announcements

A few program related announcements were given:

A. Susan Axtell, Admissions Director of the Earlham School of Religion, shared information on access programs available at the School without requiring a presence on campus. She described the character of the School as a having a centrist position branching out to all forms and styles of Quakerism.
B. The Clerk read a traveling minute from Friends General Conference for Elaine Emily (Pacific Yearly Meeting), who is attending our sessions as a visitor from FGC. She is a member of FGC's Traveling Ministries Committee and is available to speak with Friends.
C. A concern was shared that adequate advanced notice of Representative Meeting be given so a hosting meeting will have an opportunity to prepare.

YM08 - 6 Naming Committee

We approved Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) and Michael Hinshaw (Wooster) serving on the Naming Committee, as proposed by the Executive Committee.

YM08 - 7 Youth & Children Committee

Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) presented details on the youth program and invited Friends to volunteer as drivers for swimming and to interact with our youth during the sessions.

YM08 - 8 12Step Meetings and Hosting Representative Meeting

Merry Stanford advised us of the presence of open 12step meetings at our sessions and welcomed meetings to volunteer for hosting Representative Meeting.

Friday Morning Session

YM08 - 9 Worship and Reading of Epistle from Camp at Stillwater

Out of our opening worship, the Assistant Clerk shared from the Epistle from Camp at Stillwater, June 2007. This group shared its joy of a reunion of Friends involved with Young Friends of North America and in strongly sensing the divine spirit at its sessions. They experienced a renewal and nourishment of an expanding group of young adult Friends and a unity of Friends of varying ages and beliefs. Our Clerk shared Advices from Britain Yearly Meeting *Quaker Faith & Practice* on preparation for our business sessions.

YM08 - 10 Welcome of New Visitors and Minute from AFSC Chicago about Peace Banner Project

Our Clerk again welcomed new visitors to introduce themselves: Jim Cason (FCNL) and Donna Rodriguez (Broadmead).

We received a minute from AFSC Chicago Office regarding its peace banner project.

YM08 - 11 Appointment of Epistle Committee

We approved Joyce Callahan (Cleveland) and Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) joining Merry Stanford in writing our Epistle.

YM08 - 12 Appointments to Nominating Committee

The Naming Committee presented Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) and Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) for threeyear terms and Nancy James (Pittsburgh) for a oneyear term for Nominating Committee. Friends approved.

YM08 - 13 LEYM Household Survey

Merry Stanford reported on the results of the YM survey of YM households; 176 households responded, half of which had never attended yearly meeting. Considerable insight was gained as to differences in responses relating to calendar and location between Friends in Michigan and Ohio and those in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The survey results will be available to monthly meetings on the LEYM website and in the *Bulletin*. The Yearly Meeting will continue to explore the results of the survey and

consider appropriate courses of action. Friends appreciate the effort in undertaking the survey and encourage the gathering of more data.

YM08 - 14 Nominating Committee

Peter Wood (Red Cedar) invited Friends to complete a survey on how they might serve the Yearly Meeting. Open positions were announced and Committee members identified, whom Friends can approach about serving on a committee or as a representative.

Friday Afternoon Session

YM08 - 15 Letter from Kenyan Friends to their Political Leaders

Our Assistant Clerk read from a Letter from Kenyan Friends to their political leaders. The letter sets forth the Quaker peace testimony in the context of the current civil unrest in their country and stresses the need to overcome fear with hope and to continue the pursuit of righteousness during such stressful times. Our Clerk asked us all to hold in the Light these Friends in their trials and struggles.

YM08 - 16 Treasurer's Report

Connie Bimber (Oberlin), presented a written report and explained the voucher reimbursement procedures. Connie believes a payment from the Detroit Friends Meeting was lost and will arrange for a replacement check. We accepted the report.

YM08 - 17 Finance Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported:

As evident in [the] Treasurer's report of the 200708 fiscal year, expenditures and transfers to funds are about $1500 less than budgeted but income is about $2500 less than budgeted. Therefore, our general fund balance has fallen by about $1000. At this point, this does not represent a fiscal challenge to us. However, the Finance Committee believes that we need to be in closer communication with our monthly meeting treasurers so that they are aware of the suggested per member contribution. It was agreed that the clerk of the Finance Committee will email the treasurers on a regular basis throughout the year. Monthly meeting treasurers should be alerted to expect to hear more frequently from the clerk of the Finance Committee.

At its meeting, the Finance Committee discussed the practices for seeking scholarships from the youth activity fund. It was decided that we will require those seeking scholarships to send a letter from their meeting with their request for funds. The request will go to the Presiding Clerk instead of to the Treasurer. The Clerk will make the decision about the request in consultation with the Treasurer and the clerk of Finance Committee. Members of meetings who want to request funds should take note of this change of procedures.

The Finance Committee reviewed a proposal from the Ministry & Nurture Committee that we establish a scholarship fund which would help LEYM Friends pursue their ministry gifts by attending seminars, institutes, workshops, etc. Assuming that the Yearly Meeting will approve this proposal, the Finance Committee has included in the proposed '0809 budget $1000 for this purpose. Ministry grant requests would need to be accompanied by a letter from the monthly meeting and would be processed by the Ministry & Nurture Committee.

The Finance Committee has raised the mileage reimbursement amount from $0.25 to $0.35 per mile. Friends needing reimbursement should use the reimbursement form supplied by the Yearly Meeting Treasurer to request reimbursement for traveling on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

The Finance Committee proposes a budget of $29,020 for the 200809 fiscal year. This maintains the suggested per member contribution at $37. The following changes from the 0708 budget were made:

- Travel: increase by $1000 to cover increased airfare and increased mileage reimbursement
- Ministry & Nurture: decrease by $600, back to the normal $200
- Advancement & Outreach: maintain at $880 to cover Mary Ann Downey's expenses in the fall
- High school youth fund: decrease by $4300 because only one retreat was held this last year
- Consultation fund: increase by $2400 to pay for consultation in fall 09
- Scholarships for ministry fund: increase by $1000 per M&N proposal

We approved that a request for assistance from a specific scholarship fund of the Yearly Meeting will be

submitted to the Presiding Clerk with a letter of support from the applicant's monthly meeting. The Presiding Clerk will consult with the Treasurer and clerk of the Finance Committee in acting upon the request. [See also YM08 - 38 for budget approval.]

YM08 - 18 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Mathilda Navias reported:

Committee Members

The continuing members of A&O are: Rosemary Coffey (2009), Mike Hinshaw (2010), and Carol MeyerNiedzwiecki (Kalamazoo, 2010).

Changes in Meeting Status

- *Circleville Worship Group*. On May 11, Athens Friends approved the following minute: "Athens Friends Meeting Prayerfully takes the Circleville Worship Group under our care." A clearness committee has been established which expects to visit in early July. In addition, several members have volunteered to make visits.
- *Buckhannon, WV, Friends*. A worship group has been meeting under the care of Monongalia Monthly Meeting in Buckhannon, West Virginia, for several years. Recently, their status has been changed to a Preparative Meeting.
- *Holland, MI, Friends*. In January, Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting approved making Holland Preparative Meeting a full monthly meeting. They forwarded this recommendation to Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, which approved it at their sessions in May, and so advised Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Advancement & Outreach Committee. On behalf of the Yearly Meeting, I would like to welcome Holland Friends into our fellowship as a full monthly meeting.
- *Friends of the Light.* Last year, we reported that a Friends Meeting in Traverse City, Michigan, which is affiliated with Indiana Yearly Meeting, had merged with an LEYMsponsored worship group. Apparently, Friends of the Light has dropped their idea of exploring affiliation with LEYM.

Changes in Meeting Homes

Akron Meeting was given a member's house for a meeting place. This required the Meeting to pay a monthly mortgage. They were trying to finance the mortgage by renting out the house, but had a string of unfortunate experiences with renters. They have recently successfully sold the house and are holding worship in the AFSC office in Cuyahoga Falls.

Monongalia Meeting sold the building they were meeting in and are in the process of buying a different one.

Red Cedar Friends expect to break ground in July for a brand new home for their Meeting.

Update on Meeting Websites

New websites since last yearly meeting: Athens, Kent, Green Pastures Quarter, and North Columbus.

Currently, out of 21 MMs, all but Delaware, Granville, Monongalia, MidOhio Valley, and Oberlin have websites.

Out of 7 WGs, 2 have websites (Circleville and Tustin).

Neither Preparative Meeting (Buckhannon, WV and Indiana, PA) has a website.

Green Pastures Quarter has a website, but it needs updating.

Meeting Newsletters

Only a few meetings are sending Jeff Cooper their newsletters, so the A&O Committee decided to try to help. Our first step was to find out which meetings and worship groups have newsletters. Surprisingly, we found that about half of our monthly meetings don't have newsletters. Out of the 21 monthly meetings, 12 that we know of have newsletters. As far as we know, none of the preparative meetings or worship groups has a newsletter.

Visits to LEYM Meetings

Mary Ann Downey and her husband, Bill Holland, visited LEYM Meetings and WGs in Ohio April 1828. The Advancement & Outreach Committee has received a report from them summarizing their experiences with LEYM Friends. The trip was more expensive than anticipated; LEYM covered $880, which was the $750 we earmarked last year for this purpose plus A&O's annual budget of $130. The visitors were traveling under the auspices of FGC's Traveling Ministries Program, which covered the remaining $366.05.

Mary Ann and Bill are scheduled to visit Meetings and WGs in Michigan October 1726, 2008. The first

weekend they will meet with Pine River Friends at a gathering with Tustin, Fremont, and Manitou WGs on Saturday. On Sunday, they will meet with Grand Rapids and Holland Meetings. This covers the entire northwestern part of Michigan. The remaining groups in Michigan that would like a visit during the rest of the time need to contact the A&O Committee. I am hopeful the expenses for this trip will be a bit less; their tickets are less expensive.

Yearly Meeting Workshop

We invite Friends to a workshop we are sponsoring Saturday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:15, titled "Everything You Wanted to Know about Quakerism but Were Afraid to Ask." A panel of knowledgeable Friends will be ready to respond to any and all questions about Quakers and Quakerism. Bring your curiosity and your questions.

West Virginia Area Fall Gathering

MidOhio Valley, Monongalia, and Charlottesville, West Virginia, Meetings hold an annual fall gathering. Monongalia is making the arrangements for 2008. It will be held on Saturday, September 20, through Sunday, September 21, at Jackson's Mill, near Jane Lew, West Virginia. This is near Buckhannon. The contact person is Chris Garbutt, 304 2921261, monquakers@mac.com.

Workshops and Conferences Happening Near LEYM

2008 Religious Educators Institute, August 1417, 2008, outside Indianapolis. Sponsored by FGC. For "religious educators, parents, and other adults."

Resources in the Display Area

Quaker Quest
- Religious Educators Institute
- Other outreach materials

Resources on the A&O Committee Page on LEYM's Website
(www.quaker.org/leym/advancementcommittee.html)

Survival Sourcebook: The Care and Maintenance of Small Meetings and Worship Groups, a book developed by North Pacific Yearly Meeting Outreach Committee, last updated in 1990. There are many helpful pieces in it that small meetings and worship groups can benefit from.

Advancement and Outreach Materials including a list of suggestions for strengthening your meeting or worship group and making it more open and welcoming, resources for Quaker outreach, a suggested reading list of books and pamphlets on Quakerism, and brief articles and handouts from Part II of *Fostering Vital Friends Meetings* that are useful for discussions and workshops for Quaker groups.

Ready to Print Business Cards: What Do Quakers Say?

There is something sacred in all people.
All people are equal before God.
Religion is about the whole of life.
We meet in stillness to discover a deeper sense of God's presence.
True religion leads to respect for the earth and all life upon it.
Each person is unique, precious, a child of God.

Quaker Quest

Quaker Quest is an outreach program developed by Friends in Britain. It emphasizes Quakerism as simple, radical, and contemporary. It involves monthly meetings running a series of public sessions. Each session includes refreshments and socializing, presentations from three Friends from their personal experience, questions and answers, small group sharing, and 30 minutes of worship. Sessions run for two hours in a minimum of three cycles of four topics on the same night of the week at the same time in the same place. The entire meeting receives an allday workshop to help them prepare to welcome newcomers and to learn about the program. Apparently, these workshops are valuable to meetings by themselves even if the meeting decides not to go forward with running public outreach sessions. A committed core of 612 local Friends is needed to run the outreach sessions, and these receive training. Quaker Quest involves extensive advertising, and is expensive. Right now, several large grants are available to help underwrite the expenses.

FGC has been identified as the source for training and information on Quaker Quest in the U.S. and Canada.

The developers stress the integrity of the total. If a meeting wants to take a piece of it and use it, they may do so, but they may not refer to it as Quaker Quest.

FGC has a dedicated website for Quaker Quest, www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest, which has information and downloads.

YM08 - 19 Consultation for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Monthly Meeting Clerks

Our Presiding and Assistant Clerks presented a proposal from the Executive Committee for a Consultation for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting monthly meeting clerks, to be held in the fall of 2009. The consultation would be modeled after the Ministry and Nurture Consultation and would allow clerks the opportunity to come together, network, share experiences and problems of meeting clerking, and become aware of Yearly Meeting resources. Friends united in holding such a consultation.

YM08 - 20 Friends World Committee for Consultation

Judith Inskeep (Purchase Monthly Meeting) and our FWCC Representatives, Mike Hinshaw and Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids), reported on FWCC activities, including the Triennial held in Ireland last August and various FWCC regional gatherings. They shared and testified to their exciting encounters with a wide variety of Friends in America and abroad and their enthusiasm in working with this organization. Jana reported on her interpreter work with FWCC and gave an especially moving account of her visits this past year to Friends churches and meetings in Jamaica and Cuba, and to a Friends boys' school in Belize. These congregations enthusiastically welcome visitors from our Yearly Meeting. The next worldwide meeting of FWCC will be held in Kenya in 2012. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's turn to host an FWCC fall regional gathering will be in 2009.

Saturday Morning Session

YM08 - 21 Worship and Reading of Epistle from Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns

Following the opening worship, our Assistant Clerk shared an Epistle from Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns. These Friends remind us that love is stronger than our differences and pray that all of us in the Society of Friends may transcend our differences and share together the love of God in community.

The Clerk shared a reminder from North Pacific Yearly Meeting that our Yearly Meeting business sessions are an expression of faith. The Clerk welcomed Tyler Hampton (Detroit) and Rachel Kacprzyk (Pittsburgh).

YM08 - 22 Earthcare Committee

Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) reported*:*

Over the past year the Earthcare Committee (EC) has continued working to further develop information and activities within LEYM. In summary we did the following:

1. At the end of the June 2007 yearly meeting accepted the task of helping LEYM monthly meetings and worship groups to coordinate rides to the yearly meeting to help ensure more people can attend and to conserve energy used in transportation to the yearly meeting.
2. Phil Clampitt, co-clerk, participated in and reported on behalf of the EC to the fall LEYM Executive Committee Meeting in Oberlin, Ohio, and the March LEYM Representative Meeting in Columbus, Ohio.
3. The full EC met in December 2007 at Judy Greenberg's home in Toledo, Ohio to conduct Committee worship, education, and business. It was decided to plan and conduct an EC workshop and other activities (literature table, nature walk, and possibly a late night documentary film) during the June 2008 yearly meeting and to develop a plan to present to the March LEYM Representative Meeting about how to stimulate ride sharing to the 2008 yearly meeting. All LEYM Earthcare Committee Members (Phil Clampitt, Jim Crowfoot, Bill Bliss, Alan Connor, Judy Greenberg, Dick Hogan, Margaret Kanost, Helen Söderberg, and Ann Sprague) were present, along with Karen Vigmostad of the Detroit Meeting.
4. Judy Greenberg and Jim Crowfoot, with consultation by other Committee members, planned a workshop, "Life More Abundant the Bioregional Way," to be led by Judy Greenberg and Jim Crowfoot with assistance from other Committee members.

5. Judy Greenberg planned, wrote, and had printed a 29 page booklet, "Getting Started! Growing Our Sense of Spirit Home the Bioregional Way," to be used in the June 2008 LEYM EC workshop and for followup by the workshop participants. Throughout this process Judy gathered input and reactions from interested Committee members. Some Committee members volunteered to fund the printing of 200 copies of this booklet. The booklet is also suitable for use by LEYM's monthly meetings and worship groups in their own Earthcare activities as well as for use by other spiritual/religious groups.
6. In April and May, Committee members Phil Clampitt, Margaret Kanost, Judy Greenberg, and Jim Crowfoot mailed out copies of the above described booklet to Earthcare representatives in each of LEYM's monthly meetings and worship groups.
7. Phil Clampitt and Helen Söderberg implemented the ride sharing program developed by this Committee and approved by the LEYM meeting in March.

Throughout this past year members of this Committee have perceived that the crisis of unsustainability is deepening as:

- environmental degradation worsens (e.g., climate disruption and loss of biodiversity),
- economic growth exponentially increases and consequently depletes finite natural resources and more and more pollutes nature and
- social relationships (including economic relationships) are more and more inequitable within and between nations, negatively affecting access to food and fossil fuels along with other things needed to meet basic human needs.
- Violence continues to increase in the face of growing uncertainties; scarcities of water, food, and fuel; and continuation of long established patterns of domination and subordination.

In the face of these circumstances this Committee is perplexed and challenged in how to most responsibly inform all members of LEYM about this situation and to suggest alternative responses to it. The Committee is heartened by the growing public awareness of climate change along with awareness of the finite supplies of, and growing demands for, fossil fuels.

Friends expressed their appreciation for this committee's work. Ride sharing efforts appear to be bearing fruit.

YM08 - 23 Peace Committee

David Lore (Granville) reported:

At Representative Meeting on March 1, 2008, and Yearly Meeting, June 1215, 2008, members of the Peace Committee agreed to present the following items to Yearly Meeting for approval:

A minute endorsing the Statement of Conscience promulgated by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) which states, in part, "Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions, in their highest ideals, hold dear ... Let America abolish torture now – without exception." (Some 130 religious organizations nationwide have endorsed this statement, including three yearly meetings, 23 monthly meetings – including Ann Arbor MM, and the Friends Committee on National Legislation.)

A minute noting current U.S.Iraqi negotiations on a new "security agreement" to replace the current UN mandate after 2008. The minute "expresses our strongest opposition to any new security agreement, if one is needed at all, which comprises Iraqi sovereignty and continues an American military presence in Iraq."

An open letter from LEYM to the presumptive Presidential candidates, Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama, regarding the facts on the ground which need to be addressed by the next administration in pursuing any "two-state solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Also discussed during Representative Meeting was an innovative program to alert high school students to nonmilitary career options. The program, being sponsored by some Friends meetings in cooperation with other peace churches and the American Friends Service Committee, is designed to provide materials and resources to school guidance counselors to counter the idea among some young people that they have no alternative following graduation except for military service.

Our Committee encourages monthly meetings to learn more about this initiative by going to www.afsc.org/Vyouthmil or www.youth4peace.org.

We approved the Yearly Meeting's endorsement of the Minute on National Religious Campaign Against Torture Statement of Conscience:

Minute on NRCAT Statement of Conscience

(adopted June 14, 2008)

> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) endorses the Statement of Conscience promulgated by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). The statement, endorsed so far by 130 religious organizations, reads as follows:
>
> Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions, in their highest ideals, hold dear. It degrades everyone involved – policymakers, perpetrators, and victims. It contradicts our nation's most cherished values. Any policies that permit torture and inhumane treatment are shocking and morally intolerable.
>
> Nothing less is at stake in the torture abuse crisis than the soul of the nation. Let America abolish torture now – without exception.

We note that several Quaker organizations have already endorsed this statement, including three yearly meetings, 23 monthly meetings (one of which is Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting), and the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Monthly Meetings are encouraged to consider endorsing this Statement of Conscience and participating financially in the NRCAT initiative. To learn more about a June 28-29 nationwide vigil and a September 11-12 national summit in Atlanta, Friends should refer to: www.tortureisamoralissue.org.

We discussed the proposed statement on the U.S./Iraqi Security Agreement; the Peace Committee will further develop the statement in light of comments shared [see YM08 - 35]. Friends approved the Yearly Meeting sending separate letters to Senators McCain and Obama regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, with minor changes as discussed [see YM08 - 37].

YM08 - 24 Publications & Archives Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported*:*

I. At Representative Meeting we decided to produce another printed *LEYM Directory*, aiming for publication before the end of calendar year 2008, "with final details (including the listing of children) to be considered at our Annual Session." The issue of how children are listed arose as we had become aware of a concern among some Friends that previous Directories provided too much information about children in a published source.

To try to understand better how Friends were led, I wrote to the meetings and worship groups in April, asking:

1) Whether the next Directory should continue to include a separate section listing children by year of birth? (This was the 3rd section in the 2006 Directory.)
2) If the answer to the first question is "No," should the Directory continue to list children at all, perhaps identified by a "C" but with no year of birth or age, in Sections 1 (listing by household) and 2 (listing by meeting or worship group).

My letter reminded Friends of the following:

The Directory is *not* posted online and is not distributed widely, with the 110 copies of the 2006 edition going to meetings, worship groups, and LEYM officers and committee clerks.

Email addresses of Friends under age 18 are *not* listed anywhere in the Directory.

The data in Section 3 (listing children by year of birth) is potentially useful to certain LEYM committees, but could also be used for malicious purposes, and we could instead collect this data but make it available only on request.

The response was fairly small (6 monthly meetings, 1 preparative meeting, 3 worship groups) and fairly mixed, though several meetings expressed a willingness to recognize the concern held by other Friends and to accommodate their wishes.

The Committee considered these responses and what information we can provide on request, and proposes the following for the 2008 Directory:

1) The section listing children by year of birth will be deleted from the printed Directory. This information will still be collected for the LEYM database, but will be available only on request from the Database Wrangler (Mathilda Navias) for legitimate LEYM purposes (e.g., Youth & Children Committee, High School Youth Program Committee, Nominating Committee). The Directory will include a statement explaining how Friends can obtain this information. We hope that some meetings may be more willing to provide information about children if they are assured that this will not appear in print. Mathilda says that providing this information on request is no more difficult than printing it.

2) The section listing children by meeting or worship group will continue to list children's names but with the letter "C" [later changed to "Y"] next to them (rather than year of birth).

3) The section listing Friends by household will list children's names and add the letter "C" [later changed to "Y"] next to them (to help distinguish between children and adults).

We ask Friends if they wish to approve this proposal, either now or possibly this afternoon, after time for questions and consideration.

II. Requesting Information from Friends

A. (Assuming that we have agreed on how or whether children are listed in the Directory), meetings and worship groups will receive from our Committee a spreadsheet (in both printed form and as an Excel file) with current directory information, and be asked to provide updated information (new Friends, Friends who are no longer part of the Meeting, and updated email addresses, phone numbers, etc.). We hope that by listing only changes in the last two-and-a-half years, we can minimize the work that must be done by monthly meetings. We'll ask that the information be provided in a certain order, for easy uploading to the database, but meetings will not have to install and learn new programs to provide this information. The deadline is not yet determined.

B. The deadline for materials for the *Annual Records* is July 1. (The numbers of meetings and worship groups that have provided State of the Meeting reports and Statistical Reports is exceptionally good, for which we are grateful.)

C. The deadline for the Fall *Bulletin* is September 1.

Friends approved the listing of names of children in our Directory, merely indicating their status as minors, not their ages. Dates of birth will remain in the database for suitable Yearly Meeting purposes.

YM08 - 25 Ministry & Nurture Committee

Margaret Liske (Kent) reported*:*

1. **State of the Meeting Reports:** How marvelous to receive 24 reports from meetings and worship groups essentially telling all of us who and where and how they are as a meeting. And another treasure is that M&N are not the only ones privileged to read these reports, as all are printed in the *Annual Records*.

   There was no question, the Committee felt the Spirit moving through our meetings, small and large, with the deep desire to grow in the Spirit. We were encouraged with the number of meetings availing themselves of LEYM resources, as well as those of FGC. Equally vibrant were the many ways Friends are extending themselves in the world, locally and more distantly. Any number of meetings are welcoming new families with children; thus First Day Schools are growing. My great hope is that each of you will find and take time to read these reports when they are published; we are enabled to learn not only about but from one another!

2. **Spiritual Formation:** Ellen Barnes, the Clerk of the Spiritual Formation Planning Committee, reported on the two retreats which took place this year, 14 participants in the fall and 13 in the spring. Kristina and Callid Keefe-Perry were the leaders at the Leaven Center, near Lyons, Michigan. Given the strong yearning for this kind of nurture and the carryover into the monthly meetings and LEYM, the decision was made to continue the format for the fall retreat, Friday evening through Sunday lunch, but reduce the spring session to one day with local Friends hosting long distance participants. The 2008-09 retreat leader will be Connie Lezenby of Gwynedd, Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting, who comes with stellar recommendations from other Friends. The fall and spring dates and information about Connie Lezenby are on the green flyers we

will circulate (September 57, 2008 and May, DTBD, 2009). *[The theme for 2008-09 is "Grounding our Spirituality in Nature: Strengthening our Connections with the Source of Nourishment and Refreshment."]*

3. **Spiritual Consultation:** The great success of the November 2007 Spiritual Consultation for representatives of the monthly meeting Ministry and Nurture Committees has encouraged Friends to continue the practice. Out of this gathering a need was expressed for such a consultation for LEYM monthly meeting clerks. Thus M&N is proposing funds be set aside to enable such a consultation under the oversight of the LEYM Executive Committee for the fall of 2009.

   One Friend clearly articulated the distinction between a workshop and a consultation; in the latter, participants confer and share deeply with one another, a very meaningful part of the November session.

4. **Program and Funding Request**: M&N wants to support monthly meeting members and attenders wishing to attend spiritually enriching offerings. The rationale is that many monthly meetings in our Yearly Meeting have limited resources to help support the development of ministry among Friends of the monthly meetings. M&N is aware of a need to pool resources of all the meetings to help support the needs of those with limited resources. Thus **M&N makes the following proposal**: that $1000 is allocated as a line item to help support monthly meetings who wish to send a member or attender of their meeting to FGC's School of the Spirit or the Religious Educators Institute or Pendle Hill, etc., for education or training related to ministry among Friends. Two requirements would be: 1. that the request comes from the monthly meeting rather than the individual, and 2. that the monthly meeting provides support to the individual from the monthly meeting budget. M&N will collaborate with other LEYM committees as appropriate to the request. *[This proposal was approved when the 2008-09 budget was approved; see YM08 - 38 and pp. 48-49.]*

5. **Query Set:** An intense interest and need has been expressed for a set of LEYM queries which monthly meetings and worship groups could use throughout the year on a regular basis, queries with an individual aspect as well as a corporate one. Friends spoke of the process of forming a set of queries as one of great worth. Thomas Taylor attested to the experience of participating in Britain Yearly Meeting's process: "… it's a very valuable way of getting Friends to think about who they are as a community, what they believe, and how their beliefs show themselves in action." Thus M&N proposes an **M&N Ad Hoc Committee** of interested participants to begin this process for LEYM.

6. **Annual Query**: The Committee continues to feel the importance and value of the annual query, and has again provided one for LEYM monthly meetings:

   Are we open to the Other?
   What keeps me/us from connecting with those who are different from me/us?
   What fears cloud my/our vision of the Light in all beings?
   How can I listen with my heart, willing to be vulnerable?
   How are we teaching our children that God's love includes all?

We approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to collect and develop a formal set of published queries for our Yearly Meeting.

Saturday Afternoon Session

YM08 - 26 Reading from Epistle from New England Yearly Meeting

Our Assistant Clerk read from the Epistle from New England Yearly Meeting. New England Friends see the need for Friends to be a Sanctuary, for ourselves, each other, strangers, and God; and our Creator desires a most diverse creation that we all will come to value.

We welcomed Vaughn Peebles of White Rose Monthly Meeting (Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting).

YM08 - 27 Program Committee

Linda Mills (Kalamazoo) reported:

The Program Committee began its work at the rise of last session, adopting the theme of "Peacemaking from the Inside Out." During the fall Helen Horn was invited, and accepted our invitation, to be the plenary speaker. Ideas for workshops began to be suggested. Work continued through the fall and winter. The following workshops were scheduled:

Clearing the Channel, further exploration of the plenary topic with Helen Horn

Testing Discernment and Decisions, with Jerry Knutson
Life More Abundant the Bioregional Way, with Judy Greenberg and Jim Crowfoot
Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Quakerism but Were Afraid to Ask, with Advancement & Outreach Committee
Meeting for Healing, with Richard Lee
Publicizing Prayer, Peace, and Community Projects, with David Lore

The Committee arranged for Bible study each morning, worship sharing on Friday and Saturday mornings, two newcomer enrichment meetings for newcomers, singing, nature walks, Saturday evening contra and folk dancing with a watermelon social, and mini gatherings for Quaker organizations. For the first time we instituted a Buddy system, matching volunteers with newcomers who requested a Buddy, and provided a microphone for announcements at meals.

YM08 - 28 Youth & Children Committee

Our Assistant Clerk read a report from Dolores and David Avner (Pittsburgh) and Nancy Nagler (Red Cedar), which we joyfully received.

■ Statistics:

23 children:	4 nursery
	5 preschool
	8 elementary/middle school
	[6 high school]
Staff:	3 co-clerks and assistant clerk
	9 leaders and assistant leaders
	2 Bluffton students

T-shirts (design and execution by Crowley-Crotser Corporation) incorporated the LEYM Annual Meeting theme on them. A few will be available for sale. See Conleth Crotser this evening in Ramseyer.

Weather, while not perfect, has cooperated, shutting off the tap while we moved to and from Marbeck and for swimming on Friday.

No strawberries were picked this year.

The clerks are totally supported by staff, which shares its corporate memory and assists everyone every way they can.

Job requirements: Enjoy children, be flexible. Opening available: see Mathilda Navias or speak with any Y&C staff. LEYM covers your expenses at Annual Meeting and the fringe benefits are priceless. Consider this an invitation. RSVP ASAP.

YM08 - 29 High School Youth Program Committee

The Clerk reported that the Committee is moving forward for a search for a new High School Youth Program Coordinator as a replacement for Kri Burkander (Ann Arbor).

YM08 - 30 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee reported positions that remain to be filled. Friends are strongly urged to consider volunteering where needed and to suggest the names of other Friends to the Committee.

YM08 - 31 Olney Friends School

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported:

I'm Nancy Taylor, a 1959 graduate of Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio and a happy carrier of a testimony to the amazing resilience of that school, which rose from near-closure in 1998 to become the strong, successful school it is today. Two weeks ago I attended the graduation of 24 outstanding scholars at Olney. These students came from all over the world to obtain their Quaker education, and they have all been accepted at excellent colleges and universities, with over $1 M awarded in merit scholarship help. It's an inspiration to go on campus and see the vitality of the student body, the dedication and skill of the faculty and staff, and the beauty of those southeastern Ohio hills and valleys.

You may remember that Olney began a Capital Campaign in 2001, which was named "Renewal from the Roots" and aimed to raise $2 M. by 2005. The goals of that campaign were to begin rebuilding the endowment

and to enhance enrollment. The campaign reached the monetary goal two years early, and the school was greatly strengthened by it. Now we have just completed the quiet phase and are entering the "noisy" phase of a $6.2 M campaign. This time the goal is again to invest in the school's permanent endowment, and also to enhance existing buildings and build a new Activity Center, which will include a gymnasium, greenhouse, and classrooms. This new building will be "green," with geothermal heating, natural lighting from skylights and windows, low water use fixtures in the restrooms, and an interior "living wall" with plants growing year round. If any of you know the Olney campus, you'll be aware of how welcome this addition will be for everyone who has endured the cold of the present gymnasium during winter!

I'd like to highlight one paragraph from the literature, which captures the unique quality of Olney. "During a time of growing concern for the environment, Olney's academic program and campus life are greatly enriched by the school's small size and rural location. One unique feature of the school is its Sustainability Coordinator and courses in vegetable gardening. Hands-on farming experiences through coordinated Biology and Humanities classes for 9th grade students take advantage of the school's small flock of laying hens, herd of grass-fed beef, and several goats. Students have the opportunity to pick apples in the school's orchard and plant and harvest vegetables in season. Menus for school meals increasingly incorporate produce and meat from the school garden and farm."

Finally, I'm glad to say that we are blessed with a strong Board of Trustees, which includes educators, accountants, professional fundraisers, an engineer, a lawyer, a town manager, and an aquatic biologist. We are especially fortunate to have Rich Sidwell as our Headmaster and his wife, Mary, as Development Director. They and the faculty and staff really personify a Quakerly presence, and Jeff Moredock, head of the National Association of Independent Schools Governance Counsel, was led to say, "There are very few schools in the country, perhaps in the world, that are so true to the faith on which they were founded and so genuine in the practice of that faith. To spend even a few hours at the school is to get a palpable sense of the human kindness that sustains its people and its mission."

YM08 - 32 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Don Nagler (Pine River) reported*:*

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting draws its strength from the intimate contact Friends have in meetings for worship four times a year. Because of the geographic distance between our meetings and worship groups, we appreciate what the facility of the internet gives to us in e-mail, newsletters, and pictures, as well as our website with LEYM, beyond our postal communications.

Our summer meeting, at Quaker Park [in Battle Creek] on Hiroshima Sunday, was small and damp, in the rain, under the partial shelter of umbrellas. We were joined by curious neighborhood children in this weather, who shared our silent worship and subsequent snacks.

The fall business session at the Friends School in Detroit featured the report given on the School by Geoff Brieger, Clerk of the Board, and Dwight Wilson, Headmaster. It was greatly encouraging, but challenging, in this time of financial and social crisis in Detroit and the nation. (But, really, Chinese in elementary school (!), in the midst of such bright art!) The program for the meeting was given by Penny Ryder, who has directed the Criminal Justice Program of the Ann Arbor Office of the AFSC. She has become a leading authority and activist in Michigan and was the keynote analyst featured in the *Detroit Free Press* series of articles on the health care within the Michigan prison system this year.

The midwinter meeting in February was sponsored by Ann Arbor Meeting. In the morning there was an excellent panel discussion on "the relationship between spirituality and activism." After lunch, there was a joyous contra dance session in which the children also were invited to participate.

The spring presentation was given by Lonnie Valentine, who heads the peace curriculum at the Earlham School of Religion. His talk on "Light Within, Light Without" was lively and insightful and included material from a 17th century Quaker journal, "Narrative of Thomas Lurting." It was followed by a good discussion in the round and our usual spectacular lunch from Julia Breidenstein and Ron Koenig, from Detroit Meeting.

Our most important business in the afternoon was to approve and welcome Holland Preparative Meeting to monthly meeting status. They will be our most distant monthly meeting, along with Pine River. The other six monthly meetings are: Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Red Cedar. Our scattered worship groups are: Manitou, Tustin, Fremont, Albion, and Chelsea. We appreciate the support which Ann Arbor Meeting is able to give to the Quarterly Meeting, which it helped spawn.

Green Pastures supports currently six institutions with its budget: the AFSC, Ann Arbor Office (about 63%),

the Friends School in Detroit (about 17%), and the Michigan Friends Center in Chelsea, FCNL, the Friends Lake Cooperative Community, and the Institute for Global Education combined (about 20%).

YM08 - 33 Arrangement and Site

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reported that our total attendance is 131. Next year's gathering at Bluffton will start on June 11. Jon provided details for our departure tomorrow.

YM08 - 34 Gathering of Friends General Conference

Ellen and Marvin Barnes (Birmingham), Clerks of this year's Gathering, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, invited Friends to consider attending the Gathering and briefly explained a few of the special features of this year's Gathering.

YM08 - 35 Peace Committee

The Peace Committee presented a final draft of the Yearly Meeting minute on the U.S./Iraqi Security Agreement and its proposed distribution [see YM08 - 23]. We approved the minute (see below); Friend Verne Bechill (Pine River) expressed a concern that the minute was not forceful enough, but stood aside.

Minute on U.S./Iraqi Security Agreement

(adopted June 14, 2008)

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) has previously endorsed the call by the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) for the expeditious withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq without the establishment and retention of U.S bases in that country.

The existing United Nations mandate, which the U.S administration views as the legal basis for the continuing U.S. military presence in Iraq, expires at the end of 2008.

It has been widely reported that the U.S. is currently negotiating a long-term security agreement with the Iraqi government which, among other things, seeks retention of more than 50 U.S. bases in Iraq as well as immunity for U.S. personnel, military and civilian, from Iraqi law.

The terms of this agreement have triggered opposition on the part of some Iraqi government leaders because of its intrusion on Iraqi sovereignty.

Still, the U.S. administration has announced that it intends to finalize this agreement before it leaves office in January 2009, without submitting it to Congress for ratification.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting remains committed to the end of the U.S. occupation of Iraq and the restoration of full sovereignty to that country.

We, therefore, oppose any new security agreement, if one is needed at all, which compromises Iraqi sovereignty and continues an American military presence in Iraq.

Distribution:

Monthly Meetings of LEYM
U.S. Senators, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Michigan
Members, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
The White House
Embassy of Iraq, Washington, D.C.
FCNL
Friends Journal

Minor changes to letters to the presidential candidates regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process were shared. [See YM08 - 37]

YM08 - 36 Friends School in Detroit

Dwight Wilson (Ann Arbor), Headmaster, reported:

Highlights from 2007-2008 at Friends School in Detroit

In academic, ethical, and development areas, Friends School in Detroit is in as strong a position as it has ever been. Development efforts and successes have increased multiplefold since the prior Headmaster. However, the age of the building, skyrocketing fuel, health insurance, and security expenses, and the economic climate of Detroit have caused serious challenges for the school this year. Fourteen students (almost 10% of the student body) had to withdraw for nonpayment of tuition during the school year. This is a dramatic sign of city-wide crisis. Two other independent schools in the region are in danger of closing this year, following the close of one of our peer schools last year.

In each of the sections below, we highlight successes and explain attendant concerns in italics. Each of these represents places where you, your meetings, and your friends can shine a light.

Academics: In the nationally recognized ERB tests, used widely by independent and high-achieving schools, for the 11 students in the class of 2008 who were FSD students for one year or more before taking their tests, in 4 of 5 language arts categories our median score was at or above the 90th percentile nationally, and our quantitative reasoning score was 94th percentile.

The staff for 2008-2009 has to be five people less than last year, in order to balance the budget; this cut is on top of some benefit cuts and a salary freeze, even while salaries are among the lowest in the region.

Chinese expanded to include all grades pre-K - 7 this year, and will include 8th grade next year as well. Middle school students now all take public speaking and keyboarding to assure that their skills are solid for future endeavors.

We can replace our computers, if we can match a challenge grant of $10,000.

Building: Thanks to the generosity of two anonymous donors and others, our Commons floor has been completely rebuilt with true linoleum, one of the most ecologically friendly surfaces available, our art room has two new sinks and cupboards, and both of the preschool rooms have new cork floors.

We have begun to replace our aging lighting system with more energy efficient lighting, which will earn back its costs in approximately five to seven years, but this will cost us approximately $50,000 more initially. Contributions to this project of environmental stewardship are greatly appreciated. We need to replace our roof and more of our flooring before long. The furnace has served 42 years.

Community Service: In addition to raising over $2000 for Empty Bowls, our students performed weekly community service at Moses Field Elementary – a special needs public school, and taught seniors at Woodbridge Manor a variety of arts and crafts and computer skills. They also learned about the twentieth century by doing Oral History with them. The eighth grade and other students earned over $1000 for Nothing but Nets, which supplies bed nets to reduce malaria in Africa, and the eighth grade class is giving a tithe of its class money to the art department of the school.

The transportation for the Community Service program costs approximately $2000 per year. Without that funding, we are at the mercy of a regional nonprofit transportation system which often simply doesn't show up, leaving our students and their beneficiaries in the lurch.

Development: Annual Fund has more than doubled, the Wade McCree Scholarship dinner has earned more than five times, and grants are over nine times the amounts brought in the last year of the previous Headmaster, but we are still projecting a risk of deficit because of lowered enrollment projections. Even with a tuition freeze, students' families struggle to manage tuition when they face layoffs, higher transportation costs, and increases in all other expense areas.

During a previous administration, in order to keep Friends School in Detroit open at all, a mortgage and other loans were taken out. While some of these have been reduced, we need to further reduce our debt, but this is an area that grants rarely touch. Only annual, unrestricted giving, or gifts specifically for debt reduction, can help us with this crucial area.

Drama: In addition to two tremendous end-of-semester productions by the middle school and one each by the fourth and fifth grade, our students were treated to a live performance in the building, by the Jewish Ensemble theatre, about speech and bullying. Students left the building to see short stories performed in the fall, and in the spring the seventh graders went to the Stratford Festival in Ontario, to see *Romeo and Juliet.*

Through the extraordinary support of our parents and the immense popularity of the Drama elective, the drama program is nearly self-funding.

Human Rights Endowment: Thanks to the dedication of a committee of eight Ann Arbor former trustees and Meeting members and attenders, The Miyoko Inouye Bassett Memorial Human Rights Lectureship and Day of Learning was established. Our first lecturers were David Yamamoto, himself an internee during World War II, and Nazih Hassan, an advocate for Civil Rights and fair treatment since 9/11. Students spent nearly three hours with these wonderful speakers, learning to appreciate the benefits of our constitution, and the preciousness of our rights.

Approximately half of the three to five-year $30,000 target for this endowment has been raised in its first year.

Diane Lehman Wilson (Ann Arbor, a member of the FSD faculty, and Dwight's wife) enthusiastically shared some of the meaningful work and successes of a number of the students of the School. Our Clerk asks that we hold the School in our prayers and the Light and follow our hearts as to its needs.

First Day Session

YM08 - 37 Peace Committee

The Peace Committee again presented a revised letter to the presidential candidates. After further consideration and editing, we approved the letter in final form:

> The Honorable Barack Obama / John McCain
>
> [Address]
>
> RE: Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process
>
> As part of your campaign for President, you have recently pledged support for Israel, and for an Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) shares your desire for a resolution to the conflict so that both Israelis and Palestinians can live together in peace.
>
> Friends and Friends organizations have a long history of involvement in this region of the world and have worked with both Palestinians and Jews. We encourage you to carefully consider the actual situation on the ground and the necessary pre-conditions to achieve such a just and lasting peace.
>
> At the heart of much of the discussion of conditions for a peaceful resolution of the conflict is the idea of a "two-state" solution – an Israeli state and a Palestinian state side by side on the territory of historic Palestine. There are a number of obstacles, however, that together make such a solution well-nigh impossible. The central impediment is the massive settlement process, whereby – in contravention of international law – Israel has built settlements exclusively for Israeli Jewish citizens throughout the territories occupied in the 1967 war, on land expropriated from Palestinian inhabitants. These settlements – together with the network of "bypass roads" which connect the settlements with each other and with Israel proper and are off-limits to most Palestinian traffic – make up what one Israeli analyst refers to as "the matrix of control." As long as this matrix of control is in place, cemented by a military occupation with its checkpoints and a myriad of other regulations that govern every aspect of the Palestinians' lives, there can be no viable Palestinian state. What is more, Israel has declared that East Jerusalem and the rings of settlements surrounding Jerusalem constitute part of a Greater Jerusalem, and are thus part of Israel, and not part of the West Bank.
>
> Another impediment to any lasting solution to the conflict is the Wall/Separation Barrier currently being built – both along the 1967 *de facto* borders [Green Line] and deep inside the occupied territories. This wall/barrier effectively makes the territories encompassed

by it – primarily the large settlement blocs – a part of Israel by creating "facts on the ground" *prior to* any negotiations as part of a comprehensive peace agreement. In addition, in large part the effect of this barrier is to cut off Palestinian farmers from their land – either by denying them access altogether, or by making it extremely difficult for them to get to a crossing point that is anywhere near and where any permit they might have will be honored (even if the gate is open when they need to get to and from their land). The net effect of the barrier – along with the numerous Israeli roadblocks and checkpoints throughout the occupied territories – is that the Palestinian economic infrastructure is undermined, further increasing the Palestinians' economic dependence on Israel and reducing any prospect of a viable Palestinian state.

Tied in with this issue is another central dilemma. If a two-state solution is no longer possible, in what way can Israel preserve its character as a Jewish nation-state? Israel already has a sizable Palestinian Arab minority living as Israeli citizens inside the boundaries of pre-1967 Israel, and many more Palestinians live in the occupied territories.

If all of these inhabitants of the land become part of a binational state, then Israel's definition as Jewish national state is called into question. Alternatively, if Israel is defined as a Jewish national state – encompassing formally or *de facto* all of the land between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River – then Palestinians there (inside pre-1967 Israel and outside) have an ambiguous future. Already there have been calls for Israeli Arab citizens to be deported to a Palestinian state (possibly even to Jordan) and if as a result of the "matrix of control" there is no such state in any meaningful sense of the word, then Israel would continue to rule over a mass of Palestinians, among whom would be those stripped of what status they now have as Israeli citizens.

There is one other issue that impacts on the possibility of a just and lasting peace. All groups representative of the Palestinian interests must be included in the negotiating process, not just the Palestinian Authority. In addition, ALL sides to the conflict must renounce the use of violence, thereby cutting through the recurring cycle of violence and justifications for the use of force.

It is our belief that unless the above issues are comprehensively addressed there can be no peace in this conflict, nor in the region as a whole. Also, unless the United States facilitates this process it will lose any semblance of its claim to be an honest broker in ending the conflict. We hope that you will keep these considerations in mind, both as a candidate and as the one who ultimately is elected President.

Sincerely,
Shirley Bechill
Presiding Clerk
Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)
(LEYM includes Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia)

YM08 - 38 2008-09 Budget

Friends approved the budget as presented by the Finance Committee, with a suggested per adult member contribution of $37.

YM08 - 39 Appointment of Clerk of Nominating Committee

Friends approved Thomas Taylor to be clerk of the Nominating Committee, as recommended by the Naming Committee. Our Clerk explained the process used this year of the Naming Committee consulting

with the Clerks of the YM to find a clerk for the Nominating Committee. Friends approved this procedure.

YM08 - 40 Nominating Committee

The Committee presented a report showing officers and committee assignments. Friends approved the report. A few positions, especially for the Youth & Children Committee, remain to be filled.

YM08 - 41 Reports, Epistle, and Performances from Young People

We cherished receiving the reports, epistle, and performances from our young people, which will be a part of our *Annual Records*. We thanked them for their presentations and treasure the joy they have brought us.

YM08 - 42 Epistle from the Adult Young Friends

Adult Young Friends reported on their activities during our sessions, sharing the peace pledge and poster. We thanked our young adult Friends and are heartened and tendered to see the rising Spirit among them.

YM08 - 43 Yearly Meeting Epistle

The Yearly Meeting Epistle was read. With a small change, Friends approved the Epistle and gave thanks for the diligent work of the Epistle Committee.

Friends expressed appreciation for Bill Bliss (Ann Arbor) sharing his reflections on the founding of the original Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, its transition to a yearly meeting with his wife, Isabel, as its first clerk, and how it has become such an important part of his life.

YM08 - 44 Appreciations

We minuted and extended our heartfelt thanks to Friend Connie Bimber for her more than 12 years of faithful service as Treasurer of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. This has been a most monumental task, and Connie's wisdom, exuberance, spiritual and practical groundedness, and willingness to serve have deepened and enriched our deliberations as well as provided a smooth process for committees and individuals needing financial reimbursement. We offered blessings as Connie begins a phase of life in which she will make wider use of her gifts as a nurturer of the spirit among us.

We minuted appreciation for Merry Stanford's care and nurture of the Ministry & Nurture Committee and the Yearly Meeting. Friends shared other expressions of gratitude and appreciation.

YM08 - 45 Gratitude to Bluffton University and Closing Worship

We are grateful to Bluffton University for hosting our Annual Sessions this year and contributing to the success of our gathering. After a few announcements, we concluded with worship, giving thanks for the strength of the Spirit that has been with us and looking forward to coming together again.

Shirley Bechill, Clerk
Joseph Mills, Recording Clerk

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Budget for July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

General Fund Expenses

(* transfers)	Budget 06-07	Actual 06-07	Difference	Budget 07-08	Actual 07-08	Difference	Budget 08-09	Differ. fr. 07-08
Travel	5,500.00	4,791.00	709.00	5,500.00	4,823.81	676.19	6,500.00	1,000.00
Office	300.00	40.90	259.10	300.00	156.22	143.78	300.00	0.00
Publications	3,400.00	2,766.87	633.13	3,400.00	2,250.62	1,149.38	3,400.00	0.00
Advancement	130.00	0.00	130.00	880.00	880.00	0.00	880.00	0.00
Ministry & Nurture	200.00	100.00	100.00	800.00	600.00	200.00	200.00	600.00
Clerk's Fund	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	363.00	137.00	500.00	0.00
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	0.00
FGC Special Program	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
Records project	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00	1,240.00	0.00	1,240.00	1,240.00	0.00	1,240.00	0.00
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	2,700.00	0.00
High School Youth Fund*	5,400.00	5,400.00	0.00	5,400.00	5,400.00	0.00	1,100.00	4,300.00
Spiritual Formation*	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00
Friends School in Detroit	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00
Consultation Fund				0.00			2,400.00	2,400.00
Scholarship Fund, Ministry							1,000.00	1,000.00
Misc.	0.00	0.00	0.00		500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS	28,170.00	25,838.77	2,331.23	29,520.00	27,713.65	1,806.35	29,020.00	500.00
Per member assessment	$35.21		$37.23			$36.60		

Treasurer's Report, June 28, 2008

Fund	Opening Balance	Income	Expenses	Current Balance
General Fund	$6,012.44	$28,766.57	$28,070.38	$6,708.63
Annual Meeting	$18,440.09	$14,633.56	$14,947.58	$18,126.07
Triennial Fund	$1,676.84	$1,240.00	$1,210.39	$1,706.45
Granville Friends Youth Fund	$5,510.60	$730.45	$230.45	$6,010.60
Youth Activity Fund	$3,644.81	$2,945.45	$1,125.00	5,465.26
Spiritual Formation	$3,793.02	$4,165.00	$4,332.77	$3,625.25
High School Program	$1,496.61	$5,400.00	$1,100.00	5,796.61
Consultation	$0.00	$3,100.00	$3,081.45	$18.55
TOTALS	$40,574.41	$60,981.03	$54,098.02	$47,457.42

Account	Opening Balance	Income	Debits	Current Balance
Shorebank CD - Mar.	$2,203.41	$88.79		$2,292.20
Shorebank CD - Sept.	$2,272.62	$95.82		$2,368.44
Southshore Bank CD	$5,510.60	$730.45	$230.45	$6,010.60
Lorain National Bank - Checking	$30,587.78	$49,525.97	$58,327.57	21,786.18
Pittsburgh Bank	$0.00	$15,000.00	$0.00	$15,000.00
TOTALS	$40,574.41	$65,441.03	$58,558.02	$47,457.42

General Fund Income

Meeting	Contribution
Akron	$222.00
Ann Arbor	$5,106.00
Athens	$2,200.00
Birmingham	$682.00
Broadmead	$825.00
Cleveland	$4,563.00
Delaware	$407.00
Detroit	$0.00
Grand Rapids	$871.00
Granville	$832.00
Kalamazoo	$1,591.00
Kent	$630.00
MidOhio Valley	$180.00
Monongalia	$490.00
North Columbus	$800.00
Oberlin	$740.00
Pine River	$592.00
Pittsburgh	$5,475.96
Red Cedar	$1,850.00
Wooster	$525.00
Misc.	$0.00
Sales and Fees	$0.00
Interest	$184.61
TOTALS	$28,766.57

Nominating Committee: Approved Nominating Slate

LEYM Officers, Committees Members, & Representatives

New additions to committees are in italics

OFFICERS		**Year Serving, End Year**
Presiding Clerk:	Merry Stanford, Red Cedar	2, 2011
Assistant Clerk:	Shirley Bechill, Pine River	4, 2009
Recording Clerk:	Joseph Mills, Kalamazoo	2, 2011
Treasurer:	*Eric Starbuck, Pittsburgh*	1, 2011
Bulletin Editor:	Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor	4, 2009

OTHER POSITIONS		**Year Serving, End Year**
Webmaster:	Bill Warters, Birmingham	4, 2011
Database Wrangler:	Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	4, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	**Year Serving, End Year**
Advancement & Outreach Committee	
Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh, Clerk	3, 2009
Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	2, 2010
Carol MeyerNiedzwiecki, Kalamazoo	2, 2010
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	1, 2011
John Savage, North Columbus	1, 2011
TBD	
Arrangement & Site Committee	
Berch Carpenter, Broadmead	1, 2011
Vanessa Fuson, Granville	3, 2009
Kelly Helms, Ann Arbor	3, 2009
Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead, Clerk	2, 2010
Jon Sommer, Broadmead	5, 2010
TBD	
Earthcare Committee	
Phil Clampitt, Birmingham, CoClerk	3, 2010
Al Connor, Ann Arbor	4, 2009
Jim Crowfoot, Ann Arbor, CoClerk	3, 2009
Judy Greenberg, Broadmead	1, 2011
Dick Hogan, Athens	4, 2010
Helen Söderberg, Red Cedar	3, 2011
Finance & Budget Committee	
Joyce Callahan, Cleveland	in training
David Green, Cleveland	4, 2010
Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk	4, 2011
Barbara Warrington, Kent	3, 2009
Treasurer, ex officio	

High School Youth Program Committee

Michael Fuson, Granville, Clerk	2, 2010
Carolyn Lejuste, Red Cedar, Adult	4, 2011
Abbey PrattHarrington, Athens, Adult	2, 2011
Christa PrattHarrington, Athens, Youth	2, 2011
Meaghan Diffenderfer, Cleveland, Youth	2, 2010

Ministry & Nurture Committee

Ellen Barnes, Birmingham, Clerk	3, 2009
Connie Bimber, Oberlin	1, 2011
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	5, 2010
Richard Lee, Red Cedar	2, 2011
Margy Liske, Kent	2, 2010
Don Nagler, Pine River	3, 2009

Ministry & Nurture Monthly Meeting Representatives
(Appointed by their monthly meeting)
Kri Burkander, Ann Arbor (alternate)
Elaine Wilson, Ann Arbor
Suzanne Howell, Athens
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo
Fred Feitler, Kent
Verne Bechill, Pine River

Nominating Committee

Phil Balderston, Wooster	2, 2010
Star Mary Castro, Athens	2, 2010
Fred Feitler, Kent	3, 2009
Nancy James, Pittsburgh	1, 2009
Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	1, 2011
Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor, Clerk	1, 2011

Peace Committee

Betty Ford, Grand Rapids	5, 2011
Kurt Liske, Kent	2, 2010
David Lore, Granville, Clerk	5, 2010
James Satterwhite, Broadmead	4, 2011
Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor	1, 2011

TBD
And optional 1 from each monthly meeting

Program Committee

Marvin Barnes, Birmingham	1, 2011
Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	5, 2010
Linda Mills, Kalamazoo,	4, 2009
Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor, CoClerk	3, 2009
Clémence RavaçonMershon, Pittsburgh, CoClerk	2, 2010
Bekah Sommer, Broadmead	1, 2011

Publications & Archives Committee

Marvin Barnes, Birmingham	6, 2009
Dan Bell, Broadmead	2, 2010
Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor, Clerk	5, 2010
Nancy James, Pittsburgh	4, 2011
Bob Roehm, North Columbus	2, 2010
Bill Warters, Birmingham, ex officio	

Youth & Children Committee

Clerk	Nancy Nagler, Pine River	2010
Assistant Clerk	*Su Penn, Red Cedar**	2010
PreSchool Leader	Joyce Balderston, Wooster	2009
PreSchool Asst.	Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	2010
Early Elem. Leader	Carla PrattHarrington, Athens	2009
Early Elem. Asst.	Mary Takahashi, Pine River**	2009
Upper Elem. Leader	Peter Crowley, Cleveland	2009
Upper Elem. Asst.	Tim Damon, Cleveland	2010
Middle School Leader	TBD	
Middle School Asst.	Diane Mott, Broadmead	2009
High School Leader	Steve Connor, Ann Arbor	2010
High School Asst.	TBD	
Fall Retreat Clerk	*Jessica Fox, Athens****	
Fall Retreat Asst.	*Carla PrattHarrington, Athens***	

LEYM Bookstore	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	For life

* Approved by Executive Committee 7/27/08
** Omitted by mistake from the original Nominating Committee report
*** Approved in Executive Committee meeting 6/15/08

REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Representatives	**Year Serving, End Year**
AFSC Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	1, 2011
AFSC Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor	2, 2010
AFSC TBD	
FCNL Charlie Burnett, Broadmead	2, 2010
FCNL Thomas Burnett, Broadmead	2, 2010
FCNL David Snyder, Oberlin	6, 2009
FCNL Meg Hummon, Athens	4, 2011
FCNL David Lore, Granville	6, 2009
FCNL Lila Cornell, Pittsburgh	6, 2009
FWCC Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids	2, 2010
FWCC Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh	3, 2010
FWCC Raelyn Joyce, Kalamazoo	2, 2010
FWCC Mike Hinshaw, Wooster, Clerk	6, 2009
Quaker Earthcare Witness Alan Connor, Ann Arbor	2010
FGC Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	1, 2010
FGC Fred Feitler, Kent	2, 2010
FGC Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	6, 2009
FGC Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead	3, 2009

FLGBTQC Bob Roehm, North Columbus 2010

William Penn House *Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham*

Olney Friends School *Greg Mott, Broadmead*

Visitors to Other Yearly Meetings

Wilmington Yearly Meeting	Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor
Canadian Yearly Meeting	Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Pittsburgh
EFI Eastern Region	TBD
Ohio YM Conservative	LeRoy Curtis, Wooster

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Representative Meeting
March 7, 2009

Hosted by Cleveland Friends Meeting

All written reports referenced are appended to these minutes.

Morning Session

RM09 - 1 Opening Worship, Reading of Epistle from German Yearly Meeting

Friends gathered at the appointed time. Out of the opening worship, our Assistant Clerk, Shirley Bechill (Pine River), read the Epistle from German Yearly Meeting. Our German Friends were inspired by a large gathering and reflected on the growth of their commitment to peace out of the harshness of the Second World War. They are discovering that peacemaking and service can lead to spiritual growth in love, joy, and integrity, and the importance of their intergenerational connectedness.

RM09 - 2 Our Cleveland Hosts

Our Clerk, Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), welcomed Friends with the Spirit still present. She introduced Joyce Callahan, Clerk of our host meeting, Cleveland, who gave logistical details for the day. Marty Grundy shared a brief history of the Cleveland meetinghouse.

Afternoon Session

RM09 - 3 Reading from Australia Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice

The session opened with our Presiding Clerk reading from Australia Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice, *This We Can Say*, sharing how, with Spirit-led faith, we can carry out our concerns and leadings with the support of our Meeting communities. The Clerk asked that we seek recognition before speaking, remain open to change, and trust in the guidance of the Spirit.

RM09 - 4 Roll Call

The calling of the roll of Friends from constituent meetings and groups gave the following count:

Akron	3	Kalamazoo	3
Ann Arbor	4	Kent	4
Athens	2	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	4	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	8	North Columbus	3
Cleveland	5	Oberlin	2
Delaware	0	Pine River	3
Detroit	0	Pittsburgh	3
Grand Rapids	1	Red Cedar	1
Granville	3	Wooster	3
Holland	0	Worship Group (Erie)	1

Total attendance: 53

RM09 - 5 African Great Lakes Initiative

David Zarembka, Coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) of the Friends Peace Teams, shared his work with the African Great Lakes Initiative, which is presently involved with five programs:

Alternatives to Violence, with 150 workshops in Kenya arising out of the recent violence in that country.

HROC, Personal and group trauma healing.

A medical clinic in Burundi dealing mainly with HIV-positive women.

Work camps involving the building of clinics, schools, and houses and other service work.

Speaking tours, with a goal of informing Friends in the United States of peacemaking work in Africa.

Friends involvement in some of this work in Africa has been slow in developing. David encouraged all our monthly meetings to support this important work.

RM09 - 6 Affirmation of Executive Committee Actions

The Presiding Clerk reported on the following actions of the Executive Committee. Friends **affirmed** the following actions and decisions taken by the Executive Committee since the rise of our last Annual Session:

a. The Presiding Clerk, Treasurer, and Finance Committee clerk were made signatories to the Yearly Meeting's bank accounts.
b. The following nominations to fill committee vacancies:
   - John Savage (North Columbus) to Advancement & Outreach
   - Su Penn (Red Cedar) to Youth & Children Committee as assistant clerk
   - Mary Takahashi (Pine River) Early Elementary Assistant
   - Jessica Fox (Athens) Fall Retreat clerk
   - Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens) Fall Retreat assistant clerk

RM09 - 7 Clerical Worker for Consultation of Clerks

After our Assistant and Presiding Clerks interviewed two strong candidates, the Executive Committee recommended that the Yearly Meeting contract with Jo Steigerwald (Cleveland) to serve as a clerical worker for the Consultation for Monthly Meeting Clerks, to be held in November, for a fee of $1100. Jo brings a diverse set of skills, energy, and vision to this task. Friends **approved** this appointment.

RM09 - 8 Revisions of Policies and Procedures

Based on a recent review of the Yearly Meeting's *Policies and Procedures*, the Executive Committee recommended the formation of an ad hoc committee to revise our *Policies and Procedures*. Friends **approved** the creation of such a committee with appointments to be made by the Presiding Clerk.

RM09 - 9 Hold LEYM in the Light

Our Presiding Clerk has invited **Friends to hold LEYM in the Light** on an ongoing basis. The following are doing so: Connie Bimber (Oberlin), Nora Armijo (Detroit/Ann Arbor), Betty Ford (Grand Rapids), Connie McPeak Green (Cleveland), Marty Grundy (Cleveland), Max Heirich (Ann Arbor), Nancy James (Pittsburgh), Jerry Knutson (Pittsburgh), Richard Lee (Red Cedar), Margy Liske (Kent), Steve Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Mathilda Navias (Broadmead), and Peter Wood, clerk (Red Cedar). Others are welcomed to do so and if interested should contact Peter Wood.

RM09 - 10 Monthly Meeting Representatives to LEYM

will begin to receive all copies of email correspondence from the Yearly Meeting to the monthly meetings. Yearly Meeting committee clerks will cc the representatives on all email correspondence to the monthly meetings.

RM09 - 11 Publications & Archives Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) presented a written report (see below) which included two proposals:

a. Changing deadlines for submissions of documents to be included in the *Annual Records* from 6/30 to no later than four weeks after the rise of Yearly Meeting and changing the publication date of the *Annual Records* from July to no later than ten weeks after the rise of Yearly Meeting. We **approved** this change.
b. Amending the Yearly Meeting's Privacy Policy to reflect the following:
   1) The full names of adult friends (those 18 and over) may appear in the version of the *Bulletin* posted on the Web. The names of children and youth (under age 18) may not appear there.
   2) Photos of Friends of all ages may appear in the version of the *Bulletin* posted on the Web, with one exception: photos depicting one child or youth (under age 18) alone may not appear there.

Our *Bulletin* editor has informally adopted this policy for the past few years. Initial seasoning brought

comments (including the use of waivers and releases) that the Committee will take into consideration. A final proposal will be brought to Annual Meeting.

RM09 - 12 2010 FGC Gathering in Bowling Green, Ohio

Star Mary Castro (Athens) will co-clerk the 2010 FGC Gathering in Bowling Green, Ohio. She encouraged Yearly Meeting Friends to attend and become involved with the Gathering and welcomed Friends to attend a planning meeting on 4/24-25/08 at a location to be determined.

RM09 - 13 Earthcare Committee

Phil Clampitt, (Birmingham) submitted a written report (see below). The Committee intends to bring the following proposals to Annual Meeting:

a. A minute for the Yearly Meeting's endorsement of the Earth Charter.
b. To amend our *Policies and Procedures* to allow contributions to other Friends national organizations (besides Friends General Conference) as approved by the Yearly Meeting.
c. That the Yearly Meeting include in its budget an annual financial contribution for Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Friends shared comments and concerns about these proposals for the Committee to consider. These included a suggestion that the wording of the Charter and relevant information be shared with monthly meetings and that Finance Committee be consulted about changing policies on the Yearly Meeting's benevolent giving.

RM09 - 14 Arrangement & Site Committee

Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead) reported that the third and last weekends in July are available for our Annual Meeting, which will better accommodate families from Ann Arbor and Pittsburgh. Friends **agreed** to direct Arrangement & Site to reserve the weekend of 7/29 thru 8/1/2010 for our Annual Meeting at Bluffton, provided a weekend in late July is available on an ongoing basis. This decision will be reported at Annual Sessions.

RM09 - 15 Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer**,** Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh), presented a written Treasurer's report (see below) for the period 7/1/08 - 2/28/09. A concern shared regarding the reporting of in-kind contributions will be addressed by the Finance Committee.

RM09 - 16 Finance Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) submitted a written report (see below). At the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Committee has developed a proposal for a scholarship fund beginning in 2009 for a third of the total cost of Annual Meeting for first-time attenders. Monthly meetings are encouraged to also help defray the cost of attendance at Annual Meeting. Friends **united** with this proposal, with details to be resolved by the Finance Committee.

RM09 - 17 FWCC Lower Great Lakes Gathering

FWCC representative Mike Hinshaw (Wooster), reported that it is Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's turn to host the FWCC Lower Great Lakes Regional Gathering this fall. This event usually is held around the end of September.

A host site and theme are needed. Friends are encouraged to attend the gathering and to share this need with their monthly meetings and advise one of our FWCC representatives (Raelyn Joyce, Kalamazoo; Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids; Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh; and Mike Hinshaw) of any interest.

RM09 - 18 Program Committee

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Erie) presented a written report (see below) providing programming details for this year's Annual Meeting. The theme is "Reflecting Light: Seeing Ourselves in the Other," and our plenary speaker will be Max Carter, of North Carolina Yearly Meeting.

RM09 - 19 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) submitted a written report (see below) for the Committee, outlining its extensive work. A new worship group has formed in Sandusky, Ohio under the care of Cleveland Monthly Meeting.

RM09 - 20 High School Youth Program Committee

Michael Fuson (Granville) submitted a written report (see below) detailing the Committee's current efforts to recruit a High School Youth Program Coordinator.

RM09 - 21 Ad Hoc Committee on Queries

The formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Queries was approved at our 2008 Annual Sessions. Our Presiding Clerk has appointed Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), Raelyn Joyce (Kalamazoo), Jo Posti (Pittsburgh), Ellen Barnes (Birmingham), and David Snyder (Oberlin) to such a committee, charged with developing a set of queries for the Yearly Meeting. Thomas Taylor will serve as clerk; he outlined the objectives and procedure for the Committee as follows:

a. Proceed at a measured pace to allow all Friends to participate.
b. Collect and review sets of queries used by our constituent meetings and groups, those developed in our annual process of considering queries over the past decades, those of other yearly meetings, and those suggested by Friends.
c. Discern the shape of the set of Yearly Meeting queries we wish to develop, including purpose, use, number, topics, etc.
d. Winnow or sort through the suggested queries and see what rises to the top; draft and edit.
e. Present a first draft to the Yearly Meeting for perhaps a year's trial, asking Friends for suggestions both as to substance and editing.
f. Produce a final draft based on those suggestions and further discernment and guidance.

The Committee encourages Friends to begin preparation by starting an LEYM Queries file and thinking about items a-c above and the use of the query process in our meetings before Annual Sessions in June.

RM09 - 22 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported.

a. Janet Smith (Broadmead) has been nominated for Advancement & Outreach, Steve Morehouse (Ann Arbor) for Arrangement & Site, Mary Igoe Meyers (Broadmead) for Peace, and Janet Dando (Akron) for Program. Friends **approved** these nominations.
b. Thomas also confirmed that the High School Youth Program Committee is a priority for the Yearly Meeting and needs special attention with new leadership and committee members. For Annual Sessions the Committee is consulting with the Program Committee, the Youth & Children Committee, and the Clerks regarding a threshing session to consider the committee structure of the Youth & Children Committee.

RM09 - 23 Peace Committee

David Lore (Granville) submitted a written report (see below). The Committee is developing information to distribute to monthly meetings regarding the Gaza crisis and banning the use of cluster bombs. The Committee also will be reminding Friends to maintain a long focal length in addressing problems of peace and justice.

RM09 - 24 Youth & Children Committee

(Nancy Nagler, Pine River) reported that all youth leader slots for Annual Sessions are filled except for one high school assistant. The Committee is extending a personal invitation to each child in the Yearly Meeting to attend Annual Meeting.

RM09 - 25 Ministry & Nurture

Ellen Barnes (Birmingham) presented a written report (see below) mentioning the Spiritual Formation fall retreat and the upcoming spring retreat to be held on 4/25 in Kalamazoo. The report included a Spirit-led summary of monthly meeting responses to the Yearly Meeting Query.

RM09 - 26 Naming Committee

Friends **approved** Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) and Verne Bechill (Pine River) to serve on the Naming Committee.

RM09 - 27 Minute of Appreciation for Cleveland Friends Meeting

Friends approved the following minute of appreciation for Cleveland Friends Meeting:

> Lake Erie Representative Meeting expresses its enthusiastic appreciation to Friends of Cleveland Monthly Meeting for hosting us so graciously. We were nurtured bodily and spiritually by lovingly prepared meals, warm overnight hospitality, and a welcoming Friendly space for our work for the Yearly Meeting.

Merry Stanford, Clerk
Joseph Mills, Recording Clerk

Committee Reports

Advancement & Outreach Committee (RM09 – 19)

The highlights of our work since Annual Meeting in Bluffton, Ohio, June 2008, are as follows:

1. *Traveling Ministry of Mary Ann Downey to Michigan Meetings, October 2008*. Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki of Kalamazoo Friends Meeting helped organize the tour of Mary Ann and her husband Bill Holland and then wrote a report based on feedback from the Meetings visited. FGC considered the report so helpful that they asked Carol if excerpts from it could be featured on the Traveling Ministry web page; Carol agreed. The Committee wishes to express appreciation to Carol for her good and thorough work.

2. *Checking Contact Information for LEYM Meetings and Worship Groups*. At our November meeting we divided up the pages of contact information for our constituent groups as listed in the *Annual Records.* We agreed to look for any discrepancies between our listing and those on the Yearly Meeting website and on *www.quakerfinder.org*. We contacted all the Meetings to let them know if the information cited in the three sources was the same or different; if the latter, we encouraged them to make the changes themselves, allow our webmaster to make them, or instruct us to make them. Most of these changes have been made.

3. *Plans to Visit Meetings Whose Members Seldom Attend Annual Meeting.* Again in November, committee members agreed to try to visit Delaware Meeting (Janet Smith), Holland Meeting (Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki), Mid-Ohio Valley (Mike Hinshaw), and Monongalia (Rosemary Coffey). We have not yet visited these Meetings but we have contacted them and hope to visit later in March or in April.

4. *New Allowed Meeting.* We are happy to report that Sandusky Allowed Meeting has been taken under the care of Cleveland Meeting. Friends who visit in the area are encouraged to attend on First Days at 11 am. Contact Bill Kohler or Chuck Kelly, 410 W. Shoreline Drive, Unit 151, Sandusky OH 44870, or email *Cekelly3@aol.com*.

5. *Changes to LEYM Policies and Procedures regarding A & O.* We have made some changes and will see that Jeff Cooper has them in writing.

6. *Quaker Quest Visitors to Annual Meeting.* In consultation with the Program Committee, we have decided to ask the two Friends scheduled to be with us in June 2009 if they would be willing to postpone their time with us until 2010, when we would look to have outreach as part of our theme and possibly invite one of them to be our plenary speaker. If it is not convenient for them to postpone the visit, then we will offer them one of the workshop slots and encourage them to meet with other attenders over meals.
Presented by Rosemary Coffey, Committee Clerk

Earthcare Committee (RM09 – 13)

The Earthcare Committee has been active since Yearly Meeting last year, particularly since about mid-January. (Attached to this report you will see **three proposals**, and supporting documents, which are among the fruits of our recent efforts; see pp. 13-18.) After two successive snowy January weekends which forced postponement of a planned meeting, we had a very good meeting of the committee on January 24 at the home of Judy Greenberg, in Toledo. In addition to Judy, Al Connor, Dick Hogan, Margaret Kanost, and I attended. (Although co-clerk Jim Crowfoot was unable to attend, he sent thoughtful comments and suggestions in advance, which we utilized fully during our discussion.) At lunch we enjoyed a delicious veggie lasagna prepared by Judy, chocolate chip cookies prepared by Margaret, and apple cider brought from Ann Arbor by Al. It was wonderful again to be able to meet together in Judy's beautiful home. Here are some highlights of this meeting and its aftermath:

1. We agreed there should again be an Earthcare Workshop at Y.M., and a bunch of ideas came forward. We reached consensus that we want this year to hold a panel discussion in which several (three or four) panelists from as many meetings will each describe what their local meeting is doing relating to Earthcare. A title might be: “What’s Up With Earthcare in Our Meetings? – A Panel, Sharing, and Brainstorming Workshop.” We think Red Cedar Meeting's plans for a new, green meetinghouse could be included, and we talked about Ann Arbor and Athens as two other possibilities, among many. The Ann Arbor Meeting has since agreed to participate, with Jim Crowfoot as a panelist. (Programs for urban gardening, in Detroit and elsewhere, were also brought up.) Dick, Al, and I (Phil) agreed to work together to organize this workshop. Plans for the workshop are still being finalized, and we are soliciting input today. Please see Al Connor or me if you are

interested. We hope at least one meeting in Ohio, and one in Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh, maybe?) will participate in the panel.

2. We all thought it would be good if some interest group tables could be announced at mealtimes during Y.M. where members of meetings or worship groups not represented on the above panel could talk about Earthcare efforts in their groups. (This is an informal way in which we can answer the question or query, "How can we get more feedback from local Friends meetings and worship groups within LEYM on EC activities in which they are engaged?")

3. We endorsed the idea of late evening sessions at Y.M. in which films relating to Earthcare can again be shown. Films suggested include "The World According to Monsanto," "Eating Food Is an Act of Faith" (or very similar title), and "Renewal" (so favorably received last year that we felt it should be shown again).

4. We were enthusiastic in recommending that LEYM endorse the Earth Charter. Margaret hopes to be able to order enough copies of the Charter so that everyone who attends Y.M. can be given a copy. Judy has since written a blurb, giving the gist of what the Charter is, which we hope will be included the LEYM Spring Bulletin. She has also drafted a minute for LEYM to consider. (See our **third proposal** attached to this report.)

5. Should LEYM endorse the Great Lakes Compact? We understand that the Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces have now all endorsed it, but that it contains loopholes that should be closed. It was suggested that LEYM commend the states of Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania for what they have already done legislatively, but ask that the Compact be strengthened and give some specifics. (We have not yet been able to follow up actively on this suggestion.)

6. We agreed that the EC should again endorse carpooling to and from Y.M., and help arrange transportation for those unable to arrange it through their local meetings. Al Connor volunteered to be the contact person this year. We will prepare an item, similar to last year's, to appear in this year's LEYM Spring Bulletin.

7. We agreed that an important part of the EC committee's report to LEYM each year from now on will be Al Connor's report from Quaker Earthcare Witness.

8. We agreed that the Earthcare Committee should ask LEYM to include in its budget an annual contribution to Quaker Earthcare Witness. (Copies of **two proposals** relating to this request, plus supporting documents, are attached.)

9. We agreed that we want again, in the spirit of Earthcare, to schedule a field trip to the Bluffton University natural area preserve on Thursday afternoon, June 11 (the first day of Y.M.), for all who are interested and available.

10. We responded to the request by the QEW Outreach Committee, which is attempting to establish a conference call system with two participants from each Y.M. I (Phil) agreed to join Al in this so that there will be two participants from LEYM. I participated in a conference call just this past Wednesday evening with John Payton (Northern Yearly Meeting) and Stuart Russell (Canadian Yearly Meeting), which I found both interesting and informative.

11. Al Connor, Margaret Kanost, and I expressed interest in attending the LEYM Executive Committee and Representative Meetings in Cleveland this weekend, and here we are!

Presented by Phil Clampitt, Committee Co-Clerk

Two Proposals from the LEYM Earthcare Committee
(with supporting documents)
to LEYM Representative Meeting

Dear Merry (and Shirley and Sally),

After further consultation with members of the Earthcare Committee, in particular with Jim Crowfoot and Al Connor, I belatedly offer here two proposals for your consideration at Representative Meeting and, we hope, at Yearly Meeting:

1) That one sentence of the LEYM Policies and Procedures [Section III-A (2) (b)] be amended. Currently it reads: "As Yearly Meeting policy, LEYM limits contributions to Friends' national organizations to Friends General Conference." We understand the reasons why this policy is in place, but we believe it is too restrictive.

We propose amending it as follows: "As Yearly Meeting policy, LEYM limits contributions to Friends' national organizations to Friends General Conference, and to such other Friends' organizations as are approved by the Yearly Meeting." Our hope is that Quaker Earthcare Witness would be one of those additional carefully selected organizations receiving annual financial support from LEYM.

2) That LEYM include in its budget, beginning this year, an annual financial contribution to Quaker Earthcare Witness. Pasted below, and also included as an attachment to this email, are two documents detailing this proposal. The first is under the subject heading, "Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Needs More Support!" The second is Al Connor's "Report from Quaker Earthcare Witness to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, Spring 2008." We understand that, in these times of economic distress, it may be difficult to gain approval for either of these proposals. We nevertheless offer them, in a spirit of love and prayer and an attempt at Friendly persuasion. We earnestly hope that ways may be found to increase the support given to Quaker Earthcare Witness by individual Friends, by local meetings and worship groups, and by LEYM as a body.

Love and peace on a restored and sustainable Earth,
Phil Clampitt
Co-clerk, LEYM Earthcare Committee

To LEYM Representative Meeting, from Earthcare Committee, February 25, 2009:
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Needs More Support!

QEW is a well-established and highly regarded national Quaker organization that focuses on Earthcare both spiritually and materially. LEYM has had a formal representative to QEW for some years. This representative is currently Al Connor, a member of the LEYM Earthcare Committee and a member of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting. His 2008 report on QEW is attached.

Most importantly, QEW is an invaluable source of the expertise of highly informed Quakers on a wide variety of topics in relation to Earthcare and sustainability as well as valuable books, pamphlets, reports, and videos. All of these resources are highly important in providing programs and policy-relevant information and analyses to the Yearly Meeting as well as to its monthly and quarterly meetings and its worship groups. These resources include the excellent and high quality newsletter, *BeFriending Creation.* It provides reports of what yearly and monthly meetings are doing about unsustainability, along with excellent reviews of and access to new information and resources that our meetings urgently need to understand the unprecedented problems and opportunities that we are increasingly experiencing and that unfortunately are highly likely to become more serious and severe.

The U.S. and other countries internationally and their localities (including ones where Quakers live, work, and worship) are increasingly experiencing the crises of unsustainability environmentally, socially, and economically. Like other religious groups in the U.S., Quakers, including LEYM, have been slow to recognize these crises with their ever greater threats and dire implications for Nature, including humans, as integrally and deeply interconnected with natural systems, including atmosphere, land, and water, both materially and spiritually.

It is now urgent that LEYM and its monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and worship groups engage in extensive remedial worship and spiritual discernment, as well as education and action within the meetings themselves, as well as the communities and regions on which they are interdependent and to which they owe loving service. This remedial devotion and work must focus on mitigating environmental destruction, reversing the increasing destruction of human life and potentials through rapidly increasing economic inequities within and between the countries of the world, and the contributions of this destruction to ever higher levels of violence and potential for more widespread violence.

For understanding and responding to the challenges and opportunities of unsustainability, QEW is the most important and relevant spiritual, educational, social service/action, and policy change resource available to LEYM and its meetings and their members and attendees. Therefore it makes excellent sense morally and pragmatically for LEYM to begin to provide annually budgeted and allocated financial support to QEW along with becoming more active participants in this Quaker organization, including using its leadings, testimonies, programs, and materials.

QEW is facing the challenge of the rapidly approaching retirement of its leaders, Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox, and the necessity of increasing its funding and budgeting to recruit and hire the best possible replacements who can fully dedicate themselves to continuing to develop and provide the leadership and

services in Earthcare to Quakers throughout the U.S.

Report from Quaker Earthcare Witness
to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, Spring 2008

Much of Quaker Earthcare Witness's (QEW) Steering Committee meeting in May was used to address member and organizational concerns.

A major concern is the lack of QEW contact with non-FGC monthly meetings. Relations with Friends United and Conservative yearly and monthly meetings have increased in the past two years. Contacts with Evangelical meetings are non-existent. Outreach to those meetings needs to be increased. The Outreach Committee has discerned that its primary focus should be on learning about and supporting an Earthcare Traveling Ministry.

Spiritual health of QEW was a concern of one Steering Committee member. He thought QEW was directing too much of its energy toward legislative and community action and not enough on developing the individual and collective spirituality that are the basis for QEW's mission. This concern led to a redraft of the organization's statement of purpose as follows:

- To lovingly nurture and lend to the quality of QEW's spiritual connection with and inclusion of the Divine, the Creation, all life and the light within all, in all deliberations during our spring and fall meetings.
- To facilitate clearness and support individuals in their earth-centered leadings.
- To attend to pastoral care such as: hold individual Friends in the light during QEW sessions as requested and facilitate opportunities for clearness/healing when conflict emerges among us.
- To offer to the QEW community *(which includes monthly and yearly meetings with which QEW has a relationship)* opportunities for study, reflection, experience, and meditation on our spiritual interconnection with all that is.

The FCNL working group of QEW reviewed the process used to make input to the FCNL's legislative priorities. QEW is a member organization of FCNL and as such has three representatives to FCNL's General Committee. LEYM's representative is one of those. The working group recommended that we not use specific language, but list general topics on which we can have unity. It was recommended that energy conservation and efficiency be stressed and that viable alternatives to fossil and nuclear fuels be developed and that incentives for development of such fuels be included in legislation and policy. The working group believes it is important for QEW and FCNL to work for a moral economy that is socially and ecologically sustainable. Members of the Quaker Institute for the future have written a book entitled *The Moral Economy for the Future*. Publication is imminent.

Mary Gilbert, QEW's representative to the United Nations, announced that QEW is now accredited with the Dept. of Public Information. That allows QEW representatives to attend, as observers, any session of interest. A QEW working group was formed to provide support and oversight to Mary. The Quaker United Nations Organization also is an accredited UN NGO.

Mary and her husband have been providing financial support for her work at the UN. Those costs have been about $1000 - $1500 per year and have not been included in the QEW budget. In the future they will be included as a reimbursable expense.

Fundraising is a concern of QEW. With Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox nearing retirement, the organization will need increased funds to employ fulltime staff to replace them and continue the QEW mission of education, publication, and outreach to the wider community of Friends and the Wider Quaker Fellowship. They have been working fulltime on two thirds- and half-time contracts. To that end QEW had three fundraising seminars. **I would like to request that LEYM consider making a direct annual contribution Quaker Earthcare Witness.** Presently, monthly meetings make contributions but the Yearly Meeting does not.

At the annual meeting of QEW at Burlington, Vermont in October 2007, QEW celebrated its 25th birthday and honored Bill and Isabel Bliss of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, who were its first clerks and administrators.

At the October meeting, after much deliberation and some contention, the Sustainability, Faith, and Action interest group submitted a minute requesting the United States Congress to enact legislation banning construction and expansion, or extending the life, of nuclear power generating plants, given the present state of the art for such generation and storage of spent radioactive fuel. The minute was given to the FCNL energy lobbyist for distribution to senators and members of the House of Representatives.

We heard inspirational messages from Bill McKibben and David Merkyl. McKibben stressed that it will take

organized action by people who are not corporate and political leaders to bring about the changes needed to restore the earth, preserve life as we know it, and slow down global warming. His latest book, *The Deep Economy*, was on hand. It discusses the need for such organization to develop sustainable communities and a sustainable earth. Merkyl, a young man who worked in industry as marketing high technology, described how he is now living comfortably on an income of $5000 per year.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan N. Connor
LEYM delegated representative to QEW

A Third Proposal from the LEYM Earthcare Committee to LEYM Representative Meeting

The Earthcare Committee proposes that Lake Erie Yearly Meeting endorse the Earth Charter through adoption of the following minute at our 2009 annual sessions:

> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends endorses the Earth Charter. The Charter was developed by an international consultation process in response to a call from the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 for a new charter that would set forth fundamental principles for sustainable ways of living. The Earth Charter emphasizes environmental challenges, but also reflects the fact that these are bound inseparably with human rights, equitable human development, and peace.
>
> Recognizing that the drafting of the Charter has involved the most open and participatory consultation process ever conducted in connection with an international document, conducted over a decade with thousands of people representing all regions of the world participating, LEYM is spiritually moved to endorse the Earth Charter. LEYM also supports the Earth Charter Initiative, whose goals are to promote the Earth Charter, encourage its use educationally, and to seek its endorsement by the United Nations.

(Please see *www.earthcharter.org* for more information, including the complete text of the Earth Charter.)

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Clampitt, Co-clerk, LEYM Earthcare Committee

Finance Committee (RM09 -16)

Contributions from monthly meetings: Eight meetings have not yet sent in contributions for this fiscal year. The clerk of Finance Committee will send an email to the treasurers of these meetings to remind them to send a check to Eric Starbuck.

Considerations of next year's budget: We ask that committees submit their requests for changes in the budget to the clerk of Finance Committee before the Annual Session in June. The Finance Committee is aware of the following potential changes:

1. High school fund: This year we transferred $1100 to this fund. The current balance in the fund is $10,400. How much should we budget for this fund for next year?
2. Clerks' consultation: $2400 was transferred to this fund this year for the consultation to be held in November 2009. We will not need to transfer more into this fund in 2009-10.
3. Nurturing Quakerism Campaign: We have made our last payment to FGC for this campaign. FGC has launched a new campaign: Stoking the Fires of Quakerism. Do we want to commit to the new campaign?

Available funds: The youth activity fund has money available for youth programming. Youth should be encouraged to request funds. The scholarship fund for ministry has not yet been used. People interested in attending retreats, workshops, or classes should be encouraged to send proposals to the Ministry & Nurture Committee.

Scholarship program for first time attenders: We proposed a scholarship program for first time attenders to our annual gathering. The Yearly Meeting would commit to granting a scholarship for one-third of the registration, room, and lodging fees. Attenders would be encouraged to ask their meetings for a scholarship to

cover another one-third of the costs. The funds for the scholarships would come out of the $5000 balance in the annual meeting fund.

Registration fees for the Annual Meeting: The Finance Committee proposes that the registration fees for the 2009 meeting remain the same as the fees for the 2008 meeting: $37 per adult on or before May 23 and $47 after May 23. The registration fee for children and youth under the age of 18 is $0.

Presented by Sally Weaver Sommer, Committee Clerk

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Treasurer's Report
February 28, 2009 (RM09 – 15)

Fund	Opening Balance	Income	Expenses	Current Balance
General Fund	$6,012.44	$20,985.96	$25,363.53	$1,634.87
General Fund	$6,708.63	$15,081.00	$23,627.21	$(1,837.58)
Annual Meeting	18,126.07	20.00	12,989.24	5,156.83
Triennial Travel	1,706.45	1,240.00	-	2,946.45
Youth Activity Fund	5,465.26	3,592.41	1,212.49	7,845.18
Spiritual Formation	3,625.25	2,510.00	1,804.81	4,330.44
High School Program	5,796.61	6,492.00	1,877.11	10,411.50
Consultation	18.55	2,400.00	-	2,418.55
Granville Friends Youth Fund	6,010.60	172.41	172.41	6,010.60
Totals	$47,457.42	$31,507.82	$41,683.27	$37,281.97

Account	Opening Balance	Income	Debits	Current Balance
Shorebank CD - 4003424 - 3/6/2010	$2,292.20	52.41	-	$2,344.61
Shorebank CD - 4003416 - 9/3/2009	$2,368.44	59.32	-	$2,427.76
Shorebank CD - 686108009 - 11/17/2011 - GFYF	$6,010.60	172.41	172.41	$6,010.60
Lorain National Bank - checking	$36,786.18	15,081.00	28,378.72	$23,488.46
Totals	$47,457.42	$15,365.14	$28,551.13	$34,271.43

General Fund - Income

Meeting	**Contribution**
Akron	-
Ann Arbor	-
Athens	-
Birmingham	$682.00
Broadmead	$1,000.00
Cleveland	-
Delaware	-
Detroit	$300.00
Grand Rapids	$871.00
Granville	$850.00
Holland	-
Kalamazoo	$1,780.00
Kent	$629.00
Mid-Ohio Valley	$180.00
Monongalia	$490.00
North Columbus	$800.00
Oberlin	$780.00
Pine River	$592.00
Pittsburgh	$5,587.00
Red Cedar	-
Wooster	$540.00
Misc.	-
Sales & Fees	-
Interest	-
Totals	$15,081.00

General Fund - Expenses

(* = transfers to other funds)	Budget	Actual	Percent
Travel	$6,500.00	$3,179.23	49%
Office	$300.00	$19.99	7%
Publications	$3,400.00	$2,487.99	73%
Advancement	$880.00	-	0%
Ministry & Nurture*	$200.00	$200.00	100%
Clerk's Fund	$500.00	$500.00	100%
FGC	$4,500.00	$4,500.00	100%
FGC - Special Program	$500.00	$500.00	100%
Records Project	$100.00	$100.00	100%
FWCC Travel *	$1,240.00	$1,240.00	100%
Youth Activity Fund *	$2,700.00	$2,700.00	100%
High School Youth Fund *	$1,100.00	$1,100.00	100%
Spiritual Formation *	$600.00	$600.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	$2,500.00	$2,500.00	100%
Olney Friends School	$600.00	$600.00	100%
Granville Youth Fund*	-	-	-
Consultation Fund*	$2,400.00	$2,400.00	100%
Scholarship Fund for Ministry*	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	100%
Totals	$29,020.00	$23,627.21	81%

FWCC Triennial Travel Fund

Balance	$1,706.45
Expenses	-
Income - transfer	$1,240.00
Balance	$2,946.45

Granville Friends Youth Fund

Balance	$6,010.60
Interest income	$172.41
Transfer to Youth Activity Fund	$172.41
Transfer from General Fund	-
Balance	$6,010.60

Youth Activity Fund

Balance	$5,465.26
Transfer from General Fund	$2,700.00
Tuition - Youth Retreat	$720.00
Interest from Granville Fund	$172.41
Sale of T-shirts	-
Total Income	$3,592.41
Expenses - Grants	-
Expense - Youth Retreat	$1,212.49
Total Expenses	$1,212.49
Balance	$7,845.18

High School Youth Program

Income

Opening Balance	$1,496.61
Transfer - General Fund	$5,400.00
Clerk's Fund	-
Retreats	$1,092.00
Grants - Youth Activity Fund	-
Total Income	$6,492.00

Expenses

Program Expenses	-
Stipend	$1,100.00
Retreats	$777.11
Total Expenses	$1,877.11
Balance	$6,111.50

Spiritual Formation Group

Balance	$3,625.25
Transfer from General Fund	$600.00
Income from Retreats	$1,910.00
Total Income	$2,510.00
Expenses	$1,804.81
Balance	$4,330.44

Consultation

Balance	$18.55
Income	-
Transfer from Gen. Fund	$2,400.00
Participants	-
Total Income	$2,418.55
Expenses	-
Balance	$2,418.55

Annual Meeting 2008

Income

Housing and commuter fees	$6,063.00
Meals	$6,358.30
Registration fees	$4,343.00
Donations	$199.30
Lost Keys	$20.00
Total	$16,983.60

Expenses

Housing and commuter fees	$6,097.50
Meals	$6,654.70
Honoraria	$2,473.05
Scholarships	$187.74
Watermelon	$58.50
Copies	$65.10
Lost keys	$100.00
Total	$15,636.59
Surplus	$1,347.01

Annual Meeting Fund 2008	
Balance 6/28/08	$18,126.07
Income-lost card	$20.00
Expenses	
Bluffton	$12,975.80
Copies	$13.44
Balance 7/31/08	$5,156.83
In-Kind Contributions	$293.79

Donations	
FGC	$4,500.00
FGC - Nurturing Quakerism - Final Payment	$500.00
Friends Hist Library, Swarthmore - Archiving	$100.00
Friends School in Detroit	$2,500.00
Olney Friends School	$600.00
TOTAL	$8,200.00

Scholarship Fund for Ministry	
Opening Balance	-
Transfer from General Fund	$1,000.00
Scholarships	-
Balance	$1,000.00

Travel	
Budget	$6,500.00
Expense	$3,179.23
Total	$3,320.77

Publications	
Budget	$3,400.00
Expense	$2,487.99
Total	$912.01

Presented by Eric Starbuck, Treasurer

High School Youth Program Committee (RM09 – 20)

The High School Youth Program Committee is preparing to solicit applications for the position of High School Youth Program Coordinator. The Coordinator plans, coordinates, and evaluates four weekend retreats, with the support of the Committee.

Qualities desired in a High School Youth Program Coordinator include:

- Experience with and enthusiasm for working with high school aged youth
- Commitment to Quaker values
- Ability to provide leadership and motivation
- Organizational and money management skills
- Ability to communicate with high school aged youth, parents, and the broader YM community
- Ability to work collaboratively with the High School Youth Program Committee

In addition to advertising among LEYM, the Committee plans to publicize this position in other nearby Yearly Meetings and Quaker schools and colleges. Pending decisions about the composition of the Committee, we hope to receive applications prior to Annual Meeting and possibly commence on evaluating those applications.

Presented by Michael Fuson, Committee Clerk

Ministry & Nurture Committee (RM09 - 25)

Consolidated Response to Annual LEYM Query

The Query:

Are we open to the Other?
What keeps me/us from connecting with those who are different from me/us?
What fears cloud my/our vision of the Light in all beings?
How can I listen with my heart, willing to be vulnerable?
How are we teaching our children that God's love includes all?

Below is a consolidation of the responses to this query from 12 meetings and worship groups.

To be unconditionally open requires a rare maturity of spirit. It takes courage to approach the "Other" with the possibility that one's own position may change. How one attains this level of vulnerability remains a mystery but is central to finding the Light in all beings. We classify, group, or stereotype people to make sense of the world. But this can lead to a multitude of fears: fear of rejection or ridicule, fear of the unknown, fear of being judged wrong, fear of being hurt. Misinterpretation of others and lack of trust also separate us.

The differences that could be in the "Other" are limitless, but could include race, social or economic status, gender, tastes, lifestyle, values, religion, and politics. We most often focus on others' behavior rather than on their being. We sometimes focus on these differences rather than our similarities.

We need to accept with humility that others do not have to think like us to also be children of the Divine. We need to find the courage to engage with people who think very differently from us, and this engagement needs to sometimes include listening to them without trying to change or convert them. It is a challenge for many liberal Friends to find ways to meaningfully connect with politically or socially conservative individuals or groups.

Sometimes it is easier to see that of God in others than in ourselves. Perhaps we need to learn to have more love and compassion for ourselves, and this will enable us to do the same for others. Some of us find that it seems easier to love and forgive those who are at a distance.

A couple of meetings suggested that we can improve how we explain ourselves as Quakers to people who express interest, including visitors to our meetings. Quaker Quest is one potential tool for this endeavor.

Teaching our children is another challenge. The example that we set for them is very important. We are blind to our own prejudices, and children learn what they observe. "It is not so much what they are taught, but what they have caught."

How do we demonstrate that God's love includes all? Part of it is in the neighborhoods that we live in – are they integrated or segregated? Another part is in how we treat friends and strangers: Do we make eye contact, smile at them, recognize them as human beings? In our conversations with and around children, how do we refer to other groups or people?

One way to bridge perceived differences is to cultivate openness and the ability to listen with our hearts. Here, faithfulness to the Light is about how you behave – the charity you show to others.

Spiritual Formation Program, 2008-2009

1. There was a fall retreat in Michigan, September 5-7, 2008, at the Leaven Center in Lyons:
   - 16 people participated. Connie Lezenby and Mickey Edgeton of Gwynedd Meeting (PYM) led the retreat.
   - The theme was "Grounding our Spirituality in Nature: Strengthening our Connections with the Source of Nourishment and Refreshment."
   - The group heard from Connie and Mickey on topics related to the theme, and experienced individual and small group exercises designed to help participants live more fully in the presence.
2. Participants were from Birmingham, Broadmead, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Pine River, and Red Cedar Monthly Meetings, and from Manitou Worship Group.
3. The spring retreat is scheduled for April 25th at the Kalamazoo Friends Meeting.

4. The fall retreat for the 2009-2010 program is scheduled for September 25-27, 2009 at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan.

Presented by Ellen Barnes, Committee Clerk

Peace Committee (RM09 - 23)

ATTENDING: Committee members Betty Ford, Kurt Liske, David Lore (clerk), and Jim Satterwhite. Guest attenders Adele Looney and Serina Hanna.

Because events since last November's election are moving at such a fast pace, it was agreed to develop two committee minutes for timely distribution to monthly meetings and members of the Yearly Meeting executive board. These are:

- An alert to area Friends about a statement last month by the executive committee of the World Council of Churches on the need for religious groups to respond to the Gaza crisis. This alert will also note LEYM's 2008 open letters to Barack Obama and John McCain urging a reality-based assessment of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

  http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/bossey-february-2009/20-02-09-statement-on-the-gaza-war.html

  http://leym.quaker.org/peacecommittee.html

- An advisory to monthly meetings to support political action to achieve U.S. Senate ratification of the international ban on the use of cluster bombs. Peace Committee is concerned that if the Obama administration intends to keep U.S. forces in Iraq through 2011, priority must be placed on cleaning up such lethal abandoned munitions over the next two years.
  http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/take-action/

It was agreed to continue to monitor these issues as Obama administration policies develop, and revisit them as necessary at Yearly Meeting in June.

In addition, the committee agreed to prepare a document – in the form of an open letter, or possibly queries – urging monthly meetings and individual Friends to clearly define the "end game" when speaking out and/ or writing about policy issues. When discussing the "problem" of nuclear weapons development in Iraq, Korea, or Pakistan, for example, should Friends focus on who is allowed to have nukes or on the need for eventual abolition of nuclear weapons by all nations? We have gone straight to the core issue with "War is Not the Answer" and total opposition to torture. Similar "end game" perspectives are needed in other areas as well.

Without taking action, the committee used its time together to discuss possible Quaker responses to the current economic recession. Quakers, it was noted, have long focused on issues of economic justice and the size of the U.S. military budget.

We shared Bekah Sommer's report to us from the recent ecumenical conference, "Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace," in Pennsylvania. Sommer's positive experience encourages us to investigate participation in this initiative in the future.

In addition, Kurt Liske brought to our attention the wonderful work of the International Institute of Akron in resettling refugees from abroad. The Kent Meeting has been an active participant in the Institute's program.

Presented by David Lore, Committee Clerk

Program Committee (RM09 – 18)

As announced in the Winter *Bulletin* 2009, Max Carter of Guilford College will be the plenary speaker at Lake Erie Yearly Meeting sessions in June. His plenary will address: "On Meeting with the Other: Peacemaking Lessons from Quaker Work in the Midwest and the Middle East." His workshop will deal primarily with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and looking for a just peace. There will be five other workshops, both annually-featured ones and new ones.

Also renewed this year, Saturday evening=s program will be a talent-sharing night. We look forward to youth as well as adult participation. Friends will have an opportunity to sign up prior to yearly meeting (instructions in the Spring *Bulletin*) or at Yearly Meeting sessions.

As usual, Friends will gather for worship with attention to business.
This year in particular, we will address a career for the ongoing youth program.

We welcome friends to participate in yearly meeting, June 11-14, 2009 at Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio. More details and registration forms will be available in the Spring Lake Erie Yearly Meeting *Bulletin* and on the Yearly Meeting website.

Presented by Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Committee Co-Clerk

Publications & Archives Committee (RM09 – 11)

A. Jeff Cooper will edit *Annual Records 2009*.

B. The co-editors of the *2009 LEYM Directory*, Dan Bell and Mathilda Navias, have still not received updated directory information from five meetings and one worship group (Athens, Birmingham, Cleveland, Grand Rapids, Granville, and Manitou). Once this information is received, completion should take roughly a month. We hope to have the published *Directory* to distribute at the beginning of Annual Meeting (June 11).

C. We intend to remind meetings and worship groups that they can/ should submit archival materials (e.g., minutes, financial reports, notices of marriages and deaths) to Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College. (See *Policies and Procedures*, IV. E. 6. b. (1).)

D. In response to the request for each committee to update its section(s) of *Policies and Procedures*, we note that our current practice has drifted a long way. We have begun to explore substantial questions such as "How broad is (should be) the role of the *Bulletin* Editor?" "How is the *Annual Records* Editor chosen?" and "How many people are needed on the committee?" These are question on which we need to work cooperatively with Nominating Committee and LEYM officers. We hope to prepare a draft proposal soon.

E. We request approval to change the publication timeline for the *Annual Records* as follows:

Policies and Procedures, I. B. 4:

c. All LEYM documents to be included in the *Annual Records* should be submitted to its Editor no later than four weeks after rise of Annual Meeting.

d. The *Annual Records* shall be published no later than ten weeks after rise of Annual Meeting.

F. We have proposed amendments to the LEYM privacy policy concerning the version of the *Bulletin* that appears on our Website, and circulated them among meetings and worship groups:

1) The full names of adult Friends (those 18 and over) may appear in the version of the *Bulletin* posted on the Web. The names of children and youth (under age 18) may *not* appear there.

2) Photos of Friends of all ages may appear in the version of the *Bulletin* posted on the Web, with one exception: photos depicting *one* child or youth (under age 18) *alone* may *not* appear there.

These amendments follow current practice. If this practice is acceptable, *Bulletin* Editors should have clarity that they are supported. If the practice is unacceptable, we need to adjust it.

We have heard from six meetings and worship groups. Most support the proposal, but one feels that the second amendment is "too restrictive." An alternative would be to allow photos of individual children with permission of both the child and the parent.

We invite commentary from meeting representatives and others.

Presented by Jeff Cooper, Committee Clerk

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
46th Annual Sessions
June 11-14, 2009
Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

Thursday Evening Session

YM09 - 1 Opening Worship, Reading of Letter of Greeting from Britain Yearly Meeting

Friends gathered at the appointed time with worship out of which our Assistant Clerk, Shirley Bechill (Pine River), read a letter of greeting from Britain Yearly Meeting directed personally to our Yearly Meeting. British Friends realize that while our individual understandings of the Inner Light are diverse, in worship we share together the experience of the divine and learn trust as that experience carries us to unknown destinations. They are developing a framework for priorities to guide their lives and work, deepening their faith and commitment for serving the needs of the world.

YM09 - 2 Guidelines for Conduct in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Our Clerk, Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), read a list of guidelines for conduct in meeting for worship with attention to business in accord with the longstanding traditions of Friends and encouraged us to follow these guidelines.

YM09 - 3 Appointment of Assistant Recording Clerk

Nominating Committee. Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) proposed that Margy Liske (Kent) serve as Assistant Recording Clerk through 2010. Friends **approved**. Joe Mills (Kalamazoo), Recording Clerk, warmly welcomed her to the Clerks' table.

YM09 - 4 Introductions

Our Clerk introduced our Recording Clerk, Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) and Assistant Clerk, Shirley Bechill (Pine River). Our clerk welcomed new attenders and visitors and invited them to introduce themselves: Philip Mauer, Broadmead; Jo Steigerwald, Cleveland; Sol Metz, Anne Remley, Dina Greenway, and Sarah Gerk, Ann Arbor; Nadine Thompson, Red Cedar; Max Carter, New Garden (NCYM-FUM); Sue Axtell, Earlham School of Religion; Barbara Mays, FGC; Mary Ellen Newport, Olney Friends School.

YM09 - 5 Calling of the Roll

The calling of the roll of Friends from constituent meetings and groups gave the following count (corrected against registrations):

Monthly Meetings			
Akron	1	Kalamazoo	6
Ann Arbor	25	Kent	3
Athens	10	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	9	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	22	North Columbus	4
Cleveland	16	Oberlin	3
Delaware	0	Pine River	6
Detroit	2	Pittsburgh	9
Grand Rapids	3	Red Cedar	10
Granville	3	Wooster	4
Holland	0		
Worship Groups		Visitors	6
Erie	1		
Manitou	3		

Total in Attendance: 146

YM09 - 6 Memorials

Our Clerk invited Friends to respectfully share out of the silence the names of Friends who have passed on so that we could hold them in the Light: Robert Davis, the son of Claire and Joe Davis, Broadmead; George Bower, Jo Ann Pratt, and John Hamm, Pittsburgh; Homer Chance, Carl Orecklin, and Elizabeth Struble, Ann Arbor; David Noyes, Athens; Kay Huber, Wooster; and Lois Laughlin, West Branch Friends Meeting, Iowa. We give thanks for their lives and will continue to hold them and their families in the Light.

YM09 - 7 Appointment of Epistle Committee

The Clerk asked for two Friends to volunteer to serve with the Assistant Clerk on the Epistle Committee. Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) and Helen Söderberg (Red Cedar) offered their services in helping to write our epistle.

YM09 - 8 Announcements from Committees

Program Committee co-clerks, Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie) and Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor), encouraged Friends to participate in Saturday night's talent show. They also shared various program details for our sessions and reminded us to complete the evaluation forms before the end of our Annual Meeting. Nancy Nagler (Pine River), clerk of the Youth & Children Committee, called for volunteers to serve as drivers for the children's swimming.

YM09 - 9 Appointment of Nominating Committee members

Naming Committee. Verne Bechill (Pine River) and Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) proposed that Mark Post (Grand Rapids) and Ann Sprague (Detroit) be appointed to the Nominating Committee. We **approved** these appointments.

YM09 - 10 Representative Meeting Date & Consultation for Monthly Meeting Clerks

Our Clerk announced that Representative Meeting will be held as usual on the first Saturday of March; the location is yet to be determined. Forms and information on the Consultation for Monthly Meeting Clerks are available at the Clerks' table. Friends are encouraged to take this material to their monthly meeting clerks to share and promote the consultation.

YM09 - 11 Executive Committee Report

Our Clerk reported for the Executive Committee that Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is 46 years old with more needs arising and constituent meetings making use of more services. Yearly Meeting is attempting to accommodate these needs.

a. Last year we approved an ad hoc Committee on Queries. This committee now consists of Thomas Taylor (clerk - Ann Arbor), Raelyn Joyce (Kalamazoo), Jo Posti (Pittsburgh), Ellen Barnes (Birmingham), and David Snyder (Oberlin). This committee is working on a set of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting queries.
b. A new ad hoc committee has been formed to update and revise *Policies and Procedures*. Members are: Jeff Cooper (clerk - Ann Arbor), Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh), Mathilda Navias (Broadmead), and Joseph Mills (ex officio as Recording Clerk - Kalamazoo).
c. The Clerk introduced a proposal that Yearly Meeting contract on a consulting basis to coordinate and update the Yearly Meeting web presence, and asked that Friends consider this request when we consider the budget.

YM09 - 12 Announcements

Our Assistant Clerk requested that announcements for Annual Sessions be submitted in writing to her beforehand.

a. Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) announced procedures for selecting and purchasing books and other items at the bookstore. Valerie feels a future need for an assistant as the variety of merchandise for sale expands.
b. Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) reported that copies of the Earth Charter are available near the

registration desk for Friends to pick up and review.

Friday Morning Session

YM09 - 13 Worship and Reading from Epistle from Northwest Yearly Meeting

Out of our opening worship, the Assistant Clerk shared from the Epistle from Northwest Yearly Meeting (Seventh Month 2008). Northwest Friends describe themselves as a community of Friends that sings with one voice the triumphant story of their faith. They are experiencing a wholesome rebirth with new boards, new missions, new approaches, and new spiritual and social ministries. Our Clerk shared from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice* on our proper discipline in participating in meeting for business.

YM09 - 14 Introductions

Our Clerk again welcomed newcomers to introduce themselves: Dwight Wilson (Head of Friends School in Detroit) and Jim and Mary Kalafus, Ann Arbor; Bob Roehm, North Columbus; and Jennifer Bing-Canar, Clear Creek Meeting (Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting) and our visiting representative from American Friends Service Committee - Chicago. We heard the kind letter of introduction from Bruce Birchard, Friends General Conference General Secretary, introducing our FGC staff visitor, Barbara Mays.

YM09 - 15 AFSC Great Lakes Regional Office

Jennifer Bing-Canar reported on the work of the AFSC Great Lakes Regional Office. Despite Service Committee budgetary constraints, young people have become enthusiastically involved with internships. The Committee's work is still moving forward with a highly committed staff that is making personal sacrifices in these times of major financial challenges for the Service Committee. Friends shared concerns about budgetary problems and their impact on programs and voiced concern and compassion for the dedicated program staff.

YM09 - 16 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (clerk - Ann Arbor) introduced members of the committee who were present: Fred Feitler (Kent), Mathilda Navias (Broadmead), Phil Balderston (Wooster), Nancy James (Pittsburgh), and Ann Sprague (Detroit), who joined the work of the committee before her term begins at the rise of Yearly Meeting Sessions. Forms with job descriptions are available at the registration desk for Friends to complete as to where and how they might serve the Yearly Meeting. Needs remain for Friends to serve on Arrangement & Site, High School Youth Program, Publications & Archives (a co-clerk is needed), and as representatives to Friends organizations.

YM09 - 17 Olney Friends School

Mary Ellen Newport, representing Olney Friends School, Greg Mott, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Representative to Olney, and Khenti-sha Iyi, a senior at Olney, all spoke with great enthusiasm about the School. Greg shared many cogent changes since 1999 when the Friends of Olney assumed governance. Both graduation and the alumni meeting gave him a great sense of Olney's purpose and direction. Mary Ellen brought greetings from many Olney families and feels very strongly about the necessity of the School to be connected to the Yearly Meetings and the monthly meetings that are a part of each. She spoke of the strong spiritual sense of Quaker values and testimonies as a part of the academic and service culture of the School and the palpable sense of place. Diversity flourishes, with 11 countries and 11 states represented among the student bodies. Mary Ellen issued a clear call for student applicants. Olney senior Khenti-sha Iyi, a graduate of Friends School in Detroit, spoke of the vibrant school spirit and school friendships, among students as well as faculty.

YM09 - 18 Advancement & Outreach

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) presented a written report. Monongalia Meeting has a new meetinghouse. Friends appreciate the extensive work of this committee.

YM09 - 19 2009 Yearly Meeting Directory

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) announced that the new *2009 Yearly Meeting Directory* is complete and presently available, thanks to the diligent work of Dan Bell and Mathilda Navias (Broadmead).

Friday Afternoon Session

YM09 - 20 Worship and Reading of Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting

Following the opening worship, our Assistant Clerk shared an Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting (2009). Our Australian Friends recognize that our responses to today's needs for justice and environmental responsibility must remain Spirit-led and will require patience as well as preparedness. They hear the call of their young people that they are the ones who will be adversely impacted by failure to timely address climate change.

Our Clerk shared an advice from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting noting the need to respect all members, that God is in no hurry, and that perhaps humans are not of greatest importance in God's vast universe.

YM09 - 21 Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer, Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh), thanked Connie Bimber for her past service and presented a written financial report as of 6/11/09 giving opening and closing fund balances with income and disbursements. Currently, we are nearly $3200 under budget. Eric and Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), Clerk of the Finance Committee, answered questions about the report. Friends accepted the report with appreciation.

YM09 - 22 Finance Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) presented a report on the development of next year's proposed budget, giving detailed explanations of various line items. Friends shared their concerns about providing additional support for various Friends ministries. The budget will come to our final session for approval; preview copies will be posted. She also shared a procedure which describes oversight for the proposed payment of consultants by the Yearly Meeting.

YM09 - 23 Earthcare Committee

Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) and Al Connor (Ann Arbor) submitted written reports. The Committee proposed a minute for the Yearly Meeting endorsing the Earth Charter. Comments were shared; while not in full agreement on the reasons for supporting the Charter, Friends **approved** the Yearly Meeting endorsing the Earth Charter.

The Committee also proposed amending our *Policies and Procedures* to allow Yearly Meeting contributions to other Friends national organizations besides Friends General Conference. Friends reviewed the reasons for our original policy and also recognized the rising importance of an earthcare testimony. We are not yet in unity on this proposal.

Saturday Morning Session

YM09 - 24 Reading of Epistle of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns

Our Assistant Clerk read the Epistle of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns from their mid-winter gathering, where they found joy in their loving community. They are saddened that FGC Gatherings are held in locations where laws deny them civil rights, despite Friends' knowledge experientially of God's love and support for all people. With recognition that this country is strengthened by diversity, they ask Friends to join them in seeking equality, knowing that radical love will prevail.

YM09 - 25 Date of Annual Meeting

Arrangement & Site. Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead) reported that Representative Meeting approved changing dates of Annual Meeting for 2010 at Bluffton University to late July to accommodate families with children who often are in school during our sessions. The dates for 2010 will be 7/29 to 8/1. We

approved holding Annual Meeting in 2011 from 7/28 to 7/31. We will be reviewing the suitability of holding Annual Meeting in late July on an ongoing basis.

YM09 - 26 LEYM Privacy Policy

Publications & Archives. Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) submitted a written report. Friends unite in amending the Yearly Meeting's Privacy Policy to reflect the following:

1) The full names of adult Friends (those 18 and over) may appear on the LEYM website. The names of children and youth (under age 18) may not appear there without prior approval of their parent or guardian.
2) Photos of Friends of all ages may appear on our website. Friends can request that pictures of themselves or their children *not* be posted on our website by checking a box on the registration form.

Registration forms for any LEYM event will provide this option.

YM09 - 27 Peace Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) submitted a written report. Friends **approved** a letter to President Obama (on the extended version of Yearly Meeting letterhead) requesting him to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions banning the use of cluster bombs. We also **approved** a letter to the President and members of Congress urging that military equipment exports to Israel be stopped, to work for relief and reconstruction in Gaza, and to adopt a viable peace agreement.

YM09 - 28 Friends General Conference Gathering

Our own Star Mary Castro (Athens) is Co-Clerk of the 2010 FGC Gathering with Rex Sprouse, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, to take place in our region at Bowling Green, Ohio. Starting Sunday 7/4 and ending Saturday 7/10, the Gathering will last only six nights to help reduce costs. Jon Sommer (Broadmead) is clerking local arrangements and Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends are strongly urged to participate in the Gathering and serve as volunteers. Star Mary gave details as to the various committees and the evening program, and noted the available scholarships and many work grants. The theme is "Accepting Gifts of the Spirit."

YM09 - 29 Ministry & Nurture

Ellen Barnes (Birmingham) submitted a written report. We thank the Committee for all its work and efforts.

YM09 - 30 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) submitted a preliminary report listing committee assignments and officers. The committee raised a concern of reducing the number of our representatives to Friends organizations because of travel expense.

YM09 - 31 Announcements

a. Our Assistant Clerk informed us that Miriam Peebles (Indiana Yearly Meeting) suffered a massive heart attack and is in intensive care. She and her husband, Vaughn Peebles (Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting), are longtime visitors to our Annual Meeting. We are asked to hold her and Vaughn in the Light.
b. Rebecca Morehouse (Ann Arbor) and Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie), co-clerks of Program Committee, recognized and expressed appreciation for the faithful work and positive energy of the Committee, whose other members are Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Linda Mills (Kalamazoo), Bekah Sommer (Broadmead), and Janet Dando (Akron). Special thanks were offered to Peggy Daub, who has served well for five years and will be moving on to other work for the Yearly Meeting.

Saturday Afternoon Session

YM09 - 32 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Shirley Bechill (Pine River) submitted a written report for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting as its Clerk.

YM09 - 33 Friends School in Detroit

Dwight Wilson (Ann Arbor), Head of School, reported that the School has survived several recessions since its original opening. This year's grade school graduates were admitted to their first choice high schools, and many Friends School alumni have been accepted to and attend prestigious colleges and universities. Although facing financial distress, the School hopes to open in September with a projected enrollment of about 120 students. The Board of Trustees has decided not to renew Dwight's contract. Friends expressed their deep admiration for and gratitude to Dwight for his invaluable service to and community building for the School, making it the strong academic institution that it is. The Yearly Meeting **approved** an extra $1000 financial contribution to the School from this year's budget.

YM09 - 34 High School Youth Program

Michael Fuson (Granville) reported on the High School Youth Program which has been inactive for the most part these past two years. Shirley Bechill (Pine River), Assistant Clerk, Nancy Nagler (Pine River), Clerk of Youth & Children Program, and Michael Fuson interviewed an impressive applicant for the contractual coordinator position, whom they are eager to refer to the High School Youth Program Committee once it is reconstituted. The Committee will provide oversight to the coordinator. The Clerk asked Friends to explore their hearts for a leading to serve on this committee.

YM09 - 35 Youth & Children Program

Nancy Nagler (Pine River) reported that we have 26 happy and active young people participating in many activities. Leaders are:

Joyce Balderston (Wooster) with returning Bluffton students	
Christina Hieber and Kristian Overmyer	Infants
Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens) & Conleth Crotser (Cleveland)	Early Elementary
Peter Crowley and Tim Damon (both Cleveland)	Upper Elementary
Diane Mott (Broadmead) & Mary Takahashi (Pine River)	Middle School
Steve Connor (Ann Arbor) & Walter Mead (Pittsburgh)	High School
Nancy Nagler (Pine River) & Su Penn (Red Cedar)	Coordinators

YM09 - 36 Friends World Committee for Consultation

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported that the FWCC World Conference will be held in 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya with the theme: "Being Salt and Light: Living the Kingdom in a Broken World." Our Yearly Meeting will be entitled to several representatives.

Yearly Meeting is the host of the annual gathering of the Lower Great Lakes Region of FWCC, Section of the Americas. Ann Arbor Meeting has graciously agreed to serve as a host site. The dates are 10/30 - 11/1/2009 and the theme is "Living Our Quaker Faith Today."

First Day Session

YM09 - 37 2009-10 Budget

We **approved** the 2009-10 budget of $30,820 as presented by the Finance Committee. The most significant change (for one year only) was an increase of $2000 to Friends School in Detroit in response to its current budget crisis. The suggested per adult member contribution will remain at $37.

YM09 - 38 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) presented a final written report showing nominations for officers and committee assignments. Friends **approved** the nominations. We held over for further consideration the Committee's recommendation of reducing the number of representatives to AFSC & FCNL.

YM09 - 39 Attendance at Annual Meeting

Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead) for Arrangement & Site announced a total attendance at Annual Meeting of 146, with 14 first-time attenders who received scholarships.

YM09 - 40 Reports, Epistles, and Introductions From Young People

We cherished the reports, epistles, and introductions we received from our young people and we will include these in our *Annual Records*. We thank them for their presentations and treasure the joy they have brought us.

YM09 - 41 Epistle from Adult Young Friends

We received the Epistle from the Adult Young Friends. They reported on their activities during our sessions with warm laughter. We increasingly value their presence among us.

YM09 - 42 Yearly Meeting Epistle

The Yearly Meeting Epistle was read and **approved** as written, with acknowledgment of the effort behind its fine quality.

YM09 - 43 Friends Committee on National Legislation

Michael Fuson (Granville) and David Snyder (Oberlin) reported that the Friends Committee on National Legislation has undergone a 25% to 30% reduction in its staffing and budget. It now has a sustainable budget due to the support of Friends in these financially difficult times. A challenge match is in place for additional giving. FCNL's influence remains strong as its staff has been sought out by congressional staffers and members of the presidential transition team. It continues with efforts toward peace in the Middle East.

YM09 - 44 Minute of Gratitude for Service of Shirley Bechill

Friends **approved** the following minute:

> Friends of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting are grateful for the service of Shirley Bechill of Pine River Monthly Meeting as Presiding and Assistant Clerk of the Yearly Meeting. Friend Shirley kindly communicated interest in every level of Yearly Meeting activities, presided with love, patience, and understanding over meetings for worship with attention to business, and persistently reminded Friends of the presence of the Spirit in our midst.

YM09 - 45 Appreciations

We share in the appreciation of each other's presence, which lightened our loads, lifted our spirits, and will leave us with joy and a longing to reconnect. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Bluffton University, members of the Arrangement & Site Committee, and other Friends for contributing to the success of this year's gathering. We look forward to meeting again at Bluffton on 7/29/2010.

Merry Stanford, Clerk
Joseph Mills, Recording Clerk
Margy Liske, Assistant Recording Clerk

Guidelines for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business provides an opportunity for Friends to practice several of our testimonies as we carry out the practical work of maintaining our faith community. We seek to be Spirit-led in our work, with as much efficiency as possible, achieving a sense of what Friends call "right order," and so ask that you use the following guidelines.

1. When you need to speak, ask the clerk to recognize you by raising your hand.
2. To affirm something someone has said, simply nod or use the phrase, "This Friend speaks my mind." Please don't ask to be recognized so that you may express the same thought in other words.
3. When you speak, please stand, speak to the clerks' table, and keep your comments to the point.
4. Friends will not generally be recognized to speak on any given issue more than once, except to acknowledge a personal change of perspective during the meeting.
5. When the recording clerk is developing a minute, sit in worship, and hold him/her in the Light. Please refrain from conversation with your neighbor.
6. When a person speaks in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, receive the words as you receive vocal ministry in Meeting for Worship - with an open heart and calm mind.

7. If you feel that the gathering needs a break or a stretch, it is appropriate to ask to be recognized so that you may ask the clerk for one.

Committee Reports

Advancement & Outreach Committee (YM09 - 18)

Advancement & Outreach Committee has undertaken several tasks since LEYM's annual sessions in 2008.

First of all, at our November 2008 meeting, four of us agreed to make personal visits to monthly meetings that seldom, if ever, send members to our Yearly Meeting sessions. Janet Evans Smith went to Delaware Meeting; Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki visited Holland Meeting; Mike Hinshaw got to Mid-Ohio Valley Meeting; and Rosemary Coffey spent some time at Monongalia Meeting in Morgantown, West Virginia. Most of these meetings turned out to be very small and generally close-knit. Their main emphasis at this time is clearly on their relationships with one another. While some interest was expressed in what Yearly Meeting had to offer, participation was simply not a priority. Sometimes it was an issue of distance; sometimes of timing; sometimes of conflicting commit-ments. All received us warmly. We plan to follow up with a brief accounting of this year's highlights and information about the change in date for 2010, in hopes that some Friends from these meetings might yet join us here.

Secondly, Rosemary exchanged several email messages with the Clerk of Indiana (Pennsylvania) Preparative Meeting, a woman with whom she worked on Local Arrangements for the recent FGC Gathering in Johns-town, Pennsylvania. The issue here is whether it is reasonable to call the very small group in Indiana a preparative meeting - rather than a worship group - given that they have made no noticeable steps for many years toward becoming a monthly meeting. In fact, due to moves and retire-ments, the group is smaller than ever. The Clerk made it clear that bothering them about nomenclature was not going to help. So we have dropped the issue for the time being, but will continue to offer interest and support.

Thirdly, we have examined the contact information for all the meetings and worship groups in the Yearly Meeting in terms of what appears on the LEYM website, on the FGC Quakerfinder website, on their own websites (if they have them), and in our *Annual Records*. If all four places reported the same information, we congratulated them. If they did not, we pointed out the discrepancies and asked which version they preferred. We either encouraged them to make the changes themselves, or we did it for them. This is a process that, alas, has to be repeated every year, but we feel it is useful to do so.

Finally, we decided to withdraw our invitation to Quaker Quest of FGC to send speakers to us this year, because the schedule was so full of other activities. It just didn't seem worthwhile to have two people with us for four days, when we were going to give them only one 1½-hour workshop slot to present their program. Depending on what our own Program Committee decides, we hope it may be possible to offer them more than one time slot and invite them to come next year instead.

Thank you for your attention!

Rosemary Coffey, Clerk

Earthcare Committee (YM09 - 23)

The Earthcare Committee (EC) has continued to be active within LEYM during the past year. Highlights include the following:

1. We again coordinated efforts to encourage carpooling among those attending Yearly Meeting. This year (2009), Al Connor is the Committee's contact person to help resolve difficult transportation issues; his name, phone number, and e-mail address are being provided in case of need.
2. Phil Clampitt, co-clerk, participated for the EC in the fall LEYM Executive Committee Meeting in Detroit, and was joined by Al Connor and Margaret Kanost to report to the March LEYM Representative Meeting in Cleveland.
3. Several members of the Committee (Al Connor, Dick Hogan, Judy Greenberg, Margaret Kanost, and Phil Clampitt) met January 24, 2009 for a rich and productive day at Judy's home in Toledo. (Co-clerk Jim Crowfoot was unable to attend, but sent helpful comments and suggestions which we utilized fully during our discussion.)

   We decided to plan and conduct an EC workshop and such other activities as a nature walk, literature

table, and late evening documentary film during the 2009 Yearly Meeting. In addition, we agreed to bring three proposals to LEYM this year. (See item #6 below.)

4. Our 2009 Earthcare workshop (planned by Al Connor, Dick Hogan, Judy Greenberg, and Phil Clampitt) will be on the topic, "What's Up with Earthcare in our Meetings? A Panel, Sharing, & Brainstorming Workshop." We decided on this topic because of our committee's interest in getting more feedback from local Friends meetings and worship groups within LEYM on Earthcare activities in which they are engaged. Phil Clampitt will lead the workshop, and Jim Crowfoot (Ann Arbor), David Snyder (Oberlin), and Star Mary Castro (Athens) will each report on their local meeting's activities. A special added feature will be a brief report by Mary Ellen Newport (Olney Friends School) on Olney's activities and plans relating to Earthcare. There will be adequate time after the panelists speak for the "sharing and brainstorming" that we trust will follow.
5. Our committee plans to show, and talk about, the documentary film *The World According to Monsanto* on Thursday evening (June 11) after the opening LEYM business session, for all who are interested and available.
6. The Committee brought three proposals to Representative Meeting, to be considered at Yearly Meeting this year: (1) that LEYM endorse the Earth Charter (see the LEYM Spring *Bulletin* 2009, p. 18); (2) that LEYM amend its Policies and Procedures [Section III-A (2) (b)] so that they are less restrictive, and will permit annual contributions to Friends' national organizations in addition to Friends General Conference, if approved by the Yearly Meeting; (3) that, beginning in 2009, LEYM include in its budget an annual financial contribution to Quaker Earthcare Witness.
7. The Committee agreed that Al Connor's reports from Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) should, from now on, become a regular and important part of the Committee's reports to LEYM. (Al's April 2009 QEW report accompanies this report.)
8. Over the weekend of May 15 to 17, 2009, five members of the EC committee (Al Connor, Helen Söderberg, Judy Greenberg, Phil Clampitt, and Dick Hogan) met for our first-ever Earthcare Committee retreat at Greenfire Farm, near Athens, Ohio, where we were guests of the Hogan family. We are grateful to all the Hogans - Dick and Mary and their adult children, Matt, Erin, and Noah - for taking us in, feeding us, engaging us in conversation, and helping us feel at home during the weekend. It was a wonderful, rich, memorable time together for all of us, with delicious food - including milk and cheese from the goats on the farm (whom we met), eggs from the Indian runner ducks (whom we also met), and rhubarb crisp with rhubarb fresh out of the garden - pleasant sleeping accommodations, lots of rich conver-sation, worship sharing, some planning and other business, visiting the Farmers' Market in Athens on Saturday, getting much better acquainted, in part through each of us having the opportunity to "tell our stories," and more. This beautiful, rural, hill country of southeastern Ohio - and the specific setting of Greenfire Farm - made this an ideal setting for an Earthcare retreat.

We members of the Earthcare committee remain very much aware of the many challenges we, LEYM, and the wider world face for the future. Endorsement of the Earth Charter is one symbolic step LEYM can take in response. Along the same lines, Merry Stanford has just called our attention to a wonderful and important graduation speech* given last month by Paul Hawken (a visionary environmental activist and author, among other credentials) from which we want to quote just a few sentences: "When asked if I am pessimistic or optimistic about the future, my answer is always the same: If you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren't pessimistic, you don't understand data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this earth and the lives of the poor, and you aren't optimistic, you haven't got a pulse. What I see everywhere in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world." Also, "The living world is not 'out there' somewhere, but in your heart." We agree. We think we get it. Hawken also told those graduates that there is invisible writing on the back of their diplomas that says "*You are brilliant, and the Earth is hiring.*" (We agree, and only add that a large dose of humility is an additional requirement.) We urge members of our committee, LEYM as a body, and thoughtful and caring people in the wider world to heed this important message of hope, and to run with it.

Phil Clampitt & Jim Crowfoot, Co-clerks

* Copies of Hawken's entire speech were made available at Yearly Meeting.

Report on Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee Meeting
April 23-26, 2009

Much of the time at the meeting was spent attempting to revise the Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) purposes and Mission statements. Consensus was not reached. Deliberations were tabled until the annual meeting on October 8-11, 2009. Two issues were the reasons for attempting the revision: (1) A mission statement is needed that will inspire Friends and others who have the same values and concerns as QEW and its members to support QEW and its work financially and vocally. (2) A few members of the organization believe QEW should limit its efforts to persuading Friends and friends of Friends [to] adopt lifestyles that are espoused by elders of indigenous civilizations and are harmonious with the Earth, and that QEW should not spend its resources advocating for Earth-friendly policy and legislation. Others believe that those two purposes or goals are equally important and that QEW should witness to both.

At the request of the Continuing Council, which functions as QEW's executive committee, the QEW FCNL Working Group submitted the proposal that QEW's joint sponsorship of Friends Testimonies and Economics (FTE) with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Earthcare Working Group work through QEW's FCNL Working Group. Both working groups have direct contact with FCNL's legislative advocate on energy. They assist him with advocacy and in getting support for energy policy that we believe is ecologically, economically, and socio-culturally sustainable and in the best interests of all life on Earth.

FTE is concerned with developing an economy that will sustain the Earth and life upon it. FTE members and associates believe that the present economic system, which emphasizes perpetual growth and extraction of the Earth's mineral and agricultural resources, is a leading cause of present economic and environmental problems. Some of its members worked with members of the Quaker Institute for the Future in writing and publishing the book *A Moral Economy*. Oversight of FTE is to be provided by four persons, two delegated by QEW and two by Phila-delphia Yearly Meeting. The four FTE overseers can add four more members to the FTE team so they can consult on sustainable economic issues, usually by email and conference phone calls. The additional four members are to represent diverse geographical areas, disciplines, ethnic and age groups, and gender.

FTE is organizing a "Confronting the Growth Dilemma" network. That network is to be inclusive and diverse by geography, discipline, ethnicity, age, and gender also. Its purpose is to confront government and private economic sector leaders and policy-makers with the idea that perpetual economic and population growth and expropriation of the Earth's natural resources are not sustainable.

Alan N. Connor
LEYM Representative to QEW

Finance Committee (YM09 - 22)

Expenditures and transfers to funds are about $3250 less than budgeted and income is about $1500 less than budgeted. Therefore, our General Fund balance increased by about $1750. No budget line was overspent and all monthly meetings have made contributions to the Yearly Meeting. However, the amount contributed was not as much as we estimated, given a membership of 793. The reality of meetings not contributing the requested amount needs to be addressed if we want to increase our budget.

The Committee reviewed each line item of the budget to determine if additional expenditures will be made this fiscal year. There will be more expenditures from the Clerk's Fund. No expenditures for Advancement and Outreach will be made. The Committee also considered expendi-tures that might be made out of any of the funds. The Ministry & Nurture Committee expects to receive an application for a ministry scholarship during this fiscal year.

The Youth Activity Fund has excess funds. We know that the Adult Young Friends are considering requesting a budget line. Perhaps we could use this fund to cover the AYF program. More investigation is needed.

We considered the budget for 2009-2010. We decided to reduce Travel from $6500 to $6000 since in no year since 2005 have we spent more than $5000. We were reluctant to reduce it further, given the uncertainty in travel costs. We decided to keep the High School Fund at $1100 even though we have $7200 in the High School Youth Fund. We expect to spend $5400 from the fund next year and in subsequent years. We will keep the budget line item below the projected expenditures until the fund balance is reduced to $1000.

We put $2400 into the Clerks' Consultation Fund in 2008-2009 to pay for the contracted clerical worker. These funds will be spent during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Because we expect to have another consultation in two years, we decided to put $1200 in the fund in 2009-2010 and another $1200 in 2010-2011 so that there

will be enough in the fund for the second consultation. In addition, we will include in the proposed budget $1500 for other clerical services, particularly coordination of the website. All other line items will remain the same in the 2009-2010 budget as they were in the 2008-2009 budget. Given the proposed changes, we project a 2009-2010 budget of $28,820 compared to $29,020 for fiscal year 2008-2009.

The Finance Committee approved the following procedures for paying for contracted services. It is the Committee's understanding that these procedures do not need the approval of the Yearly Meeting.

- Consultants who work with a committee will submit invoices to the clerk of the committee for approval. The committee clerk will forward approved invoices to the Treasurer of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for payment. Checks will be sent by the Treasurer directly to the payee.
- Consultants who do not work directly with a committee will submit all invoices to the Presiding Clerk of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for approval. The Presiding Clerk will forward approved invoices to the Treasurer of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Checks will be sent by the Treasurer directly to the payee.

Sally Weaver Sommer, Clerk

Approved 2009-2010 Budget (YM09 - 37)

LEYM Budget for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

General Fund Expenses

(* = transfers)	**Budget 07-08**	**Actual 07-08**	**Difference Budget Difference**	**Budget 08-09**	**Actual 08-09**	**Difference**	**09-10**
Travel	5,500.00	4,823.81	676.19	6,500.00	4,943.25	1,556.75	6,000.00 -500.00
Office	300.00	156.22	143.78	300.00	47.83	252.17	300.00 0.00
Publications	3,400.00	2,250.62	1,149.38	3,400.00	2,895.19	504.81	3,400.00 0.00
Advancement	880.00	880.00	0.00	880.00	0.00	880.00	880.00 0.00
Ministry & Nurture	800.00	600.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00 0.00
Clerk's Fund	500.00	363.00	137.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00 0.00
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00 0.00
FGC - Special Program	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00 0.00
Records project	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00 0.00
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00	1,240.00	0.00	1,240.00	1,240.00	0.00	1,240.00 0.00
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	2,700.00 0.00
High School Youth Fund*	5,400.00	5,400.00	0.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00	1,100.00 0.00
Spiritual Formation*	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00 0.00
Friends School in Detroit	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	4,500.00 2,000.00
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00 0.00
Consultation Fund*				2,400.00	2,400.00	0.00	2,700.00 300.00
Scholarship Fund for ministry*				1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00 0.00
Misc.	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
	29,520.00	27,713.65	1,806.35	29,020.00	25,126.27	3,893.73	30,820.00 1,800.00
Per member contribution	$37.23			$36.60			$36.39*

* $2000 was added to the Friends School in Detroit line item to respond to the budget crisis. This is to be taken out of General Fund
reserves and will not increase the suggested per person contribution.

Treasurer's Report (YM09 -21), updated to June 30, 2009 by Treasurer Eric Starbuck

Treasurer's Report, June 30, 2009
End of Fiscal Year 2008-09

General Fund Income

Meeting (Giver)	Amount
Akron	$170.00
Ann Arbor	$4,958.00
Athens	$2,400.00
Birmingham	$702.00
Broadmead	$1,000.00
Cleveland	$1,924.00
Delaware	$440.00
Detroit	$600.00
Grand Rapids	$871.00
Granville	$850.00
Holland	$200.00
Kalamazoo	$1,780.00
Kent	$629.00
Mid-Ohio Valley	$180.00
Monongalia	$490.00
North Columbus	$800.00
Oberlin	$780.00
Pine River	$592.00
Pittsburgh	$5,587.00
Red Cedar	$2,035.00
Wooster	$540.00
TOTALS	**$27,582.00**

Fund	Open	Income	YM Subsidy	Expense	Close
General Fund	$6,708.63	$27,528.00	--	$26,794.61	$7,44202
Granville Youth	$6,010.60	$283.40	--	$283.40	$6,010.60
Annual Meeting†	$18,126.07	$19,402.88	--	$31,269.57	$6,259.38
Youth Activity*	$5,465.26	$1,003.40	$2,700.00	$1,987.49	$7,181.17
High School Youth*	$5,796.61	$1,092.00	$1,100.00	$777.11	$7,211.50
Spiritual Formation*	$3,625.25	$2,300.00	$600.00	$2,847.81	$3,677.44
FWCC Travel*	$1,706.45	--	$1,240.00	--	$2,946.45
Consultation*	$18.55	--	$2,400.00	$150.00	$2,268.55
Ministry Scholarship*	--	$1,000	$1,000	--	--
TOTALS	**$47,457.42**	**$51,609.68**	**$9,040.00**	**$65,109.99**	**$42,997.11**

† Includes transactions from Annual Meeting 08 (separate AM 09 below)

* These moneys are held in our checking. We do the accounting. We also subsidize them.

Funds Total $42,997.11
CDs Total $10,855.19
Checking $33,308.72

CDs - Shorebank	Open	Income	Expense	Close
Granville Youth				
686108009	$6,010.60	$223.71	$223.71	$6,010.60
4003416	$2,368.44	$102.20	--	$2,470.64
4003424	$2,292.20	$81.75	--	$2,373.95
TOTALS	**$10,671.24**	**$407.66**	**$223.71**	**$10,855.19**

Account	Budget	Actual Expense	Budget %
Travel	$6,500.00	$4,943.25	76%
Office	$300.00	$76.53	26%
Publications	$3,400	$3,534.83	104%
Advancement	$880.00	--	
Ministry & Nurture	$200.00	--	
Clerk's Fund	$500.00	--	
FWCC Travel*	$1,240	$1,240	100%
Youth Activity Fund*	$2,700.00	$2,700	100%
High School Youth Fund*	$1,100.00	$1,100	100%
Spiritual Formation*	$600.00	$600.00	100%
Consultation Fund*	$2,400.00	$2,400.00	100%
Ministry Schlrshp Fund*	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	100%
FGC	$4,500.00	$4,500.00	100%
FGC - Special Program	$500.00	$500.00	100%
Records Project	$100.00	$100.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	$2,500.00	$3,500	140%
Olney Friends School	$600.00	$600.00	100%
TOTAL	**$29,020.00**	**$26,794.61**	

* separate fund subsidized by the General Fund

In-Kind (Travel) **$1,865.98**

QUAKE (Jan 08 but paid in 08-09 fiscal year)
Kri Burkander's last High School Youth Conference
Income
Tuition $1,092.00
Expenses 777.11
Surplus **$314.89**

Annual Meeting 2009

INCOME	
Lodging	$6,904.50
Meals	$7,105.60
Registrations	$4,840.00
Donations	$189.98
Scholarships - Athens	$342.80
TOTAL INCOME	**$19,382.88**

EXPENSE	
Honorarium - Max Carter	$200.00
Travel - Max Carter	$324.02
Meals	$7,196.85
Lodging	$7,024.50
Ice Cream Bar	$310.00
Scholarships	$2,445.04
Children & Youth*	$583.11
Name Tags	$44.28
Copies**	$115.64
Adjustments***	$50.33
TOTAL EXPENSE	**$18,293.77**

Surplus **$1,089.11**

*** C&Y includes:**

Swimming (from cash box)	$127.75
Supplies (reimbursed)	$346.60
Childcare (paid by check)	$108.76

**** Copies 2009 include:**

Bluffton U.	$89.90
Program Cmte (reimburse)	$25.74
	$115.64

***** Adjustments are refunds & balancing**

Bluffton Bill 2009 Detail

Detail	**Total**
Adult breakfasts	$1586.10
Child breakfasts	$63.00
Adult lunches	$2582.45
Child lunches	$95.00
Adult suppers	$2765.00
Child suppers	$105.30
Ice cream sundae bar	$310.00
Commuter fees	$180.00
Linen packs	$442.50
Bed nights, adult	$6073.00
Bed nights, child	$249.00
Lost keys	$20.00
Campers	$60.00
Copies	$89.90
TOTAL	**$14,621**

Ministry & Nurture Committee (YM09 - 29)

1. State of the Meeting Reports

Fourteen monthly meetings and one preparative meeting submitted State of the Meeting reports prior to LEYM's Annual Session this year. There were recurring themes throughout the reports as well as much diversity between meetings. One recurring theme was the visits from Mary Ann Downey of FGC Traveling Ministries. Many monthly meetings men-tioned this as one of the highlights of their year. Several of the meetings struggle with limits to their resources, both financial and human.

It was noted that reports which were developed by a group process were sometimes powerful for the monthly meeting as a whole, allowing the meeting to reflect both on what had been positive in the past year and what needed to be worked on - awakening the meeting to opportunities for growth.

It was encouraging to read how smaller meetings work to take on projects and service as a whole.

The Ministry & Nurture Committee would like to encourage Friends outside this committee to read these to get a sense of what other meetings in the YM are doing.

2. Spiritual Formation Program

This past year the Spiritual Formation group for the western portion of LEYM had two retreats: a weekend one in the fall at the Leaven Center, and a one-day retreat in the spring at the Kalamazoo Meetinghouse in Kalamazoo, Michigan. There were 17 participants altogether, 14 at each retreat. The retreat leaders were Connie Lezenby and Mickey Edgerton of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The theme was *Grounding Our Spiri-tuality in Nature: Strengthening our Connections with the Source of Nourishment and Refreshment*.

The strong yearning for this kind of program continues among the parti-cipants. It nurtures the participants spiritually, and this nurture carries over into our monthly meetings and into Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

The Spiritual Formation program will continue its experiment with a weekend fall retreat and a one-day spring retreat for the coming year. The retreat leader for the 2009-2010 year will be Michael Birkel of Earlham College. The theme will be *Spiritual Nurture*. The dates of the fall retreat are September 25th through 27th and it will be held at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan. The spring retreat will be May 1st and the planning committee is currently looking for a meeting to host the spring program. Fliers with information about the program and the registration form will be uploaded to the LEYM website this upcoming week.

3. Query for 2009

The search for a query arose out of our discussion of the State of the Meeting Reports. We noted in particular the sense of seeking spiritual growth that seemed to recur in many State of the Meeting reports. One Friend noted that a worship sharing titled "How do we name the Divine?" had been particularly rewarding for all participants. This led us to begin with that query and move from there, with a deep discussion about the relationship between spiritual experience and the words we use to describe that experience. After many iterations, we arrived at the following Query:

> *What experiences have you had of wonder and awe?*
> *What experiences have you had of the Light or the Divine?*
> *What helps you open yourself to these experiences and what gets in the way? What practices do you have to deepen these experiences?*
> *How do we support each other in this awareness?*
> *How do we support our children in their spiritual journeys?*

Submitted by Ellen Barnes, Committee Clerk

Peace Committee (YM09 - 27)

We were sorry to think that David Lore was not only missing our meetings, but is in pain. We send him healing light. The topics our committee discussed and dealt with were several, and we'll be asking you to approve two short letters to our political leaders about two of the topics.

We are upset by the continued use of cluster bombs by the U.S. military and its failure to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions, so we propose sending the following letter to the President.

We received minutes about the Palestine/Israel conflict from three meetings: Red Cedar, Grand Rapids, and Ann Arbor. Anne Remley and Betty Ford have prepared a display of these and other minutes from other meetings in the display area upstairs. A variety of informational mate-rials about the topic can be taken by

Friends to share with their own meetings. We felt it would not be useful to write a long letter to President Obama about the history of the Middle East conflict and the transgressions by all parties, so we propose the following letter for your consideration.

Peace Committee has received a letter of concern from a group of Ann Arbor Friends about the pending severe cuts in the AFSC budgetary funding, cuts which may affect regional offices. We commend study and, as appropriate, supportive action by monthly meetings within LEYM which are involved in local AFSC program work. We appreciate the opportunity this weekend to learn more about how the Board will handle this financial crisis, from Jennifer Bing-Canar of the Chicago AFSC Regional Office.

Jim Satterwhite brought an action alert about the conditions in the Zharawa Internally Displaced People's tent camp in the border lands of Iraq. The people in the local villages have been subjected to repeated military attacks from their neighboring countries, Turkey and Iran, for over two decades. Since 2007, when the United States began sharing military intelligence with Turkey, the attacks have become more aggressive, resulting in death, injury, and extensive property damage to civilians and their homes. As people are displaced, they are placed in IDP camps where there is no shade and temperatures can reach 118° F. There is no electricity, and latrines are dangerously close to tents; there is danger of rampant illness. Members of Christian Peacemaker Teams have moved into the Zharawa camp and will join voices to ask the local, national, and international community to help relocate them to a more livable and humane environment. You can help by taking any of the actions mentioned on the sheet we've handed around.

David Bassett has asked us to inform you about the decision by the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (NCPTF) to expand their efforts to find a Congressional District Organizer (CDO) in each of the nation's 435 Congressional Districts to be an advocate for the RFPTF [Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund] bill. Again you will find information on our handout sheet about what you can do.

Last year we endorsed the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), and we rejoiced when President Obama condemned torture as a tactic as soon as he was inaugurated. The vigorous work of NRCAT continues, and yesterday they mounted a public witness in front of the White House to urge Obama to create a Commission of Inquiry to investigate U.S. torture practices since 9/11. They asked us to take note that this is Torture Awareness Month. To learn more about how you can register your opinion and work for the cessation of torture by our country, check our handout.

Nancy Taylor, Acting Clerk

Letters Proposed by Peace Committee and Approved by Yearly Meeting (YM09 - 27)

> Dear President Obama,
>
> We strongly urge you to ban the U.S. military's use of cluster bombs and to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions. By the beginning of 2009, 95 nations had signed this treaty which agrees to ban these deplorable weapons.
>
> In the past ten years the U.S. has used cluster bombs in civilian populated areas of Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In Iraq alone during one three-week period of major combat, the U.S. and U.K. used nearly 13,000 cluster munitions. Many of these bombs explode on impact, but many more remain live - de facto landmines - on the ground for months, and even decades. Handicap International reports that 98 percent of cluster bomb victims are civilians and 27 percent are children.
>
> The Obama transition team promised that upon taking office, the Admin-istration would "carefully review the new treaty." Now is the time to sign on, and prevent future deaths and maiming from cluster bombs. We look forward to your immediate action on this issue, which is crucial in working toward a peaceful world.
>
> (signed - Lake Erie Yearly Meeting)

Dear President Obama (or member of Congress),

As Quakers, we urge the President and Congress to stop military equipment exports to Israel, to work for an end to all violence, and to press for unimpeded delivery of humanitarian supplies and rebuilding

equipment into Gaza. We urge adoption of a viable peace agreement grounded in the human rights and security needs of both Israelis and Palestinians, with provision for the just sharing of land and water.

(signed - Lake Erie Yearly Meeting)

Publications & Archives Committee (YM09 - 26)

1. New LEYM Directory

We are delighted to announce the publication of the *2009 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Directory*, and are grateful to Mathilda Navias and Dan Bell for their care and hard work in producing it. Copies are being given to each meeting and worship group, and to LEYM officers and committee clerks for the coming year (2009-10).

2. *Annual Records* Deadline

The deadline to submit materials for the 2009 *Annual Records* is Sunday, July 12. Materials are welcome sooner; send them to Jeff Cooper, editor of the 2009 edition. Publication is expected by August 23.

3. Proposed Amendments to Privacy Policy

At the 2009 Representa-tive Meeting, our committee proposed two amendments to the privacy policy that Yearly Meeting approved in 2007. Responding to sugges-tions made at Representative Meeting, which make the policies less restrictive while also respecting the privacy concerns of Friends, we have revised these proposals in three ways:

1) The amendments now apply to the *entire* LEYM Website, not just the version of the *Bulletin* that appears there.
2) Proposal 1 would now allow names of youth and children to appear on the Website under special circumstances, but *only* with permission of their parent or guardian.
3) Proposal 2 would now allow photographs of an individual child to appear on the Website, but Friends could *opt out* of having their own or their children's photos appear on the Website.

Thus the revised proposed amendments read:

Proposal #1: The full names of adult Friends (those 18 and over) may appear on the LEYM website. The names of children and youth (under age 18) may *not* appear there without prior approval of their parent or guardian.

Proposal #2: Photos of Friends of all ages may appear on our website. Friends can request that pictures of themselves or their children *not* be posted on our website by checking a box on the Registration Form [for any event].

These revised proposals were sent to meetings and worship groups within LEYM by our Clerk to allow consideration before these Annual Sessions. We now bring them to the Yearly Meeting to request approval.

4. The LEYM Website

We reviewed use of our website and encouraged Bill Warters to delete outdated announcements. With Jo Steigerwald, we considered how she might help Bill maintain a website that reflects current Yearly Meeting activities. For various reasons, among them enabling Jo to update the website directly, we may want to consider a host different than *Quaker.org*, which would cost a small amount per year; we shall keep Finance Committee informed. Bill remains willing to lead a session for webmasters of monthly meetings, if that is desired at a future annual meeting.

5. Re-inventing the *Bulletin*?

We have been asking ourselves if there is a way to make the *Bulletin* more useful in announcing events and to increase readership. The replacement of the summer issue with the *Annual Records* several years ago was a net gain, but with no *Bulletin* appearing between March and September, we lost the ability to announce in print many events occurring in late summer and early autumn. Moreover, our current distribution method requires most Friends to retrieve a printed copy from their monthly meeting or to download a pdf file from our website.

Next summer presents a good opportunity to rethink the *Bulletin*. With our annual sessions taking place in late July, the publication schedule of the *Bulletin* and the *Annual Records* will need to change too. In addition, Jeff Cooper will be completing five years as *Bulletin* editor, and plans to pass this responsibility to another Friend, who may bring different skills.

Hence we have been exploring questions such as:

- Should the *Bulletin* be published more often?
- If so, could issues be shorter, with more emphasis on timeliness of content and less on appearance (e.g., publication in multiples-of-four pages)?
- Can we distribute the *Bulletin* electronically, perhaps sending it directly to many individual households?
- What are the purposes of the *Bulletin*?

Our discussion made clear that any method of distributing the *Bulletin* directly to Friends depends on maintaining an up-to-date database. We acknowledged too that some Friends need to receive printed *Bulletins*.

We plan to continue exploring these questions over the next year. As we do so, we invite Friends to share their thoughts on the frequency of publication, the appearance of the *Bulletin*, distribution of the *Bulletin*, and how our committee might more effectively communicate informa-tion, preferably without greatly increasing the workload of its editor. One measure we make take immediately is to send more announcements of events to monthly meeting newsletter editors.

Jeff Cooper, Clerk

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

All of the eight monthly meetings of GPQM continue to be active and send their "State of the Meeting" and annual statistical reports to LEYM. There continue to be four worship groups, but the Albion WG reports low attendance so some members are considering attending their "parent" monthly meeting, Red Cedar, beginning next fall, when the new meeting house there is expected to be ready for occupancy.

Friends School in Detroit continues to be the site for the fall Meeting for Business each third Saturday in September. This year we welcomed Holland Friends to full monthly meeting status; all but one of the eight monthly meetings were present. The special relationship/sponsorship of GPQM and Friends School in Detroit has been reported in the past. This fall meeting also serves as the annual meeting for the School, when GPQM approves the new nominees for the board of trustees. The program in September 2008 was provided by members of the Quaker Earthcare Witness staff, Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox. They came from New England a day early in order to spend time on Friday with the children of Friends School in Detroit and to share their program on John Woolman. Their gifts and presence were much appreciated.

Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting hosted a truly enriching day for "Identify-ing Our Spiritual Joys that Bring Light to Our Meetings and Beyond." There was a deep nurturing among GPQM Friends gathered that Satur-day in February 2009.

The regular spring GPQM meetings take place the third Saturday in May (the 16th this year) at the Michigan Friends Center, near Chelsea, Michigan. In the morning, Friends met for worship, followed by a presentation by Michael Birkel on interfaith dialogue. Our time now is a rich opportunity for such dialogue, and Birkel shared insights gained from his experience as a teacher at Earlham College, as a speaker at Friends' events, and as a participant in interfaith conversations.

Among the reports, Friends found it disturbing to learn that AFSC programs are at risk due to the national financial crisis, especially our Ann Arbor AFSC office programming. The situation will remain very uncertain at least until mid summer or fall. GPQM has a longstanding (since the 1950s) major commitment of support for AFSC programs in Ann Arbor.

In the early spring it was brought to our attention that Friends School in Detroit is facing financial problems as well, partly as a result of the
overall financial and employment crisis in that city. The school head-master and GPQM clerk sent a letter to all the monthly meetings in the quarter alerting them of the crisis and requesting whatever financial response was possible. In April the Clerk of the School's board of trustees called a special meeting of a few Friends who have served the School and given continued support, the Clerk of GPQM being among them. The Headmaster and GPQM Clerk requested permission from LEYM Clerk to forward a similar letter to all the other LEYM monthly meetings. There also has been a variety of other efforts put forth by the School and many Friends. The board has worked closely with the School administrative staff overseeing the situation. Dwight Wilson, the Head-master, came to the spring GPQM business session in May with a progress report and he is with us now at LEYM to be available to LEYM Friends.

At the spring meeting the quarter expressed its loving concern and requested the GPQM clerk to schedule a *Called Meeting* at the Ann Arbor Meetinghouse in the very near future. Such a meeting was held Sunday, June 7, from 2 to 5 pm. All but one monthly meeting was represented at this meeting for Friends to meet in worship and to receive reports from the Headmaster and Clerk of the school board. That Clerk stated that their board is committed to opening the School in the fall and is in the process of developing restructure plans and procedures which soon will be ready to share with GPQM meetings. Friends raised questions, made suggestions, gave witness, and expressed a new sense of commitment to supporting this important work in the city of Detroit. There is a great need and GPQM's intention is to help spread the story of our wonderful unique school. After over 40 years of service this school continues to demonstrate through the transformed lives of its students that God's work in the Spirit reaches way beyond this school and that city. The GPQM Clerk is now preparing a special report to be forwarded to the GPQM monthly meetings.

We are looking forward to the addition of new and younger Friends stepping into leadership. The approved slate of officers at the spring meeting is: Shirley Bechill (Pine River MM), continuing as Clerk for one year; Diane Guenin-Lelle (Albion WG) as Assistant Clerk, who will become Clerk in fall of 2010; Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar MM) as Recording Clerk; and Debs Roush (Ann Arbor MM) continuing as Treasurer one more year.

To complete our GPQM year there is an annual meeting for worship for world peace held in Battle Creek, Michigan at "Quaker Park" on the first Sunday in August (close to Hiroshima Day). Friends are welcome to come for worship at 11 am, followed by fellowship and a potluck picnic on August 2, 2009.

In Love and Peace,
Shirley Bechill, GPQM Clerk

Nominating Slate (YM09 - 38)
LEYM Officers, Committees Members, & Representatives

Officers

		Year of Service	End Year
Presiding Clerk	Merry Stanford, Red Cedar	3	2010
Assistant Clerk	Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	1	2013
Recording Clerk	Joe Mills, Kalamazoo	3	2011
Asst. Recording Clerk	Margy Liske, Kent	1	2010
Treasurer	Eric Starbuck, Pittsburgh	2	2011
Bulletin Editor	Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor	5	2010

Other Positions

Webmaster	Bill Warters, Birmingham	5	2011
Database Manager	Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	5	2011

Committees

Advancement & Outreach

of Members: 6 *Years of Term: 3*

Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	3	2010
Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki, Kalamazoo	3	2010
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	2	2011
Seth Reichenbach, North Columbus	1	2011
Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh, Clerk	4	2012
Janet Smith, Broadmead	1	2012

Arrangement & Site

of Members: 6 *Years of Term: 3*

Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead, Co-Clerk	3	2010
Jon Sommer, Broadmead, Co-Clerk	6	2010
Berch Carpenter, Broadmead	2	2011
Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor	1	2011
Vanessa Fuson, Granville	4	2012
Kelly Helms, Ann Arbor	4	2012

Earthcare

of Members: 6 *Years of Term: 3*

Others interested welcome

Dick Hogan, Athens	5	2010
Philip Clampitt, Birmingham, Co-Clerk	4	2010
Alan Connor, Ann Arbor	5	2011
Judy Greenberg, Broadmead, Co-Clerk	2	2011
Helen Söderberg, Red Cedar	4	2012
Jim Crowfoot, Ann Arbor	4	2012

Finance & Budget

of Members: 3 Years of Term: 3
Treasurer serves ex officio

Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk	5	2011
Barbara Warrington, Kent	4	2012
Joyce Callahan, Cleveland	1	2012

High School Youth Program

of Members: 5 (3 adults with 3-year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2-year terms)

Joyce Balderston, Wooster	1	2010
Steve Connor, Ann Arbor	1	2011
Joyce Callahan, Cleveland, Clerk	1	2012
Meaghan Diffenderfer, Cleveland, HS	3	2010
Jody Pratt-Harrington, Athens, HS	3	2011

Ministry & Nurture

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each Meeting encouraged
Years of Term: 3

Margy Liske, Kent	3	2010
Richard Lee, Red Cedar	3	2010
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham, Clerk	5	2011
Connie Bimber, Oberlin	2	2011
Don Nagler, Pine River	4	2012
Elaine Wilson, Ann Arbor	1	2012

Ministry & Nurture Monthly Meeting Representatives

Kri Burkander, Ann Arbor alternate
Suzanne Howell, Athens
Margaret Walden, Detroit
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo
Fred Feitler, Kent
Verne Bechill, Pine River

Nominating

of Members: 6 (Named by YM through Naming Committee)
Years of Term: 3

Philip Balderston, Wooster	3	2010
Star Mary Castro, Athens	3	2010
Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	2	2011
Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor, Clerk	2	2011
Ann Sprague, Detroit	1	2012
Mark Post, Grand Rapids	1	2012

Peace

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each Meeting encouraged
Years of Term: 3

David Lore, Granville, Clerk	6	2010
Kurt Liske, Kent	3	2010
Betty Ford, Grand Rapids	6	2011
James Satterwhite, Broadmead	5	2011
Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor	2	2012
Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead	1	2012

Program

of Members: 6 *Years of Term: 3*

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie, Co-Clerk	3	2010
Linda Mills, Kalamazoo	5	2011
Bekah Sommer, Broadmead	2	2011
Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor, Co-Clerk	4	2012
Janet Dando, Akron	1	2012
Valerie Vogel, Pittsburgh	1	2012

Publications & Archives

of Members: 6 *Years of Term: 3*

Webmaster serves ex officio

Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor, Co-Clerk	6	2010
Dan Bell, Broadmead	3	2010
Bob Roehm, North Columbus	3	2010
Nancy James, Pittsburgh	5	2011
_____, Co-Clerk	1	2012

Youth & Children Program

Years of Term: 2

Su Penn, Red Cedar	Clerk	2011
Nancy Nagler, Pine River	Assistant Clerk	2010
_____	Pre-school leader	2011
Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	Pre-school asst.	2010
Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens	Early elementary leader	2011
Mary Takahashi, Pine River	Early elementary asst.	2011
Peter Crowley, Cleveland	Upper elementary leader	2011
Timothy Damon, Cleveland	Upper elementary asst.	2010
Diane Mott, Broadmead	Middle school leader	2011
Walter Mead, Pittsburgh	Middle school asst.	2010
Steve Connor, Ann Arbor	High school leader	2010
Charlie Burnett, Athens	High school asst.	2010
Jessica Fox, Athens	Fall retreat clerk	
Marcia Goldstein, Athens	Fall retreat asst.	

LEYM Bookstore

Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	9

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

		Year of Service	End Year
AFSC	Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor	3	2010
AFSC	Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar	1	2011
AFSC	_____	1	2012
FCNL	David Snyder, Oberlin	7	2010
FCNL	Charlie Burnett, Athens	3	2010
FCNL	Thomas Burnett, Athens	3	2010
FCNL	Meg Hummon, Athens	5	2011
FCNL	Kathleen Peabody, Ann Arbor	1	2012
FCNL	_____	1	2012
FGC	Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	2	2010
FGC	Fred Feitler, Kent	3	2010
FGC	Steve Connor, Ann Arbor	1	2011
FGC	Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead	1	2012
(LEYM Reps appoint rep to FGC Executive Committee)			
FWCC	Raelynn Joyce, Kalamazoo	6	2010
FWCC	Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids	3	2010
FWCC	Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh	4	2012
FWCC	Jerry Knutson, Pittsburgh	1	2012
(LEYM Reps appoint own clerk)			
(FWCC Triennial - World Conference in 2012; # of reps TBA)			
Q Earthcare Witness	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	7	
Q Earthcare Witness	Judy Greenberg, Broadmead (alt)	1	
FLGBTQC	Su Penn, Red Cedar	1	2010
Wm Penn House	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	2	
Olney Friends School	Greg Mott, Broadmead	2	

Visitors to Neighboring Yearly Meetings

Canadian YM	Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie	2
EFI Eastern Region	_____	
Ohio YM Conservative	LeRoy Curtis, Wooster	7
Ohio Valley YM	_____	
Wilmington YM	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	

Representative Meeting
March 6, 2010
at Athens Friends Meeting

Morning Session

RM10 - 1 Opening Worship, Reading of Epistle from Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Friends gathered at the appointed time. Out of the opening worship, our assistant clerk, Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), read the **epistle from Southeastern Yearly Meeting**, which struggles with responding to Friends United Meeting's personnel policy. While its affiliation with FUM continues to be suspended, this yearly meeting remains open to further discernment and trusts the spirit to lead to unity.

RM10 - 2 Welcome & Athens Hosts

Our clerk, Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), welcomed Friends and introduced Carla Pratt-Harrington, from our host, Athens Friends Meeting. Carla thanked us for making an extra effort to hold Representative Meeting in Athens, on the fringe of the Yearly Meeting geographic area, and informed us of arrangements for the day.

Afternoon Session

RM10 – 3 Reading from Epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

The session opened with our assistant clerk reading from the **epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)**. Iowa Friends have found Quaker seeds of faith, hope, and justice in the parable of the sower. They are concerned for the plight of undocumented immigrants and Kenyan women who are the victims of HIV. These Friends are heartened by the rising presence of young Friends and the formation of a new monthly meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

RM10 – 4 Roll Call

The roll call of Friends from constituent meetings and worship groups gave the following count:

Akron	1	Kalamazoo	3
Ann Arbor	5	Kent	1
Athens	8	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	1	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	5	North Columbus	3
Cleveland	1	Oberlin	0
Delaware	0	Pine River	0
Detroit	0	Pittsburgh	2
Grand Rapids	1	Red Cedar	1
Granville	2	Wooster	3
Holland	0	Worship Groups	0

Total attendance: 37

RM10 - 5 Guidelines for Conduct in Business Meeting

Our clerk reviewed Friends' traditional guidelines for conduct in meeting for worship with attention to business.

RM10 - 6 Executive Committee Report

Our presiding clerk submitted a written report. Friends **approved** the following proposals from the Executive Committee:

a. The current surplus of the Annual Meeting fund will be used to fully fund attendance of young Friends through grade 12 at the 2010 Annual Meeting. The Yearly Meeting will reevaluate this practice after Annual Meeting.

b. The Yearly Meeting program year (including terms for officers and committee members) will end with the rise of Annual Meeting. The fiscal year will remain unchanged.

RM10 - 7 Clerk's Report

Merry Stanford presented a written report. Canadian Yearly Meeting is developing a *Faith & Practice* and asks permission to include a passage from a 1992 clerk's message by Marty Grundy, published in the Yearly Meeting *Bulletin* and *Quaker Monthly*. Marty has consented to this use. We **approved** the request. Representative Meeting for 2011 will occur on April 2; meetings are encouraged to consider hosting.

RM10 - 8 Friends General Conference Gathering

Jon and Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), co-clerks of the Gathering's Local Arrangements Committee, announced this summer's Gathering in Bowling Green, Ohio. They encourage early registration for attendance. Sally announced a number of volunteer jobs that need to be filled, some of which will qualify as a work grant for attending. Friends interested should let Jon and Sally know.

RM10 - 9 Publications & Archives Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) provided a written report. Friends **approved** the following revision to the Yearly Meeting's last amendment to its privacy policy:

> Photos of Friends of all ages may appear on the website. Friends can request that pictures of themselves or their children *not* be posted on our website by placing a "no photo" sticker on their name tag at all LEYM events, including retreats. These stickers shall be made available with the name tags, and their availability shall be well publicized. For events where name tags are not worn or parental permission to attend is required, the opportunity to request that photos not be posted on the website will be offered by other means, such as registration or permission forms.

Publications & Archives Committee will produce the stickers and make them available to Arrangement & Site Subcommittee and other committees or coordinators as needed. This policy will apply for one year on a trial basis and the Publications & Archives Committee will review it thereafter.
The Committee is reviewing its structure and is discussing identifying locations of old *Bulletins* for Yearly Meeting use.

RM10 - 10 Treasurer's Report

Our **treasurer,** Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh), presented a written treasurer's report for the period 7/1/09 thru 3/1/10 *[see updated report, below]*. Some reserve funds have been transferred to CDs for better interest rates. To date general fund expenses have exceeded revenues by approximately $5000. The report is incomplete in that the actual certificates of deposit and checking account balances do not match the totals accounted for. Eric will resolve this.

RM10 - 11 Finance Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer reported. While various funds of the Yearly Meeting have healthy balances and we expect to receive $7000 more in monthly meeting contributions, the committee expects a lower general fund balance at the end of the fiscal year. This is because of an intentional spend-down as the fund balance is larger than needed. Given the $6259.38 balance in the Annual Meeting fund, we will not increase registration fees for the Annual Meeting.

We do not have a line item for the meeting worker, and we will add this to next year's budget. By 6/1 the committees will call treasurers of monthly meetings that have not paid their contributions for the year.

RM10 - 12 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported and introduced committee members Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki (Kalamazoo) and Seth Reichenbach (North Columbus). The committee's work includes:
* Exploring Quaker Quest with the Program Subcommittee
* Reviewing monthly meeting information on the Yearly Meeting website for consistency

* Sending monthly meeting clerks an email on queries regarding outreach
* Reaching out to smaller monthly meetings and worship groups

Any monthly meeting doing Quaker Quest or another outreach program is requested to keep the committee informed of such efforts.

RM10 - 13 Adult Program Sub-committee

Janet Dando (Akron) and Linda Mills (Kalamazoo) reported that the Annual Meeting theme is "Where there are Shadows, there is also Light." Our plenary speaker is Lloyd Lee Wilson. In addition to our traditional workshop themes, Jocelyn Bell-Burnell, an astrophysicist and clerk of the FWCC Executive Committee, will be giving a workshop. Susan Yamos of the Earlham School of Religion will lead Bible study again at 6:30 am; other times would not work out. *[Program Sub-committee has since learned that Pat DeWitt Thomas, also from ESR, will lead Bible study this year. – Ed.]* We will have our traditional activities: 12-step programs, spiritual enrichment time, worship sharing, newcomer enrichment, talent show, movies, and ice cream social.

RM10 - 14 Arrangement & Site Sub-committee

Jon Sommer reported on registration details for Annual Meeting. The dates are 7/29/ thru 8/1/2010, with a registration deadline for the children's program and early registration of 7/12. Ramseyer Hall will not be available until 5:00 pm Thursday.

RM10 - 15 Youth & Children Program Sub-committee

Diane Mott (Broadmead) reported on the youth retreat held in October. Eleven children and seven adults attended from four monthly meetings. The total cost was $1200, with about $600 received from families of participants. Marcia Goldstein (Athens) will be next year's clerk for this retreat. The committee will send personal postcards inviting our youth to Annual Meeting through the clerks of their monthly meetings.

RM10 - 16 The High School Youth Program Committee

Joyce Balderston (Wooster) and Jody Pratt-Harrington (Athens) submitted a written report from Cari Burke highlighting the recent retreats and events for our high schoolers. Details were shared of the spring retreat, to be held this month at Olney Friends School. We express deep appreciation for the renewal of the High School Youth Program.

RM10 - 17 Ad Hoc Committee on Young Friends

Peggy Daub submitted a written report *(see p. 16)*. This committee is exploring the needs of young Friends beyond the High School Program and Annual Meeting.

RM10 - 18 Ad Hoc Committee on *Policies and Procedures*

Jeff Cooper presented a written report. The revisions will be extensive and presented as a whole at a later date. Friends **approved** the committee's recommendation that the work of the database manager be under the care of Publications & Archives Committee, but the manager need not be a member of that committee.

RM10 - 19 Ministry and Nurture

Ellen Barnes (Birmingham) reported that the fall Spiritual Formation Retreat was held in Adrian, Michigan, with 29 attenders from eight meetings. Michael Birkel, of Earlham College, led the session. The spring retreat will be hosted at Oberlin Monthly Meeting. Patricia Thomas will lead retreats on "companions along the way" for 2010-11.

Jerry Knutson has been granted the Ministry Scholarship for the present fiscal year for assistance with his studies at ESR.

Ellen presented an inspiring written synthesis of monthly meeting responses to the Yearly Meeting query *(see below)*.

RM10 - 20 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) called our attention to a yellow sheet soliciting the service of Friends within the Yearly Meeting. The form also offers the option of suggesting the name of a Friend who might serve. The form will also be used at Annual Meeting. Needs for next year: Arrangement & Site, Finance & Budget, Ministry & Nurture, recording clerk, Peace, and especially Publications & Archives. Youth & Children Program Subcommittee needs an assistant clerk for next year and leaders this year for the infant and toddler and pre-school groups. Representatives to Friends' organizations are also needed. The committee suggests that Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Erie WG), who is willing to serve as the clerk of the High School Program Committee next year, be appointed to serve in that capacity immediately if she is willing. We **approved** this nomination.

RM10 - 21 Peace Committee

David Lore (Granville) presented a written report. Continuing concerns of the committee focus on the death penalty and conflict avoidance initiatives.

RM10 - 22 Friends Committee on National Legislation

Kathleen Peabody (Ann Arbor) submitted a written report on the November meeting of FCNL. She highlighted FCNL's present areas of concerns. A short version of her report appeared in our winter 2010 *Bulletin*.

RM10 - 23 Ad Hoc Committee on Queries

Thomas Taylor reported that the committee has explored the query practices of some of our monthly meetings and is exploring the approaches of other yearly meetings. Committee members are working on a draft to present at an interest group at Annual Meeting, with copies made available for Friends to take home and back to monthly meetings for further comment. This draft will also be made available on the website; a final product may be ready for approval in 2011.

RM10 - 24 Earthcare

Dick Hogan (Athens) presented a written report describing the numerous activities and efforts of the committee. Dick invites members of the Yearly Meeting to a retreat symposium at the Athens Meetinghouse in early May; newcomers are especially welcomed.

RM10 - 25 Naming Committee

Friends **approved** Carla Pratt-Harrington and Linda Mills to serve on the Naming Committee.

RM10 - 26 Minute of Appreciation for Athens Monthly Meeting

We **approved** the following minute of appreciation for Athens Monthly Meeting:

> Lake Erie Representative Meeting expresses its appreciation to the Friends of Athens Monthly Meeting, notably Carla Pratt-Harrington, Clerk, and her helpers, for the many gifts they have bestowed on us this weekend: the gift of their welcoming presence and comfortable spaces in which to do our business, the gift of friendly hospitality for meals and overnight visitors, and the gift of sharing a lovely spring day and their region's magnificent natural beauty.

Merry Stanford, Clerk
Peggy Daub, Assistant Clerk
Joseph Mills, Recording Clerk
Margy Liske, Assistant Recording Clerk

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Treasurer's Report
April 1, 2010

FUNDS	Open	Income	YM Subsidy	Expense	Close
General Fund	$7,442.02	$20,908.34		$27,274.39	$1,075.97
Granville Youth Fund	$6,010.60	$106.06		$106.06	$6,010.60
Annual Meeting Fund	$6,259.38			$74.84	$6,184.54
Youth Activity Fund *	$7,181.17	$802.33	$2,700.00	$1,084.65	$9,598.85
High School Youth Fund *	$7,211.50	$53.03	$1,100.00		$8,364.53
Spiritual Formation *	$3,677.44	$3,400.00	$600.00	$3,331.60	$4,345.84
FWCC Travel *	$2,946.45		$1,240.00		$4,186.45
Consultation Fund *	$2,268.55	$1,190.00	$2,700.00	$1,675.65	$4,482.90
Ministry Scholarship Fund *	$ -		$1,000.00	$1,000.00	$ -
Total	**$42,997.11**	**$26,459.76**	**$9,340.00**	**$34,547.19**	**$44,249.68**

***These moneys are held in our checking. We do the accounting. We also subsidize them.**

General Fund Income

Meeting	Contribution
Akron	-
Ann Arbor	$4,995.00
Athens	$2,400.00
Birmingham	$620.00
Broadmead	$900.00
Cleveland	-
Delaware	-
Detroit	-
Grand Rapids	$653.25
Granville	$850.00
Holland	-
Kalamazoo	$1,580.00
Kent	$622.20
Mid-Ohio Valley	$180.00
Monongalia	-
North Columbus	$800.00
Oberlin	$777.00
Pine River	$592.00
Pittsburgh	$5,494.89
Red Cedar	-
Wooster	$444.00
Totals	$20,908.34

General Fund - Expenses

(* subsidy from General Fund)	Budget	Actual	Budget %
Travel	$6,500.00	$4,595.59	71%
Office	$300.00	$37.15	12%
Contract Worker		$382.50	
Finance		$35.00	
Publications	$3,400.00	$2,684.15	79%
Advancement	$880.00	-	
Ministry & Nurture *	$200.00	-	
Clerk's Fund	$500.00	-	
FWCC Travel *	$1,240.00	$1,240.00	100%
Youth Activity Fund *	$2,700.00	$2,700.00	100%
High School Youth Fund *	$1,100.00	$1,100.00	100%
Spiritual Formation *	$600.00	$600.00	100%
Consultation Fund *	$2,700.00	$2,700.00	100%
Ministry Scholarship Fund *	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	100%

FGC	$4,500.00	$4,500.00	100%
FGC - Special Program	$500.00	$500.00	100%
Records Project	$100.00	$100.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	$4,500.00	$4,500.00	100%
Olney Friends School	$600.00	$600.00	100%
Totals	$31,320.00	$27,274.39	87%

In-Kind (Travel)	$374.95
In-Kind (Office)	$32.06
In-Kind (Children's Retreat)	$180.00
Total	$587.01

	Checking	**CD**	**Total**		
Annual Meeting Fund	$1,184.54	$5,000	$6,184.54	4003424	Sent 3/2/10
Youth Activity Fund	$4,598.85	$5,000	$9,598.85	4003416	Sent 8/31/09

CDs - Shorebank	**Open**	**Income**	**Expense**	**Close**	
Granville Youth 686108009	$6,010.60	$106.06	$106.06	$6,010.60	
Youth Activity 4003416		$5,000.00		$5,000.00	Sent 8/31/09
General Fund 4003416	$2,470.64	$83.92		$2,554.56	
Annual Meeting 4003424		$5,000.00		$5,000.00	Sent 3/2/10
General Fund 4003424	$2,373.95	$35.73		$2,409,68	
Total	$10,855.19	$10,225.71	$106.06	$20,974.84	

Funds Total:	**$44,249.68**
CD Total:	**$20,974.84**
Checking Total:	**$23,274.84**

Committee on Ministry & Nurture

Consolidated Response to Annual LEYM Query

This consolidated response to the 2009 LEYM Query was woven together from the responses of 11 monthly meetings.

The Query

What experiences have you had of wonder and awe?
What experiences have you had of the Light or the Divine?

What helps you open yourself to these experiences and what gets in the way?
What practices do you have to deepen these experiences?

How do we support each other in this awareness?
How do we support our children in their spiritual journeys?

In discussing this query, we realized how little we know of life. Daily life is full of awe-inspiring things and mystery: these are in science, in the wondrous way the world works, in the seen and the unseen, in the birth of a baby, in the miracle of life. Look at the wonder in snowflakes, the awakening of the earth in the spring and the return of the birds, the beauty in the settling into fall, followed by the snows of winter. God is with us in the woods and over the waves and by the waterfall.

Many forms of the arts also enrich our sense of awe, like participating in and appreciating music, dance, and poetry, as well as reading inspirational and scriptural writings or creating our own poetry. Journaling one's reflections and insights can give guidance for "living" into that insight and assist in appreciation of how one is growing in Spirit. Acts of compassion and sensitivity in others and in oneself make for unexpected miracles, situations, or relationships, and give one such a "faith" spiritual experience.

Busyness, hurrying, distractions, laziness, anger, grief, fear, anxieties, longing, and our egos impede our experience of the Divine. In addition, negative self-thinking, focusing on what we want, and too much attention to performance and how well we are doing at a certain job allow our ego to get in the way of both experiencing and responding to the Divine.

We have found various ways to overcome these obstacles. For some, the physical limitations that come with getting older allow for more solitude. Many others of us find being outside, connecting with nature, helps open us to the Divine. This includes a wide range of ways to be outside: in the garden working with the earth, walking in nature, riding a bicycle, living in the country surrounded by the countryside, or just sitting still with a stone, a tree, or a leaf. Many of us engage in spiritual disciplines of yoga, meditation, quiet time in the morning, journaling, or reading meaningful passages and books.

Some find coming to Meeting and meditating has moved them to feel a deeper sense of awe and wonder. From the silence of the meeting and trying to center down, they come to notice the blessings given to them: the beauty of the day, of a sunset, kind words from others, etc. They hold the quiet: they listen and wait expectantly to know what is required of them and to test what is revealed. They engage with the deepness of a gathered meeting. They learn to appreciate things easily taken for granted.

For some, suffering increases awareness, while routine increases complacency. Anger, grief, or longing can sometimes bring us close to God, for in truly feeling those emotions, we can realize that God is there with open arms to receive us. Others have found that
even the humdrum may offer a door to the mystery. Some need movement and routine in order to feel centered in the Spirit.

In order to deepen experiences of wonder, it's important to let go, to understand that you can't and don't need to control everything. You don't have to be "right," you don't have to be in control. Remember to take pauses from the everyday bustle of life. Live in the moment. Prayer, confession, trying to keep in touch with the Divine throughout the day all help. Sometimes our own agenda gets in the way, hindering us from listening to "what God wants." Praying for guidance, wisdom, and courage can lead to a long-term change that is hard to discern in the moment, but becomes apparent looking back over time. Living simply, journaling, reading Scriptures, and acknowledging interdependence deepen our experience. Being open helps us to follow leadings during the search to discern God's will and our efforts to align our will

with it. Being involved in the Spiritual Formation program has supported and sustained a number of us.

Community nurtures and supports our spiritual journeys. We can remind each other with small gestures, such as smiling at each other or making eye contact with them. And our children often help us experience the Divine. Community encourages both openness and service, and in that openness we find the joy of kindred spirit. Real community is shared experience, mutual affirmation, and unconditional acceptance. When we are able to be open with others about our own spiritual journey and receive the messages and sharing of others in that same openness, the trust level deepens. Just being quiet together takes us to a level beyond ourselves. When we grow in getting past the "judgment" of one another and lose our fear of rejection, we discover we are loved for who we are. We support each other on an unclear path, which perhaps is intended to be a mysterious adventure.

Other people are essential to us as we face pain and the need for transformation. We want to live out our values and we need the help of others to see ourselves clearly and to inspire us to accept the transforming love available to us.

We cannot tell children how to walk on their spiritual path, but we can be examples and be emotionally present to them. Give them the opportunity to experience the joy of helping others, the beauty of nature, the wonder of learning. Children need to be comforted when hurt, loved when disappointed, and accepted when presenting themselves as individuals.

Our capacity for appreciation of mystical experiences seems to be constantly evolving into some new realization that at a deep level there is a sense of connectedness to a source of reverence and of an inner ongoing sense of letting go and receiving. There seems to be a state of mind and heart as an awareness that opens us to the Spirit within and makes us sensitive to that Spirit. One can develop a trust that the Spirit's presence within us is independent of our efforts; the presence is that place in us where the Spirit seeks to live.

The conclusion is that everyone has their own way. The issue is not how you do it, but that you do it regularly. Each individual must pay attention to what refocuses them, and then follow through with that.

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
47th Annual Sessions
July 29 - August 1, 2010
Bluffton University

Thursday Evening Session

YM10 - 1 Opening Worship, Reading of Epistle from Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the 47th Annual Sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with worship, out of which our assistant clerk, Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), read from the **epistle from Southeastern Yearly Meeting**. This yearly meeting has decided to lay down its membership in Friends United Meeting. While SEYM Friends treasure the past support received from FUM in the process of organizing their yearly meeting and FUM's worldwide healing work, they opposed Friends United Meeting's discriminatory hiring practices against gay and lesbian Friends and struggle with some of its stated theology. This yearly meeting hopes to remain connected to FUM as the Spirit may lead.

YM10 - 2 Guidelines for Conduct During our Business Sessions

Our clerk, Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), reviewed **guidelines for conduct during our business sessions** (*see below*) and asked for extra assistance from Friends in attendance as she is feeling less than 100%. She introduced the clerks' table: Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), assistant clerk; Joseph Mills (Kalamazoo), recording clerk; and herself as presiding clerk.

YM10 - 3 Calling of the Roll

The **calling of the roll** of Friends from constituent meetings and groups provided the following count (corrected against registrations):

Monthly Meetings			
Akron	1	Kalamazoo	8
Ann Arbor	26	Kent	1
Athens	10	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	9	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	24	North Columbus	10
Cleveland	17	Oberlin	3
Delaware	0	Pine River	6
Detroit	2	Pittsburgh	20
Grand Rapids	7	Red Cedar	4
Granville	5	Wooster	6
Holland	0		

Worship Groups		Visitors	8
Erie	1		
Manitou	5		

Total in Attendance: 173

YM10 - 4 Visitors and Guests

Our clerk welcomed **visitors and guests** to introduce themselves. Margaret Fraser, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; Vaughn and Miriam Peebles, Ohio Valley and Indiana Yearly Meetings (who expressed thanks for our prayers for Miriam's serious health condition a year ago); Lloyd Lee and Susan Wilson, North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative; Jocelyn Burnell, Friends World Committee for Consultation and Britain Yearly

Meeting.

YM10 - 5 Memorials

Our clerk invited Friends to respectfully share out of the silence the names of Friends who have passed on. Memorial minutes were presented for Bill Bliss (Ann Arbor), Zig Dermer (Pittsburgh), and Sadie Taylor (Oberlin), with deep sharing of what these departed Friends meant to us. Likewise, we shared tender memories of David Green (Cleveland) and remembered Glenn Hymer (Fremont Worship Group), Esther Abate (Ann Arbor), Alyssa Owens (Kalamazoo), Harriette McAdoo (Red Cedar), Joe Davis (Broadmead), Dot Giessler (Detroit), Margrit Meyer (Detroit), Bonnie Tinker (sister of Paul Tinkerhess, Ann Arbor), Gillian Brayshaw (Broadmead), Jeann Dhayer (North Columbus), Elise Boulding (formerly of Ann Arbor), and Art Gish (Athens). We celebrate the lives of all of these Friends.

YM10 - 6 Clerk's Report

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) presented a written report (*see p. 38*) marking our achievements as a young yearly meeting and identifying some future challenges that face us.

YM10 - 7 Program Announcements

A. Nancy Nagler (Pine River) reported for the Youth & Children Program Committee that the youth program is underway and drivers are needed for swimming.

B. Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) and Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Erie WG) identified members of the Adult Program Committee and gave information on various program details, advising us to check for changes.

Friday Morning Session

YM10 - 8 Worship and Reading of the Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting

Out of our opening worship, we heard the **epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting.** Our British Friends are realizing the power and effectiveness that comes with letting their lives speak as "living minutes" of their yearly meeting. Our clerk reminds us that many among us are bearing loss and anxiety and we need to be mindful and tender toward each other.

YM10 - 9 New Visitor

We welcomed a new visitor: Pat Dewitt Thomas from Earlham School of Religion, who is leading our morning Bible study this Annual Meeting.

YM10 - 10 High School Teen Retreat Program Report

Cari Burke (Manitou WG) introduced the high school youth who are with us and, along with Oriana Reilly (clerk of the program), summarized the committee's written report (*see p. 56*). The report highlights the success of the past retreat at Olney Friends School and a future retreat to take place next week. Friends **agreed** to rename the program the "High School Teen Retreat Program."

YM10 - 11 Representative Meeting

Representative Meeting will be held on Saturday, 4/2/2011. We are looking for a host meeting.

YM10 - 12 Ad Hoc Committee to Write LEYM Epistle

Peggy Daub explained the nature of a yearly meeting epistle and asked for volunteers to help her write this year's **Yearly Meeting Epistle**; Nancy Nagler (Pine River) and Peter Wood (Red Cedar) so volunteered.

YM10 - 13 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) gave a preliminary report. Needs were identified. The committee is not actively searching for representatives for all Friends' organizations but encourages Friends to come to it as they may feel led to serve in these capacities. Thomas explained that the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee includes three committees: Arrangement & Site, Youth & Children Program, and Adult

Program. Friends **approved** removing the *Bulletin* Editor from the listing of officers of the Yearly Meeting. The Nominating Committee is asked to consider how to designate the positions of *Bulletin* editor, webmaster, and database manager.

YM10 - 14 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) submitted a written report (*see below*) and summarized the committee's work of continuing to connect with many of the 32 meeting units that comprise our Yearly Meeting.

YM10 - 15 Peace Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) presented a minute supporting the bipartisan Sustainable Defense Task Force initiative for a trillion-dollar reduction in arms spending. The Peace Committee will consider editing the minute in light of concerns shared.

Max Heirich (Ann Arbor) shared a written proposal from the Washtenaw Faith Action Network aimed at finding methods to reframe the discussion of political issues this year in a way that emphasizes unifying spiritual values. Friends are encouraged to create signature ads, internet videos, and suggested questions for candidates for public office. A final goal is to inform and mobilize voters to support practical problem solving regarding causes of justice and dignity. More detailed information is available in the display area.

Friday Afternoon Session

YM10 - 16 Opening Worship

In the opening worship, the clerk announced that David Lore is presently receiving emergency medical care at a hospital in Findlay, and asked us to hold him and his wife, Rosemary, in the Light.

YM10 - 17 Treasurer's Report

Our **Treasurer**, Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh), presented a written report (*see below*) for the last fiscal year showing income from meeting contributions totaling $27,589 (two meetings have not yet remitted contributions). We spent 91% of our $31,320 budget for 2009-2010.

YM10 - 18 Finance Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) presented a detailed budget for $29,415 for the next fiscal year (*see below*). Friends **approved** this budget as presented.

YM10 - 19 Friends General Conference

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) presented a written report from Fred Feitler (Kent), detailing the activities of **Friends General Conference** (*see below*). We are reminded that several Friends from our Yearly Meeting are prominently involved in the operations of FGC.

Star Mary Castro (Athens) reported on the Friends General Conference Gathering recently held at Bowling Green, Ohio. Regrettably, the distance between dormitories made interaction among Friends awkward. The usually high-quality program was well received. Star Mary acknowledged the assistance from many Yearly Meeting Friends. We **minuted** our gratitude to Star Mary for her dedicated service as co-clerk of this year's Gathering.

YM10 - 20 Arrangement & Site Committee

Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead), for the **Arrangement & Site Committee**, reported that we have a total of 173 registrants at this year's Annual Meeting, an increase of about 30 over last year. Next year's Annual Meeting will be held at Bluffton on 7/28-31/2011. We **approved** holding the Annual Meeting for 2012 at Bluffton on 7/26-29.

YM10 - 21 Publications & Archives

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) presented a written report (*see p. 60*). Lisa Sinnett (Ann Arbor) has been nominated to be the next *Bulletin* editor. Jeff welcomes feedback on our photo privacy policy to identified members of the committee. We expressed thanks to Jeff as clerk of Publications & Archives, and as editor

of our *Bulletin* and *Annual Records*.

YM10 - 22 Earthcare Committee

Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) submitted a written report (*see p. 44*) describing the numerous endeavors of this active committee over the past year. The film *Food Inc.* was shown last night at Annual Meeting.

YM10 - 23 Quaker Earthcare Witness

Al Connor submitted a written report regarding **Quaker Earthcare Witness** (*see p. 47*). Adequate financial support remains a concern. QEW focus points have been climate change and energy legislation, population control, forming a United Nations working group, and building a moral economy.

YM10 - 24 Naming Committee

The **Naming Committee**, Linda Mills (Kalamazoo) and Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens), brought forth Dale Pratt-Harrington (Athens) as a new member and Philip Balderston (Wooster) as a returning member to serve on the Nominating Committee. Friends **approved** these appointments.

Saturday Morning Session

YM10 - 25 Worship and the Reading of the Epistle from Alaska Friends Conference

From worship, we heard the **epistle from Alaska Friends Conference**. In exploring diversity and discrimination, these northern Friends learned that racism is a disease of separation. As they struggled about investing resources in their yearly meeting property that has become so endearing to them over the years, Alaska Friends realized that the great distances that separate them make opportunity for fellowship more important

YM10 - 26 David Lore

Michael Fuson informed us that **David Lore** suffered a heart attack yesterday. He is doing reasonably well and will be hospitalized for several days for evaluation. His daughter has come to be with him and Rosemary. We hold them all in the Light; a card will be delivered on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

YM10 - 27 Endorsements for Susan and Lloyd Lee Wilson; Grand Rapids Meeting's thanks to Betty Ford and introduction of Amy Ranger as meeting rep to LEYM

Our clerk shared the endorsement she wrote on the certificates of Susan and Lloyd Lee Wilson. Merry read a letter from the Grand Rapids Meeting supporting and thanking Betty Ford and her long involvement in Yearly Meeting and her work for Friends in the west Michigan area. The letter also introduced Amy Ranger as a new representative to Yearly Meeting.

YM10 - 28 Ministry & Nurture

Ellen Barnes (Birmingham) gave a written report (*see p. 58*) commenting on State of Meeting reports, the LEYM Spiritual Formation Program, and opportunities for worship at Annual Meeting. She also presented the annual query and answered a few questions about it.

YM10 - 29 Ad Hoc Committee on Queries

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the **Ad Hoc Committee on Queries** and mentioned the new pamphlet containing a series of queries and an explanation on how they were developed and might be used. The queries are organized by topics and total 70 in number. Friends are encouraged to continue using the new queries and evaluate them for meaningfulness. Continuing feedback to the committee is welcomed for a final draft to be ready at Annual Sessions next year.

YM10 - 30 Friends World Committee for Consultation

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) gave a written report on **Friends World Committee for Consultation** as a Yearly Meeting representative to that organization (*see p. 65*). The Section of the Americas will be focusing on a number of local and regional events rather than an elaborate annual meeting.

Merry Stanford read a letter from Swarthmore Monthly Meeting introducing Margaret Fraser. Margaret

thanked us for the hospitality given; she described her endeavors with FWCC as interfaith work within the Religious Society of Friends. She mentioned new approaches for encouraging Friends to visit more diverse meetings and more interaction among a greater variety of Friends. A new website is being established, Voices of Friends (*www.voicesoffriends.org*), which would include links to Quaker blogs and an opportunity for more sharing among Friends worldwide. She also mentioned the Salt and Light program of local and regional events to promote more such interaction (*www.saltandlight2012.org*). She asked our meetings to consider hosting such an event.

Merry shared a letter from Friends World Committee for Consultation introducing Jocelyn Burnell (Britain Yearly Meeting). Jocelyn presented a picture of Friends throughout the world and the variable statistics that keep track of their numbers. She touched on FWCC's Global Change project, which focuses on the coming social changes that may result from climate change. She mentioned the World Conference of Friends to be held in Kenya in 2012. Our Yearly Meeting is entitled to three representatives but opportunity for more to attend is possible by applying for open places, which include allotments not used by other yearly meetings. A common thread of unity for all Friends is sought from the narratives of a broad range of meetings and groups of Friends.

YM10 - 31 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Shirley Bechill (Pine River), the outgoing clerk of **Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting,** presented a written State of the Quarter Report (*see p. 113*). Pine River Monthly Meeting celebrated its 40th anniversary and Red Cedar Monthly Meeting is now using its new Meetinghouse.

YM10 - 32 Peace Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) presented a revision of yesterday's proposed minute supporting the bipartisan Sustainable Defense Task Force initiative (*see p. 59*). Friends **approved** the minute.

Saturday Afternoon Session

YM10 - 33 Additional Memorials

We continued from Thursday's sharing the names of additional **Friends who have passed on**. An obituary and remembrances of our beloved Joe Davis were shared and part of the obituary for David Green was read. We also remembered Nancy Cutbirth Small (Kalamazoo) and Corty Cammann (Ann Arbor).

YM10 - 34 Reading of Letter of Introduction for Pat DeWitt Thomas

Our clerk read a letter from Earlham School of Religion introducing **Pat DeWitt Thomas**, who is leading our morning Bible study. Pat can provide us information about the School of Religion.

YM10 - 35 Ad Hoc Committee on *Policies and Procedures*

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) gave a progress report from the **Ad Hoc Committee on *Policies and Procedures*** on revising our *Policies & Procedures* (*see p. 41*). A final structure is nearly complete. The committee hopes to have a complete draft by February of next year for comments to be shared at Representative Meeting. Further revisions would then follow, with final approval sought at next year's Annual Sessions.

YM10 - 36 Executive Committee

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) presented a written report (*see p. 40*). Friends **united** in our Yearly Meeting applying to Friends General Conference to participate in its new pilot project for website development and support services, as described in the report. Mathilda Navias' service as meeting worker has been quite productive. The committee is exploring a policy on the sale of merchandise in the bookstore at Annual Meeting. The openness of committee meetings was explained; as a matter of practice, meetings of the Executive, Nominating, and Finance committees are open by invitation only; all other committees are fully open.

YM10 - 37 Youth & Children Program Committee

Nancy Nagler (Pine River) reported that 34 youth are participating in our Annual Meeting. Activities have included swimming, bowling, and a trip to the farmers' market. Staff is meeting the needs of our youth nicely and has been flexible in responding to changing conditions. We are asked to consider volunteering to serve as leaders and assistants; variety is important. We also need leaders for the children's retreat this fall. We minute special appreciation for Nancy Nagler, who stepped in to lead the program as a result of Su Penn's illness.

YM10 - 38 Friends Committee on National Legislation

Kathleen Peabody (Ann Arbor) shared a written report on **Friends Committee on National Legislation** (*see p. 61*). Highlights of this Committee's work include focus on: the Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict, American Indian health care, and ratifying the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. FCNL is seeking a new Executive Secretary in response to Joe Volk's retirement next spring.

YM10 - 39 Friends School in Detroit

Ellen Barnes shared a written report from **Friends School in Detroit** (*see p. 64*). The school's past financial difficulties are improving but more needs to be done; higher enrollment is needed to regain financial stability. The school is looking for a new Head of School to replace the interim Head. While the staff is largely non-Quaker, Quaker values and testimonies have been infused throughout the school's programs. The Board is considering a sale-leaseback of the school's property as a means to make needed capital improvements to the building, to reduce debt, and potentially to provide additional funds for operations. The local electric utility company is considering the school as a site for roof solar cells. We are asked to continue our contributions to the school and to hold it in the Light.

In response to a concern for Dwight Wilson, Friends related that after searching in vain for suitable employment in these difficult times, he attained the age of 62 and announced his retirement. Friends thank Dwight for his many fine contributions to Friends School when he served as Head.

YM10 - 40 Ad Hoc Committee on Young Friends

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported for the **Ad Hoc Committee on Young Friends** (*see p. 43*). She distributed a chart displaying the current youth programs of all constituent meetings in the Yearly Meeting. The committee asks Friends how the Yearly Meeting might help meetings strengthen local youth programs and will continue to discern how the Yearly Meeting might best assist those working with youth throughout our membership.

YM10 - 41 Adult Young Friends

For the **Adult Young Friends,** Bekah Sommer (Broadmead) reported on the challenges of their members in relocating and keeping track of each other. Nine adult young Friends are attending Annual Meeting. This group is in a growing process and appreciates the support of the Yearly Meeting. We continue to cherish their presence at and contributions to our Yearly Meeting sessions.

YM10 - 42 American Friends Service Committee

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar), as a Yearly Meeting representative, reported on the **American Friends Service Committee**. The Service Committee has experienced a significant reduction in national and international programs. Donations and investment income have declined. Shan Cretin, a regional director in California, is the new General Secretary. The Ann Arbor Inclusive Justice Program has been laid down and a devolvement process for the program is ongoing. A number of regional programs continue, including the Criminal Justice Program in Ann Arbor and Eyes Wide Open. AFSC has asked for comments from Friends in reviewing the Corporate and Board structures of the organization. Our representatives to the Service Committee feel that the corporation and the governing board should be combined and ambassadorships promoted. They also feel that the former service opportunities for Quaker youth are missed and AFSC should consider restoring them in some form. We **support** the positions of our representatives and **request** that they convey that support to the Service Committee.

First Day Session

YM10 - 43 Minute of Gratefulness for the Ministry of Lloyd Lee Wilson

The clerk offered the following minute of **gratefulness for the ministry that Lloyd Lee Wilson** shared with us at Annual Meeting. We **approved** the minute.

> Our plenary address, entitled "An Epistle of Hope in a Discouraging Time," was given by Lloyd Lee Wilson of Rich Square Monthly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative. Lloyd Lee was faithful to witnessing to the Spirit of Christ among us. His message of the power of God's love to transform and his authentic sharing during the question and answer period offered wisdom and hope to Friends. We felt the benefits of his and Susan Wilson's prayerful presence anchoring our meetings for worship with attention to business. Lloyd Lee and Susan were generous with their time, offering private opportunities to Friends. We are grateful for their ministry among us.

YM10 - 44 Appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to work with FGC to Implement a New Website

If the Yearly Meeting is approved by Friends General Conference to participate in the **pilot project for website development,** we **approved** the appointment of an ad hoc committee to work with FGC to implement and improve the new website and to determine the kind of support that may be appropriate when completed. Bill Warters and Mathilda Navias were identified as members of this committee and the clerk will appoint others.

YM10 - 45 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) presented a final written report showing officers and committee assignments. Remaining needs include: leader for infant and toddlers, a preschool leader, a middle school assistant, and a high school leader. Representative positions are needed for the American Friends Service Committee and Friends Committee on National Legislation; our national organizations need new faces of Friends for freshness and vitality. Representatives to Friends' organizations need to select clerks for their groups. Thomas mentioned the process for Yearly Meeting to submit applications to attend the World Conference of Friends sponsored by Friends World Committee for Consultation. Friends **approved** the report.

YM10 - 46 Arrangement & Site

Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead), for **Arrangement & Site**, announced a final total attendance at Annual Meeting of 173. The dates for our Annual Meeting for 2012 of 7/26-29 have been confirmed.

YM10 - 47 Young Friends' Reports, Epistle, and Introductions

We received the **reports, epistle, and introductions from our young people**, which brought us much joy. They will be a part of our *Annual Records* (*see pp. 85-87*). We thank them for their presentations and treasure the gladness they have brought us.

YM10 - 48 Epistle from the Adult Young Friends

We received the **epistle from the Adult Young Friends** (*see p. 87*). We appreciate their epistle's usual balance of depth of spirit and humor.

YM10 - 49 Yearly Meeting Epistle

The **Yearly Meeting epistle** was read and **approved** as written, with a few minor corrections as to wording (*see p. 84*). Friends expressed their appreciation for the considerable effort of the committee in composing the epistle.

YM10 - 50 Thanks and Appreciation

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Bluffton University, members of the Arrangement & Site Committee, and other Friends for contributing to the success of this year's Annual Meeting. It has been a year of considerable loss and sorrow for us, but we give thanks to the Spirit for holding us up tenderly through such a time. We all look forward to reuniting again.

Merry Stanford, Clerk
Joseph Mills, Recording Clerk

Guidelines for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Meeting for worship with attention to business provides an opportunity for Friends to practice several of our testimonies as we carry out the practical work of maintaining our faith community. We seek to be Spirit-led in our work, with as much efficiency as possible, achieving a sense of what Friends call "right order," and so ask that you use the following guidelines.

1. When you need to speak, ask the clerk to recognize you by raising your hand.
2. To affirm something someone has said, simply nod or use the phrase, "This Friend speaks my mind." Please don't ask to be recognized so that you may express the same thought in other words.
3. When you speak, please stand, speak to the clerks' table, and keep your comments to the point.
4. Friends will not generally be recognized to speak on any given issue more than once, except to acknowledge a personal change of perspective during the meeting.
5. When the recording clerk is developing a minute, sit in worship, and hold him/her in the Light. Please refrain from conversation with your neighbor.
6. When a person speaks in meeting for worship with attention to business, receive the words as you receive vocal ministry in meeting for worship - with an open heart and calm mind.
7. If you feel that the gathering needs a break or a stretch, it is appropriate to ask to be recognized so that you may ask the clerk for one.

Reports

Clerk's Report (YM10 - 6)

The Lake Erie Association of Meetings was founded in 1939, and was formally organized as Lake Erie Yearly Meeting in 1969. So, with a gestation period of 30 years, we are now 41 years old, and we are holding our 47th Annual Sessions. That's young for a yearly meeting. By contrast, New England Yearly Meeting is in its 350th year, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is in its 330th year. Of the meetings that are close to us, Ohio Valley YM is in its 190th year, Canadian YM is in its 177th year, Illinois YM is in its 135th year, and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) is in its 133rd year. Northern Yearly Meeting, like LEYM, is a young yearly meeting, organizing as a yearly meeting around 1975.

We have enjoyed our youth, our freedom from bureaucratic structure. But, as we have developed, we have become more complex. We have discovered new ways to experience and benefit from being part of a yearly meeting. For example:

- Some time ago, we started a fall retreat for school-aged children and their parents. That has become an annual event.
- We started a Spiritual Formation Program that offers two retreats a year and support for groups in monthly meetings who wish to deepen their experience of Spirit in their lives.
- We established a High School Youth Program so that high school Friends, who experienced a paucity of Quaker teens in their meetings, could build community with other Quaker youth. We hired a contractual worker to plan and then implement this program. The youth meet four times a year for extended weekends, and some of our adult young Friends indicate that it was this program that convinced them as Friends.
- Recently we approved the formation of three ad hoc committees on:
  - Queries, which is developing a set of queries with input from our monthly meetings, which will be able to be used by our monthly meetings for spiritual nurture;
  - Young Friends, which is exploring how LEYM can be more responsive to the entire age range of young Friends among us; and
  - Policies and Procedures, which is significantly reorganizing and updating the LEYM manual of *Policies and Procedures*.
- We hired a contractual worker to help with LEYM's outreach; to assist with the consultation that was held last November for monthly meeting clerks, and received very positively; and to help update and organize the LEYM website. You will hear later during these sessions about a proposal to strengthen our web presence as part of a pilot project with FGC, so that seekers and Friends can make better use of LEYM's resources.

We have made the assumption, in approving these projects, that when monthly meetings join together as a

yearly meeting to perform some tasks, the Good is magnified. We recognize that there are some things which are easier to accomplish when we share our resources. There are things which the Yearly Meeting can accomplish that are not so easily done by monthly meetings, especially small ones, and worship groups.

In my experience, Friends have been very excited and deeply committed to these movements of the Spirit among us. But as individuals, we are all limited in terms of time, and that limits our hours available for volunteer service. Many of us live in households where all the adults are employed full-time; caring for young children, parents, or spouses; or beginning new employment or looking for work. It is a struggle sometimes to find enough of the Friends with the calling, talents, and time that are needed to support these new ways into which we are growing.

We have, however, found we are able to do more in two areas of our life as a meeting by employing contractual workers, and we have had good experience with this. So I raise some tender questions in this report.

- How can the Yearly Meeting continue to follow Spirit where it may lead without burdening a few volunteers with even more tasks?
- Am I volunteering as much of my time as I can to meaningful Quaker work, and specifically to the work of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting?
- Is it time to begin thinking about the possibility of hiring staff who can, with volunteer assistance and oversight, care for the ministries of the Yearly Meeting in a competent and consistent way?

I offer these questions in the spirit of inquiry. I welcome your thoughts over the next few days.

Executive Committee (YM10 - 36)

The Executive Committee is comprised of the officers and committee clerks of the Yearly Meeting, and meets three times per year to coordinate the work of the Yearly Meeting. Here are some of the things that have been accomplished this year by the Executive Committee.

FGC web pilot: LEYM has applied to participate in an FGC pilot project for website development and support services. FGC solicited applications earlier this summer, and will select three monthly meetings and one yearly meeting in the pilot. The project will have a strong component of outreach to younger seekers who may be interested in Quakerism. FGC will maintain the technical infrastructure, software, and security. Our participation in the pilot would involve free hosting and use of the software, and provide us with the opportunity to have input on design and features to be used throughout the FGC world. Following the pilot period, benefits to the Yearly Meeting include a website which is dynamic, searchable, and easily editable by Friends - with permissions - with minimal computer skills. The service from FGC would be available at a modest cost to the Yearly Meeting. FGC wants to make this affordable for very small meetings. Executive Committee proposes that the Yearly Meeting approve LEYM's participation in the FGC web pilot project. Yesterday we heard Publications & Archives Committee also propose support for the project. *[LEYM was later accepted as the yearly meeting to participate in this project.]*

Meeting Worker: Last year LEYM contracted with Jo Steigerwald of Cleveland Meeting to assist with the logistics of the Monthly Meeting Clerks Consultation and organizing and updating the website. Jo did a wonderful job for us, but was called away to full-time employment soon after her hire. After a brief search, the Executive Committee approved, in October, contracting with Mathilda Navias to finish the contract. She began work in November. Mathilda has many skills that are ideally suited to this position, including attention to detail and professional experience related to web design. She has developed a listserv for monthly meeting clerks, helped develop content for, and organized, a dedicated webpage on our site for monthly meeting clerks, and created a checklist of annual updates for the website following Annual Sessions; and she is developing a packet of information for new committee clerks and a process for posting searchable minutes to the site.

Marketplace policy: The need for policy and procedures regarding the selling of goods not related to the FGC bookstore is being considered by an ad hoc group composed of the clerks, or their designates, of the following committees: Arrangement & Site, Program, Finance, and Ministry & Nurture. Sally Weaver Sommer will clerk, and Valerie Groszmann will be consulted. They will bring a recommendation to the next Executive Committee for seasoning.

Open meetings: Executive Committee would like Friends to know that all program committees are open to any Friends for participation. These committees include: Advancement & Outreach, Arrangement & Site, Youth & Children, Earthcare, High School Teen Retreat Program, Ministry & Nurture, Peace,

Program, and Publications & Archives. Administrative Committees are open by invitation. These include Finance, Nominating, and Executive committees.

The **next meeting** of Executive Committee will be in late October or early November, in Perrysburg or Oberlin. *[The meeting was later scheduled on October 30 in Oberlin.]*

Ad Hoc Committee on *Policies and Procedures* (YM10 - 35)

The decision to form an ad hoc committee to revise *LEYM Policies and Procedures* was approved at Representative Meeting in 2009. It was clear from the beginning that this was not the usual update - that we couldn't simply replace outdated text with revised text reflecting recent decisions and current practice. Nonetheless, the more we looked at the current (2007) edition, the more we found that we wished to change. Some entire sections were badly outdated (e.g., the section on distribution of the *Bulletin*, which still showed us mailing copies to individual households). Some important information was missing, and some was difficult to find. Some of the contents seemed not to belong in *Policies and Procedures* at all, but in a *Faith and Practice*, which the Yearly Meeting has thought about creating for several years. So the scope of the project expanded.

We spent many months with the individual members of our committee - Mathilda Navias, Rosemary Coffey, Joe Mills, and Jeff Cooper - working on revising fairly small sections to reflect current practice, sharing within the committee, checking with other committees, taking questions to Executive Committee, rewriting, and sharing again. As we did this and thought about how to make information easier to find, we realized that the manual would benefit from major restructuring. A new structure was suggested, committee members made suggestions for further modifications, and just yesterday we met and settled on a structure that I believe is close to the final form. We have agreed on four main sections, describing constituent bodies (what makes up the Yearly Meeting); governance (Annual Sessions, Representative Meeting, Executive Committee); organization (officers, the "others" involved in publication and information, committees, representatives, and visitors to other yearly meetings); and operations (financial procedures and publication/communication). The appendices will include most of what appears in the current appendices as well as materials in the current edition that we believe belong in a *Faith and Practice*. There will be an index.

We hope to have a complete draft prepared by February, which would allow us time to distribute it (via email) to officers and committee clerks (who would share it with their committees) and to clerks of monthly meetings, asking them to share it with interested Friends. This would allow time for Friends to bring comments and questions to 2011 Representative Meeting (and for us to bring last-minute questions, too). Based on discussion and discernment at Representative Meeting, we would then make revisions, redistribute the text, and, if all goes well, request approval at Annual Sessions 2011.

Jeff Cooper, clerk of Ad Hoc Committee on *Policies and Procedures*

Ad Hoc Committee on Young Friends (YM10 - 40)

The Ad Hoc Committee on Young Friends (consisting of Joyce Balderston, Cari Burke, Michael Fuson, and myself) asked two questions of our monthly meetings and worship groups via a survey distributed in March:

1. Current make-up of youth programs; and

2. How the Yearly Meeting might help strengthen local youth programs.

We have not yet heard from a number of meetings, and so what we have done until further information can be gathered is to compile a "snapshot" that helps answer the first question: a description of current youth programs among us. That is what has been distributed to you today.

This is only a first step, but our hope is that perhaps even this degree of information might spawn ideas for increased cooperation or new approaches to youth programs. The Ad Hoc Committee will continue in the coming year, with renewed emphasis on understanding how the Yearly Meeting might best help those working with youth throughout our membership.

Peggy Daub
Clerk, Ad Hoc Committee on Young Friends

Advancement & Outreach Committee (YM10 - 14)

The work of Advancement & Outreach Committee since the 2009 Annual Sessions has been much the same as in the previous year.

We again made contact with or visits to meetings and worship groups that seldom, if ever, send members to our Yearly Meeting sessions. Rosemary Coffey visited **Indiana Preparative Meeting** along with other members of Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, learning that various attenders meet on Sunday morning or on Wednesday evening. Janet Evans Smith was not able to get to **Erie Worship Group** but received a report that the number of attenders has been growing in the past year and that many of them are active with Erie peace initiatives. Mike Hinshaw visited **Gallipolis Worship Group** after Representative Meeting last March; he reported that local Friends seemed determined to maintain the group, even though two of the five regular attenders were about to leave the area.

Secondly, we again examined the contact information for all the meetings and worship groups in the Yearly Meeting in terms of what appears on the LEYM website, on the FGC Quakerfinder website, on their own websites (if they have them), and in our *Annual Records*. If all four places reported the same information, we congratulated them. If they did not, we pointed out the discrepancies and asked which version they preferred. We either encouraged them to make the changes themselves, or we did it for them. We expect that this process will need to be repeated every year.

Thirdly, we were impressed by the four-page document created by the Advancement & Outreach Committee of FGC, titled *Inreach-Outreach Review: Ideas & Queries*. Early in 2010 we sent all of our meetings and worship groups information about the document and a link to it on the FGC website, along with our encouragement that they consider using it as Way opened.

Finally, we have updated the list of constituent bodies of LEYM. It is important to note that **Monongalia Meeting**, in Morgantown, West Virginia, is considering transferring its membership from Lake Erie YM to Baltimore YM; the fact that BYM has moved its annual meeting site to within an hour of Morgantown may prove irresistible. We've told Monongalia Friends that we support their connection with whatever yearly meeting meets their needs, although it may well be another year until BYM makes its decision. Also, the **Albion Worship Group** has been laid down. So, not counting Monongalia, we now have 32 different units, including one quarterly meeting, 20 monthly meetings, 2 preparative meetings, and 9 worship groups or allowed meetings. All but eight have websites, either their own or via links from the Yearly Meeting site. In the coming year we will try again to encourage the eight to set up a web presence, one way or another.

Thank you for your attention!
Rosemary Coffey, Clerk, A& O Committee

Earthcare Committee (YM10 - 22)

The Earthcare Committee (EC) continued to be active within LEYM during the past year. Highlights include the following:

1. We again coordinated efforts to encourage carpooling among those attending Yearly Meeting. This year (2010) Al Connor is again the EC's contact person to help resolve difficult transportation issues.
2. Phil Clampitt, co-clerk, participated for the EC in the fall LEYM Executive Committee Meeting in Perrysburg, Ohio. Dick Hogan presented a written report for the committee at LEYM's Representative Meeting in Athens, Ohio in March.
3. In addition to a fair number of communications by email, the EC has held two spirited and productive Saturday face-to-face meetings since June of 2009, both at the home of Judy Greenberg, co-clerk, in Toledo. The first was on December 5, 2009 and the second on January 23, 2010. Five committee members were in attendance at each of these meetings. Agenda items included possible revision to the LEYM *Policies and Procedures* manual as it pertains to Earthcare - we recommended slight changes in wording to better reflect what we see as our major mission - and plans for an Earthcare workshop at Yearly Meeting this month (see item #5 below).
4. We decided to again lead an intergenerational field trip to the Bluffton University Natural Area Preserve during Yearly Meeting - on Thursday, July 29, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

5 Our 2010 Earthcare workshop is entitled "Discovering the Story of a Home Place." The EC hopes that the workshop will prompt Friends to inquire further into the story of their own "home place." The project is a product of the energy, imagination, and hard work of the Broadmead Friends Earthcare Interest Group, of which Judy Greenberg is an acknowledged and beloved leader. Phil Clampitt knows this from several years of experience on the EC. Central to this group's work is a large satellite map of the Lower Maumee River Watershed - it drains in turn into western Lake Erie - presented with interconnections between land, food, economic wellbeing, and water of this bioregion. Many posters amplify the Earthcare message of the satellite map. At the workshop, panelists from the Broadmead group will share their interests and what they learned during this project. This major exhibit was first "unveiled" at the Friends General Conference Gathering - in the Quaker Earthcare Witness center - in Bowling Green, Ohio, earlier this month. It is scheduled for a third appearance - with modifications such as a scaled-down map - at the Michigan Friends Center near Chelsea, Michigan, August 6-8, as part of a retreat for LEYM teenage Young Friends. Broadmead Friends will likely be kept very busy in the coming weeks and months because of what they have wrought.

6. Al Connor continues to represent LEYM at Quaker Earthcare Witness, and vice versa. His report will be presented as part of this EC report.

7. We mourn the passing of Bill Bliss, an inspiration to all who knew him. Several on the EC attended a very moving memorial service for him at Michigan Friends Center on May 8.

8. Members of EC have kept active in the "wider world" through teaching, through participation in a QEW-sponsored program called "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream," in Athens, Ohio, on May 1, and other events and activities. (See item 9, below, for a notable example.)

9. The EC, at its January meeting, learned about the United States Social Forum coming to Detroit, June 22-26, 2010. We decided to learn more. The result was a short article prepared by committee member Jim Crowfoot and published in the Spring *LEYM Bulletin*. With the expert help of webmaster Bill Warters, further information about this important event, and how to register, was posted on the LEYM website. Several LEYM Quakers attended and participated in - and found inspiration in - workshops and other activities of the 2010 U.S. Social Forum.

We continue to be sobered by the challenges we face - as a committee, LEYM as a community of faith, the United States as a nation, the peoples of this Earth. Quaker Earthcare Witness strongly recommends a new book by Bill McKibben, *Earth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*. Some of us are reading it. Rebecca Solnit describes it as "an astonishingly important book that will knock you down and pick you up." Kai Ryssdal, interviewing McKibben on National Public Radio, quotes McKibben saying "it's already too late to prevent global warming. What we have to do now is find a way to cope with our new reality." McKibben, in the same interview, says pertinent things about our economic life: "Stop thinking constantly about expansion, and start thinking more about security. … We need to get back to a very different kind of agriculture - one that's much more diverse and is much more localized. And that's beginning to happen. … The fastest growing part of the food economy for the last decade has been local farmers' markets …." We find hope in McKibben's words. We endorse QEW's strong recommendation that we read this book.

But reading is not enough. Joe Volk, in the latest (July/August 2010) *FCNL Washington Newsletter*, under the heading "Global Warming: We Can't Wait," sends Friends this message: "Right now, we need to get Congress to take us on a first step on our journey from our hydrocarbon civilization towards our sustainable future. . . . [O]ur job today is to persuade Congress to take those first steps in the right direction, toward an Earth Restored." Whatever else individual Friends and meetings do politically, we urge all who hear us to go to the FCNL website, www.fcnl.org/CLEAR, to learn what you can about the Cantwell-Collins CLEAR Act, S. 2877, on climate change; then discern what action should follow.

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Clampitt and Judy Greenberg
Co-clerks, LEYM Earthcare Committee

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Quaker Earthcare Witness has been concerned with finding a replacement for Ruah Swennerfelt as General Secretary. After a number of years in that position, Ruah decided to retire at QEW's annual meeting in October

2010. During her tenure the organization has grown in individual and yearly meeting memberships. The organization has become politically and socially active and has continued to reach out to and educate Friends about global climate change and its effects on Earth's ecology and its life forms.

QEW's ad hoc search committee has cut the list of candidates for the position to four persons. All of them are well qualified…. Two are very familiar and knowledgeable about QEW - one is a longtime member - and three are and have been active Quakers for many years. The final selection will be made no later than the annual meeting.

Financial support for QEW has been a concern for the past two years and continues to be…. Individual contributions have not declined. In fact, some supporters have increased their contributions. But interest income on short-term investments has decreased and QEW has not had any recent grant income.

Climate Change and Energy Legislation:

Programmatically QEW is working with FCNL to persuade the U.S. Congress to enact a strong energy bill that puts a meaningful cap on CO_2 emissions from power-generating and manufacturing plants, oil refineries, agriculture, and other sources. We are advocating for legislation that puts a price on carbon fuel inputs that is high enough to discourage construction of new and expanded fossil fuel-powered plants and encourage conversion to renewable power sources. We want goals for the reduction of Greenhouse gas emissions to realistically lower atmospheric concentrations to levels that enable future generations to live in a world without war and to have a decent quality of life. That will require a high and strong Renewable Energy Standard (RES) that the EPA has the power and personnel to enforce. At present, the FCNL energy lobbyist is talking to senators about supporting the **Carbon Limits** and **Energy** for **America's Renewal** Act, generally referred to as **CLEAR**.

Those of us who are members of the QEW - FCNL working group are in frequent contact with our federal legislators' offices, urging them to support CLEAR or include its best features in other proposed legislation. CLEAR is also known as the **Cap and Dividend Bill** because, if enacted, it will require the U.S. government to refund 75 percent of funds collected for the purchase of carbon inputs to pay back to consumers via monthly checks to compensate for increased prices passed on to consumers by power-generating corporations.

QEW is also planning to establish a relationship with Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) to develop a Quaker position on what we can do about Climate Change via FWCC's cluster program. We will be encouraging yearly and monthly meetings to establish clusters to discuss and perhaps plan actions their members can take to reduce their own GHG emissions and their demand for electric energy.

Population Control:

Population control is a concern of QEW. As the human population grows, demand for space and natural resources causes human consumption of natural resources to occur at a rate that is faster than those resources can be renewed or regenerated. Excess population in developing countries contributes to poverty, malnutrition, and spread of disease. The Population Control Work Group has initiated the program "**For Men**." It encourages men to take responsibility for birth control via vasectomy and/or contraception. It also works on developing population-limiting policy. Realistically reducing teen pregnancy is one of its concerns.

QEW - UN Working Group:

QEW has a working group that is certified to observe the UN General Assembly and make input with other certified Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Most of the group's work at the UN has been concerned with climate change information and policy. Mary Gilbert of that group attended the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change policy and, like many others, particularly people from the developing world, was disappointed with the lack of a meaningful decision. She also attended and participated in the follow-up People's World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, at Cochabamba, Bolivia.

The Moral Economy:

Developing a structure or model for an ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable economy that is morally right in its relationship to the Earth and life upon the Earth is a project initiated by the Quaker Institute for the Future (QIF). Peter Brown and Geoffrey Garver's book, *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy*, is the first step in that direction. The pamphlet *Fueling Our Future*, by Ed Dreby and Keith Helmuth, is another step in that direction. It addresses the energy situation and its consequences and suggests means of mitigating them. Those means have ramifications for the present economic system as a whole and more specifically for energy use and climate change.

QEW members are networking with others and among themselves to "Confront the Growth Dilemma." This comes from the concern that perpetual economic and population growth are ecologically, economically, and socially unsustainable. The idea to develop such a network was initiated by the Earthcare Working Group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and included QIF. A number of members of QEW have joined the network and are working to design and develop a stable and sustainable "no growth" or "limited growth" economy.

Alan N. Connor
LEYM Representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness

Finance & Budget Committee (YM10 - 18)

This has been a good year for LEYM financially. We succeeded in spending down some of our funds as intended, but others are still growing.

We received a request from a young friend for a $625 scholarship to attend Friends Music Camp. This request has been granted. We note that we need to encourage more Friends to request these funds. We also note that providing scholarships to attend the LEYM gathering was part of the intent in the original formation of the youth activities fund. Since the fund has a healthy balance, we may want to use the fund for this purpose in the future.

We have asked our treasurer to write thank you letters that will serve as receipts to individuals making in-kind and monetary donations. If you do not receive a receipt for your donation, please contact the treasurer, and he will be happy to send you one.

We have consulted with clerks of committees and the presiding clerk. With information gained from those conversations, we present the attached 2010-2011 budget for the Meeting's approval (*see pp. 54-55*). Numbers for previous years are presented for comparison purposes. We have reduced the Office line by $100 and have put $100 into a new line called "Finance" to cover bank fees. We have reduced the line for Advancement & Outreach to $100 because they do not plan activities needing funds for this year. We have created a new line for the contract worker and put $2075 into that line, $1500 regular amount plus a one-time additional amount of $575 to cover our proposed participation in the Website pilot project. We will put $0 into the Consultation Fund instead of the planned $1200. This is because we have sufficient funds in the account to cover the next consultation. The total amount of the budget is $29,415.00. Given 806 members, the individual assessment will be reported as $37, the same as last year's amount.

Sally Weaver Sommer
Clerk of Finance Committee

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Treasurer's Report, July 1, 2010
End of Fiscal Year 2009-10

General Fund Income

Meeting (Giver)	Amount
Akron Friends Meeting	$148.00
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	$4,995.00
Athens Friends Meeting	$2,750.00
Birmingham Friends Meeting	$620.00
Broadmead Friends Meeting	$900.00
Cleveland Friends Meeting	$2,110.62
Delaware Friends Meeting	$320.00
Detroit Friends Meeting	$300.00
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting	$871.25
Granville Friends Meeting	$850.00
Holland Friends Meeting	
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting	$1,580.00
Kent Friends Meeting	$622.20

Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting	$180.00
Monongalia Friends Meeting	
North Columbus Friends Meeting	$800.00
Oberlin Friends Meeting	$777.00
Pine River Friends Meeting	$592.00
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting	$5,494.89
Red Cedar Friends Meeting	$3,234.26
Wooster Friends Meeting	$444.00
TOTAL	**$27,589.22**

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Treasurer's Report, July 1, 2010
End of Fiscal Year 2009-10

Fund	Open	Income	YM Subsidy	Expense	Close
General Fund	$7,442.02	$27,767.98		$ 28,393.82	$6,816.18
Granvl Youth (CD)	$6,010.60	$157.36		$274.84	$6,010.60
Annual Meeting	$6,259.38			$31,269.57	$5,984.54
Youth Activity*	$7,181.17	$767.36	$2,700.00	$767.36	$9,563.88
High Schl Youth*	$7,211.50	$590.39	$1,100.00	$2,552.94	$6,348.95
Spiritual Formtn*	$3,677.44	$3,540.00	$600.00	$3,992.30	$3,825.14
FWCC Travel*	$2,946.45		$1,240.00		$4,186.45
Consultation*	$2,268.55	$1,190.00	$2,700.00	$2,601.90	$3,556.65
Ministry Schlrshp*	----------	----------	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	----------
TOTALS	$42,997.11	$34,013.09	$9,340.00	$40,057.81	$46,292.39

* These moneys are held in our checking account. We do the accounting. We also subsidize these programs.

	Checking	CD	Total
Annual Meeting Fund	$984.54	$5,000	$5,984.54
4003424 Sent 3/2/10			
Youth Activity Fund	$4,406.52	$5,000	$9,406.52
4003416 Sent 8/31/09			

CDs - Shorebank	Open	Income	Expense	Close	Note
Granville Youth 686108009	$6,010.60	$157.36	$157.36	$6,010.60	
Youth Activity 4003416		$5,000.00		$5,000.00	Sent 8/31/09
General Fund 4003416	$2,470.64	$118.19		$2,588.83	
Annual Meeting 4003424		$5,000.00		$5,000.00	Sent 3/2/10
General Fund 4003424	$2,373.95	$60.57		$2,434.52	
TOTALS	$10,855.19	$10,336.12	$157.36	$21,033.95	

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Treasurer's Report, July 1, 2010
End of Fiscal Year 2009-10

General Fund Expense

ACCOUNT	Budget	Actual Expense	Budget %
Travel	$6,500.00	$5,548.39	85%
Office	$300.00	$37.15	12%
Finance		$60.00	
Publications	$3,400.00	$3,208.28	94%
Advancement	$880.00		
Ministry & Nurture	$200.00		
Clerk's Fund	$500.00		
FWCC Travel*	$1,240.00	$1,240.00	100%
Youth Activity Fund*	$2,700.00	$2,700.00	100%
High School Youth Fund*	$1,100.00	$1,100.00	100%
Spiritual Formation*	$600.00	$600.00	100%
Consultation Fund*	$2,700.00	$2,700.00	100%
Ministry Scholarship Fund*	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	100%
FGC	$4,500.00	$4,500.00	100%
FGC - Special Program	$500.00	$500.00	100%
Records project	$100.00	$100.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	$4,500.00	$4,500.00	100%
Olney Friends School	$600.00	$600.00	100%
TOTALS	**$31,320.00**	**$28,393.82**	**91%**

* subsidy from General Fund

In-Kind (Travel)	$479.60	**Funds Total**	**$46,292.39**
In-Kind (Office)	$32.06	**CD Total**	**$21,033.95**
In-Kind (Children's Retreat)	$180.00	**Checking Total**	**$25,258.34**
TOTAL	**$691.66**		

LEYM Budget for July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

General Fund Expenses

(* = transfers)	**Budget 07-08**	Actual 07-08	**Budget 08-09**	Actual 08-09	**Budget 09-10**	Actual 09-10	**Budget 10-11**
Travel	**5,500.00**	4,823.81	**6,500.00**	4,943.25	**6,000.00**	5,548.39	**6,000.00**
Office	**300.00**	212.95	**300.00**	47.83	**300.00**	37.15	**200.00**
Contract worker					**0.00**	0.00	**2,075.00**
Finance					**0.00**	60.00	**100.00**
Publications	**3,400.00**	2,550.62	**3,400.00**	2,895.19	**3,400.00**	3,208.28	**3,400.00**
Advancement	**880.00**	880.00	**880.00**	0.00	**880.00**	0.00	**100.00**
Ministry & Nurture	**800.00**	600.00	**200.00**	0.00	**200.00**	0.00	**200.00**
Clerk's Fund	**500.00**	363.00	**500.00**	0.00	**500.00**	0.00	**500.00**
FGC	**4,500.00**	4,500.00	**4,500.00**	4,500.00	**4,500.00**	4,500.00	**4,500.00**
FGC - Special Program	**500.00**	500.00	**500.00**	500.00	**500.00**	500.00	**500.00**
Records project	**100.00**	100.00	**100.00**	100.00	**100.00**	100.00	**100.00**
FWCC Travel*	**1,240.00**	1,240.00	**1,240.00**	1,240.00	**1,240.00**	1,240.00	**1,240.00**
Youth Activity Fund*	**2,700.00**	2,700.00	**2,700.00**	2,700.00	**2,700.00**	2,700.00	**2,700.00**
High School Youth Fund*	**5,400.00**	5,400.00	**1,100.00**	1,100.00	**1,100.00**	1,100.00	**1,100.00**
Spiritual Formation*	**600.00**	600.00	**600.00**	600.00	**600.00**	600.00	**600.00**
Friends School in Detroit	**2,500.00**	2,500.00	**2,500.00**	2,500.00	**4,500.00**	4,500.00	**4,500.00**
Olney Friends School	**600.00**	600.00	**600.00**	600.00	**600.00**	600.00	**600.00**
Consultation Fund*			**2,400.00**	2,400.00	**2,700.00**	2,700.00	**0.00**
Scholarship Fund for ministry*			**1,000.00**	1,000.00	**1,000.00**	1,000.00	**1,000.00**
Misc.	**0.00**	500.00	**0.00**	0.00	**0.00**		**0.00**
Totals	**29,520.00**	28,070.38	**29,020.00**	25,126.27	**30,820.00**	28,393.82	**29,415.00**

(* = transfers)

Per member assessment	$37.23		$36.60		$38.91		$36.50

High School Teen Retreat Program (YM10 - 10)

Executive Summary

The spring 2010 teen retreat was held March 26-29 at the Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio. Nine teens and three adults attended. The summer 2010 teen retreat will take place August 6-9 at the Michigan Friends Center and Friends Lake in Chelsea, Michigan. As of this report writing, eight teens have indicated they plan to attend and seven teens have indicated they might attend. Future sites and topics have been identified by the teens at their meetings for worship with attention to business. The teen contact database is growing and there are plans to integrate it, as well as future retreat registration forms, into the LEYM website as fillable forms.

LEYM Spring 2010 Teen Retreat

The LEYM spring retreat was held at Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio, March 26-29. Nine teens and three FAPs (Friendly Adult Presences) attended. The weekend began with six retreat teens and two of the FAPs gathering with Olney students for dinner on Friday, March 26. After dinner our group was invited to watch Olney's annual gymnastics performance - our entire group was able to see at least part of the performance, which was a real treat. The ice cream social which followed provided an important opportunity for interaction with Olney students. Most of the Olney teens left for spring break following the ice cream social.

The theme for the weekend was "Discovering Our Quaker Past." In particular, we learned about the different branches of Quakerism. On Saturday, the group watched a well-received recording of the skit "A Short History of Quakerism in 10 Easy Points," created by Maya Wright at the 2008 Young Adult Friends Conference, as performed at the opening plenary of the 2009 FGC Gathering. Following the skit, we held a worship sharing on what Quakerism and Quaker community is to each of us. In the afternoon the group held meeting for worship with attention to business, primarily to select teen clerks. Oriana Reilly was named as clerk and Cynthia Watta was named as assistant clerk and recording clerk. The age group invited to the summer retreat was also carefully discerned during this meeting - the group had clarity that the summer retreat is sort of the "bridge" when new teens can start coming and older teens can attend their last time. That is, the group decided that all teens rising into high school in the fall as well as those having just graduated from high school in the spring should be invited to the summer retreat. The group also approved a watershed or other ecology- or earthcare-related theme for the summer retreat.

On Sunday, we were warmly welcomed at the Barnesville Meeting (Conservative) for meeting. This opportunity will help the teens who participated to develop a greater respect for and understanding of differences in tradition among Quaker branches. After lunch on Sunday, D.R. Stanley, a Quakerism and art teacher at Olney, met with the teens to share stories and talk about significant historical milestones in Quakerism. We spent a great deal of time talking about the split which created the Gurneyite and Wilburite branches, as well as how this history had impacted Olney as a school. Other activities throughout the weekend included dancing, Wink, late-night movies, watching Jon Watts (a Quaker rapper) music videos, hanging out, games, and participation in "Earth Hour," a worldwide lights-out event where participants in each time zone turn out their lights for a specific hour to help combat climate change, creating a 24 hour "wave" of lights-out around the globe. On Monday morning, the teens packed up and said their goodbyes.

LEYM Summer Teen Retreat

The LEYM summer retreat will be held at the Michigan Friends Center (MFC), with camping at Friends Lake in Chelsea, Michigan, the weekend of August 6-9. As of this report writing, eight teens have indicated they plan to attend and seven teens have indicated they might attend. The retreat workshop will be "saving our local watersheds." Judy Greenberg and Al Connor will present. We will learn about the Maumee River Watershed across northern Ohio and part of southern Michigan. We will discuss the developments that might pollute and degrade the water in the river as well as ecologically friendly developments. We will also talk about ways to get involved in our home watershed activities. On Saturday the group will also meet for worship sharing on topics related to the workshop. In late afternoon the group will hold meeting for worship with attention to business, primarily to make planning decisions as a group for the next retreat. On Sunday morning, the teens will worship with the Chelsea worship group onsite at the MFC. On Sunday afternoon, we will finish up the workshop. On Monday morning, teens will pack up and say their goodbyes. Intermingled throughout the weekend will be plenty of opportunities for hanging out, swimming, campfires, music, games, fun, dancing, and fellowship among peer teens.

LEYM Future Teen Retreats & Database

At the spring retreat, the group identified preferred topics and locations for future retreats. One of the locations identified was Pittsburgh, where we hope to arrange a future retreat. Topics identified for future themes and/or workshops included clerking, mitigating Quaker ideals with "real life" mainstream living as a teen, and performances by Quaker artists (for example, Jon Watts, a Quaker rapper who performed at the January Quake that Rocked the Midwest). Cari is also in conversation with Right Sharing of World Resources about presenting at a future retreat (probably the 2011 spring retreat, in March).

Cari continues to build a contact list of teens as well as an email list for retreat info. She intends to work with LEYM's website manager to develop a fillable form on LEYM's website to be used for future retreat registration as well as further developing the contact database.

Ministry & Nurture Committee (YM10 - 28)

1. State of the Meeting Reports: Are we becoming a beloved community? Cleveland's State of the Meeting Report opened with this query. And this theme of optimistic growth and transformation was mirrored in many of the state of the meeting reports that we received. There were discussions of spiritual growth, physical growth, more activities - which enliven the meeting. Other meetings talked of renewed stability after times of stress. Only nine state of the meeting reports were submitted prior to LEYM's Annual Sessions. The lesson learned is that reminders need to be sent out.

2. **Spiritual Formation Report:** Next year's dates are September 10-12, 2010, at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan, and May 7, 2011. The retreat leader is Patricia Thomas, and the theme will be "Companions Along the Way."

3. Annual Query

Background:

Each year LEYM's Ministry & Nurture (M&N) Committee develops a query for the monthly meetings to discuss, and then send their responses back to the M&N Committee. This year, the query is different because an LEYM ad hoc committee has drafted a full set of advices and queries similar to the ones that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has in its *Faith & Practice*, and is requesting feedback. The M&N Committee did not want to burden the monthly meetings with too many requests, but also wanted to maintain an annual query for the meetings that use them for deep introspection. Way opened when the committee realized that we have never asked the monthly meetings to examine how they use queries. The committee recommends that members of various monthly meetings look over the proposed advices and queries before their meeting tries to answer the LEYM 2010 annual query. These are posted online, as a link from the Ministry & Nurture Committee page: http://leym.Quaker.org/library_assets/files/April_2010_draft_LEYM_advices_queries_2.doc. Responses to the LEYM annual query below are to be sent to both Thomas Taylor and Ellen Barnes at *tftaylor@tds.net* and *ellenbarnes1@wideopenwest.com*.

2010 LEYM Query on the Use of Queries:

Friends traditionally have used queries to deepen spiritual lives, confront difficult questions, and encourage corporate and individual self examination.

> How does your monthly meeting use queries?
>
> How do you as an individual use queries?
>
> Do the proposed LEYM *Advices and Queries* support these uses? How are they useful? How are they not? How can they be improved upon?
>
> Has one or more of these proposed LEYM *Advices and Queries* profoundly affected you or your meeting?

Ellen Barnes
M&N Committee Clerk

Peace Committee (YM10 - 32)

LEYM Minute on Defense Spending

The seemingly impossible dream of a world without war became a nightmare with the United States' invasion

and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. These wars so far have ended the lives of thousands of U.S. servicemen and women and hundreds of thousands of residents of Iraq and Afghanistan (military and civilian), created extensive on-going suffering for many survivors, and consumed an estimated $1 trillion in U.S. treasure.

Grounded in our Friends' testimony on peace and the uniting love of the Holy Spirit, we are deeply grieved by the futility of war and by the continued funding of conflicts with other countries. We seek signs of hope.

Now bipartisan support is forming behind the recent "Sustainable Defense Task Force" report submitted to Congress by Barney Frank. It calls for a $960 billion decrease in U.S. defense spending over the next ten years. Issued in June 2010, the report states: "Years of effort in Iraq and Afghanistan, 5500 American fatalities, and $1 Trillion have not brought reliable peace or stability to either country." It concludes that deep cuts are needed, not only in battlefield budgets but also in nuclear and conventional arms and in the size of the military footprint in terms of personnel, mission, and infrastructure. These recommendations dovetail with the goals of FCNL's "Nation's Checkbook" campaign.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends commends Democratic and Republican sponsors of this bold initiative. We ask that our member monthly meetings acquaint themselves with the Sustainable Defense Task Force report and the FCNL "Nation's Checkbook" campaign that seek to reverse this country's reliance on military solutions to complex world problems. Friends are urged to contact their members of Congress and ask them to support legislation implementing the Task Force.

Publications & Archives Committee (YM10 - 21)

1. Jeff Cooper has agreed to edit *Annual Records 2010*. Because this was just decided, it has not been publicized and Friends have not known to send Jeff state of the meeting reports and memorial minutes or obituaries. Jeff has asked Ellen Barnes to send him state of the meeting reports that Ministry & Nurture has received, but if there are such reports or memorial minutes that have not yet been submitted, please see that Jeff receives a copy. The deadline for submitting items for *Annual Records 2010* is August 29, with a goal of publication in early October.
2. Lisa Sinnett has been nominated to be the next editor of the *LEYM Bulletin*, starting at rise of meeting (assuming that this nomination is approved on Sunday). Lisa will appreciate your help in gathering materials for the *Bulletin*. The next issue will look back at Annual Meeting and announce Friends' events occurring in the fall; the deadline for submitting materials is August 15, with the hope for publication before Labor Day. In particular, Lisa would appreciate receiving photos taken at Annual Meeting, especially those that reflect the life of the Meeting. Please send photos and announcements of upcoming events to Lisa at *leymbulletin@yahoo.com*. We'll post this address on the website.
3. This year we are experimenting with a new process to learn of Friends who do not wish photos of themselves or their children to appear on our website: We have printed "No photo" stickers that can be applied to nametags. These have been made available at registration and also at the meeting with parents. We are curious to learn how well this process has worked. Please speak with any P&A Committee member - Dan Bell, Jeff Cooper, Nancy James, Bob Roehm, or Bill Warters.
4. Publications & Archives supports the proposal to participate in the pilot project with FGC hosting our website.

Jeff Cooper, Clerk of Publications & Archives

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) (YM10 - 38)

The **Executive Secretary search** to replace retiring Joe Volk is going well. Semi-finalists will have interviews and further meetings with the committee and staff in Washington, DC, in September. They ask for your prayers as they discern.

The **Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict** project is FCNL's visible, viable, open dialogue about the very legitimacy of war. They are stating by this effort that a new national security strategy is necessary. Unfortunately, in June the House of Representatives passed measures that would cut peaceful prevention funding for 2010 and 2011, which will undermine the Civilian Response Corps and Complex Crisis Fund. We need the Senate to prevent and mitigate conflict by small investments now to prevent war.

The **Indian Health Care Improvement Act** became law with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on March 23, 2010. This legislative success modernizes and improves health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives. It includes permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. It supplies the baseline authority for providing direct health care to Native Americans and improves access to availability of health services. FCNL has been lobbying for this Act for more than ten years.

Nuclear Weapons Elimination - On April 8, 2010, President Obama and Dmitry Medvedev signed the new START - Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty - to reduce the number of deployed nuclear weapons in both countries' arsenals. David Culp of FCNL said, "The President's Nuclear Weapons Strategy Document is a modest incremental step in the right direction. We had hoped for bolder steps, but nuclear weapons supporters still control the Pentagon." The Obama Administration is committed to eliminating nuclear weapons. What is needed is for the Senate to act by ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which would prohibit all nuclear test explosions. Sixty-seven Senators need to be convinced to ratify the START Treaty.

Kathleen Peabody, LEYM Representative to FCNL

Friends General Conference (FGC) (YM10 - 19)

This 2009-2010 report of FGC highlights current and anticipates future programs and services of our parent organization. We begin with recognition of the important leadership role LEYM volunteers have provided and continue to provide to Friends General Conference. The Development and Finance committees of FGC are currently clerked by Merry Stanford and Sally Weaver Sommer, respectively. Major program initiatives have been formulated and grown with substantive input from members of this yearly meeting. The Nurturing Ministries programs, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and Couples Enrichment are examples of how the energy and initiative of LEYM members have become lasting, integral parts of FGC programming.

A particularly exciting development this year is that Pat Enciso and Brian Edmiston have become couple enrichment leaders.

This past year has been no exception, as the Gathering in Bowling Green, Ohio, was co-sponsored by LEYM and OVYM, with Star Mary Castro providing leadership as co-clerk of the Gathering Committee and Sally Weaver Sommer and Jon Sommer co-clerking the Local Arrangements Committee. Many other LEYM Friends attended, helped, and were actively involved to make this event a success.

2009-2010 has been a year of transition for FGC. As is the case with many non-profit organizations, the financial crises that affect many of us have resulted in re-thinking and re-forming. Most notably, six program committees and their programs have been combined into one. This grouping was initially called the Transitional Committee on Ministry, Education, and Outreach (TCMEO). This is now being proposed as CNM (Committee for Nurturing Ministries). The goals of this grouping are "to develop and offer spiritual opportunities, resources, programs, and services that encourage, support, and nurture the growth, transformation, and deepening of Friends, meetings, and seekers."

To guide this process of transition and to provide a beacon to focus "Light" on FGC's financial decision making, a Committee on Discernment, Planning, and Priorities (CDPP) was formed and met often during this period. The generous financial support of yearly and monthly meetings and individuals is welcomed and necessary to continue these programs and services; please consider how you might contribute and provide necessary resources. Further information can be found at *fgcquaker.org*.

A relatively new program, Quaker Quest, continues to excite many with programming and potential to enrich existing meetings, as well as to attract seekers and others interested in Quakers and Quakerism. At this time FGC has recently received notice of a funding source that will provide $300,000 of new money to continue and expand this program for individual, and groups of, monthly meetings. This is a new and motivating opportunity for outreach support and enhancing the exposure of Quaker ideals and values.

FGC continues to minister to Friends and seekers through the written word. Publication and distribution of quality materials via Quaker Press and QuakerBooks of FGC are being maintained. In addition, a set of innovative proposals is being formulated. Of special interest are programs that would greatly expand contracted special services for meetings and individuals. These include the capability for e-publishing, materials preparation, and marketing assistance. FGC may become an innovative leader, providing e-books, Quaker merchandise, and book recycling. Stay tuned for more detail and explanation. LEYM is considering being involved in piloting a Web development service that could benefit yearly and monthly meeting outreach

and communication.

Fred Feitler
LEYM Representative to FGC and FGC Executive Committee

Friends School in Detroit (YM10 - 39)

Please continue to hold Friends School in Detroit in the Light.

Friends School in Detroit is not out of the storm yet, but is more stable now than last year. The combination of debt and payables is lower now than a year ago. The school did have to borrow $100,000 to meet the end-of-year cash flow. It will be on improved financial ground next year as long as enrollment is better than last year.

The school will continue to need donations. It tries to maintain economic diversity in an economically depressed area. This is accomplished through scholarships and low tuition.

Kevin Howley, who has led the school through this turnaround, was hired on a short-term basis - just for the turnaround. As a consequence, Friends School in Detroit is now actively searching for a new head of school, and applications from qualified individuals are welcome. Four have applied so far; some of them have been interviewed.

We are also interested in recruiting Quaker board members who are willing to be actively involved in one or more of the board's committees, especially Outreach, Development, and Finance.

At its July meeting, the board redesigned its committee configuration, adjusting it to better match the school's needs.

The school's eighth grade class has been enthusiastically welcomed into many of the region's best prep schools. Regard for the school among other excellent academic institutions continues to be exceptionally high.

The support of Quakers is very helpful and deeply appreciated.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) (YM10 - 30)

The LEYM representatives to FWCC, besides me, are Raelyn Joyce, Jerry Knutson, and Jana Norlin. In addition, Mike Hinshaw and Clémence Mershon are members of the Executive Committee of the Section of the Americas. We would all like to offer our deepest thanks to Ann Arbor Friends, who worked hard to make the 2009 Regional Gathering a success. Their efforts in programming were especially appreciated, but they also did a wonderful job with food, facilities, and hospitality. This was a chance for Lake Erie to show our Light to visitors from nearby yearly meetings in both the Lower Great Lakes and Midwest regions.

Most of you already know that the real purpose of FWCC is to enable and promote deep spiritual sharing across the total spectrum of Quaker beliefs and practices. We are especially happy, therefore, to remind you about the World Conference of Friends to be held in Nakuru, Kenya, in the summer of 2012, just two years from now *[since rescheduled to April 2012]*. It is a great opportunity for Quakers from around the world to experience deeply the spirit and life of African Friends, who are the most numerous on any continent. The Yearly Meeting has been asked to let the World Office know by September how many delegates we will be sending, and to submit their names by December of this year.

In the meantime, the Section of the Americas has decided to concentrate on local and regional events rather than an elaborate annual meeting. Thus we are delighted to tell you that there will be numerous gatherings on the World Conference theme of *Being Salt and Light: Friends living in the kingdom of God in a broken world* (cf. Matthew 5:13-16, "You are the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world"). We hope you will consider joining us at these events to share your Light and to be enriched by coming to know other Quakers. You might think about carpooling to such places as West Knoxville, Tennessee; Columbia, Missouri; Chicago, Illinois; and Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico, which will be hosting events this fall. Or you might want to wait for news from our own Ann Arbor Meeting, which may be hosting such an event early in November! *[Anne Bennett will present a "Salt and Light" program at Ann Arbor Meeting on November 3 at 7:15 p.m.]* In addition, might *your* Meeting want to host a Salt and Light program, perhaps in conjunction with a neighboring Meeting? Please look at the FWCC display for guidance and more information, or talk to our Friend Margaret Fraser, Executive Secretary of the Section, who will tell us more about these opportunities shortly.

We also want to mention that the World Office is actively working to discern our response to global change in

terms of environmental, climate, economic, and social factors. We are encouraged to form face-to-face local and regional clusters of concerned Friends to discuss our views of global change and our vision of a Friends' message to the rest of the world. You can read more about this initiative at the exhibit table upstairs or at *www.fwccglobalchange.org*.

For information on ordering the latest, most up-to-date directory of meetings, churches, and worship groups in the Section of the Americas, please see Margaret to buy a copy or order from *www.fwccamericas.org*. You and your meeting both need this valuable resource!

Finally, we ask all of you to welcome Jocelyn Bell Burnell of Britain Yearly Meeting, who is visiting with us this week. Jocelyn is the clerk of FWCC's Central Executive Committee and will also address us briefly.

And please remember that FWCC is always delighted to receive contributions from individuals, as well as meetings, to help support its valuable work. Thank you.

Rosemary Coffey
LEYM Representative to FWCC

Nominating Slate (YM10 - 45)
LEYM Officers, Committee Members, & Representatives
August 1, 2010*

Terms begin/end at rise of Annual Sessions

* Updates shown by asterisks approved by Executive Committee on August 30, 2010

Officers

		Year of Service	End Year
Presiding Clerk	Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	2	2013
Assistant Clerk	Merry Stanford, Red Cedar	4	2011
Recording Clerk	Amy Ranger, Grand Rapids	1	2011
Treasurer	Eric Starbuck, Pittsburgh	3	2011

Communications

Bulletin Editor	Lisa Sinnett, Ann Arbor	1	2011
Webmaster	Bill Warters, Birmingham	6	2011
Database Manager	Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	6	2011

Committees

Advancement & Outreach

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	3	2011
Seth Reichenbach, North Columbus	2	2011
Dolores Avner, Pittsburgh	1	2012
Janet Smith, Broadmead	2	2012
Mike Hinshaw, Wooster, Clerk	4	2013
Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki, Kalamazoo	4	2013

Earthcare

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3
Others interested welcome

Dick Hogan, Athens	6	2011
Alan Connor, Ann Arbor	6	2011
Judy Greenberg, Broadmead, Co-Clerk	3	2011
Philip Clampitt, Birmingham, Co-Clerk	5	2012
Helen Söderberg, Red Cedar	5	2012
Jim Crowfoot, Ann Arbor	5	2012

Finance & Budget

of Members: 3 Years of Term: 3
Treasurer serves ex officio

Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk	6	2011
Barbara Warrington, Kent	5	2012
Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor	1	2013

	Year of Service	End Year

High School Teen Retreat Program

of Members: 5 (3 adults with 3-year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2-year terms)

Joyce Balderston, Wooster	2	2011
Steve Connor, Ann Arbor	2	2011
Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie, Clerk	1	2013
Meaghan Diffenderfer, Cleveland, HS	4	2012
Jody Pratt-Harrington, Athens, HS	4	2011

Ministry & Nurture

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each MM encouraged
Years of Term: 3

Ellen Barnes, Birmingham, Clerk	6	2011
Connie Bimber, Oberlin	3	2011
Don Nagler, Pine River	5	2012
Elaine Wilson, Ann Arbor	2	2012
Richard Lee, Red Cedar	4	2013
Paula Deming, North Columbus	1	2013

Ministry & Nurture Monthly Meeting Representatives

Ruth Carey, Ann Arbor
Suzanne Howell, Athens
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo
Margy Liske, Kent
Verne Bechill, Pine River

Nominating

of Members: 6 (Named by YM through Naming Committee)
Years of Term: 3

Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	3	2011
Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor, Clerk	3	2011
Ann Sprague, Detroit	2	2012
Mark Post, Grand Rapids	2	2012
Phil Balderston, Wooster	4	2013
Dale Pratt-Harrington, Athens	1	2013

Peace

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each MM encouraged
Years of Term: 3

James Satterwhite, Broadmead	6	2011
John Stratton, Wooster	1	2011
Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor, Clerk	3	2012
Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead	2	2012
David Snyder, Oberlin	1	2013
Kurt Liske, Kent	4	2013

	Year of Service	End Year

Publications & Archives

of Members: 4 Years of Term: 3

Webmaster and Bulletin Editor serve ex officio

Nancy James, Pittsburgh	6	2011
Joe Mills, Kalamazoo	1	2012
Bob Roehm, North Columbus	4	2013
Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh, Clerk	1	2013

Annual Meeting Planning:

Arrangement & Site

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Berch Carpenter, Broadmead	3	2011
Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor	2	2011
Vanessa Fuson, Granville	5	2012
Kelly Helms, Ann Arbor	5	2012
Jon Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk	7	2013
John Templin, Broadmead	1	2013

Adult & Family Program

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Linda Mills, Kalamazoo	6	2011
Bekah Sommer, Broadmead	3	2011
Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor, Co-Clerk	5	2012
Janet Dando, Akron	2	2012
Valerie Vogel, Pittsburgh	2	2012
Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie, Co-Clerk	4	2013

Youth & Children's Program

Years of Term: 2

Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead	Clerk	2012
Nancy Nagler, Pine River	Assistant Clerk	2011
_____	Infants & Toddlers	2011
*Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens**	Pre-school leader	2011
*Charlie Burnett, Athens**	Pre-school asst	2012
*Conleth Crotser, Cleveland**	Early elementary leader	2011
_____	Early elementary asst	2012
Peter Crowley, Cleveland	Upper elementary leader	2011
Timothy Damon, Cleveland	Upper elementary asst	2012
Diane Mott, Broadmead	Middle school leader	2011
*Mary Takahashi, Pine River**	Middle school asst	2011
_____	High school leader	2011
*Linda Dangelo, Broadmead** +	High school asst	2012
*Conleth Crotser, Cleveland**	Fall retreat clerk	
*Peter Crowley, Cleveland**	Fall retreat asst.	

* *Names with asterisk approved by Executive Committee on August 30, 2010.*

\+ *Can move to Early Elementary asst if needed*

		Year of Service	End Year
LEYM Bookstore			
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo		10	

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

AFSC Corp	Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar +	2	2011
AFSC	_____	1	2012
AFSC	Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor	4	2013
FCNL Gen Brd	Meg Hummon, Athens	6	2011
FCNL	Kathleen Peabody, Ann Arbor +	2	2012
FCNL	_____	1	2012
FCNL	Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor	1	2013
FCNL	Max Heirich, Ann Arbor	1	2013
FCNL	_____	1	2013
FGC Cntrl Cmte	Steve Connor, Ann Arbor	2	2011
FGC	Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead +	2	2012
FGC	Marvin Barnes, Birmingham	1	2013
FGC	Cari Burke, Grand Rapids	1	2013
(LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee)			
FWCC	Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh +	5	2012
FWCC	Jerry Knutson, Pittsburgh	2	2012
FWCC	Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids	4	2013
FWCC	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	1	2013
(FWCC World Conference in 2012; 3 reps TBA)			

+Approved as clerks of these group of representatives by Executive Committee on August 30, 2010

Q Earthcare Witness	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	8
Q Earthcare Witness	Judy Greenberg, Broadmead (alt)	2
FLGBTQC	Su Penn, Red Cedar	2
Wm Penn House	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	3
Olney Friends School	Greg Mott, Broadmead	3

Visitors to Neighboring Yearly Meetings

Canadian YM	Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie	2
EFI Eastern Region	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	1
Ohio YM Conservative	LeRoy Curtis, Wooster	8
Ohio Valley YM	Jerry Knutson, Pittsburgh	1
Wilmington YM	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	2

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Executive Committee
April 1, 2011
Hosted by Ann Arbor Friends Meeting

Present: Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead - Finance), Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead - Youth & Children), Mathilda Navias (Broadmead - Yearly Meeting Worker), Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor - Peace), Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor - Nominating), Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh - Publications &Archives), Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh - Treasurer), Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor - Adult & Family Program), Elaine Wilson (Ann Arbor - Ministry & Nurture), Mike Hinshaw (Wooster - Advancement & Outreach), Phil Clampitt (Birmingham - Earthcare), Jon Sommer (Broadmead - Arrangements & Site), Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor - Clerk), Merry Stanford (Red Cedar - Asst. Clerk, recording)

1 Worship

Friends gathered for worship at 7:15 pm.

2 Check-in

Friends shared brief updates regarding things that are influencing them deeply at this time.

3 Approval of Minutes

After a brief consideration, Friends approved the minutes of the last Executive Committee meeting, held in October 2010.

4 Executive Committee Minutes

Clerk asked Executive Committee to consider how we might make the minutes available more quickly by web, in order to make our business as transparent as possible, especially in the case of the fall meeting. We agreed to approve, at the meeting, the wording for decisions made. Clerk will ask for approval on the body of the minutes by email. Where there is no unity, clerk will schedule a conference call to discern wording and approve the minutes. It is the Executive Committee's intention to have the approved minutes available on the LEYM website within six weeks after the meeting. ***Friends approved this minute.***

5 Date for Representative Meeting 2012

Friends accepted Clerk's naming of March 31, 2012, for the next Representative Meeting. Clerk invited Friends to ask their Monthly Meetings to consider hosting.

6 Naming Committee

Clerk asked Friends to name qualities that should be considered in appointing Friends to Naming Committee. Friends identified that it is important for members of the Naming Committee to know Friends in the Yearly Meeting, and that it is helpful to have been on Nominating Committee in the past. Mathilda suggested checking her new book on Quaker processes and procedures for additional guidance.

7 High School Teen Retreat Program Coordinator Position

Cari Burke has been accepted into a doctorate program out of state, and will be stepping down from the coordinator position. We are very impressed with Cari's ability to plan programs and connect with teens. A higher level of activity on the part of the High School Teen Retreat Program Committee and additional support of other adult Friends would be very welcome for this important program. Friends were asked to provide input to Peggy Daub regarding process and candidates to find a replacement for Cari. Merry Stanford will oversee the recruitment and hiring of a new Coordinator.

8 Consultation

LEYM has conducted two consultations for monthly meetings within LEYM, one for ministry and nurture committee clerks, and one for monthly meeting clerks. Clerk asked us to consider having a consultation for Friends who work with children and youth in our meetings. Mathilda raised a question

about including Friends who work with youth and children at yearly meeting. Friends were in agreement with the concept. The clerks have been responsible for the consultations in the past, and they will consider the matter further.

9 Evaluation of our Change in Schedule

Clerk asked us to consider how we might evaluate the change in the Annual Meeting schedule, from mid-June to late-July, that was first implemented in 2010. Suggestions for ways to evaluate included: providing questionnaire at Annual Gathering; including a questionnaire in the Bulletin; assessing how many new attenders and repeat attenders we had last year and this year in comparison to previous years. The evaluation from last year asked, “If this was your first time to attend LEYM Annual Meeting, what contributed to your decision?” Rosemary suggested adding options to the question: free for kids, date of the meeting, etc. Jon reported that the total attendance in 2010 was 173, higher than the previous year. Olwen reported that 31 children attended. There was not much interest in an online questionnaire. Sally suggested using the MM representatives to gather information.

10 Close

Meeting closed with a brief period of worship at about 9:00 pm.

Peggy Daub, Clerk
Merry Stanford, Assistant Clerk

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Representative Meeting
April 2, 2011

Hosted by Ann Arbor Friends Meeting

RM11 - 1 Opening Worship, Reading of Epistle from Baltimore Yearly Meeting

The session opened with the Assistant Clerk reading from the epistle from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, out of the silence of the opening worship. The theme of BYM was Leadings for Today: Lessons from History, addressing racism. How can we learn from the struggles with racism in the Religious Society of Friends and in our wider culture? Lectures and plays during the Yearly Meeting emphasized the difference each of us can make, and how attuned we need to be to the struggles and suffering of others, how we need to address our own fears and struggles regarding racism and bigotry to become ready to address racism in ourselves, our meetings and in the wider Quaker community.

RM11 - 2 Recording Clerk

Peter Wood (Red Cedar) was **approved** as temporary recording clerk.

RM09 - 4 Roll Call

The calling of the roll of Friends from constituent meetings and groups gave the following count:

Akron	2	Kalamazoo	4
AnnArbor	10	Kent	0
Athens	2	Mid-OhioValley	0
Birmingham	1	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	8	NorthColumbus	3
Cleveland	5	Oberlin	0
Delaware	0	PineRiver	2
Detroit	3	Pittsburgh	5
GrandRapids	1	RedCedar	2
Granville	1	Wooster	3
Holland	0	WorshipGroups	0

RM11 - 4 Guidelines for Conduct

The Clerk reviewed LEYM's Guidelines for Conduct in meeting for worship with attention to business.

RM11 - 5 Executive Committee

Peggy Daub, Clerk (Ann Arbor), reported. The Executive Committee met twice. Minutes will be on the website. A streamlined procedure for approving minutes from Executive Committee was outlined. The full report follows:

Executive Committee Report

1. The LEYM Executive Committee met Oct. 30 at Kendal of Oberlin and April 1 in Ann Arbor. The minutes from the October meeting will soon be posted at the LEYM website. In the interests of transparency so that all will know activities of the Executive Committee sooner, we will in future approve during the course of the meeting any decisions made there, and approve the overall minutes afterward by email or conference call with the intention of having minutes available on the website by six weeks after the meeting.
2. At the October meeting we agreed that the money we put aside to send representatives to the FWCC triennials can instead be used to send representatives to the FWCC 6th World Conference of Friends. [Affirm by the group.]

3. We affirmed that the purpose of the Peace Committee is to use our amassed strength to become a stronger voice for peace, and encouraged that committee to reexamine their purpose and look for ways in which they might collaborate with or add strength to the efforts of monthly meetings.
4. We read the evaluations of the 2010 Annual Sessions (collected and tabulated by the Adult Program Committee) and were much heartened by the increased attendance and the many positive comments. We concluded that it was too early to evaluate fully the effects of changing the timing of our Annual Sessions, given that attendance in 2010 was probably influenced heavily by offering free attendance to children and youth, and by having the FGC Gathering in our region.

RM11 - 6 Clerk's report

Peggy Daub, Clerk, reported. Monongalia Monthly Meeting has requested a transfer of membership to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The request was **approved**. Buckhannon Preparative Meeting, which is under the care of Monongalia Monthly Meeting, also requested a transfer of membership to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. This request was also **approved**. The Clerk was asked to express to both meetings our ongoing good wishes for their welfare. The Clerk brought forward the following Naming Committee: Don Nagler (Pine River) and Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh). Friends **approved**. The full report follows:

Clerk's Report

1. The Clerk was asked whether LEYM has 501(c)3 status as a nonprofit organization. With assistance of various Friends, I found that we are a tax exempt organization because we are a group of "ecclesiastical organizations," but we have not filed paperwork that would give us 501(c)3 status. We have not had a need to file for this status thus far, but recognize that it may be useful to do so in the future.
2. Cari Burke, who has been leading our very successful High School Teen Retreat Program for almost two years, has submitted her resignation because she will begin graduate school out of state in the fall. Merry Stanford has agreed to clerk the search committee for a replacement.
3. We are looking into doing a consultation focusing on youth programs both in our monthly meetings and within yearly meeting programs within the next 12 to 18 months.
4. The date of the next Representative Meeting will be Saturday, March 31, 2012. The clerk will welcome an invitation from a monthly meeting to host this event.
5. The clerk has received requests from Monongalia Monthly Meeting and Buckhannon Preparative Meeting to leave our Yearly Meeting and become part of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting, which is much closer to them geographically. Baltimore Yearly Meeting has agreed to accept them as members.
6. The clerk has asked the following people to serve on a Naming Committee, which will bring forward names for the Nominating Committee at our Annual Sessions: Don Nagler and Eric Starbuck.

RM11 - 7 High School Teen Retreat Program

Meaghan Diffenderfer (Cleveland) and Brady Connor (Ann Arbor) reported. **The following minute of appreciation for Cari Burke's service was approved**: Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is grateful for the dedicated work from Cari Burke with the High School Teen Retreat Program for the past two program years. Cari has been able to build a safe community for Young Friends, has nurtured leadership among Young Friends, and has nurtured in them seeds of Quaker Faith. We are grateful for Cari's dedication to the spiritual nurture of Young Friends and we will miss her. The full report follows:

High School Teen Retreat Program Report

Young Friends met at Olney Friends School in Barnesville last weekend for the third teen retreat for the year, the first being held in Pittsburgh and the second in Illinois for the Quake that Rocked the Midwest.

Friends were greeted Friday evening by a gymnastics performance held yearly by Olney. On Saturday, a

workshop focusing on peace was held with much thanks to Scilla Wahrhaftig from Pittsburgh. The first half of the day focused on different forms of violence and on how violence and non-violence differ in our community. The second half of the day focused on social violence and institutional violence. A film shown on solitary confinement in American jails got the teens thinking on ways they could help make the public more aware of the social injustices faced. On Sunday, the young Friends were grateful to attend Stillwater Meeting, and later to help the local community by building a playground at a daycare center. Friends completed many tasks, from moving gravel to putting together play sets.

The teens are grateful for this opportunity to meet and visit with one another, and the committee seeks support from meetings to help transport young friends to these retreats as well as to serve as FAPs (Friendly Adult Presences).

RM11 - 8 Adult & Family Program Committee

Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) reported. The theme of the Yearly Meeting sessions will be “Mindful Consumption as a Spiritual Practice,” with Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) as the plenary speaker. The full report follows:

Adult & Family Program Committee Report

Theme for 2011: Mindful Consumption as a Spiritual Practice

We will look at the many ways we “consume” our time and resources.

- How do we determine what we need from what we want?
- In what ways do we consume food, time, environmental resources, and technology?
- How do we structure our time for spiritual development and personal relationships, especially our families?
- How might mindful consumption help us lead a more simple life?

Speaker: We are delighted to announce that Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) has accepted our invitation to be our Plenary Speaker. Her title will be "On being called to lesser things." The AYF will again plan an activity to follow.

Bible: Pat Dewitt Thomas (ESR) will return to lead Bible Study. As a trial, we are adding 2 additional times (repeated from the early morning)during spiritual practice hours on Fri and Sat.

Worship Sharing will be offered on Fri. and Sat. mornings for those who sign up.

Workshops: tying into the theme

- Afterwords or Q&A - Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead)
- FCNL - Deanna Boyd on effective lobbying
- Mindful Parenting - Jenn Seif & Scot Miller (GR)
- Earthcare - LEYM panel on eating mindfully/locally with Sarah Lenz (AYF), Jane Downes, Jon Sommer, Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon
- A meditation practice – Jerry Knutson (Pittsburgh). Based on: "Be still in Thy own Mind & Spirit from Thine own Thoughts" - G. Fox
- Healing - Richard Lee (Red Cedar)

Sat. Evening Intergenerational: music, dancing & refreshments

7:00-8:00 pm – Paul Tinkerhess (Ann Arbor), singing

8:00-8:30 pm – refreshments

8:30-9:30 pm – Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh), folk dancing

RM11 - 9 Youth & Children Program Committee

Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead) reported. Ongoing needs were described. More than 30 children are expected to attend the Annual Meeting. The full report follows:

Youth & Children Program Committee Report

1. We need
   - an early elementary assistant to work with Conleth;
   - a High School leader;
   - maybe someone for infants and toddlers.
2. We need people to chaperone children to swimming/bowling/ recycling. People who are drivers also.
3. Please bring money to buy snacks and crafts from the children's program. The proceeds will support a service project.
4. We will have a meeting of all children, their parents, and program workers on Friday morning and Saturday morning to highlight what will be happening each day.

RM11 - 10 Arrangements & Site

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) gave the report. This year's Annual Meeting will be held at Bluffton University July 28-31, 2011. The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held at Bluffton University, July 26-29. Physical arrangements will be much the same as last year. Adults on average will need to spend around $162 to attend the yearly sessions in 2011.

RM11 - 11 Treasurer's report

Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh) reported. Most meetings have paid their annual contributions and LEYM is "in good shape." The Youth Activity Fund has over $10,000 in it. The full report is found on pp. 22-24, below.

RM11 - 12 Finance Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported. We have successfully reduced the General Fund balance, as planned. We will continue to evaluate balances in each of the funds. Three recommendations were made: 1) Increase the registration fee by $3. 2) Children should continue to come free. 3) Remove the discount for first-time attenders. These recommendations were discussed. Continuing the discount for first-time attenders could require additional increases in fees for returning attenders. While the Representative Meeting supports the idea of encouraging first-time attenders, we also do not wish to unduly burden returning attenders. Since the Finance Committee is empowered to set the registration fee, we ask the committee to take the sense of this discussion back to its deliberations. **The Representative Meeting approved empowering the Finance Committee to set the degree of discount for first-time attenders to LEYM sessions.** There was also concern expressed about making sure that there is sufficient financial support for LEYM representatives to attend the FWCC World Conference of Friends. The full report follows:

Finance Committee Report

Last year I reported that we had a goal to decrease our General Fund balance. I can report this year that we are achieving our goal. Our expenses this year have been about $4000 more than our income. Over the next months, and at our July meeting in particular, we want to analyze more fully the appropriate level of balances in each of our funds.

We were encouraged to see that most of our meetings have made their annual contributions and will encourage those who have not to do so soon.

The clerk of Finance Committee will work with the three representatives to the FWCC World Conference to determine how the LEYM funds will be distributed. LEYM will pay the registration fees that are due by the end of this month.

The financial report of our 2010 Annual Meeting was never put into the Fall Bulletin as is requested by the Yearly Meeting. It will be included in the Spring edition. We intended to spend down the balance in the Annual Meeting Fund, and we did so by about $3000. Significant numbers are $1,341.74 for first timers, $2,122.50 for service discounts, $323.00 for need-based scholarships, and $2,839.55 for children.

We made the following decisions: (1) To increase registration fees from $37 and $47 to $40 and $50. (2) To continue the practice of not charging any fees for children and to transfer $3000 from the Youth Activities Fund to the Annual Meeting Fund to cover the cost. (3)To recommend not giving a 1/3 discount for first timers (doing so would require us to raise the registration free by $15). (4) To empower the registrar to make decisions about need-based scholarships and unusual requests for discounts in consultation with the Treasurer and clerk of Finance when needed.

The committee reviewed the 2010 budget, with an eye for changes that need to be made. The following questions were raised:

- Do we need to keep the contract worker budget line as high as it is?
- Is the travel budget at the appropriate level?
- Can we decrease the size of the publication budget line?

The Youth Activity Fund has ample funds. We need to make this known.

RM11 - 13 Peace Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported. Suggestions for changes in the Policies and Procedures manual to reflect the Peace Committee's focus were outlined. The committee intends to increase its communication with monthly meetings. The full report follows.

Peace Committee Report

Three of us met (Mary Igoe Meyers, Bette Ford, Nancy Taylor) and agreed that we hope to emphasize more work directly with the monthly meetings and worship groups. We suggest a change in the draft Policies and Procedures manual, Peace Committee section, to say:

b) Responsibilities:

1. To exchange information with monthly meetings about actions and concerns on behalf of peace
2. To engage monthly meetings and worship groups in consideration about future corporate witness in matters of peace
3. To help the Yearly Meeting express corporate concerns about peace to policy makers, the media, and other organizations.

We shared what our individual meetings are doing in our peace committees and groups, and noted that several meetings also include "social justice" or "social concerns" with their peace work. We feel clear that the yearly meeting Peace Committee needs to concentrate on peace issues.

We have made plans to contact every LEYM monthly meeting and worship group to ask what their peace concerns are, what actions they are taking, and so on. We will either phone, email, or write a letter to ask the following questions (among others):

- Do you have an active peace committee?
- Do you have active "peace workers"? What are they working on?
- How can we all take a broad view, rather than responding to each crisis?
- How can we communicate that view to our communities effectively?

There may be other questions we develop. We hope to move quickly and often in these connections with the 28 meetings and worship groups.

Finally, FCNL will be sending Deanna Boyd, Legislative Program Assistant in Nuclear Disarmament, to run a workshop at AM combining lobbying skills with some topic of current concern. Deanna has said that she can present material on any FCNL topic. We ask Friends to contact Nancy Taylor (netaylor@ tds.net) if you have thoughts about whether the topic should be Nuclear Disarmament, Our Nation's Checkbook, or Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict.

RM11 - 14 Ad hoc Policies and Procedures Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported. Jeff outlined the history of the Ad hoc Committee's work. They ask representatives to take copies of proposed changes back to monthly meetings for e-mail feedback to the committee. The revised version is also available on the LEYM website. The deadline for comments is

June 1, 2011. They hope to be able to bring a final revised version for approval at the Annual Sessions in July.

RM11 - 15 Earthcare Committee

Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) reported. The committee will give a workshop at the Annual Meeting in July, and will explore the influence it wishes to have regarding the Advices and Queries being formulated for LEYM. The full report follows:

EarthCare Committee Report

The LEYM Earthcare Committee reviewed plans for a workshop which will focus on the complexities of eating from local food sources. Below is the description:

The LEYM Locavore: Eating for the Planet

A surprisingly powerful everyday thing we can do for the earth is to eat food grown locally. Four LEYM Friends in different circumstances - Clémence the rural small farmer/intensive gardener, Sarah the urban front yard chicken/veg. gardener and gourmet cook, Jon the small town community garden manager, vegetarian/natural food store owner, and Jane the suburban non-gardener and lifelong local forager - will share the complexities of their particular ways of "eating locally." The practicalities involved, the spiritual rewards, the compromises, tips, and surprises - this workshop promises a vital, exciting exchange of information for all who care about the earth and like to eat!

We also discussed ways our meetings could be reaching out to Yearly Meeting youth. This comes out of a concern that public schools are apparently focusing very little on involving children in nature, to the point where we are seeing children afraid to put their hands in dirt. The group plans to collect samples of various earthcare curricula in the hope we can recommend a few to our meetings for use in their First Day Schools. The group listed several environmental organizations by or for children which we'd like to pass on to our meetings also. Phil Volk also volunteered to set up an Earthcare site for young people on Facebook if we would help with information.

We discussed again how to get out a newsletter and/or other ways of having an online presence for purposes of sharing what our meetings are doing environmentally. A suggestion was made for us to set up an LEYM Earthcare listserve site that would be accessible to all in Yearly Meeting.

An excellent wide-ranging conversation about needs and possibilities for action in our Yearly Meeting area was held.

A meeting is planned in Toledo for Saturday, April 23, specifically to review the new draft of YM Advices and Queries, particularly the Earthcare section. Any Friends interested in joining us for that meeting are very welcome. Ask Phil Clampitt or Judy Greenberg for further information.

RM11 - 16 Ministry & Nurture Committee

Elaine Wilson (Ann Arbor) reported. The report focused on the Spiritual Formation program of the Yearly Meeting, on suggestions for making the program at annual sessions more spiritually enriching, and on responses by monthly meetings to the Advices and Queries being formulated for LEYM by the Ad hoc committee for Advices and Queries. The Ministry & Nurture Committee recommends that a summary of monthly meeting responses be posted to the website. The full report follows:

Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

1. Last summer we approved a scholarship request from Jerry Knutson and it was granted in the fall. He is now travelling in the ministry and we believe he is available to meetings for consultations.
2. Report on Spiritual Formation:

   There was a fall retreat in Michigan at the Weber Center in Adrian, Sept 10-23 2010. 26 people participated. It was led by Patricia Thomas of Campus Friends Meeting, Wilmington, Ohio. The Theme was "Companions Along the Way." Participants were from Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Broadmead, Kalamazoo, Pine River, and Red Cedar monthly meetings. Some participants felt that

there was not enough small group work at the Fall Retreat, and hope that Patricia Thomas will be apprised of this to perhaps change the format of the Spring Retreat.

The spring retreat is scheduled for May 7 at Red Cedar Friends Meeting. The fall retreat for the 2011/2012 Spiritual Formation program is scheduled for Sept. 9-11 at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan.

3. A humble suggestion from M&N for the Program Committee: To encourage attendance and participation from newcomers to LEYM Annual Meeting we suggest increasing the amount of worship or spiritually deepening programming, and shortening or conducting business in a way that is more about worship. We are aware this is a difficult proposition, but likely key to bring in and retain new and younger faces.
4. Summary of responses to LEYM Query/Queries:

   There was a wide range and difference from the eight out of twenty-two monthly meetings responding. It is worth reflecting on how few meetings responded.

   There was a wide disparity in meetings' use of the queries: some don't use them corporately at all. Some use them before business meeting, or monthly in meeting for worship. Some meetings publish them in monthly meeting newsletters.

   There was likewise a variety amongst individuals in their use of the queries. Some keep them handy at bedside for daily reflection in the morning, some read them online at work. Others don't use them at all, and indeed some find them too intrusive.

   From LEYM Ministry and Nurture comes the reflection that with so few birthright Friends in the YM, the creation of this set of queries is critical. The process of doing this is excellent.

   Several meetings expressed discomfort with the way in which Advices and Queries were blended. A number of meetings felt that the focus of the Queries should be more on the "we" than on the "I." The assumption that there is an individual out there separate from the corporate is problematic. Quakerism is a corporate rather than an individualistic religion.

   There is a feeling that the language used in these Queries is sometimes academic and somewhat indirect. Meetings expressed a desire for more plain speech. Perhaps some more of the language drawing from long experience of older Faith and Practices could be adopted. One meeting felt that #32 on Life's Challenges was particularly valuable. Another meeting felt that #56 on Education needed expansion to reflect modern scholarship and other religious traditions.

   M&N feels it would be beneficial to the spiritual health of the monthly meetings in LEYM and to LEYM as a whole if this summary could be published on the website.

   The reports from all meetings responding will be forwarded to the Ad hoc Queries and Advices Committee.

RM11 - 17 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported. Committee activities in outreach and communication with meetings and seekers were reviewed. The full report follows:

Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

A & O continues a process to visit our meetings in an effort to knit us together more closely in God's love. Recently we have visited Grand Rapids, Mid-Ohio Valley, and Gallipolis. We also continue our process for double checking information on meetings' own websites vs. the printed Annual Records, the LEYM website, and quakerfinder.org. Meetings are doing a better job of keeping their information up-to-date now than they did in the past. We would like to strongly encourage all meetings to have their own websites to publicize their meeting and its activities. Please consult the publication Is Your Quaker Meeting Thinking of Setting Up a Website? through the following link:
http://www.fgcquaker.org/files/LEYM_SettingUpAWebsite_Mar07.pdf

We also continued a review of efforts made in our meetings to reach out to seekers and to welcome

especially new attenders. We encourage all meetings to use the Quaker Quest program and the Inreach-Outreach Ideas and Queries, both available from FGC.

RM11 - 18 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported. Two major positions need to be filled: Recording Clerk for two and half years, and Bulletin Editor. The Nominating Committee brings forward the name of Les Walden for this latter position. **The Representative Meeting approved Les Walden as *Bulletin* Editor until the current term is completed**. His name will be brought forward for a new term at the annual sessions in July 2011. Other positions to be filled are outlined in the full report, as follows:

Nominating Committee Report

The committee's work is progressing; however, due to resignations, we have two major positions to fill immediately:

1. Recording Clerk - thanks to Peter Wood for filling in at this meeting, but we need someone to step in and continue the work through the Annual Meeting and the next two years.
2. Bulletin Editor - Jeff pulled the Winter Bulletin together and I did the printing and mailing. Les Walden (Detroit), who has also helped with the last two Bulletins, has agreed to take on this work. This requires our approval. Deadline for the Spring issue is 1 May.

Significant leadership positions to fill by the end of YM:

1. Assistant Clerk to come into office when Merry steps down at the close of Annual Meeting and then follow Peggy into the clerk's position
2. Clerk of M&N
3. Webmaster to take over from Bill Warters

Also, there is need for Friends who feel led to serve on the following:

> Earthcare, Peace, Publications & Archives, Adult & Family Program, teachers for the Youth & Children's program and especially the High School Teen Retreat Program. Since we will be recruiting a replacement for Cari Burke, this committee needs some committed Friends to serve. We also need reps to AFSC and FCNL.
>
> Remember that the Nominating Committee can't do this work alone - we are all ex officio on the Nominating Committee. Who in your meeting has the skills to serve the Yearly Meeting in these ways? Think of the favor you will be doing them to help them get involved. Let us know who they are or help us recruit them.

RM11 - 19 Ad Hoc Advices & Queries Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported. Responses from eight meetings so far are helping in the formulation of a next draft, which the committee hopes to have ready for the annual sessions in July. Responses from other meetings are hoped for by April 17. The full report follows:

Ad Hoc Advices & Queries Committee Report

Through workshops at the last two Annual Meetings, making our ***Draft Advices and Queries*** available to all Friends, and the good work of many Friends in reading, using and responding to the draft, we have received much valuable feedback from many individual Friends. Eight meetings have responded to the Ministry & Nurture queries which were designed to help Friends focus on the Draft (Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Broadmead, Cleveland, Kalamazoo, Kent, North Columbus, and Pine River). Oberlin Meeting intends to respond by the 10th of April, and we have a partial response from Detroit Meeting with a promise of more. That leaves 8 meetings and several worship groups from which we hope to hear within the next few weeks. I intend to contact them soon.

Ministry & Nurture Committee has been sifting the responses and will soon have a report to make. So our Ad Hoc Committee is now ready to prayerfully read through the responses in order to produce another draft, which we hope will serve the Yearly Meeting as a set of Queries & Advices. We hope to have this draft ready in time to distribute prior to our Annual Meeting in July. In order to have it ready in time, we

intend getting to work by mid-April and so encourage Friends to get responses to us within the next two weeks - by 17 April – rather than waiting until our stated deadline of 15 May.

The responses to our first draft have been positive, with a number of suggested edits of details and additional suggestions. In general, Friends liked the range of categories (rather than a set of 12). The quote to focus the mind on each category and the mix of advices and queries has also received positive comments. The revised set of queries will probably be addressed more to "I" and "we" rather than to "you," which to some has seemed proscriptive.

This process of developing these queries and advices has been intensely involving and spiritually uplifting and we are grateful to Friends who have joined us on the journey.

RM11 - 20 Publications & Archives Committee

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) reported. The committee recommends continuation of the policy on photography (RM 10-9). That policy reads:

> Photos of Friends of all ages may appear on the website. Friends can request that pictures of themselves or their children not be posted on the website by placing a "no photo" sticker on their nametag at all LEYM events, including retreats. These stickers shall be made available with the nametags, and their availability shall be well publicized. For events where nametags are not worn or parental permission to attend is required, the opportunity to request that photos not be posted on the website will be offered by other means, such as registration or permission forms.

The Representative Meeting approved making this policy permanent. Rosemary Coffey will edit the Annual Records for 2011. Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) will act as her apprentice. The full report follows:

Publications & Archives Committee Report

1. Let's keep the "No photo" stickers.
2. Rosemary Coffey will edit the Annual Records this year only. Joe Mills is the apprentice for next year. Rosemary will keep a log of dates and tasks completed.
3. Joe Mills will remind monthly meetings of what kinds of material they should be sending to Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore.

RM11 - 21 Minute of Appreciation

We approved the following minute of appreciation for Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting:

> Lake Erie Representative Meeting expresses its appreciation to the Friends of Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting for the many gifts they have provided this weekend. We have been welcomed warmly, fed well, housed comfortably, and given the resources to conduct our business in spiritual and physical comfort. We extend our gratitude for their attending to our physical, emotional, and spiritual needs with a palpable ministry of hospitality.

Peter Wood
Temporary Recording Clerk

Peggy Daub
Presiding Clerk

Treasurer's Report
April 1, 2011 (RM 11 - 11)

General Fund - Income

Meeting	Contribution
Akron	--
Ann Arbor	$4,884.00
Athens	$150.00
Birmingham	$713.00
Broadmead	$900.00
Cleveland	$2,220.00
Delaware	$370.00
Detroit	$500.00
Grand Rapids	$891.50
Granville	$850.00
Holland	- -
Kalamazoo	$1,295.00
Kent	$703.00
Mid-Ohio Valley	$144.00
Monongalia	$1,200.00
North Columbus	$800.00
Oberlin	--
Pine River	$592.00
Pittsburgh	$5,106.00
Red Cedar	$2,592.00
Wooster	$444.00
Total	**$24,354.50**

Fund	Open	Income	YM Subsidy	Expense	Close
General Fund	$6,816.18	$24,413.85		$24,602.90	$6,627.13
Granv, Youth-CD	6,010.60	159.09		159.09	6,010.60
Annual Meeting	5,984.54	15,799.62		18,769.35	3,014.81
Youth Activity*	9,563.88	506.94	2,700.00	2,596.12	10,174.70
High Schl Youth*	6,348.95	1,740.00	1,100.00	3,268.80	5,920.15
Spiritual Formtn*	3,825.14	3,030.00	600.00	3,717.61	3,737.53
FWCC Travel*	4,186.45		1,240.00		5,426.45
Consultation*	3,556.65				3,556.65
Ministry Schlrshp*	--	--	1,000.00	1,000.00	--
TOTALS	**$46,292.39**	**$45,649.50**	**$6,640.00**	**$54,113.87**	**$44,468.02**

*These moneys are held in our checking account. We do the accounting. We also subsidize these programs.

NOTE: Annual Meeting Fund has $5,000 invested in a CD at Shorebank, so the $3,014.81 balance reflects a -$2,034.46 checking balance + a $5,049.27 CD balance.

CDs - Urban Partnership	Open	Income	Expense	Close
Granville Youth 686108009	$6,010.60	$159.09	$159.09	$6,010.60

Youth Activity 4003416	$5,000.00	$ 37.85		$5,037.85
General Fund 4003416	$2,623.26	$ 34.43		$2,657.69
Annual Meeting 4003424	$5,000.00	$ 49.27		$5,049.27
General Fund 4003424	$2,459.44	$ 24.92		$2,484.36
TOTALS	**$21,093.30**	**$305.56**	**$159.09**	**$21,239.77**

General Fund Budgeted Expenses

ACCOUNT	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET %
Travel	$6,000.00	$4,976.55	83%
Office	200.00	10.00	5%
Contract Worker	2,075.00	666.25	32%
Finance	100.00	40.00	40%
Publications	3,400.00	2,070.10	61%
Advancement	100.00		0%
Ministry & Nurture	200.00		0%
Clerk's Fund	500.00		0%
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00	1,240.00	100%
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700.00	2,700.00	100%
High School Youth Fund*	1,100.00	1,100.00	100%
Spiritual Formation*	600.00	600.00	100%
Consultation Fund*	--		
Ministry Schlrshp Fund*	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	100%
FGC - Special Program	500.00	500.00	100%
Records project	100.00	100.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	4,500.00	4,500.00	100%
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	100%
TOTALS	**$29,415.00**	**$24,602.90**	

* subsidy from General Fund

In-Kind (Travel)	$2,281.63
In-Kind (Teens)	26.01
In-Kind (Office)	41.48
Total	$2,349.12

Funds Total:	**$44,468.02**
CD Total:	**$21,239.77**
Checking Total:	**$23,228.25**

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
48th Annual Sessions
July 28 - 31, 2011
Bluffton University

Thursday Evening Session

YM11 – 1 Opening Worship, Reading of Epistle from Great Plains Yearly Meeting

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the 48th annual sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with worship. The assistant clerk, Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), read the epistle from Great Plains Yearly Meeting, dated 3-5, Sixth Month 2011. The epistle emphasized the diversity of the meeting, and that Friends find their way through differences in ethnicity, theology, and age to unity in the Spirit of Christ, which helps them rediscover and clarify their sense of purpose. They remind us that we are called into deepening faith and are led into action for social justice and the testimonies.

YM11 – 2 Introduction of Clerks

Friend Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) introduced the clerks' table: Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), assistant clerk; Peter Wood (Red Cedar), interim recording clerk; and herself as presiding clerk. Merry and Peter will collaborate on recording for these sessions, due to his arm injury. Peggy then drew attention to the guidelines for meeting for worship with attention to business.

YM11 - 3 Calling of the Roll

The calling of the roll of Friends from constituent meetings and groups provided the following count (corrected against registrations):

Monthly Meetings

Akron	2	Holland	0
Ann Arbor	17	Kalamazoo	8
Athens	8	Kent	1
Birmingham	5	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Broadmead	22	North Columbus	9
Cleveland	17	Oberlin	2
Delaware	0	Pine River	4
Detroit	8	Pittsburgh	8
Grand Rapids	8	Red Cedar	7
Granville	2	Wooster	5

Worship Groups

Erie	1

Visitors

5

Total in Attendance: 139

YM11 - 4 Welcome and introduction of visitors, guests, and newcomers

Our clerk welcomed visitors, guests, and newcomers, who introduced themselves: Scot Miller (Grand Rapids), Michael and Carmen Kelly (Detroit), Kathryn Sitter (Pittsburgh), Samuel Hays (Detroit). We welcomed a visitor, Deanna Boyd, Stony Run Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, who is representing Friends Committee on National Legislation.

YM11 - 5 Epistle Committee

The clerk explained the nature of a yearly meeting epistle and asked for volunteers to help the assistant clerk write this year's epistle. The assistant clerk, Merry Stanford, suggested that the epistle emphasize the spiritual tenor of the yearly meeting. Paula Deming (North Columbus) and Scot Miller (Grand

Rapids) volunteered to serve.

YM11 - 6 Memorials

The clerk invited Friends into worship, to share about and witness to the lives of Friends who have passed on in the last year.

a. Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) read portions of the Memorial Minute for Carolyn Diem. Throughout her life, Carolyn was a socially and politically active Friend. She engaged in civil disobedience in witness to govern-mental militarism and violence. She had been seriously ill for a long period of time. Near the end of her life she felt a deep message arising in her: “The killing must stop!” The full memorial minute was made available for to read.
b. Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) read the Memorial Minute for Wallace Cayard, who died at age 89 from the effects of Parkinson’s disease. Active in service to Friends, he was dedicated to working for peace and justice. A scholar of the Old and New Testaments, he was led from an academic study of the historical Jesus to a personal relationship with Jesus, based on Jesus' message of love, compassion, and peace on earth.
c. Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) shared that Friend Dorothy Bowers had died during the past year. Joe also spoke about Lucile Patrick, who had left instructions that she did not want to be memorialized. Kalamazoo Meeting set aside time during their Meeting for Worship for a “non-memorial meeting,” in which they considered the meanings of memory and memorial in relation to departed Friends.
d. Connie Bimber (Oberlin) shared that Jack Brown died in February 2011. He had moved to Kendal from the Philadelphia area. Although suffering from Alzheimer’s, he never missed Meeting for Worship. His wife, Katy, remains active in the meeting. Connie also spoke about Bob Smith, a regular attender of the meeting, as a wonderful contributor to their community. Russ Bimber shared that Bob built the equipment of the country’s first public television station, WGTE, and was a station manager. He was a valued member of Oberlin Meeting and the Kendal community.

YM11- 7 Naming Committee

Don Nagler (Pine River) and Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh) served. Don reported that Thomas Taylor and Mathilda Navias were led to be renominated to Nominating Committee, with Thomas Taylor serving as clerk. Meeting approved these names.

YM11 - 8 Announcements

Various announcements related to this gathering were shared with Friends.

YM11 - 9 Worship and memorial

Our business concluded, the clerk invited us to continue in worship for a while longer. Ministry was offered by Michael Fuson (Granville) regarding Larry Arnold, an attender of his meeting, who died this year, and attended Annual Meeting only once. Larry ran a bike and skateboard shop, which was a ministry to a group of troubled kids. He showed them that their lives had meaning for him. At his memorial service, a woman in her 40s shared how she had walked, as a rebellious teenager, into the shop where Larry invited her to learn to be a bike mechanic. It changed her life. Larry Arnold’s life was a ministry to the youth of Zanesville, Ohio. (This recording of ministry is unusual, and some Friends voiced concern, though they did not object to recording this minute, given in the spirit of the other memorial minutes.)

Friday Morning Session

YM11 - 10 Worship and Reading of Epistle from Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns

Out of our opening worship, we heard the epistle from the 2011 mid-winter gathering of the Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns. The theme of this gathering was “Reclaiming Our Past; Proclaiming Our Future.” Friends attending considered their commitment to radical inclusion

and radical love. The power of radical love had been transformative for many, drawing the community to attend to both safety and integrity, to finding language that will embody the community's commitment to practices of radical love and inclusion.

YM11 - 11 Additional visitors and newcomers

We welcomed additional visitors and newcomers: Natalie Holbrook (Ann Arbor, American Friends Service Committee representative), George Hebben and Helen Hebben (Kalamazoo), Dixie Rosendall (Grand Rapids), Beverly Kirk Shull (Olney Friends School).

YM11 - 12 Ad Hoc Committee on Advices and Queries

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) shared the history of the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee. He then reported on changes made in the second draft in response to reactions from monthly meetings (18 out of 21 responded) and individuals. The second draft did not entail drastic changes to the first and has been available on the LEYM website since July 17. Changes were mainly in wording and pronoun use. Thomas reported that the exercise of considering these advices and queries has clearly been stimulating to many Friends.

The focus is now on Section 2, the Advices and Queries themselves, which will come before the annual sessions for consideration. An interest group will be available at these sessions to consider further input. The draft will be brought for consideration at Saturday's business session. The full report follows:

Ad Hoc Committee on Advices and Queries Report

The committee was appointed by then YM Clerk Merry Stanford in the Autumn of 2008 and has consisted of Ellen Barnes (Birmingham), Raelyn Joyce (Kalamazoo), Josephine Posti (Pittsburgh), David Snyder (Oberlin), and Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), clerk. It began its work in February 2009, running workshops on A&Q during the last two YMs, meeting together under God's guidance face to face and through conference calls, and producing a draft in May 2010, which meetings and individuals have had to work with and respond to during the course of a year. This process included the M&N Queries for 2010 on the topic of Queries and this draft, in particular.

We have received many helpful responses from most of the meetings and several individual Friends. So there has been plenty of chance to season the material and for the YM to come to a sense of ownership of this booklet. Since four of the meetings liked the booklet and were happy to have it left just as it was, and most of the others suggested only minor edits, we did not feel led to undertake major changes. This second draft, dated July 2011, is the result of the committee's discernment from all the advice received. MM clerks were sent copies of the draft in mid June, and it has been available on the LEYM website: (leym.quaker.org/News/leymnews.html).

What is new in the second draft? A number of significant changes in text have been incorporated and the queries are now mostly in the first person – "we" or "I." Many of the suggestions reinforced each other, and a few cancelled each other out. Clearly, this is not the last word in LEYM Advices and Queries: some suggestions indicated the need for an expansion in each of the subject areas. The Earthcare Committee has already done what may be a first draft of Earthcare Advices & Queries, and one meeting has suggested that the Young Friends and Children might profitably write their own advices and queries. This is only the beginning of an on-going process.

The booklet is in four sections. We ask for approval of Section 2, the Advices & Queries. Sections 1, 3, and 4 are open for edits and suggested changes in content, but we hope that, in its discussion on Saturday, Friends will focus on the actual Advices & Queries.

The four sections are:

1. An Introduction consisting of a short history, purposes, and uses of advices and queries.
2. The Advices & Queries themselves – now reduced to only 67 in number and the topics slightly rearranged. This is the section (pp. 5-19) that the meeting is asked to approve.
3. An Afterword, covering something of the tradition of annual queries in LEYM, the process of developing this set, and some thoughts on issues raised by meetings. This includes an appendix with

the response from Cleveland Meeting and the model advices and queries they proposed. The ad hoc committee seeks advice from Friends as to whether this section (or parts of it) should appear in the final booklet.

4. Resources

An Advices & Queries Interest Group has been scheduled for this afternoon at 4:15 to discuss the new draft, to ask questions, to clarify, to suggest, and to give the advice mentioned above regarding Sections 1, 3 and 4.

The actual text of the advices and queries will come before the meeting for further discussion, discernment, and approval in our business session on Saturday morning.

Thank you.

YM11 - 13 Publications & Archives

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) presented a written report. Approval is sought for a potential change in the LEYM website, which involves a change in the supportive software to allow for on-line editing by multiple users. Bill Warters would provide guidance to new users. We would need to change the domain name, and there would be small charges (less than $50 per year) to maintain the website as ad-free. The meeting approves the change and the associated costs. In addition, the 2011 Annual Records will be put together by Rosemary, with mailing duties handled by Eric Starbuck. Friends should send any inclusions to Rosemary by the end of August. Finally, we are reminded that archived materials from monthly meetings should be sent in yearly packets to Swarthmore College Historical Library, not piecemeal. The full report follows:

Publications & Archives Committee Report

Publications & Archives Committee has several items of information, but just one requiring approval by the Meeting for Business. So we'll begin with that one, which has to do with the Yearly Meeting website. Bill Warters, who has been our webmaster for the past six years or so, is ready to pass on the responsibility to someone new, as was indicated in Minute 36 of last year's annual sessions. It happens, however, that the software he has been using to update the website is not easily transferred to someone else. He suggests that we move to a new, free server called wordpress.com, which has something called "dynamic scripting," allowing for online editing. The site provides 3 gigabytes of storage, though more can be purchased if needed. Up to 35 users – that is, all our officers and committee clerks and then some – can update information at no extra charge. Bill is willing to provide guidance for users on how to do this.

There are some additional services that do have an annual charge. One is for changing the domain name wordpress.com to something we choose ourselves, for example, leym.org, which means that LEYM-specific addresses would also be available. Having our own domain name would cost $12-$17 per year. Another service would make sure the site remains ad-free, at a cost of $30/year. In sum, for less than $50 per year we could have our own domain name and make sure there is no commercial advertising on our site. We have checked with Finance Committee, which seems comfortable including this amount in the appropriations for Publications & Archives. Do we have the Meeting's approval?

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Secondly, with regard to the 2011 Annual Records, Rosemary Coffey will be putting the booklet together this year and Friend Eric Starbuck will help with the mailing. I am reminding us all that any documents to be included in the booklet should be sent to rosemarycoffey@aol.com by the end of August – that is, 4 weeks from the close of this meeting. Rosemary will work on it during the month of September and plan to have copies in your hands within a week or two after that. She will let your Meetings know soon if she does not have your State of the Meeting reports, most of which have already been forwarded, and would also like to urge you to see that your Meetings send her obituaries or memorial minutes for members who have died, even if they were not mentioned at yesterday's meeting.

Finally, this is just a reminder about sending Meeting documents to be archived at Swarthmore College. The Historical Library there would love to have your newsletters, minutes, and other memorabilia sent to

them once a year, in a nice neat little packet, rather than piecemeal, as somebody happens to think about it. Maybe it could be scheduled at a regular time, such as at the close of the Meeting's fiscal year.

YM11 - 14 Ad hoc Committee on Policies & Procedures

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported. Jeff presented the newly revised Policies & Procedures document for consideration. He outlined the history of the revision process and the goals of the Ad hoc Committee. The committee looked at recent Yearly Meeting decisions facilitating communication, at how the Yearly Meeting conducts business, and at ways of using clearer and more direct language.

Monthly meetings have had the proposed changes since April 2011, and suggestions and responses have been incorporated into a final draft. Jeff outlined a way that the Recording Clerk, in consultation with the Presiding Clerk, can keep the P&P document up-to-date. During discussion, a change on page 17 (2-B-4) was proposed and accepted re the timing of the annual meetings of Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Friends approved the revised Policies and Procedures document, with thanks to the Ad hoc Committee for its work. Friends who wish to have their own copies can print them as PDF files from the website and seek monthly meeting assistance in this where needed. The full report follows:

Ad Hoc Committee on Revising *Policies and Procedures* Report

Today we ask you to consider what we hope is the final draft of a revised Policies and Procedures manual for our Yearly Meeting. The history of this revision will be familiar to those of you who regularly attend our business sessions. The report presented at Annual Sessions a year ago summarized the formation of the ad hoc committee – Rosemary Coffey, Mathilda Navias, Joe Mills, and Jeff Cooper – in spring 2009, our discernment of what needed revising, and the work we undertook during our first year.

Before continuing that history, I want to remind Friends that the introduction to the draft lists four goals of this revision. Most important is bringing the individual policies and procedures up to date by reflecting recent decisions of the Yearly Meeting as well as current practice (though frequently we asked ourselves and others whether "current practice" represented an improvement or a straying away from some worthy but forgotten purpose.)

A second goal is facilitating access to information in various ways: moving contents under headings where we believe users are most likely to seek specific answers, placing items in a more apparent order (for example, arranging committees alpha-betically), and adding cross references and an index (which, as the revision process continued, I have consulted frequently). Related to this was a decision we made at last year's annual meeting: to organize the contents in an entirely different structure, specifically into four chapters titled Constituency, Governance, Organization, and Operations, which trace a path from who we are to how we make decisions; the roles of officers, other individuals with specific tasks, and committees; and financial policy as well as publications and information sources.

Supporting this goal of facilitating access is a third goal, focusing on how LEYM conducts business. To accomplish this, we removed from the main text contents in the previous edition that address other topics. In particular, text on officers and committees of monthly meetings and on individual membership in the Religious Society of Friends was deleted from the text but preserved in Appendix G, with the thought that, should LEYM ever decide to create its own Faith and Practice, we would not lose sight of policy once approved by the Yearly Meeting expressing expectations of its constituent monthly meetings and explaining aspects of membership.

The fourth major goal is using clearer, more direct language and avoiding unnecessary repetition. The reader is expected to understand that our streamlined present-tense sentences describe what should happen (though we do not pretend that this ideal is always achieved).

A year ago we outlined a schedule leading up to this meeting, and we have managed to follow it fairly closely. Much of the autumn was spent determining how our content best fit into the new structure, though we continued the iterative process of rewriting, sharing, suggesting possible improvements, weighing these, and rewriting again.

In February a draft of this new edition of Policies and Procedures was circulated by email to meetings and worship groups as well as the Yearly Meeting Executive Committee and others, with an invitation to share it with interested Friends and to "explore it, test it, and think about how it might be improved." Accompanying that draft was a seven-page list of notable changes. Our original plan was to consider Friends' comments on this draft at Representative Meeting, but so few had been received by then that the deadline was extended to June 1; meanwhile, printed copies of this draft and the list of changes were sent home with Friends from each monthly meeting represented at Representative Meeting, and mailed to others.

Subsequently many helpful suggestions arrived, and we have incorporated most of them in the so-called final draft, which was again sent as an email document to meetings and worship groups as well as members of the Executive Committee at the beginning of this month, and eventually posted on the website. These later changes (those made since Representative Meeting) are printed in red. Among them was the addition of a new appendix (Appendix E), a document we were previously unaware of, which presents "Guidelines Regarding Honoraria and Expenses for Annual Gatherings."

We have received no comments on this last draft, and so bring it for your consideration today with the hope that it presents the policies and procedures of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting accurately as of July 2011 – at least up to the beginning of these annual sessions. One of the policies herein specifies that the recording clerk has the responsibility to review Policies and Procedures annually and, after consulting with the presiding clerk, incorporate changes called for by actions taken at annual sessions. (Our committee would be willing to help the recording clerk in this endeavor this year, if the Yearly Meeting desires, but once the committee is laid down, the recording clerk must assume this responsibility.)

Because our policies and procedures slowly evolve, there is no plan to publish this manual as a printed document. Instead it will be posted on the website, where it can be updated easily, and the current version will be available to all.

Our committee is grateful to the many Friends who answered our questions or otherwise offered advice; to the Executive Committee for helping us in discerning the treatment of difficult issues; and to those Friends who considered the draft circulated in February and responded with suggestions for making the text clearer, more complete, and more accurate. I personally am grateful for the opportunity to work with such an outstanding committee – Friends who willingly read multiple drafts with attentiveness to presenting our policies and procedures simply, clearly, and truthfully, and did so with great spirit of cooperation.

Friday Afternoon Session

YM11 - 15 Worship and Reading of the Epistle from the 2010 Ramallah Friends Meeting Consultation

Out of our opening worship, we heard the epistle from the 2010 Ramallah Friends Meeting Consultation celebrating the 100th anniversary of the dedication of Ramallah Friends Meeting House. The consultation and worship were filled with people from local communities as well as attenders from five other countries. The painful realities of life under the occupation for both Palestinians and Israelis led members to seek ways to avoid being complicit in the oppression of people most affected, but at the same time to challenge that oppression, and, like John Woolman, to stand in solidarity with the oppressed.

YM11 - 16 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) gave a preliminary report. Remaining needs were identified for Friends to consider. Peggy Daub encouraged Friends who find themselves led to step forward to offer to fill needed positions. The Nominating Committee will make a final report during a later business session of these annual sessions.

A concern was expressed about the deep need for support of our youth and children's programs, and that perhaps a fracturing of the yearly meeting community has occurred, so that we see young people's needs as separate from adult ones. Friends are asked to discern what willingness we as adult Friends might have to serve on the Youth and Children's Program, even if part-time.

YM11 - 16 Friends General Conference

Marvin Barnes reported for Friends General Conference (FGC). Marvin wished to emphasize several points, such as that LEYM is extensively represented in FGC activities. FGC has been in transition, looking at how to change its activities to maintain financial stability. There is increased use of the internet to maintain contact with distant Friends. Other structural changes have also been made to keep organizational and financial solidity. The publications program has been under scrutiny. Bruce Birchard, who is retiring as General Secretary after 19 years, will be replaced by Barry Crossno. After long considera-tion and two lawsuits, the Executive Committee has laid down its opposition to Federal requirements for disclosure of employee eligibility (Form I-9). The next Gathering will be in Kingston, Rhode Island, its theme to be "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir," July 1-7, 2012. The full report follows:

Friends General Conference Report

The 2010 - 2011 year has been a very eventful one for Friends General Conference. This report will review highlights of the past year with a focus on giving the reader an understanding of where FGC is headed over the next few years.

Members of LEYM have served this past year as volunteers to FGC at all levels of the organization. LEYM has representation on Central, Executive, Development, Finance, and various other FGC committees. This representation will prove to be important with changes that are coming to FGC starting this year and ongoing for the next couple of years. As stated by Bruce Birchard, outgoing General Secretary, "FGC has had fifteen years of steady growth, enabling us to serve more Friends and meetings while increasing the number of volunteers and committee members engaged with the organization. We are serving more Friends and meetings in more ways than we have at any time in our history.

A few years ago FGC began a transition. The FGC Central Committee (our board, consisting primarily of representatives from various yearly meetings) created a committee that was tasked with visioning, listening to the spirit and helping discern a direction for the future work of FGC. Over the past several years the name and membership of that committee has changed but the work before them has stayed constant.

That said, FGC is in a strong position financially, having met our annual fund fundraising goals for the past several years. The Executive Committee is clear that making modest cuts now is the prudent thing to do, rather than allowing FGC to drift into what could become a crisis several years from now.

In April of this year, the FGC Executive Committee began reviewing a number of these changes:

- Investing 1.8% of the organization's reserves in a carefully developed plan to strengthen FGC's web presence, allowing the organization to listen, engage and better understand the needs of Friends regardless of geography.
- Leaving the position of Youth Ministries Coordinator vacant, re-assigning critical aspects of the work to existing staff and volunteers.
- Making a number of smaller changes to health insurance, staff and committee travel, and other non-personnel aspects of the budget.

The Executive Committee also considered the possibility of laying down FGC's long-standing publications program in the form it has existed for many years. This proposal was made with an expectation that our evolving web infrastructure should provide important opportunities for FGC to continue its "ministry of the written word in the future. With the benefit of extended, Spirit-centered consideration of the initial proposal and some new ideas that were lifted up, this matter was referred back to the originating committee.

The Executive Committee has been wrestling with these changes and a host of others, which include:

- Searching for and hiring a new General Secretary to replace Bruce Birchard after 19 years of faithful service
- Reorganizing program committee structure in an attempt to better serve the FGC community
- Handling changing financial requirements and situations that have an impact on the financial resources of the organization

- Laying down a longstanding position of defiance in personnel matters.

For over twenty years FGC has held that the requirement of the Federal government for all employees to complete a form known as Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, is discriminatory and unfair. After two lawsuits and extensive discernment, the Executive Committee in April of 2011 decided, after another period of discernment, to direct the General Secretary to come into compliance with the requirement. This decision was based on the advice of FGC legal counsel and the counsel and actions of the American Friends Services Committee, a participant in our defiance. The advice was based on the foreseeable consequences of administrative actions on the part of the Federal government that would result in fines that would bankrupt Friends General Conference.

- Managing investments in ongoing and newly arising programs which will help FGC in its future efforts to serve Friends and meetings in their spiritual journeys. These investments include:
- Support for the Quaker Quest initiative
- Support for the Communications Advisory Board

The Communications Advisory Board views communications as the heart of FGC vitality. They believe that, in order to reframe our work in outreach to all of our current and possible constituencies, we must build a completely different infrastructure. They outlined the details of the functionality proposed in the full vision of their communications strategy. Bringing about this vision would require a significant investment of time and resources, and there also would be a large cost if FGC does not make the investment. The major costs associated with this proposal relate less to purchasing new technology but more to using this technology to bring people together in a new way. The CAB is mindful of the burden of transformation faced by FGC and the serious constraints that exist on resources, but they believe that their proposal is a faithful and essential way forward for FGC and for the Religious Society of Friends. They recognize that there are many details not yet nailed down but invite this body to consider this a prophetic opportunity.

- Support of the Committee for Discernment, Planning and Priorities

This new administrative committee, which was formed at the 2009 Central Committee, is charged with making recommendations on medium- to long-term plans and priorities.

At this time of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Annual Meeting, FGC has just completed its most recent Gathering of Friends at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, and has welcomed the new General Secretary Barry Crossno. Barry is a member of Dallas Friends Meeting. He attended his first Quaker meeting at age 28 and began attending off and on for three years. During a sojourn in Taos, New Mexico, he started regularly attending meeting there, supported by a Friend who intentionally spent time with him exploring Quakerism more deeply. Through this experience he became clear that he was a Quaker and started down the Quaker path. Barry has been deeply involved with FGC as a member of the Quaker Quest Travel Team, the Advancement and Outreach, and the Development committees, as well as serving since 2006 on Central Committee.

By all accounts the Gathering was a huge success, with over 1050 participants from 36 Yearly Meetings. The Gathering’s week of spiritual enrichment brought Friends to the “middle of a corn-field” to learn of the Quaker Initiative to end Torture, as explained by John Calvi, and the trials and tribulations of Food Justice from LaDonna Redmond.

The 2012 Gathering will be held July 1-7, 2012, in Kingston, Rhode Island, at the University of Connecticut. The 2012 theme is "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir."

A major cornerstone of the foundation that has allowed FGC to achieve its growth over the past fifteen years has been and continues to be the efforts of the Development and Finance committees of FGC. These committees have the responsibility of ensuring that FGC has the resources, primarily financial, needed to build a strong and viable organization. LEYM representation on these committees centers on the work of Merry Stanford and Sally Weaver Sommer. Their diligent efforts have made the future success of FGC an achievable goal within easy reach.

The future of FGC will build upon a strong foundation of Friends across the world. FGC will continue its mission of serving the Religious Society of Friends through the hard work of its constituents and the divine leadership of the spirit.

YM11 - 17 Treasurer's Report:

Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh) presented a written report for the last fiscal year showing income from meeting contributions totaling $26,754.50. The Yearly Meeting spent 88% of budgeted funds, and no committee went over budget. We will send three people to Kenya for the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) 6th World Conference, to be held in Nakuru, Kenya, which represents a significant expense. A question arose as to how to handle contributions expected from monthly meetings but not yet received. There is no clearly developed answer to this question. We noted that Monongalia Friends Meeting gave more than expected this year as they leave LEYM for membership in Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The full report is on pp. 78-80.

YM11 - 18 Finance Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) presented a detailed preliminary budget for the next fiscal year. The Yearly Meeting is in a solid financial position. The committee has been looking at different fund balances. Sally reviewed the funds held by the Yearly Meeting and discussed a number of changes proposed to the budget. A final budget proposal will be brought for consideration to a later session. The Finance Committee report follows:Finance Committee Report

The Yearly Meeting is a good financial position. While income did not meet the budgeted amount, expenditures were below budget also, so that our General Fund increased in size from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

During this year's annual sessions, the Finance Committee reviewed each of our funds to determine if it is the size we want it to be. The greatest concern is with the Youth Activities Fund. It continues to grow with the annual subsidy from the General Fund being larger than yearly expenditures.

Members of the Finance Committee consulted with clerks of committees and the Presiding Clerk. With information gained from those conversations, the committee presents the attached 2011-2012 budget for the Yearly Meeting's approval. [See below, pp. 81-82 , for the final budget.] Numbers for previous years are presented for comparison purposes. We have increased the travel budget by $500, since we barely underspent the budget this past year and we expect travel to costs to rise some. We have reduced the office line by $100 and the finance line by $40. We decreased the contract worker line by $275 to reflect the fact that we over-budgeted last year. This new budget amount allows for 120 hours at $15 per hour. This should be a sufficient amount to cover the duties of web master that the contract worker will pick up.

We have doubled the amount going into the FWCC World Conference Travel Fund. This will allow the release of funds to aid those going to the conference next spring in Kenya. The Presiding Clerk will disperse these funds. Given the uncertainty of future FWCC world gatherings, we propose that we not include funds in next year's budget, but resume contributions to the fund the following year in anticipation of a future gathering. We have reduced the line for Ministry & Nurture by $100. We propose not allocating money to the Consultation Fund because there are still sufficient funds in the account to cover the next consultation.

We propose reducing the Youth Activity Fund transfer to 0 because of the large balance in the fund. We propose increasing the High School Teen Program by $2200 to cover some of the expenses for this year's activities. The rest of the expenses will be covered by the balance in the fund. The Yearly Meeting is committed to contributing $4400 for the stipend to the youth worker and $500 per year for materials for the retreats. Participants pay for transportation, food, and lodging. There is excess in the Spiritual Formation account, so we propose to decrease this year's subsidy to the fund by $500. The total amount of the proposed budget is $29,240.00. Given 760 members, the suggested per person contribution would be reported as $39, $2 more than last year's amount.

Saturday Morning Session

YM11 - 19 Worship and Reading of the Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting

Out of our centering worship, we heard the epistle from the 2011 Annual Sessions of Australia Yearly Meeting, gathered in a spirit of respect for the land and the heritage of its indigenous peoples. A theme on the value of diversity suffused the yearly meeting gathering, the preciousness of earth's biodiversity, of generations, and of ethnic/national groups gathered at the sessions. The yearly meeting came to pray for the healing of the earth and of other broken relationships through the transforming power of the Spirit.

YM11 - 20 Welcome of newcomer

We welcomed a newcomer to the Yearly Meeting, Sara Lens (Broadmead).

YM11 - 21 Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that the next Representative Meeting will be held March 31, 2012, in Perrysburg, Ohio. She outlined our current plans for evolving the LEYM website, making it more accessible to the people who would update its content, and increasing the duties of the meeting worker. Finally, she noted that our yearly meeting membership has decreased, a trend that needs to be addressed, perhaps in a consultation of several yearly meeting committees to be planned for the fall of 2011. The full report follows:

Clerk's Report

Our next Representative Meeting will be in Perrysburg, Ohio, on Saturday, March 31, 2012. We are grateful to Janet Smith and friends in the Toledo Worship Group (of Broadmead Monthly Meeting) for extending this invitation to us.

Friends will remember that last year at this time we agreed to become part of a pilot project FGC was setting up that would assist monthly meetings and yearly meetings in creating and maintaining websites that required less technical skill. However, because FGC decided to concentrate on helping monthly meetings, and because their templates would not be available for some time, we have been led to take a different path. As you heard in the report earlier this week from the Publications & Archives Committee, our webmaster, Bill Warters, has created a shadow website using WordPress Software, a free program built by hundreds of volunteers and developed initially for blogs. In order to release Bill from his responsibilities in good order, I have asked Mathilda Navias to take on some of the next steps in the process of moving from one system to another as part of her duties as Yearly Meeting worker. It isn't yet clear what the duties of webmaster will look like once the transition is complete, so that position is remaining on the books but going unfilled this year. Please watch for an announcement sometime this fall that the website has a new address.

Mathilda Navias, in her other role as database manager, has tracked members and average attendance of our monthly meetings and found a clear downward trend. I have proposed that the Executive Committee, the Advancement & Outreach Committee, and the Ministry & Nurture Committee have a one-day joint meeting this fall to begin to consider how the Yearly Meeting can best support our monthly meetings.

YM11 - 22 Peace Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) presented a report. The number of people participating in committee activities has increased to about a dozen. The committee conducted a survey of the range of peace work being done throughout the Yearly Meeting. A listserve to be developed will make Yearly Meeting peace activities easily accessible on the internet. A minute from Ann Arbor Meeting was shared with the suggestion that Yearly Meeting members might consider joining in boycotts of products made in Israeli settlements as a way to exert pressure toward a just agreement regarding Palestinian lands. See the full report below for details.

Peace Committee Report

The Peace Committee has recently conducted an informal but comprehensive survey of the 33 meetings and worship groups in LEYM to discover the range of peace work being done in the Yearly Meeting, and it is impressive and encouraging.

It's not surprising that some of the large meetings have multiple public events and efforts, while some of the very small groups are doing well to take care of one another. Peace work has many faces!

Some of the main themes that emerged in the survey were:

- work on issues of torture
- response to FCNL's Action Alerts and visits with local legislators
- peace vigils
- educating ourselves and others about the Palestine/Israel conflict
- work on Christian Peacemaker teams and on AFSC Eyes Wide Open exhibits
- local concerns for the homeless and hungry; work with feeding programs
- empowerment of the disenfranchised

We found that Tustin Friends have a wonderful peace website; Detroit Friends generate regular emails with information about peace activities, and they take action; Circleville Friends have hosted the Eyes Wide Open exhibit four times!; Ann Arbor Friends have distributed more than half a million "map cards" that show how much land the Palestinians have lost to Israeli settlements ... and the list goes on and on. The Peace Committee has decided to form a Google Group so that we can post our peace activities on-line and communicate with one another across the broad LEYM area more easily and quickly. In this way we hope to encourage and support all our meetings, large and small, in witnessing for peace.

Two minutes have been presented to us this year for consideration.

The first comes from Ann Arbor Friends Meeting and concerns an action to hasten peace-building in the Middle East. Though Ann Arbor Friends hoped we would endorse their minute, we've decided instead to inform you about it and ask you to take individual action if you feel moved to do so.

The second minute about the illegal use of torture by our government and criminal justice system came from Pittsburgh Meeting. We are extremely grateful for their initiative in drafting the ideas for an LEYM minute. Mike Kelly and Mary Meyers will read our proposed minute to you for your consideration.

The Peace Committee proposed a minute based on a concern expressed in Pittsburgh Meeting; we condemn the use of various torture methods tacitly supported by the US government and ask LEYM monthly meetings and individuals to consider allying with organizations such as QUIT (the Quaker Initiative to End Torture) as a way to address government-sponsored uses of torture. Discussion led to a number of suggestions for changes in the Peace Committee proposal, which will be edited and brought back to a later session.

YM11 - 23 Earthcare Committee

Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) reported on activities of the Earthcare Committee members over the past year. The Earthcare Committee has several suggestions for action regarding proposed legislation, including one that Friends endorse a bill that would eliminate tax subsidies to oil companies. The report included these three queries:

- What grieving and acceptance may be necessary for us to go on in faith and vitality?
- How can we support each other through the likelihood of increasingly difficult climate change struggles?
- How might we better increase our resilience as we face an uncertain and difficult future?

The committee requested more time to season the Advices & Queries document in light of their lengthy suggestions made recently. A report on Quaker Earthcare Witness was also mentioned. The full reports follow:

Earthcare Committee Report

The LEYM Earthcare Committee (EC) has had another very active year. Highlights:

1. We coordinated efforts again in 2011 to encourage car-pooling among those attending Yearly Meeting. We also agreed to lead another intergenerational field trip to the Bluffton University Natural Area Preserve during the first afternoon of Y.M. These activities were detailed in the Spring 2011 LEYM Bulletin (p.8).

2. Judy Greenberg, co-clerk, participated in the fall LEYM Executive Committee Meeting in Oberlin, Ohio, and both Judy and Phil Clampitt, the other co-clerk, participated in LEYM's Representative Meeting in Ann Arbor in early April, where Judy presented a written report for our committee. We were pleased to have six participants in our EC Committee meeting during Representative Meeting.
3. The large satellite map of the Lower Maumee River Watershed which had been central to our very successful 2010 EC workshop, Discovering the Story of a Home Place, was much in demand during the summer and fall of 2010, notably at an LEYM teen summer retreat at Michigan Friends Center near Chelsea, and at Olney Friends School, Barnesville, Ohio. Credit for this very creative enterprise goes to the Broadmead Friends Earthcare Interest Group, of which Judy Greenberg is a key member.
4. Members of the EC committee have kept in touch in part by e-mail, but also found it desirable and necessary to meet face-to-face on four occasions (12/4/10, 2/12/11, 3/12/11, and 4/23/11), all at Judy Greenberg's home in Toledo, to conduct much of our business. Major items included planning in detail for our 2011 Earthcare workshop (see item #7 below), and reviewing the proposed LEYM Advices and Queries, and suggesting additions and modifications. We also considered how we can encourage Earthcare activities involving young Friends of various ages, how we can better coordinate with other Quaker groups including FCNL and Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), and other Earthcare challenges in this time of extreme weather events associated with climate change.
5. Al Connor, EC committee member and LEYM Representative to QEW, attended that group's Steering Committee meeting in Chicago, April 7-10, 2011, and wrote a detailed report, published in the LEYM Spring 2011Bulletin (pp. 21-22).
6. Phil Clampitt found it both enjoyable and rewarding to participate in the LEYM 2011 Summer Teen Retreat on the theme of WATER, held in Traverse City, MI, July 15-18, 2011.
7. This year's LEYM Earthcare workshop, to be held on Saturday, July 30, is titled Eating Locally & Mindfully. Panelists from several perspectives will include Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Sarah Lenz, Jon Sommer, and Jane Downes. (See the LEYM Spring 2011 Bulletin, p. 5, for a few more details.)
8. Richard Hogan, a long-time member of the Earthcare Committee, recommends highly the new film, Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time. Two brief quotes from Leopold's famous essay, "The Land Ethic," give a hint of his philosophy: "Nothing so important as an ethic is ever written." "All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts." As we write these words (on 7/27/11), we hope many of you will have an opportunity to see this film as part of this year's LEYM annual sessions.
9. We regret that, because of illness and financial considera-tions, Helen Soderberg has found it necessary to resign from the Earthcare Committee. We appreciate Helen's presence and her many thoughtful contributions to our committee over the past several years. We wish her well.
10. While Al Connor and Richard Hogan, who have served generously and productively on the LEYM Earthcare Committee for the past six years, are officially "retiring," we hope and expect both of them to continue to be active presences on our committee. Meanwhile, we look forward to welcoming new members to the committee during the coming year.

On the legislative and corporate activity front, the EC Committee recommends:

(1) That Friends oppose what has been aptly named the "Dirty Water Bill" (H.R. 2018), which threatens the safeguards in the (1972) Clean Water Act that protect our safe, clean water. This bad new bill passed the House earlier this month, but has not yet been marked up for consideration in the Senate.

(2) That we tell Congress – as recommended by FCNL – that they should "End Fossil Fuel Subsidies" by endorsing an amendment being offered this week by Rep. Jim McGovern (MA) to the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill that would end all

subsidies for the oil and gas industries. Sen. Robert Menendez (NJ) has introduced a bill (S. 940), similar to the McGovern amendment in the House, that would eliminate six of the worst subsidies for the five biggest oil and gas companies. We should also support a bipartisan bill in the House of Representatives (H.R. 2307) that would end the ethanol tax credit, saving $31 billion. FCNL suggests this: "By closing tax loopholes that benefit oil and gas companies, the government would not only bring in more money – as much as $78 billion over the next five years – but would also break down one of the roadblocks to a low-carbon future" (Marcia Cleveland, FCNL, 7/25/11).

(3) Richard Hogan reminds us that hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") of shale – as a means of extracting natural gas to help achieve energy independence – threatens water, soil, air, food, health, and freedom! Friends should oppose it, wherever it occurs. See www.NEOGAP.org. He also recommends the movie "GasLand."

(4) Relating to this week's Earthcare workshop is the so-called "farm bill" – journalist Michael Pollan says the term is a misnomer, that, "in trust, it is a food bill and so needs to be rewritten with the interests of eaters placed first" – which Friends in America should be following closely. Al Connor will provide a brief addendum to this report on recommendations by the QEW-FCNL Working Group concerning the "farm bill" and related legislative activity. He also will provide more information to all who are interested on several of the other bills mentioned above.

In conclusion, the EC Committee offers these words, composed when we were considering the proposed new LEYM Advices and Queries relating to Earthcare: "Quaker Earthcare Witness has asked Friends to read Bill McKibben's book Eaarth, which presents evidence that human activity has pushed the planet beyond recovery, and that at best we can slow its decline. We know that climate change is increasing nature's extremes. What grieving and acceptance may be necessary for us to go on in faith and vitality? How can we support each other through the likelihood of increasingly difficult climate change struggles? How might we better increase our resilience as we face an uncertain and difficult future?"

Report of Quaker Earthcare Witness Work since April Steering Committee Meeting

QEW/FCNL Working Group members have met with Marcia Cleveland, FCNL's Legislative Advocate for Energy. After meeting with her the group decided that lobbying on the Food and Nutrition title of the 2012 Farm Bill would be more effective than a Washington DC lobby day if QEW members, Friends, and friends met with House representatives and senators and their agriculture staff in their districts. Marcia advised us that legislators are more influenced by constituents than by professional lobbyists. So we are planning to do that. We need to develop good talking points and distribute these to people in monthly meetings who are interested in meeting with the legislators in their district and state offices.

The Working Group is particularly concerned about elimination of the WIC, MIC, and Farm to School and Institution programs and draconian cuts in SNAP, the former Food Stamp program. We are also concerned about the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), which partially funds conservation of working land on which human and livestock foods are grown.

Members of the QEW/UN program participated in the People's Energy Summit in Cancún and met with Quakers from Uruguay to help them present Uruguayan concerns to the meeting.

QEW has established a strong working relationship with FCNL. We wish to strengthen relationships with FWCC and AFSC.

YM11 - 24 Ad Hoc Committee on Advices and Queries

Thomas Taylor reported on the stimulating and productive discussion that arose in the interest group on the Advices and Queries document. Then the revised document was opened up to discussion. There was acknowledgment that much hard and productive work has gone into the Advices & Queries. Concerns about the document were voiced. Some felt that not enough attention was given to earthcare concerns, given the gravity of the state of the earth and the rethinking this is requiring in all parts of our society;

some suggested that the document needs more seasoning. There was a suggestion that earthcare concerns be published in the Annual Records and that the Earthcare Committee be permitted greater input into the final Advices and Queries. Some felt that we need a spirituality more rooted in the earth and her processes. How can we balance the concerns expressed about earthcare with the other truths we try to live? The sense of the meeting was that the document needs further work and that the Clerk will re-formulate the Ad hoc Committee, ensuring that earthcare concerns are represented. Its mission will be to continue the work of developing the Advices and Queries. The full report on the interest group discussion follows:

Suggestions made by individuals:

Advices are now reduced to only the italicized quotes and in items 5, 6, 41, 52, 64. Suggest expressing these advices in italics as well. (Considerable discussion here, but unity was not achieved.)

Include more open-ended God-directed queries, such as "Where is God in this?" (ref. Kalamazoo Meeting)

[Note: The committee included some of these suggestions, such as #13, first sentence.]

p. 13 Check Matthew 5: 37 quote. [Try Jerusalem Bible: "All you need say is 'yes' if you mean yes, 'No' if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one."]

p. 13: Add quote from early Friends: "How hath Truth prospered amongst you since we last met?" (ref. Kalamazoo Meeting – see above.)

#23. Add at beginning of this one: "Let your lives speak."

#35. Is this sufficient to query whether we are complicit in the surrounding consumer culture and how we take ourselves out of it?

#53. Do we seek to transform the world:

a) in accordance with Gospel Order in loving spirit?

b) with God's loving spirit?

c) with the spirit of love? (pick one)

Queries where the group worked at rewriting and felt a sense of unity: [Agreed wording follows:]

#42. If confronted with violence, do we respond in peace? What are we doing to build a more peaceable world within our families, our communities, and our workplaces?

#63. How do we order our lives so that we seek and become open to Divine leadings in framing our attitudes and actions? Do we really respect and help those we seek to serve? How do we maintain our integrity when we find ourselves in a position of power? How do we respond when we ourselves feel powerless?

#65. [last sentence] What do we choose to ignore or not to know?

[Note: this one gave rise to a lengthy and fascinating discussion on the differences in meaning between ignoring and not knowing. Each had its advocates, so here both are included. You may choose to speak to either or both.]

YM11 - 25 Naming Committee

The Naming Committee named Micah Sommer to the Nominating Committee to fill a vacant slot. This was approved.

YM11 - 26 Announcements

Announcements were read re opportunities at the LEYM gathering and re sign-out procedures.

YM11 - 27 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM)

Kyo Takahashi (Pine River) reported for the Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Clerk, Diane Guenin-Lelle (Red Cedar) on GPQM activities over the past year. The report speaks of Ann Arbor American

Friends Service Committee activities regarding the criminal justice system. It also includes a report on the financial and structural standing of the Friends School in Detroit. The full report follows:

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Summary 2010-2011

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM) is composed of eight monthly meetings and presently four worship groups and conducts business meetings in the fall at Friends School in Detroit and in the spring at the Michigan Friends Center in Chelsea. GPQM has a Mid-Winter Gathering led by a monthly meeting and a summer gathering in Quaker Park in Battle Creek in conjunction with the Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids Monthly Meetings.

GPQM continues some measure of oversight responsibility for two major concerns of Friends, the Friends School in Detroit and the AFSC Michigan Criminal Justice Program in Ann Arbor.

This year there is a new director of the AFSC Michigan Criminal Justice Program, Natalie Holbrook. The AFSC Criminal Justice Program works tirelessly advocating for prisoners in Michigan, making sure that their rights are upheld and they have access to basic services such as medical care. The program receives approximately 4,000 requests for help each year, all of which the office addresses, and this winter AFSC-MCJ won a lawsuit to ensure that Critical Incident Reports (officer reports of incidents within the prison) continue to be available through the Freedom of Information Act.

This year has been a year of transformation for Friends School in Detroit. At the fall meeting, both the Acting Head of School, Kevin Howley, and the Clerk of the Board, Bill Kohler, presented information on the state of the school, reporting that the school finished the 2009-2010 school year in a more secure financial situation and there have been some changes in trustees. In December, Edwin Harris was appointed Head of School and he reported at the spring meeting. He explained that elite high schools welcome Friends School in Detroit graduates because they are well rounded, both academically and socially; the class of 2007 is now preparing to enter college, and they are continuing to attend excellent institutions. While FSD is selective, the school strives to appeal to the middle class and keep tuition within reach of middle-income families. All private schools are struggling in the area, and FSD has been hit a little harder because of the urban middle class status of the families at the school. Enrolment decreased significantly over the past 3 years, but FSD has been aggressive with admissions recently and hopes to have increased enrollment in 2011-2012.

GPQM continues to work in collaboration with Michigan Friends Center and its board as well as with the Friends Lake Cooperative Community. There is also continued dialog with the recently devolved Inclusive Justice Program in Ann Arbor, which had been affiliated with AFSC.

The Mid-Winter Gathering was a very special event hosted by Red Cedar Meeting. Over 50 Friends gathered in Lansing on a snowy Saturday in January for a day of exploration of Multi-generational Worship facilitated by Brian Edmiston and Laura Sobjack (with 2-year-old Noah, who) travelled from North Columbus Meeting to serve as leaders for the day.

The Summer Quarter will meet on Sunday, August 7, at Quaker Park in Battle Creek, MI, at 11:00 a.m. for worship focusing on Prayers for PEACE in memory of Hiroshima Day. We welcome all Friends to join us for this time of sharing together.

Saturday Afternoon Session

YM11 - 28 Worship and Reading of Epistle from Junior Young Friends of Intermountain Yearly Meeting

We opened our session with gathered worship, hearing the 2011 epistle from Junior Young Friends, Intermountain Yearly Meeting. They described their learning about balance, teamwork, trust, and racism. In particular, they learned that all racism stems from fear and the need to feel superior.

Out of the worship, we held in the Light Laverne Shelton, from Friends General Conference, who was to have been a visitor with us this weekend. She was in a car accident which did not injure her, but which prevented her from being able to come to Yearly Meeting sessions.

YM11 - 29 Ministry & Nurture

Ellen Barnes (Birmingham) gave a written report, commenting on the State of the Meeting reports, the LEYM Spiritual Formation Program (SFP), and the Ministry and Nurture (M&N) scholarship. Two retreats for the SFP were held this year. Richard Lee (Red Cedar) will conduct the retreats for the upcoming year on the theme, "Healing in the Manner of Friends." The M&N scholarship was awarded to Jerry Knutson (Pittsburgh), who is attending the Earlham School of Religion. He has facilitated several workshops in the past year, and will continue to travel in the ministry, leading workshops in the next year. Thirteen monthly meetings submitted State of the Meeting reports this year. In Ellen's words, they showed a sense of vitality. They will be reprinted in the Annual Records. The query for 2011 arises from informa-tion in graph form showing a decline in monthly meeting membership and attendance. The query will read: "Given the spiritual and physical state of our meeting, what are our reflections on these data? What does a Spirit-led meeting look like? What hinders us from following the Spirit? What is the Spirit leading us to do?" The full report follows:

Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

This report will be covering four topics: the spiritual formation program, the M&N scholarship program, State of the Meeting Reports, and the annual query for 2011.

Spiritual Formation Program

- There were two retreats this year, a full weekend retreat at Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan, in the fall and a one-day retreat at Red Cedar Monthly Meeting in Lansing. The one-day retreat format for the spring retreat draws in new participants from the hosting meeting, so this format will be continued.
- Both retreats were led by Patricia Thomas, who was accompanied by Polly Countryman. Both are from Wilmington Yearly Meeting. The theme was "Companions Along the Way."
- There were 32 participants altogether, 26 at the fall retreat and 21 at the spring one. The evaluations showed very positive results. Most spoke of a hunger for spiritual nourishment which they find at the retreats.
- The retreats this upcoming year will be led by Richard Lee of Red Cedar Meeting. The theme will be "Healing in the Manner of Friends." The fall dates will be September 9-11, and the spring date will be May 5, 2012.
- Mathilda Navias took over as clerk of the planning committee this past spring.

Ministry and Nurture Scholarship Program

- Jerry Knutson received the Ministry and Nurture Scholarship this past year in support of his studies towards a Master's of Divinity Degree at Earlham School of Religion.
- The fruits of his studies can be seen in workshops that he is facilitating:
    - This past year they included a monthly spiritual healing group, and workshops at West Richmond Friends, ESR, Orlando Monthly Meeting, and here at LEYM. He has facilitated a meditation group in Oakland, MD.
    - This upcoming year he will be facilitating workshops for Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, West Richmond Friends, South Hills Worship Group, and Sherwood Oaks Worship Group. This is part of an ESR requirement that he "travel in the ministry." If other LEYM Meetings would like him to facilitate workshops, they may contact him.
- The Ministry and Nurture Committee will continue to support Jerry with scholarship funding during the 2011-2012 academic year.

State of the Meeting Reports

- Thirteen monthly meetings submitted State of the Meeting Reports this year. Next year, the meetings that did not submit this year will be called to encourage a submission.
- The meetings that did submit had a sense of vitality within them. Many were engaged with spiritual nurture. A couple mentioned pastoral care of members coping with special needs.

Query for 2011

- The query for 2011 grew out of graphs presented at an Executive Committee meeting showing a decline in both membership and average attendance at our monthly meetings.
- The query will share these graphs with the meetings, then pose the following:
    - Given the physical and spiritual state of our Meeting, what are our reflections on this information?
    - What does a Spirit-led Meeting look and feel like?
    - What hinders us from following the Spirit?
    - What is the Spirit leading us to do?

YM11 - 30 Advancement & Outreach

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) submitted a written report and summarized the committee's work of continuing to connect with many of the 32 meeting units that comprise our Yearly Meeting, particularly small meetings and those that have oversight of worship groups. The committee wishes to be aware of and assist in the formation of new worship groups. Mike outlined some outreach materials. Planning for the fall consultation, probably October 15 at Oberlin, has begun. It will focus on Quaker Quest and how it works. Two representatives from each monthly meeting will be invited. The full report follows:

Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

1. Our members want to continue to be effective in supporting our smaller meetings. In this regard we have recently visited Akron MM and Delaware MM. We intend to continue supportive visits.
2. As a matter of record, Indiana MM (in Pennsylvania) is now re-classified as a worship group, as they have not had a clerk for a time.
3. We would like to encourage anyone in LEYM to let us know of possible new worship groups or areas of potential for new worship groups. If A & O can be of support to existing worship groups or meetings, as in the case we have just heard of in Holland, please let us know.
4. We would like to remind everyone again of resources available from the FGC website, particularly for outreach. For example, see www.fgcquaker.org/ao/inreach-outreach-review.
5. We are excited to bring forward plans for a Fall Consultation on Quaker Quest. We encourage each meeting to send two representatives to the Consultation, which is definitely planned for October 15 in Oberlin, Ohio. It is a one-day event with leadership from the FGC Quaker Quest team. We will help arrange overnight accommodation if there are those who may have this need. We have been advised by Kendal at Oberlin that it is not possible for participants to bring in outside food, so a lunch will be offered for purchase. We hope all meetings will be able to come. Planning is well underway, but if there are suggestions at this point, please let us know and we will see what we can do.

YM11 - 31 Adult Young Friends

Micah Sommer (Broadmead) gave a spontaneous report on the activities of the seven participants at LEYM this year, showing how these activities related to the theme of "Mindful Consumption." He also spoke of the activities of other Adult Young Friends known to him across the country.

YM11 - 32 High School Teen Retreat Program Coordinator

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) reported that Cari Burke (Manitou Worship Group), Coordinator of the Program, has been accepted into a doctoral program at the University of Arkansas, and is leaving this summer to begin her sojourn there. Cari has led a very successful program this year, to the enthusiasm of young Friends and parents. Peggy Daub, Cari Burke, and Merry served as the search committee, which invited and reviewed applications to be the new Coordinator of this program. Two excellent candidates were interviewed, and both generously volunteered as Friendly Adult Presences (FAPs) at the most recent retreat in Traverse City, Michigan. Robb Yurisko (North Columbus) was recommended to the Meeting as the next Coordinator of the LEYM Teen Retreat Program. This recommendation was approved.

Minute of Appreciation for Cari Burke

Friends approved with enthusiasm the following minute, in joyous gratitude for Cari's service among us:

> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is deeply grateful to Cari Burke (Manitou Worship Group) for her ministry to the young Friends of LEYM, and to the Yearly Meeting as a whole, in reviving the Teen Retreat Program. She has inspired a new generation of teen Friends by facilitating an enjoyable and meaningful program of retreats which reflected her leadership, enthusiasm, loving spirit, commitment to Quaker values, creativity, organizational skills, and immense energy, and which nurtured these same strengths in young Friends. We are also grateful for being reminded that our youth workers and teens need the continuing support of friendly adults in the Yearly Meeting. We entrust her to the loving care of Friends in Little Rock, Arkansas, as she begins her doctoral program there, and pray that she achieves her heart's desire in this new life venture."

We also noted that Cari had wonderfully served the High School program in previous years at FGC gatherings.

YM11 - 33 Youth & Children Program

Nancy Nagler (Pine River) reported for Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead). Twenty-one young people attended these annual sessions, arranged into four groups: pre-school, early elementary, upper elementary, and junior high/high school. Appreciation was given to the many volunteers who have helped with the swimming outings, and thanks were given to the program staff. In subsequent discussion, the importance of parents who intend to bring children to LEYM registering in a timely way was emphasized, for the sake of effective programming. The full report follows:

Youth & Children Program Report

We began the weekend with 21 youth registered, split into four groups – preschool, early elementary, upper elementary, and a junior high/high school group. Three children left early (due to mom's allergies) and two boys arrived on Friday evening as scheduled. Friday the group went swimming – after the weather cooperated – and the same is planned for Saturday, with bowling as a backup activity.

Thanks to Joe Mills, Steve Morehouse, Erica Smith, Bev Shull, and Clémence Mershon for volunteering to drive, chaperone, and share lifeguard duties at Twin Lakes, and thank you to Carla and Charlie, Conleth and Ellene, Peter and Tim, Mary and Linda, and Kate and Nancy for being the youth program staff this year.

YM11 - 34 American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Natalie Holbrook of the AFSC Michigan office reported on the Michigan Criminal Justice Program, a prisoner rights and advocacy program. She gave some historical background, and said that the program hears from thousands of prisoners, typically getting 60 calls a month, as many as 4,000 total contacts a year. Interns help. Complaints around living conditions, classification issues, and mental and physical health concerns come to the AFSC office. The AFSC program also looks at systemic issues around prison education and other services, and tries to affect legislation and budgeting. Natalie also described some prison advocacy programs around the country. Handouts were available to Yearly Meeting attenders.

YM11 - 35 Peace Committee

Michael Kelly (Detroit) reported, bringing back a revised version of the proposed minute presented earlier, condemning the use of torture, including prolonged solitary confinement within the United States or where the US has domain. The current document mentions the Quaker Initiative to End Torture as a good information site, among others. Other information sites will be available from the listserve associated with the Peace Committee, and on the Peace Committee page on the LEYM website. The minute, in addition to condemning the use of torture, asks LEYM member meetings to inform themselves on the matter of torture, including extended solitary confinement, and to discern how they are led to respond. Friends approved this minute. The full text of the minute follows:

LEYM Minute Against Torture

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends joins with Yearly Meetings around the United States of America and with the Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT) in condemning the use of torture by our government, including the practice of prolonged solitary confinement.

"Remember those in prison as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured as though you yourselves were being tortured." Hebrews 13:3 (NSRV)

These words from Scripture, and our years of Quaker commit-ment to witness prophetically against injustices, remind us of our responsibility to speak out against the continued use of torture in government sponsored public, private and secret prisons and detention facilities.

It is with great concern and sadness that we recognize that the use of torture has been tolerated and justified by many people in our country. We are also concerned about the expanded use of solitary confinement. Many people in prison are kept in isolation 23 hours a day, sometimes for decades. The prolonged use of solitary confinement has been proven to have a severe impact on the mental health of those in prison and to impede their eventual reintegration into society. Our care is not only for the victims of torture in any of its forms but also for the individuals and institutions carrying out these practices.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting asks its member Meetings to inform themselves on this matter and to discern how they are led to respond. Possible contacts for information: Quaker Initiative to end Torture: www.quit-torture-now.org, and National Religious Campaign Against Torture: www.nrcat.org.

YM11 - 36 Olney Friends School

The report was read by Beverly Kirk Shull (former staff of Olney Friends School) for Greg Mott (Broadmead). Fifty students come from ten states and nine countries to attend Olney. Learning, land, and friendships strengthen each other at the school. Activities of the past year were outlined. The full report follows:

Olney Friends School Report

(Adapted from a letter written by Kirsten Bohl, Olney's director of communications.)

It has been a busy and thriving year at Olney Friends School. The new t-shirts students and teachers received in time for graduation put it well. On the front of the shirt: "Dig Deeper." On the back: "[Heart] Learning, [Heart] Land, [Heart] My Olney Friends." They've become clearer than ever this year about the ways in which learning, land, and friendships at Olney reinforce and strengthen each other. And they've become more certain that "digging deeper" – into the farm fields, of course, but also into books, ideas, worship, making art, making friends, understanding and protecting the environment, is what sets Olney apart.

In 2010-2011, Olney had 50 students, both girls and boys, from 10 states and 9 countries. Its college preparatory curriculum is becoming more and more designed to explore and conserve the natural resources of Appalachia. An integrated seminar-style humanities curriculum makes use of Harkness discussion methods, immersing students in college-level reading and discussion of literature and historical texts.

Olney enjoys its working organic garden and farm that provides a substantial percentage of the food members consume. As a leader in high school environmental science education in the Ohio Valley, Olney students are often in the field collecting data and working to conserve land and species in collaboration with local and regional organizations.

Olney's mission is to celebrate intellectual vigor, provoke questions of conscience, and nurture skills for

living in community. It is an emerging voice regionally and nationally in local food production and environmental and economic sustainability. In fall of 2010, Olney hosted a summit gathering of independent school educators, entrepreneurs, and regional change-makers to examine new funding models for K-12 independent education. That gathering provides a basis for ongoing visioning for the school's long-term planning.

Some highlights of the past year included a student-initiated, community-wide discussion of revisions to the technology policy; hosting the annual Lake Erie Yearly Meeting youth retreat; sending four students to a Quaker Youth Leadership conference in Philadelphia; leading a Walk to Remember commemorating the Rwandan genocide; and, this summer, watching our own Lucy Hartsock '13 serve as co-clerk of the youth gathering for OVYM. In April 2011, Olney received an award for community service from the Barnesville-area Chamber of Commerce.

In preparing for 2011-2012, Olney has welcomed Charlie Szumilas as Head of School. Charlie comes to Olney with more than three decades of successful leadership in independent schools. He brings experience as a former head, interim head, or assistant head of six different independent K-12 schools across the country. Charlie will fit right in at Olney. He embraces Quaker values, including peace, justice, and community-building across cultures. He brings, too, a deep love for the outdoors that fits well with Olney's long-standing connection with the land and also with Olney's emerging role as a leader, both regionally and nationally, in environmental and economic sustainability.

Olney has a thriving Facebook page, where the school welcomes visitors – and, of course, campus visits, too!

YM11 - 37 American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported. The proper role and size of the corporation are still being explored, and AFSC work continues in spite of these explorations. The full report, by Joann Neuroth, follows:

American Friends Service Committee Report

AFSC's corporation met in Philadelphia in March, where it labored with the question of how to "right-size" the Board. Having previously decided to reduce its size from roughly 40, the corporation struggled with how to continue to have strong voices from the regional executive committees without holding 9 ex-officio seats for them. The corporation came to unity and amended the by-laws to set Board size at 25 members, 22 selected at-large and 3 named ex-officio (General Secretary, Presiding Clerk, and Treasurer of the Corporation). At least one of the at-large members will be a clerk of a Regional Executive Committee, and another will be the clerk of the International Program Committee.

The financial situation is sad but encouraging. Still staggering from losing half of its programs in the wake of the nationwide financial collapse, the Board and Treasurer reported substantial system adjustments that have returned AFSC to fiscal stability and are designed to ensure that we can sustain the remaining programs and even consider some new work. AFSC is proud that its longstanding West Virginia Economic Justice program was in place and respected enough to have played a major role in the Governor's independent investigation of the mine disaster there – the one that held Massey Energy responsible for gross neglect of safety and environmental procedures. We heard highlights of the programs across the country that are supporting young leaders to make their voices heard and to organize their peers (and elders). Good work continues.

YM11 - 38 Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) reported. FWCC has a new Executive Secretary, Robin Mohr. Excitement is building for next year's world conference in Kenya, for which travel assistance funds are needed. 2012 will also see the next Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. Further information on FWCC is available in the display area. The full report follows:

Friends World Committee for Consultation Report

(1) As with FGC, Friends World Committee for Consultation has recently welcomed a new Executive Secretary, Robin Mohr of San Francisco Monthly Meeting, replacing Margaret Fraser, who held the

position for the past ten years. Over the last six years, Robin has traveled widely, discovering the convergent spirit among Friends, across all our usual boundaries; she has focused on Friends everywhere who are both building on our powerful traditions and discovering new energy and new pathways for the Religious Society of Friends.

(2) At the same time, the excitement is building for next year's World Conference of Friends in Kenya. The LEYM delegates are Jerry Knutson, Jana Norlin, and Rob Yurisko; Rosemary Coffey and Clémence Ravaçon Mershon are registered to attend as well. As we get closer to this once-in-a-generation event, all Friends will be invited to take part in the conversation around the theme of "Being Salt and Light … in a broken world," as study materials become available. The week of October 23, for example, there will be a program in Cincinnati on the theme. Please look for "FWCC" on the web to find details and consider getting a group together from your meeting to attend. There are other programs in Kokomo, IN, on October 8, and South Bend on October 9, in case those work better for some of you. – You've already heard that Friends Meetings in the US and Canada have been asked to help support travel to the Sixth World Conference by Friends in Latin America; in addition to a hoped-for contribution from LEYM, we'd like to ask you to encourage your Monthly Meetings to make a special contribution as well.

(3) 2012 is also when the next Quaker Youth Pilgrimage will take place. Planned for July-August, the pilgrimage will gather 28 young Quakers and four leaders together in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Now is the time to think of potential pilgrims as well as adults to lead them during the month-long pilgrimage. Encourage them to apply. This is another once-in-a-lifetime experience.

(4) For additional information about Friends World Committee, please see the table in the display area by the computers. You might also think about whether you'd like to be personally involved, as some of us will be ending our terms next year and will need to be replaced. See the Nominating Committee if you're interested!

Sunday Morning Session

YM11 - 39 Worship

We opened this last session of worship with attention to business with a brief period of open worship.

YM11 - 40 Welcome of visitor

We welcomed Vaughan Peebles (White Rose Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting) of Indiana, a frequent visitor to these sessions.

YM11 - 41 Finance Committee (final budget presentation)

Sally Weaver Sommer reported. The issue of support for travel to the FWCC 6th World Conference of Friends was addressed. A $1200 contribution will be sent to the FWCC Section of the Americas for appropriate disbursement to assist with travel expenses for other Friends in the Section. The total LEYM budget now comes to $30,440, raising the per person assess-ment to $40, a nice round figure. This budget was approved. Members of Finance Committee were introduced and appre-ciation expressed to them. The full budget is on pp. 80-81.

YM11 - 42 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) presented a final written report showing officers and committee assignments. Names of the members of the Nominating Committee were given for appreciation. Friends are asked to search their hearts to see if they may be called to service as Presiding Clerk or Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting next year. Friends approved the report with joyful hearts and gratitude. The full report appears on pp.217-221.

YM11 - 43 Arrangements and Site final tally

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reported. 139 was the final tally of Yearly Meeting attenders, approximately 20 of whom were children. We will meet July 26-29, 2012, and July 25-28 in 2013, assuming we continue to meet in Bluffton at this time of year in 2013. The report was accepted.

YM11 - 44 Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Kathleen Peabody (Ann Arbor) reported. Diane Randall is the new Executive Secretary. Kathleen mentioned two major campaigns central to FCNL activities. One relates to the federal budget, especially the bloated military budget. The other relates to pushing for a shift of funds to crisis prevention rather than military intervention. Attention is drawn to the FCNL website for further information. The full report follows:

Friends Committee on National Legislation Report

1. The new Executive Secretary of FCNL, Diane Randall of New Haven, CT, Meeting, began work in April, succeeding Joe Volk. Diane is the first woman Executive Secretary in the 68 years of FCNL; she is already working enthusiastically and effectively.
2. The Nation's Checkbook Campaign is designed to raise more awareness of how our income taxes are allocated in the federal budget. The Pentagon budget is out of control and they cannot account for billions of dollars. There is wider knowledge in the electorate now that our military budget is raising the deficit, especially in the context of Social Security and Medicare being threatened. Quakers should view the graphic coin chart on the website www.fcnl.org. Action: Continue to contact President Obama and Senators, especially Senator Stabenow of Michigan, member of the Appropriations Committee. The military bases budget has doubled in the past 10 years. This is kept separate from the wars budget. Some Republicans are open to cutting the military budget; one is Senator Coburn of Oklahoma. Find out more and write them. Military spending always loses in polls when compared with voters' desires for jobs created by green energy, infrastructure, and mass transit needs. We need to keep challenging the meaning of "security."
3. The Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict Campaign aims to shift resources away from war toward prevention, which is much less expensive. There is now $40 million in the Dept. of State budget appropriated by Congress for prevention and response to emerging or unforeseen crises overseas for USAID to use, down from $50 million in 2010, although President Obama requested $75 million. Prevention efforts were successful in Kenya in 2007, where USAID funded civilian groups to start conversations about the civil crisis. Military and private contractors want this work. FCNL says "NO," because this should be the responsibility of the civilian Department of State, separate from the military. FCNL reports there are more conversations now on Capitol Hill about prevention of deadly conflict through diplomacy, but years of relying on military solutions for all conflicts have left very deep roots. FCNL asks: "Why is it that all branches of the military have office space in the Congressional Office Building?" Legislators repeatedly tell FCNL staff they don't promote prevention because they don't believe it will be effective. They do not have the same doubts and do not ask the military to prove that war will work. There is a tool kit on the website for Friends to use.
4. FCNL opposes HR 2583, the FY2012 Foreign Relations Authorization Act, as re-written in July. This bill approves funding levels for State Department diplomacy, USAID developments, and United States' contributions to international organizations such as the UN. It would undermine peace and global stability and set a dangerous precedent for U.S. foreign policy. FCNL especially opposes drastic cuts in funding for the Complex Crises Fund and the Civilian Response Corps, draconian cuts to development assistance in many fragile countries, and additional cuts to climate change adaptation programs. HR 2385 is coming up for a vote in September. FCNL urges Friends to ask their Representatives to speak out against it on the House floor and then vote against this deeply partisan bill.

YM11 - 45 Reports, epistles, and introductions from our young people

We received reports, epistles, and introductions from our young people.

The preschool program consisted of one young person. Staff person Carla Pratt-Harrington read an epistle describing the activities of this program:

Adults: Carla Pratt-Harrington & Charlie Burnett

Student: Douglas Smith

> Carla and Charlie learned little is needed to enjoy life. A Frisbee can be used as a steering wheel. With this one prop we were driven all over campus and the Bluffton community. During these drives we watched a marching band, many flowers, friends, family, and a tailless squirrel. We drove to rocks to play on and drank lemonade from the farmers' market. What a grand weekend!

Conleth Crotser introduced the five participants in the **early elementary program**. They showed a paper chain they had constructed in their consideration of the many meanings of chains and links.

Peter Crowley and Tim Damon introduced the four participants in the **upper elementary program**. They described the activities they most enjoyed at the annual meeting, and what they learned through these activities about the environment and connections to the earth.

> Things we enjoyed: (1) trip to water fountain, (2) trip to lake, (3) swinging bridge, (4) trip to market, (5) trip to library, (6) trip to thrift shop, (7) trip to see band, (8) fish in lake, and (9) swimming to the raft.

Kate Spry introduced the **middle school group** of two persons, who at times joined the high school group. They read a letter describing their learning related in often delicious ways to the annual meeting theme of mindful consumption.

> Dear Friends,
>
> The middle school group had a very interesting time this year. The first day this group consisted of one child member and two adults. Thus the middle school and the high school combined. During our time together, we did many fun things, such as go to the Dollar Store and the library. We also went to a meeting where we got to listen to a wonderful speech on the true meaning of mindful consumption through spiritual practice. I learned from this how we need to start paying attention to our human footprint because we have so much and there are others in other places who have so little.
>
> Then on Friday night our group doubled in size and the adventures began! Saturday morning we ventured to the farmers' market where we bought honey fudge and double chocolate biscotti. Then our little group continued on to explore the wondrous Etcetera Store! We got a few goodies there and were off again to Ten Thousand Villages and then the book store. Then, as the day wound down, after a delightful swimming trip, we all gathered to sing. And thus was our weekend.
>
> Sincerely, the Middle School Group: students Noah Molina and Serenity Crowley; adults Kate Spry and Nancy Nagler

The **high school group** consisted of six young people who introduced themselves, along with the staff who worked with them. They read aloud an epistle they had prepared. It focused on the ways in which they increased awareness of the annual meeting theme of mindful consumption and ways in which they developed their fellowship.

> Friday morning after breakfast our group met in our classroom and talked about the theme of LEYM 2011. We decided that it was “the little things that matter, in the bigger picture.” The Crowley kids gave a good example about making a difference in their school’s use of Styrofoam lunch trays instead of reusable plastic ones. The students rebelled, and now Oberlin High School (Amani and Brittany’s school) uses reusable plastic trays. Emma gave a good example of CSA farming and CSA products, and now the local products are tastier and use less fuel because there is much less transportation involved.
>
> Saturday morning our group travelled downtown, along with some of the younger Friends. Our group explored the community’s recycled products, and learned about fair trade at 10,000 Villages. After that fun adventure we went to lunch, then headed to the lake for some swimming! While there, we had a good time swimming/playing with our younger friends out in the deep water and at the raft. In the evening some of our group attended the singing led by Paul. There were some tears when Paul sang “Music in My Mother’s House.” After the singing we went back to the dorm and watched a few movies, ending with most of us sleeping all over the lounge! This

year ended with many new friendships and many old friends reunited.

Sincerely,

Brittany, Amani, Sam, Emma, Ben, Anna

Several staff offered passionate invitations to annual meeting attenders to spend at least some time with young people in their programs at future Yearly Meeting gatherings, emphasizing the value to both young people and adults.

YM11 - 46 Yearly Meeting Epistle

The Yearly Meeting epistle was read. After a brief recess to make editorial changes it was re-presented and approved, with thanks for the labors of the Epistle Committee. The full epistle, signed by Peggy Daub, Clerk, follows:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

May we look upon our treasures and the furniture of our houses, and the garments in which we array ourselves, and try whether the seeds of war have any nourishment in these our possessions. — John Woolman

Loving Greetings To All Friends Everywhere:

Friends from Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania gathered for the 48th annual sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting on July 28 through 31, 2011, at Bluffton University, a Mennonite university in Bluffton, Ohio. It is a special joy to welcome each year the younger and older Friends of the Yearly Meeting. Some Friends, especially those from small meetings, can feel isolated in their home place. Children and their families can feel isolated from the wider Quaker community. At annual meeting, these Friends have a chance to build a broad, multigenerational, and spiritually-grounded community with other Friends.

And so, we hold up the great joy we experience in meeting again this year with these cherished LEYM Friends who encourage and prod us as we learn to live the Quaker way more deeply. This year, we explored the theme, “Mindful Consumption as a Spiritual Practice.” We were moved by each other to new understandings: in Bible study as we considered the story of the manna in the desert and the Sermon on the Mount; in our worship sharing groups as we considered queries regarding our consumption of time, energy, and resources; in the workshops where we explored Friends’ personal experiences in living mindfully; and in our buoyant recreation with our young Friends. In our meetings for worship with attention to business we embraced the blessing of Friends’ diversity of experience. We labored in love with each other to the measure of our light, knowing that only in this way may we be brought into unity by the Spirit of God.

Our plenary speaker, beloved LEYM Friend Sally Weaver Sommer, happily walked us through her life commitment to mindful consumption, shaped in part by her Mennonite upbringing and by a Puerto Rican sojourn during her childhood among very poor people. Two stories from the gospels have been important on her journey: the parable of the lilies of the field in which Jesus invites us to give up worrying; and the story in which Jesus tells his disciples that it is harder for a rich person to be part of the kingdom of God than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle. The first story comes from the Sermon on the Mount, which for Sally is the most important part of the Bible. She says that Jesus was inviting us to collectively seek the kingdom of God above all else, and promising that, if we do, no one in the world will have to worry about their basic needs being met. The second story simply reminds us that it is hard to be part of the effort of bringing about the kingdom of God if you’ve got a lot of stuff while others don’t have much at all.

The implications for us are that we (1) consider the effect of our consumption decisions on ourselves and all of creation; (2) give up an attitude of entitlement; and (3) recognize when we have enough. If we are going to live lightly, carefully and gracefully, we need our loving Quaker meeting to help us resist the human impulses to worry and to desire too much, so that we can accept the invitation to be part of the kingdom of God. We will find our way to greater things by embracing the lesser things to which we are called.

We are lesser in number this year and note a general declining trend in reported membership by our monthly meetings. We want to understand this, and look forward to the exploration that will begin this fall by our committees. We also note, however, that, although we are small in number, the ministry received at these sessions in our meetings for worship and in the plenary talk has been vibrant and uplifting. Several of our monthly meetings also shared in their state of the meeting reports a spiritual sense of deepening vitality as they seek to find spiritual unity and offer pastoral care for Friends among them. Spiritual vitality was evident in the epistles from other Friends as well, which were shared in our sessions. The 2010 epistle from Great Plains Yearly Meeting gathered us into the life of God at our first session. The 2010 epistle from Ramallah Friends Meeting Consultation moved us, and encouraged us to personally consider boycott. The 2011 epistle from Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns reminded us of our call to radical love and radical inclusion, and changed Friends' hearts. We urge the whole of the Religious Society of Friends to read this epistle.

We send your meetings loving kindness as you endeavor to deepen your understanding of the Quaker way. We pray that our diverse society become ever more closely gathered into a fellowship of Friends who find their center in the Light and Love of the Spirit. And we send our Friends home with these words of the old hymn:

As we leave this friendly place,
Love give light to every face;
May the kindness which we've learned
Light our hearts till we return.

YM11 - 47 Adult Young Friends Epistle

The Adult Young Friends group consisted of seven people, who were introduced. They read aloud an epistle describing the many ways in which their activities drew their attention to the annual meeting theme of mindful consumption – visiting a farmers' market, seeing the film "Food, Inc.," visiting second-hand stores, to name a few.

Appreciation was expressed to the Adult Young Friends for preparing the activities after the plenary session.

YM11 - 48 Traveling Minute for Jerry Knutson

Peggy Daub read a prepared traveling minute. Jerry will be traveling among monthly meetings as part of his supervised ministry program at the Earlham School of Religion. The traveling minute was approved.

YM11 - 49 Minute of Appreciation

We are grateful to Bluffton University, members of the Site and Program committees, and other Friends who provided us physical space and an organizational framework in which we could meet and encounter the Divine in ourselves and others.

Peter Wood was also appreciated for his work as interim recording clerk.

Peter Wood, Interim Recording Clerk

Peggy Daub, Clerk

Treasurer's Report, July 1, 2011

End of Fiscal Year 2010-11

General Fund Income

Meeting (Giver)	Amount
Akron Friends Meeting	$ 148.00
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	4,884.00
Athens Friends Meeting	2,550.00
Birmingham Friends Meeting	713.00
Broadmead Friends Meeting	900.00
Cleveland Friends Meeting	2,220.00
Delaware Friends Meeting	370.00
Detroit Friends Meeting	500.00
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting	891.50
Granville Friends Meeting	850.00
Holland Friends Meeting	--
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting	1,295.00
Kent Friends Meeting	703.00
Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting	144.00
Monongalia Friends Meeting	1,200.00
North Columbus Friends Meeting	800.00
Oberlin Friends Meeting	--
Pine River Friends Meeting	592.00
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting	5,106.00
Red Cedar Friends Meeting	2,592.00
Wooster Friends Meeting	444.00
TOTAL	**$26,902.50**

Fund	Open	Income	YM Subsidy	Expense	Close
General Fund	$ 6,816.18	$26,961.85	--	$25,657.00	$8,121.03
Granvl Youth (CD)	6,010.60	212.12	--	212.12	6,010.60
Annual Meeting	5,984.54	15,813.81	--	18,769.35	3,029.00
Youth Activity*	9,563.88	559.97	2,700.00	2,996.12	9,827.73
High Schl Youth*	6,348.95	2,720.00	1,100.00	6,746 .23	3,422.72
Spiritual Formtn*	3,825.14	3,145.00	600.00	4,018.62	3,551.52
FWCC Travel*	4,186.45		1,240.00	2,700.00	2,726.45
Consultation*	3,556.65	1,190.00	2,700.00	2,601.90	3,556.65
Ministry Schlrshp*	--	--	1,000.00	1,000.00	--
TOTALS	**$46,292.39**	**$34,013.09**	**$9,340.00**	**$40,057.81**	**$40,245.70**

* These moneys are held in our checking account. We do the accounting. We also subsidize these programs.

Note: Annual Meeting Fund has $5,000 invested in a CD at Shorebank, so the balance of $3,029 reflects a -$2,034.46 checking account balance and a +$5063.46 CD balance.

CDs - Urban Partnership	Open	Income	Expense	Close
Granville Youth	$ 6,010.60	$212.12	$212.12	$ 6,010.60

686108009				
Youth Activity 4003416	5,000.00	57.16		5,057.16
General Fund 4003416	2,623.26	34.43		2,657.69
Annual Meeting 4003424	5,000.00	63.46		5,063.46
General Fund 4003424	2,459.44	24.92		2,484.36
TOTALS	$21,093.30	$392.09	$212.12	$21,273.27

General Fund Expense

Account	Budget	Actual	Budget %
Travel	$6,000.00	$5,948.15	99%
Office	200.00	10.00	5%
Contract Worker	2,075.00	728.75	35%
Finance	100.00	60.00	60%
Publications	3,400.00	2,070.10	61%
Advancement	100.00	--	0%
Ministry & Nurture	200.00	--	0%
Clerk's Fund	500.00	--	0%
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00	1,240.00	100%
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700.00	2,700.00	100%
High School Youth Fund*	1,100.00	1,100.00	100%
Spiritual Formation*	600.00	600.00	100%
Consultation Fund*	--	--	
Ministry Scholarship Fund*	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	100%
FGC - Special Program	500.00	500.00	100%
Records project	100.00	100.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	4,500.00	4,500.00	100%
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	100%
TOTALS	**$29,415.00**	**$25,657.00**	**87%**

* subsidy from General Fund

In-Kind (Travel)	$2,862.42
In-Kind (Teens)	$ 26.01
In-Kind (Office)	$ 41.48
In-Kind (Children's Retreat)	--
TOTAL	**$2,929.91**

Funds Total	**$40,245.00**
CD Total	**$21,273.27**
Checking Total	**$18,972.43**

LEYM Budget for July 1, 2011, to June 20, 2012

General Fund Expenses

	Budget	Actual	Difference	Budget	Actual	Difference
(* = transfers)	**2009-10**	**2009-10**	**2009-10**	**2010-11**	**2010-11**	
Travel	6,000.00	5,548.39	451.61	6,000.00	5,948.15	51.85
Office	300.00	37.15	262.85	200.00	10.00	190.00
Contract worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,075.00	824.12	1,250.88
Finance	0.00	60.00	-60.00	100.00	60.00	40.00
Publications	3,400.00	3,208.28	191.72	3,400.00	2,070.10	1,329.90
Advancement	880.00	0.00	880.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Ministry & Nurture	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Clerk's Fund	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00
FGC - Special Program	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
FWCC One-Time Donation				1,200.00	1,200.00	
Records project	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00	1,240.00	0.00	1,240.00	1,240.00	0.00
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00
High School Youth Fund*	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00
Spiritual Formation*	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00
Friends School in Detroit	4,500.00	4.500.00	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00
Consultation Fund*	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	**30,820.00**	**28,393.82**	**2,426.18**	**29,415.00**	**25,752.37**	**3,662.63**
Per member assessment	$38.91			$36.50		

Guidelines for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business provides an opportunity for Friends to practice several of our testimonies as we carry out the practical work of maintaining our faith community. We seek to be Spirit-led in our work, with as much efficiency as possible, achieving a sense of what Friends call “right order,” and so ask that you use the following guidelines.

1. When you need to speak, ask the clerk to recognize you by raising your hand.
2. To affirm something someone has said, simply nod or use the phrase, “This Friend speaks my mind.” Please don’t ask to be recognized so that you may express the same thought in other words.
3. When you speak, please stand, speak to the clerks’ table, and keep your comments to the point.
4. Friends will not generally be recognized to speak on any given issue more than once, except to acknowledge a personal change of perspective during the meeting.
5. When the recording clerk is developing a minute, sit in worship, and hold him/her in the Light. Please refrain from conversation with your neighbor.
6. When a person speaks in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, receive the words as you receive vocal ministry in Meeting for Worship – with an open heart and calm mind.
7. If you feel that the gathering needs a break or a stretch, it is appropriate to ask to be recognized so that you may ask the clerk for one.

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Representative Meeting
March 31, 2012
Hosted by Broadmead Friends Meeting

Morning Session

RM2012-1 Opening Worship, Reading of Epistle from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

The session opened with silent worship at 1:15 pm. Out of the silence the Assistant Clerk read the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Epistle from 2011 (http://quaker.org/ovym/YMSessions/2011Epistles.pdf). The central theme of the epistle comes from Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord ask of us: Our Everyday Ministry of Love and Service". (KJV "He has showed thee, O mortal, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.") We are reminded to humbly seek what is good, to do justice, and to be kind. The full humanity of all individuals, including those who are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgendered, is recognized and leads to the loving recognition of same sex relationships and marriage.

The Meeting also expressed deep concern for the continuing degradation of the Earth's environment, with dire consequences facing us if things such as chemical pollution and climate change are not promptly addressed. An epistle from the Young Adult Friends group in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting described its efforts to discern its mission and to organize effective action.

RM2012-2 Agenda & Clerks

The Clerk presented an agenda, and introduced the clerks' table.

RM2012-3 Roll Call

The roll call of Friends from constituent meetings and worship groups gave the following count, for a total attendance of 58:

Akron 2 Kalamazoo 2

Ann Arbor 7 Kent 1

Athens 0 Mid-Ohio Valley 0

Birmingham 2 North Columbus 4

Broadmead 16 Oberlin 1

Cleveland 2 Pine River 4

Delaware 0 Pittsburgh 4

Detroit 7 Red Cedar 1

Grand Rapids 0 Wooster 3

Granville 2 Worship Groups 0

Holland 0

RM2012-4 Executive Committee

Peggy Daub, Clerk (Ann Arbor), reported.

The LEYM Executive Committee met November 12 in Bluffton and March 30 in Perrysburg. At our fall meeting we approved a name from the Nominating Committee to serve as our third representative to the AFSC: Seth Reichenbach of North Columbus meeting. The Executive Committee does not usually take action on appointments of this kind, but an exception was made in this case so that our yearly meeting would be well represented at this year's meeting of the AFSC Corporation.

At both meetings we heard updates from our Meeting Worker, Mathilda Navias, on her work with the new Yearly Meeting website (leym.org). That work has gone very well, and we invite all committees and individuals to explore the site, think about whether they have information to share that should be on the site, and work with Mathilda on further additions.

The usual afternoon session of the fall meeting of the Executive Committee was replaced by a time of sharing ideas with members of the Ministry & Nurture and the Advancement & Outreach committees on how we can best support and nurture the monthly meeting and worship groups within Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. A report from Mathilda on membership figures within our local meetings and worship groups had shown that there was a slight, but steady decline in overall membership in the Religious Society of Friends within LEYM. I would like to share with you a slightly shortened report from the work we did that afternoon, as I think it sets out many valuable ideas on how we as a yearly meeting can support our constituent meetings. First, we brainstormed on the questions “what makes a monthly meeting attract new members and keep its current ones?” and “what are factors in the larger culture that draw people away from attendance and membership in the Religious Society of Friends?” In that context we considered “What can Lake Erie Yearly Meeting do to nurture and support our monthly meetings and worship groups?”, and after gathering numerous ideas, we broke into three groups to discuss and prioritize them, then met together and found consensus around the following three priorities for our Yearly Meeting:

Better communication about and within the Yearly Meeting.

Additional support for youth and teen activities at both the local and Yearly Meeting level. Provision or coordination of opportunities for service activities for all ages. Some activities in support of these initiatives to Strengthen Quaker Community (SQC) have taken shape and begun. Les Walden, editor of our Bulletin, featured several stories about monthly meetings in this winter’s issue. He welcomes further contributions. Mathilda Navias continues to build a strong array of materials helpful to monthly meeting clerks on our website. I have asked Becky Morehouse to lead an ad hoc committee charged with facilitating stronger ties among all the people working with youth and teens in our local meetings. We are seeking people to serve with her, and welcome your suggestions of names. The third priority, to provide service opportunities, is a seed of an idea still looking for a way to sprout and grow. At last night’s executive committee, I invited all committee clerks to think with you today about how each committee might play a role in these initiatives. I look forward to hearing some first reactions to this charge today.

[end of report]

In response to this request, various suggestions were brought forward on how to inform and engage seekers when they approach us. These suggestions ranged from the service projects and work camps aimed at teens as well as adults, involvement with Friends School in Detroit, to bringing in seasoned Friends to revitalize meetings. There was general support for carrying these sorts of suggestions forward.

The report was accepted.

RM2012-5 Clerk’s Report

The clerk presented a request from Mary & Kyo Takahashi to use a list of LEYM members and attenders on behalf of an appeal from Friends School of Detroit. Friends approved this one-time use of the list.

The clerk presented the names of Michael Fuson and Rebecca Morehouse to serve as a Naming Committee. Friends approved these names. The full report follows.

I have received thank you letters from Friends General Conference for our annual contribution and our special contribution to their campaign “Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism.” I have also received two letters from the Friends World Committee on Consultation, thanking us for naming delegates to that conference and for our special contribution to the Travel Fund.

I have received a letter from Kyo and Mary Takahashi informing us that two Friends from Tsuchiura Monthly Meeting in Japan will be visitors to our annual sessions in July, and also asking to bring to you a request to use our mailing list on behalf of a financial appeal for the Friends School of Detroit. Mary will share with us some of the circumstances behind this request.

The date of our next Representative Meeting will be Saturday, April 6, 2013. The clerk will welcome an invitation from a monthly meeting to host us.

The Clerk recommends that the following people serve as members of the Naming Committee, responsible for bringing forward names, as needed, to serve on our Nominating Committee: Michael Fuson and Rebecca Morehouse.

The report was accepted.

RM2012-6 Adult & Family Program Committee

Nancy Nagler (Pine River) reported that the theme for this year's Annual Sessions is "Finding Our Way: Seeking Discernment". Brent Bill, pastor and author of several books on Quakerism and spirituality will deliver the keynote address. In response to requests, the committee is trying to arrange additional workshop time for Friday and Saturday afternoons. The committee is striving to add the additional time without significantly decreasing time for worship. Input on how to achieve this balance is appreciated. A presentation on the FWCC world gathering is expected. The report was accepted.

RM2012-7 Youth & Children Program Committee

Olwen Pritchard reported. The committee asked that parents who plan to bring children to the coming Annual Session register by Sixth Month 29, so the committee can plan children's groups. The committee is looking into having service projects for the various groups of children. Projects being considered are: planting flowers; cleaning up trash; making cards for seniors in the Mennonite Memorial Home; and the baking and selling of items, with the proceeds to go to Friends School in Detroit. The committee hopes to have children and adults make and decorate T-shirts with designs of painted feet and printed "LEYM 2012" and/or "Finding Our Way" on Thursday night. The committee will contact the families of all children aged 0-14 years in LEYM and encourage them to attend the Annual Sessions. The report was accepted.

RM2012-8 Arrangements & Site

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reported. The Annual Sessions this year will be held Seventh Month 26-29 at Bluffton University. The Sessions for 2013 are scheduled for Seventh Month 25-28. The report was accepted.

RM2012-9 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported. The committee has opportunities available to serve on the following committees: Earthcare; Ministry and Nurture; Arrangements and Site; and Peace. It also has opportunities available to serve as representatives to FGC and FWCC. Members are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

In order to return to LEYM's regular, prescribed schedule of clerking, the committee proposed that Peggy Daub serve a third year as clerk, with Sally Weaver Sommer starting her clerking rotation this coming year. This was approved. The report was accepted.

RM2012-10 Treasurer's Report

Jeff Cooper reported for Eric Starbuck. [To see the complete detailed financial report, please see the attached document, headed 3/28/2012 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Treasurer Report]

Thank you to the many monthly meetings (nearly all) that have made their full contribution already. This timely payment may be partially attributable to reminders from the Treasurer and the Finance Committee. There is a healthy balance in our checking account (currently $19,137, updated beyond the attached form). Expenses (updated to $25,205) are on their expected pace for the year, and slightly less than our income. Looking ahead, there are three expenses this year that we will not have next year: a. For 2011-12 we doubled the usual amount budgeted for FWCC Travel to $2480. b. We budgeted an FWCC One-Time Travel Fund ($1200) to help Friends within the Section of the Americas travel to the World Conference.

c. This year's contribution to "FGC Special Program" ($500) is the culmination of a multi-year contribution.

The report was accepted.

RM2012-11 Finance Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported.

A. Annual Meeting Fees

1. The 1/3 discount on all fees for first-time attenders will continue. 2. The recent practice of inviting children through age 18 to attend for free will also continue. This year, however, we ask Arrangements & Site Committee to include in the registration form an invitation to sponsor a child's attendance by covering the cost ($100 for 3-7 years old, $150 for 8-18 years old). Sponsorships might come from the child's own family, if able, or from other Friends; partial sponsorships of any amount are welcome.

3. To cover costs, the registration fee for adults will increase by $5, thus $45 for "early bird" registration, $55 for later registration. Arrangements & Site tells us the costs for room, board, and linens for the entire four days will increase by $4. The total increase of $9 keeps the cost for four days with an air conditioned room under $200 per person for those who register early.

B. Arranging an Audit

YM policy is that an audit should be arranged every four years or whenever the Treasurer changes. The Treasurer will change after Annual Meeting this year, and our last audit was arranged in 2005, so we are overdue. No one on the current committee was involved in the last audit, so we are exploring the appropriate process, including the number of years to audit and the level of honorarium for the auditor. We seek recommendations for a person qualified to audit our financial records; please contact the Finance co-clerks, Sally Weaver Sommer and Jeff Cooper.

C. Providing Support for Youth and Teen Activities

All committees were invited to explore how the YM can provide additional support for youth and teen activities, and Finance was asked specifically about subsidizing expenses for teens attending YM teen retreats. The committee confirms that assisting attendance at teen retreats falls within the purposes of the Youth Activity Fund, and invites requests of up to $300 per person per event from teens or youth wishing to participate in retreats or other Friends' events. Requests should be sent to the presiding clerk. The committee intends to develop an application form for such requests.

The report was accepted.

RM2012-12 High School Teen Retreat Program

Robb Yurisko, Coordinator (North Columbus) and Merry Stanford, Clerk (Red Cedar) reported.

Since LEYM's annual sessions last summer 2011, there have been three Teen Retreats, as planned, and three meetings of the committee. The retreat program usually includes a business session, a workshop on an issue that is relevant to Friends practice or testimonies, and an out trip. There is a lot of time devoted to "hanging out" - developing the caring relationships and having the informal conversations that young Friends feel are critical to building their community.

What Has Been Accomplished

The Fall retreat was held at Cleveland Friends Meeting, October 21-23, 2011. There were six teens in attendance representing Kalamazoo, Birmingham, Red Cedar, North Columbus, and Cleveland Meetings. LEYM's own Abbey Pratt-Harrington of Athens MM, currently in graduate school at the Earlham School of Religion, led a workshop called, "Zoning Out 101: Ways to Meditate during Meeting for Worship." The teens also went to Cedar Point and worshipped with Cleveland Friends, who graciously hosted a final meal for the group before they set out for home.

The Winter retreat, fondly referred to as "The Quake That Rocked the Midwest," was held in Evanston, Illinois, January 13-16. This was hosted by Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM), with thirty teens attending from ILYM, Northern Yearly Meeting, LEYM, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (OVYM), and Scattergood. Five LEYM teens attended, representing Kalamazoo, North Columbus, and Red Cedar Meetings. Vanessa Julye, of Friends General Conference, facilitated a retreat on racism, and the out trip involved a tour of downtown Chicago. The kids sang, danced, stayed up late, and played in the snow. The group worshiped with Evanston Friends, and left Monday around noon for the long drive back home. The success of the Quake inspired Robb to join with the Coordinator of the OVYM program for the Spring Retreat, held at Earlham College, March 2-4. The coordinators and the teens felt that the workshop on Discernment, facilitated by Emma Churchman, of the Earlham School of Religion, was amazing and highly experiential. Earlham College hosted the group in a small cottage for this weekend. The teens swam at the

new athletic center on Earlham's campus, and worshipped with West Richmond Friends (affiliated with Indiana YM and Friends United Meeting). There were a total of 15 teens who attended from OVYM, Indiana YM, and LEYM.

Reflections

The teens who have participated have all reported having a good time at these events. Some teens have indicated that they feel a great disconnect with teens at their schools, and that these retreats are the only place they can really be themselves. One of the parents reported that their teen remarked, on returning home from a retreat, “Now I know why you are Quaker.”

The committee has been impressed with Robb’s depth of care for the spiritual and communal lives of these Friends. We are pleased that our young Friends are having the opportunity to explore those aspects of themselves that are not always so welcome in mainstream teen culture, and to develop ongoing relationships with each other, with Friends in other yearly meetings, and with Friends in other Friends’ traditions. We are hopeful that these relationships will last well into these young Friends’ adult lives, as we have seen with others.

Plans for the Future

The Summer 2012 Retreat will occur for the first time at Annual Sessions in Bluffton, OH. It is our hope that holding the retreat at YM will help make the retreat accessible for more teens, and help the teens experience their community as part of the larger LEYM community. The Fall retreat will also be a joint Retreat with ILYM, LEYM, and OVYM. In keeping with the YM’s priorities, Robb is also discerning with the committee about the feasibility of sponsoring a week long service project for the teens in summer 2013.

Challenges

One of the issues that we know sometimes prevents teens from attending is transportation. We are pleased that Finance Committee discerned way open for the YM to provide financial travel assistance to teens to attend the retreats from the Youth Activities Fund. This is not a complete solution, however, as some teens are not yet ready to travel alone by bus or train. So the committee also seeks the assistance of willing adults to provide rides to and from the retreats.

We are thinking together about how to encourage more young Friends to participate. Robb is implementing a web-based survey to collect needs assessment data from the teens who have participated, and from those who have not. We hope that these survey results will shed light on the reasons some teens are not attending. Another issue that can prevent a teen from attending is a schedule conflict with another activity which is important to them. As adults, and as teens, we are all heavily scheduled, and we all make our own choices based on our own discernment. No one can judge another person’s or family’s discernment in this regard. Historically, Friends have posed queries to help us examine our attitudes and behavior. So the committee would like to raise up some queries for all of us, young and old, single and in families, to explore. We offer these in the spirit of exploration and discernment; not in judgment. For parents: To what extent is my child’s relationship with the Inward Teacher being nurtured? When my family members and I prioritize the use of our time, to what extent are Quaker or other spiritual activities part of that prioritization? Am I, or are we, satisfied with the priority that we give to these activities? To what extent are my family members and I aware of the rewarding, challenging, short-term, and long-term impacts of including spiritual priorities in our calendar?

Thank you for the opportunity to serve young Friends in this Yearly Meeting. We feel blessed to witness their growth as individual Friends, and as a community of Friends.

The report was accepted.

RM2012-13 Ad hoc Advices & Queries Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported. The committee met as a group in Tenth Month and via email after that. A draft of the Advices & Queries was generated in First Month. Particular attention had been paid to queries 20, 64 and 68. The draft is available for review on the LEYM website and hard copies are available. As the committee continues to work on text to present at the Annual Sessions for consideration, it will continue to consider further suggestions for revision.

It was asked whether the draft presented at the Annual Sessions will be open for wording changes from the floor. The clerk responded that her sense is that the Advices and Queries should be considered for approval as a whole. It is important that people be advised of this expectation.

The report was accepted.

RM2012-14 Earthcare Committee

Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) reported. The committee is working on the following four issues: Legislative food bills

Fracking (Annual Sessions workshop)

Doctrine of Discovery (Quaker Earthcare Witness)

Canterbury Commitment

The report was accepted.

RM2012-15 Publications & Archives Committee

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) reported. Copies of the 2011 Annual Records have been distributed and more are available. Joe Mills is going to prepare the 2012 Annual Records. Meeting clerks were asked to make sure all copies of the Annual Records and the Bulletin have actually been taken. If they have not, the committee should be notified, so that it can adjust distribution accordingly.

The committee is considering whether it should continue creating scrapbooks of the Annual Sessions.

The last membership directory was compiled in 2009. The committee is considering if it should create a new one.

The report was accepted.

RM2012-16 Peace Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported.

AFSC

The AFSC Board has approved the rearrangement of the national AFSC from nine regions into four: West; Midwest; South; and Northeast. The corporation approved the proposal that members should serve for three-year rather than one-year terms.

There are four main focus areas this year for AFSC:

Work in Israel/Palestine and why divestment is important

AFSC and Occupy/Unoccupy Together: Supporting the movement's commitment to nonviolence, economic justice and inclusion

Immigrant Allies: Coloradans for immigrant rights and ways our meetings can be involved in the work Religious intolerance in Indonesia and the USA: Ways that AFSC and your meeting can create more welcoming communities

Connect yourself to the AFSC blog at www.afsc.org/friends.

Your meeting should have received two copies of An Introduction to Quaker Testimonies. Each meeting should have an appointed liaison with AFSC. Lucy Duncan, the new Meeting Liaison Secretary at AFSC, can be given the contact information at lduncan@afsc.org.

FCNL

This is the year for responding to FCNL's request for priorities for lobbying the 112th Congress. Its deadline for receiving the responses is Fourth Month 16th .

Recent successes at FCNL are:

Growing bipartisan support in Congress for a responsible US withdrawal from Afghanistan Building the movement to reduce military spending

Preserving US investments in war prevention

Preventing atrocities and genocide

Protecting the EPA

Working to secure loose nukes and to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Closing the last US military base in Iraq

Protecting Native American women from violence

Steps toward reform in immigration law and practice

Katherine Philipson, the new FCNL Campaigns Nework Building Associate in on a mid-west tour to encourage us to contact our senators and representatives about the federal budget. Sample letters are available.

The committee met and came up with three workshop topics it hopes to have prepared in time for the Annual Sessions this Seventh Month:

Alternatives to Violence (David Snyder, Oberlin)

Immigration Reform (Mike and Carmen Kelly, Detroit)

Palestine/Israel: how to move toward peace and justice (Anne Remley, Ann Arbor)

The report was accepted.

RM2012-17 Ministry & Nurture Committee

Don Nagler (Pine River) reported.

Ministry Scholarship Fund

Jerry Knutson, of Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, has received $1000 from the Ministry Scholarship Fund again this year, which he has used to help with finances for the fall and spring semesters at Earlham School of Religion. He took 2.5 classes in the fall and currently is taking 2.5 classes this semester. He has to take 6 more credits for the Masters of Divinity Degree in the next academic year (2012-2013). He expects to graduate in May, 2013. A letter requested from Jay Marshall, director of ESR, complements him on his performance and outlines his program. It also states the appreciation they have had for the several students from LEYM. Jerry has been worshipping with the Friendsville, MD Worship Group, Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, and Orlando Friends Meeting. He has presented workshops at West Richmond Friends, Pittsburgh Friends Fall Gathering, South Hills Worship Group, Sherwood Oaks Worship Group, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Wooster Friends Meeting, Orlando Monthly Meeting, Tallahassee Monthly Meeting, Savannah Monthly Meeting, Space Coast Friends, Palm Beach Monthly Meeting, SEYM Half Yearly Meeting, a meditation group in Oakland, MD, and the Prisoner Visitation and Support Annual Conference in Leavenworth, Kansas. In April, he plans to travel to Kenya as one of LEYM's representatives to the 6th World Conference of Friends. He has been accepted as a facilitator of a workshop on the exegesis of "salt and light" which is based on the conference theme on "Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World". At LEYM, he plans to facilitate a workshop on the exegesis of Salt and Light, based on his presentation in Kenya. Last year Jerry Knutson's anchor committee expressed strong support for his request for a second year grant from the LEYM Ministry and Nurture Scholarship and this was given him by the Committee. Review of the Policies and Procedures and other directives for the committee suggest that the application process should each year be accompanied by a letter of support from the appropriate Monthly Meeting. It has been further suggested by some that the monthly meeting should each year assess its own financial responsibility for the individual's support.

Spiritual Formation Program

The fall retreat was entitled: Healing in the Manner of Friends. It was held September 9-11 at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan. Richard Lee from Red Cedar Monthly Meeting led the retreat and was assisted by Sally Lloyd and Gretchen Morse. Once again, an excellent pamphlet was prepared for participants. 21 Friends attended. The two and one-half day session from Ann Arbor, Broadmead, Detroit, Kalamazoo, North Columbus, and Pine River Monthly Meetings. Only one person participated from a

Meeting east of Broadmead Monthly Meeting. The evaluations were uniformly enthusiastic in approval of the leadership and process as enriching spiritual experience. Appreciation was expressed for the warm hospitality of the Weber Center. Richard Lee will lead the spring retreat on "Healing in the Manner of Friends" at the Michigan Friends Center near Chelsea, Michigan on May 5th .

The LEYM Spiritual Formation program for 2012-2013 has been outlined. Mary Stanford from Red Cedar Monthly Meeting will lead two sessions on the theme: "The Spiritual Practice of Dialogue: Speaking Our Truths and Hearing Where Words Come From". The retreat in the fall, from September 7-9, will be at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan. The Spring session will be held on May 4, 2013 hosted by a Monthly Meeting (TBD).

LEYM Annual Query for 2011

The Committee has received responses from Ann Arbor, Athens, Birmingham, Broadmead, Cleveland, Detroit, and Pine River Meetings. These responses were carefully done and expressed work that was deeply felt. After consultation with the Executive Committee, it was determined that the LEYM Annual Query should be continued to be offered by the Yearly Meeting. The Committee will select two responses each year to be printed in the Bulletin and/or the Website.

The report was accepted.

RM2012-18 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported.

A&O organized the Consultation on Quaker Quest held in October, 2011 at Oberlin with 18 attenders representing nine meetings, all in LEYM. Some evaluations have been received and the others will be requested. So far it does not appear that any meeting in LEYM plans to do the public sessions. However, there does appear to be increased interest in meetings to do the in-reach or self-evaluation type of work advocated by QQ. A&O would like to thank Eric Starbuck, Mathilda Navias and Connie Bimber for their invaluable help in conducting the consultation.

The committee heard a report from Robb Yurisko on his attendance at the FGC consultation on Intervisitation. Robb reminded us of the great value in this simple time honored Quaker practice to knit together community and build spiritual bonds among us all. He reminded us that today WE are the stewards of the Religious Society of Friends, responsible for our spiritual growth and for this beloved family. A&O has facilitated visits to smaller meetings on its own but wants to involve all members of LEYM in the future. We ask anyone who has a calling to do intervisitation within or beyond the Yearly Meeting to contact A&O if we can be of help. In any case we would like to hear of visits made.

In order to improve our outreach to new attenders we offered two suggestions: a. Meetings should move more quickly to consider and possibly accommodate the ideas of new attenders.

b. Meetings should move quickly to confront and deal with divisions within the meeting. Do not let these divisions linger and fester.

A&O will lay down the work of monitoring the websites of each meeting, the Quakerfinder.org website, the FWCC website and the LEYM website. Meetings seem to be doing a better job of keeping these site up-to-date. Meetings are requested to continue good housekeeping/vigilance.

The report was accepted.

RM2012-19 New book on Quaker Process

Mathilda Navias announced the availability of her new book, Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches, published by Friends Journal.

RM2012-20 Minute of Appreciation

Becky Morehouse, Assistant Clerk, suggested a minute of appreciation for the use of St. Timothy's Church, and for the abundant hospitality provided the group by Broadmead Friends. Friends approved.

Peter Dale, Recording Clerk

Peggy Daub, Presiding Clerk

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
49th Annual Sessions
July 26-29, 2012
Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

Thursday Evening Session

YM2012-01 Opening Worship, Reading of Epistle from Illinois Yearly Meeting

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the 49th annual sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with worship. Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) read from an epistle from Illinois Yearly Meeting written at its 138th Annual Session, June 2012, which asks the question, "Who are we as Friends?" This Epistle is available at www.fwccamericas.org.

YM2012-02 Clerk's Table

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Clerk, introduced the clerk's table: Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Assistant Clerk, and Peter Dale (Detroit), Recording Clerk.

YM2012-03 Calling of the Roll

The calling of the roll of Friends from constituent meetings and groups provided the following count (corrected against registrations):

Monthly Meetings

Akron 1 Holland 0

Ann Arbor 23 Kalamazoo 10

Athens 11 Kent 0

Birmingham 5 Mid-Ohio Valley 0

Broadmead 27 North Columbus 10

Cleveland 13 Oberlin 0

Delaware 0 Pine River 4

Detroit 6 Pittsburgh 17

Grand Rapids 5 Red Cedar 4

Granville 2 Wooster 6

Worship Groups

Erie 1

Visitors

8

Total in Attendance: 153

YM2012-04 Introductions

Our clerk invited visitors, guests, and newcomers to introduce themselves. Two visitors from Tsuchiura Monthly Meeting, Japan Yearly Meeting, Toshiko Kawata and Machiko Takeda, were introduced and welcomed to the Meeting. A letter of introduction from Japan Yearly Meeting for the Japanese visitors was read to the Meeting. Eric Evans, of the Friends General Conference Nurturing Ministries staff and member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, was introduced and welcomed. A traveling letter for Eric from FGC was read to the Meeting. Katherine Philipson, outreach staff person from Friends Committee on National Legislation, was introduced and welcomed to the

Meeting. Katherine briefly described her work and invited members to join her at a table for lunch to discuss issues having to do with FCNL. Mike Holoday of Grand Rapids and Martha Harris of Pittsburgh introduced themselves and were welcomed.

YM2012-05 Epistle Committee

The Clerk called for people who are led to do so, to join with our Assistant Clerk, Becky Morehouse, to write the Epistle for the current Annual Sessions. Micah Sommersmith, Broadmead, and Paula Deming, North Columbus, stepped forward to assist on the Epistle Committee.

YM2012-06 Reports on Sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya

Five Friends from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting who attended the recent sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya organized by the Friends World Committee for Consultation spoke. Three served as our representatives and two filled open spots at the event. Our representatives Jerry Knutson (Pittsburgh), Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids), and Robb Yurisko (North Columbus) all expressed thanks for the support given by the Yearly Meeting and read brief reports. Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) and Clemence Ravacon Mershon (Erie Worship Group), both filling open spots at the conference, also read reports. The full reports are attached.

Jerry Knutson Report

First, I'd like to thank Friends for the opportunity to be one of your representatives to the 6th World Conference of Friends at Kabarak University in Kenya. As a preconference tour I visited Friends in the Bware Yearly Meeting and I gave my first sermon to a Quaker Meeting. Bware Yearly meeting asked me to ask LEYM if they'd like to be partners with them. I said I'd ask LEYM.

The most moving event for me was to wake up one morning during the preconference trip. The tent was silent and I thought my other five tent mates had gone to breakfast. However, as I started getting out of bed I noticed a Central American Quaker kneeling beside his bed in silent morning prayers. The humility, discipline and faith I felt in that act of worship was astounding. I also see these three qualities in the writings of early Friends. How can I as a liberal Friend rediscover the humility, discipline and faith that was found in early Friends and is still found in some of the Quaker branches?

The topic of the conference was "Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World." I wrote a 20-page manuscript on the exegesis of salt and light and presented a three session workshop on this topic at the conference. On Saturday from 3:30 to 5:15, I'll be presenting a workshop on a summary of my research.

I also wanted to let friends know that FWCC Section of the Americas is meeting March 13-17 in Indianapolis. I understand that visitors are also welcome.

Jana Norlin report

My family can trace it's Quaker ancestry to before 1680, so I truly feel a part of the long world-wide legacy of Friends. Therefore I am deeply humbled to have had the opportunity to represent LEYM at this historic World Conference. After voluntarily attending the FWCC annual meeting of the Section of the Americas in Guatemala in 2006, I have since participated for the past six years as a LEYM representative to the Section of the Americas of FWCC, serving on the Spanish/English Bilingual Committee. Most recently in 2010 I served as an interpreter for the United Society of Friends Women International Triennial in Mombasa/Nairobi, Kenya. Because this was the second time in less than two years that I traveled within the country and spent time with Kenyan Friends, I perhaps felt less distracted by unknown surroundings and more like I was coming home with Friends from all over the world. During the conference I may have been more comfortable than some Friends with the differing worship practices and beliefs that many times represented some of the varied experiences I've had as a Quaker in the larger Society of Friends. The diversity of Friends represented reflected my personal reality of worshiping with a full spectrum of Friends during my lifetime. Growing up in FUM, moving into FGC as a young adult and traveling internationally among Friends since I was 16, I relished and yet like everyone else had to work through many challenges to attempt understanding. Spirit worked through me to make connections between Friends of different languages, cultures and religious references in ways that taught and enriched us all. I reconnected with Friends from other countries to strengthen our ties and had so many blessed new encounters that I pray will bear fruit in the future, including relationships with diverse Friends in the

United States. We had eight days during the conference to worship, fellowship, celebrate, explore, discuss and labor over the spiritual essence of revealing ourselves to one another, as Spirit worked through us. This was an opportunity we would like to have shared with all Friends everywhere. The richness of concord and conflict is difficult to express. In addition to daily meetings with my Home Group, I interpreted for two Thread Groups and generally at all other times throughout the conference. I was holding all of us in the Light as we tried to express ourselves and listen to each other asking God for enlightenment. While our diversity was at times a mixed blessing, I witnessed how as individuals, we were led to seek Truth and Light. In opening ourselves to understand others as we wished to be understood, we often relinquished our own egos and agendas to seek God's will and move forward as a spiritual family, seeking a better world society for all. My name Jana means yesterday in Swahili. I learned to say juzi, jana, leo, kesho, kesho kutwa, kesho ingine, mtondo, mtondo goo which means "the day before yesterday, yesterday, today, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, the day after the day after tomorrow, the day after the day after the day after tomorrow, and the day after the day after the day after the day after tomorrow". Let us praise God for all of the forthcoming blessings yet to be revealed from this world gathering of Friends. I thank you all for your prayers and support. -submitted to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting most gratefully and humbly, with the intention of continuing shared revelation

Robb Yurisko Report

I want to take this opportunity to first and foremost give thanks to LEYM for allowing me to serve as one of the representatives to the World Conference of Friends in Kenya and financing this once in a lifetime Opportunity not only with money but prayer, love and support! Thank you! Once again LEYM has served and ministered to me in a way that has blown me away. I am so grateful. I could talk all day about the deep and intimate worship and sharing that took place there but in the interest of simplicity of time I will share only a few things: The most moving event was the dancing worship of Kenyan Friends which touched me deeply and moved me emotionally. The most surprising element was the incredible preaching that took place there! Each and every speaker spoke from that deep well of Spirit I have found within our Unprogrammed Worship, proving George Fox’s awakening and vision has been carried forth in all branches of Friends. The deepest learnings I gained was to look beyond the initial hurt of a painful situation and see those who have hurt you with eyes of compassion and that while our testimonies are ideals, we cannot use them to judge one another by.

I made connections there with Friends from all over the world and hope to stay in contact with them for a lifetime. I am planning a visit to Ireland Yearly Meeting and hope to visit friends in Australia and New Zealand one day. Each day, new and blessed Opportunities for Worship came in unexpected ways and the Worship and Ministry spanned across the boundaries each of us makes within our own traditions thus making my experience there rich and alive - reviving an old but new understanding of expectant waiting together on God who is ready to burst forth at every moment if we would just yield to letting it out of the box of our usual experience.

I would be delighted to share my experiences in further detail with any and all Friends who are interested! Again thank you LEYM for this beautiful gift of a life changing experience!

Rosemary Coffey Report

For me, this was mostly eight days of working very hard. This is not to say that I didn't enjoy and learn from the often moving plenaries, conversations with my previously unknown companions at mealtime, interactions with my Kenyan roommate, and so on, but I was busy. Very busy! In the period preceding the conference, I spent many challenging hours translating the registration documents, as well as a couple of the plenary speeches and the descriptions of available tours, from English into French. Once I arrived at Kabarak University, I was assigned to co-facilitate a French-speaking "Home Group," which met for 90 minutes a day on six days, featuring mostly Francophone Africans (from Congo, Cameroon, Rwanda, and Burundi.) In addition, I co-led a "Thread Group" on Diversity Among Friends for three sessions; co-led an interest group on Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR), a Quaker micro-granting organization of whose Board I am Recording Clerk; and summarized the financial situation of the Section of the Americas of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) in my capacity as Clerk of the Finance Committee. So what did I do for fun? I visited one of the sites where the Leakeys did some digging, uncovering lots of axe heads along with some very old human bones. I reconnected with a number of our Friendly Folk Dancer hosts from Australia, Ireland, Kenya, Rwanda, and Cuba. I talked a lot with old

F/friends and new. I figured out how to stay clean for ten days with no hot water. And I had a great time with old friends in Paris on the way to Nairobi and in London on the way back!

Clemence Ravacon Mershon Report

I expected the experience of an open space at the World Conference in Kenya to be more like the FUM Triennial near Nairobi which I had attended in 2002. However, I found myself occupied with preparations and surprises at the much more inclusive conference, such as being named a bi-lingual facilitator of a home group. Prior to the Conference, I helped with English to French translations of some Pre-Conference documents. Then, I immersed myself in the English and Spanish surveys and documents which two of us had helped to prepare as members of the Section of the Americas' Executive Committee. At the conference, we assisted a selected small group of Latin American Friends in the evaluation of the Section's 35-year-old COAL (Comite de los Amigos in America Latina) program.

At the conference, during the home group sessions (usually morning), we two North American unprogrammed Friends co-facilitated French-speaking Friends from France, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo-Kinshasa and Congo-Brazzaville. Three challenges soon arose. We co-facilitators met daily at breakfast to choose both a Biblical passage and the appropriate translation. Since neither of us had anticipated leading in French, we did not have a French Bible. We depended on two non-English Bibles, one in French, the other in Kinyaruanda. Needless to say, adding several English Bible translations to these other languages created plenty of opportunity for misinterpretation. Further, when I sensed that we were losing a few Friends' participation because the discussions were in French, of which only one of us was a native speaker, I sought counsel from an African F/friend. He suggested that the Burundian pastor facilitate in French, Kirundi and Kinyaruanda (mutually intelligible). Although more laborious, it allowed several Friends to participate more fully. Finally, since most of these Friends were from programmed traditions where worship sharing and other co-equal activities are not common, we all had to learn to be both assertive speakers and good listeners. Listening to the true Spirit of a person's words, not just the standard biblical quotation or interpretation he or she gave, turned out to be the most important Conference lesson for me.

For me, the greatest joy was the large group worship and its accompanying music, led each day by a different World Section. Those melodies and the accompanying words of wisdom from mostly-younger speakers continue to provide me with a lasting message of hope.

YM2012-07 Memorials

The Clerk invited worship and brief memories of those in their meetings, or those who would be known to the Yearly Meeting who have died in the past year. She explained that full memorial minutes will not be read, but will be printed in the minutes.

1. Don Nagler (Pine River) shared that Vern Bechill had died October 24, 2011. 2. Phil Balderston (Wooster) shared that Cecil Rockwell and Ella Rockwell had died in the past year.

3. Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) shared that Sue Axtell (Richmond, IN) had died in the past year. 4. Jim Crowfoot (Ann Arbor) shared that Sol Metz had died in the past year. 5. Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) shared that Miriam McConnell had died during the past year.

Friday Morning Session

YM2012-08 Worship, Reading of Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting

The session opened with silent worship at the appointed time. During worship Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Assistant Clerk, read from the Epistle from the 2012 Britain Yearly Meeting. The epistle centered on how “We have begun to explore what it means to be a Quaker today….” The complete epistle is available at www.quaker.org.uk/ym-updates.

YM2012-09 Introductions

The Clerk Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) asked for first-time attenders and visitors to make themselves known. Paul and Kathleen Helbling (Broadmead), Joseph and Kathleen Ossmann (Kalamazoo), Pam Kuhn (Wooster), Vaughn Peebles (White Rose Monthly Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting), Claire Cohen, MaChere Cohen, Henrietta Cusin, Norma Cusin, Wesley Peters and Wynston Peters (all of Pittsburgh),

stepped forward and were welcomed by the Meeting.

YM2012-10 High School Teen Retreat Program Report

Robb Yurisko (North Columbus) presented a report from the High School Teen Retreat Program. Robb is Coordinator of the program and presented a report which was prepared together with Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), Clerk of the Committee overseeing the program. The report described the program's current goals and recent activities, challenges, and accomplishments, as well as its hopes, plans and needs for the future. The program is planning to conduct a Retreat/Service Trip to a Quaker Retreat Center, Camp Neekaunis, in Ontario, Canada. The Clerk, Peggy Daub, expressed thanks for the work of the program. There was support for the program in Ontario. The complete report is attached.

Report of the High School Youth Program Retreat Committee

This report was prepared by Merry Stanford, Clerk of the Committee, and Robb Yurisko, Coordinator of the Program. Robb is presenting the report on behalf of Merry and the Committee. The following persons serve on the Committee: Joyce Balderston, Meghan Diffenderfer, Clemence Ravacon Mershon, and Ana Reichenbach. The LEYM High School Teen Retreat Program is staffed by a contractual youth worker, who plans and implements four retreats during the program year. Three retreats were conducted prior to annual sessions, on a college campus and in monthly meetings, and these were reported about at Representative Meeting. The fourth retreat, held in the summer, is occurring right here at annual sessions. This is the first time LEYM has integrated the teen retreat program and the High School Program held at annual sessions. We had three goals in integrating these two programs:

- To increase teen attendance at annual sessions.
- To increase teen attendance at the Teen Retreats.
- To integrate the two communities of teens which have, until now, been separate: some teens attend only the teen retreats, and some teens attend only the annual sessions. We know of only one teen who has, until now, regularly attended both.

Our first goal has been well met! Last year there were six teens attending these sessions. This year there are 16! Our teen retreats have also been attended by five or six (different) teens. We hope that this increase in attendance will continue into the fall. We know from previous experience and the presence of Adult Young Friends here at annual sessions every year, how vital it is to provide an active teen retreat program in order to nurture Quaker community!

The fall retreat is being sponsored by Red Cedar Friends Meeting, in Lansing, Michigan over the Veterans' Day weekend, November 9-12, 2012. The program will begin on Friday evening and extend at least through Sunday lunch, and possibly through Monday lunch, depending on school schedules. Further retreats will include the famous 'Quake the Rocks the Midwest' sponsored by ILYM and attended by various yearly meetings and Friends Schools which be held in Evanston Illinois over MLK Jr Day weekend in January 2013 and then a second Quake sponsored by LEYM which will be held in May 2013 on Earlham's Campus and attended by various Yearly Meetings including ILYM, OVYM and IYM with Scattergood and Olney Friends Schools being invited as well.

Some of the work we have been doing this year is collecting data from young Friends about the benefits and challenges of attending the LEYM Teen Retreats. We have collected some of that data online, and some of it at Retreats.

Our online survey revealed that the primary factor that keeps teens away from the retreats is transportation, although some are also challenged by their busy schedules or the cost of getting to the retreats. We are happy to say that we received clarification at Representative Meeting from Finance Committee that teens can apply to the Presiding Clerk for travel reimbursement for attending the Teen Retreats, in the same way that Friends may apply for travel reimbursement for attending LEYM committee meetings. So we hope that cost for transportation is not an inhibiting factor for families. However, even when cost is not a factor, teens have trouble getting rides to the retreats. Car pools are often arranged, but even then teens may have a hard time getting a ride to the pickup point.

It appears that in most of our moderate and larger meetings where there are teens, the number of active teens in the Meeting is only one to four. Our meetings are distant from each other, and teens can feel pretty isolated in their communities. Parents have busy work weeks and cannot always leave work early

to drive their teen on a Friday afternoon or evening to a pickup point. We are therefore asking nonparent Friends with flexible schedules to assist families by volunteering to drive teens to their retreats. There is also a need for a volunteer to coordinate the transportation of teens in the monthly meetings. More information will be coming to meetings about this in the fall.

A testament to the power of these retreats can be felt when we hear comments like: “I have finally found a place where I can be myself” “Now I know why my parents are Quaker” and “I have really never laughed so hard in my entire life”. The larger joint Retreats seem to have the most impact hence we are working this year to create a second larger joint retreat or “Quake” in the Spring and those plans are flowing smoothly! Being witness to and part of the deep sense of community that our Teens create when they come together across States, Yearly Meetings and even different branches of Friends is always a distinct privilege and a beautiful example for adult Friends.

Next summer we are hoping to participate in a week-long Retreat/Service Trip and an Opportunity has presented itself for our Teens to volunteer at a Quaker Retreat Center, Camp Neekaunis, in Ontario Canada. Whether way opens more fully in that regard or another, this feels an important endeavor for our Teens and we hope to liaise with Finance Committee to make this possible, as it would require additional funding. Your support whether in prayer, helping financially or offering transport for teens to retreats is greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping to make this last year spectacular! Please spread word of this program around your Monthly Meetings, even if there are only one or two teens there. From what we have seen Quaker Teen Programs can make a huge difference in the lives of young Friends and it is our responsibility to make sure that they have these Opportunities to be together and grow into their measure of the Light. Thank you.

YM2012-11 Clerk’s Report and Executive Committee’s Report

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Clerk of the Yearly Meeting, reported on the state of the Meeting, relating some of the accomplishments and transitions occurring during the past year. An ad hoc Committee made up of Peter Dale (Detroit), Mike Hinshaw (Wooster), Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor), and Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), has been established to investigate how to offer service projects in which LEYM might participate. She asked if there is support for exploring the possibility of developing a service project in Detroit in the next year. There is already a member of Detroit Friends Meeting who is experienced and willing to work with us on this project. After considerable comment and with many expressions of support and suggestions for cooperation with other groups, the Clerk sensed that there was support for exploring the development of such a service project The group approved carrying this project forward. The Clerk asked that if people are so led, they offer whatever support they can to the development of the project. The full report is attached.

Clerk’s and Executive Committee’s Report

Next year, we will be saying happy fiftieth birthday to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Friends meetings in this area created a loose association of themselves as soon as there were unprogrammed meetings founded anew in this region in the 1930s. But it was in 1963 that the grouping took the name Lake Erie Association and Yearly Meeting. A number of special events are being planned, such as a big musical event engaging many performers from the yearly meeting and an opportunity to hear stories of earlier years in the meeting. The Adult Program Committee and Publications and Archives Committee, as well as others will be working hard on these festivities during the coming year, and I’m sure it will be a great occasion. If you have additional ideas for celebrating, please share with me.

Our Representative Meeting next spring will be on Saturday, April 6, 2013. Discussions on the location are ongoing, and will be announced in the fall.

In the next part of my report below I will be talking about responses of the Yearly Meeting to declining membership. I don’t want anyone to be alarmed by this – the decline is slight -- but there does seem to be a trend downward over the last five years or so in the reports we compile for both the numbers of members and the average number of those attending worship at each monthly meeting and worship group. Last fall the Executive Committee met with members of the Ministry & Nurture and Advancement & Outreach committees to discern our priorities in light of decreasing membership in our constituent meetings. At the end of a half-day of hearing reports, brainstorming ideas, and discerning how we were led, we concluded that the three areas of work that could best support our local meetings were: 1) youth

and children's programming, 2) providing opportunities to both youth and adults for service projects, and 3) working to improve communication between monthly meetings and between monthly meetings and the yearly meeting. As a first step in addressing these priorities, I have appointed a task force to work on youth and children's issues. Their mission is "to build a sense of community among LEYM First Day School teachers and other youth volunteers, and to establish concrete means to support and encourage them in communicating with and supporting the work of each other." Members who have agreed to serve are Becky Morehouse of Ann Arbor (Clerk), Diane Mott of Broadmead, and Carla Pratt-Harrington of Athens. The task of improving communication was begun in our Bulletin over this past year by Lesley Walden (Detroit), Editor. Lesley took special care to bring personal stories to the pages, along with our organizational news, and included articles with practical tips for monthly meetings. Unfortunately, he has had to resign his position as Bulletin Editor because of health issues, but the intent is for the Bulletin to continue to serve as a vehicle for sharing of ideas at the personal and monthly meeting level as well as serving the yearly meeting 's needs. Intervisitation among meetings is also seen as a key component of communication, and one that will be given additional attention by the Advancement & Outreach Committee, perhaps with the assistance of others. Finally, the third priority, providing service opportunities, is generating excitement among us. The High School Teen Retreat Program is investigating a service project at Canadian Yearly Meeting next summer in cooperation with their teens. There is also the possibility of adults and youth being invited to engage in a service project as early as next summer in Detroit. I have identified a group of four people who are willing to work on organizing such a project: Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor), Mike Hinshaw (Wooster), Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), and Peter Dale (Detroit). The Executive Committee felt a great deal of excitement about this, but in order for it to move forward in right fashion, I would like to take a moment to season it in this group as well. The concept is strong but at the moment the details are vague, and this is a project that will not succeed without broad support. Service projects were identified last fall as a priority because there is a sense that they have been a way to draw new people into Friends and to deepen the experience of those who are already Friends. We feel called to live *in* the world and to extend assistance to those around us whenever we can. Some of us have knowledge of a person in Detroit who is experienced in organizing work parties there, and he has inspired our trust. It feels as though the time is right to take this step forward, trusting that Friends will volunteer to participate and that the work will fulfill our goals of helping people in Detroit and building fellowship among ourselves. Friends, I ask you now to prayerfully consider whether the yearly meeting is in support of going forward with this work.

YM2012-12 LEYM Worker Report

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead), Meeting Worker, gave her report on usage of the new web site (LEYM.org). She provided an extensive analysis of the hits the web site had during the past year. The full report is attached.

LEYM Worker Report

As in previous years, my tasks as LEYM Worker this year included maintaining a listserv for clerks of monthly meetings and conveners of worship groups, another listserv for LEYM's Executive Committee, and preparing materials for LEYM's web site. Starting this year, I also took on all of the webmaster functions. Additional tasks such as services to yearly meeting committees are assigned from time to time. My work is done under the direction of the yearly meeting clerk.

In May, the old web site was taken down so that searches and bookmarks would not take people to out-of-date pages. I quickly discovered that the meeting and worship group web pages created and hosted by the yearly meeting were only on the old site. After about two weeks of scrambling, and with help from both Bill Warters, LEYM's previous webmaster, and Russ Nelson, who hosts the old site at www.Quaker.org, the deleted meeting pages were recreated from backup files. The affected groups were notified and asked to check if updates were needed. For technical reasons, those pages are still on the old site, but this should not be apparent to users.

My anticipated work in 2012-13:

- Perform the annual updates to LEYM's website based on information from meeting and worship groups' Annual Statistical Reports
- Perform the annual updates to the listservs based on information from meeting and worship groups' Annual Statistical Reports

- Solicit and implement requests from committees and officers for website changes and additions
- Maintain the website
- Maintain the listservs
- Lots of communication via e-mail
- Assessing the possibility of moving LEYM's web site, or just adding functionality, from FGC's new web modules and hosting services, QuakerCloud

YM2012-13 Nominations

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), reported as Clerk of the Nominating Committee. He reported that Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) is willing to continue as Clerk of the Yearly Meeting for one more year. Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) is willing to act as Assistant Clerk for this coming year and then become Clerk the next year entering the normal four-year rotation. Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) has agreed to be nominated as Treasurer. These nominations were approved.

The Yearly Meeting needs a new Bulletin Editor to replace Les Walden (Detroit), who has been forced to resign due to ill health. His work was much appreciated. Joe Mills will edit the Annual Records for this year. The rest of the report detailed the positions, both filled and unfilled, for the rest of the committees and representatives to other organizations. Thomas asked for people to step forward to fill open positions. The finished report will be brought forward for approval at a later session.

YM2012-14 Publications & Archives Committee Report

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) offered a report from the Publications & Archives Committee. The full report is attached.

Report of Publications & Archives Committee

With regard to the 2012 Annual Records, Joe Mills of Kalamazoo Meeting will be putting the booklet together this year. Please note that any documents to be included should be sent to millrae@juno.com by the end of August – that is, four weeks from the close of this meeting. Joe will work on it during the month of September and plan to have copies in your hands within a week or two after that. He will let your Meetings know soon if he does not have your State of the Meeting reports, most of which have already been forwarded to him by the Ministry & Nurture Committee, and would also like to urge you to see that your Meetings send him obituaries or memorial minutes for members who have died, even if they were not mentioned at Thursday's meeting for business.

As for the Archives, this is just a reminder about sending Meeting documents to Swarthmore College. The Historical Library there would love to have your newsletters, minutes, and other memorabilia sent to them once a year. Aran Reinhart will send a reminder to Meeting clerks, but feel free to mention it to them in person as well. We understand that LEYM's Bulletins and Annual Records are sent automatically when they are mailed to constituent Meetings. Thank you.

YM2012-15 Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration

Mike Holoday (Grand Rapids) invited everyone to Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration on September 8th and 9th . More information is available at their website, GRfriends.org.

YM2012-16 Announcements

Announcements related to this gathering were shared with Friends. Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) described the bookstore and some of the changes it has undergone over the last year. She was thanked for her many years of service to the Yearly Meeting in maintaining the store.

Friday Afternoon Session

YM2012-17 Worship, Reading of Epistle from Monteverde Monthly Meeting

The meeting resumed with silent worship at the appointed time. Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) read from a Fifth Month, 2012 epistle from the Monteverde Monthly Meeting of Friends (Costa Rica). The epistle described the spiritual basis for the Meeting's on-going efforts to work and maintain a community based on leadings from the Light.

YM2012-18 Treasurer

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) presented the Treasurer's Report. Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh) has ended his term as Treasurer. Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) has signatory rights and will sign checks for the Yearly Meeting until the new Treasurer, Mike Hinshaw (Wooster), becomes a signatory. Eric's service was noted with gratitude. The report was accepted. The full report follows.

Treasurer's Report

Jeff Cooper reported for the treasurer.

A. Here at Annual Meeting we are in transition from one treasurer to another. Eric Starbuck announced some time ago that he would not be coming to Bluffton, but he has carried out his responsibilities of writing checks and submitting monthly financial statements. With the approval of a new treasurer, his term is over; we on Finance Committee are grateful to Eric for his faithful service over the last four years. The new treasurer is not yet authorized to sign checks. Fortunately, Sally Weaver Sommer is able to write checks on the Yearly Meeting account. Until the new treasurer has been confirmed as a signatory with the bank, requests for payments should be given to Sally. More on this in the Finance Committee report (below).

B. Eric provided a financial statement as of July 1, which completes the fiscal year 2011-12. (It actually includes a few transactions from early July, which we have not attempted to back out.) We are grateful to have received contributions from all monthly meetings but one, and from one worship group as well. These totaled $29,998.50, which is the figure reported for General Fund income. General fund expenses were $26,242.67, a difference of $3,755.83.

Three travel-related expenses are worth noting:

1) In the Travel budget line, we spent only $2961.47 of a budgeted $6500. We don't know why expenses were so low this year. This underspending by $3538.53 nearly equals the difference between General Fund revenue and expenses.

2) As planned, we spent a lot of money on FWCC travel – over $6200. Using the FWCC Travel budget line of $2480 (doubled for one year only) and monies from the FWCC Travel fund, we were able to give our three representatives to the World Conference nearly $1700 apiece. In addition, we sent $1200 to the FWCC Section of the Americas for disbursement to enable other Friends in the Section to attend the World Conference.

3) We spent $1562 from the Youth Activity Fund enabling young Friends to attend the FGC Gathering (mainly) and Friends Music Camp.

In addition, we intentionally spent down two funds that had needlessly high balances: the High School Youth Fund and the Spiritual Formation Fund. Too, the Consultation Fund was used to cover unbudgeted expenses for the FGC Quaker Quest workshop last fall.

YM2012-19 Finance Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) presented a report as Co-clerk of the Finance Committee. Since there is a change in treasurers, the Committee has named Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) as Auditor to examine the Yearly Meeting's books for the last two fiscal years. Jerry Knutson (Pittsburgh) asked if this might not be better described as a financial review. Mike Hinshaw (Wooster), the new Treasurer, and Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) will replace Eric Starbuck and Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) as account signatories. The committee recommended that Sally Weaver Sommer continue to be a signatory. Friends approved. A new checking account will be opened in Bluffton to make it more convenient to do banking. The Budget for 2012-2013 was presented with explanations of how it is different from last year's. It will be brought forward for approval later at these sessions. The full report follows.

Finance Committee Report

A. Audit: When treasurers change, we are expected to conduct an audit. We are delighted that Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) has agreed to audit financial records for last two fiscal years (2010-12). We have asked her to do so within two months from end of Annual Meeting, and will pay her a modest stipend. B. Signatories for Yearly Meeting Accounts: We have had a hiccough with the issue of signatories, who

should be the treasurer, presiding clerk, and clerk of Finance Committee. We expected just to replace the retiring treasurer with the new treasurer, but then realized that Merry Stanford, the previous presiding clerk, was still listed as a signatory rather than Peggy Daub. Our other signatory is Sally Weaver Sommer. On inquiring about changing signatories, our bank, Lorain Bank, told us that one of the current signatories would need to visit in person. Lorain Bank has branches only in Lorain County (Ohio). After some discussion, we decided to open a new checking account in Bluffton, and, when activity is safely ended, close the account with Lorain Bank. Sally Weaver Sommer will arrange to have the new treasurer and Peggy Daub replace Eric Starbuck and Merry Stanford as signatories; s/he will almost certainly need a confirming minute from the recording clerk. We hope to begin this process this weekend, while the new signatories are here in Bluffton.

We recommend to Yearly Meeting that Sally, who is nominated to become assistant clerk, continue as a signatory, so that she can carry out the change is signatories. Moreover, she is expected to become presiding clerk after Peggy, and there is some risk in having both Peggy Daub and Jeff Cooper as two of the three signatories. Thus, the signatories would be Mike Hinshaw, Peggy Daub, and Sally Weaver Sommer.

C. Youth Activity Fund Application for Assistance Form: We have created a new form to be used by young Friends applying for financial assistance from the Youth Activity Fund. It will be available from the treasurer and posted on the website.

D. Finance Manual: There has been for some years a Financial Handbook, but it has not been kept up to date. We would like to see this updated and made available to our committee, officers, and other interested Friends, eventually posting it on the website. We on Finance Committee will take on the task of exploring how it can best be updated, being prepared to consult others for help as needed. We can report on this task to Executive Committee in the fall, and hope to have a draft prepared for Representative Meeting. E. Proposed 2012-13 Budget. Please note the following:

1. It maintains the travel reimbursement rate at 35 cents/mile (where it has been since 2008).

2. In conjunction with the clerk, we agreed to raise the hourly rate paid the Meeting worker to $17.00/hr (from $15/hr). This increases the budget by $240.

3. Otherwise, the following adjustments are proposed:

   a. Travel down $500 to $6000

   b. Finance up $150 to pay the auditor

   c. Publications up $400 to $3400, to cover the expected cost of printing LEYM Advices & Queries d. Clerk's fund down $200

   e. FWCC One-Time Travel line of $1200 is deleted

   f. FGC Special Program line of $500 is deleted, as this fundraising campaign is completed g. FWCC Travel down to $1000, as the next international gathering is not for another four years h. Subsidy for Youth Activity Fund up $1000 to $1000

   i. Subsidy for High School Youth Fund up $1600 to $4900 (returning to its normal level) j. Scholarship Fund for Ministry up $500 to $1500 on request of Ministry & Nurture Committee This brings the total expected expenses to $30,450 ($10 more than last year), which allows us to keep the recommended contribution per member at $40. We are grateful to Mathilda Navias, Meeting worker, for providing us with current figures on monthly meetings' numbers counted in making contributions to LEYM. Our expected revenue from meetings is $30,000, and the increase in the level of the General Fund this past year makes us comfortable with this $450 difference between budgeted expenses and expected revenue.

4. In addition, not a part of the budget, but related, we decided that the cost of additional teens coming to Annual Meeting for the Teen Retreat should be charged to the Annual Meeting fund (rather than the High School Teen Retreat Fund), as we do encourage more young Friends attending Annual Meeting.

F. Thanks to Committee members completing their terms: We are immensely grateful to Barb Warrington, who has served for six years, and Sally Weaver Sommer, who clerked the committee from

2006-2011, and last summer generously agreed to stay on an extra year as co-clerk to help the new co-clerk learn the ropes.

YM2012-20 Earthcare Committee

Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) presented the Earthcare Committee report for the past year. The report described the many activities of the committee, both as individuals and as a whole. The committee paid particular attention to the impact of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, on the environment. The complete report is attached.

Earthcare Committee Report

The LEYM Earthcare Committee (EC) has again had a busy year. Highlights:

- Earthcare concerns were reflected in a reformulated Ad Hoc Committee on Advices and Queries after it was concluded during the 2011 LEYM annual sessions that the document needed further work. Phil Clampitt, co-clerk, accepted the invitation to participate in the spirit-led and productive deliberations of this fine new committee during the fall, winter and spring of 2011-2012.
- Judy Greenberg, co-clerk, participated in the fall LEYM Executive Committee Meeting in Bluffton, Ohio, and both Judy and Phil Clampitt, the other co-clerk, participated in LEYM's Representative Meeting in late March in Perrysburg, Ohio. We were pleased to have a lively EC meeting during the latter event.
- We were happy to welcome Valerie Groszmann, Tom Small and Kyo Takahashi in their first meeting as new members of the Earthcare Committee, held on January 21st at the home of Judy Greenberg in Toledo. It was in part a valuable get-acquainted meeting, and in part a planning meeting for the future.
- We held a second lively meeting at the Greenberg home on March 2nd in which we came to a sense of the meeting that an Earthcare workshop entitled "Discernment on 'Fracking' " should be held during the 2012 LEYM annual sessions. Parts of a remarkable documentary film, "Gasland," would be shown, followed by worship-sharing around specially formulated queries. The workshop title fits into the theme of discernment, this year's Yearly Meeting theme. "Fracking" is the nickname for hydraulic fracturing, a relatively new but controversial method for extracting natural gas from shale formations deep beneath the Earth's surface. We have learned during our planning process that the topic we chose is a particularly difficult and challenging one. However, we remain firm in the conviction that Friends who care about our Earth and all its life should welcome the challenge to explore this topic, with all of its implications.
- Individual committee members remain active in their particular environmental interests, as well as other activities.
- We continue to seek the involvement of younger adult Friends in our Earthcare activities, including as members of our committee.

To illustrate the dilemma Friends face in discernment on 'fracking,' we quote two knowledgeable, thoughtful people, both of whose views we respect, who have come to rather different conclusions: Fred Krupp, President of the Environmental Defense Fund, says this: "Let's be clear: We can't ask people to trade away their health and quality of life in exchange for cheap energy. And there are some places, where shale formations are too close to aquifers that supply water for drinking and farming, where drilling should be banned. / But the truth is, hydraulic fracturing and natural gas are not going away. The genie is out of the bottle and the abundant new supply of energy that hydraulic fracturing has made available can benefit the nation." (EDF Solutions, Summer 2012, p. 2.)

Sandra Steingraber, biologist and member of the Ithaca (New York) Friends Meeting, in a beautiful and powerful essay, "Why I Am a Fracking Abolitionist," says this: "Collective despair, in my experience, is the biggest obstacle to environmental justice. Little wonder. Our problems are overwhelming and entrenched: our economy is now ruinously dependent on fossil fuels in the same way that, in the 1830s, it was ruinously dependent on slave labor. And both are homicidal abominations." We invite you to attend our Earthcare workshop on Saturday to learn more.

YM2012-21 Quaker Earthcare Witness

Alan Connor (Ann Arbor), representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), also spoke on the issues

surrounding fracking, emphasizing the many significant risks involved with fracking, all for an unnecessary increase in natural gas production.

YM2012-22 Adult & Family Program Committee

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group), reporting for the Adult & Family Program Committee, announced a few changes for the remainder of this year's program. Clemence also asked for those who feel led to assist the caregivers at this Annual Sessions to make themselves known to the Program Committee. The Committee is setting up opportunities for discussion of issues of concern to attenders of the Yearly Meeting and is trying to accommodate different dietary needs.

YM2012-23 Friends General Conference (FGC)

Eric Evans (Friends General Conference Nurturing Ministries Associate and Yearly Meeting Visitor) presented a report. He asked us all to consider, "How am I connected to FGC?" followed by a series of questions that illuminated just how broad the contact actually is between each of us and FGC. He emphasized how FGC is made up of Quakers like us, throughout the country. He mentioned some of the many programs FGC maintains. Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported on an FGC program to help Quakers manage their financial planning in a socially conscious way. Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) read a letter from FGC announcing the launch of a New Meetings Project.

Saturday Morning Session

YM2012-24 Worship, Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting

The meeting opened with silent worship at the appointed time. Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) read from the epistle of January 2012 from Australia Yearly Meeting. The epistle asked the question "…what does love require of us as individuals and as a community of Friends?" in the context of our attempts of managing the competition for time. This epistle is available at australianfriend.org/af774.

The Clerk, Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) said that several people have commented to her on the palpable presence of the Spirit during our Meetings for Business. She is grateful for that presence and wanted to remind the Meeting to appreciate the special character of our meetings.

YM2012-25 Advices & Queries Ad Hoc Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported from the Advices & Queries Ad Hoc Committee. He reminded the Meeting of the long history of the Committee and its objectives in developing Advices and Queries for the Meeting. Tom completed the report and laid the matter before the Meeting. His entire report follows.

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Clerk, asked the Meeting to consider proposed Advices & Queries in its Fourth Version (July, 2012). Friends offered support, while a concern was expressed that there may not be enough reflection of the Spirit working through some of the queries as written. Peggy asked the Meeting if they are ready to accept the July 2012 Version and also establish a method for gathering suggestions, concerns, and new insights regarding the Advices and Queries in the future. There was approval. Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) asked to be recorded as standing aside from the decision to accept this version. We thanked all the people who worked on the committees and gave input in any way. The Clerk will work with the Executive Committee and Ministry & Nurture Committee to develop a mechanism to receive future comments.

LEYM Advices & Queries Ad Hoc Committee Report

This is our baby – all of ours. This project has enjoyed a long gestation period (elephantine? – no, Quakerly!) Since 1985, 23 years ago, when our yearly meeting began its annual query process, through the years of choosing and writing special queries to answer our condition, a growing number of Friends have longed for a full set of general queries for Friends in our meetings to use. Work started officially on this effort in the annual sessions of 2008, when yearly meeting clerk, Merry Stanford, was asked to name an ad hoc committee to study and develop a set of queries for on-going use. (YM08 -25.5-6) The Ad Hoc Committee - Raelyn Joyce (Kalamazoo), Josephine Posti (Pittsburgh), Ellen Barnes (Birmingham), David Snyder (Oberlin) and Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) - presented its first draft at our 2010 Annual Sessions (YM10 – 29). Preparation for this took nearly two years and was reported on in Representative Meeting in early March, 2009. (RM09 – 21) This included a set of objectives and a procedure they intended to use.

The first step was to answer the question, besides responding to the annual yearly meeting queries, what are the practices of queries within our constituent meetings and by individuals? Also, what are the hopes, fears and suggestions from Friends. So, well-attended interest groups on queries were organized through the next three annual sessions in which we also shared what we were learning from reading the advices and queries of several other yearly meetings. The list of resources on pp 23-4 [in the July 2012 version] shows those which we found the most useful for our purposes. Committee then met face-to-face in October, 2009, to share the fruits of our listening and reading, and to discern the general form and contents of the document we had been asked to produce. It was then that the form of several topic sections developed with discrete numbers to speak to concerns within that section. It was also clear that a short history of advices and queries – including practice within our own yearly meeting - should be included as well as a section on the purpose and uses of advices and queries. A draft was produced over the next months and copies were distributed to Friends and meetings for testing during the next seven months – through March, 2011.

Responses to the draft were received and the nature of them reported to the Representative Meeting. (RM11 – 19). They were many and extremely disparate. Clearly, every part of the set was not going to please everyone. The return to the historical practice of including advices as well as queries seemed right, as there were some who felt that was essential, although others didn't want to be preached to. The use of quotes at the beginning of each section to frame the topic – long a practice in our annual query tradition - served that need and perhaps feels less like a stern father. The Committee edited the advices within our own text with care to assure that they read more like gentle advice from a caring friend, or from one's inner voice. For the most part, they come at the beginning of the section to flow out of the quotes. A second draft was prepared and distributed to meetings in early June.

July 2011 – Purple cover. This version was presented to the Annual Session and the nature of the suggestions and changes was described. (YM11 – 12). Later, at the same Annual Sessions, an interest group on the Advices & Queries reported and its suggestions were minuted. Friends were clear that the document need further seasoning. It was also asked that our concerns around care of the Earth be more widely represented in several of the booklet's sections. The clerk was asked to reformulate the Ad Hoc Committee, ensuring that Earthcare concerns be included more widely in the document. (YM11 – 24). Clerk, Peggy Daub named a new Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki (Kalamazoo), Don Nagler (Pine River), Paula Deming (North Columbus), Phil Clampitt (Birmingham and Earthcare) and Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor, Clerk), asking them to continue the work of developing the Advices & Queries and taking into account the suggestions made at this session. Third Draft: January 2012 – Green cover. The new Ad Hoc Committee met face to face in a truly gathered meeting in October, 2011, worked further by e-mail and phone, and distributed a new draft to all meetings and groups and on the yearly meeting website in January, 2012, with a deadline to receive suggestions and comments by Representative Meeting (early April, 2012). Here, the section on Earthcare was considerably rewritten and more quotes brought in as well as ecological aspects within other sections. The growing significant of Earthcare in the yearly meeting's concern was also included in the section on Advices and queries on LEYM to demonstrate the passion behind this which we all experienced when the first Earthcare annual query was read in 2004, and then last year when the Earthcare committee voiced its desire that the concern be better represented in our advices and queries.

Fourth Draft: July 2012 – (white, no cover). The Committee worked on these suggestions, made a number of changes, particularly in the Meeting Community and Outreach sections, and distributed a fourth draft to meetings and groups and on the website by 15 June with a cover letter reporting on the places in the draft where further changes had been made. This is the draft we bring to you today. The letter to meeting clerks and a list of criteria for advices and queries that has emerged during this work could be attached (if so desired). (Criteria were shown on screen.)

Criteria for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Advices & Queries

Advices & Queries are most effective if they:

Serve as an aid to spiritual grounding and focus.

Encourage deeper reflection when considered corporately or by the individual. Open heart and mind to the universal Spirit of Christ and/or Divine guidance. Connect faith to personal experience.

Elicit honest responses, bringing a clearer picture of our condition. Encourage progress or improvement.

Focus concisely on a central concern or topic.

Are clearly written so they communicate effectively.

Connect us to Friends in other places and/or times who also value(d) this process. Advices & Queries are less effective if they:

Preach or instruct.

Make unlikely assumptions about belief or experience.

Imply that there is one "right" answer.

Make the Friend feel unfairly judged.

Use jargon phrases or clichés.

Are too long or try and include too much detail.

Are redundant.

(These points are taken from the responses to various drafts received from meetings and individuals, and from the discussions of the Ad Hoc Committees during the LEYM A&Q process, 2009 – 2012. Additions and corrections are welcome.)

As you consider this latest draft, we are aware of the value of having 66 advices and queries rather than 12, as there are plenty that should speak to us. I, and others on the committee, turn it over to the meeting with this from #8: "Do I receive the spoken ministry of others in a tender and understanding spirit, recognizing that what may not be helpful to one listener may speak to the condition of another?" We bring this to you, having heard from those among us whose conditions have been spoken to by each of the 66 items.

YM2012-26 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported for the Advancement & Outreach Committee. The Committee expressed thanks for the participation of Eric Evans (FGC) in its work at these sessions . Mike explained the goals and objectives of the Committee. They want to encourage monthly meetings to do Quaker Quest, especially the first part, which is a kind of self-evaluation. He also described some of the resources the Committee and the Yearly Meeting have available on the web site and reminded monthly meetings to publicize their events, particularly to nearby meetings. Mathilda Navias can provide contact information for nearby meetings.

YM2012-27 Ministry and Nurture Committee

Don Nagler (Pine River) reported for the Ministry and Nurture Committee. The report outlined the Committee's work with the Ministry Scholarship fund, the Spiritual Formation Program, the State of the Meeting Reports, and the LEYM Annual Query Report. The Annual Query for 2012 was announced:

> Has our Meeting sought the guidance of the Spirit about the future life of the Meeting? What changes do we need to consider? Do regard children and youth as being integral to the spiritual life of the Meeting? How may we offer support to families I our Meeting? How might we, as a Meeting, use a process of discernment to find a path into the future?

The entire report follows.

Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

This report will cover five topics: the Ministry and Nurture's Scholarship Program, the LEYM Spiritual Formation Program, State of the Meeting Reports, the responses to the Annual Query for 2011-2012, and the proposed Annual Query for 2012.

Ministry Scholarship Fund

Jerry Knutson, of Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, received $1000 from the Ministry Scholarship Fund again this year which he used to help with finances for the fall and spring semesters at Earlham School of Religion. He took 2.5 credits in the fall and 2.5 credits in the spring He has to take 6 more credits for the

Masters of Divinity Degree in the next academic year (2012-2013). He expects to graduate in May 2013. A letter requested from Jay Marshall, director of ESR, complements him on his performance and outlines his program. It also states the appreciation that they have of the several students from LEYM who have enrolled in their programs. Jerry has been worshipping with the Friendsville, MD Worship Group, Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, and Orlando Friends Meeting. He has presented workshops at West Richmond Friends, Pittsburgh Friends Fall Gathering, South Hills Worship Group, Sherwood Oaks Worship Group, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Wooster Friends Meeting, Orlando Monthly Meeting, Tallahassee Monthly Meeting, Savannah Monthly Meeting, Space Coast Friends, Palm Beach Monthly Meeting, SEYM Half Yearly Meeting, a meditation group in Oakland, Maryland, and the Prisoner Visitation and Support Annual Conference in Leavenworth, Kansas. In April, he traveled to Kenya as one of LEYM's representatives to the 6th World Conference of Friends. He facilitated a three-day workshop on the exegesis of "salt and light" which was based on the conference theme on "Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World". At the 2012 LEYM, Annual Gathering, he facilitated a workshop on the exegesis of " Salt and Light", drawn from the workshop on this topic he conducted in Kenya. Last year Jerry Knutson's anchor committee expressed strong support for his request for a second year grant from the LEYM Ministry and Nurture Scholarship and this was given him by the Committee. That committee has submitted another letter of support for this, his final, year at the Earlham School of Religion.

Two other requests for scholarship support have been received by the Committee in letters from the applicants and from their Monthly Meetings, both applying for the School of the Spirit, 2012-2014 program: Donna Rodriguez, a member of Broadmead Meeting and Karen Hooker, member of Red Cedar Meeting. The Ministry and Nurture Committee approved of grants to all three of these applicants.

Spiritual Formation Program Report

(by Mathilda Navias, Clerk of the Spiritual Formation Planning Committee) In 2011-2012, we held a weekend retreat in the fall at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan, and a one-day retreat in the spring at the Michigan Friends Center. We plan to continue holding the fall retreat at the Weber Center and to find different meetings to host the spring retreat each year. The retreat leader was Richard Lee of Red Cedar Meeting, accompanied by two other Friends from Red Cedar. The theme was "Healing in the Manner of Friends", and the retreats focused on hands-on meetings for healing (pun intended). There were 38 participants in all, plus the leader; 22 in the fall and 16 in the spring. They were from 7 meetings: 5 in Michigan (Ann Arbor, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Pine River and Red Cedar); Broadmead in northwest Ohio; and North Columbus. Last year we had a total of 30 participants; the previous two years we had 17 and 28.

This was the third year that we used the one-day format for the spring retreat. Michigan Friends Center and its beautiful setting helped the retreat to go well. Ann Arbor Friends acted as hosts, allowing us to use one of their contracted days at the Michigan Friends Center at no charge and providing meals and hospitality. The evaluations filled out at the fall retreat indicated the following:

- Most Friends come to the retreat for fellowship, spiritual nourishment, and /or interest in the healing process.
- Everyone felt their needs /goals were met through fellowship and experiencing healing for worship in a peaceful, quiet setting.
- Highlights were daily worship, opportunities to share with each other, being able to check out the books on the FGC book-table, and spiritual activities
- Suggested changes included more experiential exercises and small group times.
- The facility continued to receive very positive responses, with especial appreciation for the rooms, outdoors, meals and the welcoming environment.
- Friends" responses to Richard's leadership and the program were wonderfully positive.
- One Friend wrote, "Have come for years for rest, fellowship, time to "recharge" spiritually –need the time away to get perspective on my life, my challenges, my joys and blessings". There were no evaluations for the spring retreat.

The retreat leader for the 2012-2013 year will be Merry Stanford of Red Cedar Meeting. The theme will be: "The Spiritual Practice of Dialogue: Speaking Our Truths and Hearing Where Words Come From". Those especially encouraged to attend include:

- Friends who feel alone in their spiritual orientation
- Friends who are eager to listen deeply to the diverse experiences of other Friends
- Friends who would like help speaking with other Friends who may use different language in describing their experiences of the inner life, e.g. God, Jesus, Universe, Inward Teacher, Mother, Christ, Living Presence, Peace, Unity, etc.
- Friends who have experienced, or yearn to experience the gathered meeting in the midst of theological diversity

The fall retreat will be held September 7-9 at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan. The spring retreat will be May 4. We still need to find a meeting to host this retreat. We encourage members of LEYM Ministry and Nurture to participate in the program.

State of the Meeting Reports

State of the Meeting Reports were received by the Committee from eleven Monthly Meetings and three Worship Groups prior to the Annual Meeting, 2012. The vitality of the spiritual life and the concern for the enhancement of the intergenerational fellowship within meetings were evident in those statements, as well as the strong expressions in action for social justice by individuals and meetings in society at large. Several meetings have members working as appointees in the Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, the Michigan Friends Center, Friends School in Detroit, Friends General Conference Committees, and the Committees of the AFSC, FCNL and FWCC. Many meetings are experiencing growth in attendance and several in membership as well.

In general, there is reduced participation by children and youth, but there are notable exceptions.

LEYM Annual Query-2011 Report

The Committee has received responses from eleven meetings: Ann Arbor, Athens, Birmingham, Broadmead, Cleveland, Detroit. Kalamazoo, Kent, Oberlin, Pine River and Wooster. The responses were carefully done and expressed work that was deeply felt.

LEYM Annual Query for 2012-2013

- Has our Meeting sought the guidance of the Spirit about the future life of the Meeting?
- What changes do we need to consider? Do regard children and youth as being integral to the spiritual life of the Meeting? How may we offer support to families I our Meeting?
- How might we, as a Meeting, use a process of discernment to find a path into the future?

YM2012-28 Nominations

Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) reported for the Naming Committee consisting of herself and Michael Fuson (Granville). The naming of Linda Mills to a place on the Nominating Committee was approved. The naming of Ann Sprague to a second term on the Nominating Committee was approved. The naming of Thomas Taylor as clerk of the Nominating Committee was approved.

Saturday Afternoon Session

YM2012-29 Worship, Epistle from Intermountain Yearly Meeting

Meeting opened with silent worship at the appointed time. During silent worship Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) read from the 2012 Intermountain Yearly Meeting Epistle and the Intermountain Yearly Meeting Senior Young Friends Epistle. The theme of the Yearly Meeting was “Nurturing the Next Generation of Quakers”. The epistles touched on what it means to be a Friend and how Quaker values and morals may be instilled in Young Friends. The Young Friends iterated that they have been given the foundations of Quaker values and ways to live their lives and those foundations will never be lost. It is not how often you practice, but how you live your life. The full text can be found at www.fwccamericas.org.

YM2012-30 Peace Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) introduced several members of the Peace Committee who spoke on various issues in which the Committee is involved.

Mike and Carmen Kelly (Detroit) described the troubling aspects of U.S. policies on immigration and the

injustices that result. Friends were encouraged to seek information on these issues (web sites of FCNL and AFSC are good initial sources) and work to remedy the injustice in a way that would reflect Quaker values. Contact with immigrant communities was encouraged. The committee will offer a workshop, "Immigration 101 for Quakers: What Would Woolman Do?", in 2013.

Katherine Philipson, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), listed some of the priorities of FCNL, but stressed the campaign to maintain the current cap on projected growth in the Pentagon budget. She urged individuals and meetings to contact their senators and representatives to urge them to support this legislation. The Committee offered the following minute for consideration on this issue:

> We endorse FCNL's call to all Friends meetings and churches, and all individuals committed to a peaceful world to make their voices heard and their opinions clear to Congress as well as to all available media and local avenues of influence.

The Minute was approved with additional beginning and ending paragraphs to be written in order to explain the context of the Minute. The Peace Committee will send the Minute out to monthly meetings. Max Heirich (Ann Arbor) encouraged individuals and meetings to bring this issue to their representatives and senators during the August recess. He also described efforts by Friends in Michigan to study the implications of this change on employment and to work toward a Green Economy in Detroit and Michigan.

Nancy Taylor reported for Kathleen Peabody (Ann Arbor) on the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (www.nrcat.org). In particular she asked that we petition the federal government to sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which would help protect all prisoners by setting up mechanisms to ensure that U.S. laws prohibiting torture are followed in all detention facilities, including prisons, mental hospitals, jails and immigration control centers. Friends are urged to act to end all torture and to watch for events around December 10th , Human Rights Day.

Nancy Taylor also reported on a Minute Ann Arbor Meeting approved in 2011, urging our federal government to support a U.N. resolution recognizing a Palestinian state, withhold U.S. tax dollars that support the Israeli military, and enforce U.S. tax law regarding charitable organizations that support Israeli settlements. She announced that the Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC) divested from Caterpillar Corporation at the request of Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting. Ann Arbor has also asked the FFC to divest from other similar corporations and to set up a screen for investment similar to that used by AFSC.

YM2012-31 Youth & Children's Program

Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead) reported for the Youth & Children's Program Committee. There are a total of 34 registrants, aged 2 through 18 years, this year. The program seems to be going very well. We thanked all those who worked with our Youth during Yearly Meeting.

YM2012-32 Olney Friends School

Heather Best reported for Olney Friends School, Barnesville, Ohio. She described a focus by the school on a program with a triangle of Learning, Land and Friendship. In this program the school integrates learning, working with the land, and Quaker values. Claire Davis (Broadmead) reminded us that LEYM used to meet at Olney Friends School.

YM2012-33 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Kyo Takahashi (Pine River) reported for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM). GPQM conducted meetings for business in the Fall and in the Spring, as well as holding a Mid-Winter Gathering and a celebration of Grand Rapids' 50th Anniversary. He reported that Friends School in Detroit is still facing severe financial pressures, in spite of successful fundraising. Efforts are being made to solicit other funds from three community foundations. There was a called meeting of GPQM earlier this month to discuss the future of the School. At this meeting the administration, members of the Board, and Friends, as well as parents expressed their concerns. The parents were extremely supportive of the School and strongly urged the Board to keep the School open. A few days later the administration and the Friends School Board decided to continue operations for the coming year. Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) added that, at the end of June, the School was in terrible debt and prospects had looked particularly bleak. The stress of these pressures has caused some divisions in the Quarter and there is need for healing. Kyo presented a new logo for GPQM, which had been approved at the Spring Meeting.

YM2012-34 Finances

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported for the Finance Committee. A new checking account has been opened at Citizens National Bank in Bluffton. Mike Hinshaw (Wooster), Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) and Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) are now the signers for checks. The Budget was brought forward for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. After discussion the Budget was approved. [The full Budget appears in the Annual Records.]

YM2012-35 Friends World Committee on Consultation

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported for Friends World Committee on Consultation. The name Friends World Committee for Consultation and the acronym FWCC will soon be abandoned, as the name is changing to simply Friends World Committee (FWC). A new General Secretary, Gretchen Castle (Philadelphia), will begin in January. Mike expressed thanks to those from LEYM who attended the 6th World Conference in Kenya and reported back to us. A new program, named Living Water and trying to build on the energy created by the 6th World Conference, is under development and should be offered in the region beginning in September. A new web site, Voices of Friends, is under development. The next Section of the Americas Meeting will be in March of 2013, probably in West Virginia.

Sunday Morning Session

YM2012-36 Worship

The meeting opened with silent worship at the appointed time.

YM2012-37 Nominating Slate

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the Nominating Committee. Thomas expressed deep thanks for the 23 people whose particular service is ending. A minute of thanks was approved for those whose appointments are ending. Thomas also thanked Peggy Daub for agreeing to another year of service as Clerk.

The slate of nominees for the coming terms was presented as a whole and approved. [The full slate appears in the Annual Records.]

YM2012-38 LEYM Database Manager

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) reported as the Meeting's Database Manager. Mathilda explained what the Database Manager does on an on-going basis, annually, and on special projects. She mentioned that her work gathering updated information on children and youth was incomplete and she asked that members inform their meetings that she will be asking for information from them soon. She also presented a detailed statistical analysis of the Yearly Meeting. The full report follows.

LEYM Database Manager Report

What does LEYM's Database Manager do? It's much more than number-crunching. Currently, this volunteer position includes the following tasks.

Annually:

- Prepare, disseminate, and collect (oy!) the Annual Statistical Reports from meetings and worship groups; enter the data in the database and separate word-processed files; update the database to compile the new year's reports; produce the reports; and format them in word processed files. Most of these are sent to the editor of that year's Annual Records. Sections of the Annual Records thus created are: the directory; meeting statistics (Recorded Members, Average Attendance, Members Gained and Lost, and Marriages); information on finding a meeting for worship; and the list of meeting officers, committee clerks, et al. Another file is used by LEYM's webmaster to update the information in the "Find a Meeting" section of the website. Two other files are used by the webmaster to update the e-mail lists for Executive Committee and meeting clerks and worship group conveners. I make sure that LEYM's policy on privacy is incorporated in all information on individuals.
- Create a mailing list of individuals in the requested format for use by FGC. Throughout the year:
- Process changes to individuals' and meetings' information.
- When e-mail addresses used bounce back, try to obtain updated information.

- Create files of information as requested by yearly meeting clerks and committees and convert them to spreadsheet or database format.
- Refine and streamline the inner workings of the database and add to its functionality as requested.
- Create mailing lists of individuals in a suitable format for use by groups such as Detroit Friend School as approved by LEYM.

Special projects:

- Obtaining updated information from meetings and worship groups on their members and attenders. At Representative Meeting this year, I was asked to get updated information on children and youth. Due to a series of e-mail glitches, that work has only been begun. I hope to complete it in the coming months. This depends on meetings and worship groups responding to my requests for the information.
- Last year, out of my observation that the numbers of people in the yearly meeting appeared to be declining, I compiled data on numbers of recorded adult members and average attendance at meetings for worship beginning in 2003. I presented the results to Executive Committee at Representative Meeting, which was very interested. On the clerk's request, I did further investigation and analysis. I plan to update this information annually as appropriate. A graph of average attendance at worship from 2003-present and a chart of recorded members from 2010-2012 are attached.

YM2012-39 LEYM Epistle

Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Assistant Clerk, read the Yearly Meeting Epistle. It was approved. The full Epistle, signed by Peggy Daub, Clerk, follows.

2012 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Adult Epistle

To Our Dear Friends Everywhere,

The forty-ninth Annual Sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting were held July 26-29, 2012, on the campus of Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio. We were blessed with comfortable, warm temperatures—a welcome change from the extreme heat of the last several weeks. A bit of rain one evening brought some relief for our thirsty earth.

One hundred fifty-three Friends gathered for business and fellowship in the Spirit on the theme of "Finding Our Way: The Process of Discernment." In Bible study, we followed this theme in such stories as Moses and the Israelites in the desert, and Mary and Joseph after the Annunciation. In worship sharing, we considered how we discern the difference between our will and God's will. Workshops allowed us to study discernment in real-world issues such as violence and environmental degradation.

Our plenary speaker, Brent Bill of Western Yearly Meeting, captured our attention with humor and personal stories as he invited us to consider an interesting approach to the discernment process. He gave four criteria useful for testing a leading, presented as queries for action: the presence of Beauty, Truth, Life, and Love. Friends carried these queries with them, applying them to challenges both in our individual lives and as a corporate body.

Our Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business were held in a deep, worshipful mode, in which we heard reports from our Yearly Meeting committees, our Quarterly Meeting, national Quaker organizations, and two Friends Schools in our vicinity: Friends School in Detroit (Michigan) and Olney Friends School (Barnesville, Ohio). We welcomed the presence of staff members from Friends General Conference and Friends Committee on National Legislation as they participated fully in the long weekend of worship, business, and play. We were enriched by the visit of Friends from Tsuchiura Monthly Meeting of Japan Yearly Meeting.

In our deliberations, we labored tenderly with one another; our affirmations of each other and our Yearly Meeting body were gentle and Spirit-filled. Several visiting Friends shared with our clerk that they had noticed how the Spirit was moving among us as we conducted our business. This was particularly true as we wrestled with the report from the ad hoc committee on Advices and Queries. As Friends expressed both support and concerns, the quality of the silent spaces in the meeting continued to deepen. Creation of our own set of Advices and Queries was a four-year project, developed under the care of a committee bound together by Love in God, with ongoing assistance from Friends across our Yearly Meeting. With the approval of these Advices and Queries, we recognize that it is a living document, and our meeting will create a system for collecting insights to guide us in the future.

We heard reports from our representatives to the sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya. Their experiences included being "moved and surprised," finding "concord and conflict," and witnessing "deep faith and discipline." They expressed their sincere gratitude for being given this life-changing opportunity. Two other members of our yearly meeting were chosen to fill open places at the conference; both used their gifts in translating to help Friends to communicate and understand better and to listen behind the words.

We were enlivened this year by expanded numbers of teens in our midst, as the high-school teen retreat program met here during our annual sessions for the first time. In all, 34 children ages 2 to 18 came to Yearly Meeting; 17 of these were in the teen retreat program. Many dedicated adults joyfully gave their time and energy to the children's program.

As our time together comes to a close, we return to our homes and monthly meetings, eager to share Brent Bill's tools of discernment for finding our way. As you test your own leadings, may you also ask yourself, "Where is the Beauty? How is it True? Will it bring Life? Does it come from Love?"

Peggy Daub, Clerk

YM2012-40 Arrangements and Site

Jon Sommer reported for the Arrangements and Site Committee. This year there were 153 attenders, with 34 of those being 18 or under. The Annual Sessions for 2013 are scheduled for July 25-28 at Bluffton University.

YM2012-41 Youth and Children's Epistles

The Pre-School Epistle was presented and accepted. The epistle follows.

What we've done is run, run, run.

We painted tee shirts with our feet.

It was neat.

It was fun.

It was part of run, run, run.

Building Duplo towers tall, Pushing them over to make them fall.

Get to start over, so we're never done.

Very close to run, run, run.

Number blocks, letter blocks, so much fun

Even missing the number one.

We play a game, the Snail's Pace Race

Match the colors, snail to dot.

Move the snails from start to stop.

This for a moment slowed our pace

Then back to run, run, run.

We went for a walk to the climbing stones

They're so big they must weigh a ton!

This was part of run, run, run.

Then on a few blocks a playground was found

We climbed all the way to the sky

We ran back and forth so way up high

Then slid back down to the ground

So much fun. Another part of run, run, run.

Pipe cleaner—pink and purple, yellow and green, Twisted into animals never before seen!

This short rest was quickly done, Then back to run, run, run.

Thanks was given to Ellen Barnes (Birmingham) and Kate Spry (Cleveland) for all their work with the Pre-school children.

The Early-Elementary Epistle was presented and accepted. The epistle follows. We found our way to our classroom, under the bridge and along the creek; to the farmers' market and to treasures through a treasure hunt set up for us by the middle school group. We found our way to each other blindfolded. We were not sure where we were going. We found our way to somewhere we did not even know we wanted to find (the playground). We found our way to fun games, to the lake and bowling, to the cafeteria and the ice cream machine, to our dorms and the enjoyment of creativity with the crafts.

Thanks was given to Conleth Crotser (Cleveland) and Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) for all their work with the Early Elementary Children.

The Upper-Elementary members presented what they did during their time at Yearly Meeting. The report was accepted.

Thanks was given to Peter Crowley (Cleveland) and Timothy Damon (Cleveland) for all their work with the Upper Elementary Children.

The Middle-School Group Epistle was presented and accepted. The full epistle follows. We are the middle school group for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. We are staying the Bluffton Beaver Dam in Ohio. On the first day we made a treasure hunt for the early elementary group. The prize was a cool homemade paper airplane for each person. We went swimming with demon fish in turquoise blue water. On Friday evening we did a lot of crafts. We made popsicle stick and pipe cleaner people, shadow boxes and kaleidoscopes. We ate all the snacks for the weekend on the first day. On Saturday we added another Friend to our group. We made t-shirts with bursts of color. We had worship sharing about Finding our Way. We went bowling and had to patch a sock. Noah was king of bowling. We did more crafts and played air hockey and foosball. We are lots of ice cream and other desserts. We found that we are all friends and have a great sense of humor. We formed LINDA, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Inspection & Detective Agency. We found out we have a lot in common and we are made of pure awesomeness. We have awesome fun Friends. Peace to all. DFTBA (Don't forget to be awesome)

Thanks was given to Mary Takahashi (Pine River) and Diane Mott (Broadmead) for all their work with the Middle School Children.

The High School Youth Group Epistle was presented and accepted. The full epistle follows. We, the teens of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, met over the weekend of July 26-July 29, 2012. Since Annual Sessions last year, we have met four times. Our time together has been fun. We have met with other yearly meetings for retreats, including Illinois Yearly Meeting and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

We have me in Cleveland, Chicago, on Earlham's campus in Richmond, Indiana, and, finally, in Bluffton, Ohio for Annual Sessions. We are a passionate and sleepless community of young Friends. To us, being a Quaker means acceptance of everyone. We found that our time together, though brief, has offered us many things. But most precious of all has been the opportunity to be fully ourselves. In the coming year, we have several retreats planned, which again cross yearly meeting boundaries as well as including Friends from other Quaker traditions. We find our commonalities outweigh anything that would divide us. We hope that the passion we feel for spending time in community will serve as a testament to adult Friends.

Walk in the Light, The teens of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Thanks was given to Robb Yurisko (North Columbus), Abby Pratt-Harrington (Athens), Michael Fuson (Granville), and Linda Dangelo (Broadmead) for all their work with the High School Teens.

YM2012-42 Minute of Appreciation

The following minute was approved:

With grateful hearts and revived spirits we thank Bluffton University, members of our Program and

Arrangements and Site Committees, and all other friends who supported our programs and fellowship during these annual sessions of 2012.

The annual sessions closed for the year.

Submitted by

Peter Dale, Recording Clerk

Peggy Daub, Presiding Clerk

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Representative Meeting
April 6, 2013
Hosted by Pittsburgh Friends Meeting

RM2013-1 Opening Worship, Reading of Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting

The Meeting opened with silent meeting for worship at 1:21 p.m. Out of the silence, the 2013 Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting was read by Sally Weaver Sommer, Assistant Clerk. [http://australianfriend.org/af1825] Its themes included climate change, sustainable living, and building peace, and ended "Our challenge now is: how to continue to believe in a loving Spirit, which can guide our actions; that is, how to use intuitive knowledge and experience to balance scientific logic. We need our hearts as well as our heads."

RM2013-2 Roll Call

The Roll Call of Friends from constituent meetings and worship groups was made as follows, giving a total attendance of 43:

Akron 2 Kalamazoo 3

Ann Arbor 6 Kent 0

Athens 3 Mid-Ohio Valley 0

Birmingham 1 North Columbus 2

Broadmead 4 Oberlin 0

Cleveland 1 Pine River 0

Delaware 0 Pittsburgh 5

Detroit 6 Red Cedar 0

Grand Rapids 2 Wooster 4

Granville 1 Worship Groups 3

Holland 0

RM2013-3 Clerk's Report

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) gave the following report.

The Executive Committee met three times since the close of Annual Sessions. Once before scattering from Bluffton to introduce ourselves to each other as this year's Executive Committee and to plan a time for a fall meeting, and then again in Oberlin at the end of October and last night here in Pittsburgh. One of the important things that came out of our October meeting was a decision to purchase insurance for the yearly meeting. This had become a requirement for future use of the Adrian Dominican facilities where we have held our fall Spiritual Formation retreats for the last several years. It was also noted that such insurance could prove useful in conjunction with our children, youth, and teen programs. I am happy to say that we are continuing to work on the three priorities for the yearly meeting identified last year: 1) communication, 2) supporting youth activities, and 3) provision of service opportunities. You will be hearing more about these in the reports to follow at this meeting. For your approval I bring forward the following names, to serve on a Naming Committee that will have responsibility for identifying people to serve on the Nominating Committee: Nancy Taylor and Seth Reichenbach.

The names of Nancy Taylor and Seth Reichenbach to serve as a Naming Committee for 2013 were **approved.**

RM2013-4 LEYM Mailing List & Friends School in Detroit

The clerk invited Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) to bring forward a concern that has arisen among several Friends in Broadmead Meeting. She asked if the yearly meeting were willing to make the Yearly Meeting mailing list available to Friends School in Detroit whenever they would like to use it without the need for approval each time it is requested. The list could be used for fundraising or other appropriate purposes as the school saw the need. The rationale is that the school is under the direct care of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, and can be viewed as a ministry of the yearly meeting. The request did not come from the school.

During discussion it was also noted that the Yearly Meeting has historically supported Olney Friends School as well. Some concerns were raised, asking that the list be used for fundraising and the disseminating of information about the school only, and that the list not be sold. It was clarified that this involved only the postal list. It was pointed out that the list needs to be updated. The following minute was approved:

> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting will make its mailing list available on an on-going basis to Friends School in Detroit for use in direct fundraising and informational mailings.

RM2013-5 Ad Hoc Task Force on Youth

Becky Morehouse reported for the Ad Hoc Task Force on Youth (members: Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor, Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens, and Diane Mott, Broadmead). The task force has been charged with building a sense of community among LEYM First Day schools and other youth volunteers. It also seeks to establish concrete means to support and encourage them in communicating with and supporting the work of each other.

In First Month, 2013 Becky and Carla attended a weekend gathering in Philadelphia on "Collaborating to Support Quaker Religious Education" with participants from Baltimore, Philadelphia, South Central, and Lake Erie yearly meetings. Although the gathering was funded by the Pickett Fund, the yearly meetings, and FGC, it was independent of those institutions.

The task force is working to determine how best to plan for a face-to-face opportunity for First Day school teachers to touch base and learn from one another. There is interest and enthusiasm for supporting a gathering around religious education as a means of supporting and growing meetings. The Advancement & Outreach Committee expressed its willingness to support the work of this Ad Hoc committee.

RM2013-6 Ad Hoc Service Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported the committee has identified an opportunity to work in conjunction with Habitat For Humanity Lima (HFHL) prior to Annual Sessions this year. It appears that HFHL might have work available in either Lima or Delphos, both less than one hour away from Bluffton. HFHL is used to having groups of disparate people come in for relatively short periods and is ready to accommodate them. If details for such a work party/service project can be worked out, the Ad Hoc Service Committee will create a detailed advance announcement to let people know of this service opportunity.

RM2013-7 Publications and Archives

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) reported.

1) The committee sent out a notice to all monthly meetings and worship groups requesting that unneeded copies of the 2012 Annual Records be returned to the Yearly Meeting for redistribution. This request was responded to and copies of the 2012 Annual Records are now available for those who need them. 2) The committee is trying to locate several albums containing photographs of past Annual Sessions. Joe Mills located one album, but the others are still being sought. Members are asked to keep an eye out for them. Photographs from the 2012 Annual Sessions are being readied for possible display at this year's Sessions.

3) The committee suggested that another reminder with a deadline be sent out in the upcoming Spring Bulletin encouraging more participation in the Yearly Meeting oral history project. 4) The previously announced deadline of April 14th for the Spring Bulletin is unnecessarily early. It was decided that May 1st would be the new submission deadline. 5) The committee does not currently have plans to update the printed directory of the Yearly Meeting.

The committee stressed that even without plans for a printed directory it is important to continue getting updated information on individuals from the Yearly Meeting's constituent groups so that the database is accurate.

RM2013-8 Advancement and Outreach Committee

Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) reported the committee considers its most pressing challenge is to reach children and young families, laying the foundation for future growth of the Yearly Meeting. It is also paying close attention to FGC's New Meetings Project. The Shoemaker Fund has given Friends General Conference $400,000 over two years to help it seed up to ten new meetings and worship groups. Brent Bill was hired in September by FGC to head the resulting New Meetings Project. The first significant step taken by the Project was to hold a "Consultation" at Pendle Hill last January, where 15 yearly meetings were represented. Sally Weaver Sommer and Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) represented LEYM at this Consultation. Other LEYM members, including Connie Green (Cleveland), Marty Grundy (Cleveland) and Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) are involved in this Project as well.

RM2013-9 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported that $27,063, or about 90% of the anticipated annual contributions from constituent meetings, had been collected so far this fiscal year. He also reported that $23,390, or about 77% of the annual budget, had been spent. He was confident that the Yearly Meeting would operate within its budget this year. He also reviewed funds balances. Mike urged the use of forms available on the Yearly Meeting website for advances or reimbursements for expenses. Use of these forms will greatly expedite bookkeeping.

RM2013-10 Finance Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee, as follows. 1. We are grateful to Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) for completing an audit. The audit was more work than any of us had envisioned, including a complete reconstruction of the year-end report for 2011-12 and a full reconciliation with bank statements. Susan's written report includes a list of 13 recommendations, most of which apply to how the treasurer maintains records, though a few involve policy. We have begun to implement these.

2. We withdrew the three Certificates of Deposit with Urban Partnership Bank, which were paying about **1% interest or slightly more, and established two accounts with Friends Fiduciary Fund, which** currently has a "payout" (an effective interest rate) of 4.5%, and which has socially responsible investing. We maintained the arrangement whereby one account pays interest into the Granville Youth Fund, while the other reinvests its interest; in the transfer process, we added $690.92 to this latter account.

3. We arranged for General Liability Insurance, from the Cincinnati Insurance Companies, for an annual premium of $500. The coverage is valid for all events that LEYM sponsors and for which we pay part of the expenses. This includes youth events, Spiritual Formation retreats, consultations, Executive Committee meetings, sponsored work camps, even this Representative Meeting. We thank our treasurer, Mike Hinshaw, for finding this good rate and setting up the insurance. 4. The committee is working on revising the LEYM Financial Manual. It is intended to reflect current policy (rather than create new policy), but we expect to bring a couple of small policy questions to Annual Sessions.

5. Draft budget for 2013-14. [Copies of the draft budget were distributed to those present.] Returning to prescribed practice, we are presenting a draft budget at Representative Meeting. We note those budget lines where we are proposing different figures than last year. We have tried our best to keep the budget lean, reflecting recent spending patterns. We have added a line for liability insurance ($500). We propose increasing the budget line for the High School Teen Retreat Program from $4900 to $6000; this includes an increase in the stipend – last increased eight years ago – by $100 per retreat ($1100 increasing to $1200) and propose increasing the balance of this line from $500 to $1200, to include the costs of the Retreat Coordinator's travel. We propose decreasing the Travel budget line by $1000 ($6000 down to $5000). With these and other smaller adjustments, the total expenses are $30,240, down from $30,450 in the current year.

We note too that membership is decreasing, and for this draft budget we have used the figure 725, down from 750 in the current year. The total expenses divided by 725 members rounds up to $42 per member, up from $40 currently.

Comments are welcome before Annual Sessions, when we will need to approve a budget. 6. Covering the cost of Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is intended to be self-supporting (thus is not part of the budget), and an Annual Meeting Fund provides a cushion. Four years ago, this fund had what seemed a needlessly large cushion of over $6000, and we decided in 2009 to offer a 1/3 discount to first-time attenders and in 2010 to cover all Annual Meeting costs for youth and children. Four Annual Meetings later, this cushion has dwindled to $371. Last year the expenses were somewhat greater because of the costs of the "extra" teens that attended the Teen Retreat Program held at Annual Meeting, but we also for the first time invited contributions to support the costs of the youth and children attending, and received some $1100. We believe that both the first-time attender discounts and the children/youth scholarships are greatly beneficial to the Yearly Meeting, but we now must find a way to break even on the Annual Meeting.

To this end, we propose increasing the registration cost by $5 ($50 for early bird, $60 for later registration) and decreasing the scholarships for youth and children, so that they would be charged 1/3 of the costs for meals and lodging. (Registration for youth and children remains free.) The 1/3 discount for first-time attenders will remain in place. Finance Committee is authorized to make the final decision on these costs and discounts, but we seek the discernment of Friends gathered at Representative Meeting.

We are immensely grateful for the Annual Meeting contributions last year, and ask that a contributions line again be included on the registration form this year.

The report was accepted. It was noted that monthly meetings should be notified of the new policy so they can properly support their members attending Annual Meeting as well as other Yearly Meeting events for children and youth. The meeting supported the principles the committee followed in setting fees and assistance for this coming year's Annual Meeting.

RM2013-11 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. The committee brought forward for approval the appointment of Rick Todd (Kalamazoo) to the Earthcare Committee and of Flo Friender (Kalamazoo) to the Ministry and Nurture Committee. These appointments were approved.

Thomas reported that the committee is also seeking to fill positions on the Advancement & Outreach, Earthcare, Ministry & Nurture, Publications & Archives, Adult Program, and the High School Youth Program committees. It is also seeking representatives to FWCC and FGC. In subsequent discussion, it was noted that an assistant teacher is needed for this summer's annual sessions, with both the Nominating and Youth and Children's Program Committee working on this need.

RM2013-12 Ministry & Nurture

Paula Deming (N. Columbus) reported that the Spiritual Formation Group had its regular fall retreat last September and will meet again on May 4th in Livonia, Michigan for the Spring retreat. The theme of the 2013-14 Spiritual Formation Program is "Nurturing our Spiritual Life through the Practice of a Spiritual Discipline." Della Stanley-Green will lead. The dates of the retreat are September 6-8 and it will once again be held at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan.

Paula reported that eight monthly meetings responded to this year's query. The committee generated a consolidated response from the eight responses. This was read and accepted.

RM2013-13 Peace Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported the committee is offering a workshop on immigration led by Mike & Carmen Kelly (Detroit) at the Annual Sessions. The committee would like to know of particular concerns and projects about peace and conflict undertaken by Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups.

RM2013-14 Youth and Adult Program committees

Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens) reported for the Children and Youth Program Committee that additional leaders for the high school program during the Annual Sessions are needed. Individuals who are not parents of the attending children would be especially welcomed. The committee is clarifying responsibility during Annual Sessions for high school students both when they are with and without teachers. Parents will be notified of these expectations. Steve Deasy (Ann Arbor) and Thomas Burnett (Athens), who will present song and stories on Saturday night, will also work with the children.

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported on behalf of the Adult Program Committee. The early morning hour that has been used for Bible Study in recent annual sessions will be used for Meeting for Worship this year. Bible study will be offered as a workshop instead. The committee is developing two afternoons of workshops, with five or six workshops being offered on both Friday and Saturday. The Annual Sessions Registration Form will ask for interest in workshops, so that proper-sized rooms can be prepared. In keeping with this year's theme for the Annual Sessions, the committee has planned a Friday-night panel presentation by four people who have experienced the yearly meeting in different ways. Conleth Crotser (Cleveland), John Howell (Athens), Don Nagler (Pine River), and Abbey Pratt-Harrington (Athens) will comprise the panel. The committee will remind people of the Oral History Project to interview people before Annual Sessions. A simple meal will be offered on Thursday evening of the Annual Sessions, with those interested to sign up for it on the registration form.

RM2013-15 Arrangements & Site Committee

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reported that this year's Annual Sessions will be held at Bluffton University July 25 -28. In 2014 they will be held at Bluffton University July 24-27.

RM2013-16 Committees not meeting here

In response to queries from the floor, the following news of committees who did not meet at this Representative Meeting was shared. The Earthcare Committee has been meeting and plans a workshop at the Annual Sessions. The High School Teen Retreat Program Coordinator Robb Yurisko has planned four retreats this year, of which two have taken place thus far.

RM2013-17 Thanks

Thanks were expressed to our hosts, Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, for their welcoming hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Dale, Recording Clerk

Peggy Daub, Presiding Clerk

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
50th Annual Sessions
July 25-28, 2013
Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

Thursday Evening Session

YM2013-01 Opening Worship, Reading of Epistle from Netherlands Yearly Meeting

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the 50th annual sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with waiting worship. Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) read an epistle from Netherlands Yearly Meeting written at its recent sessions with the themes "And then you will walk cheerfully over this earth answering that of God in everyone" and "The History of Slavery in the Netherlands."

YM2013-02 Clerks Table

Clerk Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) introduced herself and others at the clerks' table: Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), Assistant Clerk, and Peter Dale (Detroit), Recording Clerk.

YM2013-03 Introductions

The Clerk invited visitors, guests, and newcomers to introduce themselves, including: Hiroko Koibuchi and Akira Koibuchi, visitors from Tsuchiura Monthly Meeting, Japan Yearly Meeting, who were introduced by Kyo Takahashi (Pine River); Brent Bill (West Newton Monthly Meeting, Western Yearly Meeting), visitor from Friends General Conference; Bill Lefler (Pittsburgh); David Culp, visitor from Friends Committee on National Legislation; Jeni Payton (Kalamazoo); and Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar). The Clerk read traveling letters for Brent Bill from Friends General Conference and West Newton Monthly Meeting.

YM2013-04 Roll Call

The calling of the roll of Friends from constituent meetings and groups provided the following count (corrected against registration figures):

Akron 1 Kent 0

Ann Arbor 21 Mid-Ohio Valley 0

Athens 20 North Columbus 6

Birmingham 6 Oberlin 1

Broadmead 23 Pine River 4

Cleveland 12 Pittsburgh 12

Delaware 0 Red Cedar 8

Detroit 11 Wooster 7

Grand Rapids 6

Granville 2 Erie Worship Group 1

Holland 0 Visitors 7

Kalamazoo 9

Total in attendance 157

YM2013-05 Epistle Committee

The Clerk asked for two people who are led to do so to join with the Assistant Clerk to write an Epistle

for the current annual sessions. Aran Reinhart (Broadmead) and Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) were moved to join Sally Weaver Sommer in forming the Epistle Committee. This was approved.

YM2013-06 Adult Program

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group), Clerk of the Adult Program Committee, explained the upcoming program for the Sessions. Additional clarification and particulars of the schedule were presented from the floor.

YM2013-07 Memorials

The clerk introduced a period of worship for remembering those Friends known to the Yearly Meeting who have died in the past year. Memorial minutes or obituaries were read out of silent worship for the following individuals:

1) Geraldine (Gerry) S. McNabb (Birmingham & Oberlin), who just died on July 21, 2013. 2) Margaret S. McCoy (Pittsburgh), who died August 28, 2012. 3) Wallace V. Conrad (North Columbus), who died June 12, 2013. 4) Weaver Rose Habl (Red Cedar), who died May 8, 2013.

5) Richard Wirth Taylor (Kent & Oberlin), who died October 6, 2012. 6) Leonora Balla Cayard (Pittsburgh), who died December 14, 2012. 7) Rosemary Turner Lore (Granville), who died February 1, 2013.

In the ensuing worship the deaths of Franklin Miller, Jr. (Granville), who died October 12, 2012, and Warren Hohwal (Erie Worship Group), who died June 7, 2013, were also noted.

Friday Morning Session

YM2013-08 Worship and Epistle from the Friends Church in Cuba

The session opened with waiting worship at the appointed time. During worship Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer read an epistle dated February 12, 2012, Gibara, Cuba, from the Friends Church in Cuba, celebrating its 85th Anniversary.

YM2013-09 Introductions

Clerk Peggy Daub asked for first-time attenders and visitors to make themselves known. Sharon and Joel Ottenbreit (Detroit), Ann Francis (Red Cedar), Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar), and Julie Poll (Birmingham) introduced themselves. They were welcomed by the Meeting.

YM2013-10 Clerk's Report and Executive Committee's Report

Peggy Daub, Clerk, reported on the state of the Meeting, relating some of the accomplishments and transitions of the Yearly Meeting during the past year. She also thanked the Meeting for the opportunity to serve as Clerk. Representative meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2014, with the location to be named later. The full report follows:

As I said in my clerk's report last year at this time, "Friends meetings in this area created a loose association of themselves as soon as there were unprogrammed meetings founded anew in this region in the 1930s. But it was in 1963 that the grouping took the name Lake Erie Association and Yearly Meeting." We have now reached that 50th anniversary.

This milestone reminds me that we are standing on the shoulders of those who came before us. We did not come to this point alone, nor do we stand here alone. To my way of thinking, the whole point of a yearly meeting is to serve as a way to connect Friends from a broader geographic area with each other. But this year we are also trying to connect Friends from a broader chronological area with each other, as we take some moments to reflect on what (and who) came and stood in this place before us.

You will remember that a year and a half ago we identified three areas of work that could best support our local meetings: 1) youth and children's programming, 2) providing opportunities to both youth and adults for service projects, and 3) working to improve communication between monthly meetings and between monthly meetings and the yearly meeting. To report on those topics in order: For Youth and Children's programming: Our work to assist those who work with children and youth in our local meetings has not reached fruition yet, but it is on our hearts and in our minds to continue considering ways in which the

yearly meeting might be useful here.

For service projects: Through the hard work of an ad hoc committee, we have successfully completed a one-day work camp prior to our annual sessions. (You will be hearing a fuller report on that in a moment.) We as a meeting will need to determine how we are led to proceed in this vein. For communication: Mathilda Navias, our Meeting Worker, has made a number of improvements to the ways in which we disseminate information. She has continued to update and improve our website, and, as always, we invite committees to send additional content or anyone to send suggestions for that site. Mathilda has also created a number of listserves which make being in email contact with the Yearly Meeting's Executive Committee and with monthly meeting clerks and representatives easy and efficient. It also makes it easy for any of those on the lists to send email to everyone else on it. It has been my profound pleasure to serve the yearly meeting as its clerk for the last three years. It has brought me much joy to see you, the people who are the yearly meeting, act in love with each other and act determinedly to help others through many different ways. Thank you for this opportunity. The date of our Representative Meeting next spring will be Saturday, April 5. We will announce the location at a later date.

YM2013-11 Ad Hoc Service Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) and Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the Ad Hoc Service Committee. The committee chose to offer a service opportunity in Lima, Ohio this year, just prior to the Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions. They introduced most of the 18 participants and had them describe their experiences. Their work at the Habitat for Humanity Restore consisted of cleaning but was referred to as indirectly "building a house." The participants also worked at Our Daily Bread soup kitchen, where they served and interacted with the guests. It was a very moving and inspiring experience to be part of these events. A report will be available on the Yearly Meeting's website.

The committee must now discern whether the yearly meeting wishes to continue to offer this sort of opportunity. Nancy described a proposal from Tyler Hampton (Detroit), who could serve as coordinator to offer a work camp in Detroit. A four-day work camp in Detroit would be much more ambitious and would likely require financial support from the yearly meeting. The expense is estimated to be about $100 per person with an additional $1,350 to pay for the coordinator's work. The committee will survey Friends to help the discernment process and report back later in these sessions.

YM2013-12 Meeting Worker and Database Manager Reports

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead), Meeting Worker and Database Manager, briefly reported on her work for the Yearly Meeting for the past year in these two roles. She has maintained and updated the Meeting's web site, listservs, and database. She asked meetings that have not yet turned in their statistical reports to do so. She also asked anyone with copies of the first ten years of the LEYM Bulletin to make them or surrogates available to her to complete the Yearly Meeting's archive of that publication.

YM2013-13 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported as Clerk of the Nominating Committee. He introduced the members of the committee, then presented a draft report of the committee's work so that Friends could see the roster (and the open positions) and be ready to consider it at a coming session. Friends were reminded that most committees have open meetings.

YM2013-14 Peace Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported as Clerk of the Peace Committee. The committee focused on four issues this year: immigration justice, the Israel Palestine conflict, work with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the elimination of torture. On behalf of the committee, Anne Remley (Ann Arbor) gave background information and read a minute on the Israel Palestine situation for consideration. The proposed minute read:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting calls for Friends to join the boycott of products made in Israel's illegal West Bank settlements and to divest from companies that support Israel's military occupation and repression of the Palestinian people. We join with the American Friends Service Committee, Britain Yearly Meeting, Illinois Yearly Meeting, monthly meetings, and religious and civil society organizations throughout the world in taking such steps in working for peace.

Clerk Peggy Daub asked the body whether the proposed minute met with approval. It was noted that if the minute were approved it would be shared. Friends requested more time to consider and understand the minute.

Due to lack of time, the remainder of the report was postponed to a later session. (see YM13 – 27)

Friday Afternoon Session

YM2013-15 Worship and Memorial Minute for Eldon Hamm

The meeting resumed with waiting worship at the appointed time. Out of the silence Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer read a memorial minute for Eldon Hamm of Ann Arbor. The minute will appear in the annual records.

YM2013-16 Introductions

Clerk Peggy Daub asked recent arrivals to make themselves known. Natalie Holbrook, Director of the Criminal Justice Program at the Ann Arbor office of the American Friends Service Committee, and Shelley Kotz (Broadmead) introduced themselves.

YM2013-17 Publications & Archives Committee

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) reported as Clerk of the Publications & Archives Committee. The full report follows:

With regard to the 2013 Annual Records, Joe Mills of Kalamazoo Meeting will be putting the booklet together again this year. Please note that any documents to be included should be sent to him by the end of August – that is, 4 weeks from the close of this meeting. Joe will work on it during the month of September and hopes to have copies in your hands shortly thereafter. He will let your Meetings know soon if he does not have your State of the Meeting reports, most of which have already been forwarded to him by the Ministry & Nurture Committee, and would also like to urge you to see that your Meetings send him obituaries or memorial minutes for members who have died, even if they were not mentioned at Thursday's memorial meeting.

Your local Meetings will also be receiving a reminder about how and when to send Meeting documents to the Swarthmore College Historical Library for archiving.

Finally, during the recent Executive Committee meeting, we were asked to consider the future of the wonderful timeline of LEYM history that has been created and is currently attached to a wall in the University dining area. Publications & Archives Committee suggests that it be kept by someone in Bluffton, as long as LEYM continues to hold its annual meetings here, so that it can be made available at future celebrations. (Now that we see how much fun they are, we might well decide to hold them every five or ten years, rather than wait for another fifty.) So , if a local Friend is willing to host the timeline in the meantime, please let the Clerk know at your earliest convenience!

Joe Mills requested that any photographs from or about this annual meeting be made available to him.

YM2013-18 American Friends Service Committee

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported as one of our representatives to the American Friends Service Committee. Joann reported for herself, John Deikis (Ann Arbor), and Seth Reichenbach (North Columbus), LEYM representatives, and in collaboration with AFSC board members Kate Nolan (Red Cedar) and Ann Francis (Red Cedar), on the American Friends Service Committee's Corporation Meeting in March 2013. She described the effort AFSC is making to re-establish its contact with meetings through Quaker liaisons. The full report follows:

Report to LEYM on AFSC 2013 Corporation Meeting (March 1-3, 2013) As AFSC approaches its hundredth birthday (in 2017), it is working hard to re-position itself to renew the unique blend of service and prophetic witness that characterized its early years. The invitation to Quakers to rejoin hands and work in deeper partnership is explicit. We return from this year's Corporation meeting ready to recommend that Lake Erie Yearly Meeting accept this invitation in active ways. We believe a more lively partnership has potential to strengthen our own spiritual community and further our witness. The painful downsizing and restructuring of AFSC programs that was necessitated by the 2008 economic crash has

been completed, fiscal soundness is returning, and the outlines of the emerging directions are becoming clear. LEYM's Midwest Region now includes offices in Akron, Ann Arbor, Chicago, Dayton, Des Moines, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Minneapolis, and St. Louis. Two major prophetic themes that echo AFSC's early commitment to combine humanitarian service with courageous witness against systemic "seeds of violence" among us: Demonstrating the power of nonviolence to transform lives and communities affected by violence, with a focus on youth.

Challenging the false narrative that war, violence and coercion are effective ways to bring peace and justice. In a number of ways, AFSC has recognized the distance that had grown between its work and much of the Religious Society of Friends, and is actively inviting Quakers "back in" to its work. In addition to articulating the themes above, which we believe will resonate with many Friends, we notice these concrete changes so far:

> Check out AFSC's lively blog, Acting in Faith, at http://www.afsc.org/friends) A Meeting Liaison program can bring updates to monthly meeting attenders An "Introduction to Quaker Testimonies" helps introduce non-Quakers to our ways Opportunities for service and learning are being developed for all ages of Quakers Young adult Friends are joining AFSC's governance and decision-making work.

We recommend that LEYM:

> Use an intergenerational "consultation" workshop at this summer's Yearly Meeting to explore AFSC's invitation to deeper partnership.
>
> Encourage 100% of LEYM Monthly Meetings to establish AFSC Meeting/Church liaisons We appreciate the opportunity to represent LEYM and AFSC to each other.

YM2013-19 Treasurer

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) presented his annual report and explained the various lines in the report, reminding us that the fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30. The report was accepted. The full report appears immediately following these minutes of the annual sessions.

YM2013-20 Finance Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported as Clerk of the Finance Committee. He began by explaining the basis for the proposed budget for 2013-14 that had first been presented at Representatives Meeting. The committee feels that there is enough money in the General Fund (more than $16,000) to cover one-time requests for funds if annual contributions were to be reduced from $42 to $40 per person. The proposed budget was laid over to be considered further at a later session.

Jeff then presented three proposed revisions of the Yearly Meeting's Financial Manual (described fully below).

Proposed text:

Approval of expenditures from the Youth Activities Fund is the responsibility of an ad hoc committee of the presiding clerk, treasurer, and clerk of the Youth & Children Committee, proceeding within the constraints of the budget approved by the Yearly Meeting. If need be, the assistant clerk, clerk of Finance Committee, and another representative of Youth & Children Committee can be consulted or act as replacements for the presiding clerk, treasurer, and clerk of the Youth & Children Committee respectively. Requests for assistance should be made to the presiding clerk by completing the application form that appears below as Appendix C.

This was approved.

Proposed text:

Ministry & Nurture. This line supports activities of the Ministry & Nurture Committee.

This was approved.

Proposed text (revised):

For special travel needs of Friends within the Yearly Meeting relating to Quaker work, the presiding clerk, the treasurer, and the clerk of the Finance Committee will consult with one another, and the

presiding clerk will respond. Other officers, other committee clerks, and other members of the Finance Committee may be consulted as needed.

This was sent back to committee with a request for clarification.

The full report follows:

Finance Committee Report, Annual Meeting, 2013

A. Budget for 2013-14 (See separate Excel file, 2013-14 budget) A draft budget was presented at Representative Meeting and printed in the spring Bulletin. Until yesterday we received no comment on it. Since then we have considered a few questions about possible additional expenditures this year. As of this writing, our list of expenses has only one minor change: it has increased by $100 because we realized that we had not paid the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore for archiving our records within the past year, and so should pay them twice this year. This brings expenses to $30,340.

On the income side, we have a change we believe you will appreciate. Analysis of financial statements for the past five years shows that on average our budgets have exceeded our expenditures by over $3300 per year, and our income has exceeded our expenditures by about half that much. This means that we are asking monthly meetings to contribute enough funds to meet our budget, while spending less than they contribute. Meanwhile, our General Fund has grown to a level higher than it need be. In the draft budget we had suggested a per/member contribution of $42, up from $40. We asked ourselves what would happen if we left this at $40. With an estimated membership of 725, this works out to $29,000. Our expenses have never exceeded this figure, but income has exceeded it the past two years. If expenses exceed income, we can pay the balance from the surplus in the General Fund. Hence our recommended budget returns to a suggested contribution of $40 per member. You may well ask why we don't reduce budgeted expenses to match budgeted income. We certainly considered this. There are three principal lines where we have a pattern of budgeting for contingencies rather than for predicted spending: contract worker, clerk's fund, and travel. In each case we wish to continue this pattern so that we will not feel constrained in spending from them. In the unlikely event that actual expenses match or even exceed the budgeted amount in all these lines, we have the General Fund to fall back on.

Finally, we have kept the reimbursement rate for travel at 35 cents per mile.

B. As reported at Representative Meeting, we have been at work on a revised version of our financial manual. This manual reflects approved policy, but there are three instances where we are suggesting new or revised policy.

1. Composition of the ad hoc committee that addresses requests for assistance from the youth activities fund:

Background: Over the years different policies have been minuted on the membership of this ad hoc committee: the presiding clerk and treasurer are constant, but the third person has been a) the clerk of Finance Committee; b) the clerk of Youth & Children Committee; and c) a representative from Youth & Children. When this question was put to Executive Committee, they recommended that the third person be the clerk of Youth & Children, but that the arrangement be sufficiently flexible to allow substitutes for any of these persons. Finance committee supports this suggestion. Proposed text:

Approval of expenditures from the Youth Activities Fund is the responsibility of an ad hoc committee of the presiding clerk, treasurer, and clerk of Youth & Children Committee, proceeding within the constraints of the budget approved by Yearly Meeting. If need be, the assistant clerk, clerk of Finance Committee, and another representative of Youth & Children Committee can be consulted or act as replacements for the presiding clerk, treasurer, and clerk of Youth & Children Committee respectively. Requests for assistance should be made to the presiding clerk by completing the application form that appears below as Appendix C.

2. Redefining the purpose of the Ministry & Nurture budget line. Background: The Ministry & Nurture budget line was originally established to pay for the arrangement of consultations within the Yearly Meeting (e.g., for monthly meeting clerks). Later we established a Consultation Fund for this same purpose. When Jeff asked M&N whether this budget line was still needed, they requested keeping it for a different purpose: enabling them to pay for costs associated with committee business. This is equivalent to establishing a new fund, which happens to have the same name as an existing fund.

Proposed text:

Ministry & Nurture. This line supports activities of the Ministry & Nurture Committee. 3. Continuing/Reviving a minute from 2002, whose original intention may have been temporary. Background: YM2002-42 reads: “Friends approve that the treasurer, Finance … Committee, and presiding clerk may use some of the surplus if there are additional expenses, especially in regard to travel funds.”

There is no context for this particular minute, but the Finance Committee report in that session (YM 2002-11) referred to travel expenses of our representatives to FGC Program Committee not being covered by either LEYM or FGC. We are not certain whether his applies only to 2002-03 or indefinitely. Experience suggests that, finances permitting, we wish to support some requests for assistance with travel costs that don’t fall under the existing definition of travel or other assistance funds. Consultation among the presiding clerk, the treasurer, and at least one other representative of Finance Committee, along with others as needed provides flexibility, weighing variables including availability of funds, and ensures that requests are considered by at least three Friends.. Proposed text (original):

For special travel needs of Friends within the Yearly Meeting, the presiding clerk, the treasurer, and the clerk of the Finance Committee will consult with one another, and the presiding clerk will respond. Other officers, other committee clerks, and other members of the Finance Committee may be consulted as needed.

Proposed text (revised):

> **For special travel needs of Friends within the Yearly Meeting relating to Quaker work, the** presiding clerk, the treasurer, and the clerk of the Finance Committee will consult with one another, and the presiding clerk will respond. Other officers, other committee clerks, and other members of the Finance Committee may be consulted as needed.

YM2013-21 Friends General Conference

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) reported for herself, Paula Deming (Columbus), and Marvin Barnes (Birmingham) as LEYM representatives to the Friends General Conference (FGC) Central Committee. She outlined some of the work that Friends General Conference does in trying to foster a growing and vital Quaker community. Brent Bill (West Newton Monthly Meeting, Western Yearly Meeting), our visitor from FGC also reported on his work as Coordinator of the FGC New Meetings Project. The full report from our representatives follows:

FGC adopted a new vision statement at Central Committee in October 2012: “We envision a vital and growing Religious Society of Friends – a faith that deepens spiritually, welcomes newcomers, builds supportive and inclusive community, and provides loving service and witness in the world. Through Friends General Conference, we see Quakers led by Spirit joining together in ministry to offer services that help Friends, meetings, and seekers to explore, deepen, connect, and serve within the context of our living faith.”

FGC received the largest grant in its history, $400,000 over two years, from the Shoemaker Foundation for support of the New Meetings Project and continued support for Quaker Quest. FGC continues to be more than the Gathering. Through dedicated staff and volunteers, FGC offers a multitude of services and programs, in addition to the well-loved annual Gathering, including: Traveling Ministries Program, providing the assistance of seasoned Friends who come to your meeting to assist with retreats, conflicts, workshops on Quaker process, etc. QuakerBooks (bookstore), providing books online and at Gathering and Yearly Meetings which are Quaker-themed or consistent with Quaker values.

Couple Enrichment, a program of faith-based group support for any couple, whether married or unmarried, gay or straight.

Quaker Quest, assisting Friends in doing inreach and outreach. QuakerFinder, an online resource to help seekers and Friends find Quaker meetings. QuakerPress publishing books and other materials of importance to Friends, such as Black Fire, Conversations with Christ, and last year’s well-received Letters from a Fellow Seeker. QuakerBridge Media, a new venture which publishes with financial support from the author, this year published a children’s book, *The Snake Fence.*

Ministry on Racism, offering support to Friends of Color, and helping meetings challenge racism. Friends Meeting House Fund, lending money to help meetings build, buy or renovate their meeting houses. Faith and Play, a supplement to the Montessori-based Godly Play curriculum focusing on Quaker experience. FGC Gathering, held annually, a wonderful festival of Spirit! FGC has developed some new services and tools, in addition to those above. You can find out more at www.fgcquaker.org.

Sparkling Still is a developmentally appropriate curriculum for preschool through age 8 using well-known and accessible children's books. Topics include sense of self, family and community, the natural world, the Bible and Quakerism, worship, celebrations, empowerment, and Quaker testimonies, as well as guidance on hard issues like grief, divorce, extreme weather, and violence. New Meetings Project and the New Meetings Toolbox. Brent Bill staffs this project and, with a small work group and a team of Friends who will serve as mentors, and in communication with yearly meetings, provides practical and spiritual assistance to Friends and seekers wishing to start a new worship group.

Quaker Cloud has three basic components:

A website for your meeting that is easy to build and maintain. (available now) A minute manager that allows you to archive, search and share minutes with your meeting, and if you want, with Friends and the world. (available now)

A meeting directory, where meeting members maintain their own information and where you can print a current directory in a few clicks. (Coming)

FGC's Stewardship Services Program offers free services to Friends in the US and Canada on how to shape your financial decisions grounded in your Quaker faith. The program offers financial planning for individual Friends as well as workshop sessions for monthly meetings on financial and retirement planning, estate planning, and stewardship investing.

All of this good work doesn't come free. FGC increased its fundraising goal by an ambitious $100,000 this year. In addition, the Shoemaker grant requires an additional $100,000 match. Friends are asked to consider what they can give during this fiscal year, ending September 30, to help FGC move forward in its vision of a revitalized Religious Society of Friends.

Saturday Morning Session

YM2013-22 Worship and Epistle from Monteverde Meeting

The meeting resumed with waiting worship at the appointed time. Out of the silence Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer read an epistle from Monteverde Meeting, Costa Rica, dated May 12, 2013. The epistle movingly related how the meeting's on-going journey as a community over the previous year had served to nurture its spiritual life.

YM2013-23 Advancement and Outreach Committee

Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) reported as clerk of the Advancement and Outreach Committee. Dolores explained that among the charges of the committee is to nurture and encourage individuals and meetings by personal visits. The committee has considered endorsing a travel minute from Red Cedar Monthly Meeting for Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), who is called to minister to individuals and meetings. After discussion, it was discerned that whereas the Yearly Meeting unites behind this calling it should instead write its own minute to best reflect Merry's relationship to the Yearly Meeting. The matter was laid over to the Advancement and Outreach Committee, for drafting of a travel minute to be brought back for consideration at a later session.

The committee requested a $600 budget line as reimbursement for the mileage Merry expects to incur in the course of her ministry this coming year within Yearly Meeting under the auspices of this committee. Finance Committee has considered this and does not see the request as a financial problem. This was **approved.**

The committee continues to develop ideas for encouraging and developing First Day School programs as a way of developing meetings.

YM2013-24 Ministry and Nurture Committee

Paula Deming (Columbus) reported as clerk of the Ministry and Nurture Committee. She reported on: the Ministry Scholarship Fund; the Spiritual Formation Program; State of the Meeting Reports; the Annual Query; and a potential FGC Couple Enrichment Retreat. Merry Stanford and Peter Wood approached the committee with a proposal to lead a Couple Enrichment retreat under the care of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting in spring 2014. The committee considered this request and recommends that we offer the program. This was approved. The financial component will be considered by the Finance committee, with the expectation that most of the expense will be recouped through registration. We reaffirmed that our yearly meeting continues to support participation in our programs by all, regardless of ability to pay. The full report follows:

The Ministry and Nurture Committee sponsors the LEYM Spiritual Formation Program, and we administer the Ministry Scholarship Fund. We also develop the LEYM Annual Query as well as collect and read the annual monthly meeting State of the Meeting reports.

Ministry Scholarship Fund:

For the past several years the Ministry Scholarship Fund has been used by Friends in the yearly meeting. There were not any requests for scholarships this year. This committee would encourage Friends to apply for the scholarship, which is available every year in the amount of $1,000. The Spiritual Formation Program:

This year's fall gathering will take place on September 6-8 at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan; the spring follow up will take place on May 3. This year's theme is "Nurturing Our Spiritual Life through the Practice of a Spiritual Discipline." The leader, Della Stanley-Green, is a recorded minister in Western Yearly Meeting. Della provides spiritual direction for individuals and groups, supervises spiritual direction interns, teaches spiritual formation, and leads retreats and workshops. State of the Meeting reports:

I'd like to start with a quote from one of the State of the Meeting reports: "Recording the condition of our Meeting seems rather straightforward. The annual review serves a purpose. But to rehash the litany of housekeeping tasks and Meeting activities each year does not truly reflect our spiritual state, which is in fact the essence of any Meeting. Spiritual self-examination is analogous to a clearness committee of the whole. Introspection is not unlike waiting for clarity out of the silence. And so we look at our outward characteristics and activities to discern the spiritual base that is manifested in what we do." (Wooster Monthly Meeting)

We were delighted to receive eighteen State of the Meeting reports this year, including several from worship groups. As we read the reports, we noticed a sense of loving spirit throughout. Some meetings expressed this in their descriptions of meeting for worship, some in how they care for one another, and some in their witness to our testimonies to the world. Some remarked on the profound depth of the silence for worship and the sense of being gathered. Many wrote of their connectedness to each other and their community, and expressed both joy and gratitude for God's presence among them. One theme that stood out in some reports was how meetings are working through conflicts between individuals or within Meeting for Business. Some meetings recognize that conflict can be a gift in itself, and that it can help them appreciate what they have as well as what they might strive for. Working through conflict in a loving manner can result in a deepening of spirit and connection to the community of Friends. Some Meetings wrote of special activities that have deepened spirit and community. For example, at the end of meeting, Sandusky Worship group shares joys and sorrows, and holding intentions in the Light. In Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting, a Friend designated as "The Friendly Heart," is available to listen to concerns and respond to questions. Other meetings mentioned the use of LEYM resources. Several meetings mentioned the Spiritual Formation program, for example. Some meetings that do not answer the Annual LEYM Query instead use the query in crafting their State of the Meeting reports. We encourage members of LEYM to read the State of the Meeting reports, all of which will be published in the Annual Records. Meetings often mention a wish to learn from one another, and reading the reports is a useful practice for this reason, among others.

Annual LEYM Query:

This year's Annual Query has been designed to address some themes that our committee noticed while reading the State of the Meeting reports. We found that queries from Philadelphia's Faith and Practice

were helpful in crafting our query; we plan to include them in a list of helpful quotations that accompanies the Annual Query.

> How is Spirit present in building our community? What contributes to loving connections within our meeting? Is our meeting a place of safety in which Friends feel they can be heard? In what ways do we come together, opening ourselves to God's love, grace, and forgiveness? Do we pause and feel blessed by the Divine? Can we find ways to continue to faithfully engage each other, even in the midst of conflict? When connections appear to be impaired, what Quaker resources might be used to prepare us for listening to God?

Other: FGC Couple Enrichment Retreat:

Merry Stanford and Peter Wood approached the Ministry and Nurture committee with a proposal to lead a Couple Enrichment retreat weekend in spring of 2014 under the care of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. This FGC program would be intended for 8-12 couples from throughout LEYM. The focus of the retreat is "Dialogue— Tender Listening and Authentic Speaking as a Spiritual Practice." Merry and Peter have experience in facilitating it among Monthly Meetings all over. This will be a one-time program unless there is interest to make it available again. This program would be offered under the care of Ministry & Nurture, much as Spiritual Formation is: the program would be planned and executed by others. Financial component: Merry and Peter have asked LEYM for a budget of $300 to reserve the facility and other expenses. Couples would be charged for room and board, as well as $20 per couple to go back to FGC to support the Couple Enrichment program and another $20 to return to LEYM to help recoup the amount of the line item. Merry and Peter are offering this program as an unpaid ministry to the Yearly Meeting. The Ministry and Nurture Committee feels that Friends should not be hindered from attending by financial issues. While most monthly meetings could help with financial assistance, if the cost becomes a burden to the monthly meeting, the Presiding Clerk should be informed.

YM2013-25 High School Teen Retreat Program

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) reported as clerk of the High School Teen Retreat Program. The full report follows:

The Teen Retreat Program has held four retreats this year, beginning with the summer retreat in 2012, held here at Annual Session. Teens also met

1) at Red Cedar Meeting in November 2012 where they had a workshop on Meeting for Healing with Richard Lee and Merry Stanford;

2) at the Quake That Rocked the Midwest in Chicago in January 2013, with teens from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (OVYM) and Illinois Yearly Meeting (IYM), where they learned about the life of Bayard Rustin; and

3) at Earlham College in May, again with teens from OVYM, IYM, and West Richmond Friends Meeting, where the workshop was led by folks from Dances for Universal Peace. The first retreat of the new year will be held next weekend, August 2-4, at Friends of the Light Church in Traverse City, Michigan. Summer is a lovely time in Traverse City, and the beach on Traverse Bay is an easy walk from the church. The workshop will be led by Joe Kelly, pastor of Friends of the Light. The fall retreat will be held November 15-17, 2013 at the Athens Meeting, and the Quake That Rocked the Midwest will again be held in Chicago over Martin Luther King weekend, January 17-20, 2014, with teens from IYM and OVYM.

The teen retreats are a valuable time for young Friends to develop relationships with other Quaker teens. It can be lonely, being the only or one of very few Quaker kids in your high school. The first teen retreats sponsored by this yearly meeting, with Kri Burkander as coordinator, were influential in helping our adult young Friends build lasting bonds.

There is still time to register for next weekend's retreat! Consider encouraging the teens in your meeting and/or family to attend. Registration materials are available online at leym.org. Respectfully submitted, Merry Stanford, Clerk

Robb Yurisko, Coordinator

YM2013-26 Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns

Robb Yurisko (North Columbus) reported as our representative to Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns. Robb intends to work with the Peace Committee to develop a minute in support of marriage equality for future consideration. Clerk Peggy Daub added that the yearly meeting appears to have a minute already on record in support of all marriages under the care of our monthly meetings. Robb thanked the Yearly Meeting for its support for him as representative to the group. The full report follows:

It is truly an honor to represent you to Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns. I feel a strong connection to both communities and to bridge that gap as representative seems rightly ordered. Thank you for the opportunity. Currently I am completing a commitment to that community's M&C Committee that will end after our Mid-Winter Gathering 2014. It has been such a personal blessing to be part of that committee, whose, what is now, weekly prayerful interaction is a special benefit to my spiritual life. Since our annual sessions last year, FLGBTQC have met twice. The first was over the weekend of February 15-18, 2013 at Bryn Mawr Mountain Retreat and Conference Center in the Poconos. Extensive outreach was done beforehand and over 140 people attended that conference. Niyanu Spann facilitated a series of plenary sessions for us that were interactive and explored our theme for the weekend: "A Place at the Table." Meetings for Worship felt deep and gathered and we were favored with powerful vocal ministry. Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business are what originally impressed me most about this group. There is always an experience of deep, rich sensitivity to Spirit, Palpable Prayer and Living Ministry present during those sacred moments together. One of the largest agenda items over that weekend was that our community consider endorsing and becoming signatories for two amicus briefs that were filed in the United States Supreme Court regarding the two cases the court heard in March. The briefs asserted that religious liberties will not be infringed upon if the laws in question were overturned. After careful reading and discernment, FLGBTQC approved endorsing and becoming signatories for the two amicus briefs submitted to the Supreme Court. During that discernment process it came to my attention that FLGBTQC has a collection of minutes from Monthly Meetings and Yearly Meetings affirming same sex unions and commitments. Among them is no minute from LEYM. After prayerful consideration, I reached out to Peggy Daub and we began an email correspondence to season where this work might be best considered. Recently, Nancy Taylor and I made contact in this regard and I will be working with her and the Peace Committee over the next year to craft such a minute to bring to the body for discernment at Business Sessions next year. Our second meeting was during and within the FGC Gathering the first week of this month in Greeley, Colorado. Our week was filled with prayer, worship, fun, nightly gatherings, private opportunities for personal visitation and business.

There are many things about the FLGBTQC community that I love and hold dear: among them, the silent and live auction/cabaret which takes place to raise money for our community. Another is where the money raised by those events goes - largely - into two funds, the first being a travel fund which helps Friends who could not otherwise afford to travel to our Gatherings the opportunity to do so and the second is a fund for sufferings which Friends from our community can use when they fall on hard times or need financial assistance.

At one point during the weekend of our Mid-Winter Gathering I heard a powerful message shared at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business which we included in our Epistle. The Ministry offered pointed to the fact that in many of our religions of origin we were taught that to acknowledge our sexuality or gender identity would sever our relationship with Spirit, yet our experience has proven otherwise. For we have found that just the opposite is true, that in accepting and expressing our true selves we serve only to strengthen our connection with the Divine.

In a minute adapted in February of 1999 FLGBTQC described their vision for the group (and I am paraphrasing here) as deeply honoring, affirming, and upholding that of God in all people through radical love and inclusion, having faith and voice to speak truth to power, and the courage to be open to new revelation. My experience of that community is living into a deep faithfulness of that vision. I am deeply grateful to you, LEYM, for your assistance in helping me to grow in grace and live into my authenticity and this vision of FLGBTQC.

With deep love and appreciation, Robert Lloyd Yurisko

YM2013-27 Indiana Yearly Meeting

After hearing from Brent Bill (West Newton MM, Western YM) and Vaughn Peebles (Friends of the Light) about the current divisions within Indiana Yearly Meeting, we took time for worship during which those involved were held in the Light.

YM2013-28 Peace Committee

Nancy Taylor, clerk of the Peace Committee resumed their report (from YM13-14). Nancy introduced Kathleen Peabody (Ann Arbor), who spoke as Ann Arbor Meeting's representative to the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). Kathleen asked those gathered to support a Religious Call for a Just and Humane End to the Hunger Strike in California Prisons. She also asked members to support the NRCAT's efforts to close the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. More information can be found at www.nrcat.org.

The minute concerning Israel Palestine was reintroduced for reconsideration. An introductory sentence had been added to give it more context. After discussion the following minute was approved.

> A key step towards stability and safety for both Israelis and Palestinians, and other indigenous peoples of the region, depends on a just agreement regarding the Palestinian lands that Israel has occupied, illegally, according to international law, since 1967. Therefore, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting calls for Friends to join the boycott of products made in Israel's illegal West Bank settlements and to divest from companies that support Israel's military occupation and repression of the Palestinian people. We join with the American Friends Service Committee, Britain Yearly Meeting, monthly meetings, and religious and civil society organizations throughout the world in taking such steps in working for peace.

The full report follows:

A dozen Friends gathered at our meeting with a concern for peace-making and a focus on four subjects, according to our deepest concerns and the current work of our Monthly Meetings: immigration issues on the borders of our country, peaceful resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the elimination of nuclear weapons and influencing our legislators thru work with FCNL, and elimination of torture through work with NRCAT, especially in prisons.

Mike & Carmen Kelly, Paul & Kathleen Helbling presented a workshop on the complex issues of justice for immigrants in our country and efforts to change immigration laws, and to suggest how Friends might respond to concerns about these issues. Their workshop, including a video about our southern borders, was held on Saturday at 3:30 pm.

Our concern about peace in Israel/Palestine is long-standing and we continue with a particular request this year. Anne Remley, from Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting, presented an appeal to the Yearly Meeting to think about boycott as the next step we might take in the work. A minute was agreed to: "A key step towards stability and safety for both Israelis and Palestinians depends on a just agreement regarding the Palestinian lands that Israel has occupied, illegally, according to international law, since 1967. Therefore, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting calls for Friends everywhere to join the boycott of products made in Israel's illegal West Bank settlements and to divest from companies that support Israel's military occupation and repression of the Palestinian people. We join with American Friends Service Committee, Britain Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meetings, and religious and civil society organizations throughout the world in taking such steps in working for peace."

This minute will be sent to all our LEYM Meetings, with a request that they distribute it widely to other organizations, our legislators and the media.

David Culp, the FCNL Legislative Representative and Nuclear Weapons Lobbyist, brought us good news about the fiscal stability and general health of FCNL, and asked us to work particularly on an effort to eliminate the B61 Nuclear Bomb.

Marcy Kaptur, Ohio Representative, is now a ranking member of Congress, working on the budget. Senator Carl Levin, as Chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, needs our attention as he leans toward going to war in Syria. It's clear that many members of Congress are tired of war – but during the next 4 years we're going to be stuck with a dysfunctional Congress. Nevertheless, Congress is going to keep making decisions and we need to continue to try and influence them. Letters to the editor and direct email messages are important ways to make our views known.

Kathleen Peabody brought information from the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

Saturday afternoon session

YM2013-29 Worship

The session opened at the appointed time with waiting worship

YM2013-30 Naming Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported as clerk of the Naming Committee consisting of herself and Seth Reichenbach (North Columbus). Michael Fuson (Granville) and Abbey Pratt-Harrington (Athens) were brought forward and approved as new members of the Nominating Committee.

YM2013-31 Friends Committee on National Legislation

David Culp (FCNL visitor) reported on the status and recent activities of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). David reported that FCNL is in good financial shape and that it has a new Executive Secretary, Diane Randall. In spite of a dysfunctional Congress there have been significant accomplishments and there is a need to continue to work on issues. Congress is making decisions, but it is slow and requires persistence on the part of those lobbying. In his role as Legislative Representative, he encouraged people to email short, concise letters to their members of Congress. Anything more elaborate will be of no use. He encouraged people to contact Rep. Marcy Kaptur, Ohio (Senior member on the Appropriations Committee), who is a very influential member of Congress. He also encouraged members to contact Senator Carl Levin, Michigan (Chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee), about Syria. Levin seems to want to go to war in Syria and we need to convince him otherwise. Finally, he reminded those present to write letters to the editor of their local newspaper about issues of concern. Letters to the editor are very effective when a member of congress is named in them.

YM2013-32 Earthcare Committee

Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) reported for the Earthcare Committee.

Valerie reported that the committee is planning an Earthcare consultation to take place in 2014-2015. The report included a summary of a recent Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) gathering in Boulder, Colorado. The full report follows:

Greetings from the Earthcare Committee! We've been meeting via skype from Earlham and Greenfire and Sylvania this year, selecting our workshop topic and planning it. After working on developing our understanding of such language as bioregions and watersheds, detouring into rural and urban gardening, and last year into fracking, we decided it was time to lay some groundwork for how we move into working together to develop communities that are transitioning into being more resilient in the face of accelerating climate change. We think we have an important and stimulating workshop being presented on grace, resilience, learning from nature's designs, and organizing cooperatives to help us toward more earth-sensitive ways to live together.

Meanwhile, we are reassessing our responsibilities to LEYM, and reviewing how we might better meet these. We are looking at other ways of sharing information and encouraging each other besides through workshops. We are excited to have Jim Crowfoot back with our committee, and are planning meetings to work on some of our ideas. Stay tuned!

In the interests of time, we are including in this report a few highlights of the QEW Steering Committee which met in Boulder Colorado June 27-30, as reported by Tom Small. Shelley Tanenbaum was named General Secretary after Anne Mitchell's term finishes in January. Many of the reports and concerns centered on visions of the future. The visions shared by Friends included "the great unraveling," a call for local adaptation emphasizing arts, crafts, and celebrations; calls for transformation, inner intentionality and adaptation to inevitable change.

Shelley Tanenbaum cited a concern for QEW outreach to Young Friends, particularly support for annual Young Adult Friends workshops at Pendle Hill and a call for Quaker divestment from fossil fuels. Anne Mitchell shared concern for strengthening spiritual support and communication with other faiths and organizations for QEW's members, and the need for QEW to be more engaged with Canadian Friends and Canadian issues.

The Earthcare Committee urges Friends to look up the QEW web site for an impressive and heartwarming PowerPoint program reporting on projects QEW funded with minigrants in 2012, and for the "Five Principles" reaffirmed by QEW at this session.

The QEW Steering Committee also approved a statement to be submitted to the International NGO liaison office of the UN. It begins "Rather than prescribing courses of action, Quakers have found it worthwhile to ask themselves queries" and follows by listing queries based on these four queries: "Do our lives speak?" "Do we respect that of God in everything that lives?" "Do we live in the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion for all war?" and "Do we actively work to reduce our ecological footprints?" The next Steering Committee meeting will be in Chicago, Oct. 3-6. The theme of the meeting will be Climate Change and its relation to population.

Respectfully submitted by

Judy Greenberg (Broadmead), Earthcare Committee Clerk and

Al Connor (Ann Arbor), QEW Representative

YM2013-33 Children and Youth Committee

Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens) reported for the Children and Youth Committee. Carla reported that the program is going very well this year, with 12 adults assisting and 29 enthusiastic participants. The full report follows:

We started our program with all the needed adult support. Often in the past we have needed to find more leaders or group children in larger groups to make the program work. A special thank you to all in stepping up to this challenge and we ask that adults continue to be open to the chance to be with the young people in the future as we look to next year.

Children have briefly explored the theme of Growing in Grace as they have enjoyed activities together. These activities included: hiking, tree climbing, stroller riding, videotaping, and pooh sticks. There has been a spontaneous craft store started on the first floor of Ramseyer lobby and has moved some of their interesting product to the book store area. Yes you can make purchases of this growing venture. They decided the sale was to raise funds for the youth program. This has been completely created, organized, and operated by the upper elementary and middle school children.

As often happens during yearly meeting some very special friendships are being formed. It is particularly wonderful to see some of the middle school children enjoy playing with, caring for and mentoring younger folks. As always this is in addition to renewing and deepening old friendships. We have 29 children participating this year between the ages of 20 months and 18 years. This program is being staffed with 12 adults and extra adult volunteers to chaperone swimming and bowling in the afternoons.

Submitted by Carla Pratt-Harrington & Conleth Crotser

YM2013-34 Travel Expenses and Budget

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported as clerk of the Finance Committee. Jeff brought back two items from the previous session (YM13 – 22). The first is reworded text regarding extraordinary travel expenses. The following wording was approved:

> For special travel needs of Friends within the Yearly Meeting relating to Quaker work, the presiding clerk, the treasurer, and the clerk of the Finance Committee will consult with one another, and the presiding clerk will respond. Other officers, other committee clerks, and other members of the Finance committee may be consulted as needed.

He also presented a revised proposed budget, with a contribution level set at $40 per member. This budget was approved. The full budget follows the end of these minutes of annual sessions.

YM2013-35 Friends School in Detroit

Julie Poll (Birmingham) reported on Friends School in Detroit (FSD) for herself, Joe Mills (Kalamazoo), and Mary Takahashi (Pine River), who are all currently serving as members of the school's Board. Julie reported that the school now has two people acting as co-heads. There are five significant challenges that face the school immediately. The school's supporters are working to come up with a strategic plan to keep the school open. The school's board plans to reassess the Fall opening of the school within the next two

weeks. Changes in the relationship between Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting and FSD are being considered.

YM2013-36 Friends World Committee for Consultation

Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids) reported on the representatives' meeting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Section of the Americas, held in Morgantown, Indiana in March. The theme of the Conference was "Let the Living Water Flow! Friends Serving God's Purposes," which was based on the 2012 World Conference held in Kenya. The next Section of the Americas meeting will take place in March, 2015 at a location to be determined. Other FWCC activities are also scheduled and people are encouraged to go to the FWCC website and see if they are eligible to participate in any of them. It was noted that many of these activities do not require that participants represent a meeting in order to participate. There is an LEYM fund to assist youth in participating in these types of activities. Jana expressed her deep thanks for the opportunity to serve on FWCC.

YM2013-37 Nominating Slate

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported as clerk of the Nominating Committee. A slate of nominees for the coming terms was presented and approved. Additional names may still be brought forward to fill remaining vacant slots at a later session.

YM2013-38 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Marvin Barnes (Birmingham) reported as clerk of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM). Marvin started by reminding the yearly meeting that GPQM is the only quarterly meeting in the yearly meeting and encouraged other meetings to consider forming a quarterly meeting. The recent Mid-Winter Gathering held in Ann Arbor was very well attended. He outlined the various challenges that face the Quarterly Meeting. Marvin gave particular attention to the situation faced by Friends School in Detroit. The school is in a difficult financial situation and its relationship to GPQM is uncertain. The school is facing decisions in the near future as to whether to sell the school building and whether to open in the Fall.

Sunday morning session

YM2013-39 Worship

The session opened at the appointed time with waiting worship.

YM2013-40 Ad Hoc Service Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the Ad Hoc Service Committee. Fifty people returned surveys on the service project questions. She summarized the results and comments, which were quite positive. The Clerk called for those interested in assisting in planning future service projects to contact Sally Weaver Sommer, the incoming Yearly Meeting Clerk. The full report follows: Results of the Work Camp Survey, conducted at LEYM sessions, July 2013: 58 agree to some form of service; 0 disagree; 1 "not sure"

> 53 agree YM should support the work camp financially; 4 disagree; 1 "not sure" 19 would consider participation in a 4-day work camp in Detroit 37 would consider participation in a 1-day work camp in Lima 7 "other":
>
> a. 1-2 days separate from YM time
>
> b. 4-day work camp for younger Friends; 1-day for older
>
> c. weekend work camp at different time
>
> d. 1 to 2 day in Detroit
>
> e. I would prefer a different time than Annual Meeting

Location

Comments: "I do not know what form a work camp in Detroit might take, or what role I might play, but I do know Detroit needs help. I live nearby, and perhaps as a retired person who still has some energy, I could be of some use."

"We should think about an on-going relationship with our partners rather than a one-shot project." "I'd

love to see work in Detroit coupled with some info/background efforts to revive …. perhaps even some study/reading about systemic inequity. I'm finding reading about Detroit's bankruptcy extremely enlightening. And I think it might help overcome a sense of outsiders descending to help unfortunates." "Friends School in Detroit workshop to help clean it up!"

"A four-day work camp in Friends School in Detroit mainly around the school and on the play area in August."

"Probably would not travel to Detroit just for work camp – only (do it) in conjunction with Yearly Meeting." "Let's repeat the Lima model as a means of building the experience base for these service days." Time & age

Comments: "A weekend work camp at a different time."

"Is there some way to be part of a 4-day work camp on a partial basis?" "4-day for younger demographic; 1-day for older demographics with limited energy and with health issues. Age is a factor. At my age and in my health, that would be the limit. And I see most in LEYM are gray-haired and aged. 4-day youth camp would work for the younger Quakers." "helpful to include kids – if possible"

"Children (especially teens) form bonds that are good for the long-term life of LEYM." "I would like to see more younger people involved, especially teens and mid-grade children." "1-2 days outside the scheduled yearly meeting."

"one/two days in Detroit"

"Somehow including people of all ages is highly desirable/essential. Perhaps having co-sponsorship of at least 2 – 4 monthly meetings might help."

"Children would be a great addition, but age appropriate only." "If this happens, it should not be before LEYM. Two days – possibly in DETROIT." "Maybe every two years. One or two days with migrant worker families." "2-3 day work camp or service project, separate from Annual Meeting. Too many days of LEYM or work camp is challenging time wise."

"Sounds too long if it's all day/every day of physical labor. There is some value in building community that way, but you arrive a little tired and dusty for Exec. or committee work. Consider a 2 day (2.5?) with some work and some learning experience. (Can you tell that my aging body fears I wouldn't keep up?) My back appreciates a real bed – thanks for the campus accommodations. A variety of tasks to suit different abilities was a good choice."

"I think this could be a good opportunity for youth."

"We could also do service work in other locations in the future, like Detroit. Perhaps connect with the network that has grown around Detroit Summer.

Organizer

Comments: "Should be a volunteer organizer"

"Concern about paying a coordinator if he/she is a Quaker. Volunteer effort." "I would be glad to help with consulting/exploring options/ organizing. In addition, I would like to consider options for teen service."

Expense

Comments: YM could "help defray expenses of participants who need it." "I would like to participate in something like this with my family, but the expense is a barrier for us. I would like to see opportunities where whole families could participate (maybe include child care for very young kids)."

"I think participants should pay their own way – scholarship for those who need (it)." "The food cost for the one proposal was too high, exp. since workers would be preparing. Coordinator should be volunteer, not paid."

"… reviewed annually and funding should be on a sliding scale. Some Friends have little to give except their labor."

Other comments

"For those who are unable to attend a work camp, could they bring in cans – fruit without sugar or other things edible by diabetics?"

"If doing a soup kitchen, could our group be the only volunteers for the day?" "What are other FGC annual meetings doing with work camps? What are other Quaker organizations doing presently in terms of work camps – e.g. Wm. Penn House in DC? FUM? Quaker schools, colleges? Do any of LEYM's monthly meetings and worship groups have ongoing work/service projects, etc.; or single date(s) service projects? Can we learn from any such activities?"

"I really believe that service work is about creating community among members of LEYM. I think doing work in Lima would allow more people to be involved and have that experience." "It is important for Quakers to be involved in service."

"I have valued my experiences organizing and/or participating in work camps and other service projects. Unfortunately my health currently precludes participation now. I have seen the impact that direct-service, which includes cooperative interaction with the served, has. Yes!" "I would be willing to participate in planning/execution of either, but lack of physical stamina curtails much physical work. I believe that having a ministry together is a wonderful thing for any Meeting, whether Monthly or Yearly."

"incorporation of worship, developing spirituality, etc., sponsorship, means for participants to finance themselves, organization/administration, etc."

"Children would be a great addition, but age appropriate only." "Is there something we can do that uses our skills? (I don't know what.)" "For some of us four days of meetings plus a long work day is pretty taxing. This is another argument for quarterly meetings – more association and opportunity for a work day closer to home. (Quarterly work day in addition to, not instead of, LEYM efforts.)"

YM2013-41 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported as clerk of the Nominating Committee. Thomas brought forward Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) for membership on the Earthcare Committee. This was approved. Thomas thanked all members who have served on committees, but in particular wanted to acknowledge the service of outgoing and long-serving Clerks: Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh), Publications & Archives; Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group), Adult & Family Program; Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens), Youth Program Committee; and Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Yearly Meeting Clerk.

YM2013-42 Arrangements & Site

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reported as clerk of the Arrangements & Site Committee. Jon reported that 157 Friends attended the Annual Sessions this year, of which 27 were children. Seventeen of the children were 13 years of age or under and ten were 14 years of age and over. [Numbers have been corrected by the registrar.] The 2014 Annual Sessions will be held at Bluffton University on July 24 -27. The report was accepted.

YM2013-43 Traveling Minute for Merry Stanford

Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer read a proposed Traveling Minute for Merry Stanford (Red Cedar). This was approved. The minute follows:

Dear Friends,

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting sends its love and greetings to you with this travel minute for Merry Stanford of Red Cedar Monthly Meeting (Lansing).

> Red Cedar Friends Meeting has discerned that Merry has a Spirit-led call to visit monthly meetings for the purpose of worship, listening, and sharing the spiritual practice of Quaker dialogue, and has provided her with a traveling minute for that purpose. During our annual sessions in July 2013, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting united with Red Cedar Monthly Meeting in recognizing Merry Stanford's gifts of ministry and nurturing service through listening. This letter indicates our support for her leading to visit Friends in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.
>
> Merry has participated in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for decades, giving of herself in faithful service in many ways, including serving as our presiding clerk from 2008 to 2010, and earlier clerking our Ministry and Nurture Committee. She has also served for a long time on the Central Committee for

Friends General Conference, including serving as Clerk of its Development Committee.

We are excited by the prospect of the fruit that may come from Merry's travels this year, and look forward to hearing about her time with you.

YM2013-44 Yearly Meeting Epistle

Aran Reinhart (Broadmead) of the Epistle Committee read the Yearly Meeting Epistle. After a few changes were accepted, the Epistle was approved. The full, corrected Epistle follows:

July 28, 2013

To Friends Everywhere:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gathered in Bluffton, Ohio, July 25-28, 2013. We celebrated our 50th anniversary with the theme "Growing in Grace," by sharing stories of our past and beginning to envision our future. Throughout the weekend, we shared the stories of those who have gone before us. These stories of Friends' lives and faith strengthened our own as we considered how to live our faith more fully.

At our annual Memorial Meeting for Worship we held in the Light the inspiring lives of a number of Friends who died in the previous year. Their faithfulness and unique gifts helped build a yearly meeting community that continues to nourish us. We learned sobering things about the wartime experiences of these Friends that we had wished we had known while they still lived.

We gathered in a plenary session to hear the stories of four of our members who lifted up the history of our yearly meeting from the perspectives of a young adult Friend who grew up in the yearly meeting, a Friend who has anchored the children's program for 19 years, a former clerk who helped found the yearly meeting, and a former clerk who led the Meeting through a divisive and tender issue. Each of them spoke in their own way about our blessed community, the "village of becoming" that is Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. They reminded us of some precious stories, among them:

The child who sat inside the chalk drawing of the whale, during the story of Jonah and the Whale, and replied when asked what he thought the story was about, that "Jonah didn't do what God said to do so he got put in time out."

The time, while we were still meeting at Olney Friends School, when a group of our children bounded joyously up to a silent, Conservative meeting for worship singing "This Little Light of Mine," and were met with glorious smiles.

And a Friend's reminder that "…at the end of the day we appreciate and accept each other. We try to work through our issues in a loving way. And I can't think of a more beautiful form of Grace."

Following the plenary, we had an experience with yarn that our clerk thought would help us experience our connectedness while walking in an orderly fashion to the next activity. Instead, the yarn was messy, tangled, and difficult to walk with, a metaphor for our life together. But everyone cooperated well and stuck with it, in spite of its difficulty. We were faithful to the journey. And we had fun doing it! We eventually worked our way to the dining room where we discovered an awesome and inspiring 18 foot long timeline illustrating highlights from our 50 year history. Hanging above the timeline were a dozen tee shirts made by the youth over the years, each illustrating a theme of LEYM's annual sessions or one of the youth retreats.

The celebration of our community includes identification with the communities in which we live and with communities around the world. During our annual sessions we received a report from the eighteen participants of LEYM's first work camp. The group shared their experiences working in a Habitat for Humanity Restore and a soup kitchen in Lima, Ohio, a distressed city twenty miles from Bluffton. Members of the yearly meeting expressed their desire to incorporate service experiences into the life of our yearly meeting on a regular basis.

We were led to express our concern for the suffering of Israeli, Palestinian, and other indigenous people due to the illegal Israeli occupation of lands in the West Bank. Please see the attached minute, approved in our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

We have also been sadly aware of the challenges faced by Indiana Yearly Meeting and Friends School in Detroit. We hold all those affected in Love and Hope as they face these challenges.

Our meeting united to offer a traveling ministry to our monthly meetings and worship groups that is focused on authentic speaking and tender listening, lifting up hope, encouraging faithfulness, and testifying to the transformative power of the gathered meeting. We look forward to stronger bonds of connection among us, and the fruits that will be harvested from this ministry.

Over the course of our time together, our hearts were lightened, our souls refreshed, and our spirits exercised. As we share this portion of the story of our "crucible of community," we pray that your spirits will be tendered and nourished, that your stories will be remembered and will inspire, and that the Spirit of Love and Light may weave the tapestry of our religious society more closely together, drawing us into a greater unity.

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,

Peggy Daub, Clerk

YM2013-45 Children's Epistles

1) The Pre-School Epistle was presented and accepted. Thanks were given to Ellen Barnes (Birmingham) and Charlie Burnett (Athens) for all their work with the Pre-School children. The epistle follows:

This is the ABC's of what we did:

A is for the ants we found on the sidewalk.

B is for the bridges over the brook, and all of the birds we saw, both big ones and small. C is for the sidewalk chalk, the crafts, and the creek.

D is for drumming with sticks on the big rocks.

E is for the exploring we did.

F is for all the fun we had.

G is for the grapes we had for snacks.

H is for the hot dogs we had with the grapes.

I is for all the inside toys.

J is for jumping.

K is for the kitten in one of the books.

L is for laughing at the bubbles in the creek.

M is for the marching band that we watched.

N is for naps.

O is for the great outdoors.

P is for the pink visor that kept the sun out of our eyes.

Q is for the quilt in a book we enjoyed.

R is for the rocks that we climbed and danced on.

S is for our stroller that held two.

T is for the turkey vultures all roosting in a tree.

U is for the umbrellas that we did not need.

V is for the visors that made good hats.

W is for the water in the creek. We could watch it all day. X is for the xylophones we heard the band students play.

Y is for the yellow raincoat that kept us dry.

Z is for the zebra in a book about the zoo.

2) The Upper Elementary group shared a song and reported on their activities during the sessions. Thanks were given to Peter Crowley (Cleveland) and Timothy Damon (Cleveland) for all their work with the children.

3) The Early Elementary Group report was presented and accepted. Thanks were given to Kate Spry (Cleveland) and Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) for all their work with the Early Elementary children.

4) The Middle School Group Epistle was presented and accepted. Thanks were given to Diane Mott (Broadmead) and Mary Takahashi (Pine River) for all their work with the Middle School Group. The epistle follows:

To Young Friends Everywhere:

> We are the LEYM Middle School Group of 2013. We are the epitome of awesomeness. We are great friends. This weekend we had an art and crafts store. We raised $62. O ne-half of the money will go to Detroit Friends School, grades 5 to 8. The other half of the money will go to LEYM. Hiroko Koibuchi was our guest. She taught us how to make origami magic carpets, candy boxes, and acrobatic horses. She donated origami flowers for us to make a 50-year poster for LEYM. We also made a poster about what LEYM means to us. Unfortunately, the poster experienced weather-related difficulties as we walked to Marbeck in the rain. Note for next year: bring waterproof poster board. We also played soccer with the younger children and sang songs with Steve. We ate a lot of ice cream. We had fun!
>
> Peace to the World, Norma, Brianna, Alex, Jonah, Skylar, Samantha, Rosa, Mary & Diane

5) The High School Group video Epistle was presented and accepted. Thanks were given to Marvin Barnes (Birmingham) and Michael Fuson (Granville) for all their work with the High School Group.

Conleth Crotser (Cleveland) thanked Carla-Pratt Harrington (Athens) for all her work in clerking the committee this past year.

YM2013-46 Minute of Appreciation

Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer read a minute of appreciation to Bluffton University. The following minute was approved:

> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting appreciates the hospitality extended to us by Bluffton University. The attentive staff, the excellent facilities and the luscious green campus provide us everything we need for our spirit filled annual gatherings. We especially appreciated this year the attention to the special dietary needs of attenders. Thank you very much.

The Annual Sessions closed for the year.

Submitted by:

Peter Dale, Recording Clerk

Peggy Daub, Presiding Clerk

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL SESSIONS 2013

Treasurer's Report

BALANCE SHEET

	CASH ASSETS		Change in value
Balance adjusted to last day of year	**06/30/12**	**06/30/13**	**2012-current**
Lorain Bank Checking Account			
End Balance	18,156.49		
Outstanding checks	1,129.32		
Outstanding deposits	-		
Actual balance (now CNB, Bluffton)	17,027.17	16,255.92	(771.25)
Urban Partnership Bank CD 686108009	6,010.60	-	(6,010.60)
Urban Partnership Bank CD 4003416	7,734.52	-	(7,734.52)
Urban Partnership Bank CD 4003424	7,574.86	-	(7,574.86)
FriendsFiduciary2accts		23,342.72	23,342.72
Total Cash Assets	**38,347.15**	**39,598.64**	1,251.49
Allocation of Assets			
General Fund**	12,833.97	15,797.49	2,963.52
Granville Youth Fund (ex-CD 686108009)	6,010.60	6,403.91	393.31
Annual Meeting Fund	2,416.47	371.33	(2,045.14)
Youth Activities Fund	8,615.27	7,584.58	(1,030.69)
High School Youth Fund	2,102.98	2,982.50	879.52
Spiritual Formation Fund	3,084.35	2,175.32	(909.03)
FWCC Travel Fund	139.83	1,139.83	1,000.00
Consultation Fund	3,143.68	3,143.68	0.00
Ministry Scholarship Fund	-	-	0.00
Total All Funds	**38,347.15**	**39,598.64**	1,251.49

** Unaccounted assets in bank have been added to General Fund. Balance on 2011 report was listed as $7877.66.

LEYM BUDGET 2013 - 2014

General Fund Expenses	FY 2012 -2013		FY 2013-2014	
(* = transfers)	Actual 12/13	Budget 12-13	Budget	12-13 Budget - 13-14 Budget
Travel	3,972.64	6,000.00	**5,000.00**	-1,000.00
Office	18.00	100.00	**50.00**	-50.00
Contract worker	1,313.29	2,040.00	**2,040.00**	
Finance	229.75	210.00	**50.00**	-160.00
Publications	3,371.43	3,400.00	**3,200.00**	-200.00
Advancement	0.00	100.00	**600.00**	500.00
Ministry & Nurture	0.00	100.00	**300.00**	200.00
Clerk's Fund	27.00	300.00	**300.00**	
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	**4,500.00**	
Records project	0.00	100.00	**200.00**	100.00
FWCC Travel*	1,000.00	1,000.00	**1,200.00**	200.00
Youth Activity Fund*	1,000.00	1,000.00	**1,000.00**	
High School Youth Fund*	4,900.00	4,900.00	**6,000.00**	1,100.00
Spiritual Formation*	100.00	100.00	**100.00**	
Friends School in Detroit	4,500.00	4,500.00	**4,500.00**	
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	**600.00**	
Consultation Fund*	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	1,500.00	1,500.00	**1,000.00**	-500.00
Insurance	500.00		**500.00**	500.00
Misc.	-1,212.83		**0.00**	
Total Expense =	26,319.28	30,450.00	**31,140.00**	690.00

Contributions	29,543.00		**29,000.00**
Other Income			**250.00**
Total Income	29,543.00		**29,250.00**
Actual Income - Act Expence	3,223.72	Budget underfunded by $1890**	

Total Expense / Members		$40.60	**$40.00**
Members		750	**725**
Suggested contribution/member		40.00	**40.00**

**Balance, if needed, to come from General Fund

LEYM Officers, Committee Members & Representatives – 27 July 2013

Nominating Committee Report

(Terms begin and end at rise of annual YM sessions.)

Officers

		Year of Service	End Year
Presiding Clerk ^	Sally Weaver Sommer, Brdmead	2	2016
Assistant Clerk ^	Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	5	2014
Recording Clerk ^	Peter Dale, Detroit	3	2014
Treasurer ^	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	2	2014

(^ = serves on LEYM Executive Committee.)

Communications

Bulletin Editor	Thomas Burnett, Athens	2	2014
Database Manager	Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	9	2014

(Note: Mathilda Navias, Broadmead, to be Webmaster as part of paid work.)

Committees:

Advancement & Outreach

of Members: 6 *Years of Term: 3*

Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor	2	2016
Erika Smith, Ann Arbor	1	
Shelley Kotz, Broadmead	1	
Dolores Avner, Pittsburgh, Clerk ^	4	2015
Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids	2	
Seth Reichenbach, N. Columbus	5	2014

Earthcare

of Members: 6 *Years of Term: 3*
Others interested are welcome to attend

Jim Crowfoot, Ann Arbor	1	2016
Phil Clampitt	1	
Shannon Pratt-Harrington, Athens	2	2015
Phil Balderston,Wooster	1	
Judy Greenberg, Broadmead, Clerk ^	6	2014
Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	3	

Finance

of Members: 3 *Years of Term: 3*
Treasurer serves ex officio

Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor	4	2016
Bob Orr, Detroit	2	2015
Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor, Clerk ^	3	2014

High School Teen Retreat Program

of Members:
3 adults with 3 year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2 year terms.

David Avner, Pittsburgh	1	2016
Joyce Balderston, Wooster	5	2015
Merry Stanford, Red Cedar, Clerk ^	3	2014
HS representative to be named by group	1	2014
HS representative to be named by group	1	2015

Ministry & Nurture

of Members: 6
Years of Term: 3+ 1 Rep. from each meeting encouraged

Flo Friender, Kalamazoo	1	2016
Paula Deming, Columbus, Clerk ^	4	
Margaret Walden, Detroit	2	2015
Pam Kuhn, Wooster	2	
Ruth Carey, Ann Arbor	1	2014
Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens	1	

(and other representatives as appointed by local meetings)

Nominating

of Members: 6 (Appointed by YM thru Naming Committee)
Years of Term: 3

Abbey Pratt-Harrington, Athens	1	2016
Michael Fuson, Granville	1	
Ann Sprague, Detroit	5	2015
Linda Mills, Kalamazoo	2	
Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor, Clerk ^	6	2014
Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	6	

Peace

of Members: 6
Years of Term: 3+1 Rep. from each meeting encouraged

David Snyder, Oberlin	4	2016
Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead	1	
Joyce Balderston, Wooster	1	2015
Kathleen Peabody, Ann Arbor	2	
Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor, Clerk ^	6	2014
Mike Kelly, Detroit	3	

Paul Helbling, Broadmead MM rep

Publications & Archives

of Members: 4 *Years of Term: 3*
Webmaster & Bulletin Editor serve ex officio

Emma Seif, Grand Rapids	1	2016
Leslie Walden, Detroit	1	
Joe Mills, Kalamazoo, Clerk ^	4	2015
Aran Reinhart, Broadmead	3	2014

Yearly Meeting Planning: Arrangements & Site

of Members: 6 *Years of Term: 3*

Jon Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk ^	10	2016
John Templin, Broadmead	4	
Susan Carpenter, Broadmead	2	2015
Donna Rodriguez, Broadmead	2	
Berch Carpenter, Broadmead	6	2014
_____	1	

Adult & Family Program

of Members: 6 *Years of Term: 3*

Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh	1	2016
Joel Ottenbreit, Detroit	1	
Janet Dando, Akron, Co-Clerk	5	2015
Valerie Vogel, Pittsburgh	5	
Dale Pratt-Harrington, Athens, Co-Clerk	1	2014
Kate Enger, Athens	3	

Youth & Children's Program

of Members: 12 *Years of Term: 2*

Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	Clerk ^	2014
Kate Spry, Cleveland	Assistant Clerk	2015
Employed student or YM vols.	Infants & Toddlers	
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham	Pre-school	2015
Charlie Burnett, Athens	Pre-school	2014
_____	Early elementary leader	2015
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	Early elementary asst.	2014
Peter Crowley, Cleveland	Upper elementary leader	2015
Timothy Damon, Cleveland	Upper elementary asst.	2014
Diane Mott, Broadmead	Middle school leader	2014
Mary Takahashi, Pine River	Middle school asst.	2014
_____	High school	2015
Marvin Barnes, Birmingham	High school	2014

Available subs: Nancy Nagler, Pine River, et al.

Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	Fall retreat clerk
Peter Crowley, Cleveland	Fall retreat assistant

LEYM Bookstore: Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 13

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

AFSC Corp	Seth Reichenbach, N. Columbus	3	2014
AFSC	Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar *	5	2015
AFSC	John Deikis, Ann Arbor	2	

(indicates clerk of that group of representatives)*

FCNL Gen Brd	Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor	4	2016
FCNL	Max Heirich, Ann Arbor	4	
FCNL	Kathleen Peabody, Ann Arbor *	5	2015
FCNL	Dottie Stratton, Wooster	2	
FCNL	Peter Dale, Detroit	3	2014
FCNL	Mike Kelly, Detroit	3	

FGC Cntl Cttee	Helen Hebben, Kalamazoo	1	2016
FGC	Paula Deming, Columbus	2	2015
FGC	Merry Stanford, Red Cedar *	2	2014

(LEYM Reps appoint rep to FGC Executive Committee)

FWCC	Mike Kelly, Detroit	1	2016
FWCC	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	4	
FWCC	Jerry Knutson, Pittsburgh	5	2015
FWCC	Robb Yurisko, N. Columbus *	2	

Q Earthcare Witns	Judy Greenberg, Broadmead	1	
FLGBTQC	Robb Yurisko, N. Columbus	2	
Wm Penn House	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	6	2014
Olney Friends School	Greg Mott, Broadmead	6	

Visitors to neighboring yearly meetings

Canadian YM	_____	
EFI Eastern Region	Abbey Pratt-Harrington, Athens	2
Ohio YM	Paula Deming, Columbus	2
Ohio Valley YM	Paula Deming, Columbus	1
Wilmington YM	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	5

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Representative Meeting
April 5, 2014
Red Cedar Friends Meeting, Lansing, Michigan

14 RM4.1 Worship and Epistle from Pacific Yearly Meeting

The Meeting opened with silent worship at 1:30.

An Epistle from the Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Meeting, Seventh Month, 2013 was shared. This is a powerful epistle, which explored the way Quakers relate to the world and why we are here, paying particular regard to those without power.

14 RM4.2 Roll Call

Akron	1	Kalamazoo	3
Ann Arbor	6	Kent	0
Athens	2	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	0	North Columbus	2
Broadmead	10	Oberlin	0
Cleveland	1	Pine River	0
Delaware	0	Pittsburgh	2
Detroit	6	Red Cedar	3
Grand Rapids	2	Waysmeet Worship Group	1
Granville	1	Wooster	3
Holland	0		
Total	43		

14 RM4.3 Clerk's Report

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported.

Sally greeted everyone and presented the agenda for the meeting. She brought forward Seth Reichenbach (North Columbus) and Joyce Balderston (Wooster) to be appointed to the Naming Committee. They were approved.

14 RM4.4 Executive Committee Report

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported for the committee.

Sally reported that the Executive Committee had met Fourth Month 4, with the main issues considered being the proposed summer Work Camp Project in Detroit, the High School Retreat Program, and changes in the Spiritual Formation Program for the coming year. The Executive Committee approved the proposal to hold a 2014 summer work camp in Detroit.

14 RM4.5 Ad Hoc Committee on Service Projects Report

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee.

At our annual sessions in 2012, yearly meeting agreed that we felt led to find a way to provide service project opportunities, particularly noting the great needs being felt by our neighbors in Detroit.

Last year we held a work camp in Lima, OH that proved to be a successful opportunity for 17 Friends to help in a Habitat store and a soup kitchen. At the yearly meeting sessions we determined, through a poll, that Friends would like to have a similar experience this year in the challenging setting of Detroit. We are now proposing to explore the world of social, environmental and economic justice in the Cass Corridor of Detroit for four days preceding Annual Sessions 2014. We will be able to partner with Cass Community Social

Services (CCSS) in their program to help meet the needs of folks who are seeking jobs, security, training, and family stability. Most of the clients start out living rough, but some now have apartments on-site.

CCSS was formed in 2002 by the Methodist Church and now has a "campus" of 6 buildings on Woodrow Wilson Blvd., immediately northwest of center city Detroit. It has expanded to a $6 million per year operation, supported by many churches and organizations, serving over one million meals per year to the homeless and hungry, and employing 145 folks in the training and care programs. Thousands of volunteers each year work in a wide variety of programs, and we've learned that our group might clear vacant lots, sand and paint walls, help serve meals, sort and pack recycled paper, recover discarded tires (for conversion to doormats and flip-flops), and work in the on-site vegetable garden.

CCSS would be able to house us in two buildings, Mom's Place I with 3 large dorm-like rooms (total capacity @ 20), and a local church with sleeping mats on the floor. We would bring our own bedding and work clothes. They would provide us with 3 meals a day and specific, supervised jobs. The cost will be $20 per day per person, plus a donation of $50 for the entire group. CCSS is able to provide secure parking for our cars and take us on an exploration of some of the highlights and lowlights of Detroit if we request it. They also are eager to partner with us in evening programs, but provide space for our group to hold its own gatherings with worship and discussion when we feel the need for a time of reflection.

We are proposing gathering at the CCSS Scott Building for an orientation on Sunday, July 20 in the afternoon. We would settle into our dorm, have supper together and meet the staff, share worship and conversation in the evening, then do our physical work from Monday through Wednesday, driving down to Bluffton on Thursday in time for committee meetings and the beginning of Annual Sessions.

We have heard from the High School Teen Retreat Program Committee that they are interested in being part of this project as their summer retreat. A straw poll of people who participated in the one day service project in Lima last year showed that at least 9 people from that group would be tentatively able to do this work in Detroit in 2014. Their enthusiasm for this longer, three day, four night, experience was heartening, with one person speaking of his hope that this experience in learning and working together would carry additional energy over into our annual sessions.

Finally, last year in discussing service and work projects in general, we were asked to provide a statement of intention so we would share more clarity in why we want to do this and what we hope will come of it. Our intention for this year is this:

> The intent of the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting service project in 2014 is to provide an experiential opportunity to live this year's theme of "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges." We recognize the barriers between classes in our society, and believe that a project that allows us to meet people who are in need will help us learn how to build bridges across those barriers. By joining the ranks of volunteers affiliated with the Cass Community Social Services, our small gift of a few days work will become part of a large mosaic of their ongoing service in that community. We also expect this project to provide a time for community building and spiritual reflection for the participants.

14 RM4.6 High School Teen Retreat Program Report

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) reported for the committee.

Merry reported that three of four retreats have been completed so far this program year. She then outlined future 2014-2015 retreats. The committee is beginning the process of finding a new coordinator for when Robb Yurisko (North Columbus) steps down from his position as leader. Merry then presented a concern that there is dwindling participation in the teen retreats. She spoke and sang earnestly to members to hold the teens in their monthly meetings in the Light and encourage them to participate in the program. The conflict between teens' busy lives and the High School Retreat Program, as well as the Annual Sessions, needs to be resolved by parents in a respectful manner. Perhaps teens should be encouraged to bring a friend along to retreats, which would help tie the experience into a teen's life outside of meeting. The committee members are available to visit meetings in order to help strengthen the relationship between the meetings' teens and the High School Teen Retreat Program.

14 RM4.7 Treasurer's Interim Report

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported.

Mike reported that he has received donations from all but two meetings for this fiscal year (Seventh

Month 1-Sixth Month 30). Income to date totals almost $27,000. $938.30, or 19%, of the $5,000 travel budget has been spent to this point. He noted that the Yearly Meeting has donated $4,500 to Friends School in Detroit and will soon contribute $4,500 to FGC. Mike continues to set aside funds to help defray FWCC travel expenses, which peak approximately every three years. Expenses to date have totaled approximately $18,000 in a annual budget of $31,000. The General Fund Balance was given as $26,395, with overall assets being $53,963.

14 RM4.8 Finance & Budget Reports

Jeff Cooper reported for the Committee.

1. Draft budget for 2014-15. We are presenting this afternoon a draft budget for 2014-15, with an invitation for comments and questions now and anytime until shortly before Annual Meeting, when we must approve a final budget. Using our current budget as a starting point, we propose the following changes:

a. Decrease the travel budget by $1000 (to $4000). More on that below.

b. Decrease the Publications & Archives budget by $200 (to $3000).

c. Decrease the Records Project (our contribution to the Friends Historical Library) by $100, returning to the usual level of $100.

d. Decrease support for the Scholarship Fund for Ministry by $500 (to $500). The $1000 budgeted this year was unspent and thus is transferred to the fund. Combining that $1000 with $500 in next year's budget makes $1500 available for scholarships next year.

Next we have a number of increases. Please bear in mind that these reflect requests from Executive Committee or individual committees of the Yearly Meeting.

e. Increase the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund by $1000 to $7000 to cover the costs of transportation for those teens needing financial assistance (often provided by reimbursing the transportation costs of drivers and/or Friendly Adult Presences).

f. Increase the Spiritual Formation budget line by $1400 to $1500. We have intentionally under-budgeted this line for the past few years because the fund it supports had become so large. The fund has now dwindled to $1457, so it is time to resume support. In addition, the Spiritual Formation group has requested an increase to support bringing in outside speakers.

g. Add a line to support the costs of the summer service projects at $2000.

These changes bring us to a total of $33,740, up $2600 from last year. Our membership numbers appear to be about the same. The suggested contribution per member rises to $45, and still results in a budget with a slight deficit: $865, nearly $1000 less than last year. We can of course make adjustments between now and Annual Meeting, seeing where finances stand at the end of the current year and what comments we hear from Friends in the Yearly Meeting.

h. The draft budget is attached.

2. New Funds

a. **Proposal to Create a Travel Fund.** Finance Committee proposes the creation of a Travel Fund. Currently we have a budget line for Travel, but no fund. If you look at the figures for the past several years in the draft budget, you can see that travel expenses are difficult to predict. It appears that we'll spend well under the budgeted $5000 for the current year. If we had a Travel Fund, we could take, for example, $2000 in unspent travel money for this year and place it in the fund, thereby providing a cushion that would allow us to budget less next year. Continuing the example, we could budget $4000 rather than $5000, but have $6000 available for travel, should it be needed. We currently expect to have a sufficient balance in the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year to transfer $2000 to a Travel Fund.

The proposal to create a Travel Fund is presented now to allow Friends time for seasoning. We expect to bring it to Annual Meeting for a decision.

b. **Proposal to Create a Temporary Fund with no balance to facilitate cash flow for this summer's work project.** This would enable us to accept donations earmarked for this project, and

possibly offer scholarships with any funds that are contributed. The ad hoc committee overseeing this project will manage the money within this fund. The $50 required donation to Cass Community Social Services will come from the Clerk's Fund.

c. **Proposal to Create a Budget Line and Supporting Fund for summer work projects on a lasting basis.** This is for seasoning and a decision at Annual Meeting. The draft budget includes $2000 in this proposed budget line.

3. **Covering the cost of Annual Meeting.** The Annual Meeting is intended to be self-supporting, and thus is not part of the budget; income and revenue go into and out of the Annual Meeting fund, which provides a cushion. Last year at this time, the fund had dwindled from over $6000 down to $371, and we made some adjustments to stem the decline. These seem to have worked. The amount in the fund has rebounded to $1473; this increase of $1102 is mainly attributable to the $1011 received in donations for Annual Meeting. Thus our revenue apart from the donations was extremely close to actual expenses – a difference of just $91. And we thank all Friends who made donations, allowing the fund to recover.

Based on last year's activity, we recommend keeping registration fees and scholarships at the same level:

- The registration fee is $50 for early bird, $60 for later.
- Youth and children are charged only 1/3 the cost of meals and lodgings; registration is free.
- First-time attenders pay 2/3 of standard costs (a 1/3 discount).

Moreover, we ask Arrangements and Site Committee to include again on the Registration Form a line inviting donations to help enable youth and children to attend Annual Meeting.

4. **Friends Fiduciary Accounts.** We currently have over $25,000 invested in two accounts in Friends Fiduciary Corporation's Consolidated Fund. These have a standard annual payout rate of 4.5%, though we've recently been informed this will drop to 4.0% by 2017.

   Recently, Friends Fiduciary Corporation has developed a new investment opportunity called the Quaker Green Fund, which is "fossil fuel free," and is specifically designed for Friends meetings, churches, and organizations. The Quaker Green Fund includes a component dedicated to "cleantech" – investments in nine positive environmental areas, including advancements in sustainable use of agricultural resources, alternative and renewable energy, efficient transport, energy conservation, water conservation and filtration, low carbon finance, and cutting-edge clean technologies. It includes a mix of stocks and bonds and is intended for investors with a greater than five year investment horizon. Its current standard payout rate is 3.5%. Finance Committee is recommending moving our investments into this, but won't do so immediately and welcome Friends' leadings on this matter. You can read more about it at *www.friendsfiduciary.org/quaker-green-fund/*.

5. **LEYM Financial Manual.** We have revised the *LEYM Financial Manual*. This is intended mainly for members of Finance Committee, but we shall post it on the website, where anyone can consult it. We hope to keep it continuously updated – so if in July we agree to create a Travel Fund, this will be added to the *Manual*.

Representative meeting **approved** the creation of the temporary fund described in 2b above.

14 RM4.9 Spiritual Formation Committee Report

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) reported for the program.

The committee was asked to prepare a presentation explaining its purpose and program at the Annual Sessions.

14 RM4.10 Nominating Committee Report

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee.

The committee is seeking to fill positions on the Peace, Earthcare, Site and Arrangement (including a registrar) committees. It also is seeking individuals to represent the YM at the FCNL, to run the High School Program at the Annual Sessions, and to become the YM's Recording Clerk. All positions are to

commence at the rise of this year's Annual Sessions.

The committee raised the question of how to best structure recording the discussions and decisions at our Annual Sessions and other meetings. Should the yearly meeting take minutes with, or without, the reading back of minutes at the time of discussion? Friends shared deeply over the issue.

14 RM4.11 Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Report

Janet Dando (Akron) reported on the planning for the adult program. An alternative dinner is being planned for Thursday evening. This will be free of charge, although participants are asked to bring a dish to share. Dietary considerations will be sent out in advance of the Annual Sessions. She then outlined the workshops being planned for the Annual Sessions. Worship sharing will be structured a little bit differently than in the past. Attenders will be able to sign up for worship sharing opportunities when they sign on arriving in Bluffton.

Dale Pratt-Harrington (Athens) reported on the talent show plans and guidelines. The committee asked for people to let it know of interest in participating in the show as soon as possible, preferable before the start of the Annual Sessions.

Conleth Crotser (Cleveland) reported on the programming for Youth and Children. There is a need for volunteers.

14 RM4.12 Arrangements and Site Committee Report

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reported for the committee and announced the location and date of the Annual Sessions to be Bluffton, Ohio, from Seventh Month 26th till the 30th.

14 RM4.13 Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) reported for the committee.

Becky Morehouse will be working on updating the map outlining LEYM boundaries and which will show its monthly meetings and worship groups. She hopes to have the map ready in time for the Annual Sessions and would welcome any input.

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) has completed five visits since the last Annual Sessions in her ministry to travel amongst the meetings in the Yearly Meeting.

The committee has agreed to collaborate with the High School Teen Retreat Committee in attempting to reach out to that segment of the Yearly Meeting by encouraging and underwriting Robb Yurisko (North Columbus) to visit individual meetings and speak with their teens. How Robb would accomplish this would be left to the discernment of the High School Teen Retreat Committee.

Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) reported that the FGC New Meetings Project is progressing.

14 RM4.14 Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

Paula Deming reported for the committee.

Paula reminded the attenders that the spring Spiritual Formation Retreat will be hosted by Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting on Fifth Month 3rd. She then reported that Eric Evans, a Nurturing Ministries Associate from FGC, will be presenting at the Spiritual Formation Retreat this fall. This fall retreat will be held Ninth Month 5-7 at the Colombiere Conference Center in Clarkston, MI. The spring retreat will be held May 2, 2015. The committee is considering a theme of “Experiments With Light” for this retreat.

Although it has begun the process, the committee has not yet been able to finish crafting a consolidated response to the Annual Query. The committee is still waiting for some responses. Paula read from some of the responses received to date.

Paula reported that a concern was brought to the presiding clerk concerning the safety and wellbeing of our children. The meeting approved that the Yearly Meeting clerk, in consultation with the clerk of Athens Monthly Meeting, the Ministry and Nurture Committee, and others with expertise form an *ad hoc* committee to work with Athens Meeting to determine how we will move forward with this concern at our Annual Session.

14 RM4.15 Peace Committee Report

Paul Helbling (Broadmead) reported on the Campaign Nonviolence national activities set to occur in September. The campaign was initiated by Pace e Bene (http://paceebene.org). He asked permission to disseminate information about the campaign through the LEYM communication network. He was given permission to do so and it was suggested he use the upcoming Bulletin issue.

14 RM4.16 Publications & Archives Report

The report was submitted by Joe Mills (Kalamazoo).

A. *Annual Records*

The *Annual Records* was out in November of 2013; final formatting, assembly and printing was much easier this year. Last year we used Office Max (whose principal business is sale of office products with a sideline of printing and copying). This year we used Fed EX – Kinkos whose main line of business includes printing and copying. Any Friend who has a strong connection with a printing firm should let the Committee know so it can explore using the firm.

Feedback on this year's *Annual Records* is welcomed as the Committee strives for improvement.

Les Walden will be next year's *Annual Record*s' Editor

B. Bulletin

The Committee is mindful of its role in supporting the Bulletin Editor and wants to assure that submission of material for the Bulletin is made as easy as possible.

The Committee encourages the use of photos in the Bulletin. Les Walden is willing to travel afar to obtain photos that would support a story or article in the Bulletin as desired by the Editor. The Yearly Meeting's policy on the use of photographs would be followed.

14 RM4.17 Appreciations

Appreciation was given to Red Cedar for the hospitality shown the meeting. The following comments were shared.

The food was great!
Whoever made the muffins deserves blessings heaped upon him or her.
Thanks for arranging the sunshine. We've done without light long enough.
Thank you for the thought in developing this wonderful space.
The quality of the hospitality was outstanding.
I give much appreciation for the many options of gluten-free food.
I appreciate the beauty and simplicity of the building. It served our needs so well.
I wish you best wishes in becoming closer to the neighborhood.
I give appreciation for making the meetinghouse feel like a home.
I appreciate the shelves of fiction in the library here.
All the people who touched this building clearly left a blessing on the building and now we are blessing the building anew.
We appreciate Merry's hugs, making this meetinghouse truly feel like a home.
I appreciate Kathy Booth's work in making plenty of food for everyone to eat.
Thanks to Merry for making copies for the meeting.
I appreciate meeting for worship this morning and all the energy that was there.
I appreciate the sign that says "Capacity 299". I appreciate all the activity and diversity here. It is truly holy ground.

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
51st Annual Sessions
July 24-27, 2014
Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

Thursday Evening Session

YM2014-01 Worship & Reading of Northern Yearly Meeting Epistle

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the 51st annual sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with waiting worship. Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Assistant Clerk, read Northern Yearly Meeting's 2014 epistle written at its recent annual sessions with the theme "What Canst Thou Say?" Meeting joyfully at the end of the long cold winter, the Meeting reflected gratefully on its community's strength and its connection with El Salvador Yearly Meeting.

YM2014-02 Agenda & introduction of clerks

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), Clerk, thanked all those who were able to be present and who helped to prepare the sessions. She reviewed the agenda, explained how it might be modified and explained how the process for the Annual Sessions works. Sally introduced the clerk of the Site Committee, Jon Sommer (Broadmead); the clerks of the Program Committee, Janet Dando (Akron) & Dale Pratt Harrington (Athens); the managers of the Book Store, Susan Carpenter (Broadmead) & John Templin (Broadmead); and the clerk's table: Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Assistant Clerk and Peter Dale (Detroit), Recording Clerk.

YM2014-03 Newcomer introductions

The Clerk invited visitors, guests, and newcomers to introduce themselves. The following did so: Kathryn Phillipson: FCNL Staff

Scilla Wahrhaftig: Pittsburgh MM/AFSC Staff

Eric Evans: Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting/FGC Staff visitor Greg Coleridge: AFSC, Northeast Ohio, Staff

First Time Attender: Jo Schlesinger, Pittsburgh MM

The Clerk read a travelling minute on behalf of Eric Evans.

YM2014-04 Roll Call

The calling of the roll of Friends from constituent meetings and groups provided the following count (corrected against registrations):

Monthly Meetings

Akron 1

Ann Arbor 16

Athens 21

Birmingham 6

Broadmead 13

Cleveland 9

Delaware 0

Detroit 8

Grand Rapids 5

Granville 2

Holland 0

Kalamazoo 4

Kent 0

Mid-Ohio Valley 0

North Columbus 4

Oberlin 1

Pine River 0

Pittsburgh 14

Red Cedar 7

Wooster 8

Worship Groups

Circleville 1

Erie 0

Waysmeet 1

Others

AFSC 1

Earlham College 1

FCNL 1

FGC 1

White Rose MM (OVYM) 1

No affiliation 3

Total in attendance 129

YM2014-05 Holding absent Friends in the Light

The Clerk asked the Meeting to hold in the Light the following persons who were not able to attend these sessions: Valerie Grozsman (Kalamazoo); Merry Stanford (Red Cedar); Don & Nancy Nagler (Pine River); and Mary & Kyo Takahashi (Pine River).

YM2014-06 Reading of endorsements to travelling minutes

The Clerk read endorsements that had been added to the travelling minutes of those who travelled on behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, including one for LeRoy Curtis (Wooster) from Ohio Yearly Meeting and two for Paula Deming (Waysmeet Worship Group) from Ohio Yearly Meeting and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

YM2014-07 Naming Committee report

Joyce Balderston (Wooster) reported for the committee. Joyce reported that Clemence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group) has agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. The committee is still looking for a second person to serve. The Naming Committee, in consultation with the Clerk, will name a Nominating Committee Clerk.

YM2014-08 Epistle Committee

The Clerk asked for volunteers to serve on the 2014 Epistle Committee. Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) volunteered to join Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor). Another volunteer is needed.

YM2014-09 Worship sharing groups and session for newcomers

Janet Dando (Akron) reported for the committee. Janet explained the process for the worship sharing groups, emphasizing the special session on Life Journeys, and reminded the Meeting of a session for newcomers.

YM2014-10 No memorial minutes this year

Prior to our Annual Sessions the Clerk had asked for Memorial Minutes for those who had died in the last year and had been active in LEYM. None were brought forward.

YM2014-11 Memorial worship

The Clerk asked the Meeting to move into worship with an invitation to hold in the Light others who have died in the past year. The following names were brought forward: Charles Mead, a member of Pittsburgh MM whose parents had a connection to the YM when it was being formed; Moses Boone from Detroit Monthly Meeting; Waldon Baskerville, a member of Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting; Michael Kay, Gene Gallagher, George Bent, as well as several others from Oberlin Monthly Meeting; and Betty Kaufman from Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting.

The Clerk asked the Meeting to also hold in the Light those who have recently lost family members.

Friday Morning Session

YM2014-12 Worship & Reading of German Yearly Meeting Epistle

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the Friday morning session of the 2014 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with waiting worship. Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Assistant Clerk, read the 2013 German Yearly Meeting Epistle, whose sessions centered on the 50th anniversary of Quäker-Hilfe ("Quaker Aid"). Role models and companions from current and past aid projects in Algeria, the Middle East, the Caucasus, and Poland were present as guests. It "learned that its action in the world is neither completely good nor completely bad, but is rather revealed in 'variations in grey'." One recurring issue in their annual sessions is the question of how the Yearly Meeting disposes of its financial capital. Moreover, it continues to ask itself how "it fills the Quaker Peace Testimony with life" and what the responsibilities of the Peace Committee are in this regard. "It is in our variety - whether in our worship or in our peace and service - that we find our strength" that helps it "to reach important decisions together as one".

YM2014-13 Welcome of visitors and first-time attenders

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), Clerk, welcomed visitors and first time attenders. Pat Thomas, visitor from Richmond, Indiana, introduced herself and described a book she wrote drawing on her work with Bible studies at LEYM, "Following Jesus & Walking with God: A Year's Journey Through the Gospels".

YM2014-14 Epistle Committee Filled

Sharon Ottenbreit (Detroit) volunteered to Join Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) and Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) on the Epistle Committee. Friends approved the appointment of the committee.

YM2014-15 Nominating Committee in-process report

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. Thomas stated that progress was being made in filling the positions. He outlined the positions that will be brought for approval and those positions that still need to be filled. Thomas also mentioned that the committee is considering the nature of the interchange between visitors to and from other yearly meetings.

YM2014-16 Youth and Children Committee Report

Conleth Crotser (Cleveland) reported for the committee. So far, twenty-three children and youth are participating in Annual Sessions this year. There are nine teachers, although teacher recruitment is a continuing effort and more may join. The children and youth have been enthusiastically involved in a great variety of activities and T-shirts and crafts are again being produced.

The fall youth retreat for K-8th graders and their parents will again be held in early October and everyone is encouraged to participate. An updated report will be given Sunday morning.

YM2014-17 Ministry & Nurture Committee - Report on Sexual Abuse

Paula Deming (Waysmeet WG) reported for the committee. She asked Alfred Clapp (Athens) to introduce a report on sexual abuse prepared by a clearness committee within Athens Monthly meeting. Alfred read the following report:

The purpose of this report is to inform Friends about an episode of sexual abuse between children which occurred within LEYM several years ago, and, in doing so, to foster awareness among Friends that will make it less likely for such an event to take place in the future. In January, 2012, a young woman in Athens Friends Meeting revealed to a few adult members that, 13 years earlier, she had been subjected to a pattern of sexual abuse by another, older, child. This had begun — under our eyes, but out of our awareness — in our First Day School, and continued at LEYM the following summer. Until 2012, the young woman had not revealed this experience to anyone, and it had a serious negative impact on her adolescence and young adulthood. She was 10 years old at the time the abuse began, and the perpetrator was a 14-year-old boy. The boy couched his advances as acts of warm brotherliness, as helpful education into the adult world of sex, and as their special secret, a kind of grooming behavior. The secret was kept from both the girl's parents and members of the Meeting. It evolved into multiple years of abusive sex that took place away from the Meeting House. The boy left the Meeting and, for several years, the community. His parents have not been involved in the Meeting.

It took years for the young woman to correctly label this "friendship" as abuse. It has been part of her healing to share with her family, her Clearness Committee, and the Athens Meeting as a whole, the truth of her experience. In hindsight we feel that our Quaker values helped put her and us at risk. Meetings are supposed to be safe places for children. In being accepting and loving to all our children, we sadly missed the clues. We did not honor our small feelings of discomfort with observed behavior, and did not consider abuse a possibility. In the end we did not protect the young people under our care. It is clear to us now that we as a religious society are not immune from this kind of thing, and that it can happen, not only between adults and children, but also between children.

Since this episode has been revealed, First Day School personnel of Athens Friends Meeting have begun each year with an open discussion encouraging both children and adults not to discount their own feelings of discomfort, should they arise, but to share them with at least someone else in Meeting. Athens Friends have also tried to be more attentive to children during transition times between scheduled activities. The Athens Friends Meeting brings this matter to the attention of LEYM in order to raise awareness among Friends so that our children may in the future be better protected from potential sexual abuse, both in our monthly meetings and at LEYM. This kind of event is rare, but hopefully, such awareness can empower adults and young people to attend to their own feelings of discomfort, should such instances arise. Increased awareness is the only response from LEYM that the young woman wishes. LEYM need not be concerned about any potential liability issues.

Athens Friends here at LEYM invite LEYM Friends wishing to consider this matter further to meet with us as way opens.

The committee asked us to consider the following minute:

LEYM Friends recognize that we in the Religious Society of Friends are not immune to the possibility of sexual abuse in our Meetings and recognize that this is not just perpetrated by adults on children, but may occur between children. Such sexual abuse has occurred among LEYM Friends. Let our awareness of this Enable us to respond to feelings of discomfort that we may sense, to empower us to speak up and speak out when led and thus to limit the chances of our children being hurt by sexual abuse within our Meetings.

The Clerk thanked Athens Meeting for bringing this to our attention, and announced there would be opportunity to discuss and reflect on this concern at the rise of this session. Suggestions for modification of the minute were made from within silent worship. It was also suggested that the Yearly Meeting should develop policies which would better protect our children and meet insurance liability concerns. The Clearness Committee from Athens will consider the suggestions and return with a revised minute.

Friday afternoon session

YM2014-18 Worship

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the Friday afternoon session of the 2014 Lake Erie

Yearly Meeting with waiting worship.

YM2014-19 The Ad Hoc Service Project Committee Report

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. Peggy described the work camp experiences of two groups from LEYM in Detroit in conjunction with Cass Community Social Services. Peggy presented a very interesting and entertaining slide show to accompany the report. The slide show was followed by enthusiastic individual comments from the eleven other work camp participants in attendance at the session. Peggy stated that the committee recommends that future work camps alternate between work camps with a home base in Bluffton with work camps based in urban areas. The complete report follows.

> **Report on the 2014 LEYM Workcamp: Working With CASS Community Social Services in Detroit** Two groups from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting volunteered their hands and hearts to work with Cass Community Social Services (CCSS) in Detroit this year. Six teens, under the direction of Robb Yurisko, held their summer retreat with CCSS the weekend of July 18-20, followed immediately by an intergenerational group of 12 (11 adults and 1 youth) from Sunday to Thursday, July 20-24. In all, seven monthly meetings within LEYM were represented: Ann Arbor, Athens, Birmingham, Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Red Cedar. The work CCSS does in Detroit dates back to the Great Depression of the 1930s, when Cass United Methodist Church decided they would help to feed the hungry. As Reverend Sue Pethoud, the volunteer coordinator, informed us in our introductory meeting, "we have been feeding people ever since and that feels good." They now provide some 1 million meals per year. They have grown in several different directions beyond serving food as way has opened for them, and now provide temporary housing for homeless men, women, children, and individuals with HIV/Aids. Last fall they opened a newly renovated apartment house that provides permanent housing for over 40 formerly homeless individuals whose rent is based on income. They provide activities for developmentally disabled adults that include employing some of them to sort paper in a shredding operation, with the resulting bales of shredded paper sold for recycling. There are also several other CCSS green industries which employ formerly homeless men and manufacture doormats and sandals from discarded tires, and coasters from repurposed wood and glass.

In order to accomplish all of this, CCSS welcomes thousands of volunteers each year who work under the direction of their staff. The LEYM teens spent Saturday, July 19, shredding paper in the morning and assisting in the kitchen to cook for CCSS clients in the afternoon. The intergenerational group worked three days and helped to make sandals and doormats, sorted and shredded paper, cooked a meal, played and talked with developmentally disabled adults, and helped to clean up an amazingly overgrown yard of a derelict building directly across the street from the CCSS campus in order to provide a safer environment for clients. Both groups also enjoyed seeing some other sites in Detroit, with some of the teens worshipping with Detroit Meeting on Sunday, and the intergenerational group visiting Detroit's Wailing Wall (built in 1940 to create a segregated neighborhood) and enjoying a dinner of Mediterranean food in Dearborn one evening. CCSS made this camp easy to organize because they were able to provide housing and meals for volunteers, and did a good job of planning our work. We were able to see the contributions we made and to interact for part of the time with the clients who are helped there.

Robb Yurisko's report on the teens' experience included the following passages: On a personal note, this has been my favorite retreat thus far. It was so fun to be part of something greater and be able to process that experience with our teens. .... We ate breakfast and lunch with the folks receiving services there. We were made a special breakfast of eggs and bagels that the homeless population was not offered and we felt horrible about that and processed it. Lunch was especially hard for some of our teens because there were well over 100 people eating with us and many remarked they were scared because they had never been exposed to this population and it felt different and unsafe. There were lots of opportunities to talk about racism and class-ism during this trip. We made our work fun and had lots of laughs while we worked. The intergenerational group experienced similar realizations and lessons. We were trained in making sandals and doormats by people whose life experiences were totally foreign to us, we were jolted by the simple accommodations and meals, we laughed and worshipped together morning and evening, and fell into bed tired to the bone. This year's theme for our annual sessions of "Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges" was fitting to our experience, as we experienced both barriers and bridges in our short but spirit-filled time in Detroit with CCSS.

Our recommendation for the future is that we alternate between work camps with a home base in Bluffton

and workcamps based in urban areas. That means planning a work camp for 2015 that would look more like the one we did last year, which had two half-days of work in Lima with participants arriving a day early here in Bluffton. We had a great return rate of ten people who participated last year and came again this year, but one of the purposes of this presentation is to extend a warm invitation to all of you to join us next year. The combination of hard work and great fellowship will stretch you physically and spiritually.

YM2014-20 Spiritual Formation Program

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) reported for the program. Mathilda introduced those present who have been involved with or participated in the program. She followed by presenting the history, goals, and processes of the program, along with the valuable results garnered from the program. Mathilda recommended that a way be found to better serve the eastern part of the Yearly Meeting. She also asked the YM to consider the committee's new fee structure and to allow the Spiritual Formation Planning **Committee to continue to pool the YM's contribution to the program with the rest of the fund and for it to be used as needed by the program without restrictions. The recommendation was** approved. The Finance Committee will bring a recommendation on the amount of the line item as part of its report later in these sessions. The full report follows.

The Program

In 1999, LEYM sponsored a Spiritual Formation Program with fall and spring retreats held at Michigan Friends Center and Barnesville, Ohio. The Program's oversight committee included Tom Taylor, Janet Smith, and Merry Stanford. The committee designed a year-long Spiritual Formation Program based on one in Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Local spiritual formation groups met in Ann Arbor, Athens, Barnesville, Cleveland, Columbus, Kent, and Lansing, with a total of 56 Friends participating. The program has continued ever since. A program based at the Pittsburgh Meeting flourished for some years, but seems to have ended in 2006 or 2007.

LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program has the following goals:

- Become more aware of our spiritual capacities for inward listening in relationship with God.
- Receive spiritual nurture.
- Learn about a variety of spiritual practices and how they might fit into one's individual life.
- Get to know Friends from the wider yearly meeting.

The program consists of two retreats, one in the fall to begin the program and one in the spring that serves as a wrap-up. These retreats provide opportunities for group interaction and experiences as well as personal reflection. In between the retreats, local groups meet once or twice a month, and participants practice a regular spiritual discipline of their choice to help heighten their awareness of the Spirit. Local meetings include worship and may focus on either personal sharing on how the Spirit seems to be moving in one's life or sharing personal responses to readings. Most groups share a meal or snacks. The program is run by a volunteer committee made up of Friends who are regular participants. The Spiritual Formation Planning Committee is under the care of LEYM's Ministry & Nurture Committee and reports to it annually. In addition, we have a member of the planning committee who is also on Ministry & Nurture and acts as a liaison.

The planning committee invites a leader and a spiritual companion to bring a workshop on a chosen theme each year for the retreats. Recent themes have included:

- The Blessed Community
- Living in the Presence
- Grounding our Spirituality in Nature
- Healing in the Manner of Friends, led by Richard Lee

The committee looks both to Friends in our geographic area and to FGC's Traveling Ministries Program for leaders. Since 2002, leaders have included Marjorie Larrabee, Deborah Fisch, Michael Birkel, and Merry Stanford.

This coming year's program will be led by Eric Evans on the theme, The Gospel of John: Stories of What God's Love Looks Like. The registration deadline is August 15. You can find the full details in our flyers, in our display upstairs, and on LEYM's web site. The following year's program will involve experiential retreats using Rex Ambler's Experiments with Light.

In 2008, partly to cut costs and partly because it seemed to fit the program better, we began holding a one-day retreat in the spring hosted by a meeting instead of a full weekend retreat at a conference center. This has worked well. We invite local Friends to participate in the retreat whether they've been involved in the program before or not, and this has the benefit of involving different meetings. We plan to continue holding the fall retreat at a retreat center and to have different meetings host the Saturday retreat each spring.

Participants

In the last eight years (since I started tracking participation), 81 different Friends have attended retreats, many of them for a number of years. They are from 12 different meetings, many in Michigan, but also from Broadmead, Cleveland, N. Columbus, and Oberlin. There has been an average of 23 participants at fall retreats, and 18 at spring retreats. There are many additional Friends who participate in a local group but don't attend retreats.

Evaluations and Value of the Program

From the beginning, the planning committee has used evaluations from participants to make changes to the program. These have asked for comments rather than numerical ratings. Over the years, comments on the retreats have included:

“Have come for years for rest, fellowship, time to 'recharge' spiritually - need the time away to get perspective on my life, my challenges, my joys and blessings.”

Comments on the year-long program have included:

“Just showing up regularly and sharing personal spiritual experiences helps keep me in touch with the spiritual in my daily life.”

“It is because of this group that I remain as involved in my monthly meeting as I am.” Not everything has gone smoothly for everyone. Some leaders have been less than ideal. But overall, evaluations have been overwhelmingly positive. In 2009, the planning committee reported to LEYM, "The strong yearning for this kind of program continues among the participants. It nurtures the participants spiritually, and this nurture carries over into our monthly meetings and into Lake Erie Yearly Meeting." In the responses to the 2009 Annual Query, one meeting reported: "Being involved in the Spiritual Formation program has supported and sustained a number of us."

For the last two years, five LEYM Friends have attended the School of the Spirit's program On Being a Spiritual Nurturer, which they have just completed. All of them have been part of LEYM's Spiritual Formation program. In an email I received a few days ago, one of them wrote: "I think the Spiritual Formation program was an amazing preparation for the School of the Spirit. I was very prepared and experienced in Quaker process .... almost entirely due to the LEYM Spiritual Formation program. I had the experience both of deep listening and being listened to in articulating my spiritual journey."

Vision for the Future

In addition to continuing the program for Friends in the western part of the yearly meeting, I would like LEYM to develop a program that works for the rest of the yearly meeting, and I have some ideas on how that might be done. But that work is not really within the scope of the current planning committee.

Fees

I have left money matters to the end, as you will be asked to make a decision. Setting fees for the retreats in recent years has involved making educated guesses because the per-person share depends on how many people attend each retreat. Expenses that need to be covered include: the cost of rooms, meals, and meeting rooms at the retreat center in the fall; meals in the spring; travel expenses for the leader and companion, which vary widely; an honorarium for the leader; and materials costs such as flyers, name tags, a mailing to meetings, and extensive resource booklets for Friends to use during the year. Annual expenses in recent years, including rooms and meals, have run between $2,800 and $4,500. Of course, with more participants, the higher both expenses and income are.

This coming year, the Planning Committee is taking a fresh approach to setting fees. In the past, there was a set fee for attending the retreats with a deep discount offered for couples. This year, while we are raising

fees, we are also giving participants information about how much the program actually costs and then asking them to decide what they can afford. That might be more, or less, than the full program cost. The full cost figures are based on an assumption that we'll have a certain number of participants. We give two suggested payments: enough to cover the full cost of $190 a person for both retreats; and a minimum fee of $150 for those who can't afford the full amount. There is the option of making an additional contribution to support others. There is a $20 discount for first-time attenders and couples. Last year's fee was $135. We encourage Friends to request help from their monthly meeting and then from the program if they need assistance.

We are proceeding in faith that by the end of the program year the costs will be covered. So far, registrations are encouraging. A number of Friends have sent in contributions.

Finances

In the beginning, the program was designed to be self-supporting. In 2004, the program committee requested that the yearly meeting contribute $500 each year to help participants attend the retreats. The yearly meeting approved this with the note that this line item was for "supplies and scholarships" (YM2004-29). In 2005, the Spiritual Formation line item was increased to $600 "to cover some scholarships to the new Spiritual Formation group forming in the Pittsburgh area" (YM05-22).

The amount of LEYM's annual contribution was reduced to $100 in 2011, in part because the Finance Cmt. was looking for places to trim the budget but also because the program's fund had grown larger than necessary. It has stayed at $100 until now. During those years, we have intentionally drawn down the fund to the point where it now needs to be built back up and stabilized.

At the Executive Committee Meeting prior to Representative Meeting earlier this year, the program's finances were discussed. "It was noted that when LEYM began budgeting an annual amount for the program, that money was designated for scholarships and materials. It has always been put directly into the fund for the program and for many years no distinction has been made between money contributed by LEYM and other money in the fund. Executive Committee felt comfortable with using the yearly meeting's contribution to support the program in all its aspects, and recommends that the yearly meeting approve this change." (EC14 04.04-7) Additional discussion occurred at Representative Meeting, and the committee was asked to prepare this presentation explaining its purpose and program at this Annual Meeting.

YM2014-21 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported. Mike noted that contributions from all monthly meetings have been received. He also reported the Yearly Meeting has received a $10,000 anonymous donation to be divided between the Traveling Ministry Program ($3,500), the High School Teen Retreat Program ($3,500), and the General Fund ($3,000). So far this year the Yearly Meeting has only spent about 31% of its expense budget. Mike then went through the financial report, explained the YM's financial position, and outlined its assets. The YM operated well within its budget, with the additional bonuses of the $10, 000 donation and a better than expected return on investments. The full report follows.

BALANCE SHEET

			Change in value 6/30/2013-
Cash Assets	**6/30/2013**	**6/30/2014**	**current**
Citizens Nat. Bank, Bluffton, Ohio	16,255.92	32,499.02	16,243.10
Friends Fiduciary, Base Account	16,938.81	19,777.72	2,838.91
Friends Fiduciary, Granville YF Account	6,403.91	7,192.02	788.11
Memo:cur FFC total: 26,969.74			
Total Cash Assets	**39,598.64**	**59,468.76**	**19,870.12**

Allocation of Assets

General Fund**	15,797.49	30,246.74	14,449.25
Granville Youth Fund	6,403.91	7,192.02	788.11
Annual Meeting Fund	371.33	1,473.31	1,101.98
Youth Activities Fund	7,584.58	7,092.37	(492.21)
High School Youth Fund	2,982.50	5,773.30	2,790.80
Spiritual Formation Fund	2,175.32	1,107.51	(1,067.81)
FWCC Travel Fund	1,139.83	2,339.83	1,200.00
Consultation Fund	3,143.68	3,143.68	0.00
Ministry Scholarship Fund	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
Temp. Work Proj Fund	100.00	100.00	
Total All Funds	**39,598.64**	**59,468.76**	**19,870.12**

Saturday Morning Session

YM2014-22 Worship & Reading of Epistle of the Alaska Friends Conference

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the Saturday morning session of the 2014 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with waiting worship. Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Assistant Clerk, read from the Epistle of the Alaska Friends Conference 2013 Annual Session. The theme of the session was "Caring for Creation - How are we led to address climate disruption?" The main session of the gathering was devoted to a discussion of "a series of queries exploring our personal perspectives on right relations with the earth's resources and our understanding of the related Quaker Testimonies." The epistle concluded by expressing "appreciation to Friends who remind us of the Light we lift up across the globe. We join you in this perpetual journey to walk lightly on the land, answering that of God in each person and in God's glorious creation."

YM2014-23 Welcome of visitors and first-time attenders

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), Clerk, welcomed visitors and first time attenders. The following were introduced: Josephine Posti (Pittsburgh); Vaughn Peebles, White Rose MM, Ohio Valley YM; Louise Hammel (Wooster); Ron Irvine (Grand Rapids); and Marta Rhea Johnson, Interim Head of Friends School in Detroit.

YM2014-24 Finance Committee Report

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. The establishment of a Traveling Ministries Fund was discussed and approved. The establishment of a Travel Fund was discussed and approved. The establishment of a budget line and a fund to support various costs of LEYM Work Projects was discussed and approved. The expansion of the purpose of the FWCC travel fund to cover Friends from other parts of the world was discussed and approved.

The 2014-2015 budget was discussed and explained. A particular concern for the viability of Friends School in Detroit was brought forward. The full report follows.

Finance Committee Report, Annual Meeting, 2014

A. Anonymous Donation. As you have heard from our treasurer, LEYM recently received an anonymous donation of $10,000, with the request that its use be divided almost equally among the General Fund ($3000), the High School Teen Retreat Program fund ($3500), and "Traveling ministries" (also $3500). The Finance Committee is immensely grateful to the donor and is striving to see that the money is spent as requested.

B. Establishment of Funds and Budget Line.

1. To spend the portion of the anonymous gift for traveling ministries, we propose establishing a new fund for that purpose. Last year, we approved supporting Merry Stanford as a traveling minister with funding from the Advancement & Outreach Committee's budget line; for the coming year, the proposed

Traveling Ministries Fund would be used in precisely the same way as that budget line, supporting Merry's work. Looking farther into the future, the clerks, Advancement & Outreach Committee, and Ministry & Nurture Committee will consider how Yearly Meeting wishes to support traveling ministry and thus who will have oversight for the fund. The fund would start with the $3500 from the donation.

2. At Representative Meeting we proposed establishing a Travel Fund to provide a cushion for the Travel budget line. Travel expenses have varied wildly from one year to the next; a fund would enable us to budget somewhat less than we have been, drawing on the fund in years where expenses are high, and preserving money budgeted for travel by paying back into the fund when expenses are low. In the past year, we budgeted $5000 for travel expenses but spent only $1547 and the unspent monies moved back into the General Fund at the end of the year. We propose taking $3000 of the money budgeted for travel last year to establish a Travel Fund. Money in the Travel Fund would be used for the same purposes as money in the Travel budget line. (In fact, the budget line would now subsidize the fund.) We bring this proposal back now for your discernment. 3. Also at Representative Meeting, acting on a recommendation from Executive Committee that Friends participating in LEYM work projects be supported by the Yearly Meeting, we proposed **creating a Budget Line and Fund to support the costs of LEYM work projects, including the** registration costs of individual participants. Although the original recommendation was that the Yearly Meeting cover the registration costs completely, Finance does not feel we can promise complete coverage, and thus propose defining the budget line and fund as supporting these costs. The temporary fund established for cash flow for this summer's project has a balance of $70, which would be moved into a permanent fund to supplement the budget line for next year. We bring this proposal back to create both a budget line and fund for your discernment as well.

C. Budget for 2014-15

A draft budget was presented at Representative Meeting and printed in the spring Bulletin. That budget included many new expenses, resulting in a suggested per/member contribution of $45, up from $40 this year. Since then we have reduced budgeted expenses by $2000 and recognized additional income of $600, thereby improving the expenses-to-income balance by $2600, and allowing us to reduce the suggested per/member contribution. In making adjustments, we have tried to meet the needs of the Yearly Meeting without placing too great a burden on monthly meetings, bearing in mind that we completed the 2013-14 fiscal year with assets of over $59,000 but that we want to avoid drastic changes from one year to the next.

Proceeding through the proposed budget we have made the following changes since Representative Meeting:

- Reduced the Travel budget by $1000, in expectation of having a Travel fund
- Increased the FWCC travel budget by $1200. Here we need to approval of Meeting to expand the purpose of the FWCC travel fund: currently it supports LEYM Representatives when they travel to international gatherings. Recently we have budgeted $1000 to $1200 per year, which builds up in a fund, thereby enabling us to offer considerable support to these representatives every few years. This year we expect FWCC to request contributions to help Friends from less affluent parts of world attend the next International Representatives Meeting, to be held in Peru in January 2016. We propose adding $1200 to this fund for this year only and expanding the purpose of the fund to cover Friends from other parts of the world.
- Reduced the High School Teen Retreat Program budget by $700 because of the $3500 donation to the Fund. (This had originally been increased by $1000 over last year to support travel expenses of teens; we now propose increasing it by only $300, thus the $700 decrease.)
- Reduced the Spiritual Formation budget by $700 on the advice of the Spiritual Formation Planning Committee. (This had originally been increased by $1400 over last year; now the increase is only $700.)
- Reduced the proposed budget line for the work project by $800, based on the experience of this summer. These changes reduce the budgeted expenses to $31,740.

Meanwhile, we realized that we were not including in income our semiannual payment of dividends from the Friends Fiduciary Corporation, estimated at $600.

These changes allowed us to reduce the expected income from contributions to $29,725 and thus the

suggested per/member contribution from $45 to $41.

This leaves the deficit between budgeted expenses and budgeted income at $1165, which we believe is an acceptable figure.

D. Travel reimbursement rate. We kept the rate at 35¢ per mile. E. Friends Fiduciary accounts: We confirmed that we will move both our accounts into the Quaker Green Fund. Although the payout will be less by up to 1 percentage point at first, we have heard nothing but support for this move.

YM2014-25 High School Teen Retreat Committee Report

The report was written by Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) and presented by Conleth Crotser (Cleveland). The full report follows.

Four of four retreats have been completed so far this program year.

The Fall 2014 retreat was held in Athens Meeting. Eight teens attended. The workshop was led by Merry Stanford and Peter Wood (Red Cedar) on the spiritual practice of dialogue. The teens engaged in dyads and group dialogue on issues that were important to them, including their experience of and response to racial language in school. The out trip included a visit to a farmers' market and the always popular thrifting expedition.

The Quake that Rocked the Midwest: 40 teens attended this retreat over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend, coming from Illinois YM, LEYM, and Ohio Valley YM, with seven teens from LEYM. The workshop topic was the life of Nelson Mandela, and the out trips included a visit to the Holocaust Museum, learning about how different nations responded to the Holocaust; and to Millenial Park, which included an unusual art installation that involved seeing your own and others' reflections in a curved surface.

The Spring 2014 retreat was held at Pittsburgh Meeting. Four teens attended from Cleveland, Red Cedar, Ann Arbor and Athens. The workshop was facilitated by Scilla Wahrhaftig on the work of AFSC. She did a wonderful job enlightening the group about the work of AFSC internationally and domestically. The main out trip, chosen by the teens, was a visit to the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium. Exploring the campus and thrift shopping were also enjoyed by the teens.

The Summer 2014 retreat was held at CASS Community Social Services in Detroit. Six teens attended from Cleveland, Athens, and Red Cedar Meetings. The teens learned about the social services that are provided by the center: feeding and housing homeless men, women, and families, job coaching, housing people living with HIV/AIDS, recycling old tires into sandals and door mats, and shredding paper for recycling. The group worked in the recycling center on Saturday morning and in the kitchen on Saturday afternoon. The teens ate breakfast and lunch with the folks receiving services there. They had many opportunities to talk about safety, racism, classism, and privilege. On Sunday morning half of the teens worshipped with Detroit Friends. Ask them about this experience!

Future Retreats

The 2014 fall retreat will be held at Ann Arbor MM, November 7 - 9. The 2015 winter retreat, called the Quake that Rocked the Midwest, will be held once again in Chicago, January 16-19.

Robb is hoping the 2015 spring retreat will be held in a Ohio meeting. Policy regarding ages of participants: Our Policies and Procedures identify the High School Teen Retreat Program as a program for "high school aged youth," i.e., youth who are in ninth through twelfth grade. The committee clarified the policy to include rising ninth graders during the summer before their ninth grade year, and graduating seniors during the summer following graduation. Merry is stepping off the committee. I'm very sorry to withdraw from the committee at this point in its history. I had hoped to serve one more year in order to help find and hire a new program coordinator. (See item below.) However, my health (which is slowly improving) and my travel in ministry (which is diminished) are being shown to me to be the priorities for now. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this program! Search for new program coordinator: Robb's last retreat with the teens will be the 2015 summer retreat. He has done a marvelous job with the program, both in helping guide the teens spiritually and doing so in a way that they enjoy. But Robb has discerned that it is time for him to move on to new things. A new coordinator will be need to be named by summer 2015. The new clerk and committee will be deeply involved in reviewing and updating the job

description, requesting applications, and interviewing applicants. Please alert the committee to Friends you think would be interested in providing dynamic leadership to the Teen Retreat Program.

Potential concern about the future of the LEYM HS Teen Retreat Program: Our numbers of participants at retreats have been somewhat lower this year, and we have two teens who are aging out of the retreats, with limited information about younger teens who may be interested in joining us. This gave rise to a potential concern on the committee about keeping the program viable by welcoming new attenders who are entering 9th grade.

So committee members called LEYM families with teens this spring to make personal contact with the families, and to invite their teens to attend the retreats. We don't yet know the outcome of those calls, but we were not overly encouraged by the responses we received. We are aware that teens these days are very scheduled with school, sports, jobs, and other interests. We suggest that meetings might consider taking an active role in encouraging their teens' attendance at the High School Teen Retreats, where teens have an opportunity to hang out with other Quaker teens, participate in teen-relevant workshops regarding Quaker faith and practice, go on outings determined by the teens, participate in service projects, and practice meeting for business in a community of teens. Parents are usually happy to know that all of this occurs in a structured setting with well-articulated expectations regarding behavioral limits and how Friends treat each other. We also invite teens participating in the retreats to bring friends to the retreats. Here is what young Friends and their families have said about the retreats: "We bond with other Quaker teens. We've connected and just had a great time while doing it." "We have a lot of fun and laugh A LOT!"

"These retreats are one of my child's highlights of the year." One of the parents reported that their teen remarked, on returning home from a retreat: "Now I know why you are a Quaker."

Some teens have indicated that they feel a great disconnect with teens at their schools, and that these retreats *are the only place they can really be themselves.*

I want to thank the teens whose energy makes this such a dynamic program. Thank you to the parents for entrusting your teens to the care of the Yearly Meeting in this way. Thank you to Robb, who has devoted his care and skill to the spiritual nurture of our young Friends. Thank you to the committee, Joyce, Dave, Levi, Dyani, and Conleth, for your time and effort and caring on behalf of all the teens of LEYM. And thank you to the Yearly Meeting, for the opportunity to serve in this way, nurturing the youthful leadership of LEYM.

The report was discussed. Monthly Meetings have been asked to encourage teens to participate, but they need additional and more timely publicity in order to give families enough time to schedule participation. It was suggested that monthly meetings designate an organizer to encourage teens and help them get to the retreats.

YM2014-26 Friends General Conference (FGC) Report

Eric Evans (FGC staff) reported. He explained that FGC is more than just the Gathering and that it is not a denomination, but rather a service organization. It seeks to deepen Quaker worship and practice, support a loving Quaker community, as well as support outreach. Eric distributed several FGC pamphlets and made several announcements. He explained the purpose and the work the FGC traveling ministries program does in supporting meetings and Friends traveling in the ministry. He then reported on the Ministry on Racism Program and how it seeks to support Friends of Color in their meetings and to help meetings to be more welcoming to attenders of color. It also works on issues of racism in our society.

Eric spoke about the FGC's Couples Enrichment Program and The New Meetings Project. Online, the Seeding Meetings program is offering Quaker meetings Power Tools as well as the New Meetings Toolbox to help all sorts of meetings get organized, not just new ones. The Quaker Quest project offers materials on how to welcome new attenders to meeting. Eric strongly encouraged meetings to offer First Day School if they don't already. FGC offers a curriculum to support First Day School. Last spring FGC conducted a Spiritual Deepening Consultation on the subject of religious education for adults and has hired a Spiritual Deepening consultant who will be creating resources for meetings.

YM2014-27 Friends School in Detroit (FSD) Report

Marta Rhea-Johnson, Interim Head of School, reported. She explained how the school tries to not only

provide a great education, but to also have students grow up to be good people. She reported that the school is making progress financially, even though there certainly still are many challenges in this regard. Marta tries to make sure the school is managed with integrity. One of the biggest challenges the school faces is that the parents who are interested in having their children attend the school often are not able to afford the asked tuition, necessitating scholarships. The School is a Quaker school. It uses Quaker values to operate and teach. It also teaches Quaker values to the children and has the children follow these Quaker values in their school lives. Marta then explained the various fundraising efforts the school conducts during the year. She also stated that FSD, while still in debt, is paying its staff on time. It is also making payments to its vendors and on its mortgage. It was asked from the floor: “Is LEYM is doing enough to support FSD spiritually and logistically, other than its financial contribution?” It was suggested that all Quaker children should have the opportunity to attend a Quaker school sometime in their lives. Marta then offered to make available the financial figures from the school to those who are interested. The current interim head is being mentored by a past Quaker head of FSD, Dwight Wilson.

YM2014-28 Report from Olney Friends School

The Clerk reported that Greg Mott (Broadmead) submitted a report which will be published in the Bulletin.

YM2014-29 Advancement and Outreach Committee Report

Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) reported for the committee. The full report follows. The A&O Committee's policies and procedures call for the committee to engage in visitation with monthly meetings and worship groups. The committee is pleased to report that it has been aided in this work very materially during the last year by Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), whose calling to travel in ministry the committee endorsed at annual sessions in 2013. Merry visited four meetings between Sept. 2013 and March 2014: Athens MM, Kent MM, North Columbus MM, and Pine River MM. Letters from the clerks of these meetings describe Merry's visits as "spiritually nourishing," "a beginning for further dialogue," "a gift," "a blessing," and "an enriching experience." Merry plans visits to Grand Rapids MM, Ann Arbor MM, and Granville MM in the coming months. The committee continues to hold in the Light Merry and her anchor committee in Red Cedar MM, as she ministers to meetings in spiritual need. The committee received a report from Evelyn Kirkhoff, formerly of the Gallipolis Worship Group. She tells us the group was laid down in April. The committee is aware of several other worship groups that continue to function; committee members have recently been in contact with the Chelsea, Fremont and Manitou worship groups. These groups appear to be stable in membership and happy to continue meeting and worshipping in the manner of Friends. In our committee work it occasionally comes to our attention that small groups of Friends are meeting in our area that are not connected with our yearly meeting. We remain open to communication with these Friends. The LEYM website has a map of the LEYM service area, showing the location of its MMs and WGs. We have recently updated the map to reflect current information.

Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) reported for the FGC New Meetings Project. The three women who have occasionally been meeting for worship in the manner of Friends in Ludington, Michigan, were contacted by a New Meetings Project liaison team consisting of Merry Stanford and Mike Holaday. The women have elected not to pursue the possibility of becoming a meeting any further. Mike also reported that the New Meetings Project has developed materials intended to support existing meetings, now collected in a "Quaker Meetings Toolbox" which can be found on the FGC website.

The committee asked that LEYM endorse the travel minute from Broadmead Monthly Meeting in support of Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) as she serves as a mentor with the New Meetings Project of Friends General Conference. The full text of the minute follows:

Broadmead Monthly Meeting

c/o 1532 Bernath Parkway

Toledo, OH 43615

May 31, 2014

Broadmead Friends send you greetings and commend to your care our member, Mathilda Navias. She will be with you as she serves with the New Meetings Project of Friends General Conference. Mathilda is uniquely suited to this work and there is no doubt her leading had Divine origins. She has extensive

knowledge of Quaker process, has clerked Advancement and Outreach at the Yearly Meeting level and has expressed her belief that the efforts of fledgling meetings to get started is God's work and she is there to assist.

May you all be held in Light as you labor together.

In Peace, Mary Igoe Meyers

Clerk of Broadmead Monthly Meeting

The endorsement was approved.

The committee continues to encourage the High School Teen Retreat Committee to reach out to young people of our community and we look forward to their report on the experience of that group.

Saturday afternoon session

YM2014-30 Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

Paula Deming (Waysmeet WG) reported. The full report follows. The Ministry and Nurture Committee has several charges. First, we administer the Ministry Scholarship Fund. Second, we hold the Spiritual Formation program under our care. Third, we collect and assess the annual State of the Meeting Reports. And fourth, we craft an annual Query to be considered by monthly meetings and worship groups as an enrichment tool.

We also consider other matters that the yearly meeting clerk asks us to take under our care. Last year, Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) and Peter Wood (Red Cedar) asked us for support of a proposal to offer a special couples enrichment program; this was brought to yearly meeting at last year's sessions. The first program will be offered early in 2015 — Friday, February 27 to Sunday, March 1 — at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan. Merry has sent us a flyer. Copies can be found online.

This year, we were given a tender problem, which was brought to LEYM representatives meeting by Athens Monthly Meeting. During these annual sessions we have heard a report and proposed minute from the Athens Clearness Committee Concerning Sexual Abuse. Our committee had first listened to the report and minute and seasoned it with the Athens representative. The Athens Clearness Committee then met to finish the report and proposed minute; it was the revised version that was presented to this body yesterday. This year, we received only one request for Ministry Scholarship funds, from a Friend who wished to attend the FGC Gathering. Because of the short time given for discernment plus the lack of an exact sense of ministry, the request could not be considered further. We encourage Friends who are following a leading to bring it to their monthly meeting; after seasoning, the monthly meeting may then bring a request for a scholarship to this committee.

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) has already given a complete report on the Spiritual Formation program that is coming up this year. As noted, the fall retreat will take place September 5-7 at the Colombiere Retreat and Conference Center in Clarkston, Michigan. Eric Evans (Central Philadelphia/FGC Staff) will lead us in a consideration of "The Gospel of John: Stories of What God's Love Looks Like." Flyers for the program can be found upstairs on the display tables.

M&N received State of the Meeting reports from 19 monthly meetings and worship groups. As we read the reports, we noted some challenges in our meetings, but we also noted many strengths and growth. Several reports continue to include worries about aging. Gallipolis Worship Group, with only three Friends left (one in a nursing home and the others suffering from health issues), has laid itself down. Another meeting is feeling tender and fragile after the loss and diminished health of several seasoned Friends. Some meetings are worried about a lack in diversity.

One meeting writes of trying to rebuild after being torn apart by conflict. Some smaller meetings have laid down committees and are having difficulty finding First Day School teachers. However, many meetings gave the sense of love and caring within the meeting community. Several, large and small, mentioned that worship includes a deep silence. Some wrote of the Spirit shining through their actions. It seemed that more meetings wrote about the children's programs and how much they enrich the meetings. One meeting wrote of having the children lead the meeting for worship one week. Meetings found outreach with other religious groups to be very rewarding. We also read about service projects. Many wrote of projects in support of Quaker organizations or other local needs. Many meetings have

committees that address issues of sustainability and care for the planet, or the meeting as a whole is working on them.

The M&N Committee has enjoyed reading all of the details of these reports. Many contain items that are of interest to all meetings. We encourage all Friends and meetings to take the time to read all of the reports.

Jerry Knudson expressed his gratitude for the support of the committee and yearly meeting as he pursued a degree at Earlham School of Religion. He received his degree last month.

Paula shared the annual query which the committee has developed for the coming year:

> "Friends find their essential unity in their profound and exhilarating belief in the pervasive presence of God and in the continuing responsibility of each person and worshipping group to seek the leading of the Spirit in all things." Faith & Practice of *New England Yearly Meeting, 1986*
>
> How has our practice of expectant waiting in worship invited the Divine to guide our meeting's actions? In what ways do our actions in the world as a meeting enrich and transform the spiritual life of the body?

The Clerk read the revised Minute on Sexual Abuse from Athens Monthly Meeting and asked for the Meeting's discernment. The following minute was approved:

> LEYM Friends recognize that we in the Religious Society of Friends are not immune to the possibility of sexual abuse in our Meetings. Such abuse may occur between children, not just between adults and children, and by any gender. Such sexual abuse has occurred among LEYM Friends. Let our awareness of this, along with our loving and caring for our children, allow us to honor small feelings of discomfort, to empower us as individuals to speak up and speak out when led, and, thus, to limit the chances of sexual abuse happening in our Meetings in the future.

The Clerk proposed that she be given the authority to name an ad hoc committee to explore the various issues around sexual abuse that have arisen out of the discussion of the Athens report and bring recommendations to the YM. This was approved.

The body expressed gratitude for all the work that went into developing the report and minute by Athens Friends.

YM2014-31 Publications and Archives Committee Report

Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) reported for the committee. The full report follows. 1) Committee members accepted assignments to cover the 12 workshops at Annual Meeting and write summaries for the Annual Records. Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar), Bob Roehm (North Columbus), and Susan Carpenter (Broadmead) also volunteered to accept workshop assignments 2) Annual Records

> a) Confirmed that Les Walden will be the editor for next year b) Committee members will serve as copy editors for the various sections c) Submission deadline is 9/15/2014; material may be submitted in any format.

3) Bulletin

> a) Susan Carpenter, nominee for Bulletin co-editor, met with the committee. She has talked with past editors, Les Walden and Jeff Cooper as to the functions and management of the Bulletin. Susan feels the future Bulletins might include: report on activities of monthly meetings, profiles of Friends in the Yearly Meeting, & sharing spiritual journeys. b) We discussed ways for the Publications committee to give proper oversight of the Bulletin. We encouraged Susan to contact committee members by email and the committee clerk by phone about problems and concerns. The Committee will make sure we have one or more copy editors for the Bulletin.
>
> c) Submission deadline is 9/ 15/ 2014 for a 10/ 1/ 2014 release; the preferable format is Word 4) We discussed what to do with copies of early Bulletins that have been turned over to the Yearly Meeting but are in poor quality printed form. The Committee suggests at least putting them on the web site as a means of preserving them and will discuss this further with Mathilda Navias. The committee will also inquire of the Swarthmore Historical Library as to whether it is interested in receiving the old paper copies.

5) The Yearly Meeting's scrapbooks were reviewed. We will continue to try to add some photos of future annual meetings.

YM2014-32 Site Committee Report

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reported for the committee. There are 124 attenders this year. This includes 23 children, 8 of whom are teens. The 2015 Annual Sessions will be July 30 - August 2 and in 2016 will be July 28 - 31. The Clerk suggested that the Site and Youth Program committees get together at Representative Meeting in order to consider whether registration for the youth program should have an earlier deadline. It was asked from the floor if members might be able to register online, rather than merely downloading the form. The Clerk asked the site committee to consider this suggestion.

YM2014-33 Nominating Committee Report

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. Thomas gave an update on the committee's progress and encouraged members to follow their hearts and assume responsibilities as they are led.

YM2014-34 Earthcare Committee Report

Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) and Richard Lee (Red Cedar) reported for the committee. They said that the committee has been exploring various ways they might be able to widen and deepen the spirituality around Earthcare issues and bring them before the YM. They introduced the members of the committee and asked them to speak about some of the issues they are working on. The Committee is planning to host a listserv to facilitate building bridges between individuals and groups and to help establish a network to help the Yearly Meeting deal with important Earthcare issues. Quaker Earthcare Witness has only two people in it that are under the age of 40. Friends, particularly those under 40, are encouraged to join this organization. Max Heirich spoke about the Michigan Interfaith Power & Light group, which urges us to create energy efficiency and move away from carbon based to renewable energy. A petition was passed around in support of movement toward renewable, clean energy. There was gratitude expressed for the direction that the committee and the YM are taking.

YM2014-35 Peace Committee Report

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. The full report follows: In this time of shocking abuse of human rights, massive violence in several areas of the world, and the funding and sale of destructive weapons by our government, it is inevitable that the LEYM Peace Committee will have a wide-ranging report to bring you ……. and we do! Several of us will share our concerns and actions about 1. the bombings in Gaza and on-going violence between Israelis and Palestinians; 2. FCNL's work - with Katherine Phillipson from FCNL reporting 3. and the fate of Central American children crossing our southern border and immigration issues in general

To begin at the beginning, we want to follow up on the minute that was passed in our 2013 Yearly Meeting session:

Minute approved by Lake Erie Yearly Meeting July 2013:

> A key step towards stability and safety for Israelis, Palestinians and the other indigenous peoples of the region depends on a just agreement regarding the Palestinian lands that Israel has illegally occupied, according to international law, since 1967. Therefore, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting calls for Friends to join the boycott of products made in Israel's illegal West Bank settlements and to divest from companies that support Israel's military occupation and repression of the Palestinian people. We join with the American Friends Service Committee, Britain Yearly Meeting, monthly meetings, and religious and civil society organizations throughout the world in taking such steps in working for peace.
>
> Blessings to you as your monthly meetings continue to follow the leadings of the spirit,
>
> Sally Weaver Sommer, Clerk of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

In order to help us act on this minute, Friends Anne Remley and Helen Fox from Ann Arbor Meeting have produced the card on your chair that lists ten companies which are based in the illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine. Please take the card with you to your investment counselors and your relatives, and ask them to divest from those companies. Also in your chair is a flyer (keep it in your pocket when

you shop) that asks you to boycott Soda Stream for the same reason.

Further, we have had very good news from Friends Fiduciary Corporation, and I'll read a portion of their letter to you.

"To answer your question about the holdings of the ten companies ……. as of June 30, 2014 we did not hold any of those companies. …. I would note that some managers have discretion for direct purchase; however, we check the holdings quarterly to verify that there have not been additions that run counter to our screens." Jeffery W. Perkins, Executive Director, Friends Fiduciary Corporation Lucia Kalinosky (Oberlin) will share further our concerns about the present situation in Gaza including a proposed Call to Action [See YM14 - 39 below].

Though Scilla Wahrhaftig has now departed from Yearly Meeting, she has left a short paragraph on her concern about mass incarceration and solitary confinement of prisoners. "At Friends General Conference a concern pertaining to mass incarceration arose from the attendees. A number of events helped to bring to our attention the tremendous number of incarcerated citizens, with the disproportionate amount of people of color. Over 130 Friends signed up to become part of a Quaker network to address the issue and a steering committee is in process of being established that will explore ways to reach out to Friends for whom this is a major concern."

Anyone interested in being on the mailing list could contact Scilla Wahrhaftig (swahrhaftig@afsc.org) or (scillahw@gmail.com).

Katherine Philipson, Network Building Associate for Friends Committee on National Legislation, is with us to share the most recent news from FCNL. Her report follows. While there are not all that many Quakers, it is important that we remember that it is quality over quantity that counts. If war is not the answer, then what is? FCNL is working with the AFSC to answer this question. FCNL is focusing on cutting Pentagon spending and increasing social spending. It is also working on ways to bring about non-violent conflict resolution. Working on avoiding war with Iran. It is also trying to repeal the Main Law that has given the President a blank check with which to prosecute the War on Terror. Finally, there is new staff person at FCNL who is to work with young adults.

Peter Dale (Detroit), stepping briefly out of his role as Recording Clerk, will bring us a concern about the immigration of Central American children. His full report follows. A Call to Action on the Immigration of Central American Children into the U. S. The Peace Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is concerned with the response of the United States to the crisis created by the influx of unaccompanied children from Central America over the U.S.-Mexican border. They are arbitrarily being denied asylum and face wholesale deportation back to economically untenable and dangerous situations. The attempt to frame the refusal of asylum to these children as a legal issue is merely an attempt to justify discrimination without addressing its economic and racial underpinnings. The United States also refuses to admit its complicity in maintaining undemocratic governments in the region, fostering the conditions that have lead to the desperation that motivated these children to risk their lives in trying to escape. In order to address the crisis created by the detention and forced expulsion of unaccompanied children from Central America in the wake of their influx into the United States, the committee asks that meetings take immediate steps to ameliorate the situation by reaching out to other groups who are also working to help these children. We need to contact our congressional representatives, urging them to act swiftly to vote against fast-tracking deportations of children and asking them to provide extra funds to address their immediate needs. We should also contact President Obama and tell him to deal with the situation as a humanitarian crisis rather than a security threat, with the likely result of increased militarization of border communities and adding more detention centers. Please write to the editors of local newspapers, calling for justice and compassion by adhering to the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, which guarantees due process for unaccompanied children. As Quakers, we can do no less.

During discussion there was a concern expressed about not addressing the root causes of the crisis. There is a tension between the need to address the immediate crisis and the need to find a solution to the root causes of the crisis. Concern was also expressed that what was presented was a proposed minute, and had not been seasoned sufficiently by the Yearly Meeting for approval. The committee agreed to try to rework the proposed minute and resubmit it to the YM in another form in order to meet these concerns.

Sunday morning session

YM2014-36 Worship

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the Sunday morning session of the 2014 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with waiting worship.

YM2014-37 Ad hoc Work Camp Planning Committee

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) has agreed to clerk the committee for the coming year. Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor), Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), and Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) are also on the committee. Others are welcome to join or to offer suggestions.

YM2014-38 Naming Committee Report

Joyce Balderston (Wooster) and Seth Reichenbach (North Columbus) reported for the committee.

Abbey Pratt Harrington has agreed to clerk the Nominating Committee. Clemence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG) was approved as a member of the Nominating Committee. The Naming Committee will continue to search for another person to serve on the Nominating Committee.

YM2014-39 Peace Committee Report

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. After discussion and an agreement for the addition of specific mention of Hamas and calling for all the parties in the conflict to negotiate, Friends expressed support for sending the following Call to Action on ending the Israeli Military Occupation of Palestinian Territories (see YM14 - 35 above) as an email to the Monthly meetings from the Peace Committee.

Call to Action on the crisis in Gaza

In the light of the current violence in Gaza, we feel that there is a moral imperative to act for shared human dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians by addressing a root cause of injustice and inequality in the region, namely by ending the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian territories. Given the United States' support for Israel and the resulting complicity of U.S. taxpayers, LEYM Peace Committee calls on Friends to encourage the U.S. Government to work with all involved parties, including Hamas, for a just ceasefire that would end the seven-year-long blockade of Gaza.

We ask Friends to consider the following actions:

- Contact local congress people and other elected representatives to ask for an end to U.S. military aid to Israel
- Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper, including the names of local representatives in your letter
- Contact your favorite news outlets to ask for fair coverage
- Hold or join a rally or vigil in a public space
- Contact a corporation profiting from the occupation, asking them to end their complicity (see our short list of corporations or visit www.whoprofits.org)
- Sign the petition (website below) calling for a military embargo of Israel
- Ask others to sign this and other petitions asking for an end to Israeli attacks on Gaza
- Participate in local boycott, divestment and sanctions efforts.
- List of Protests - http://samidoun.ca/2014/07/take-action-protests-around-the-world-respond-to-assault-on-palestine/
- FCNL letter to Congress - http://capwiz.com/fconl/issues/alert/?alertid=63273901
- Military embargo letter - http://www.bdsmovement.net/stoparmingisrael

YM2014-40 Report from the AFSC

Seth Reichenbach (North Columbus) reported for the representatives. The full report follows.

> **Report to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting on the American Friends Service Committee's 2014** Corporation Meeting

The annual meeting of the American Friends Service Committee's Corporation took place beginning on Thursday evening, March 6, through Sunday morning, March 9, 2014 in Philadelphia. AFSC is celebrating 97 years of service. The Corporation conducted its business, appointed Corporation and

Committee members, and approved the Friends put forward by the Standing Nominating Committee. The Corporation also approved the placement of the Friends Relations Committee as a committee of the Corporation, parallel to that of the Standing Nominating Committee.

On Thursday night, those in attendance heard songs of forgiveness and unity from Tribe One, and from Naima Lowe, who presented “39 Questions for White People” to challenge us to consider issues of privilege. The Friends Relations Committee was given the task of nurturing a greater vitality in the Corporation and the connection between AFSC and U.S. Friends in their monthly and yearly meetings. During the meeting Friends joined one another in both programmed and unprogrammed worship and worship-sharing sessions. The theme this year was, “Steadfastly working for peace and justice in Israel-Palestine.”There were evening sessions on this topic. Several seasoning sessions gave Friends a deeper familiarity with AFSC programs and provided an opportunity to advise staff and the AFSC Board.

The indicators of AFSC as a Quaker organization were discussed. An AFSC document, two years in the making, was reviewed at a seasoning session to get feedback and opportunity for refinement. This document reports on how AFSC seeks to embody Quaker practices in its mission, governance, leadership, program strategies, relationship principles and our spiritual connection through worship. There were a number of seasoning sessions. One revolved around critical issues facing AFSC and the world. This session discussed a working paper, titled Shared Security: Reimagining U.S. Foreign Policy, jointly authored by the AFSC and the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). This document is the foundation of new program initiatives to embrace youth leadership both inside and outside of Quakerism and strive to change the narrative that justifies militarism and violence in the media. The issues related to U.S. foreign policy abroad, amongst our own communities, and ways in which the language and concept of “security” could be redefined to promote dialogue between different communities, were explored during the seasoning session.

The Israel-Palestine conflict was a concern during the Corporation's annual meeting. Many times the question arose: What is the price of the current narrative of Israeli security in the form of restrictive walls, military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and discrimination and brutality directed towards the Palestinian people? Growing concerns were noted among Friends, which have resulted in initiatives in many monthly meetings Directed towards a just peace in Palestine, while noting that the narrative of “peace” is also a complicated one. We heard from Sandra Tamari, a young Palestinian woman, and Dalit Baum, a young Israeli woman, about the recent history in the region and attempts to boycott companies tied to apartheid against Palestinians. AFSC continues to affirm its involvement with programs in Israel and Palestine. Since 1948 AFSC has been persistent in the search for a just peace in Israel-Palestine. There's program presentation we heard about mass incarceration, specifically for people living in poverty. We asked ourselves what the future of the prison system should look like, seeing the injustice but not knowing a way to end it.

General Secretary Shan Cretin reported on the return of AFSC to financial stability after critical years following the economic downturn. She reported that the required shrinkage of AFSC has resulted in higher efficiency. She also reported that new work considered by AFSC will be guided by the strategic plan and the financial health of the organization. The organization is smaller than it was in 2007. AFSC has learned the need for good stewardship of resources to meet its obligations. The Corporation's 2013 Annual Report, including the audit results, was made available those in attendance at the Corporation meeting. All documents were available electronically to members of the Corporation, reducing the environmental impact of printing. Plans are in the works for the centennial celebration and a related Courageous Acts campaign to raise additional funding for general endowment, interns/fellows, and strategic opportunities.

YM2014-41 Minute of Appreciation to Bluffton University

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) presented a minute as follows:

> We are grateful to Bluffton University for letting us make our home here with them during our annual sessions in 2014. The welcoming spirit of their staff and the beauty and comfort of their campus provided support for our work, our worship, and our play.

The minute of appreciation was approved.

YM2014-42 Nominating Committee Report

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. The new and renewed appointments indicated in *the report that follows were approved. [Ed.: The report appears at the end of this document.]*

YM2014-43 Finance and Budget Committee Report

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported for the committee. Jeff explained the travel budget line and asked for approval of the budget. The budget was approved. The budget follows.

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL SESSIONS 2014

DRAFT BUDGET 2014 - 2015

General Fund Expenses			FY 2012 - 2013		FY 2013 -2014		2014-2015	
(* = transfers)	Actual 10-11	Actual 11-12	Actual 12-13	**Budget 12-13**	Actual 13-14	**Budget 13-14**	**Budget**	**Bud Diff 13-14 vs 14-15**
Travel	5,948.15	2,961.97	3,972.64	6,000.00	1546.70	5,000.00	**3,000.00**	-2,000.00
Office	10.00	17.47	18.00	100.00	18.00	50.00	**50.00**	0.00
Contract worker	824.12	1,510.00	1,313.29	2,040.00	938.12	2,040.00	**2,040.00**	0.00
Finance	60.00	59.77	229.75	210.00	40.40	50.00	**50.00**	0.00
Publications	2,070.10	2,940.49	3,371.43	3,400.00	2030.71	3,200.00	**3,000.00**	-200.00
Advancement	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	-175.77	600.00	**600.00**	0.00
Ministry & Nurture	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	150.00	300.00	**300.00**	0.00
Clerk's Fund	0.00	0.00	27.00	300.00	0.00	300.00	**300.00**	0.00
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	**4,500.00**	0.00
FGC - Special Program	500.00	500.00						
FWCC one-time donation		1,200.00						
Records project	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	200.00	200.00	**100.00**	-100.00
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00	2,480.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1200.00	1,200.00	**2,400.00**	1,200.00
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1000.00	1,000.00	**1,000.00**	0.00
High School Retreat Fund*	1,100.00	3,300.00	4,900.00	4,900.00	6000.00	6,000.00	**6,300.00**	300.00
Spiritual Formation*	600.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	**800.00**	700.00
Friends School in Detroit	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4500.00	4,500.00	**4,500.00**	0.00
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	**600.00**	0.00
Consultation Fund*	0.00	472.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	**500.00**	-500.00
Summer work project							**1,200.00**	1,200.00
Insurance			500.00		500.00	500.00	**500.00**	0.00
Misc.		0.00	-1,212.83	0.00	-2357.70	0.00	**0.00**	0.00
Total Expense =	25,752.37	26,242.67	26,319.28	30,450.00	21,790.46	31,140.00	**31,740.00**	600.00

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL SESSIONS 2014

Income

Contributions	26,902.50	29,998.50	29,543.00		29,001.00	29,000.00	**29,725.00**
FFC Payouts					738.71		**600.00**
Other Income					4010.91	250.00	**250.00**
Total Income	26,902.50	29,998.50	29,543.00		33,750.62	29,250.00	**30,575.00**
Actual Income - Actual Expense	1,150.13	3,755.83	3,223.72		11,960.16	Budget underfunded by	$1165**

Total Contribs / Members		$40.05		$40.60		$40.00	**$41.00**
Members		760		750		725	**725**
Suggested contr./member	37.00	40.00		40.00		40.00	**41.00**

**Balance, if needed, to come from General Fund

YM2014-44 Epistle Committee Report

Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) Reported for the committee. Mike introduced himself as the rising Assistant Clerk, thanked his fellow committee members, Sharon Ottenbreit (Detroit) and Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) and read the Yearly Meeting's 2014 Epistle. The Epistle was gratefully received, clarified, approved, and will be given to the clerk for her signature. The Epistle follows.

Epistle for 2014 LEYM Annual Sessions

July 27, 2014

Greetings to Friends Everywhere:

The Lake Erie Yearly Meeting has met in annual sessions from July 24th-27th, 2014, in Bluffton, Ohio, for worship with attention to business, fellowship, growth in the Spirit, and fun and laughter. We have enjoyed sparkling summer weather on the campus of Bluffton University and are grateful to the University for this pleasant meeting place once again. One-hundred twenty-four Friends gathered, including 101 adults and 23 youth.

We heard Spirit speaking in the epistle of the German Yearly Meeting, read to us by our assistant clerk. German Friends criticized their government's policy of barricades against refugees and urged leaders to receive those in need and to respect their human dignity. We were reminded that diversity is a strength and that what some see as shades of gray others see as an array of colors. These Friends prepared us to think deeply about our theme of "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges."

Our plenary speaker, Scilla Wahrhaftig, from the AFSC office in Pittsburgh, shared her rich insights into this theme. She led us in bridging the two halves of the meeting room musically, when we sang this round:

> Building bridges between our divisions, I reach out to you, will you reach out to me?
>
> With all of our voices and all of our visions, Friends, we can make such sweet harmony!

Scilla gave us powerful strategies for reducing tension in confrontations, such as asking open-ended questions, taking time to breathe, and relaxing our body language. Bridges can be built in many ways, she reminded us, and we greatly enjoyed seeing a model bridge of cardboard boxes of many sizes, shapes, and colors built earlier in a workshop. On the boxes workshop participants had written what it takes to build bridges, including courage, love, listening, and humor. Scilla reminded us bridges can work when they are built together from each side toward the middle, and they can also work when built entirely from one side. She invited us to tell each other stories of our own efforts at bridge building, and thus we made ourselves open to the Light of others.

Above all, Scilla reminded us of the great power that lies in listening. When we are tempted to confront another by saying, "I'm going to tell you how it is," we should consider how much greater is the power that lies in asking, "How is it for you?". She observed that when those who are wounded and broken can tell their stories and be truly heard, anger dies away and the seeds of peace are sown. When we listen, our own language softens, for listening is the cardinal act of giving and the source of peace.

We listened in love and admiration as volunteers for this year's LEYM workcamp told us of their work with Cass Community Social Services, a non-profit in Detroit. Immediately before our annual sessions, a 12-person, multi-generational group was there for three days, preceded by a group of six LEYM teen volunteers, who spent a weekend at CCSS. The team told us how they cooked meals for large numbers of homeless people and cleared years' worth of weeds and brush from a derelict property. They described the grimy and exhausting work of sorting and shredding paper, and turning discarded tires into doormats and sandals and scrap wood and glass into coasters. The slide show revealed inner-city Detroit as a world most of us are hardly aware exists, and we appreciated the bridges these Friends built into that world. We look forward to more opportunities for volunteer work in the coming years.

We were deeply saddened to learn that there had been sexual abuse between two children in our meetings more than a decade ago. We approved a minute making our member meetings aware of the possibility that this can happen, and asked our clerk to form an ad hoc committee on the topic of sexual abuse.

We delighted in our rejuvenated Earthcare Committee and supported our Peace Committee's deep

concerns for the Gaza-Israel conflict and the crisis of child immigration on our southern border.

On our last night together we enjoyed those of all ages who shared their gifts in the talent show and made us feel bound together in joy. We are thankful for this time of spiritual renewal together.

YM2014-45 Epistles from the Youth and Children

The leaders or participants in the programs performed or read their epistles.

The Pre-School Epistle was presented and accepted. Thanks were given to Ellen Barnes (Birmingham), Christa Pratt-Harrington (Athens), Sam Spry (Cleveland), and Ben Molina (Athens) for all their work with Pre-School children. The epistle follows:

> What we did was run and play, run and play, What we did was run and play all day.
>
> The playground had such slides galore.
>
> Count them up, one through four.
>
> The highest slide was so scary, By the second day we weren't so wary.
>
> The spiral slide did bend and bend.
>
> It made our hair stand up on end!
>
> To us the beaver looked like a panda.
>
> We brought bikes, which we lent to Amanda.
>
> Books and blocks, stuffed animals and snacks, We even have a couch for naps!
>
> From our stroller we like to sing.
>
> Loud and clear our voices ring.
>
> What we did was run and play, run and play.
>
> What we did was run and play all day.

The Early Elementary Group report was presented and accepted. The group had a wonderful time playing games, going to the Farmers' Market, going on a nature walk, eating ice cream, swimming, and discussing peace symbols in keeping with the theme of bulding bridges. Thanks were given to Marc Smith (Ann Arbor) and Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) for all their work with Early Elementary children.

The Upper Elementary Group report was presented and accepted. The group had a great time eating ice cream, petting cats, bowling, participating in the talent show, hanging out, going to the nature preserve, petting cats, and playing soccer. They also found time to make books during the sessions. Thanks were given to Peter Crowley (Cleveland) and Julie Brewer (Athens) for all their work with the Upper Elementary children.

The Middle School Group report was presented and accepted. Thanks were given to Clemence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG) and Tim Damon (Cleveland) for all their work with the Middle School children. Samantha Smith (Ann Arbor), Jonah Brownfain (Birmingham), Skylar Price (North Columbus), Alexander Charlot (Red Cedar), Rosa Seif (Grand Rapids), and Tim Damon (Cleveland) presented a lively give-and take performance demonstrating their enthusiastic appreciation for their YM experience.

The High School Group epistle was presented and accepted.

> We talked about lobbying as a way to build bridges with public officials and also talked about building bridges to help work on peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine.

This year was a little unusual for the Teen group. We were missing the Crowley kids and, for once, we didn't stay up to all hours watching movies. We did eat plenty of Nutella, though and discovered that strawberries dipped in it taste like ambrosia.

The sugar rush probably had something to do with Andrew developing his theory of Quaker activism. He declared that Friends are like Chihuahuas. We're small, so we make up for it by being loud and determined: an approach that seems to be pretty effective.

We participated in workshops on lobbying and on the situation in Israel/Palestine. When asked how they fit this year's theme, we decided that lobbying is based strongly around the idea of breaking barriers and building bridges with elected officials.

The same applies to Israel and Palestine, where many are working to build bridges and to bring peace between the two groups. We discovered while swimming that bridges made only of sand will quickly break apart. They need some form of a solid foundation to hold them up, and keep them strong.

We managed to walk into town twice. We got to hold the free kittens at the Farmers' Market. Winston had his shirt ruined by a kitten with a full bladder.

On our last night, we managed to break with tradition. Instead of pulling an all-nighter, we stayed up until midnight befriending clawed primates, falling into quicksand, and running from giant snakes. In other words, Ben has successfully introduced us to Dungeons and Dragons. All in all, it was a wonderful Yearly Meeting and we're sorry to be leaving.

Thanks were given to Michael Fuson (Granville) and Isaac Zika (Athens) for all their work with the High School Group.

YM2014-46 Additional visitors & close

The following additional visitors were recognized at the end of the Sessions: Judith Abala - Columbus, Ebby Luvaga - Iowa, Warnock Davies - Lima, and Claire Davis (Broadmead).

The Annual Sessions closed for the year.

Peter Dale, Recording Clerk

Sally Weaver Sommer, Presiding Clerk

LEYM Officers, Committee Members & Representatives
(Terms begin and end at rise of annual YM sessions.)

		Year of Service	End Year
Officers			
Presiding Clerk ^	Sally Weaver Sommer, Brdmead	3	2016
Assistant Clerk ^	Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids	1	2018
Recording Clerk ^	Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	1	2017
Treasurer ^	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	3	2015

(^ = serves on LEYM Executive Committee.)

Communications

Bulletin Editor	Susan & Berch Carpenter, Brdmd	1	2015
Database Manager	Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	10	2015

(Note: Mathilda Navias, Broadmead, to be Webmaster as part of paid work.)

Committees

Advancement & Outreach
of Members: 6 *Years of Term: 3*

Aran Reinhart, Broadmead	1	2017
_____	1	
Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor	3	2016
Erika Smith, Ann Arbor	2	
Shelley Kotz, Broadmead	2	
Dolores Avner, Pittsburgh, Clerk ^	5	2015

Earthcare
of Members: 6 *Years of Term: 3*
Others interested are welcome to attend

Richard Lee, Red Cedar, Co-Clerk ^	1	2017
Jim Crowfoot, Ann Arbor	2	2016
Phil Clampitt, Birmingham	2	
Judy Greenberg, Broadmead, Co-Clerk ^	7	2015
Shannon Pratt-Harrington, Athens	3	2015
Phil Balderston,Wooster	2	

Finance
of Members: 3 *Years of Term: 3*
Treasurer serves ex officio

Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor, Clerk ^	4	2017
Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor	5	2016
Bob Orr, Detroit	3	2015

High School Teen Retreat Program
of Members:
3 adults with 3 year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2 year terms.

Peggy Daub, Clerk ^	1	2017
David Avner, Pittsburgh	2	2016
Joyce Balderston, Wooster	6	2015
To be appointed by teens	1	2016
Dyani Armijo-Sinnett, Ann Arbor, HS representative	2	2015

Ministry & Nurture
of Members: 6
Years of Term: 3+ 1 Rep. from each meeting encouraged

Ruth Carey, Ann Arbor	2	2017
Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens	2	
Flo Friender, Kalamazoo	2	2016
Paula Deming, Waysmeet, Clerk ^	5	
Margaret Walden, Detroit	3	2015
Pam Kuhn, Wooster 3		

(and other representatives as appointed by local meetings)

Nominating
of Members: 6 (Appointed by YM thru Naming Committee)
Years of Term: 3

Clemence Ravacon Mershon, Erie WG	1	2017
_____	1	
Abbey Pratt-Harrington, Athens, Clerk ^	2	2016
Michael Fuson, Granville	2	
Ann Sprague, Detroit	6	2015
Linda Mills, Kalamazoo	3	

Peace
of Members: 6
Years of Term: 3+1 Rep. from each meeting encouraged

Lucia Kalinosky, Oberlin, Co-Clerk ^	1	2017
_____	1	
David Snyder, Oberlin	5	2016
Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead	2	
Joyce Balderston, Wooster, Co-Clerk ^	2	2015
Kathleen Peabody, Ann Arbor	3	

Paul Helbling, Broadmead MM rep

LEYM Bookstore: Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo **14**

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

AFSC Corp	_____	1	2017
AFSC	Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar *	6	2015
AFSC	John Deikis, Ann Arbor	3	

(indicates clerk of that group of representatives)*

FCNL Gen Brd	Jo Schlesinger, Pittsburgh	1	2017
FCNL	Bill Lefler, Pittsburgh	1	
FCNL	Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor	5	2016
FCNL	Max Heirich, Ann Arbor	5	
FCNL	Kathleen Peabody, Ann Arbor *	6	2015
FCNL	Dottie Stratton, Wooster	3	

FGC Cntl Cttee	Robb Yurisko, N. Columbus	1	2017
FGC	Helen Hebben, Kalamazoo *	2	2016
FGC	Paula Deming, Waysmeet	3	2015

(LEYM Reps appoint rep to FGC Executive Committee)

FWCC	Carmen Kelly, Detroit	1	2017
FWCC	Mike Kelly, Detroit	2	
FWCC	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	5	2016
FWCC	Jerry Knutson, Pittsburgh	6	2015

Q Earthcare Witness	Judy Greenberg, Broadmead	2	
FLGBTQC	Robb Yurisko, N. Columbus	3	
Wm. Penn House	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	7	2017
Olney Friends School	Greg Mott, Broadmead	7	

Visitors to neighboring yearly meetings

Canadian YM	_____	
EFI Eastern Region	Abbey Pratt-Harrington, Athens	3
Ohio YM	Paula Deming, Columbus	3
Ohio Valley YM	_____	1
Wilmington YM	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	

Publications & Archives

of Members: 4 *Years of Term: 3*

Webmaster & Bulletin Editor serve ex officio

Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	1	2017
Emma Seif, Grand Rapids	2	2016
Leslie Walden, Detroit	2	
Joe Mills, Kalamazoo, Clerk ^	5	2015

Yearly Meeting Planning Arrangements & Site

of Members: 6 *Years of Term: 3*

Jon Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk ^	11	2017
Janet Smith, Oberlin	1	
John Templin, Broadmead	5	2016
Berch Carpenter, Bluffton (Registrar)	7	2015
_____	1	
Donna Rodriguez, Broadmead	3	

Adult & Family Program

of Members: 6 *Years of Term: 3*

Dale Pratt-Harrington, Athens, Co-Clerk ^	2	2017
Sharon Ottenbreit, Detroit	1	
Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh	2	2016
Joel Ottenbreit, Detroit 2		
Janet Dando, Akron, Co-Clerk ^	6	2015
Valerie Vogel, Pittsburgh	6	

Youth & Children's Program

of Members: 12 *Years of Term: 2*

Kate Spry, Cleveland Clerk ^	2015
_____ Assistant Clerk	2016
Employed student or YM vols.	Infants & Toddlers

The following Friends have agreed to serve at Annual Meeting, 2015.
(Specific duties to be determined closer to Annual Meeting.)

Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	Peter Crowley, Cleveland
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	Marc Smith, Ann Arbor
Timothy Damon, Cleveland	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	Fall retreat clerk
Peter Crowley, Cleveland	Fall retreat assistant

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
52nd Annual Sessions
July 30 - August 2, 2015
Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

Thursday Evening Session

YM15-01 Worship and reading of epistle from Pacific Yearly Meeting

Annual Meeting opened with a period of open worship at the appointed hour. Assistant Clerk Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) read the epistle from the 2013 Annual Session of Pacific Yearly Meeting. The epistle shared their experience of an intense spiritual connection with each other and also with distant Friends through the tradition of letters between Quaker bodies. They strive for greater integrity between their outward communications and their lived witness, as they wrestle with the role of the corporate body which seems to be shifting toward supporting each other's individual witnesses. They ask, “If our life as a yearly meeting is an epistle, what does it say, and to whom?”

YM15-02 Welcome, introduction to the business

Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) welcomed Friends, and noted that her opening worship includes watching each attender enter and join the gathered body. She thanked those whose advance efforts helped make these sessions possible and all those in attendance this weekend. She trusts that the Spirit’s presence will be evident in the fellowship and the discernment that we engage in this weekend, and invited Friends to review the guidelines for our processes for business which are scattered throughout the room.

There are three significant concerns which will require our attention and discernment this weekend: Follow-up work on the sexual abuse concern brought to our attention at our last annual meeting, the roles of the Advancement & Outreach Committee and Ministry and Nurture Committee, and the Friends School in Detroit and recent related events.

Friends with concerns for our work together who are not sure where those concerns should be taken, including new concerns, are asked to speak with the clerks. If you have announcements, please give these to Mike Holaday.

YM15-03 Introductions, welcome to visitors and first-time attenders

The clerk introduced those present at the clerk's table with her: Mike Holaday, Assistant Clerk; Nancy Reeves (Cleveland), Recording Clerk. Also introduced were: Jon Sommer (Broadmead), clerk of the Site Committee; Berch Carpenter (Broadmead), registrar; Janet Dando (Akron) and Dale Pratt-Harrington (Athens), co-clerks of the Program Committee; Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo), book store; Abbey Pratt-Harrington (Athens), clerk of the Nominating Committee.

We welcomed visitors and first time attenders Tom Blackwell (Ann Arbor), John Deikis (Ann Arbor), Russ Adams (North Columbus), Mary Ellen Coolman, (Akron), Richard Shaw (Pittsburgh), Sam Milford (Pittsburgh), and Brad Shaw (Red Cedar).

We also welcomed Eric Evans, Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, who is our FGC visitor to this annual meeting.

YM15-04 Roll Call

Akron	3	Circleville Worship Group	1
Ann Arbor	16	Delaware	0
Athens	9	Detroit	5
Birmingham	10	Erie Worship Group	0
Broadmead	20	Grand Rapids	8
Cleveland	11	Granville	2

Holland	0
Kalamazoo	8
Kent	0
Mid-Ohio Valley	0
North Columbus	5
Oberlin	1
Pine River	2
Pittsburgh	13
Red Cedar	8
Waysmeet Worship Group	1
Wooster	3
Other organizations	7
Total:	**133**

YM15-05 Regular attenders not here this year

We note the absence of regular attenders who cannot be present with us this year: Thomas and Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor), Mathilda Navias (Broadmead), John and Dottie Stratton (Wooster), Richard Lee (Red Cedar), Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor), Robb Yurisko (North Columbus), and Betty Ford (Grand Rapids).

YM15-06 Naming Committee

The Clerk identified Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens) and Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) to serve on the Naming Committee which nominates individuals to serve on the Nominating Committee. Friends **approved.**

YM15-07 Epistle Committee

Friends **approved** an epistle committee to be convened by Assistant Clerk Mike Holaday and joined by Aran Reinhart (Broadmead), and Josephine Posti (Pittsburgh). These Friends will listen deeply throughout the weekend and bring a draft epistle for our consideration at our Sunday meeting for worship with attention to business.

YM15-08 Travel minutes

The Clerk requested that Friends bearing travel minutes give them to the clerks. In addition, any Friend with an endorsed travel minute from this body should return it to the clerks, as well.

YM15-09 Program Committee announcements

Janet Dando shared announcements from Program Committee. The Program Committee has provided packets of seeds which Friends are encouraged to pick up and share with at least one new Friend, take home, plant, and remember the weekend. Friends are also invited to smile broadly for the roaming cameras, and to enjoy the resulting slide show displayed on the cafeteria wall. The slide show includes photos gathered this weekend, as well as those sent by Monthly Meetings in advance of our gathering. Friends were also invited to sign up for our annual talent show on Saturday night. Please don't be shy!

YM15-10 Friends who have died this year

In worship, we heard memorial minutes for Wendell Cotton (Broadmead), Marie Cotton (Broadmead), and Kyo Takahashi (Pine River). Copies of these minutes are attached. Friends named Rilma Buckman (Broadmead) and Mary Burgess (Birmingham) who also died this year.

Friday Morning Session

YM15-11 Worship, reading of epistle from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

The second session of Annual Meeting opened with a period of open worship at the appointed hour.

Assistant Clerk Mike Holaday read the epistle from the 2014 session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of Friends. Reflecting on their theme, "Living up to the Light," they came to realize that the Light is entrusted to all of them, not just to one person. Realizing they were not alone in their enterprise, they were given encouragement, tools, and opportunities to put their gifts and testimonies into practice, and emerged from their gathering with a powerful sense of hope that "in living up to our light together, we are empowered to change the world."

YM15-12 Welcome, Travel minute for Jerry Knutson, visitors and first-time attenders

Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer welcomed Friends, and read a travel minute from the Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends for Jerry Knutson (Monongahela).

We welcomed visitors and first time attenders: Marcia Roberts (Akron) and Firmin Charlot (Red Cedar).

YM15-13 Preliminary report of Nominating Committee

Abbey Pratt-Harrington, clerk of the Nominating Committee, gave a preliminary report for the committee.

The Nominating Committee has developed a questionnaire that provides an opportunity for each attender to note interest, or non-interest, in LEYM committees and in other roles which provide opportunities to do work on behalf of LEYM. Friends were requested to complete a form.

The preliminary slate of nominees was presented, and a final slate will be presented for our consideration at our meeting for worship with attention to business on Sunday. Friends who are curious about the role of each committee are invited to visit the LEYM website where the LEYM *Policies and Procedures Manual* can be found.

We were reminded that Ministry and Nurture and Peace Committees include representatives appointed by Monthly Meetings. The Nominating Committee is asked to send a letter to Monthly Meetings to invite them to appoint representatives to these committees. If your Monthly Meeting appoints, or wishes to appoint, representatives to these committees, please invite it to forward the names of these representatives to the Nominating Committee so they can be recorded.

Nominating Committee is asked to consider how best to record these Friends and to share that process with us.

Friends also shared their questions and concerns about formal and informal participation in committees, about recording that participation, and about whether our *Policies and Procedures Manual* is consistent with what we would like to have happen. Executive Committee is asked to consider these concerns.

Friday Afternoon Session

YM15-14 Sexual Abuse Task Force report

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported for the Sexual Abuse Task Force. The Sexual Abuse Task Force was created in response to a specific incident in Athens Monthly Meeting. The work of the Task Force was not to respond to that incident, but to consider how best we might help LEYM address sexual misconduct within the youth programs of LEYM.

The task force believes that LEYM *Policies and Procedures Manual* includes solid reactive policies, but offers little formal guidance on how to create an environment which proactively creates a recurring community in which opportunities abound for authentic intra- and intergenerational relationships, full of spontaneity, warmth, trust, curiosity, reflection, and joy which includes clear safety boundaries and expectations within which both children and adults can be freed from worry or wariness about potential abusive behavior of any kind and also about being falsely accused. At the core, the Task Force sees the mindfulness of the community as the best means of preventing sexual misconduct and encouraging those impacted by it to seek help.

They proposed several broad principles for our consideration:

1. An educational session should be presented annually as a required preparation for anyone who will be working with the young Friends program.

2. Volunteers who work with young Friends should be currently approved caregivers in an LEYM Monthly Meeting with a caregiver safety policy or else should agree to have LEYM ask for a reference from a clerk or a designee of their Monthly Meeting.
3. At a minimum, two volunteers who have completed the preparation described in #1 and #2 above should always be with any group of children under LEYM's care.
4. Everyone involved in LEYM Young Friends' programs – adult volunteers and participating children – should agree to stay within sight of the group at all times.

The Task Force is willing to continue its work and to draft a formal policy, if Friends are in unity with these principles.

Friends shared their reactions and questions including:

- Whether each Monthly Meeting has child safety policies, and, if so, whether LEYM should trust meetings' individual discernments even if their policies might not precisely match the policy LEYM would develop.
- Mandatory reporting: What are our legal responsibilities? What do we believe LEYM should be doing with regard to reporting? How do we reconcile the reality that mandatory reporting sometimes discourages survivors who do not want to be involved with the legal system from seeking help, with complying with the law and with protecting others who might also be targets of sexual misconduct by that individual?
- Whether criminal background checks are useful, legally required, or provide a false sense of safety.
- Whether to strive for the greatest flexibility in our policies, or instead write them anticipating strict insurance and legal requirements that have already been imposed on many meetings.
- How do we design or implement an educational program that does more good than harm; and that educates not only the adults, but the children? Are we now ready, as a body, to formalize our current informal practices, which are largely reflected in the third and fourth points of the recommendation?
- How the proposed cultural change, requiring advance vetting of child care providers, will impact our ability to staff a program that often has gaps in staffing until the last minute.
- Whether any policy we develop can address our practice of using last minute volunteers for specific projects, such as off-campus bowling trips.
- What role the members of the community who are not formally involved in the youth program should play.
- Whether the Task Force should also address adult-to-adult interactions; interactions between youth in our programs, particularly in the teen program; interactions between parents and children at LEYM, particularly clear delineation about when children are under their parents' care and when they are under the care of LEYM programs; interactions which may begin in LEYM but continue outside of LEYM; or interactions which may take place entirely outside of LEYM.

Friends **approved** asking the Task Force to continue its work, and to develop a draft policy for consideration by LEYM, which is consistent with the draft guidelines and what was shared today.

The Task Force full report appears below.

YM15-15 Ministry and Nurture Committee report

Paula Deming (Waysmeet Worship Group) reported for the Ministry and Nurture Committee, which includes oversight of the Ministry and Scholarship Fund and the Spiritual Formation program.

Scholarship Fund

This year, the committee received no requests for funds from the Ministry and Scholarship Fund. Friends who are following a leading that may be aided by scholarship funds are encouraged to make a request for funds to their Monthly Meeting, which will season it and, if appropriate, bring the request to the Ministry and Nurture Committee.

Spiritual Formation

The theme of the Spiritual Formation retreat this year was, “The Gospel of John: Stories of What God’s

Love Looks Like," led by Eric Evans.

The theme for the coming year is "Experiment with Light," and will involve a guided meditation based on advice George Fox gave to early Friends in his epistles. The fall retreat will be held September 11-13, 2015, at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan. The spring retreat will be May 14, 2016.

State of Meeting Reports

Ministry and Nurture received State of the Meeting reports from 15 Monthly Meetings and no worship groups. These reports are included in LEYM *Annual Records,* and all Friends are encouraged to read them. As the committee read the reports, it noted some challenges in our meetings, but it also noted many strengths and growth. There was general expression of the loving, caring, supportive experience of Friends in their Meetings for Worship, which is treasured both by members and new attenders. Most describe action in the larger world toward social and environmental justice.

The Annual Query for 2016 was announced:

For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; I was naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me. (Matthew 25:35-36, Jerusalem Bible)

How might our meeting support individuals and the meeting as a whole in working to increase racial justice within our world? In what ways do we as a Meeting recognize white privilege in our own Meeting? What tools and practices do we use to foster awareness of our personal and corporate biases?

The complete report is below.

YM15-16 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting report

Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) reported for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting.

Their year has been joyous and heart-wrenching, and filled with growth and change. Lower attendance at its meetings this year has been a challenge, as has been the ability of the Quarterly Meeting to fill its committees.

The finances of the Friends School in Detroit and its infrastructure have continued to deteriorate. The May meeting was the first time Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting received relatively complete financial information about the Friends School in Detroit. At that meeting, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting reached unity to lay down the school, with one member standing aside.

Friends School in Detroit

Ellerie Brownfain and Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) reported on the Friends School in Detroit. The Friends School began the school year last September with 82 students, 17 faculty members, and an average tuition payment of $6,500. A sustainable enrollment, in the current facilities, is around 140. It was hoped that the McCree Dinner, as a fundraiser for the 50th anniversary of the school, would spark new interest in the school, bring in new funds, and increase enrollment to a sustainable level. That did not happen. The school was able to remain open through the end of the 2014-15 school year, in part because of donations and personal loans obtained to pay some portion of the salaries.

The school has been unable to provide accurate financial records for some time, because it has been unable to afford a bookkeeper. It is believed that the debt at the end of the school year was close to $1 million, including $100,000 dollars in unpaid staff salaries, a $537,000 first mortgage which is in default, an additional secured debt owed to individuals of $74,000, and a secured unemployment lien of $18,000.

Options under exploration by an independent group to form a new school, outside of the care of the Quarterly Meeting, included a donation of proceeds from the sale of a James Turrell work of art, anticipated to be around $1,000,000. That donation is contingent on the continued existence of a school, in some form. Some Friends feel it is unlikely that a new school will open in the fall for lack of sufficient administrative structure.

The school building is currently listed for sale with a realtor, at a price that would come close to covering the remaining bills, if a sale can be completed during the redemption period following foreclosure.

We were reminded that, even though wrestling with this the past few years has felt like a dark cloud, the school has been a very bright cloud to those it has served.

The complete reports are below.

Saturday Morning Session

YM15-17 Reading of epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting

Assistant Clerk Mike Holaday read the epistle from the 2015 Annual Session of Britain Yearly Meeting. Acknowledging that they are complicit in the root causes of social and economic injustice in our threatened planet, they are restless to take corporate action to do the things they can only do together to change the unequal and unjust world. They look to their youth, whose response to an incident of inequality during their gathering was, “here's how I know I can help and what else can I do?” They recognize power as an obligation to service, not a right to dominate. Doing nothing is not an option.

YM15-18 Welcome of visitors

We welcomed visitors Diane Randall, Hartford Monthly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting and Executive Secretary of Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Vaughn Peebles, White Rose Monthly Meeting, and Ron Simpson Bey, Michigan American Friends Service Committee Office.

YM15-19 Publications and Archives Committee report

Susan Carpenter (Broadmead) reported for Publications and Archives Committee.

The committee publishes our *Annual Record*, and reports that it cost $3.55 per copy to print.

The committee has been exploring ways to make our publications more widely read and more useful to the members of LEYM. It used themes for each issue of our *Bulletin* this year, and mailed a hard copy of the *Spring Bulletin* to each of the 1070 households in LEYM in an attempt to increase readership of the *Bulletin* and attendance at our Annual Meeting. This mailing was expensive, and did not clearly increase attendance this year. For now, the committee will return to delivering copies of the *Bulletin* in bulk to the clerk of each Monthly Meeting.

The committee asks each attender to complete a survey indicating preference for future *Bulletins*, and making suggestions to improve the work of the P&A Committee.

It was suggested that attendance might increase if the Publications & Archives Committee could clearly articulate reasons why new attenders would choose to come to LEYM, and could provide a more detailed schedule in advance.

Other suggestions for the Publication and Archives Committee to consider included a “Save the day” note in the fall *Bulletin* or by postcard announcement, making the registration electronic, moving to an opt in or opt out system for the mailed *Bulletin*, continuing to mail some copies to irregular attenders at meeting, continuing to send copies to each meeting for distribution, updating the mailing list, and recruiting a person in each meeting to talk up the annual meeting.

YM15-20 Treasurer's report

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster), Treasurer, reported that LEYM received, and is grateful for, contributions from every Monthly Meeting during the 2014-15 fiscal year. No monetary contributions to the general fund came from individuals, although many individuals made in-kind donations of time and travel costs. Our investment funds in Friends Fiduciary grew slightly, and earned dividends of $955.94.

Our expenses stayed within our budget during the 2014-15 fiscal year, although some of the individual expenditures were higher and others lower than budgeted. Our balance going into the 2015-16 fiscal year is approximately $68,000. We spent approximately $30,500 in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

The treasurer noted that we have a line item of $3,500 for Travelling Ministries. None of the funds were used this year, and Friends are encouraged to consider whether they are led to travel in the ministry.

The Treasurer and the Finance Committee were asked to consider whether the large number of individual

funds add complexity without adding significant value.

A copy of the report appears below.

YM15-21 Draft budget

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported for the Finance Committee, and presented the draft budget for our consideration.

A new line has been added for a one-time contribution of $1,000 to help make the entrance way of Michigan Friends Center more accessible to people with physical disabilities. Michigan Friends Center is an independent Friends' facility on Friends' Lake which is used by a wide variety of Friends and community groups. The overall cost of the project is $16,000 to $18,000.

For the past several years, we have contributed $4,500 annually to Friends School in Detroit. No contribution to Friends School in Detroit is included in the budget for FY 2015-2016. We ask the Executive Committee to continue to monitor the situation, and authorize it to respond as it is led, including with a financial contribution of up to $4,500 from the General Fund. Friends are mindful of the toll this situation has taken on individuals directly involved in Friends School in Detroit.

In furtherance of our commitment to education, the budget includes an increased donation of $2,000 to Olney Friends School, up from $600 last year.

Friends **approved** the budget; a copy appears below along with the full report from the Finance Committee.

Saturday Afternoon Session

YM15-22 Roles of the Advancement and Outreach and Ministry and Nurture Committees

Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer reported for the Executive Committee on a concern that arose about overlap between, and lack of clarity about the roles of the Advancement and Outreach and the Ministry and Nurture Committees, and the struggle we sometimes have to find individuals who are led to serve on these committees. In addition, a request from an individual for support of her emerging ministry resulted in the recognition that our *Policies and Procedures Manual* does not address how to support such individual ministries in our midst.

A task force including the clerk of Ministry and Nurture Committee, the Clerk of Advancement and Outreach Committee, the Presiding Clerk, the Assistant Clerk, and Mathilda Navias met and recommended the following two changes to the Executive Committee:

First:

“Advancement and Outreach is assigned the role of nurturing and encouraging small meetings, new Monthly Meetings, and worship groups by means of correspondence and personal visits.”

The task force recommends changing this responsibility, listed in the current LEYM *Policies and Procedures Manual* for A&O (1.b (1)) to:

“Encourage preparative meetings, worship groups, and new Monthly Meetings by means of correspondence and personal visits.”

Second:

The Executive Committee recommends the following be added to the responsibilities of the Ministry & Nurture Committee (6.b (6)):

Encourage and support Monthly Meetings as they recognize, publicly affirm, and practically support those individuals who exercise their gifts in faithful ministry. This includes but is not limited to:

a. preparing minutes for traveling ministers to be approved by the Yearly Meeting.

b. overseeing the traveling ministries fund.

Friends **approved.**

The report appears below.

YM15-23 FGC report

Helen Hebben and Eric Evans reported for Friends General Conference. Friends General Conference provides direct service to yearly meetings, Monthly Meetings, and individuals by helping to build, nurture, and support loving, diverse, healthy, and growing meeting communities.

Upcoming events sponsored by FGC include the Autumn Retreat for Friends of Color and their families, to be held at Clarkston, Michigan, Friday Nov. 6-8, 2015; the White Privilege Conference, to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 14-17, 2016; and the annual Gathering of Friends, to be held at St Benedict's College, St. Joseph, Minnesota July 3-9, 2016.

FGC also provides a number of free resources for Monthly Meetings that can be downloaded from the FGC website, including a series of free newcomer cards, the *You are Welcome Here* booklet (an outgrowth of Quaker Quest), Quaker Activity Pages for children, and a poster on Transforming Quaker Welcoming. Additional highly adaptable and affordable workshop, study, and travelling ministries resources are available to Friends Meetings through the website. Friends are encouraged to explore the FGC website.

Eric Evans' report appears below.

Helen Hebben, our representative to FGC, reports that the ministries of FGC which are carried out through Quaker Books of FGC and Quaker Press are at risk. FGC has made changes to reduce costs and increase exposure, but these ministries still need our financial support to continue. Friends are encouraged to support this ministry by purchasing Quaker books, and by purchasing them directly from FGC.

YM15-24 Service Project

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) and Jonah Brownfain (Birmingham) presented a report on the 2015 LEYM Service Project, held in advance of our annual meeting. Nine Friends volunteered with Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Findlay, which sells recovered furniture and furnishings at a low cost to support Habitat's work. Among other things, the group tested appliances, created a marquis sign for an upcoming Habitat event, refinished tables, tested electronics, and stuffed informational bags.

A copy of the service project report appears below.

YM15-25 Youth and Children Committee report

Kate Spry (Cleveland) reported for the Youth and Children Committee. Our youth include an amazing collection of youth who delight in each other's company, look forward to our annual meeting, and eagerly incorporate newcomers. This year the program includes six elementary age, twelve middle school, and seven high school youth, plus eight teachers and one convener. So far they have hiked, played spud, giggled, made Friendship bracelets, and gone swimming.

The committee brings three recommendations for our consideration:

- Name six teachers, one convener, and one co-convener by the end of this annual meeting for next year's program. Six teachers is the bare minimum; our *Policies and Procedures Manual* requires ten.
- Reinstitute the two-year commitment for teachers, so that each teacher spends one year as a rising teacher before assuming a primary teaching role.
- Institute a one hour meeting for teachers and conveners without youth, before the youth program actually begins each year.
- Ensure that each year at least one committee intentionally incorporates youth participation in its work at annual meeting.

We ask the Presiding Clerk to communicate with the clerk of the youth and children's program to carry out this last suggestion.

YM15-26 Advancement and Outreach Committee report

Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) reported for Advancement and Outreach. Advancement and Outreach is a committee which supports Monthly Meetings in their own outreach work, but it cannot do the work for the Monthly Meeting. Monthly Meetings are asked to let the Advancement and Outreach Committee know what outreach activities they are engaged in so that the Advancement and Outreach Committee can better serve LEYM's constituent bodies.

YM15-27 Earthcare Committee report

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) reported on Quaker Earthcare Witness. The Sustainability, Faith and Action Working Group of Quaker Earthcare Witness requests Friends to consider acting on four “Asks”:

- That all Friends Meeting Houses plant patches of native plants useful to pollinators.
- That all Friends Meeting Houses that are able shift to renewable electricity suppliers by 2016.
- That meetings develop plans of action to encourage their state to hold the highest possible standard to address risks of climate change, and to protect our health and environment now and for future generations.
- That all Yearly and Monthly Meetings address the moral dimension of investments in fossil fuels and consider reinvestment options that reflect your meeting's values.

A copy of the Quaker Earthcare Witness report appears below.

The Earthcare Committee feels a great sense of urgency about climate change, which is at odds with its limited energy. It has been working to articulate the clerking responsibilities, take turns clerking, and discern where to focus its efforts to maximize its impact. Working with the Youth Program at this year's annual gathering has been a high point, as has the addition of new members, the presentation of two workshops, and the work of one volunteer who agreed to set up and manage a Facebook page.

YM15-28 Peace Committee report

Lucia Kalinosky (Oberlin) reported for the Peace Committee. Monthly Meeting participation in the Peace Committee has been light this year, but the committee is aware that Monthly Meetings have been deeply engaged in a broad variety of peace and social justice work, including work with the Israel Palestine conflict, antiracism work, anti-colonialism work, monetary policy, Iran, nuclear disarmament, U.S. weapons testing in the Marshall islands, immigration, service projects (especially antipoverty projects), military spending, reproductive justice, LBGT rights, affordable housing, death penalty, incarceration and private prisons, and compassionate communities.

The committee is happy to support and celebrate the wide range of peace work being done by Monthly Meetings, including work done by individuals, but it is uncertain how to encourage broader Monthly Meeting involvement with the Peace Committee, particularly when a number of Monthly Meetings have indicated they do not have their own Peace Committees.

To help discern what work the Peace Committee should be doing, it posed three queries for our brief reflection:

- Is there any work that you see as being outside of the charge of the peace committee?
- How can we better support the work that Monthly Meetings are doing?
- Is all social justice work peace work?

Friends offered that the Peace Committee might help LEYM discern what peace work we are led to do, which might include following the lead of Monthly Meetings who are already engaged in specific peace and justice work, facilitating communication between Monthly Meetings, and modelling peaceful ways of doing social justice work to non-Quaker groups because not all social justice work is currently being done in a peaceful manner. If Friends have further thoughts, please forward them to the Peace Committee.

The committee brought to our attention a minute passed by Athens Monthly Meeting in support of the National Emergency Employment Defense (NEED) Act, introduced in 2011 to the 112th U.S. Congress. The NEED act seeks to fundamentally transform how money is introduced and circulated in the US, shifting from creating money as credit to issuing and circulating new money under the authority of an

independent Monetary Authority. The goal of the act is to promote economic justice by the creation of money to fund repairing our physical and social infrastructure, create jobs, and lay the foundation for a sustainable economy. The Peace Committee encourages other Monthly Meetings to consider supporting the reintroduction of the NEED Act, and will mail resources and the full minute to each Monthly Meeting.

The Peace Committee recommends that LEYM send a letter to the Emanuel AME Church, the site of the recent racially motivated shootings in Charleston, South Carolina, extending our condolences and expressing our unity with them in their work for racial justice.

Friends **approved.**

YM15-29 Updated Nominating Committee report

Abbey Pratt-Harrington updated the Nominating Committee report. The final slate will be presented for our approval at our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Sunday morning.

YM15-30 Right Sharing of World Resources

Rosemary Coffey, Right Sharing of World Resources' representative to LEYM. We are reminded that there is a display in the lobby. Monthly Meetings which did not pick up their game box at the last gathering should pick up.

YM15-31 Naming Committee report

Rosemary Coffey, for the Naming Committee, recommends Paul Helbling (Broadmead) be appointed to serve a two year term on the nominating committee (2015-2017), and Janet Dando and Linda Mills (Kalamazoo) each be appointed to serve three year terms (2015-2018).

Friends **approved.**

Sunday Morning Session

YM15-32 Nominating Slate

Michael Fuson (Granville), Nominating Committee, presented the slate of individuals it is bringing forward to serve Lake Erie Yearly Meeting as members of committees, officers, representatives to other Quaker organizations, and visitors to neighboring yearly meetings.

It was noted that Publication and Archives has two open slots, and that the AFSC has a dedicated position for an LEYM representative as a member of its Corporation. These two roles are particularly important to fill, from a functional perspective.

Friends **approved** the nominations. A copy appears with the reports.

Friends are urged to let Nominating Committee know if they are willing and led to serve in any of the open slots, or if they know of Friends that Nominating Committee might consider.

Friends are encouraged to consider serving LEYM in our youth programs, and to invite other members of their Monthly Meeting to serve as well. We were reminded that serving our youth is not an all-consuming commitment during annual meeting, and that LEYM provides a stipend that covers registration, room, and board to anyone doing so.

YM15-33 Site Committee report

Jon Sommer reported for the Site Committee. This year 133 adults and children attended Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Our attendance is up from 124 last year. We are scheduled to meet again in Bluffton in 2016 from July 28-31, and in 2017 from July 27-30. We are grateful and blessed to have this site available to come home to each year for our time together.

YM15-34 High School Teen Retreat report

Peggy Daub presented the High School Teen Retreat report. At our Representative Meeting, we agreed to scale back the number of teen retreats because of low attendance. Teen participation in the Quake that Rocked the Midwest will continue, as will our teen program at annual meeting. Robb Yurisko will

accompany the teens to the Quake that Rocked the Midwest this year, but has indicated that he will step down after this year. We are grateful for his service in this role.

In the coming year, the committee will discern how great the need is for teen retreats going forward. Anyone having suggestions for a new High School Coordinator should approach Peggy Daub.

YM15-35 LEYM Epistle

Mike Holaday, Aran Reinhart, and Jo Posti presented the draft epistle for our consideration. Friends **approved,** with our gratitude for the service of the epistle committee.

Epistle from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
in annual sessions at Bluffton University
in Bluffton, Ohio, July 30-August 2, 2015

Loving greetings to Friends everywhere.

The Friends of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting met in annual sessions on the pleasant campus of Bluffton University to "Sow the Seeds of Friendship." We were 109 adults and 24 youth and children, representing meetings from Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan. In our workshops, worship groups, informal gatherings and, most especially, our plenary session, we have explored the deeper meanings of friendship and its transformative power.

Nine Friends met for two days prior to our business sessions to work on a service project with Habitat for Humanity. The group volunteered at Habitat's ReStore in Findlay, Ohio, cleaning donated furniture and building materials, testing donated appliances, stuffing bags for contest giveaways, and crafting a marquee for a local road rally. We were very impressed by Habitat's dedicated staff and local volunteers, who have made significant contributions to the community in the 15 years the Findlay affiliate has been in operation. We are grateful that our service projects build friendship among us while providing assistance to organizations doing important work in the region where we meet.

We listened to the work of our task force on sexual abuse policy with appreciation for the care they have taken in considering a topic that often elicits deeply emotional responses. They presented us with a clear framework for further discernment of what we need to do to achieve a balance of safety and freedom for our young people and those who work with them. We are mindful of how far our meeting has come from our first pain-driven responses when we heard of an incident of sexual abuse among us. This led us to form the task force, and we are grateful for this opportunity to demonstrate our way of showing true friendship.

We heard of the sad duty of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting as it confronts the need to lay down the Friends School in Detroit. After 50 years of service to the Detroit community, the school has become financially unsustainable. This has been a source of friction for some time among the Michigan Friends who make up the quarter. The closing of a school is always emotional, always personal. We share in their sense of loss, for this school has been much loved and admired. But Friends in Michigan have shown their understanding of the deeper meaning of friendship as they've reached unity on this difficult matter.

Our plenary speaker, Merry Stanford, was no stranger to us, having served as clerk of our meeting and made countless other contributions. She delivered a wonderful address on "Unconventional Joy: The Scandalous Ministry of Befriending." Her talk was a far-ranging meditation on friendship and the power it has to create true community. At times her talk was deeply intimate and personal as Merry shared with us five "teachers," incidents in her life that have shown her the folly of carrying "20-ton shields" called perfectionism, timidity, righteousness and strong desire intended to fend off "the other." She reminded us how scandalous it was when early Friends refused to carry the 20-ton shields of the day, such as by not taking off their hats, according equal status to men and women, and inviting men and women of disparate classes to worship together. Merry led us deep into the science of the brain and its structure as she showed the intimate power of neural networks we are only beginning to understand and challenged us to use the scandalous, barrier-breaking power of friendship to multiply the networks of friendship among us in our meetings and in the wider world.

Merry reminded us that as Friends we have adequate desire for peace but inadequate skills, and that for the very survival of our species we must see others as of "our tribe." This means we are required to be unilaterally vulnerable by opening ourselves to the other, for which we need the support of a spiritual practice. As we become more inwardly spacious, she promised, we will be able to extend our loving gaze to everyone.

Our Bible study and worship sharing groups helped us to grow our understanding of Jesus' command to live as Friends and more deeply appreciate how friendships have changed our understanding of the world. Our time reflecting on John 15:9-17 has renewed our commitment to the charge set forth in verse 12: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

The rich programming offered this year included packets of actual seeds, which we have given each other as tokens of the friendships we have sown together. We trust we've also begun to sow seeds that will grow rich conversations in our meetings about topics like white privilege, how to develop social change ministry, how Friends can support prison outreach, and how we can work to address the pressing concern of global climate change. We are grateful to our presenters for challenging us to bring our faith into action. As we begin plans for the coming year, we are challenged by Ministry and Nurture, who offered a query that will call our meetings and each of us as Friends to examine current events as they pertain to racial justice and police killings and to respond as meetings and as individuals.

With gratitude for the enduring witness to the power of friendship that is the Religious Society of Friends,

Sally Weaver Sommer, clerk

YM15-36 Youth Epistles

With delight, we heard the reports and epistles from the elementary school, middle school, and high school programs. The elementary children's program included an Earthcare recycling project. They shared their pictures of recycling and shared their favorite activities at annual meeting which included sleeping, the playground, bowling, swimming, the rock maze, being with the kids, and recycling.

Middle School Epistle

Friday
It was the first official day of LEYM, and the first thing we wanted to do was go on a hike to the Swinging Bridge, fleeing from mosquitoes. And when we were heading back, we sat on the porch of a farmhouse, with the owner's permission, and read the Parable of the Sower from the Bible (read by Jonah's impersonation of Morgan Freeman), and talked about how it related to seeds of friendship. When we arrived back at the Ramseyer lounge, we taught each other to create "rainbow loom" friendship bracelets, and some people made origami paper cranes and flying carpets. After lunch, as some kids went bowling, some stayed to make the bracelets and chat about friendship at the lounge. At dinner, the middle school group, as always, ate a lot of ice cream, and afterward we listened to the wonderful speech given by Merry Stanford about the possible false assumptions of our view of the world.

Saturday
After breakfast on Saturday, we headed towards the Bluffton farmer's market and the thrift store. When we arrived back at the Ramseyer main lounge, we learned about the tragedy of the commons, the situation where people would use up all of owned land resources due to increased greed and competition, represented with a hilarious play. Then Kate Engler helped us prepare for the talent show with round singing. Lunch followed with more ice cream, and then swimming at the swimming pool in town. We all agreed that the major highlights were the diving boards and the water slide. Dinner was next, and while we were waiting for the talent show to begin, some of us played air hockey and pool. For the talent show, the members of the middle school group that were in the talent show sang, danced, and played musical instruments. After the talent show, some of us gathered in our lounge for a sleepover party that included popcorn, Picwits, and sleep.

It is agreed that the friendship flower of LEYM's bloom time lasts for these past 4 days every year.

Epistle from the Teens of LEYM

Sowing the seeds of friendship. This was our theme for LEYM 2015, and we took it to heart. Not only did we strengthen old friendships, we also formed several new ones. Between shared programs with the middle-schoolers and a visiting Friend from Brazil, we made many new connections. Nutella and pretzels features prominently (as per usual) and many attempts were made to drag an increasingly hyper Norma away from the ice-cream machine.

Mary's plenary spoke of a "20-ton shield" which many people seem to create in order to protect themselves from possible embarrassment. This was an image and situation many of us could appreciate. We also met with the Earthcare committee, who taught us about what they name "the Tragedy of the Commons." This parable speaks of how shared responsibilities often become depleted because so many people are eager to pull all they can from these resources and don't stop to consider the needs of others.

We found a new swimming location, although Emma was the only one who could get down the water slide with any speed. Most of us wish to return to Twin Lakes. To wrap up the weekend, we enjoyed the talents of f/Friends both young and old, at our annual talent show.

Wiebke Charlot, Noah Malia, Wynston Peters, Emma Seif, an[illegible]

YM15-37 Reports Received

Olney Friends School

July 31, 2015
Dear Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends,

Olney Friends School has had an active and eventful school year. Many changes have the school anticipating the upcoming academic year, starting with changes at the top.

Head of School, Charlie Szumilas, has retired to the great Northwest. Continuing his progress is Ken Hinshaw, Olney alumnus from the class of '74, and former head of school at Scattergood Friends School. Ken is now spearheading several initiatives: a new and updated website that is set to launch before the opening of the 2015-16 school year; USDA Organic Certification for the entire campus; a new approach to admissions outreach with the Olney Ambassador program; and much more.

One of the largest initiatives is an advancement of the school curriculum, which will consist of project-based work called "endeavors" that incorporate multidisciplinary skills. For example, each student will compose "An Owner's Guide to Oneself", in which students determine how they learn, how they study and strategies they can use that will work best for them as individuals. Although Olney maintains its accreditation by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States, as a private school it is not burdened with the standardized testing which has hampered so many public schools. This gives Olney the flexibility to be creative, innovative and holistic in its schooling. The results are evident, as 100% of students who were eligible to return have chosen to do so.

While those close to Olney have long known its many special gifts, it is now getting some recognition in wider circles. Niche.com rated Olney as the third-best private school in the state of Ohio.

Olney provides students with a connection to community, nature, and themselves, and the LEYM support of Olney is well-placed.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Mott (Broadmead)

AFSC Annual Meeting

A March blizzard shut down much of the east coast and left travelers stranded all over the country. At Detroit Metro, oddly, several AFSC-bound Quakers found one another and eventually arrived in Philadelphia together for the annual Corporation Meeting. The Corporation is a large group representing a broad spectrum of American Quakers and it serves as a channel for Friends' concerns and a source of guidance for a large and very busy organization. LEYM appoints several representatives who serve three-year terms. Despite the necessary cancellation of Thursday night's program due to the snow, approximately 100 Friends attended from as far away as Alaska Yearly Meeting and several foreign countries.

Phil Lord presided as Clerk. General Secretary Shan Cretin noted that while AFSC was formed to provide alternatives to military service, AFSC has never been a substitute for individual witness. She described two themes identified in recent strategic plans: engaging youth in spiritually grounded work for social change in their communities; and changing the narrative about war and violence. This year's theme was "Radical Hospitality: Working for Immigrant Justice."

Friends Relations Committee Clerk Doug Bennett described volunteer opportunities for Friends within and partnering with AFSC, including service on governance committees, volunteer work for AFSC programs, and the emerging Quaker activist/partner role. Your LEYM representatives would welcome the opportunity to speak with F/Friends about ways to become actively involved in the operation of AFSC on a national, regional or local level. Please contact one of us with your questions.

A new AFSC initiative being piloted this year is *Small Group Social Change Ministry*. A small group of four to eight meets regularly throughout the year for worship sharing, and spiritual growth with a focus on concretely impacting one identified social concern. This new model of engagement works through "accompanying" and partnering with disenfranchised others in the community.

Each day of the Corporation meeting involved Meeting for Business, afternoon workshops, and stimulating evening plenaries. Afternoon workshops showcased some of AFSC's programs including "Shared Security," "Mass Incarceration," and "Immigrant Justice." The workshop "Palestinian Fragmentation and Movers" brought three young Palestinian women to describe the pervasive corrosive effects of fragmenting and isolating populations of Palestinians. Travel between or out of tightly controlled areas is at best difficult and often impossible. Friends were urged to support Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) as a means of promoting meaningful change and human rights. One of the Palestinian youth, who is from Gaza, described AFSC's work as unique in the region. She told us that while other organizations provide specific kinds of humanitarian assistance, she was happily surprised that AFSC is willing to talk about those things that matter most to her and other Palestinians. AFSC is the "one organization that cares for my dreams and aspirations and supports communication with my history and my land."

Speakers at the evening plenary session vivified the current work of AFSC in the decades-long struggle for immigrant rights. Immigrant youth brilliantly expressed their experiences in poetry using bilingual spoken word and visual art including large murals. We heard their stories of struggle against poverty, family separations, violence, and indifferent or hostile officials. We heard the importance of listening to their authentic voices to change the narrative and change the culture.

An interesting change for next year's Corporation meeting involves opening up all of the sessions to any who wish to attend. This will expand Quakers' access to AFSC information and stimulating workshop programs beyond just the Corporation and the Board of Directors. A wonderful source of inspiration and information continues to be AFSC's *Acting in Faith* e-newsletter and podcasts. As an organization, AFSC has renewed its commitment to connecting with F/friends around the country through its Meeting Liaison Program which identifies one person in each Meeting who acts as a contact and conduit. Could this be YOU for your Meeting? Your LEYM representatives to AFSC again welcome your thoughts and questions.

Respectfully submitted,
John Deikis, Ann Arbor Friends Meeting
Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar Friends Meeting

YM15-38 Close

The annual sessions closed for the year.

Submitted by Sally Weaver Sommer, Presiding Clerk,
Nancy Reeves, Recording Clerk

Committee Reports Referred to in Minutes

Sexual Abuse Task Force Report

June, 2015

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting intends to provide for our young Friends a recurring community in which opportunities abound for authentic intra- and intergenerational relationships full of spontaneity, warmth, trust, curiosity, reflection and joy. To do that, we realize we must provide some clear safety boundaries and

expectations within which both children and adults can be freed from worry or wariness about potential abusive behavior of any kind and also about being falsely accused. For trust of the kind we envision to flourish, we need to take care to create an environment that eliminates unnecessary risks and dangers. To that end, the committee named below has been asked by Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer to consider whether and how our existing policies should be revised.

We note that LEYM's current policy addresses how an incident of suspected abuse should be handled and reported, but does not establish any practices designed to minimize the risk of its happening. We believe that some additional practices could substantively reduce the potential for abuse.

After reviewing policies developed (or under development) by Friends General Conference, Ann Arbor MM, Kalamazoo MM and Pittsburg MM as well as others from Pima, AZ and Wellsley, MA, we are united in our sense that a Yearly Meeting policy should be developed which includes elements listed below. We intend to test that sense during this year's annual session. We are willing, if Way opens, to draft such a policy, incorporating feedback that is gathered during the session.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of these ideas.

Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh)
Flo Friender (Kalamazoo)
Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor)
Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar)
Robb Yurisko (North Columbus)

Principles which should be incorporated into a written Yearly Meeting policy designed to balance safety and freedom for both young Friends and the adults who work with them:

An educational session about sexual abuse should be presented annually as a required preparation for anyone who will be working with the young Friends program.

1. Volunteers who work with young Friends should participate before beginning each year's program in an educational session that matter-of-factly outlines the risk of various kinds of abuse (intentional or otherwise), why these strategies have been designed to mitigate those risks, and the importance of being able to talk frankly about situations that don't feel right.

   Attenders to Yearly Meeting sessions all should get a brief explanation of our practices and an invitation to attend this session in their orientation materials.

   RATIONALE: Done well, such a session can help shift the topics of safety, abuse and sexuality out of the realm of hushed dread and unspoken fear into the matter-of-fact domain of known risks that can be managed and avoided. Asking people to repeat this (short) presentation regularly ensures that everyone involved during a given year has the same information from the same source.

2. Volunteers who work with young Friends should be currently approved caregivers in a LEYM Monthly Meeting with a caregiver safety policy or else should agree to have LEYM ask for a reference from the clerk or a designee of their Monthly Meeting.

   The form that Ann Arbor Meeting uses for reference checks adapts three questions from the FGC process. We believe these would be good for LEYM to use as well:

   A. How long has the applicant been an active member/attender of the Meeting or Quaker Organization?

   B. Do you believe your Meeting or Quaker Organization has a sufficiently close relationship with the applicant that you would know if there was reason to be concerned about their working with children?

   C. Do you or the Meeting or Quaker Organization have any knowledge about the applicant that would suggest she/he would be inappropriate as a youth and child care worker?

   RATIONALE: Formally establishing the connections which give us confidence in the character and intentions of all people to whom we entrust our children ensures that a relative stranger does not become part of the teaching team merely because it would seem awkward to ask for “credentials” for someone we don't know as well.

3. At a minimum, two volunteers who have completed the preparation described in #1 and #2 above should always be with any group of children under LEYM’s care.

RATIONALE: The presence of two sets of caregiver eyes at all times helps ensure not only doubled awareness of what is going on, but also increased availability of listening ears in case a child wants to talk about something that leaves them uneasy. It also provides the adults involved with a witness in case of potential accusations of abusive behavior.

4. Everyone involved in LEYM Young Friends' programs - adult volunteers and participating children - should agree to stay within sight of the group at all times.

This means that no two people are ever alone together behind a closed door. This doesn't preclude in-depth, one-on-one conversations; it just means that they happen in sight of other people. This safety practice should be included among other expectations that are matter-of-factly established and regularly reinforced with participating young Friends. For example:

a. We play safely and peacefully at all times.

b. We use kind words to everyone.

c. We listen to adult directions the first time asked.

d. Keep hands and feet to ourselves. Check to be sure it's ok before touching someone.

e. We stay within sight of the rest of the group at all times.

f. We tell an adult if we are uncomfortable with anything another person says to us or does to us.

RATIONALE: This agreement keeps the young Friends' community a public one, thus minimizing opportunities for either adult-with-child or child-with-child abusive behavior. Including the safety practice among other expectations keeps it matter-of-fact, minimizing fear-based warnings.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Won't this chill the recruitment of volunteers for the kids program?

It's possible -- some meetings have experienced having adults who find this much "checking" intrusive and choose not to participate as adult volunteers. We hope that many of us will be willing to do the preparation necessary and volunteer for the young Friends' program when we understand how essential this is to establishing the trust needed for successful relationships with kids.

2. Where do we get the "staff" time required to do all these checks and prepare the educational session etc.?

As always, LEYM will depend on volunteers. Materials are available from several sources (FGC and Monthly Meetings) for a solid, introductory presentation. A PowerPoint and supporting materials could be developed once as part of the policy development that the committee stands ready to undertake. Obtaining references will definitely require some time on the part of each year's coordinator, though an on-going list could be maintained that carried over from year to year.

3. What about an emergency that takes one of the two caregivers away?

Yes, in fact there are many non-emergency tasks like bathroom visits, going to get supplies, searching for a parent or dealing with an injured child, which may also pull one of the caregivers to leave the group. We need to include specific expectations for what to do then in any final policy. We believe everyone will be safer if these practices are standard policy - even if thoughtful judgment leads to occasional brief exceptions.

4. Why haven't you recommended criminal background checks? Many organizations are requiring them these days.

The research we could find cited no evidence that criminal background checks actually decreased incidents of abuse. We believe them to be largely a result of insurance companies' efforts to reduce liability. Because we aren't compelled by insurance company directives, we believe we are free to use our best judgment. And we have more faith in the practices we propose above than we do in background checks (which vary from state to state, cover different data-bases, and may in fact give a pass to someone with very bad judgment about behavior).

5. What about times when kids are between programs/buildings etcetera?

Except during program time, children's safety remains their parents' responsibility. Parents may

choose to advise their kids to stay in twos.

Ministry and Nurture Report

The Ministry and Nurture Committee has several charges. First, we administer the Ministry Scholarship Fund. Second, we hold the Spiritual Formation program under our care. Third, we collect and assess the annual State of the Meeting Reports. And fourth, we craft an annual query to be considered by Monthly Meetings and worship groups as an enrichment tool.

Ministry Scholarship Fund

This year, we received no requests for funds. We encourage Friends who are following a leading that may be aided by scholarship funds to bring it to their Monthly Meeting; after seasoning, the Monthly Meeting may then bring a request for a scholarship to this committee.

Spiritual Formation

Mathilda Navias, clerk of the Spiritual Formation Committee, is not here with us this year, but she shared her report with Ministry and Nurture, and I will give a synopsis.

The Spiritual Formation theme last year was “The Gospel of John: Stories of What God’s Love Looks Like.” Eric Evans, leader of the retreat, was accompanied by a spiritual companion at each retreat. A total of 35 Friends participated in one or both retreats this year: 31 in the fall, and 16 in the spring. This is an increase over the past several years; there were 26 participants in 2013-14, and 30 participants in 2012-13. Evaluations filled out by the participants were overwhelmingly positive and indicated that the participants felt inspired and rewarded by the retreat material and the leader.

Finances

Last year at LEYM Annual Sessions, the yearly meeting agreed that money from LEYM for the Spiritual Formation program can henceforward be used without restrictions, while the amount of LEYM's annual contribution was raised to $800.

The Planning Committee took a fresh approach to setting fees. In the past, there was a set fee for attending the retreats with a deep discount offered for couples. This year, while we raised fees, we also gave participants information about how much the program actually costs and then asked them to decide what they could afford. That might be more, or less, than the full program cost. The full cost figures were based on an assumption that we would have a certain number of participants.

We gave two suggested payments: enough to cover the full cost of $190 a person for both retreats; and a minimum fee of $150 for those who couldn't afford the full amount. There was the option of making an additional contribution to support others. There was a $20 discount for first-time attenders and couples. We encouraged Friends to request help from their Monthly Meeting and then from the program if they needed assistance, and proceeded in faith that by the end of the program year the costs would be covered. A number of people made contributions and we did cover costs, so we are continuing with the same fee structure next year. Responses to the new fee structure were all positive.

The theme for the coming year is “Experiment with Light.” Experiment with Light is a practice originating with Rex Ambler, a British Friend. The practice involves a guided meditation based on advice George Fox gave to early Friends in his epistles. The leader for the retreats, found through FGC's Traveling Ministries Program, is JoAnn Seaver from Philadelphia, who will be accompanied by her husband as her spiritual companion.

The fall retreat will be held September 11-13, 2015, at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan. The spring retreat will be May 14, 2016. The committee has brought flyers and brochures for Friends at the annual sessions.

Mathilda’s complete report for Spiritual Formation follows this report.

State of the Meeting Reports

M&N received State of the Meeting reports from 15 Monthly Meetings and no worship groups. As we read the reports, we noted some challenges in our meetings, but we also noted many strengths and growth. There was general expression of the loving, caring, supportive experience of Friends in their Meetings for Worship, which is treasured both by members and new attenders. Some indicated increased and uplifting vocal ministry; others found the silence in their Meeting to be quite powerful.

About half of the meetings identified themselves as small meetings. Because of this some have combined committees and decreased the frequency of committee meetings. One quite small Meeting wrote "we intend to carry on as best we are able." Yet some of these small meetings are celebrating new attenders and members, and some are involved in outreach. First Day School is difficult to maintain in small Meetings but some provide for it once a month. One report spoke of "sadness at sporadic attendance of children and youth."

Several experienced the death of long time members and one is planning a memorial garden on their property.

Some larger Meetings celebrate growth in attenders and members as well as young families with children. Some described vibrant, well-staffed First Day Schools and intergenerational activities which enhance the well-being and enliven the spirit of the Meeting as a whole. In one Meeting an Adult Young Friends group is active and involved in staffing First Day School. Many describe rich Adult Religious Education programs. Several report annual Meeting Retreats.

All report meaningful Meetings for Worship for Business, and one identified the importance of the situation at Friends School as of great concern. Most report sound finances though it is a struggle for some. A few Meetings have approved Child Safety Policies. Several have active Spiritual Formation groups which enhance the spiritual well-being of their Meeting. Two Meetings find the regular Meeting for Healing to nurture and sustain the body. Several Meetings have hosted Quaker groups or representatives of Quaker organizations or brought in Quaker resource people for workshops.

Several Meetings describe ongoing weekly or monthly worship sharing groups, forums on topics such as death and dying/aging in the Light, use of *Friends Journal* articles for group reflection, workshops on conflict resolution and white privilege, learning reflective listening.

A few Meetings need to move to a different location and find that challenging, while others have needed to repair a Meeting House.

A few Meetings wrote very candidly of some extremely difficult issues and holding special meetings to gain Spirit leading in how to move forward in kind and loving ways. Some of these involve difficult relationships within the Meeting and mental illness. (A query this Meeting identified to help focus is "What are our values as Quakers and as a Meeting and how do we live our values when one member's behavior presents a barrier to the spiritual nourishment of others?") Another issue involves relationships with community youth using Meeting property in inappropriate ways.

Most describe action in the larger world toward social and environmental justice. To name a few:

- supporting antiracism coalition's interfaith gathering and partnership
- withdrawing investments in PNC Bank because of their support of mountain top removal
- vigils re: Black Lives Matter and shooting deaths in Charleston, S.C.
- supporting center for non-violence
- providing for emergency needs for food supplies and hot meals
- learning about and keeping Meeting informed about Palestine/Israel issues
- hosting AFSC's Eyes Wide Open exhibit
- establishing a Carbon Footprint fund so Friends can contribute to offset costs of carbon use
- attending to making Meeting House more energy efficient
- filing an amicus brief for a Supreme Court case on same-sex marriage
- bringing awareness to Meeting of "glaring inequalities and racism" in our country
- seeking to discern how to identify "communal witness - a shared community concern that can be taken up by all that are able"
- seeking to walk gently on our planet
- writing letters to editors re: police killings of black men and women

Our actions as Friends grow out of our spiritual communities, where support of individual and communal spiritual journeys are treasured. Such love and support led one meeting in particular to refer to these as being "one of the key insights of the Quaker way: that faithful presence, openness to new light, and deep trust are required to discern the Spirit's leading." As one meeting summed up, "Sometimes, we do feel that 'Christ has come to teach his people Himself.'"

The M&N Committee has enjoyed reading all of the details of these reports. Many contain items that are of interest to all meetings. We encourage all Friends and meetings to take the time to read all of the reports.

Annual Query 2015

For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made

*me welcome; I was naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me. (*Matthew 25:35-36, Jerusalem Bible)

How might our meeting support individuals and the meeting as a whole in working to increase racial justice within our world? In what ways do we as a Meeting recognize white privilege in our own Meeting? What tools and practices do we use to foster awareness of our personal and corporate biases?

Spiritual Formation Report

The theme for the 2014-15 program was "The Gospel of John: Stories of What God's Love Looks Like." We held a weekend retreat in the fall at the Columbiere Retreat & Conference Center in Clarkston, MI, and a Saturday retreat in the spring hosted by Birmingham and Detroit Friends. The leader was Eric Evans, who was accompanied by a spiritual companion at each retreat.

There were a total of 35 participants in all plus the leaders; 31 in the fall, and 16 in the spring. They were from 9 meetings: 6 in Michigan (Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Pine River, & Red Cedar), and 3 groups in Ohio (Broadmead, Delaware, and Waysmeet WG). Last year, we had a total of 26 participants; the previous year we had 30.

The Planning Committee took a fresh approach to setting fees. In the past, there was a set fee for attending the retreats with a deep discount offered for couples. This year, while we raised fees, we also gave participants information about how much the program actually costs and then asked them to decide what they could afford. That might be more, or less, than the full program cost. The full cost figures were based on an assumption that we would have a certain number of participants.

We gave two suggested payments: enough to cover the full cost of $190 a person for both retreats; and a minimum fee of $150 for those who couldn't afford the full amount. There was the option of making an additional contribution to support others. There was a $20 discount for first-time attenders and couples. We encouraged Friends to request help from their Monthly Meeting and then from the program if they needed assistance, and proceeded in faith that by the end of the program year the costs would be covered. A number of people made contributions and we did cover costs, so we are continuing with the same fee structure next year.

The evaluations filled out at the fall retreat indicated the following:

- Most Friends came to the retreat because they were interested in the Biblical material, in the leaders, and/or being with the other participants. Some came because the retreat is the beginning of the spiritual formation year.
- Many found the story-telling approach to Bible study useful as well as the invitation to hold the stories lightly.
- Responses to the new fee structure were all positive.
- Friends' responses to Eric Evans's leadership were wonderfully positive.

In the evaluations, Friends wrote:

- "This was an inspired choice. I'm very grateful to the committee for this experience."
- "It was an amazing experience on a deep level. The questions we were asked to consider were totally relevant."
- "I don't get to meeting very often and I like to be with other Quakers."
- "Openings, new ways of thinking cracked open."
- "How on earth do you keep coming up with good retreats?"

The evaluations from the spring retreat showed that Friends really, really liked it and got a lot out of it. People really liked Eric, his gentle but firm and clear leadership, and the careful preparation he had done. Some comments:

- "The day was something I needed in every way."
- "It forced me to confront various issues."
- "I didn't expect to get so much out of Bible study - but it was very worthwhile."
- "I thought the leadership was *wonderful.*"

Of Eric's leadership:

- "Joyful, thoughtful, engaged and engaging. Kind and loving, well prepared and knowledgeable ... willing to be vulnerable."

2015-2016 Year

The theme for the coming year is “Experiment with Light”. Experiment with Light is a practice originating with Rex Ambler, a British Friend. The practice involves a guided meditation based on advice George Fox gave to early Friends in his epistles. The leader for the retreats, found through FGC's Traveling Ministries Program, is JoAnn Seaver from Philadelphia, who will be accompanied by her husband as her spiritual companion.

The fall retreat will be held September 11-13, 2015, at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan. The spring retreat will be May 14, 2016. We encourage members of LEYM Ministry & Nurture to participate in the program.

News

Last year at LEYM Annual Sessions, the yearly meeting agreed that money from LEYM for the Spiritual Formation program can henceforward be used without restrictions, while the amount of LEYM's annual contribution was raised to $800.

We have worked hard to bring new Friends onto the Planning Committee. We are being joined this fall by Karen Hooker of Red Cedar Meeting, Rebecca Hatton of Ann Arbor Meeting, and Ellerie Brownfain of Birmingham Meeting. Mathilda Navias continues as clerk of the committee, along with Aran Reinhart and Paula Deming, who serves as liaison with Ministry & Nurture.

Mathilda Navias
Clerk, Spiritual Formation Planning Committee

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting
State of the Meeting Report 2015

The past year has been a both joyous and heart-wrenching experience for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting. It is marked with both growth and change.

Ellerie Brownfain agreed to continue as clerk of the Meeting for the year. Mary Takahashi was unable to assume the position due to the death of her husband Kyo in August and subsequent relocation to Corvallis, Oregon in January. A memorial service, coordinated by Birmingham and Pine River Friends Meetings, was held for Kyo on November 16, 2014 at the Birmingham Unitarian Church. Over 60 people were in attendance, including some who flew in from Japan to honor Kyo's work in designing a logo for All Nippon Airways. Green Pastures mourns Kyo's passing and wishes Mary much love and support in this new phase of her life.

Green Pastures took on a number of challenges at Meeting for Business during the year. Increasing attendance to and participation in Quarterly Meeting has been a concern this year and last. The Quarter has had difficulty in finding people to serve on various committees and offices, particularly in planning programs and to serve as clerk. In Spring 2014, an ad hoc Envisioning Committee was formed to investigate what might encourage Friends to be more active in the Quarter. Over the summer, the committee surveyed meetings and worship groups, asking such questions as to whether people attended Quarterly Meeting and how often, what drew them to attend, what types of activities and functions were of most interest, what their understanding was of the Quarter's oversight of three Quaker organizations in the region, and what they envisioned for a more enticing gathering. The Envisioning made the following recommendations at the Fall Meeting for Business based on survey and personal conversations:

- Restrict business to a half day at the spring and fall meetings, with programming, service opportunities, and/or fellowship filling the other portion of the day. Ideally, this additional programming would call on “in-house” resources and talent found within GPQM.
- Obtain regular written reports from Friends Lake, AFSC/AA, and the Friends School rather than hearing verbal reports at each business meeting. A more in-depth educational program could occasionally be offered by Friends working with each of these organizations. This might be more engaging for Friends who attend the quarterly.
- Develop a children’s program as an integral part of the programming. The program should offer more extensive activities/education than simply childcare.
- Have more frequent communication between the quarterly and the Monthly Meetings, so we are more visible and Friends know how to become engaged. Perhaps a newsletter.
- Designate a group to review the original bylaws and recommend any needed changes so that they conform to our practices.

- Clarify what “oversight” means, both legally and to the Quarter, in relationship to the Friends School, the Friends Center/Community, and the Ann Arbor AFSC.
- Allow the committee to continue its works, as suggested above.

The committee was approved to continue to explore ways in which the Quarter can nurture spiritual growth and fellowship amongst Friends and meetings.

Friends continued to struggle with the deteriorating financial situation at Friends School Detroit. An ad hoc committee was created to improve communications and transparency between the School board and the Quarter. Despite the work between the Quarter and the School board, the School's financial situation worsened over the school year. After much heart-rending discussion and worship at the Spring Meeting for Business, those present reached unity, with one person standing aside, and the following Minute was approved:

> Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting deeply appreciates and wishes to honor the generous donations of time, effort, and financial support on the part of teachers, administration, the Board, parents, and students to educate the youth of Detroit over the past 50 years in the Quaker manner through Friends School in Detroit.
>
> Unfortunately, under the present circumstances of the school, both in its financial and infrastructure deterioration, we are in unity that the Board [should] lay down (close) the school. It is our hope and expectation that this will be done following Quaker ethics and integrity.

Friends gathered in joyous worship, spiritual exploration and musical journey at the Winter Gathering on Sound Spirituality, hosted by Red Cedar Friends Meeting in Lansing. The retreat was lead by Mike Green, a member of Durham (NC) Monthly Meeting and a core teacher at the School of the Spirit's program *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer.* Mike was accompanied by his wife, Marsha, as his elder and piano companion. Even those who considered themselves musically challenged became musicians in spirit for the weekend.

Green Pastures will continue to provide spiritual support and oversight for the AFSC chapter in Ann Arbor, its Michigan Criminal Justice Program, and the Michigan Friends Center, as well as spiritual and intellectual nourishment and resources for the 8 meetings and 3 worship groups within the Quarter. It will also continue creating opportunities for building stronger spiritual bonds and relationships among Friends.

The most current financial situation for the School is as follows:

- The current enrollment at the school is 84 students.
- The total outstanding amount for unemployment taxes and liabilities is currently $61,000.
- Unpaid utility charges total $87,500.
- The mortgage (which the School has again stopped paying) is $502,000 plus interest and foreclosure appears imminent.
- Second mortgages, held mainly by Quaker lenders, total $80,000 plus possible interest.
- Faculty and staff are owed $88,000 in unpaid payroll.
- Loans from members of the board, parents and a previous private lender $85,000.
- We have an unpaid insurance deductible claim of $5,000 outstanding.
- The acting head of the school believes that miscellaneous unpaid bills add up to another $5,000.
- The current total of outstanding/unpaid debt exceeds $913,500.

Tuition income to the end of the year will amount to approximately $54,718 but the remaining salary expenses, including taxes, will be about $140,000.

Friends School in Detroit has gone through several periods of uncertainty and some of relative stability. At the moment, it is deeply in debt. There are possible solutions on the table.

The most recent information we have (as of 11 April 2015) about the future of the school are these:

- The MDOT purchase of the school’s building for the Detroit Meeting
  - The school proposed a $1.2 million sale price to cover the most of the debt and to bring the building up to code
  - MDOT has neither accepted nor rejected the request although there is anticipation that information will be forthcoming this month
- If MDOT agrees to the amount as proposed, the Detroit Monthly Meeting will need to come to unity on moving forward with FSD as a possible tenant. The board has agreed to list the building for sale and if the

MDOT sale does not go through, the proceeds from the sale will be used to pay debts.

- There is a possibility that works of art will be offered for sale by James Turrell to help pay the debts and the estimates indicate the benefit to the school could be six figures
- The board is also considering a move to a shared space with mid-town Montessori. It is exploring the cost of rental and moving and if enough parents would move with the school or if new parents would enroll
- Finally, the school could sell the building, pay its debts and close either temporarily or permanently
- Draft budgets and planning for each of the above options is underway

The ad hoc study group mentioned above identified some changes to board process that can be instituted that would help going forward if the school were to remain open in some form.

- Accurate and timely financial records

Respectfully submitted by Ellerie Brownfain
Clerk, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Friends School in Detroit Report

July 31, 2015

At the September 2014 session of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting held at Friends School, Friends School in Detroit reported as follows:

- The School opened this September with an enrollment of 82 students, 17 faculty members and an average annual tuition payment of $ 6,500. Roof and kitchen repairs are in progress.
- A draft income statement for the preceding school year showed net loss of approximately $213,776 for the fiscal year ending 6/2014. The school has not had a bookkeeper since the previous July and Trustees and Assistant Clerk, Joan Sampieri, had been managing the bookkeeping although the school's inability to provide accurate and timely records made this task difficult.
- Trustee Toby Barlow observed that the upcoming 50th anniversary of the school provided an opportunity to raise the school's visibility -- to potential parents, to the Detroit business community and to national Quaker organizations. He believes the school has a fantastic story to tell, especially in the current renewal climate of Detroit.

The Quarterly Meeting expressed appreciation for the dedication and effort of current and former Board members and school staff in maintaining the school. Two continuing members of the Board of Trustees of Friends School in Detroit were approved for additional three year terms: *Jane Fran Morgan* and *Mark Thames*.

At the same session, Susan Hartman read a "Draft Guidelines" document from the ad hoc study group for the Quarter's relationship with Friends School in Detroit. Members of the study group are: Ellerie Brownfain, Jeff Cooper, Susan Hartman, Mike Holladay, and Linda Mills. Friends approved continuing the process begun by the ad hoc study group, taking into account the views expressed about ways to bring the process forward with the School's Board of Trustees.

Throughout the fall and winter several fundraisers garnered less support than had been hoped and the school's financial position worsened. However, the Detroit Friends Meeting indicated that in a proposed purchase of its current site by the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Meeting might consider the purchase of the Friends School property and site its Meeting at the School. In addition, Quaker artist James Turrell took an interest in the school's continued existence and began to look for ways to help through donations of works of art.

In May of 2015, at the request of the Quarterly Meeting, Joan Samperi as Assistant Clerk of the Friends School in Detroit presented the following updated report:

  - Although the board requested that a bookkeeper be hired, none ever was.
  - There are no financial statements and haven't been since September, which has made decision-making problematic.

- Training for incoming clerks on Quaker decision-making process
- Annual training for all board members in the role of the board
  - To meet the budget in the past, critical positions (bookkeeper and business manager) were cut.
  - To keep costs down, a full-time director of development was not hired

These and other shortcuts meant that board members often took on the role of staff and did not attend to the critical strategic and oversight responsibilities that have led to hurried decisions, not enough important information, and a level of frustration for everyone involved. The Board of Trustees developed a plan for continuing a Friends school in Detroit at the School's present location and shared it at an informal listening at

the School in late June of 2015 with more than 20 Friends from Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting in attendance. The plan consisted of:

- Establishing a new "interim" corporation with its own Board of Trustees to operate the School next year for a short-term while the debt of the current corporation (Friends School in Detroit) is paid. This will help protect the current corporation from any legal or fiscal responsibility associated with the school moving forward.
- To continue operating as a Quaker school, efforts are underway to identify individuals to serve on the Board of this new corporation. A significant number of the new Board members of the new corporation will be Quakers from the Detroit Monthly Meeting. As Quakers, they will advocate and be ambassadors of the school's Quaker identity.
- Proceeds of the sale of James Turrell's art work will go to the current corporation to pay off the school's debt. It is anticipated that this will occur over the next six months, with a formal letter of commitment coming in the next couple of weeks. Details of this contribution are being ironed out by Mr. Turrell's attorney. Additionally, a new Head of School or any new staff would not be hired until all outstanding pay to current faculty and staff has been paid. At that time, staff will be hired under the new corporation.
- When the debt is paid off, the interim corporation will be merged with the current corporation. The new Board will remain in control and, with the school's debt paid, the Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting will have no further legal connection to the school.

The Quarter made no decisions at the meeting except to recommend to those interested in going forward gather a specific, written proposal from James Turrell and a new corporation formed. Once those steps were taken, the Quarter could more fully address the proposal.

At the July 16, 2015 Board of Trustees meeting a draft of a letter from James Turrell was presented for review. An attorney for the Board members wishing to continue a Friends school recommended that the bylaws be re-written to remove the Quarterly Meeting from its responsibilities, rather than having to form a new corporation. This would avoid the cost and delay of obtaining charitable status and becoming state certified as a private school. At the meeting, it was reported that Urban Partnership Bank had scheduled a foreclosure sale on August 27th, and the Board then approved entering into a listing agreement to sell the school's property.

Respectfully yours,
Ellerie Brownfain

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND INCOME - 2014/2015 Fiscal Year updated 6/30/15

Meeting (Giver)	Amount	Date
Akron Friends Meeting	180.00	11-Aug
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	5,207.00	15-Jan
Athens Friends Meeting	2,460.00	22-Sep
Birmingham Friends Meeting	738.00	16-Dec
Broadmead Friends Meeting	1,890.00	3-Feb
Cleveland Friends Meeting	1,927.00	19-Mar
Delaware Friends Meeting	492.00	18-Mar
Detroit Friends Meeting	989.00	10-Nov
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting	943.00	18-Feb
Granville Friends Meeting	900.00	25-Aug
Holland Friends Meeting	200.00	20-Mar
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting	1,353.00	2-Mar
Kent Friends Meeting	680.00	17-Nov
Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting	180.00	15-Jan
North Columbus Friends Meeting	800.00	16-Dec
Oberlin Friends Meeting	574.00	3-Nov
Pine River Friends Meeting	615.00	16-Dec
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting	5,658.00	12-Apr
Red Cedar Friends Meeting	3,116.00	16-Dec
Wooster Friends Meeting	600.00	5-Jan
Individuals		
Total	**29,502.00**	

FFC Dividends, Base Account	955.94	30-Jun
FFC change port value, + or -, Base Account	356.92	30-Jun

Misc. Donat'ns & In-Kind Income*	**Total Cash plus In-Kind**

TOTAL INCOME	30,814.86	30,814.86

*Includes donations at annual sessions

Individual Budget lines, 2014-2015 Budget Year

ACCOUNT	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE	BUDGET %	In-kind & Restricted Donations	TOTAL EXPENSE	TOTAL BUDGET %
Travel	3000	3000	100%	1286.8	4286.8	143%
Office	50	48	96%		48	96%
Contract worker	2040	1638.19	80%		1638.19	80%
Finance [2]	50	11	22%		11	22%
Publications	3000	3083.21	103%		3083.21	103%
Advancement	600		0%		0	0%
Ministry & Nurture	300	-324.93	-108%		-324.93	-108%
Clerk	300		0%		0	0%
FGC	4500	4500	100%		4500	100%
Records project	100	100	100%		100	100%
FWCC Travel Fund [1]	2400	2400	100%		2400	100%
Youth Activities Fund [1]	1000	1000	100%		1000	100%
H. S. Teen Retreat Fund [1]	6300	6300	100%		6300	100%
Spiritual Formation Fund [1]	800	800	100%		800	100%
Friends School in Detroit	4500	4500	100%		4500	100%
Olney Friends School	600	600	100%		600	100%
Consultation Fund [1]	0				0	
Scholarship Fund for Ministry [1]	500	500	100%		500	100%
Summer Work Project	1200	1200	100%		1200	100%
Insurance	500	500	100%		500	100%
Sub-total	31,740.00	29,855.47		1,286.80	31,142.27	
Misc. [3]					0	
Totals	**31,740.00**	**29,855.47**	**94%**	**1,286.80**	**31,142.27**	**98%**

[1] Subsidy from General Fund to other funds

[2] Includes banking costs

[3] FFC Dividends & portfolio value changes, formerly shown here are now on sheet 1

Summary of Funds 2014-2015 Fiscal Year; as of 6/30/2015

	Starting Balance	Income or Change	Subsidy from General Fund	Cash Expenses	End Balance
General Fund [1]	23746.74	30814.86		29855.47	24706.13
Granville Youth Fund [2]	7192.02	310.92		245.87	7257.07
Annual Meeting Fund [3]	1473.31	15530.41		14271.55	2732.17
Youth Activities Fund [4] [5]	7092.37	1175.87	1000.00	2861.08	6407.16
High School Teen retreat Fund [4]	5773.30	215.00	6300.00	4213.91	8074.39
Spiritual Formation Fund [4]	1107.51	5335.00	800.00	4915.31	2327.20
FWCC Travel Fund [4]	2339.83		2400.00	4739.83	
Consultation Fund [4]	3143.68			3143.68	
Ministry Scholarship Fund [4]	1000.00		500.00	1500.00	
Summer Work Project Fund [4]	100.00	975.00	1200.00	920.00	1355.00
Traveling Ministries Fund	3500.00				3500.00
Travel Contingency Fund [4]	3000.00			727.87	2272.13
TOTAL	**59468.76**	**54357.06**	**12200.00**	**58011.06**	**68014.76**

1 Includes line item accounting from Budget plus contributions; also reflects dividends and changes in net portfolio value, FFC base account

2 Granville Youth Fund is separate FFC account; 'Income or Change' reflects both dividend and change in portfolio value; 'Cash Expense' reflects dividends that have been paid and are then are transferred to Youth Activities Fund.

3 Income includes -0- in individual donations.

4 Other funds are managed through accounting and may be subsidized by the corresponding budget lines of the General Fund.

5 Income includes dividends from FFC Granville YF account.

Finance Committee Report

Jeff Cooper reported.

Unlike in the past few years, all we are bringing today is a budget. The draft budget was presented at Representative Meeting, printed in the spring *Bulletin*, and, a few weeks ago, distributed to Monthly Meetings, along with a message noting three lines where changes from that budget might be expected. We now have recommended amounts for those lines, as well as changes in two other lines, the total of which results in surprisingly little change to the total expenses.

The changes are:

1) **Travel:** Added $1000, reflecting actual expenses for last year.
2) **Publications & Archives:** At Representative Meeting, while we were in one corner of the room reducing that committee's budget line by $600 to reflect actual spending, they were in another corner proposing to mail printed copies of the spring *Bulletin* to all households. This resulted in adding about $900 in cost. P&A may wish to repeat this practice with the spring *Bulletin* next year, but apparently will not decide until Representative Meeting. We have added $800 to the P&A budget line to cover this potential cost.
3) A new line: Since Representative Meeting we have received a request from **Michigan Friends Center** for a one-time $1,000 contribution to support a building project to make the entranceway more welcoming and accessible to individuals with mobility issues, with the goal of increasing use of the building.

   Michigan Friends Center is an independent non-profit facility for meetings, retreats, and community events on the grounds of Friends Lake, near Chelsea, Michigan. It is used by Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, Ann Arbor Meeting, and community groups, and over the past few years has hosted a one-day retreat of the LEYM Spiritual Formation Group, a day for at least one LEYM teen retreat, and, this spring, one day of the Quaker Earthcare Witness steering committee meeting held in Ann Arbor.

   The building project improvement plan was developed with the help of an architect and advice from disability advocates. It includes new and larger entrance decks with handrails, a cement ramp to an entrance, and an enlarged parking area with dedicated disability parking. The project, partly completed, is budgeted at $16,000 to $18,000. Both GPQM and AAFM have contributed $1,000. As of the date of the request (May 25), MFC was embarking on a fundraising campaign with the aid of a $5,000 donation of matching funds.

   Finance Committee recommends this one-time contribution, especially because it would improve access for the physically disabled, while also recognizing that three-quarters of our small committee are Michigan Friends.

4) **Friends School in Detroit.** For the past many years our budget has included a contribution of $4500 to FSD. Yesterday you heard a description of the bleak situation there. While we acknowledge the plea for continuing contributions to assist with the closing costs, we have also heard many Friends' desire to contribute mainly toward the payments owed to the teachers and staff, which will not likely happen with a contribution directly to the School. Hence we propose that we make no contribution to Friends School in Detroit. You will of course tell us if we are misreading the sense of the Meeting.

   Yesterday Joe Mills expressed the hope that Green Pastures Quarterly might establish a fund to assist in payment of teachers and staff. If such a fund is established, we encourage donations to it from Friends individually or from Monthly Meetings or worship groups, and will happily help publicize this to Friends in the Yearly Meeting.

5) **Olney Friends School.** Because of our testimony on education, we propose increasing our contribution to Olney Friends School from $600 to $2,000. (This increase would remain in place only if we agree to discontinue our contribution to Friends School in Detroit.)

With these changes, the **total expenses** become $24,500 ($300 less than in the draft budget), enabling us to keep the draft budget's **suggested per-member contribution of $32** (down from $41 in the year just completed). This budget again has a slight deficit ($410, or just over a third the size of last year's deficit) which, if need be, can be **covered through the General Fund.**

LEYM 2015 - 2016 Budget

General Fund Expenses	FY 11-12	FY 2012 - 2013		FY 2013 -2014		FY 2014-2015	
(* = transfers)	Act 11-12	**Bud 12-13**	Act 12-13	**Bud 13-14**	Act 13-14	**Budget**	ACTUAL 14-15
Travel	2,961.97	6,000	3,972.64	5,000	1546.70	**3,000**	3000.00
Office	17.47	100	18.00	50	18.00	**50**	48.00
Contract worker	1,510.00	2,040	1,313.29	2,040	938.12	**2,040**	1638.19
Finance	59.77	210	229.75	50	40.40	**50**	11.00
Publications	2,940.49	3,400	3,371.43	3,200	2030.71	**3,000**	3083.21
Advancement	0.00	100	0.00	600	-175.77	**600**	
Ministry & Nurture	0.00	100	0.00	300	150.00	**300**	(324.93)
Clerk's Fund	0.00	300	27.00	300	0.00	**300**	
FGC	4,500.00	4,500	4,500.00	4,500	4,500.00	**4,500**	4,500.00
FGC - Special Program	500.00						
FWCC one-time donation	1,200.00						
Records project	100.00	100	0.00	200	200.00	**100**	100.00
FWCC Travel*	2,480.00	1,000	1,000.00	1,200	1200.00	**2,400**	2400.00
Youth Activity Fund*	0.00	1,000	1,000.00	1,000	1000.00	**1,000**	1000.00
High School Retreat Fund*	3,300.00	4,900	4,900.00	6,000	6000.00	**6,300**	6300.00
Spiritual Formation*	100.00	100	100.00	100	100.00	**800**	800.00
Friends School in Detroit	4,500.00	4,500	4,500.00	4,500	4500.00	**4,500**	4,500.00
Olney Friends School	600.00	600	600.00	600	600.00	**600**	600.00
Consultation Fund*	472.97	0	0.00	0	0.00	**0**	
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	1,000.00	1,500	1,500.00	1,000	1,000.00	**500**	500.00
Summer work project						**1,200**	1200.00
Insurance			500.00	500	500.00	**500**	500.00
Misc.	0.00	0	-1,212.83	0	-2357.70	**0**	
Total Expense =	26,242.67	**30,450**	26,319.28	**31,140**	21,790.46	**31,740**	29,855.47

MFC

Contributions Income	29,998.50		29,543.00	29,000	29,001.00	**29,725**	29,502.00
FFC Dividends Income					738.71	**600**	955.94
Other Income				250	4010.91	**250**	
Total Income =	29,998.50	**0.00**	29,543.00	**29,250**	33,750.62	**30,575**	30,457.94

Income - Expenses =	3,755.83		3,223.72		11,960.16	**-1,165**	602.47	

Total Contribs / Members	$40.05	**$40.60**		**$40.00**		**$41.00**		
Members	760	**$750**		**725**		**725**		
Suggested contribution/member	40	**$40**		**40**		**41**		
						BUDGET UNDERFUNDING. Balance, if neede		

Task Force on Advancement & Outreach and Ministry & Nurture Report

Conference call, July 18, 2015. Present: Mathilda Navias, Dolores Avner, Mike Holaday, Paula Deming, and Sally Weaver Sommer

The task force was called together to discern how to move forward given the concerns about the functioning of Advancement and Outreach Committee [A&O] and suggestions about the responsibilities of A&O and Ministry & Nurture [M&N] committees that were expressed during the executive committee meeting in April 2015. We opened with worship sharing during which each person shared something s/he has been grateful for during the time since we were last together.

We considered helpful materials related to these two committees that Mathilda had sent us before our meeting from: *LEYM Policies and Procedures*, Baltimore Yearly Meeting *Manual of Procedure*, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith & Practice.*

Members of the task force unite with the yearly meeting's leading to engage in advancement and outreach work, even as they recognize that in recent years it has been difficult to find people with the commitment and expertise to carry out the work. Mathilda shared that she is willing to serve on A&O. Sally will inform the clerk of nominating committee of Mathilda's willingness to serve and that task force members support her appointment.

Members of the task force thought it good to focus the A&O committee's charge on outreach and advancement, rather than nurture. The task force recommends changing the first responsibility listed in the current LEYM *Policies and Procedures Manual* for A&O (1.b (1)) from "*Nurture and encourage small meetings, new Monthly Meetings, and worship groups by means of correspondence and personal visits*" to *"Encourage worship groups and new Monthly Meetings by means of correspondence and personal visits."*

Members of the task force recognize that our *Policies and Procedures Manual* does not address the support of individuals with gifts in ministry. They recommend the following responsibility from Baltimore Yearly Meeting's *Manual of Procedure* be added to the responsibilities of the LEYM Ministry and Nurture Committee (6.b (6)):

(6) Encourage and support Monthly Meetings as they recognize, publicly affirm, and practically support those individuals who exercise their gifts in faithful ministry. This includes but isn't limited to:

a. Preparing minutes for traveling ministers to be approved by the Yearly Meeting.

b. Overseeing the traveling ministries fund.

Friends General Conference Report

Friends General Conference (FGC) is a service organization which provides direct services and resources to individual Quakers, Quaker meetings, and people interest in the Quaker way. Our work is to help build, nurture, and support loving, diverse, healthy, and growing meetings and yearly meetings, and to help provide outreach to seekers.

*And **you*** are all a part of FGC!

FGC is made up of Friends from many monthly and yearly meetings. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends have been very active and helpful resources for others through their work with FGC:

- As FGC visitors with the Traveling Ministries Program
- As Couple Enrichment Leaders working with Monthly Meetings and Yearly Meetings on Racism, white privilege and supporting Friends of color through the Ministry on Racism Program
- As New Meeting project mentors supporting religious education for children and adults at the Gathering,
- And much, much more

Important events and dates:

- The autumn retreat for Friends of Color and their family members will be in Clarkston, Michigan at the Columbiere Center, Friday, November 6th to Sunday, November 8, 2015.
- The White Privilege Conference will be in Center City, Philadelphia this spring, April 14-17, 2016.
- The 2016 FGC Gathering will be in the Midwest this next summer, at the College of St. Benedict in

St Joseph, Minnesota (Near St. Cloud) from July 3rd to 9th, 2016.
- FGC will again be offering discounts to Quakers and local Quaker hospitality.

Please let Friends in your meetings know about these events!

Free Online Resources from FGC for your Meeting:

- **Newcomer Cards:** For new visitors to your meeting
- ***You are Welcome Here,*** a booklet of learnings from Quaker Quest to help meetings to be welcoming to new people.
- **Quaker Activity Pages for Children:** Three sets of coloring pages, word searches, criss-cross puzzles, and mazes, inspired by the FGC Newcomers Cards, Quaker Testimonies, Quakers and Prayer and *You are Welcome Here.* They are useful for First Day School lessons, to give to families, and to give to visiting children at Meetings without First Day School.
- **"Transforming Quaker Welcoming" -** A brand new, free, downloadable poster. Contains advice for greeting diverse newcomers.

New Programs for Meetings

The Spiritual Deepening Program is being piloted right now. If all goes as planned, it will be available for meetings in 2016. It is highly adaptable and easy to use for small and large meetings, it is designed to introduce the Quaker way to seekers as a form of spiritual practice, and to serve existing meetings through learning materials that address topics important to the personal and communal spiritual journey.

Quaker Quest is going do-it-yourself! Online materials will soon be available for a nominal fee so that meetings can more easily afford, participate, and offer the Quaker Quest program.

Finally consider inviting the FGC Traveling Ministries Program to work with your meeting. We support meetings by providing visitors to lead workshops or retreats, to help meetings deepen worship, vocal ministry, and meeting for worship with attention to business, to nurture loving spiritual community, and to help meetings work through difficult issues or conflicts.

Eric Evans, FGC Visitor

Service Project Report

Nine Friends spent a delightful time from Tuesday afternoon through Thursday morning this week helping the Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Findlay, Ohio, just 18 miles away from our meeting place here in Bluffton. Despite being a thriving community with three major industrial concerns including the corporate headquarters of Marathon Oil and Cooper Tire, as well as a large Whirlpool plant, there is poverty in Findlay, and the Habitat affiliate has built over 30 homes in its fifteenyear existence. Like some other affiliates it also recently began some home rehabs and repairs. Their ReStore provides significant financial support for their building enterprises, and since there wasn't a build in progress at the time we came, we were put to work in the ReStore.

The staff impressed us with their friendliness and devotion to their work, as they guided us through projects ranging from moving and cleaning newly donated furniture, testing donated appliances, stuffing gift bags and preparing a marquee sign for an upcoming event, and assisting in refinishing furniture to be resold.

Our nine participants represented Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Broadmead, and Grand Rapid meetings plus Erie Worship Group. Having a service project feels like a great way to build closer community within LEYM as we lived and worked together for those two extra days before our annual sessions. With assistance from Jon Sommer, we were able to stay in the dorms and eat many of our meals here at Bluffton University as a simple extension of the yearly meeting's annual sessions contract. We very much appreciated this convenience. There were an additional four people who registered for the project, but in the end were unable to attend due to various personal reasons.

During the next year we will be deciding whether to pursue a longer service project in Detroit or another urban area next year, or to do another short project, probably near Bluffton. We would like to hear from you if you have an interest in participating or helping to plan next year's activities. Please talk to me or to the Clerk about your interest or any suggestions you might have. And thank you to the yearly meeting for supporting us in this work.

Peggy Daub

Quaker Earthcare Witness Report

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) moves around for spring and fall meetings. This year QEW Friends of the Sustainability, Faith, and Action Working Group met at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, PA. This group made a number of recommendations for all Friends to consider in 2015. These were called “asks.” They were, briefly,

1. That all Friends Meeting Houses plant patches of native plants useful to pollinators.

2. That all Friends Meeting Houses that are able shift to renewable electricity suppliers by 2016.

3. That meetings develop plans of action to encourage their states to hold the highest possible standard to address the risks of climate change, and to protect our health and environment now and for future generations. (Clean Power Act is going to be a battle in Ohio.)

4. That all Yearly and Monthly Meetings address the moral dimension of investments in fossil fuels and consider reinvestment options that reflect their meeting's values.

The Sustainability, Faith, and Action Working Group has also begun a subgroup about population control. A quote heard a lot is, “If you care about Peace support Reproductive Rights.” Two related trifolds available from QEW on population are “A Friends' Witness on Population” and “Adoption, an Earth-Friendly Alternative.”

At the spring meeting in Ann Arbor, QEW saw a presentation by the Center for Biological Diversity who passed out cards saying, “The single biggest cause of environmental degradation is on your plate,” and condoms with endangered animal pictures on the packages and messages such as “Wrap with Care, Save a Polar Bear.”

I love this wonderful, caring group of people and hope to be able to be part of it in the future.

Submitted by Judy Greenberg

Earthcare Committee Report

The Earthcare Committee plans to stay a committee at this point, perhaps taking short turns at clerking for the time being. We plan to make a simple list of responsibilities for clerks and committee members for Earthcare. We also plan to make some decisions about what area we feel led to focus on at a time, so we can be more effective in helping YM. One of our bright spots is Shannon Pratt-Harrington agreeing to set us up and manage a Facebook account, and we have agreed to try to participate. Stay tuned to join us! Another thing we're happy about is committee members have begun visiting the youth group during YM this year. Also we have put on two excellent earthcare workshops. We have some new energy, some new attenders, and we all feel a great sense of urgency about climate change. NASA reports the first four months of 2015 were the hottest on record, and the extreme weather conditions and species extinctions have become very apparent. Global warming is getting worse.

The United Nations has called for all member nations to develop plans for cutting their greenhouse gas emissions and present them to be signed in December 2015. The U.S. EPA is finalizing standards for reducing power plant emissions for each state. This is called the Clean Power Plan. States are to decide how they will meet their reduction standard. Your committee feels this is critical to lessen the effects of global warming, and beg Friends to study our handouts. We all need to inform ourselves about what our states are doing about this order. It's past time to focus on climate change together, seek out our inner light for leadings about what we need to do, and buckle down to it in the blessed company of Friends.

Judy Greenberg
Earthcare Committee

Peace Committee Report

Hello everyone. I want to start this report by highlighting the work that Monthly Meetings are doing. I’m happy to report that the Monthly Meetings have been doing amazing work in at least the following areas. This is everything that we know that Monthly Meetings are doing.

- Israel Palestine
- AntiRacism Work
- AntiColonialism Work
- Monetary Policy
- Iran
- Nuclear Disarmament
- U.S. Weapons Testing in the Marshall Islands

- Immigration
- Service Projects especially AntiPoverty Projects
- Military Spending
- Reproductive Justice
- LBGT Rights
- Affordable Housing
- Death penalty
- Incarceration and private prisons
- And Compassionate communities
- **And that's just the work we know about.** Which brings me to our next topic.

This year we have experienced fairly low engagement from the Monthly Meetings. We only had a handful of points of engagement with Monthly Meetings. We sent out a few rounds of communication, both email and phone, and got a lot of no responses and a lot of responses telling us the Meeting doesn't have a Peace Committee. We're not quite sure how to deal with this problem. We know that some Meetings are busy or have had extenuating circumstances that have prevented them from responding, and we know that that is normal. I want to make sure that everyone knows that we are happy to support and celebrate any kind of peace work taking place in Monthly Meetings, including work done by individuals or by Monthly Meetings as a whole, not just Peace Committees.

Ok, now lets get into some of our concrete concerns.

First of all, while we do not have any new minutes or discussion to bring on Israel Palestine today, we continue to hold the Israel Palestine concern in the Light, and welcome new ideas on how we can be effective there. There is a display upstairs about some of the work that Friends are doing in that area. If you would like that display in your Meeting, talk to Joyce.

We were approached and asked to join Friends Peace Teams. Friends Peace Teams is an organization that includes the African Great Lakes Initiative, with which many Friends are familiar, and two similar programs in Indonesia and Bolivia. Officially joining would involve donating, appointing a representative to their Council, and funding our representative to their annual in person meeting. We talked to some people that we know have been involved and no one seemed excited to be the official representative. Additionally, many Monthly Meetings already donate to FPT or AGLI on their own. We do not recommend joining FPT at this time, but if Friends are interesting in being the representative or want us to do more research on participating in this organization, please let us know and we will continue this work into next year.

We would like to present a Minute of the Athens Monthly Meeting. Their minute supports a piece of draft legislation called the National Emergency Employment Defense [NEED] Act.

This act would change how money creation would work in our country, moving it from being created as privatized debt to being created as money by the government. They've been laboring on this for 2 years now, and just a few weeks ago came into unity on this minute. They feel that this issue is fundamental to social justice by increasing democracy, and decreasing poverty and debt. Monetary policy is complicated and we don't have time to explain it today, but we'd like to hold that work up by handing out resources and reading their explanation. We're not going to read the full minute because it is long, so instead we'll read the summary sent to us by Athens Friends Meeting. We encourage other Monthly Meetings to consider this issue. We'll be mailing out these resources and the full minute both electronically and by snail mail, so please watch for them.

Information being sent includes: Cover Letter from Peace Committee, Cover Letter from Athens, Links to Web Resources on monetary policy and banking, and Minutes at bottom. Again, we'll be sending this by mail and email.

Cover Letter from Peace Committee

> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Peace Committee
> July 30, 2015
>
> Friends,
>
> We are passing along a minute, with an introduction and context, from Athens Monthly Meeting. Athens has been working on this issues for 2 years, and this is where their work has lead them.
>
> We are happy to hold up this work by bringing it to the attention of other Monthly Meetings. We encourage all Monthly Meeting to consider this issues. Athens Monthly Meeting has included a page of resources that may help Friends engage on this issue.

Additionally, John Howell, a member of the Athens Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and Greg Coleridge of the American Friends Service Committee Northeast Ohio Office, have offered to serve as resources for Friends. Their contact information is included on the resources page and they are happy to talk to Friends on this issue.

In peace,
Lucia Kalinosky
Joyce Balderston
CoClerks of LEYM Peace Committee

Cover Letter from Athens Monthly Meeting

The Athens Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

July 15, 2015

To Friends everywhere,

The Athens Friends Meeting, after two years of consideration, has endorsed a piece of federal legislation central to Friends' commitment to social justice. That piece of legislation is the NEED Act (National Emergency Employment Defense Act), which was introduced in 2011 to the 112th U.S. Congress. The Act represents a fundamental reform of the way money is introduced and circulated.

Understanding why the Act is critical to social justice requires understanding of the current monetary system and how it systematically shifts wealth from the many to the few. This understanding is not widespread, but there are now easily available resources for people seeking to learn. (Nick Egnatz, "Linking Social Justice to Monetary Reform" at http://www.alpheus.org/linkingsocialjusticeto-monetaryreform/ and http://www.monetary.org/wpcontent/uploads/2013/01/HR2990.pdf)

We urge other groups committed to social justice, including Friends Meetings and other Friends organizations to consider endorsement of the NEED Act. Such considerations, whether they result in endorsement of the Act or not, will elevate people's understanding of the monetary system and the need for change.

The endorsement, adopted at a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, on July 12, 2015, is attached.

In peace,
The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Athens Friends Meeting

Endorsement of the National Emergency Employment Defense Act

The Athens Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends endorses the National Emergency Employment Defense [NEED] Act, originally introduced into Congress in 2012 as HR 2990.

Friends are committed to working toward a world free of violence and oppression, in which no one's development is hindered by meager income, insufficient education, or too little freedom in directing his or her own affairs. In the words of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, "We seek a world free of war and the threat of war. We seek a society with equity and justice for all. We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled. We seek an earth restored."

The NEED Act promotes, in a fundamental way, such a world.

The NEED Act promotes political justice by restoring to "We the People" through our government the power and authority to issue and circulate money, as stipulated in the U.S. Constitution. The money thus created will be spent into circulation, and will replace money currently in use, which is created as credit (i.e., as debt) by banks as they make loans.

The NEED Act promotes economic justice by funding the creation and repairing of our physical and social infrastructure. Millions of quality jobs would be created under the bill – helping put people back to work, addressing the needs of our communities and laying the foundation for a sustainable economy. This would be accomplished, not through additional taxation or government borrowing, but through the power of money creation taken back from banks and restored to government.

The Act establishes an independent Monetary Authority, whose only function is to set the rate of issuance of money in accordance with the rate of economic growth, thus eliminating the cause of inflation and of the cycle of recurrent booms and busts which destabilize the economy. It incorporates the Federal Reserve into the

Treasury Department and makes monetary policy accountable to the public. Banks would continue to provide financial services, including making loans, but they would only loan money they actually possess. They would not create money as they make loans.

The NEED Act is a significant contribution to the growing national movement to control both the economic and political power of financial corporations and to (re)assert governance across our nation that is just and inclusive. We urge our representatives to reintroduce the bill for Congressional consideration.

The Act is consistent with the convictions of Friends that we can have a better and more just world.

July 12, 2015

Web Resources on monetary policy and banking
John N. Howell, Athens Friends Meeting

1. *Money as Debt, an excellent, 47 minute video, on money and banking.*

   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqvKjsIxT_8

2. *Linking social justice to monetary reform,* Nick Egnatz. (This article describes the potential impact of the NEED Act.)

   http://www.alpheus.org/linking-social-justice-to-monetary-reform/ or (for pdf version) http://www.alpheus.org/html/articles/parapolitics/Linking%20Social%20Justice%20to%20Mo netary %20Reform%28f%29.pdf

3. *The current money system and an alternative.* John Howell (A briefer summary. Scroll down to 3rd article.)

   https://democracyovercorporations.wordpress.com/

4. *The need for monetary reform*, Stephen Zarlenga. (Argument for the NEED Act)

   http://www.monetary.org/the-need-for-monetary-reform/2009/09

5. *The National Emergency Employment Defense Act (Text of the NEED Act).* https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/hr2990/text; or

   http://www.monetary.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/HR-2990.pdf

6. *Creating a sovereign monetary system*, Positive Money. (A clearly presented British proposal, which like the NEED Act in the U.S., would reform the monetary system)

   http://positivemoney.org/our-proposals/creating-sovereign-monetary-system/

7. *Money Facts: 169 Questions and Answers on Money – a Supplement to A Primer on Money.* Subcommittee on Domestic Finance, Committee on Banking and Currency, House of Representatives, 88th Congress, 2d session.

   http://www.usa-the-republic.com/banks/Money_Facts_%28Q_&_A%29.html

8. *Money in the modern economy: an introduction*, by McLeay, Radia and Thomas. Quarterly Bulletin, 2014. (Explains how the current banking system works)

   http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Documents/quarterlybulletin/2014/qb14q101.pdf

9. *Money creation in the modern economy*, McLeay, Radia and Thomas. Quarterly Bulletin, 2014. (Explains how money is created in the current banking system)

   http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Documents/quarterlybulletin/2014/qb14q102.pdf

10. *Modern Money Mechanics: A Workbook on Bank Reserves and Deposit Expansion*, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (A detailed document containing an acknowledgement by the Federal Reserve that the U.S. banking system creates money (credit) when banks make loans.)

    https://www.community-exchange.org/docs/ModernMoneyMechanics.pdf

Additionally, Friends are welcome to contact John Howell or Greg Coleridge for help working through these issues.

John can be reached as Howell at frognet.net and Greg can be reached as GColeridge at afsc.org or 330-928-2301 (Northeast Ohio AFSC Office).

Next Friends, we'd like to ask for your approval on sending a letter to the Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, which was the target of a mass shooting this year. The letter

is primarily a condolence letter and it is based heavily off of the letter that Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting sent earlier this year.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

July 31st, 2015

Dear Reverend Jones and Reverend Frayer,

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting recently sent a letter of condolences to you at Emanuel AME Church. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, a regional association of Friends Meetings including Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, would like to extend our sympathy as well.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting extends our deepest condolences for the loss of your beloved pastor, the Honorable Reverend Clementa Pinckney, and all those who died in the massacre at Emanuel AME. We mourn with you the loss of Cynthia Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethyl Lance, Myra Thompson, and the Reverends DePayne Middleton, Doctor Tywanza Sanders, Sharonda Singleton, and Daniel Simmons, Sr.

As Quakers with a commitment to nonviolence and a belief in that of God in every person, we were deeply moved by the expressions of forgiveness that were shared by relatives of the victims during Dylann Roof's first appearance in court. We are inspired by their generosity of spirit and steadfast faith.

As recent events have made painfully clear, the struggle to end racism in this country is far from over. We respect and admire Emanuel AME's historic role in the Black freedom struggle, and its commitment to equality and universal brotherhood. As Quakers, we stand with you in solidarity and will work to oppose racist behavior, racist ideology, and racist structures that motivated Dylann Roof. We hope that one day we all will live together in beloved community.

In peace,
Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

The final section of our report is asking for a little guidance. As the Peace Committee, we have the blessing of having a very wide charge in *Policies and Procedures*. I've picked up over the year that some Friends see Peace work as being fairly narrowly defined while others see it as wider. At this point, the only social justice issue that the Peace Committee feels like we know that we are NOT charged with dealing with is Earthcare, because we have a separate Earthcare Committee. I'd like to take 5 minutes to ask some questions and get some responses. We're not looking to draft anything binding, just get some thoughts that may help guide us into next year.

- Is there any work that you see as being outside of the charge of the Peace Committee?
- How can we better support the work of the Monthly Meetings?
- Is all social justice work peace work?

Ok Friends, that's been five minutes. If you have any more thoughts or guidance please let the Peace Committee know afterwards. Can the committee please stand up so that people know who to talk to if you have thoughts.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Peace Committee

Nominating Committee Report
LEYM Officers, Committee Members & Representatives

(Terms begin and end at rise of annual YM sessions.)
(^ = serves on LEYM Executive Committee.)

	Service	Year of End Year
Officers		
Presiding Clerk ^Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids	2	2018
Assistant Clerk ^Sally Weaver Sommer, Brdmead	4	2016
Recording Clerk ^Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	2	2017
Treasurer ^ *Mike Hinshaw, Wooster*	4	2018
Communications		
Bulletin Editor*Susan & Berch Carpenter, Brdmd*	2	2016
Database Manager*Mathilda Navias, Broadmead*	11	2016
(Note: Mathilda Navias, Broadmead, to be Webmaster as part of paid work.)		
Committees:		
Advancement & Outreach		
# of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3		
Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	1	2018
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham	1	
Aran Reinhart, Broadmead	2	2017
_____	1	
Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor	3	2016
Erika Smith, Ann Arbor, Clerk ^	3	
Earthcare		
# of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3		
Others interested are welcome to attend		
Shannon Pratt-Harrington, Athens	4	2018
Russell Adams, North Columbus	1	
Richard Lee, Red Cedar,	3	2017
Jim Crowfoot, Ann Arbor	4	2016
Phil Clampitt, Birmingham	4	
Phil Balderston,Wooster	4	
Finance		
# of Members: 3 Years of Term: 3		
Treasurer serves ex officio		
Bob Orr, Detroit	*4*	*2018*
Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor, Clerk ^	5	2017
Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor	6	2016

	Service	Year of End Year
High School Teen Retreat Program		
# of Members:		
3 adults with 3 year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2 year terms.		
Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar	1	2018
Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	2	2017
David Avner, Pittsburgh, Clerk ^	3	2016
To be appointed by teens	1	2017
To be appointed by teens	1	2016
Ministry & Nurture		
# of Members: 6		
Years of Term: 3+ 1 Rep. from each meeting encouraged		
Margaret Walden, Cleveland	4	2018
_____	1	
Ruth Carey, Ann Arbor	3	2017
Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens	3	
Flo Friender, Kalamazoo	3	2016
Paula Deming, Waysmeet, Clerk ^	6	
(and other representatives as appointed by local meetings)		
Nominating		
# of Members: 6 (Appointed by YM thru Naming Committee)		
Years of Term: 3		
Janet Dando, Akron	1	2018
Linda Mills, Kalamazoo	4	
Clemence Ravacon Mershon, Erie WG	2	2017
Paul Helbling, Broadmead	1	
Abbey Pratt-Harrington, Athens, Clerk ^	3	2016
Michael Fuson, Granville	3	
Peace		
# of Members: 6		
Years of Term: 3 +1 Rep. from each meeting encouraged		
Shelley Kotz, Broadmead	1	2018
Joyce Balderston, Wooster	4	
Lucia Kalinosky, Oberlin, Clerk ^	2	2017
_____	1	
David Snyder, Oberlin	6	2016
Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead	4	
Paul Helbling, Broadmead MM rep		

Publications & Archives

	Service	Year of End Year
# of Members: 4 Years of Term: 3		
Webmaster & Bulletin Editor serve ex officio		
Bill Lefler, Pittsburgh	1	2018
Seth Reichenbach, North Columbus	1	2018
Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor, Clerk ^	2	2017
Leslie Walden, Cleveland	3	2016

Yearly Meeting Planning:
Arrangements & Site

	Service	Year of End Year
# of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3		
Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead	1	2018
_____	1	
Jon Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk ^	12	2017
Janet Smith, Oberlin	2	
John Templin, Broadmead	6	2016
Berch Carpenter, Broadmead (registrar)	8	

Adult & Family Program

	Service	Year of End Year
# of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3		
Vanessa Fuson, Granville	1	2018
Josephine Posti, Pittsburgh	1	2018
Dale Pratt-Harrington, Athens, Clerk ^	3	2017
Sharon Ottenbreit, Detroit	2	
Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh	3	2016
Joel Ottenbreit, Detroit	3	

Youth & Children's Program

of Members: 12 Years of Term: 2

Kate Spry, Cleveland, Clerk ^ 2016
Joe Mills, Kalamazoo, Assistant Clerk 2017

Employed student or YM vols.	Infants & Toddlers
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	*Jenn Seif, Grand Rapids*
Conleth Croster, Cleveland	Marc Smith, Ann Arbor
Peter Crowley, Cleveland	*Deborah Wickering, Grand Rapids*
Diane Mott, Broadmead	_
_____	
Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	Fall retreat clerk
Peter Crowley, Cleveland	Fall retreat assistant

LEYM Bookstore: Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 14

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

(indicates clerk of that group of representatives)*

		Service	Year of End Year
AFSC Corp	*Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh*	1	2018
AFSC Corp	_____	1	
AFSC Corp	*John Deikis, Ann Arbor*	4	
FCNL Gen Com	*David Snyder, Oberlin*	1	2018
FCNL Gen Com	*Richard Shaw, Pittsburgh*	1	
FCNL Gen Com	Jo Schlesinger, Pittsburgh	2	2017
FCNL Gen Com	*Michael Fuson, Granville*	1	
FCNL Gen Com	Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor *	6	2016
FCNL Gen Com	*Dottie Stratton, Wooster*	4	
FGC Cntl Cttee	*Carolyn LeJuste, Red Cedar*	1	2018
FGC Cntl Cttee	Robb Yurisko, N. Columbus	2	2017
FGC Cntl Cttee	Helen Hebben, Kalamazoo *	3	2016
(LEYM Reps appoint rep to FGC Executive Committee)			
FWCC	*Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids*	1	2018
FWCC	Carmen Kelly, Detroit	2	2017
FWCC	Mike Kelly, Detroit	3	
FWCC	_____	1	2016
Q Earthcare Witness	*Russell Adams, North Columbus*	1	
FLGBTQC	*Nancy Reeves, Cleveland*	1	
Wm. Penn House	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	8	2017
Olney Friends School	Greg Mott, Broadmead	8	

Visitors to neighboring yearly meetings

Canadian YM	_____	
EFI Eastern Region	Abbey Pratt-Harrington, Athens	4
Ohio YM	_____	
Ohio Valley YM	_____	1
Wilmington YM	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	6

High School Teen Retreat Report

Our proposal to scale back the Teen Retreat Program in the coming year was accepted at Representative Meeting in April. The reason for reducing the size of the program was that no more than 2 or 3 teens were attending each quarterly retreat, and that was not enough of a critical mass to make the full program of four retreats per year viable.

For the coming year, the retreats will consist of a trip to The Quake that Rocked the Midwest in Evanston in January 2016, and the normal program here at yearly meeting's annual sessions. We are very grateful that Robb Yurisko is willing to coordinate the January trip once more, thus continuing his appointment as Coordinator of the Program, but with the expectation that he is responsible for only that one retreat, for which he will be paid the amount that he has received per retreat in the past ($1200).

The committee's first task this coming year will be to discern the teens' level of interest in participating in The Quake or more frequent retreats. This will likely be accomplished by talking to teens and families of teens who are entering high school this year or next. Additionally, we will need to seek and hire a new Coordinator for the program regardless of what size it turns out to be, as Robb has indicated he does not wish to continue after this year.

We welcome your suggestions and ideas for matching the program to the interest levels of our high school teens as we move forward, and would especially welcome your ideas for candidates for the Coordinator position.

For the Teen Retreat Program Committee,
Peggy Daub, Clerk
David Avner
Joyce Balderston
Robb Yurisko

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Representative Meeting April 2, 2016

Hosted by Cleveland Friends Meeting
Cleveland, Ohio

RM2016-01 Worship

Representative Meeting opened with a period of open worship near the appointed hour of 1:15.

Clerk Mike Holaday reported on the April 1, 2016 Executive Committee meeting, which consisted primarily of committee reports. The Clerk also suggested that Friends might want to read the March edition of FGC's publication *Vital Friends,* because it profiles Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

RM2016-02 Roll Call

Akron.....2	Kent.....0
Ann Arbor.....4	Mid-Ohio Valley.....0
Athens.....2	North Columbus.....3
Birmingham.....0	Oberlin.....1
Broadmead.....11	Pine River.....0
Cleveland.....5	Pittsburgh.....6
Delaware.....0	Red Cedar.....0
Detroit.....4	Waysmeet W. G. 1
Grand Rapids.....1	Wooster.....3
Granville.....2	
Holland.....0	Total.....47
Kalamazoo.....2	

RM2016-03 Meeting Worker's Report

Mathilda Navias reported on her work as Meeting Worker for the fiscal year beginning August 2015. We have budgeted her for 102 hours a year. So far this year, she has spent 73% of the time budgeted. Half of her work consists of maintaining and updating the website, including preparing and uploading the current and older minutes (back to 2001, so far), maintaining committee listservs, and creating and maintaining permanent email addresses for officers.

News items are frequently posted on our home page, and Friends who would like to receive automatic notices of news items are encouraged to sign up on the home page.

She also reported on website usage. The most frequently viewed pages include our home page, the list of meetings and worship groups, Annual Meeting information, and the LEYM bulletin. The frequency and order of page hits change from time to time reflecting current interests. As of January 2016, we receive most frequent site referrals from our old website at quaker.org, from Facebook, and from the Ann Arbor Meeting website. A full report is attached.

LEYM Worker Report

August 2015-March 2016

Just under half of my work so far this year has been maintaining and updating the yearly meeting web site. I also prepared minutes and uploaded them to the web site, both current minutes and older ones I'm adding as they are prepared — minutes from 2001 are now on the web site. I maintained the listservs and the Gmail accounts for yearly meeting officers. The annual updates following Yearly Meeting, done in August and September, are a major portion of this. They include: updating who is on the Executive Committee listserv; updating meeting clerks and meeting representative listservs; updating the "finding a meeting" section of the

website; updating contacts for LEYM committee clerks and officers; updating the Annual Meeting page; updating the chart of meeting clerks and worship group conveners; and updating the Spiritual Formation pages.

I created a new listserv this year for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting clerks.

Time Spent

The hours spent on the tasks I have performed and the percentage of the total time are detailed below (the number of hours are rounded off).

LEYM Website	26 hours (46%)
Annual updates following Yearly Meeting	
News posts and maintenance	
Format minutes & upload to web	7 hours (13%)
Listservs (Ex. Committee, MM Clerks, MM Reps, & GPQM Clerks)	12 3/4 hours (23%)
Annual updates of lists following Yearly Meeting	
Maintenance	
Administration (e-mails, prepare reports, misc.)	7 1/4 hours (13%)
Special project: Edit "Resources for LEYM Committee Clerks"	3 hours (5%)

Total hours: 56:06 hours (56.1) @ $20 = $1,122

(Total budgeted for year: $2,040.00 x 3/4 of the year = $1,530)
Percent of budget for 3/4 of the year used: 73%

The LEYM Worker position is budgeted for 102 hours of work a year, but since I took on the web site I've been averaging 80 hours of work a year, and my hours so far this year are right in line with that. I did work that many hours in 2011-12, the year I took on the web site, because of the time it took me to learn the new software. I anticipate spending 80 or fewer hours in the future unless time-consuming special projects or additional tasks are added to my job.

RM2016-04 Nominating Committee Report

Clemence Mershon, member, reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Our biggest need right now is for an assistant presiding clerk, to begin at the rise of our annual sessions. This is a four-year commitment. The Nominating Committee would appreciate hearing any suggestions Friends might have.

Discernment continues for an open position on the Advancement and Outreach Committee; please speak with Janet Dando if you can aid in this discernment.

The Nominating Committee is looking for one more teacher for the Youth and Children Committee as well as an Assistant Clerk. The clerk's position is a two year commitment, with the first year serving as Assistant Clerk, and rising to serve as Clerk in the second year.

The Nominating Committee seeks our guidance as to whether they are to continue to appoint visitors to nearby meetings. Historically we met with, and had close ties to neighboring yearly meetings, but over the years the need for joint meetings and our closeness with nearby yearly meetings has changed. Moving our meeting to late July has created some challenges for visiting other yearly meetings, because our meeting time conflicts with that of other meetings.

In light of the excitement around FWCC and interconnections with other Friends, one Friend expressed encouragement for continuing this practice, perhaps even considering moving the date of our Annual Meeting to facilitate such visits.

A full report is attached identifying other opportunities for service to the Yearly Meeting.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer has agreed to become registrar for the 2017 sessions. The Nominating Committee is seeking a friend adept in Excel to serve on the Finance Committee.

Friends are also sought as committee members for Ministry & Nurture and Peace and as representatives to American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Friends World Committee for Consultation.

The High School Teen Retreat Program is under discernment. We anticipate a report at Annual Sessions as to whether this Program will continue.

RM2016-05 Announcement: FWCC Section of the Americas Meeting in 2017

Clemence Mershon announced that LEYM will be hosting the FWCC Section of the Americas in the Gilmary Retreat Center near Pittsburgh the last week of March, 2017. Clemence Mershon and Mike Hinshaw are on the Convocation Committee. They are looking for dynamic spiritual speakers and hope to model the program after the very successful meeting in Peru. The Section's meeting is open to all Friends, not just FWCC representatives. Friends are encouraged to look at the report from the Peru meeting at http://fwccamericas.org /events/recent_events.shtml.

RM2016-06 Treasurer's Report

Mike Hinshaw, Treasurer, reported on the state of our finances. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Eighteen of the twenty monthly meetings have already made contributions for this year, totalling $16,837.28.

The treasurer noted that, so far, we have only spent 19% of the money we have budgeted for travel on behalf of the yearly meeting. Friends serving in positions where travel is expected are encouraged to travel. When traveling on our behalf, Friends are encouraged to either request reimbursement, or to submit receipts so that we can accurately track what our work among Friends costs.

Publications Committee has spent only $1,611 of the $3200 budgeted for its work. Overall, we have spent approximately 61% of the amount budgeted, at approximately 73% of the way through the fiscal year. We currently have $65,542 in assets.

More complete information is available in the attached report.

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND INCOME - 2015/2016 Fiscal Year

Meeting (Giver)	Amount	Date
Akron Friends Meeting	220.00	1-Aug
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	4,064.00	3-Feb
Athens Friends Meeting	2,000.00	19-Sep
Birmingham Friends Meeting	480.00	23-Nov
Broadmead Friends Meeting	1,088.00	3-Feb
Cleveland Friends Meeting		
Delaware Friends Meeting	384.00	11-Jan
Detroit Friends Meeting	672.00	14-Oct
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting	576.00	3-Feb
Granville Friends Meeting	900.00	31-Aug
Holland Friends Meeting	200.00	21-Mar
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting	1,056.00	1-Mar
Kent Friends Meeting	697.00	4-Jan
Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting	182.00	2-Apr
North Columbus Friends Meeting	800.00	16-Nov
Oberlin Friends Meeting	784.00	16-Nov
Pine River Friends Meeting	352.00	3-Feb
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting		
Red Cedar Friends Meeting	1,792.00	21-Mar
Wooster Friends Meeting	480.00	11-Jan
Individuals	110.28	28-Dec
Total	**16,837.28**	

FFC Dividends, Base Account	531.83	31-Dec
FFC change port value, + or -, Base Account	-1926.97	31-Dec

	Misc. Donations	Total Cash plus

		& In-Kind Income*	In-Kind
TOTAL INCOME	**15,442.14**	**--**	**15,442.14**

*Includes donations at Annual Sessions

Treasurer's Report: Individual Budget lines, 2015-2016 Budget Year

ACCOUNT	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE	BUDGET %	In-kind & Restricted Donations	TOTAL EXPENSE	TOTAL BUDGET %
Travel	4,000.00	773.90	19%		773.90	19%
Office	50.00	20.00	40%		20.00	40%
Contract worker	2,000.00	1,109.34	55%		1,109.34	55%
Finance [2]	50.00	66.90	134%		66.90	134%
Publications	3,200.00	1,611.36	50%		1,611.36	50%
Advancement	100.00		0%		0.00	0%
Ministry & Nurture	100.00		0%		0.00	0%
Clerk	300.00		0%		0.00	0%
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	100%		4,500.00	100%
Michigan Friends Center	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%		1,000.00	100%
Records project	100.00		0%		0.00	0%
FWCC Travel Fund [1]	1,500.00	1,500.00	100%		1,500.00	100%
Youth Activities Fund [1]	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%		1,000.00	100%
H. S. Teen Retreat Fund [1]	1,600.00		0%		0.00	0%
Spiritual Formation Fund [1]	800.00	800.00	100%		800.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	0.00				0.00	
Olney Friends School	2,000.00	2,000.00	100%		2,000.00	100%
Consultation Fund [1]	0.00				0.00	
Scholarship Fund for Ministry [1]	500.00		0%		0.00	0%
Summer Work Project	1,200.00					
Insurance	500.00	500.00	100%		500.00	100%
Sub-total	24,500.00	14,881.50		-	14,881.50	
Misc. [3]					0.00	
Totals	24,500.00	14,881.50	61%	0.00	14,881.50	61%

[1] Subsidy from General Fund to other funds

[2] Includes banking costs

[3] FFC Dividends & portfolio value changes, formerly shown here, are now on sheet 1

Treasurer's Report: Summary of Funds 2015-2016 Fiscal Year; as of current date

Fund Name	Starting Balance	Income or Change	Subsidy from General Fund	Cash Expenses	End Balance	Fund Floors and Ceilings (000's)
General Fund [1]	24,706.13	15,442.14		14,881.50	25,266.77	na / 30
Granville Youth Fund [2]	7,257.07	-449.50			6,807.57	na / na
Annual Meeting Fund [3]	2,732.17	16,592.02		16,003.30	3,320.89	1 / 3
Youth Activities Fund [4, 5]	6,407.16	-566.50	1,000.00		6,840.66	4 / 8
High School Teen retreat Fund [4]	8,074.39				8,074.39	3 / 6
Spiritual Formation Fund [4]	2,327.20	4,445.00	800.00	4,477.67	3,094.53	.5 / 1.5
FWCC Travel Fund [4]	4,739.83		1,500.00	5,700.00	539.83	na / 6
Consultation Fund [4]	3,143.68				3,143.68	.5 / 2
Ministry Scholarship Fund [4]	1,500.00				1,500.00	na / 2
Summer Work Project Fund [4]	1,355.00	446.55		619.66	1,181.89	na / 2
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00				3,500.00	na / na
Travel Contingency Fund [4]	2,272.13				2,272.13	2 / 4
TOTAL	68,014.76	35,909.71	3,300.00	41,682.13	65,542.34	

1 Includes line item accounting from Budget plus contributions; also reflects dividends and changes in net portfolio value, FFC base account
2 Granville Youth Fund is separate FFC account; 'Income or Change' reflects both dividend and change in portfolio value; 'Cash Expense' reflects dividends that have been paid and are then are transferred to Youth Activities Fund
3 Income includes $862 in individual donations
4 Other funds are managed through accounting and may be subsidized by the corresponding budget lines of the General Fund.
5 Income includes dividends from FFC Granville YF account

RM2016-07 Finance Committee Report

Jeff Cooper, Clerk, reported for the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee has the task of setting fees for our Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting Fund, which had been dwindling, has now rebounded. This is thanks, in part, to donations made by Annual Meeting attenders.

For adults, the registration fee will remain the same ($50 for early bird, $60 for later), as will the $^1/_3$ discount on all costs for first time attenders. Registration for children is free, and the existing $^2/_3$ discount of meals for children will continue. In addition, this year children will receive free lodging. This will bring the total cost for bringing a child to Annual Meeting to $20-$25 per child.

We are living within our means; for the second year in a row the Finance Committee expects to propose a

smaller draft budget. Changes in the budget include decreasing several budget lines where spending is low and/or there is a substantial supporting fund and increasing our contribution to Friends General Conference to $6,000, in view of their finance-driven reduction in programming.

The suggested contribution by monthly meetings for each member is expected to be $28 per member, down from $32 in the current fiscal year.

Friends Fiduciary Corporation has requested that we enter into a new custody agreement with them. The agreement is favorable to us, and the committee recommends that we adopt the following minute:

> On April 2, 2016, LEYM agreed to the revised Custody and Investment Agreement with the Friends Fiduciary Corporation received on December 9, 2015, and authorized our Treasurer, Mike Hinshaw, to carry out the agreement on behalf of the Meeting.

Friends approved.

The full report of the Finance Committee is attached.

Finance Committee Report

I. 2016 Annual Meeting Fees and Scholarships

The Annual Meeting Fund, after dwindling down to $371 three years ago, has rebounded by $1102, $1353, and $589 in the last three years, to a fund balance of $3321. In each of those years we have invited donations on the registration form, and these, averaging about $1000 per year, have enabled the small yearly gains in the Annual Meeting Fund. If the donations continue, we can reduce other revenue a little with the hope of still breaking even. Wishing to attract more families with children, we plan to make lodging free for children this year. Free registration for children will continue, as will the 2/3 discount on meals. In other words, the total cost for bringing a child is only 1/3 of the standard cost for meals, or about $20-$25 for the weekend. For adults, the registration fee will remain the same ($50 for early bird, $60 for later) as will the 1/3 discount on all costs for first time attenders.

II. Draft Budget for 2016-17

As our treasurer has stated, we are not spending much. We have sufficient money in the General Fund and in other specific funds to cover unplanned expenses. There is no reason to ask monthly meetings for a level of contributions that increases our bank accounts.

Hence, for the second year in a row we are presenting a substantially smaller draft budget. For budget lines where spending is low and/or there is a substantial supporting fund, we are proposing smaller budgets for next year: Travel (down $1000), Publications (down $200), High School Teen Retreat ($0, as there are no plans for this year and over $8000 in the supporting fund), Spiritual Formation (down $500), and Scholarship for Ministry (down $400). In addition, last year’s donation of $1000 to Michigan Friends Center was a one-time gift for a special project. These proposed cuts total $4700.

The cuts are partially offset by two proposed increases: We learned in the fall that Friends General Conference was being forced to cut back on programs for financial reasons, and wondered if we should contribute more. A little research showed that we have contributed $4500 a year since 2003 (not counting a $500 special contribution we made for several years) and $4430 before that. We consulted with Sally Weaver Sommer, who is familiar with the finances of both FGC and LEYM, and decided that an increase to $6000 is appropriate. In addition, policy dictates that we have an audit every four years (or more often, if there is a change of treasurer), which means we are due after Annual Meeting this year. We have added $500 to the Finance line to cover this expense.

These proposed additions total $2000, leaving a net decrease of $2700. If implemented, this would result in a suggested contribution of $28 per member, down from $32 in the current year (and down from $41 the previous year). Clearly if the Meeting wishes to take on new projects that involve expenses, we have the means to consider them.

III. New Custody Agreement with Friends Fiduciary Corporation

Mike Hinshaw reports that: "Friends Fiduciary Corporation [FFC] [with whom we have two accounts] has written a new custody agreement which they will implement. I do not believe we have much choice [about accepting it, but] it is favorable to the investors. It has these features compared with our current agreement:

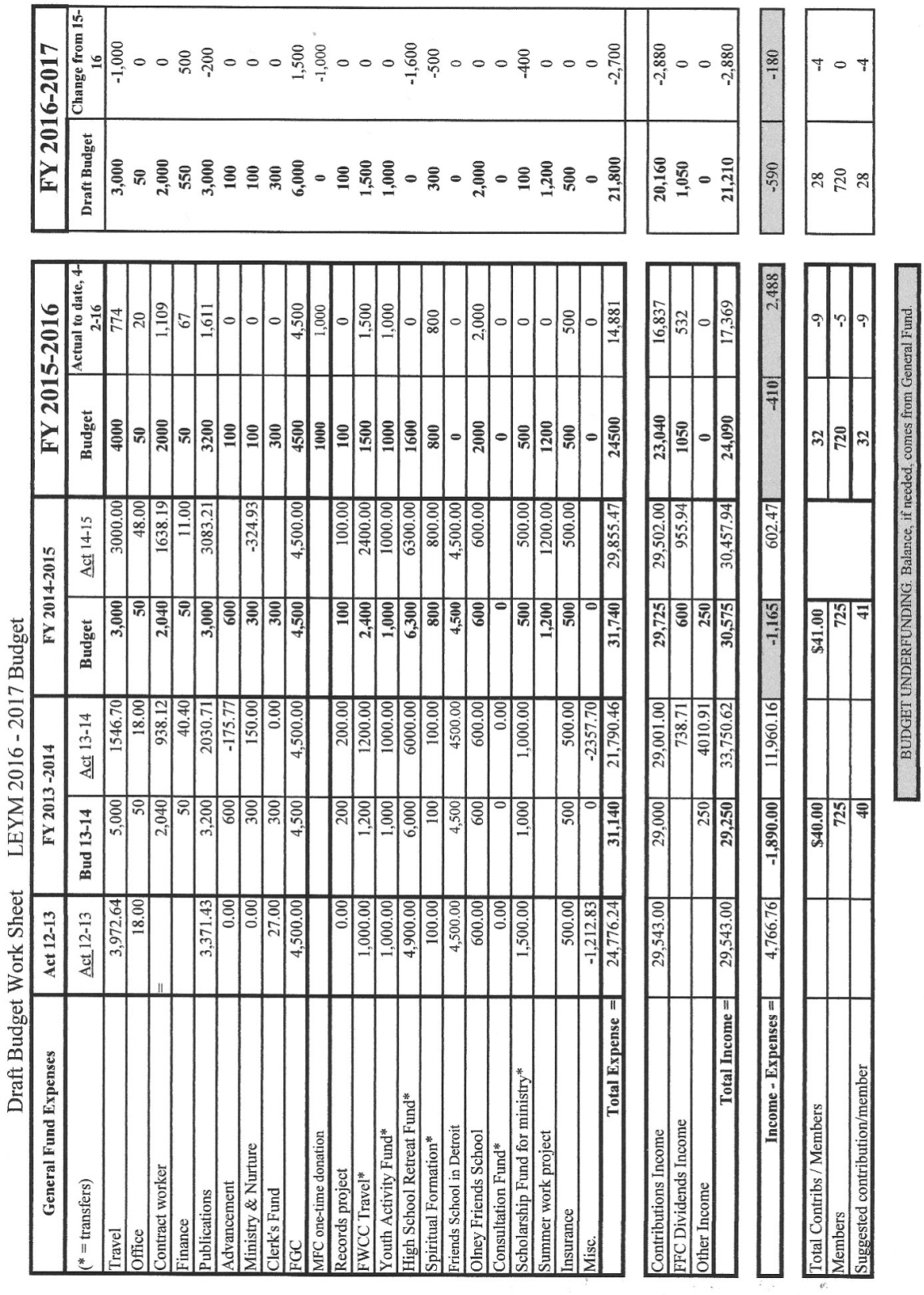
- It codifies account close out procedures.

- It now recognizes the fact that investors may have assets allocated to more than one fund.
- It includes language regarding distributions reflecting the fact that some funds have distributions, some do not.
- It removes indemnification language (eliminates a potential liability for LEYM).
- It sets a fee structure for new funds.
- Reference is given to on-line access to account information.

I recommend we adopt it."

FFC requests a Meeting minute authorizing the treasurer to sign the agreement by May 31. Finance Committee supports this, and proposes the following minute:

On April 2, 2016, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting agreed to the revised Custody and Investment Agreement with the Friends Fiduciary Corporation received on December 9, 2015, and authorized our Treasurer, Mike Hinshaw, to carry out the agreement on behalf of the Meeting.



Draft Budget Work Sheet LEYM 2016 - 2017 Budget

General Fund Expenses	Act 12-13	FY 2013 -2014		FY 2014-2015		FY 2015-2016		FY 2016-2017	
(* = transfers)	Act 12-13	Bud 13-14	Act 13-14	Budget	Act 14-15	Budget	Actual to date, 4-2-16	Draft Budget	Change from 15-16
Travel	3,972.64	5,000	1546.70	3,000	3000.00	4000	774	3,000	-1,000
Office	18.00	50	18.00	50	48.00	50	20	50	0
Contract worker		2,040	938.12	2,040	1638.19	2000	1,109	2,000	0
Finance		50	40.40	50	11.00	50	67	550	500
Publications	3,371.43	3,200	2030.71	3,000	3083.21	3200	1,611	3,000	-200
Advancement	0.00	600	-175.77	600		100	0	100	0
Ministry & Nurture	0.00	300	150.00	300	-324.93	100	0	100	0
Clerk's Fund	27.00	300	0.00	300		300	0	300	0
FGC	4,500.00	4,500	4,500.00	4,500	4,500.00	4500	4,500	6,000	1,500
MFC one-time donation						1000	1,000	0	-1,000
Records project	0.00	200	200.00	100	100.00	100	0	100	0
FWCC Travel*	1,000.00	1,200	1200.00	2,400	2400.00	1500	1,500	1,500	0
Youth Activity Fund*	1,000.00	1,000	1000.00	1,000	1000.00	1000	1,000	1,000	0
High School Retreat Fund*	4,900.00	6,000	6000.00	6,300	6300.00	1600	0	0	-1,600
Spiritual Formation*	100.00	100	100.00	800	800.00	800	800	300	-500
Friends School in Detroit	4,500.00	4,500	4500.00	4,500	4,500.00	0	0	0	0
Olney Friends School	600.00	600	600.00	600	600.00	2000	2,000	2,000	0
Consultation Fund*	0.00	0	0.00	0		0	0	0	0
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	1,500.00	1,000	1,000.00	500	500.00	500	0	100	-400
Summer work project				1,200	1200.00	1200	0	1,200	0
Insurance	500.00	500	500.00	500	500.00	500	500	500	0
Misc.	-1,212.83	0	-2357.70	0		0	0	0	0
Total Expense =	24,776.24	31,140	21,790.46	31,740	29,855.47	24500	14,881	21,800	-2,700
Contributions Income	29,543.00	29,000	29,001.00	29,725	29,502.00	23,040	16,837	20,160	-2,880
FFC Dividends Income			738.71	600	955.94	1050	532	1,050	0
Other Income		250	4010.91	250		0	0	0	0
Total Income =	29,543.00	29,250	33,750.62	30,575	30,457.94	24,090	17,369	21,210	-2,880
Income - Expenses =	4,766.76	-1,890.00	11,960.16	-1,165	602.47	-410	2,488	-590	-180
Total Contribs / Members		$40.00		$41.00		32	-9	28	-4
Members		725		725		720	-5	720	0
Suggested contribution/member		40		41		32	-9	28	-4

BUDGET UNDERFUNDING. Balance, if needed, comes from General Fund.

RM2016-08 Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

Paula Deming, Clerk, reported for the Ministry and Nurture Committee. LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program held a fall retreat with twenty-five Friends at the Weber Retreat Center September 11-13, 2015, led by JoAnn Seaver on Rex Ambler's "Experiment with Light." A follow-up spring retreat is scheduled for May 14, hosted by Ann Arbor Friends Meeting.

Next year Della Stanley Green will lead a program on September 9-11 at the Weber Center titled, “Help in our Spiritual Journeys with help from Quakers and fellow travelers in the past: John Woolman, Caroline Stevens, and Howard Thurman.”

The Ministry and Nurture Committee shared their consolidated response to the Query. The purpose of the Annual Query is to invite friends to wrestle with a question that is both topical and universal. The committee received a record number of responses (including one from a worship group that had never previously submitted a response). The committee heard reports that even when the query did not formally generate a response, it was used by meetings as a tool for deep exploration, at times sparking the first conversation within a meeting on the topic of white privilege.

As one worship group put it, “White privilege is like the wind at our back that carries some of us forward, pushing others back. We do not need to eliminate the wind at our back, but we need to find a way to make it blow everyone forward.”

A copy of the consolidated response is attached.

Consolidated Response to the 2015 LEYM Query

> For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; I was naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.
>
> Matthew 25:35-36, Jerusalem Bible

How might our Meeting support individuals and the Meeting as a whole in working to increase racial justice within our world? In what ways do we as a Meeting recognize white privilege in our own Meeting? What tools and practices do we use to foster awareness of our personal and corporate biases?

This year we received a record number of responses by the time of Representative Meeting: a total of 15! It is typical for us to receive a few more into May. Although we like having responses sent to us by [the time of] Representative Meeting, the major purpose of answering the annual query is for our meetings and worship groups to have an opportunity to participate in an annual spiritual activity. One of our worship groups met and considered the query, but did not produce a written response. This does not negate the true purpose of the activity; the query is designed to bring Friends together to wrestle with a question that is both topical and universal.

Some meetings reported that the query has sparked the first conversation in their meeting about racism and were grateful for the query. One identified this learning as a lifelong process, and in the past had not considered that white privilege may be an influence because it is so ingrained in the white culture. Erie Worship group envisioned this with the following:

“The best way I've heard white privilege described is to picture jogging at the beach. On the way out the wind is at your back and you glide along. If you ever turn around, you feel the wind now providing resistance and hindering you. White privilege is the wind at your back that helps you in a million tiny ways but you never feel it or see it unless you choose to turn around. We don't need to get rid of the wind but we need to find a way to make it blow everyone forward.” For most of us admitting that that wind has not been operating to blow all members of our society forward is painfully apparent.”

Many meetings wrote of the need to reach out, to learn, to listen as ways to increase their awareness of the ramifications of racism within themselves, in their meetings, in the culture at large. Several meetings listed the possible actions they could take; many listed the deep desire to act in ways that will increase racial justice, even though they're not sure how to do it, but are seeking to act on their belief that there is that of God in every person.

Kalamazoo Meeting spoke of the action taken by the Meeting to locate the meeting house in a low income neighborhood and to make the property a Peace Park. The Meeting offers regular programs for the children in the neighborhood and has worked with residents in the neighborhood to determine how to maintain peace in the park. This included “a creative hiring of men of color from a security firm founded by local police retirees. They have been very supportive of our goals to maintain and teach peace and have become role models for neighborhood youth. We are grateful for their assistance and are currently seeking long-range plans for keeping the park peaceful. Our struggles with this have increased our awareness of the realities of white

privilege and racial justice."

One thing that we noted as we pondered the query responses was how deeply Friends shared the moment that the scales fell from their eyes. In particular Nancy Warlop, from Kent Monthly Meeting, shared this poem:

The Other Side

How many times have I stopped here
To acknowledge, to point out to other people
Visiting from other places:
This was a stop on the Underground Railroad,
According to this sign by the River and the rails.
Never had I read it carefully before:
"Continued on the other side" in tiny letters.
So, I went to the other side:
There: A list of early abolitionists.
One-the name of my street.
The street I have lived on, looked on, walked on
All these years. I never knew.
Wondering how many other things in front of me
I do not see.

To sum up, Detroit Friends Meeting puts it front and center for us:

Profound spiritual and moral questions, including those of racism and white privilege, must begin with the question, "Where is it in me?" We can easily become philosophical and intellectual, but examining white privilege begins as a sometimes painful, internal search. Even those of us who have thought about questions of race and privilege for a lifetime continue to deal with this because white privilege is an invisible veil through which white people encounter reality. It often exists not through intent but through lack of awareness. We need to continually pull aside that veil.

RM2016-09 Advancement and Outreach Committee Report

Mathilda Navias, committee member, reported for the Advancement and Outreach Committee.

Pine River Monthly Meeting is considering turning itself into a worship group. Members of the committee are in consultation with them to provide guidance.

Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting reports that, in addition to Erie, Indiana and South Hills Worship groups, they have recently taken worship groups in Sherwood Oaks and Somerset under their care. They are in conversation with Meadville as well.

RM2016-10 Earthcare Committee Report

Russell Adams, Co-Clerk, reported that there are four projects they are interested in working on:

1. Golden Ruled Full Sustainability Movement: The Earthcare Committee has been exploring, in depth, a golden ruled full sustainability movement that bundles together issues of sustainability across a broad spectrum of concentrations: food and water, energy, population, economics, political, and others. The committee likens sustainability work to the abolition movement, paraphrasing George Fox, "Do you to and for all children of the future as you would have all children in the future do for you if you were in their place?"

   The Earthcare Committee suggests reprinting the Golden Ruled Sustainability Movement statement in the *Bulletin,* to generate further discussion within our meetings, and among the wider Quaker community including secondary and post-secondary Quaker schools.

2. Planned Parenthood: The Durango (Colorado) Friends Meeting has adopted a minute supporting Planned Parenthood, which will be presented for further discernment at the Inter Mountain Yearly Meeting. (A copy of the minute is attached.) The Earthcare Committee members would welcome further conversation on this minute and on the underlying concern that generated this minute.

MINUTE from Durango Monthly Meeting in support of Planned Parenthood

Approved at Meeting for Worship for Business on 2/7/2016

Reproductive health is important not only because it helps individuals to be healthier, but also because it gives them control over their fertility. Family planning is the most effective way to avoid unplanned pregnancies and therefore it takes away the occasion for abortion. Although abortion is only a very small percentage of the services provided at Planned Parenthood clinics, recently this organization has come under extreme criticism from both political and religious organizations.

Reproductive health is also important from a public health standpoint. Family planning has slowed the growth rate of the human population. With fewer people on the planet there are fewer emitters, and thus fewer emissions. Therefore, family planning has slowed the rate of climate change. Indeed, the most effective and least expensive way to slow climate change is by supporting family planning. In the United States, the non- governmental organization that fosters reproductive health the most is Planned Parenthood.

Durango Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends recognizes the importance of Planned Parenthood clinics to thousands of men and women in the USA. We support the local clinic in Durango and recognize its staff for the important services they provide.

3. Playshop at LEYM: Richard Hogan hopes to present a "playshop" at LEYM this year. The concept of a "playshop" is that we are dealing with such frightening issues these days that we need to approach these issues with play, as if we were children.
4. Four QEW Asks: The Earthcare Committee recommends monthly meetings consider participating in the four QEW asks:
    - To consider planting native plants
    - To shift to renewable electric suppliers where possible
    - To encourage states to act against climate change
    - To continue divestment from fossil fuels

The Earthcare Committee is reminded that each committee is empowered to distribute materials directly to monthly meetings as it discerns is appropriate.

RM2016-11 Query: Committees bringing their work to Yearly Meeting

A question was raised about the process by which the work of our committees is taken up by the wider Yearly Meeting. We ask the Executive Committee to consider, and perhaps draft guidelines about how best to facilitate that process.

RM2016-12 Peace Committee Report

Kathleen Helbling, member, reported for Peace Committee. Peace Committee will be presenting a workshop at summer gathering titled, "Racial Justice, what can I do?" The intent is to celebrate the work we are already doing, and to motivate us to do more.

Members of the Peace Committee will be calling each monthly meeting and worship group to learn what peace issues each meeting is interested in, and to learn how the Peace Committee can better support the ongoing peace work of our monthly meetings.

RM2016-13 Children and Youth Committee Report

Kate Spry, Clerk, reported for the Children and Youth Committee. The committee greatly appreciates already having a nearly full complement of teachers! Last year the youth program benefitted from a presentation by the Earthcare Committee. The committee encourages other committees to consider making similar presentations this year. Twin Lakes, one of the traditional swimming locations for annual gathering, does not provide lifeguards. The program would like to return to Twin Lakes, but needs a lifeguard. If anyone is a certified lifeguard, please contact Kate Spry.

Conleth Crotser reported on the K-8 fall retreat. This year 7-8 children (and approximately the same number of adults) gathered from Friday through Sunday on the first weekend in October at a UCC camp and visited the Balderstons' farm. As is typical, they used discernment to make decisions and continued to build long-standing relationships with other Quaker youth.

RM2016-14 High School Teen Retreat Program Committee Report

Dave Avner, Clerk, reported for the High School Teen Retreat Program Committee. Robb Yurisko has resigned from his paid position as coordinator of the High School Teen Retreat Program, but agreed to coordinate a single retreat this past year as a volunteer. Robb contacted every monthly meeting and could not locate any teen in LEYM who was interested in participating in the Quake that Rocked the Midwest, so there was no LEYM teen retreat this year.

The committee suggests that it may be time to lay this program down. Monthly meetings are asked to consider whether there remains a need for the teen retreat program. We will revisit the question at our Annual Sessions.

RM2016-15 Program Committee Report

Dale Pratt-Harrington, Clerk, reported. The theme for our Annual Sessions program is, "What would John Woolman do? Our plenary speaker will be Baltimore Deputy Public Defender Natalie Finagar. Natalie is a member of Sandy Springs Monthly Meeting within Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Rather than a talent show this year, we will have an ice cream social and an arts and crafts show. Friends are invited to bring their work to share (with an option to sell). The tentative schedule will be made available to clerks of Monthly Meeting by end of April, and will also be published in the *Bulletin.*

RM2016-16 Publications and Archives Committee Report

Peggy Daub, Clerk, reported for the Publications and Archives Committee.

The Publications and Archives Committee has been doing internal work to generate guidelines for its work, including a guideline for when information should be included in the Bulletin and for preparation of our annual records.

Based on a survey taken recently, we will be delivering bulletins electronically to anyone who wants one. The cost savings associated with electronic delivery will permit a color print version. Deadline for copy for the Spring *Bulletin* is May 15.

A copy of the report is attached.

Publications & Archives Committee Report

The Publications & Archives Committee has performed some housekeeping tasks this year, including creating a guide to when specific information needs to be included in the *Bulletin,* and drafting a guide to compiling and producing the *Annual Records.*

As always, we are concerned not just about producing the Yearly Meeting publications, but whether they are reaching our audience. To that end, Bill Lefler of Pittsburgh Meeting will be contacting clerks of each meeting and worship group soon to ensure that our bulk mailings to meetings are correctly addressed to the appropriate person who can distribute them. We are also going to offer more electronic delivery of the *Bulletin,* based on results of a brief survey at annual sessions in 2015 which showed that about half of the respondents were interested in receiving *LEYM Bulletins* electronically, either directly from the website or via email. By this fall, we will be sending the *Bulletin* by direct email to individuals who request it. We will invite people to sign up for this delivery method via notices in issues of the *Bulletin* and a sign up at Annual Sessions, while also advertising the fact that we will mail paper copies to individuals at their home addresses upon request. We will still continue to send multiple paper copies to meetings (though possibly in smaller numbers, depending on requests to receive by email) and have electronic versions available on the website.

We anticipate that delivering copies by email will allow us to print the resulting smaller number of paper copies in color with a small difference in cost. That will make the paper copies and electronic copies identical.

Rosemary Coffey of Pittsburgh Meeting has agreed to compile and edit the *Annual Records* for 2016. Printing and distribution will be overseen by the committee.

Please note that the deadline for copy for the *Spring Bulletin* is May 15.

RM2016-17 Arrangements and Site Committee Report

Jon Sommer, Clerk, reported for the Arrangements and Site Committee. Our Annual Meeting will take

place at Bluffton University from July 28 through July 31, 2016. The committee is exploring with Bluffton University a resolution for the air circulation issues in the Marbeck Center. Friends will also be encouraged to leave their fragrance scented items at home this year.

RM2016-18 Policies and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee Report

Mathilda Navias, Clerk, reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on Policies and Procedures. The committee was tasked with developing a brief description of each committee to be included in our P&P manual to aid both the Nominating Committee and individuals asked to serve on committees, in their discernment process.

Suggested text developed by the committee will be presented at Annual Sessions.

RM2016-19 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Report

Joe Mills reported. In light of indebtedness approaching $1 million, GPQM decided in May of 2015 to lay down the Friends School in Detroit. Thereafter, a coalition of school supporters came together and offered a plan to raise money to save the school through the sale of an artwork by James Turrell, with the hope that an infusion of money would allow the school to reopen as a Friends School under the auspices The Friends Council on Education.

Some progress has been made. The senior mortgage in foreclosure has been paid off, as has been most of the back pay owed to staff. But significant debt remains. No funds have materialized from sale of James Turrell artwork. The finances continue to be extremely difficult to audit. A considerable portion of debt that the School agreed with the Quarterly Meeting to pay has not yet been satisfied. With the school closed this fall, the building has continued to deteriorate.

The School is considering reopening in September, 2016 on a limited basis with a significantly reduced number of classes.

A copy of the full report is attached.

Report to Representative Meeting on Friends School in Detroit

In the late spring and summer of 2015, the financial situation of Friends School Detroit had deteriorated significantly. In the face of a pending mortgage foreclosure, some $80,000.00 in unpaid payroll obligations and a total indebtedness approaching one million dollars, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, at its May 2015, meeting, decided to lay down the School.

In response to this decision, certain School trustees and parents interested in keeping the school operating proposed alternative plans. The essence of their final plan was that a large cash infusion would come within the next nine months in the form of donated sale proceeds from artwork of sculptor-architect, James Turrell. At its September 2015 meeting, the Quarterly Meeting reached an agreement with the Friends School Board. A material term of the agreement was that by the middle of May 2016, certain portions of the School's indebtedness approaching the estimated liquidated value of its assets would be paid or properly accounted for. Upon such debt satisfaction, the Quarterly Meeting would withdraw its responsibility for the School as a member of the Friends School in Detroit Corporation and permit the School to operate independently of the Quarterly or any monthly meeting and seek accreditation directly from The Friends Council on Education as a Friends School. For lack of resources, the School did not open in September 2015 but hoped to open a year later.

Since September some progress in debt re-payment has been made. A group of local benefactors was able to raise some $426,000 in secured financing to pay off at a significant discount the mortgage that was in foreclosure and most of the back compensation owed teachers and staff. Some progress also has been made in paying delinquent Michigan unemployment taxes. However, no funds have come in from any James Turret artwork donations and nearly $200,000 of debt that the School agreed to pay by mid-May of this year remains unpaid.

The school's building, which has been sitting empty, has further deteriorated in its condition. The roof has been leaking all winter, causing much interior damage to carpeting and ceiling tiles. The kindergarten room recently flooded when a pipe broke.

As a result of outreach to eastern Friends, last fall, New York Quarterly Meeting agreed to finance $150,000 worth of improvements (primarily a new roof) and take back a junior mortgage. Unfortunately, nothing has

been received on this yet and the process of bringing this to fruition has been slow. Recently the school started to consider a special financing option on favorable terms to make energy efficient improvements which may include roof replacement.

To secure grants and other funding possibilities, the school requested an audit with a grant from the Kresge Foundation. The preliminary draft of the audit received in January was grossly inaccurate. The problem seems to be that the school has not had any formal bookkeeping service for two to three years and its records are in poor shape. The auditor said that all he had to go on were bank statements which would be inadequate for audit purposes. When a formal acceptable audit might be forthcoming is unknown. There is a concern that given the poor state of financial record keeping, a customary certifiable audit may be almost impossible to obtain.

The Trustees had hoped to hire a new Head of School in February, but lack of funding did not permit this. The school would like to hire one as soon as possible but any target date would be speculative. Drew Smith from Friends Council on Education attended a Board meeting about ten days ago and explained how Friends School in Detroit could be designated a Friends school under the auspices of Friends Council and shared ideas on shepherding resources to restart the school on a limited basis.

The School is considering reopening in September of 2016 as a prekindergarten or prekindergarten through second grade institution and expanding grades in subsequent years. However, time for planning on opening is running short and the Board has yet to decide whether to commit to continue the School in a limited form in September.

RM2016-20 Service Project

Clerk Mike Holaday announced that Peggy Daub, who has worked with others to coordinate the Service Project in recent years, feels unable to continue in that role this year. If we are to move forward with a Service Project this year, a new coordinator and a specific project will need to be identified by the date the notice of Annual Meeting is sent out, May 15. Anyone who feels led to carry this forward should contact Mike Holaday.

RM2016-21 Online Registrations

A desire was expressed for online registrations for our Annual Meeting. We ask the Registrar to look into whether this is possible.

RM2016-22 Minute of Appreciation

Clerk Mike Holaday offered the following minute of appreciation to our hosts, Cleveland Meeting.

> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting expresses its deep appreciation to the Friends of Cleveland Friends Meeting for hosting our Representative Meeting for 2016. We appreciate their hospitality all the more, knowing they're living with new floor plans they're not used to and empty rooms that have yet to furnished, as a result of an extensive remodeling project. Under the circumstances it was especially generous of them to volunteer. We wish them much happiness and the many blessings of the Spirit in the use of their beautiful space.

Friends approved this minute.

The 2016 Representative Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by
Mike Holaday, Clerk
Nancy Reeves, Recording Clerk

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
53rd Annual Sessions
July 28 – July 31, 2016
Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

Thursday Evening

YM2016-01 Opening Worship & Epistle

Annual Meeting opened with a period of open worship at the appointed hour. Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer read the 2016 Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Epistle, from the first Annual Session of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, at the end of its first year as a Yearly Meeting, held jointly with Piedmont Friends Fellowship.

At the end of their first year as a Yearly Meeting, Friends reported they experienced joy, excitement, and promise as they realized how productive their work together has been in establishing the framework of a Yearly Meeting and building the community that gives it life.

Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups shared their responses to the query, "What has most been on the heart of your Meeting this year?" Out of that rich sharing, they reported "being moved by how this sharing deepened our sense of the larger community. It allowed us to better appreciate and affirm one another in the variety of ministries to which we are called, and reminded us that all of our contributions are part of a larger witness in this world. Like the making of a great quilt, we are each working to complete the work on our own square, while also weaving a covering of love, light and hope for the world around us."

YM2016-02 Opening Comments

Clerk Mike Holaday welcomed friends, and shared his enjoyment of the serene environment that holds us and allows us to shed some of the turmoil of the world as we do our business together yet remain mindful of the pain and suffering of far too many in the world. He also reminded us that although we may not be able to eliminate all of the evil, that we are to do our own work and already the evil begins to be repaired.

YM2016-03 Introductions

Clerk Mike Holaday introduced the Friends sitting at the clerks table: Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer, and Recording Clerk Nancy Reeves. He then asked the Committee clerks to rise and introduce themselves. Friends are encouraged to join the deliberations of any committee this weekend, except Nominating Committee, Finance Committee, and Executive Committee.

Appreciation was expressed for the work of many who make this weekend possible including: Jon Sommer, site arrangements; Berch Carpenter and John Templin, registration; and Valerie Grossman, bookstore.

We welcomed visitors and first time attenders: Helen Fox, Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting; Ken Lawrence, Broadmead Monthly Meeting; Linda Beaty, Akron Monthly Meeting; Maryann Concannon, Red Cedar Monthly Meeting; Joan Sampieri, Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting; Emily Wirzba, FCNL; Natalie and Wayne Finager, Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting, Elaine Ruscetta, FGC. Rebecca Gretz (Playshop co-presenter) will join us later for the weekend.

YM2016-04 Roll Call

Akron	4	Delaware	0
Ann Arbor	16	Detroit	8
Athens	14	Erie Worship Group	1
Birmingham	12	Grand Rapids	6
Broadmead	23	Granville	2
Cleveland	8	Holland	0

Kalamazoo	8	Pine River Worship Group	0
Kent	0	Pittsburgh	11
Mid-Ohio Valley	0	Red Cedar	10
North Columbus	7	Waysmeet Worship Group	1
Oberlin	1	Wooster	6

YM2016-05 Regular Attenders Absent from this Year's Annual Sessions

We note the absence of regular attenders who cannot be present with us this year: Joe and Kathy Ossmann, Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting; Max Heirich, Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting; Don and Nancy Nagler, Pine River Monthly Meeting; and Claire Davis, Broadmead Monthly Meeting.

YM2016-06 Naming Committee

Clerk Mike Holaday announced that he has asked Thomas Taylor and Ann Sprague to serve on the Naming Committee, which nominates individuals to serve on the Nominating Committee. They have agreed to serve. Their appointments were approved by the Executive Committee.

YM2016-07 Epistle Committee

Friends approved an Epistle Committee to be convened by Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer and joined by Susan Carpenter, Broadmead Monthly Meeting. These Friends are asked to listen deeply throughout the weekend, to draft an epistle that captures the spirit of our work together, and to bring it for our consideration at our Sunday meeting for worship with attention to business. We will revisit this matter tomorrow, with the expectation that an additional individual will feel led to join the committee.

YM2016-08 Memorials

Out of a period of open worship, Clerk Mike Holaday, read the memorial minute for Betty Reid Ford, Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting, who died August 6, 2015, shortly after our last annual session; see p. 153 for a copy of the minute.

Friends also named John Savage, North Columbus Monthly Meeting; Lee Pettiford, Kalamazoo and Ann Arbor Monthly Meetings; and William Beal, Athens Monthly Meeting. Rilma Buckman, Broadmead Monthly Meeting, died shortly before our annual sessions last year.

Friday Morning

YM2016-09 Worship and Reading of Epistle from Illinois Yearly Meeting

The second session of our Annual Meeting began with a period of open worship at the appointed hour. Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer read the epistle from the 2016 Annual Sessions of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends. Living their theme, "Nurturing the Seed of Love," this year Friends focused on intentionally creating an intergenerational faith community. They shared stories about their children spending time at the ILYM Campus, their own childhood experiences on the campus, and even of a grandfather's experiences in the same space. They sought, in the words of Lucretia Mott Franklin, to become a yearly meeting where "... there was no generation gap; from the baby in his basket to the teenager in school, each participat[ing] in whatever was offered." They reported a deep excitement about their vision of "an intergenerational faith community linked geographically to place we have loved and owned since 1874." They noted "a sense of trust among one another, a vulnerable willingness to share in a safe place, even for those who are first-timers, both young and old."

YM2016-10 Meeting Worker

Mathilda Navias, Meeting Worker, reported that she was able to create a long-requested online registration form for our Annual Sessions. After being under budget for several years, this special one-time project, put her approximately 38 hours over the budgeted 100 hours for the year. More than half of those present indicated using the form to register, and expressed gratitude for the work that went into creating it. A copy of the full report follows:

LEYM Worker Report July 2015 – June 2016

This started as a routine year as LEYM Worker. Much of my time has been spent working on LEYM's web site. Other time was spent maintaining and forwarding messages to several e-mail listservs, respond-ing to e-mails, and other administrative tasks. The time spent on these tasks ran just about the same as last year.

Following Representative Meeting in April, I was asked to create an on-line registration form for Annual Sessions. This has taken up a little less than half of my total time, and put me over budget for the year. Mike Holaday authorized the extra time, which involved frequent consultations with the Yearly Meeting Registrar. After I researched suitable software, the Yearly Meeting purchased Webworksheet, a $50 utility that works with Excel. A significant portion of my time went into learning how to use the software and learning Excel functions I hadn't used before. I can report that the Webworksheet tech support is superb. Testing various stages of the form took significant time by volunteers, the bulk of it by my husband. My total time for the year was about 138 hours. 100 hours were budgeted, down from 120 the previous several years. For a number of years, my hours have run 1/2 to 3/4 of the budgeted number. It will take a little time to update the registration form each year. The tasks I have performed during the 2015-2016 year are detailed below.

LEYM Website 52 hours (38%)

- Do annual updates following Annual Meeting
- Post *Bulletins*
- Post news of interest to LEYM Friends
- Create new web page for Indiana Worship Group
- Format & upload minutes (12 1/4 hours)
- Maintenance

Listservs (ExComm, MM Clerks, MM Reps, GPQM) & gmail 14 hours (10%)

- Annual updates of lists following Annual Meeting
- Forward messages to lists
- Maintain & update
- Maintain gmail accounts for officers

Administration (e-mails, prepare reports, misc.) 16 3/4 hrs (12%)

Special project: On-line registration for Annual Sessions 55 hours (40%)

- Research & purchase software (Webworksheet, $50 one-time fee)
- Create, test, & upload to web site

Total 137 3/4 hours

Total: 137:44 hours @$20/hr = $2,754.67 (detailed hours above are rounded)

Total budgeted for year: $2,000 for 100 hours of work

Anticipated Work in 2016-17

- Perform the annual updates to LEYM's website based on information from Meetings' and Worship Groups' Annual Statistical Reports
- Maintain the website
- Perform the annual updates to the listservs based on information from Meetings' and Worship Groups' Annual Statistical Reports
- Maintain the listservs
- Implement requests from committees, officers, Meetings, and GPQM for website changes and additions
- Post *Bulletins*
- Post news of interest to LEYM Friends
- Format and post Yearly Meeting minutes, both current and backlog
- Enter into lots of communication via e-mail
- Update the on-line registration form

Mathilda Navias

YM2016-11 Policies & Procedures Committee

Mathilda Navias, Clerk, reported on the work of an ad hoc Policies & Procedures Committee, appointed to suggest additions to our Policies & Procedures Manual. The ad hoc committee was asked to provide a brief introduction to the work of each committee to make it easier for Nominating Committee, and others

serving our community as committee members, to do their work. These thumb-nail descriptions provide a brief overview of the work of each committee and will not replace the current, more detailed, list of each committee's tasks.

The changes proposed by the ad hoc committee were approved by the Executive Committee for consideration by the wider community.

Friends approved the additions to the Policy & Procedures Manual, with deletion of the following sentence from the description of the Ministry & Nurture Committee: "It presents an annual query to Meetings and Worship Groups for their use and possible response."

The committee's report follows:

LEYM Policies & Procedures
Ad Hoc Committee Report
Committee Descriptions

III. C. Committees

[Add:]

Committees are appointed by Lake Erie Yearly Meeting to perform functions more easily carried out by a small group than the entire body. Charges to committees are defined by the Yearly Meeting when they are created or when their roles change. Committees may perform specific tasks, think through issues, or bring proposals or recommendations to the full body for consideration and a decision. Commit-tees with budgets may spend them within the guidelines established by the Yearly Meeting. Some committees oversee funds.

Clerks of committees are responsible for convening meetings and keeping them on task and for seeing that appropriate records are kept, that reports are made to the larger body, and that the work is carried out.

[Existing text on "Standing committees" etc. goes here]

Advancement & Outreach Committee supports Meetings and Worship Groups in attracting and welcoming new members and attenders. It works with Worship Groups ready to become Monthly Meetings and with Meetings wanting to become Worship Groups or be laid down.

Annual Meeting Planning Committees

> **Arrangements & Site Committee** is responsible for all aspects of the Annual Meeting that have to do with the site as well as registration.
>
> **Program Committee** is responsible for planning activities except for conducting business. This includes developing a theme, setting a schedule, and publicizing Annual Meeting to LEYM Friends.
>
> **Youth & Children Committee** nurtures children and teens at Annual Meeting as well as at a fall retreat.

Earthcare Committee helps Friends understand and move toward better stewardship of the earth.

Finance Committee plans and manages the Yearly Meeting's finances, proposes an annual budget, and advises on the Yearly Meeting's investments.

High School Teen Retreat Program Committee holds in concern the spiritual life of LEYM high schoolers. The committee hires, supports, and oversees the work of a paid coordinator of teen retreats.

Ministry & Nurture Committee offers Meetings and Worship Groups support as they seek to strengthen and enrich their meetings for worship and the spiritual vitality of Friends. The committee encourages Meetings and Worship Groups to undertake an annual assessment of their spiritual condition. [It presents an annual query to Meetings and Worship Groups for their use and possible response.] The committee oversees LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program and traveling ministers from the Yearly Meeting.

Nominating Committee identifies Friends who are competent and willing to carry out the many tasks that enable the Yearly Meeting to act as it is led. It proposes a slate of nominees at Annual Meeting and

individual nominations throughout the year as necessary.

Peace [& Justice] Committee helps Friends understand matters of peace and work toward a more peaceful world.

Publications & Archives Committee oversees printed and web publications of the Yearly Meeting. The committee sends Yearly Meeting materials to a Quaker archive and encourages Meetings to do the same.

Mathilda Navias, Clerk, Jeff Cooper, and Sally Weaver Sommer

YM2016-12 Service Project

Jonah Brownfain presented a report on the 2016 LEYM Service Project, held in advance of our Annual Sessions. Five Friends volunteered with the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, in Lima, Ohio, working to clean, test, and restore recovered furniture and furnishings with the ultimate goal of raising money to build homes. They began each day with silent worship. As the days progressed, they shared food and stories, learned that even larger places like Wal-Mart can do good work by donating school supplies, and built community with each other and with other volunteers at the ReStore. A copy of the report follows:

Service Project Report

We started each day with silent worship in our own way.

Then on the first day we watched a video on procedures and safety precautions for the ReStore.

What is the ReStore? In two words it is: Building Houses

At this store, sections of houses were completed section by section in a room indoors. Making it easier to put up the house wherever it needs to go.

To help build the houses we cleaned the merchandise. This included:

- Chairs
- Lamps
- Light bulbs
- Pots & Pans
- China & other cooking utensils

Then we broke for lunch, which included homegrown:

- Tomatoes
- Lettuce
- Fruit
- Gluten free for me!

We ate a nice dinner here at Bluffton University – and then went straight to bed.

The next day included more cleaning, sweeping & testing electronical products to see if they worked. And that was the most fun, at least for me. After some hours on our feet, we sat and marked school supplies and talked, laughed, and had fun.

The next day we returned and our pile of school supplies was almost gone.

The ReStore gets donations from individuals and many groups. The school supplies were from Walmart – so they do some good work.

The dusting and sweeping and cleaning may not seem important – but it helps Habitat for Humanity build houses.

And that's our work – to help build houses. In this process we bonded as a group by sharing stories & learning about our volunteer friends. We encourage all Yearly Meeting folks to ask us questions about our experiences – and maybe you too will volunteer next year. We are always looking for more Friends.

Please talk to: Me, Jonah Brownfain; Ellerie Brownfain; Peggy Daub; Olwen Pritchard; Sally Weaver Sommer

YM2016-13 High School Teen Retreat Committee

On behalf of the High School Teen Retreat Committee, David Avner reminded us that the committee reported the resignation of Robb Yurisko at our Annual Sessions last year. Robb was willing to accompany LEYM teens to the Quake that Rocked the Midwest one last time, but ultimately none of the

LEYM teens were able to attend

All of the teens the committee approached lead very active lives, and none have been able to participate recently. The committee proposes that its size be reduced to a single person, rather than laying it down. This would permit the Yearly Meeting to hold a space for the committee to be revived if new interest arises.

Ellerie Brownfain asked how rising teens who are very interested in continuing the retreats should make their interests known. Cari Burke, former leader of this program, reported that these retreats provide very strong connections to the wider Quaker community, particularly for isolated teens who are not connected to their local meetings, and for those who are not regular attenders at Annual Meeting.

We ask the committee and Cari Burke, if she is willing, to meet during this gathering with the teens who are present to help discern the needs of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting teens.

YM2016-14 Introductions

Sandy Roney-Hays and Sam Hays, Detroit Monthly Meeting, and Helen Fox, Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting, introduced themselves as new attenders this year.

Friday Afternoon

YM2016-15 Epistle Committee

Friends approved an Epistle Committee consisting of Sally Weaver Sommer, Assistant Clerk (convener), Susan Carpenter, Broadmead Monthly Meeting, and Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting.

YM2016-16 Friends World Committee for Consultation World Plenary

Jana Norlin presented the report of the 2016 FWCC World Plenary, which met in Pisac, Peru, in January. Four friends from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gathered with more than 320 Friends, more than 90 of whom were Young Adult Friends. They came from 37 countries representing 77 Yearly Meetings, 8 independent Monthly Meetings, and 2 Worship Groups to explore the theme: “Living the Transformation,” a reference to Romans 8:19: “Creation wait s with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.”

The World Plenary formally incorporated 4 languages, although many more were spoken informally, and a wide variety of spiritual practices, including rich silent worship and diverse styles of music, spiritual expression, and preaching. Jana reported that God provided innovative ways for communication and connections on a spiritual level, including an international, multilingual talent show and intimate “Home Groups,” which met regularly during t he gathering and provided a solid foundation for strengthening relationships in the larger community.

We were reminded of the difficulties of being a Friends World Committee for Consultation covering the whole world, in the face of the ongoing political crises that frequently make it challenging and costly for some Friends to attend. This year it was particularly difficult for Friends from the Africa Section to participate. FWCC agreed to exceed its budget by $29,000 to cover the costs incurred by members whose visas were granted too late for timely purchase of air travel, rather than to proceed without this beloved part of its community. Even so, the Plenary opened by noting, with sadness, the absence of some Friends who were still unable to obtain visas. Jana encouraged Friends who are so led to make donations to help cover these additional costs.

<u>Change in Plenary Frequency</u>

Going forward, the FWCC will hold gatherings every 8 to 10 years, rather than every three years as has been the practice in the past. The Section of the Americas will meet next in Pittsburgh on March 23-26, 2017.

<u>World Quaker Day</u>

FWCC invites every Quaker Meeting and Church from around the world to celebrate World Quaker Day on October 2, 2016. As the sun rises in each area of the world, we are asked to remember that Quakers are worshipping in every time zone, so that we are united in love when we hold each other in prayer and

thanksgiving as our songs of praise resound around the world.

A copy of the report follows, along with a link to the Plenary Epistle.

FWCC World Plenary Report

From January 19 to 26, 2016, over 320 Friends from 37 countries representing 77 Yearly Meetings, 8 independent Monthly Meetings, and 2 Worship Groups of the Section of the Americas, the Europe and Middle East Section, the Africa Section, and the Asia West Pacific Section gathered in Pisac, Peru, for the FWCC World Plenary Meeting. The attenders included more than 90 Young Adult Friends from many countries. Jana Norlin of Grand Rapids Friends Meeting attended as the LEYM representative. Clémence Mershon, Rosemary Coffey, and Bill Lefler of Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting also attended the Plenary.

The theme was Living the Transformation, relating to Romans 8:19: "Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God."

Early mornings began with Bible study, silent worship, or outdoor worship in nature. Main morning worship sessions for the entire Gathering were led by representatives of each of the four FWCC world Sections, incorporating rich silent worship and diverse styles of music, spiritual expression, and preaching. While English, Spanish, French, and Aymara were the official languages for interpretation, many other languages were spoken as well. God provided innovative ways for communication and connections on a spiritual level. Activities of the Plenary included sessions focused on the business of FWCC, daily Home Group sessions, Formation Groups, presentations, and interest groups. Meal times were especially important for getting to meet each other, as it was suggested that we sit with those whom we did not previously know. Evening workshops on a wide variety of topics enabled Friends from different parts of the world to share experiences and ideas in order to foster knowledge, spiritual growth, and future collaborations. Each evening ended with an epilogue and worship time, except for Saturday evening's spectacular 7 pm to midnight international multi -lingual talent show.

Smaller Home Groups of about 20 participants met six times during the gathering in order to bring diverse Friends together to discuss queries and form friendships for understanding each other while coming from diverse backgrounds. Relationships that resulted from such intimacy enhanced making new connections in the larger group.

The entire body of attenders broke into four Consultation Groups that met four times during the Plenary for small and large group interaction. This interactive format provided for more multicultural and intergenerational input on future planning relating to growth within FWCC and the Religious Society of Friends.

The Leadership and Ministry Consultation Group discussed possibilities for a World Gathering of Young Friends and a newly shaped Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. The question was also raised as to whether a mechanism could be developed within FWCC for membership that is not tied to geographical boundaries, as young adults especially find these structures inconsistent with their identity as Friends.

The Living Ministries Communities Consultation Group discovered that God is calling us not to worry about numbers, but to concern ourselves with the life and vitality of our communities. Hundreds of ideas for nurturing and growing that living faith in our worship communities will be distributed at a future time, while FWCC invites Friends to add to the list and share stories of God's work among us.

The Sustainability Consultation Group made the following requests of the FWCC World Office and the Central Executive Committee to:

1. Invest FWCC World Funds ethically.
2. Share Quaker experiences with other faith groups to inspire them into action, especially the World Council of Churches.
3. Seek sustainable ways of connecting Friends worldwide.
4. Facilitate dissemination of training materials on sustainability issues for Quaker leaders, pastors, and teachers.

The FWCC Plenary Meeting also asks all Yearly Meetings to:

1. Initiate at least two concrete actions on sustainability within the next 12 months.
2. Support individuals and groups in their Meetings who feel called to take action on sustainability.
3. Support the work done by Quaker organizations such as the Quaker United Nations Office and the

Quaker Council for European Affairs to ensure that international agreements and their implementation support sustainability.

The Sustainability Group asks Friends to share inspiring experiences of living sustainably on the new "sustainability webpage" of the Quakers in the World website: http://www.quakersintheworld.org/

The **Equipping FWCC Consultation Group** moved from discussing our experiences of Connecting Friends, Changing Lives and Crossing Cultures, through our visions for FWCC in the future, to practical ways of implementing such visions. Among many suggestions were: smaller gatherings with a particular focus, networking on topics, events for young adult Friends and Quaker Youth, Quakerism 101 in many languages, cross-communication between Sections of FWCC, promoting wider knowledge about FWCC, and more inter-visitation among Friends from local to worldwide levels. Another proposed idea is twinning between Meetings within Sections, between Sections, or between Quaker traditions, to better develop and use existing guidance and good practice.

Young Adult Friends met formally three times for their own worship and business sessions. They ask for prayers and suggestions for ways to strengthen links among young people within each Section and across Sections, as they have formed a committee to consider planning another World Gathering of Young Friends.

The New York and Geneva **Quaker United Nations Offices** gave a very informative evening plenary overall presentation about their work relating to Friends' concerns such as climate change and sustainability, refugee and immigrant rights, peace-building, and economic justice.

Mid-Plenary Friday was an excursion day to see local sites, explore the Sacred Valley area, or rest. During the weekend, approximately 60 additional Friends from Peru and Bolivia joined the Gathering.

World Office Reports from the Plenary

The FWCC Central Executive Committee is striving to better inform the broader Quaker community of the CEC's actions and to hear concerns and visions of Friends worldwide, including criteria for FWCC investment. (Clerk: Betsy Cazden, New England YM)

World Office General Secretary Gretchen Castle (Philadelphia YM) noted that FWCC serves and supports Yearly Meetings and local Meetings, Churches, and individuals by "Connecting Friends, Crossing Cultures, and Changing Lives." Recent accomplishments include celebrations of two World Quaker Days, an increasingly active World Office Facebook page, and representing Quakers at the world level in ecumenical and interfaith activities with dignity in a manner fully consistent with Friends' ways. Recently, Friends have been brought in from all four Sections to serve on the Quaker United Nations committees.

The **Finance and Budget Committee** reports that, in recent years, income to the World Office from the Section of the Americas has declined, as the Section's own income has declined. Mo re than 50% of total income comes from the Europe and Middle East Section, especially Britain. Projected budgets through 2018 reflect further reductions in expected income from the Section of the Americas. Unless changes in income and/or expenditures are made, the projected budgets would result in a gradual erosion of the General Fund reserves to well below the recommended level. The Plenary approved the proposed budgets, understanding that the Central Executive Committee has authority to revise them as circumstances warrant. The CEC has engaged a fundraising consultant for advice on how to increase resources throughout the organization. In addition to planned costs, an extra $29,000.00 was spent to purchase last-minute tickets for Friends whose visas arrived very late. Some Sections would have been seriously underrepresented without such travel support. Friends are encouraged to make a special donation to help defray this unanticipated extra cost and to ask their local and yearly meetings to do the same. (Treasurer: Alastair Reid, Britain YM – annual reports available)

Friends considered a new and much simpler **Constitution for the World Office**, which will be available on the World Office website (www.fwc.world). A major concern was the proposed frequency of plenary meetings. While plenary gatherings used to be held every three years (Triennials), due to costs, time consuming preparations, and the effect of carbon footprints on the environment, a change to the constitution was made to hold such gatherings only once every 8 to 10 years.

This would allow for possibly only 2 more World Plenaries before the 100th anniversary of FWCC in 2037. Less frequent meetings will affect older Friends' future participation and institutional memory from plenary to plenary. Friends expressed a fervent hope that full Plenary Meetings can be held more often, hopefully in six to eight years. Meanwhile all Friends are encouraged to actively work on opportunities for inter-visitation, cooperation between Sections, and ways to bring Friends together.

Section Reports from the Plenary

The **Section of the Americas** was delighted to host the World Plenary Meeting in Peru. In 2014 the Section of the Americas collaborated with the Europe and Middle East Section to host the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage in Latin America for the first time. In early 2014, instead of an annual meeting, the Section held four consultations in different locations on the theme, "Let the Living Water Flow," which came out of the World Conference. This brought the FWC experience to a much wider range of Friends, who would not be able to travel to a World Plenary or Section meeting.

The Section of the Americas has developed a new strategic plan titled "Weaving the Tapestry" to guide the Section's activities for the next five years. The text is available on the website in English and Spanish.

(Section Secretary: Robin Mohr, Philadelphia YM; Section Clerk: Benigno Sanchez-Eppler, New England YM)

The **Asia West Pacific Section** held a Section gathering in January 2015, hosted by Hong Kong Meeting. The Section is trying to meet challenges of traveling vast distances and responding communication difficulties, whether in face to face visitations or through electronic communication. The Section's website is in the process of redesign.

The **Europe and Middle East Section** entire region faces challenges from wars, civil unrest, terrorist attacks, and migration of refugees. The Quaker community is small, but it does substantial work in addressing these issues, while the Section helps Friends mutually uphold each other to work more effectively.

The **Africa Section** report highlighted the emergence of new leader-ship within the Africa Section, including the first woman Clerk of a Kenyan Yearly Meeting. In 2015 World Quaker Day was celebrated in 14 Yearly Meetings, up from three the previous year. The Section seeks ways for Friends to contribute to peace-building and are especially concerned by the ongoing political crisis in Burundi. The Africa Section is deeply grateful for the support its members received to attend the 2016 World Plenary.

LEYM Attenders Participation

Rosemary Coffey co-facilitated a Home Group of English/Spanish/ French speakers. Bill Lefler employed his computer skills to help with technology needs during the conference. As an un-programmed Friend, Clémence Mershon co-led a Home Group with a programmed Friend from Kenya, using her language skills in English, French, and Spanish to facilitate communication. She also served as an interpreter between French and Spanish in her Consultation Group, as well as using her interpretation skills throughout the Plenary.

In addition to participating as an LEYM Representative, I (Jana Norlin) answered the call to serve as the bilingual co-coordinator of the Pastoral Care Center. I helped plan for the Center by Skype calls with my co-coordinator in England. Arriving early at the Plenary, I helped plan and translate guidelines, make schedules, and train volunteers. I supervised five shifts at the Pastoral Care Center and wore a sash to announce that I was on call for Pastoral Care throughout the entire Plenary. I also informally interpreted between English and Spanish throughout the Plenary at all times and circumstances. Such interpretation facilitated interactive fellowship for strengthening relationships and forming new friendships. Having attended FWCC events for the past 12 consecutive years including the World Conference in Kenya, aided me in bridging cultural differences. Pastoral care for the spectrum of participants ranged from listening, discussing, praying, laugh-ing, helping with health issues, providing resources, and making connections with others, to providing a spiritual 'safe place' with tea and cookies. Confusion, tears, joy, revelation, and healing were experienced in the Care Center. I was especially touched by talking with Friends from Russia, who were so happy for spiritual connection, because they feel like "fish out of water" as Friends in their society. As this was my third time to be in Peru, I was better prepared to be of assistance to others before, during, and after the Plenary. Helping others multiplied the blessings that I received in unexpected ways. There are far too many special encounters that I could relate than this report can contain. I am humbly grateful for so much support from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting to have had the honor of increasing my skills through this experience of stewardship to our diverse Quaker family. I can witness that God's loving Spirit was truly with us.

Looking forward, FWCC invites every Quaker Meeting and Church from around the world to celebrate World Quaker Day on October 2, 2016. As the sun rises in each area of the world, remember that Quakers are worshipping in every time zone, as we are united in love when we hold each other in prayer and thanksgiving as our songs of praise resound around the world.

To read the FWCC World Plenary Epistle, follow this link: http://fwcc.world/plenary-2016/epistle-from-2016-friends-world-committee-for-consultation-world-plenary-international-representatives-meeting

YM2016-17 Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force

Joann Neuroth, Clerk, reported for the Sexual Abuse Task Force, which was created two years ago to consider how best we might help LEYM address sexual misconduct within the youth programs of LEYM. It presented its work at our Annual Sessions last year. At that time we directed the committee to continue its work, and to develop a draft policy for consideration by LEYM.

The Sexual Abuse Task Force worked to define guidelines to create clear safety boundaries and expectations within which we can nurture a trust that will free both children and adults from worry or wariness about potential abusive behavior and false accusations. These recommendations supplement, not replace, LEYM's current policy directed at reporting.

The recommendations include:

- An annual educational session as preparation for individuals working with the young Friends program
- Reference checks for volunteers from the clerk or designee of the home Monthly Meeting
- Staffing each age group, as far as possible, with a minimum of two individuals who have attended the education session and have references, and
- Having all participants (adults and children) stay within sight of the group at all time.

Special helpers, who do not meet the policy guidelines, may supplement but not replace regular staff and should never be alone with one child.

The Task Force, after consulting with the current child care workers, reports that they are comfortable with the proposed guidelines.

The Task Force has created a one-page summary of the policy, suitable for distribution, to inform the wider community about the policy.

Friends approved the policy, with two modifications: (1) adding that an equivalent Quaker reference check is permitted for Friends who are not connected with a Monthly Meeting, and (2) renaming the policy "Child and Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy."

We ask the Task Force to continue working for another year to create the educational session it proposes, and charge the Executive Committee with developing practical recommendations for implementation, including the specific wording and location to add this to our Policies & Procedures, for our approval at a future meeting. A copy of the proposed policy follows:

Proposed Policy on Sexual Abuse Prevention for LEYM

June 12, 2016

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting intends to provide for our young Friends a recurring community in which opportunities abound for authentic intra- and inter-generational relationships full of spontaneity, warmth, trust, curiosity, reflection, and joy. To do that, we realize we must provide some clear safety boundaries and expectations within which both children and adults can be freed from worry or wariness about potential abusive behavior of any kind and also about being falsely accused. For trust of the kind we envision to flourish, we need to take care to create an environment that eliminates unnecessary risks and dangers. We recognize that no policy can guarantee to eliminate all risk of child abuse. However, we believe that this policy is a reasonable way toward building the community we are seeking.

This policy applies to any time that children are in the organized youth program. Parents or guardians are responsible for their own children during all other hours. The Children's Program Coordinator or other program staff shall clearly advise parents, guardians, and young Friends of the times covered by the organized program.

This policy supplements LEYM's current policy (LEYM Policies & Procedures, Appendix F. Policy for Reports of Child Abuse Made at Yearly [Annual] Meeting, Adopted June 17, 1995), which addresses how an incident of suspected abuse should be handled and reported.

1. **An educational session about this policy will be presented annually as a required preparation for anyone who will be working with the young Friends program.**

Volunteers who work with young Friends shall participate before beginning each year's program in an educational session that matter -of-factly outlines the risk of various kinds of abuse (intentional or otherwise), why these strategies have been designed to mitigate those risks, and the importance of being able to talk frankly about situations that don't feel right.

Attenders at Yearly Meeting sessions all get a brief explanation of our practices in their orientation materials and an invitation to attend this session. Anyone who is considering answering a call for one-time or last-minute volunteers ("special helper" – see section 3) is strongly encouraged to attend this session.

RATIONALE: Done well, such a session can help shift the topics of safety, abuse, and sexuality out of the realm of hushed dread and unspoken fear into the matter-of-fact domain of known risks that can be managed and avoided. Asking people to repeat attendance at this (short) presentation regularly ensures that everyone involved during a given year has the same information from the same source.

2. Volunteers who work with young Friends must receive a reference from the clerk or designee of their Monthly Meeting.

A. If the Monthly Meeting has a process for approving child caregivers or youth workers, the reference may simply state that the volunteer has been approved under that Meeting's process.

B. Otherwise, the clerk or designee shall answer the following questions:

1. How long has the applicant been an active member/attender of your Meeting?

2. Do you believe your Meeting has a sufficiently close relationship with the applicant that you would know if there was reason to be concerned about his/her working with children?

3. Do you or your Meeting have any knowledge about the applicant that would suggest she/he would be inappropriate as a youth and child care worker?

C. Those organizing the youth program shall allow sufficient time in planning and recruiting volunteers to assure that references are received and considered before the program begins.

RATIONALE: Formally establishing such connections ensures that a relative stranger does not become part of the teaching team merely because it would seem awkward to ask for "credentials" for someone we don't know well. We rely on each Meeting's discernment of whom they trust with their own youth, and on the discernment of youth program organizers as they consider potential volunteers.

3. As far as possible, at least two volunteers who have completed the preparation described in #1 and #2 above should always be with any group of children under LEYM's care.

A. Those planning staffing levels should keep in mind the possibility of emergency situations and other unexpected occurrences, and consider staffing at higher than the absolute mini-mum level if possible.

B. Adults who are not approved as child-care volunteers under this policy may be recruited to help for one specific time period or project ("special helpers"). Such persons should supplement – not replace – the approved staff and should never be alone with one child or young person.

C. We recognize that, on occasion, a situation may occur that leaves only one adult volunteer with a group of children. It is especially important in these situations that Section 4, requiring all adults and children to stay in sight of the group, be adhered to. If feasible, a special helper may be called in to help if only one adult would otherwise be present with the group.

RATIONALE: The presence of two sets of caregiver eyes at all times helps ensure not only doubled awareness of what's going on, but also increased availability of listening ears in case a child wants to talk about something that leaves him or her uneasy. It also provides the adults involved with a witness in case of potential accusations of abusive behavior. We believe everyone will be safer with this standard – even if thoughtful judgment leads to occasional brief exceptions.

4. Everyone involved in LEYM Young Friends' programs – adult volunteers, special helpers, and participating children – should agree to stay within sight of the group at all times.

This means that no two people are ever alone together behind a closed door. This doesn't preclude in-depth, one-on-one conversations; it just means that they happen in sight of other people. This safety practice should be included among other expectations that are matter-of-factly established and regularly reinforced with participating young Friends. For example:

a. We play safely and peacefully at all times.
b. We use kind words to everyone.
c. We listen to adult directions the first time asked.
d. We keep hands and feet to ourselves. We check to be sure it's ok before touching someone.
e. We stay within sight of the rest of the group at all times.
f. We tell an adult if we are uncomfortable with anything another person says to us or does to us.

RATIONALE: agreement the Friends' a public one, thus minimizing opportunities for either adult-with-child or child-with-child abusive behavior. Including the safety practice among other expectations keeps it matter-of-fact, minimizing fear-based warnings.

Saturday Morning

YM2016-18 Epistle

Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer read the epistle from the 2016 Annual Sessions of Ireland Yearly Meeting. The implications of the increasingly global meaning of the word neighbor was a theme throughout their gathering, as they reported on participation in the FWCC World Plenary in Peru, considered the question of "Who is my neighbor" in a European context, and reflected on homelessness at home. They encouraged Friends everywhere to engage in "unreasonable optimism," to welcome conflict rather than avoid it, because it offers the potential for compassion, creativity, and innovation, and to work individually and collectively to assist those on the margins of our society and to address the causes of inequality in our communities.

YM2016-19 Welcome and Introductions

We welcomed Elaine Ruscetta, our FGC visitor. She shared that FGC has come to realize that it needs to plan for a program that is sustained by annual giving, rather than periodic large fund drives. She noted how challenging this year of pruning has been for FGC, and encourages feedback from Yearly Meetings to ensure that their pruning encourages new growth. They are focusing, going forward, on identifying how best to use their resources to further collaboration, growth, and inclusiveness.

Friends raised up ways in which FGC may uniquely serve Friends, including making Quaker books available, connecting teens and young adult friends to each other and other Friends, supporting Friends of Color, encouraging other Friends to grow into challenging white privilege when we encounter it, and supporting the now independent Friends Couples Enrichment program.

YM2016-20 Bookstore

Valerie Groszmann reported that a focus in the bookstore this year is on fiction, particularly for readers ready for books more advanced than picture books.

YM2016-21 Ministry & Nurture Committee

Paula Deming reported for the Ministry & Nurture Committee, which includes oversight of the Ministry and Scholarship Fund and the Spiritual Formation program.

This year, the Ministry & Nurture Committee considered a travel minute that was written by one of our Monthly Meetings for a Friend who has been traveling with a concern for sustainability. Work on this matter will continue.

Scholarship Fund

This year, Ministry & Nurture received no requests for scholarship funds. It encourages Friends who are following a leading that may be aided by scholar-ship funds to bring it to their Monthly Meeting; after seasoning, the Monthly Meeting may then bring a request for a scholarship to the Ministry & Nurture Committee.

Spiritual Formation

The Spiritual Formation theme last year was "Experiment with Light," focusing on a Quaker-based guided meditation process. A total of 35 Friends participated in either the fall retreat at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan, or the spring retreat hosted by Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting. The experience for participants has been overwhelmingly inspirational and rewarding.

The theme for the coming year is "Spiritual Companions from the Past." The leader for the retreats is Della Stanley-Green, a recorded Friends Minister from Western Yearly Meeting.

The fall retreat will be held September 9-11, 2016, at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan. The spring retreat will be May 5, 2017. The Spiritual Formation Planning Committee will be seeking a Monthly Meeting to host this retreat.

State of the Meeting Reports

Ministry & Nurture received State of the Meeting reports from 17 Monthly Meetings and 2 Worship Groups, an increase of 4 from last year. These reports are included below, and all Friends are encouraged to read them. Strong themes emerged of an increasing awareness of racial injustice, care for the quality of silent worship, and engagement in a variety of service projects.

The 2015 Annual Query was answered by more Meetings and Worship Groups than in any previous year for which statistics are available. Even though the Ministry & Nurture Committee has come to realize that this long-standing tradition is not formally part of its work, it is clear that Meetings still find the practice of answering an annual query a rewarding experience

The practice will continue for this year, and the committee offers the following query for the coming year:

All Meetings have a welcoming message, whether they are aware of it or not. What is yours?

Report of the Ministry & Nurture Committee

The Ministry & Nurture Committee has several charges. First, we administer the Ministry Scholarship Fund. Second, we hold the Spiritual Formation program under our care. Third, we collect and assess the annual State of the Meeting Reports.

We also consider other matters that the Yearly Meeting Clerk asks us to take under our care. This year, we have considered a travel minute that was written by one of our Monthly Meetings for a Friend who has been traveling with a concern for sustainability. This work will continue.

Ministry Scholarship Fund

This year, we received no requests for funds. We encourage Friends who are following a leading that may be aided by scholarship funds to bring it to their Monthly Meeting; after seasoning, the Monthly Meeting may then bring a request for a scholarship to this committee.

Spiritual Formation

The theme for the 2015-2016 Spiritual Formation retreats was "Experiment with Light." The theme for the coming year is "Spiritual Companions from the Past: John Woolman, Caroline Stephen, and Howard Thurman," with Della Stanley-Green as leader. The fall retreat will be held September 9-11, 2016, at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan. The spring retreat will be May 5, 2017. Mathilda Navias, clerk of the Spiritual Formation Committee, is now going to share her report.

LEYM Spiritual Formation Program
Report to LEYM Ministry & Nurture Committee
July 2016

<u>2015-2016 Year</u>

The theme for the 2015-2016 retreats was "Experiment with Light." We held a weekend retreat in the fall at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Mich., and a Saturday retreat in the spring hosted by Ann Arbor Friends. The leader was JoAnn Seaver of Philadelphia.

There was a total of 34 participants in all plus the leaders; 26 in the fall, and 16 in the spring. They were

from 6 meetings: 5 in Michigan (Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Detroit, Pine River, & Red Cedar), and 1 in Ohio: Broadmead. Last year, we had a total of 35 participants; the previous year we had 26.

In the evaluations for the retreats, Friends wrote:

- It was a great intro to the program and gave me ideas about how to deepen my practice.
- I came to the retreat: For spiritual rest in a safe group.
- What I found most useful about the retreat: The personal connections and worshipful opportunities in a peaceful, beautiful setting.
- What I found most useful about the retreat: The clarification of what I need to attend to as a new chapter of my life opens.
- I feel like I was able to do some deep spiritual work and healing during this retreat. I have insights about how to carry on my healing process, and spiritual insights that I can apply to continue spiritual growth.

2016-2017 Year

The theme for the coming year is "Spiritual Companions from the Past: John Woolman, Caroline Stephen, and Howard Thurman." As we learn from these spiritual companions of previous centuries, we will also learn from one another as we offer and receive the gifts of spiritual companionship. The leader for the retreats is Della Stanley-Green, a recorded minister in Western Yearly Meeting. She led our 2013-14 Spiritual Formation retreats that focused on spiritual disciplines. The fall retreat will be held September 9-11, 2016, at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan. The spring retreat will be held May 5, 2017, hosted by a Monthly Meeting. We encourage members of the Ministry & Nurture Committee to participate in the program. Planning Committee The committee currently consists of Mathilda Navias, clerk (Broadmead), Aran Reinhart (Broadmead), Rebecca Hatton (Ann Arbor), and Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham). We do not have a liaison with the Ministry & Nurture Committee. We would be happy for you to designate one.

Mathilda Navias, Clerk
Spiritual Formation Planning Committee

The committee has brought flyers and brochures related to the two retreats for Friends attending the Annual Sessions.

State of the Meeting Reports

M&N received State of the Meeting reports from 17 Monthly Meetings and two Worship Groups, which is an increase of four over last year. As we read these reports, we noted major themes of awareness of racial injustice, quality of silent worship, and service projects. We encourage Friends to read these reports when they become avail-able in the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Annual Records. We found the reports rich with creative ideas we want to take back to our own Meetings. You may want to find out how Wooster celebrates alternative Christmas, what Pittsburgh's Pamphlets and Pastries are, how small Meetings reorganize, what Meetings are part of interfaith groups, and how Kalamazoo handles gangs in their Peace Park.

Many Meetings began taking action against racial injustice. For example, Kalamazoo started a study group on the book, The New Jim Crow, by Michelle Alexander; Oberlin read Ta Ne-hisi Coates's Between the World and Me; Birmingham found after discussions on white privilege that "some hearts are more tender as a result." Meetings also wrote of actions such as meeting with local police, watching relevant films followed by discussion and worship sharing, and work-ing in prisons and with released prisoners.

Meetings reported on both vocal and silent worship. Detroit wrote of "authentic and inspiring vocal ministry"; Broadmead shared a concern that "We often don't have the language to express our inmost thoughts"; and Ann Arbor questions " whether we might be failing our witness to truth by avoiding expressions of strong emotion that are part of the human experience."

Service projects included: Feeding and sewing for the homeless, delivering water to Flint, Michigan, providing financial help for utility bills, fund raising for a school in India and a peace center in Kenya,

serving in a soup kitchen, and providing legal counsel for undocumented workers from Central America.

Annual Query

It has come to the attention of Ministry & Nurture that creating an annual query for our Monthly Meetings is a long-standing tradition but not part of our actual job description. Since this tradition began, LEYM has developed a set of queries, which is available on our website or in pamphlet form to any individual or any Meeting. Nevertheless, our Meetings still find the practice of answering an annual query to be a rewarding experience. Many of the responses to the 2015 Annual Query reflected appreciation for the nudge to look at the issue of racism and the invisibility of white privilege.

This year, we have chosen to continue the tradition and offer you the following 2016 Annual Query:

All Meetings have a welcoming message, whether they are aware of it or not. What is yours?

YM2016-22 Naming Committee

Thomas Taylor reported for the Naming Committee. He noted that the possibility that the Nominating Committee might be required to be responsible for reference checks made the work of the Naming Committee more challenging.

The Naming Committee recommends adding:

- Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham Monthly Meeting, to serve through 2019
- Bill Warters, Birmingham Monthly Meeting, to serve through 2019

They will join the continuing members of the Nominating Committee:

- Janet Dando, Akron Monthly Meeting, serving through 2018
- Linda Mills, Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting, serving through 2018
- Clémence Ravaçon Mershon, Erie Worship Group, Clerk, serving through 2017
- Paul Helbling, Broadmead Monthly Meeting, serving through 2017

Friends approved.

YM2016-23 Nominating Committee

Abbey Pratt-Harrington, Clerk of the Nominating Committee, gave a preliminary report for the committee. A final slate will be presented for our consideration at our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on Sunday. The Nominating Committee is particularly interested in identifying an Assistant Clerk and teachers for our Children & Youth programs. Friends who are interested in formal service to LEYM should approach Nominating Committee.

YM2016-24 Earthcare Committee

Russ Adams, Co-Clerk, reported for the Earthcare Committee.

<u>Sustainability</u>

Russ began by sharing the second paragraph from the Sustainability Consultation Report to the FWCC Plenary, which notes that "our beloved mother Earth … is sick and in need of our care," and that "our faith as Quakers is inseparable from our care for the health of the planet." Russ shared the recommendations of the Consultation that all Yearly Meetings initiate at least two concrete sustain-ability actions, support individuals and groups in their Meetings led to do sustainability work, and support the sustainability work done by Quaker organizations.

Consistent with this call, the committee recommends that LEYM approve the "Shared Quaker Statement: Facing the Challenge of Climate Change," a statement adopted by more than 80 Friends' bodies. The Quaker United Nations Office is curating the endorsements. The statement follows.

A Shared Quaker Statement: Facing the Challenge of Climate Change

"It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it?"

William Penn, 1693

As Quakers, we are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole Earth, in right sharing with all peoples. We recognize a moral duty to cherish Creation for future generations.

We call on our leaders to make the radical decisions needed to create a fair, sufficient and effective international climate change agreement.

As Quakers, we understand anthropogenic climate change (climate change due to human activities) to be a symptom of a greater challenge: how to live sustainably and justly on this Earth.

We recognize that the current rise of greenhouse gas emissions is leading to an unprecedented rate of increase in global average surface temperature of extreme detriment to the Earth's ecosystems and species, including human beings.

We recognize that catastrophic global climate change is not inevitable if we choose to act urgently.

We recognize a personal and collective responsibility to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable peoples now, and all our future generations, do not suffer as a consequence of our actions. We see this as a call to conscience.

We recognize the connections between climate change and global economic injustice as well as unprecedented levels of consumption, and question assumptions of unlimited material growth on a planet with limited natural resources.

We recognize that most anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are created by fossil fuel combustion. We recognize that our increasing population continues to pursue fossil fuel-dependent economic growth. We recognize that the Earth holds more fossil fuel reserves than are safe to burn, and that the vast majority of fossil fuel reserves must remain in the ground if we are to prevent the catastrophic consequences of climate change. We therefore question profoundly the continued investment in, and subsidizing of, fossil fuel extraction.

We seek to nurture a global human society that prioritizes the well-being of people over profit, and lives in right relationship with our Earth; a peaceful world with fulfilling employment, clean air and water, renewable energy, and healthy thriving communities and ecosystems.

As members of this beautiful human family, we seek meaningful commitments from our leaders and ourselves, to address climate change for our shared future, the Earth and all species, and the generations to come. We see this Earth as a stunning gift that supports life. It is our only home. Let us care for it together.

Please contact Lindsey Cook at lfcook@quno.ch if you need more information, or wish to add your Quaker group.

Latest signature update: February 2016

* * * * *

In view of the concern that catastrophic climate change may already be inevitable, the committee proposes that we adopt the statement and, in addition, the following minute:

"We agree with the concerns expressed here, but are deeply troubled that catastrophic global climate change is already occurring, requiring far-reaching and transformational action to change our direction."

Friends asked for time for reflection and discernment about the statement and minute. We will bring the question back to a future Meeting for Worship for action.

<u>Planned Parenthood</u>

The Earthcare Committee brought a minute in support of Planned Parenthood for our consideration, namely:

(Based on the 2016 Intermountain Yearly Meeting Minute in Support of Planned Parenthood. Third paragraph is taken from the Durango Colorado Monthly Meeting Minute in Support of Planned Parenthood.)

Minute in Support of Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood has recently come under extreme criticism. Current political efforts to defund Planned Parenthood would be disastrous. It would make it impossible for millions of Americans to obtain

preventive services such as cancer screening and family planning.

Reproductive health care is a lawful human right that allows individuals to choose how to control their fertility and improve their health.

Family planning has slowed the growth rate of the human population. With fewer people on the planet there are fewer emitters, and thus fewer emissions. Therefore, family planning has slowed the rate of climate change. Indeed, the most effective and least expensive way to slow climate change is by supporting family planning.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends recognizes the importance of Planned Parenthood clinics to millions of men and women in the country. We support those clinics throughout the U.S. and recognize the staff members for the important services they provide.

In addition to voicing our support of Planned Parenthood, we ask ourselves as members and attenders to consider taking the following actions:

- Write Letters to the Editor and OpEds supporting reproductive health in general and specifically supporting Planned Parenthood.
- Write to our legislators supporting reproductive health in general and specifically supporting Planned Parenthood.
- Volunteer to escort patients or to help in other needed ways at a Planned Parenthood clinic.
- Donate financial support to local Planned Parenthood clinics.

* * * * *

There was strong unity in support of universal access to family planning. Friends expressed a need for additional discernment about naming Planned Parenthood specifically, addressing Planned Parenthood's connection to abortion, expressly identifying the Quaker testimonies that might lead us to make such a statement, identifying humans as "emitters," the use of binary gender language, and the factual accuracy of some of the assertions in the current proposed minute.

The Earthcare Committee is asked to season this proposal further.

Golden Rule Full Sustainability

Golden rule words from all of the world's faiths seem to call for a full sustainability movement. A successful full sustainability movement could end shortages, soothe passions that urge violence, and, paraphrasing George Fox on slavery, let us do for tomorrow's children as we would be willing to have them or others do to us if we were in their place.

Saturday Afternoon

YM2016-25 Peace Committee

Lucia Kalinosky and Helen Fox reported for the Peace Committee.

The Peace Committee reports it engaged in a phone check-in with Monthly Meetings, and had productive conversations with approximately 2/3 of them. The calls were received with enthusiasm, and a significantly larger number were reached than in the prior phone check-ins. Many are engaged in work around racial justice and were particularly grateful for this year's annual LEYM query, which precipitated tough but important conversations they might not otherwise have had.

From these conversations, it became clear that Monthly Meetings might more naturally reach out to the committee for support in their work on racial justice, immigration, and other issues that are inextricably linked with peace, if the committee name included "Justice." It recommends that LEYM change the name of the committee to the Peace & Justice Committee.

Friends approved changing the name. Executive Committee is asked to ensure that the Policies & Procedures Manual is updated to reflect this change.

The committee brings to our attention the issue of racial bias at Friends General Conference. Each year,

the Friends of Color hold a retreat in advance of the Gathering. This year, and in prior years, Friends of Color reported not feeling entirely welcome on the site and in Gathering. This year a particular concern was that of being treated poorly by campus security. When Friends of Color were asked to be a presence on the stage at the opening worship, they felt they were asked to be a token to demonstrate the diversity of Friends General Conference while simultaneously, year after year, having their concerns ignored. Friends of Color chose not to attend the opening worship session this year, holding an alternative worship instead. In their absence, Barry Crossno, General Secretary of Friends General Conference, read a statement to the white Quakers at Gathering, written in consultation with Friends of Color, raising concerns about racism. The statement questioned the discernment process by which the site was chosen. The Gathering was located in an all-white town and required a significant drive through rural areas in which many did not feel safe.

The Peace Committee recommends that we support the request by the Friends of FGC/Spiritual and Institutional Accountability Working Group for an institutional audit to identity and recommend ways to correct any structural racism within the organization.

An institutional audit is conducted by a neutral outside professional body that reviews the organization, systemic policies, decision making, culture, implicit bias, and/or patterns of institutional racism. AFSC has recently undergone an institutional audit. With its eyes opened, AFSC found it valuable, but also that the audit recommendations did not go far enough; it will be making changes beyond those identified.

The Peace Committee recommends that we adopt the following minute:

> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting supports the request by Friends of FGC/ Spiritual and Institutional Accountability Working Group for an institutional audit of Friends General Conference to identify and provide recommendations to correct any structural racism and/or implicit bias within the organization.

Friends **approved** the minute.

The committee further suggests that LEYM take this opportunity to lead by example. Peace Committee has begun working on how we might actively reflect on our own strengths and limitations in terms of internalized bias, institutional racism, and inclusion of Friends of Color. Please speak to the Peace Committee if you have ideas about how we can become more welcoming and inclusive to Friends of Color. The committee is especially interested in hearing from Friends of Color about their experiences within LEYM. We were reminded of the need to make ourselves aware of our own mixed history, and of the different – often still hidden – experiences of people of color who are not Black. The committee will season all it hears and expects to bring recommendations to us at the 2017 Lake Erie Annual Meeting.

One member and one participant from the Peace Committee were able to attend the Quaker Palestine Israel Network gathering at Pendle Hill this spring, one of whom was supported by travel assistance from LEYM.

YM2016-26 Treasurer's Report

Jeff Cooper, clerk of Finance Committee, reported on behalf of the Treasurer. He noted that LEYM received, and is grateful for, contributions from every Monthly Meeting and one individual during the 2015-16 fiscal year. Our investment funds in Friends Fiduciary Quaker Green Fund declined, but generated dividend income of $1,065.

During the past fiscal year, our income nearly met the amount budgeted. We spent approximately $20,252, about $1,200 less than our total income, even after replenishing the Travel Fund. Our balance going into the 2016-17 fiscal year is $68,628.72. The report and relevant financial statements follow.

Treasurer's Report, 2016 Annual Meeting

The financial situation is positive – another fiscal year in which we came out somewhat ahead, without really trying – or even wanting – to do so. With the assistance of Steve Morehouse, I will present the report on four sheets, showing Income, Expenses, Status of Funds, and Accounts. Twenty copies are available for those who want them.

Sheet 1: Income to the General Fund. All Meetings contributed, and we thank them. Contributions from Meetings and one individual totaled $22,821, 1% lower than the $23,040 we budgeted. The dividends from the Friends Fiduciary Corporation's Quaker Green Fund ($1,065) were slightly higher than budgeted, so the income for which we have budget lines met (or nearly met) expectations.

We don't attempt to predict changes in portfolio value of our accounts in the Quaker Green Fund, and this year they declined considerably; our larger account, which affects the balance in our General Fund, lost $2,454. Nonetheless, we still had a total income of $21,431.50.

Sheet 2: Expenses from the General Fund. First let's look at left half of the sheet, where for each budget line we see the amount budgeted, the actual expenses, and the percentage of the budgeted amount spent. The total of expenses is only $18,524.71, or 76% of what was budgeted.

Especially notable is the Travel line, where we spent only $1,034, or 26% of the budgeted $4,000. Too, Publications & Archives spent only $1,986, or 62% of its budgeted $3,200. All the numbers with a footnote 2 represent subsidies into funds, which we'll look a t on the next sheet.

You may recall that, when we established the Travel fund two years ago, we described it as a cushion, to be drawn on in years when travel expenses are high and replenished when they are low. Last fiscal year we drew it down. This year, with travel expenses so low, we were able to replenish it with an end-of-year adjustment of $1,727 (shown in Column I). Even with this additional expense of transferring money into a fund, our total expenses are only $20,252.58, less than our total income by nearly $1,200.

Sheet 3: Funds. The columns here show for each fund a starting balance (for the fiscal year), income, subsidies/transfers, expenses, ending balance, and, finally, in Column J, desirable floors and ceilings for most funds – a recommended range established by Finance Committee (here expressed in thousands of dollars). The best overall picture of our financial health is shown in Column H, the end-of-year balances. You can see that, with one exception, all funds, including the General Fund, have solid balances. And if you compare columns H and J, you see that most funds are near or above their recommended ceilings.

The "one exception" is the FWCC Travel Fund, which supports travel expenses of our representatives attending periodic inter-national FWCC gatherings. Through a subsidy, we build this fund every year, but, when there is an international gathering, we spend a lot, and that was the case this year. Our expenses for this fund were $5,700, of which $4,500 supported two LEYM Friends and $1,200 helped Friends from less affluent parts of the world attend the gathering. This year we'll start to rebuild.

Sheet 4: Accounts. This sheet shows the accounts where our money is held – roughly half in a bank in Bluffton and half in two accounts with the Friends Fiduciary Corporation. As Mike [Hinshaw] is a conscientious treasurer, the totals in our accounts, $68,628.72, match the total of the amounts in our various funds to the penny. Note that these also indicate an increase in our resources of $614 over the year, despite the loss in value of our FFC accounts and the large amount spent on the FWCC gathering in Peru.

GENERAL FUND INCOME – 2015-2016 Fiscal Year

Meeting (Giver)	Amount	Date	Budget
Akron Friends Meeting	220.00	1-Aug	
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	4,064.00	3-Feb	
Athens Friends Meeting	2,000.00	19-Sep	
Birmingham Friends Meeting	480.00	23-Nov	
Broadmead Friends Meeting	1,088.00	3-Feb	
Cleveland Friends Meeting	1,504.00	11-Apr	
Delaware Friends Meeting	384.00	11-Jan	
Detroit Friends Meeting	672.00	14-Oct	
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting	576.00	3-Feb	
Granville Friends Meeting	900.00	31-Aug	
Holland Friends Meeting	200.00	21-Mar	

Kalamazoo Friends Meeting	1,056.00	1-Mar	
Kent Friends Meeting	697.00	4-Jan	
Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Mtg	182.00	2-Apr	
North Columbus Friends Mtg	800.00	16-Nov	
Oberlin Friends Meeting	784.00	16-Nov	
Pine River Friends Meeting	352.00	3-Feb	
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting	4,480.00	13-May	
Red Cedar Friends Meeting	1,792.00	21-Mar	
Wooster Friends Meeting	480.00	11-Jan	
Individuals	110.28	28-Dec	
Total Contributions	**22,821.28**		**23,040.00**
FFC Dividends, Base Account	1,064.71	30-Jun	1,050.00
FFC change port value, + or -, Base Acc.	(2,454.49)	30-Jun	
TOTAL INCOME	**21,431.50**		**24,090.00**

Individual Budget lines, 2015-2016 Budget Year

ACCOUNT	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE	EXPENSE %0F BUDGET	Year-End Transfers to funds	Total After Adjusted Expense	In-kind & Restricted Donations
Travel	4,000.00	**1,034.10**	26%	1,727.87	2,761.97	554.00
Office	50.00	**88.00**	176%		88.00	
Contract worker	2,000.00	**2,249.34**	112%		2,249.34	
Finance [1]	50.00	**66.90**	134%		66.90	
Publications	3,200.00	**1,986.37**	62%		1,986.37	
Advancement	100.00		0%		0.00	
Ministry & Nurture	100.00		0%		0.00	
Clerk	300.00		0%		0.00	
FGC	4,500.00	**4,500.00**	100%		4,500.00	
Michigan Friends Center	1,000.00	**1,000.00**	100%		1,000.00	
Records project	100.00	**100.00**	100%		100.00	
FWCC Travel Fund [2]	1,500.00	**1,500.00**	100%		1,500.00	
Youth Activities Fund [2]	1,000.00	**1,000.00**	100%		1,000.00	
H. S. Teen Retreat Fund [2]	1,600.00		0%		0.00	
Spiritual Formation Fund [2]	800.00	**800.00**	100%		800.00	
Friends School in Detroit	0.00				0.00	
Olney Friends School	2,000.00	**2,000.00**	100%		2,000.00	
Consultation Fund [2]	0.00				0.00	
Scholarship Fund for Ministry [1]	500.00	**500.00**	100%		500.00	
Summer Work Project	1,200.00	**1,200.00**			1,200.00	
Insurance	500.00	**500.00**	100%		500.00	
Totals	24,500.00	**18,524.71**		1,727.87	**20,252.58**	554.00

[1] Includes banking costs

[2] Subsidy from General Fund to other funds

Summary of Funds 2015-2016 Fiscal Year

Fund Name	Starting Balance	Income or Change	Subsidy from General Fund	Cash Expenses	End Balance	Fund Floors and ceilings (000's)
General Fund [1]	24,706.13	21,431.50		20,252.58	**25,885.05**	na / 30
Granville Youth Fund [2]	7,257.07	(321.36)		246.43	**6,689.28**	na / na
Annual Meeting Fund [3]	2,732.17	16,592.02		16,003.30	**3,320.89**	1 / 3
Youth Activities Fund [4 5]	6,407.16	821.43	1,000.00	2,162.50	**6,066.09**	4 / 8
High School Teen retreat Fund [4]	8,074.39				**8,074.39**	3 / 6
Spiritual Formation Fund [4]	2,327.20	4,650.00	800.00	4,749.58	**3,027.62**	.5 / 1.5
FWCC Travel Fund [4]	4,739.83		1,500.00	5,700.00	**539.83**	na / 6
Consultation Fund [4]	3,143.68				**3,143.68**	.5 / 2
Ministry Scholarship Fund [4]	1,500.00		500.00		**2,000.00**	na / 2
Summer Work Proj Fund [4]	1,355.00	446.55	1,200.00	619.66	**2,381.89**	na / 2
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00				**3,500.00**	na / na
Travel Contingency Fund [4 6]	2,272.13		1,727.87		**4,000.00**	2 / 4
TOTAL	**68,014.76**	**43,620.14**	**6,727.87**	**49,734.05**	**68,628.72**	

[1] Includes line item accounting from Budget plus contributions; also reflects dividends and changes in net portfolio value, FFC base account

[2] Granville Youth Fund is separate FFC account; 'Income or Change' reflects both dividend and change in portfolio value; 'Cash Expense' reflects dividends that have been paid and are then are transferred to Youth Activities Fund

[3] Income includes 861.69 in individual donations

[4] Other funds are managed through accounting and may be subsidized by the corresponding budget lines of the General Fund

[5] Income includes dividends from FFC Granville YF account

[6] Subsidy = Transfer from Travel Budget

BALANCE SHEET

Location of Assets	CASH ASSETS			Change in Value
	07/01/15	06/30/16		7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016
	Beginning	FF Change	End	
Citizens Nat. Bank, Bluffton, Ohio	29,667.11		32,238.64	2,571.53
Friends Fiduciary, Base Account	31,090.58		29,700.80	-1,389.78
> Dividends, Re-Invested		1,064.71		
> Change in Portfolio Value is + or -		-2,454.49		
Friends Fiduciary, Granville YF Account	7,257.07		6,689.28	-567.79
> Change in Portfolio Value + or -		-567.79		
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	**38,347.65**	**-1,957.57**	**36,390.08**	**-1,957.57**
Total Cash Assets	**68,014.76**		**68,628.72**	**613.96**

Allocation of Assets			
General Fund	24,706.13	25,885.05	1,178.92
Granville Youth Fund	7,257.07	6,689.28	-567.79
Annual Meeting Fund	2,732.17	3,320.89	588.72
Youth Activities Fund	6,407.16	6,066.09	-341.07
High School Teen Retreat Fund	8,074.39	8,074.39	0.00
Spiritual Formation Fund	2,327.20	3,027.62	700.42
FWCC Travel Fund	4,739.83	539.83	-4,200.00
Consultation Fund	3,143.68	3,143.68	0.00
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,500.00	2,000.00	500.00
Summer. Work Proj Fund	1,355.00	2,381.89	1,026.89

Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00
Travel Contingency Fund	2,272.13	4,000.00	1,727.87
Total All Funds	**68,014.76**	**68,628.72**	**613.96**

LEYM Budget 2016 - 2017 Approved July 30,2016 Final

General Fund Expenses	Act 12-13	FY 2013 -2014		FY 2014-2015		FY 2015-2016		FY 2016-2017	
(* = transfers)	Act 12-13	Bud 13-14	Act 13-14	Budget	Act 14-15	Budget	Act 15-16	Draft Budget	Change from 15-16
Travel	3,972.64	5,000	1546.70	**3,000**	3000.00	**4000**	2,762	**3,000**	-1,000
Office	18.00	50	18.00	**50**	48.00	**50**	88	**100**	50
Contract worker	1,313.29	2,040	938.12	**2,040**	1638.19	**2000**	2,249	**2,000**	0
Finance	229.75	50	40.40	**50**	11.00	**50**	67	**550**	500
Publications	3,371.43	3,200	2030.71	**3,000**	3083.21	**3200**	1,986	**2,200**	-1,000
Advancement	0.00	600	-175.77	**600**		**100**	0	**100**	0
Ministry & Nurture	0.00	300	150.00	**300**	-324.93	**100**	0	**100**	0
Clerk's Fund	27.00	300	0.00	**300**		**300**	0	**300**	0
FGC	4,500.00	4,500	4,500.00	**4,500**	4,500.00	**4500**	4,500	**6,000**	1,500
MFC one-time donation						**1000**	1,000	**0**	-1,000
Records project	0.00	200	200.00	**100**	100.00	**100**	100	**100**	0
FWCC Travel*	1,000.00	1,200	1200.00	**2,400**	2400.00	**1500**	1,500	**1,200**	-300
Youth Activity Fund*	1,000.00	1,000	1000.00	**1,000**	1000.00	**1000**	1,000	**1,000**	0
High School Retreat Fund*	4,900.00	6,000	6000.00	**6,300**	6300.00	**1600**	0	**0**	-1,600
Spiritual Formation*	100.00	100	100.00	**800**	800.00	**800**	800	**300**	-500
Friends School in Detroit	4,500.00	4,500	4500.00	**4,500**	4,500.00	**0**	0		0
Olney Friends School	600.00	600	600.00	**600**	600.00	**2000**	2,000	**2,000**	0
Consultation Fund*	0.00	0	0.00	**0**		**0**	0	**0**	0
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	1,500.00	1,000	1,000.00	**500**	500.00	**500**	500	**100**	-400
Summer work project				**1,200**	1200.00	**1200**	1,200	**600**	-600
Insurance	500.00	500	500.00	**500**	500.00	**500**	500	**500**	0
Misc. FGC[1] (one time contribution)	-1,212.83	0	-2357.70	**0**		**0**	0	**1,400**	1,400
Total Expense =	26,319.28	**31,140**	21,790.46	**31,740**	29,855.47	**24500**	20,252	**21,550**	-2,950
Contributions Income	29,543.00	29,000	29,001.00	**29,725**	29,502.00	**23,040**	22,821	**19,880**	-3,160

FFC Dividends Income			738.71	**600**	955.94	**1050**	1,065	**1,050**	0
Other Income		250	4010.91	**250**		**0**	0	**0**	0
Total Income =	29,543.00	**29,250**	33,750.62	**30,575**	30,457.94	**24,090**	23,886	**20,930**	-3,160
Income - Expenses =	3,223.72	**-1,890.00**	11,960.16	**-1,165**	602.47	**-410**	3,634	**-620**	-210

BUDGET UNDERFUNDING. Balance, if needed, comes from General Fund.

Total Contribution / Members=		**$40**		**$41**		**$32**	-$9	**$28**	-$4
Members=		**725**		**725**		**720**	-5	**710**	0
Suggested contribution / member=		**$40**		**$41**		**$32**	-$9	**$28**	-$4

[1] One-time contribution to FGC for institutional audit

YM2016-27 Finance Committee

Jeff Cooper, Clerk, reported for the Finance Committee. He noted small line-item changes to the projected expenses of $21,800 initially presented at Representative Meeting.

The $300 decline in the FWCC travel expense line is the net result of a decreasing frequency in FWCC plenaries, and of making an annual contribution to support attendance at FWCC by Friends from less affluent parts of the world. A suggestion was made that the Finance Committee consider equalizing our travel contributions for LEYM and other Friends going forward.

Friends approved sending a $1,400 check to FGC, earmarked for an institutional audit to identify and provide recommendations to correct any structural racism and/or implicit bias within the organization.

This suggested per-member contribution to LEYM for fiscal year 2016-17 will be $28.

Friends **approved** the proposed budget, with the changes noted above.

Susan Hartman, Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting, will audit the last two years of financial records of the Yearly Meeting records, an exercise that is undertaken every four years.

Finance Committee Report

I. Budget

At Representative Meeting we presented a budget with total expenses of $21,800. Since then, we have made small adjustments based on end-of-year figures in the Treasurer's Report and new information. These changes are highlighted in yellow:

Office (up $50)

Publications (down $800, based on last year's spending and what we know of plans for this year)

FWCC Travel (down $300). This was more complex; we subsidize the fund every year, and as the next gathering won't occur for another eight to ten years, we needn't strive to build it up too quickly; on the other hand, we want to add into this line a yearly contribution to support attendance by Friends from less affluent parts of the world (rather than adding a large sum to the budget in the year of the gathering). So we have earmarked this $1,200 as $900 toward sending LEYM Friends, and $300 toward sending Friends from elsewhere. Bear in mind that this figure represents the first year in an eight- to ten-year process; the entire subsidy and its proportions can be adjusted each year as we gain a better idea of the need.

Summer Work Project, down $600, reflecting low costs this year and the $2,382 in the supporting fund.

This results in a new total of $20,150 (down $1,650). We have re-budgeted income at $19,510, resulting in a slightly larger deficit of $640, and relying on a per-member contribution of $26 (down from $32 this past year, and down from $28 proposed at Representative Meeting). This assumes 710 members, down from 720 last year.

Finally, the budget for Travel assumes a per-mile reimbursement rate for driving. Since 2008, this figure has been 35¢ per mile; we are proposing an increased rate of 45¢ per mile.

II. Audit of Financial Records.

It is the responsibility of the Finance Committee to arrange for an audit of Yearly Meeting financial records every four years and when the Treasurer changes. Finance Committee will ask Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor Meeting) to conduct such an audit, covering the period of the last two years. $500 is included in this year's budget to cover this process. Susan did an audit of our financial records in 2012, and the Finance Committee was extremely pleased with her careful work and clear presentation. This possibility had been discussed with Susan previously, and she is willing to undertake this work.

III. Bank Account Signatories.

Policy states that the Presiding Clerk, Treasurer, and Clerk of the Finance Committee are signatories on our bank account. This has not always been strictly observed, and last summer Sally Weaver Sommer remained the signatory from the clerks' table when Mike Holaday succeeded her as Presiding Clerk. Having someone who lives in Bluffton, such as Sally, is useful. Moreover, changing a name on the forms is a time-consuming process, involving a long visit to the bank that is difficult to manage for a clerk during Annual Meeting. For expediency's sake, we have agreed to keep the signatories the same for this year, with Mike delegating Sally as a signatory on his behalf. Next year, when there are both a new Presiding Clerk and a new Finance Clerk, we'll

need to knuckle under and visit the bank to change the signatories.

Sunday Morning

YM2016-28 Earthcare Committee

Planned Parenthood

Earthcare Committee withdraws its minute on Planned Parenthood, and will season the concern further, in light of the reflections it received yesterday.

Shared Quaker Statement on Climate Change

Friends **approved** adopting the "Shared Quaker Statement: Facing the Challenge of Climate Change."

YM2016-29 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Mathilda Navias reported for the Advancement & Outreach Committee.

Advancement & Outreach recommends that the Advancement & Outreach Committee of the Yearly Meeting handle all formation, laying down, or changing status of Meetings and Worship Groups. This happened when Holland Monthly Meeting was laid down a few years ago and, more recently, when Pine River reverted to the status of a Worship Group. Currently, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting handles status changes for their quarter and merely reports the changes to the Yearly Meeting. Advancement & Outreach asks Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting to consider adopting this change in process at its next Quarterly Meeting.

The Executive Committee raised a concern that the statement of welcome and inclusion that is currently on our website is outdated and was not formally approved by LEYM. Consistent with the concerns raised during our Annual Sessions, the committee has discerned that it is appropriate to send a letter to all Monthly Meetings asking them to assess their current condition in regard to being welcoming and inclusive, in connection with a wide range of diversity in our community, and to report back to the committee. The committee intends to use these responses to draft a welcoming and inclusive statement for our consideration at a future meeting, to be used on our website and otherwise going forward.

During the coming year, the committee plans to write several articles on outreach for the Bulletin and to provide more support for Worship Groups and smaller meetings by engaging in regular contact throughout the year.

Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

During our meetings this weekend, members of the A&O Committee have divvied up the Worship Groups and smaller Meetings in the Yearly Meeting. We plan to offer to contact them 2-4 times a year to ask how they are doing and if we can be of help.

We plan to write several articles on outreach for the Bulletin in the coming year.

The Home page of LEYM's web site has a welcoming and inclusive statement that has not been formally approved by the Yearly Meeting. A concern was brought to LEYM's Executive Committee to replace this statement with one seasoned throughout the Yearly Meeting that is more up to date. Executive Committee asked the Advancement & Outreach Committee to work on a draft statement and distribute it to our constituent Monthly Meetings for their consideration. The committee felt it premature to draft such a statement. Instead, we have drafted a letter to Meetings and Worship Groups asking them to assess their current condition in regard to being welcoming and inclusive to a list of groups of people who are often marginalized in our society, inviting them to add other groups to the list as led.

We ask Meetings to discern where they are doing a good job and where they might make improvements. We ask them to report back to the A&O Committee prior to Representative Meeting in 2017 with a report either on their condition or on where they are in dealing with this question.

Our plan is to use these reports as a starting point in developing a welcoming and inclusion statement that would apply throughout the Yearly Meeting. When approved by the Yearly Meeting, it could be posted

on web sites and printed in welcoming literature.

We plan to hold a Sat. meeting in Sept. in Ann Arbor, MI.

Anyone here who is from or knows of a Meeting that would like the committee's support, please talk to a member of the committee.

Working on making our Meetings more truly welcoming

Quakers hold that there is a spark of the Divine in each person, often referred to as "that of God." Most of us have grown up and live in the general American culture, however, which often marginalizes people with certain traits. These currently include:

- Race
- Gender Identity
- Disability
- Class
- Political affiliation
- Sexual orientation
- LGBTQC
- Differently-abled
- Gender
- Religious background

Biases for and against certain people can be deeply ingrained and unconscious. In our efforts to be truly welcoming to all in our Quaker Meetings, a first step is to become conscious of our biases. Another step is to learn from marginalized people how to be welcoming and provide a safe and comfortable place for them.

LEYM asks each of our Meetings and Worship Groups to discern where we seem to be doing a good job and where we might make improvements. Some of our Meetings already have statements on inclusion.

We ask you to consider the people who are often marginalized in our society and report back to the Yearly Meeting on where you find your-selves at this time in regard to how welcoming you currently are to each group listed and others you might add.

We would like to use these reports as a starting point in developing a welcoming statement that applies throughout the Yearly Meeting that can be posted on websites and printed in welcoming literature. There is currently such a statement on the Home page of LEYM's website that is in need of updating (LEYM.org).

Please respond by March 15, 2017, with a report either on your condition or on where you are in dealing with this question.

Send to:
Mathilda Navias
Clerk of LEYM Advancement & Outreach Committee
147 Hall Street
Tiffin, OH 44883
galaxy@woh.rr.com

If you have any questions, please call me at 419 448-0578.

Mathilda Navias
Clerk, LEYM Advancement & Outreach Committee

YM2016-30 Nominating Committee

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon reported for Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee has not yet discerned who should serve Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, beginning in the role of Assistant Clerk, for the next 4 years.

The committee reports that it has identified all eight teachers for the Youth & Children's Program before

the close of our work together, for the first time in recent memory.

We were reminded that each Monthly Meeting is invited to appoint a member to the Peace & Justice and the Ministry & Nurture committees.

Friends approved the nominations as presented.

The committee asks that the Executive Committee consider and appoint someone to serve in the role of an Assistant Clerk.

Nominating Slate

Approved 7-30-2017. *Terms begin and end at rise of Annual Sessions.*

(^ = serves on LEYM Executive Committee.)

Officers

Role	Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
Presiding Clerk ^	Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	1	2020
Assistant Clerk ^	Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids	4	2018
Recording Clerk ^	Peter Wood, Red Cedar	1	2020
Treasurer ^	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	6	2018

Communications

Bulletin Editors	Peggy Daub & Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor	1	2020
Database Manager	Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	13	2018

Committees

Name & Meeting		Year of Service	End Year
Advancement & Outreach			
# of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3			
Sheila Johnson, Ann Arbor		1	2020
Blair Ellis, Ann Arbor		1	2020
Erika Smith, Ann Arbor		5	2019
Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor		5	2019
Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	Clerk ^	3	2018
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham		3	2018
Earthcare			
# of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3			
Mey Hasbrook, Kalamazoo		1	2020
Richard Hogan, Athens		1	2020
Ken Lawrence, Broadmead		2	2019
Phil Balderston, Wooster		5	2019
Shannon Pratt-Harrington, Athens		6	2018
Russ Adams, North Columbus	Clerk ^	3	2018
Alternate: Phil Clampitt, Birmingham			
Finance			
# of Members: 3 Years of Term: 3			
Joe Mills		1	2020
Joan Sampieri, Ann Arbor		2	2019
Bob Orr, Detroit		6	2018
Notes: Treasurer serves ex officio			

High School Teen Retreat

3 adults with 3-year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2-year terms

Jenn Seif, Grand Rapids		2	2019
Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar		3	2018
Jonah Brownfain, Birmingham		2	2018

Notes: High schoolers to be appointed by teens

Ministry & Nurture

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each Monthly Meeting encouraged Years of Term: 3

Ruth Carey, Ann Arbor		5	2020
Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens	Co-Clerk ^	5	2020
Flo Friender, Kalamazoo	Co-Clerk ^	5	2019
Wink Covintree, Birmingham		2	2019
Margaret Walden, Cleveland		6	2018
Ann Sprague, Detroit		2	2018

Nominating

of Members: 6 (Appointed by YM through Naming Committee)
Years of Term: 3

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon, Erie WG, Clerk ^		4	2020
Jo Steigerwald, Cleveland		1	2020
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham		2	2019
Bill Warters, Birmingham		2	2019
Janet Dando, Akron		3	2018
Linda Mills, Kalamazoo		6	2018

Peace and Justice

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each Monthly Meeting encouraged
Years of Term: 3

Joel Ottenbreit, Detroit		1	2020
Linda Beaty, Akron		2	2019
_____			
Shelley Kotz, Broadmead	Co-Clerk ^	3	2018
Joyce Balderston, Wooster		6	2018
Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead	Co-Clerk ^	6	2018

MM Rep. for Pittsburgh, Scilla Wahrhaftig

Publications and Archives

of Members: 4 Years of Term: 3

Bob Roehm, North Columbus		1	2020
_____		1	2019
Bill Lefler, Pittsburgh	Clerk ^	3	2018
Seth Reichenbach		3	2018

Yearly Meeting Planning:
Arrangements & Site

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Jon Sommer, Broadmead,	Clerk ^	14	2020
_____		1	2020
Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead		2	2019
Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead	Registrar	2	2019
Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead		3	2018
John Templin, Broadmead		8	2018

Adult and Family Program

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor		1	2020
Susan Hartman, Ann Arbor		1	2020
Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh,	Clerk ^	5	2019
Aran Reinhart, Broadmead		1	2019
Josephine Posti, Pittsburgh		3	2018

_____

Youth & Children's Program

of Members: 12 Years of Term: 2

Greg Mott, Broadmead	Clerk ^	2018
_____	Assistant Clerk	2019
Employed student or YM vols.	Infants & Toddlers	
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham		
Jenn Seif, Grand Rapids		
Conleth Crotser, Cleveland		
Marc Smith, Ann Arbor		
Peter Crowley, Cleveland		
Kate Spry, Cleveland		
Alfred Clapp, Athens		
Diane Mott, Broadmead		
Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar		
Diane Mott, Broadmead	Fall retreat clerk	
Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	Fall retreat assistant	

LEYM Bookstore: Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 16

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

Organization	Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
(* indicates clerk of that group of representatives)			
AFSC Corp	Shannon Pratt-Harrington, Athens	1	2020
AFSC Corp	John Deikis, Ann Arbor	6	2019
AFSC Corp	Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh	3	2018
FCNL Gen Com	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	2	2020
FCNL Gen Com	Jim Crowfoot, Ann Arbor	2	2019
FCNL Gen Com	John Howell, Athens	2	2019
FCNL Gen Com	Michael Fuson, Granville *	3	2018
FCNL Gen Com	David Snyder, Oberlin	3	2018
FCNL Gen Com	Richard Shaw, Pittsburgh	3	2018
FGC Cntl Cmte	Robb Yurisko, N. Columbus	4	2020
FGC Cntl Cmte	Helen Hebben, Kalamazoo	4	2019
FGC Cntl Cmte	Carolyn LeJuste, Red Cedar	2	2018
(LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee)			
FWCC	Mey Hasbrook, Kalamazoo	2	2020
FWCC	Sam Milford, Pittsburgh	2	2019
FWCC	Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids	3	2018
Q Earthcare Witness	Russ Adams, N. Columbus	3	2018
FLGBTQC	Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	3	2018
Wm. Penn House	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	10	2018
Olney Friends School	Greg Mott, Broadmead	10	2018

Visitors to Neighboring Yearly Meetings

Yearly Meeting	Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
Baltimore YM	Sam Milford, Pittsburgh		2017
Canadian YM	_____		
EFI Eastern Region	_____		
Ohio YM	_____		
Ohio Valley YM	_____		
Wilmington YM	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	8	

YM2016-31 Youth & Children Epistles

With delight, we heard the reports and epistles from the elementary school, middle school, and high school programs.

Pre-School Epistle

We heard the epistle from the 3-5-year-old attenders at our gathering, of whom there were four. They started the week by getting to know each other as a group by transforming into animals. For example, when Greg became a bear and Peter became a butterfly, they drew them on the sidewalks and painted with their hands. They went for a walk, and each of the children was able to climb a rock wall. They spent time with the bigger kids. They learned a lot about taking turns, sharing, and loving each other without judgment.

Elementary School Epistle

Favorite parts:

- Drawing our feelings while we heard happy words,
- Playing with my friends,
- Going to the game room and playing all the games with my friends,
- Sleeping,
- Swimming at the lake and playing with ice cream – after breakfast and any meal,
- Making chalk designs on the sidewalk,
- Drawing and playing four square, and
- Sitting and talking to each other.

We went to the thrift store and farmer's market, which are set up so people help each other – like John Woolman taught people to help each other stop having slaves.

Andrew Mott
Amanda Vache Resse
Douglas Smith
Emma Mioduszewski
Elizabeth Clapp
Ethan Charlot
Conleth Crotser

Middle School Epistle

Friday It was the first official day of LEYM, and the first thing we wanted to do was go on a hike to the Swinging Bridge, fleeing from mosquitoes. And when we were heading back, we sat on the porch of a farmhouse, with the owner's permission, and read the Parable of the Sower from the Bible (read by Jonah's impersonation of Morgan Freeman), and talked about how it related to seeds of friendship. When we arrived back at the Ramseyer lounge, we taught each other to create "rainbow loom" friendship bracelets, and some people made origami paper cranes and flying carpets. After lunch, as some kids went bowling, some stayed at the lounge to make the bracelets and chat about friendship. At dinner, the middle school group, as always, ate a lot of ice cream, and afterward we listened to the wonderful speech given by Merry Stanford about the possible false assumptions of our view of the world.

Saturday After breakfast on Saturday, we headed towards the Bluffton farmer's market and the thrift store. When we arrived back at the Ramseyer main lounge, we learned about the tragedy of the commons, the situation where people would use up all of owned land resources due to increased greed and competition,

represented with a hilarious play. Then Kate Engler helped us prepare for the talent shows with round singing. Lunch followed with more ice cream, and then swimming at the swimming pool in town. We all agreed that the major highlights were the diving boards and the water slide. Dinner was next, and while we were waiting for the talent show to begin, some of us played air hockey and pool. For the talent show the members of the middle school group that were in it sang, danced, and played musical instruments. After the talent show, some of us gathered in our lounge for a sleepover party that included popcorn, Picwits, and sleep.

It is agreed that the friendship flower of LEYM's bloom time lasts for these past 4 days every year.

Jabiri Crowley
Sophie Hull
Micah Miller
Gabe Mott
Jessie Mott
Jason Smith

Epistle from the Teens of LEYM

Norma: Thursday

- People arrived
- Hung out & played soccer

Rosa: Friday

- Merged with Middle School group and walked to Swinging Bridge
- Disappointed that someone bought the cabin and water pump (best water)
- Watched and discussed video on John Woolman (which tied into the theme of LEYM)
- Swam at the pool (some left to go to a workshop)
- Watched the plenary o Interesting because we learned how unstable the criminal justice system really was.

Alex: Saturday

- Discussed the plenary for an hour (mainly high rate of incarceration, privilege, and stereotypes)
- Walked to farmer's market, thrift shop, and dollar store (one of our favorite activities to do every year; good time even with no kittens)
- Swam at the lake – "Monarch of the Raft" (some left to go to a workshop)
- Hung out till after midnight Skylar: Saturday evening
- Tried to catch a bug in order to put it outside.
- In the process, the screen fell out the window and the bug did too.
- It was quite an adventure going after the screen and then putting it back in the window where it belonged. Jonah: Sunday
- Woke up, ate breakfast, went to Ramseyer, and wrote this.
- Laughed, had fun, learned a lot about John Woolman, and can't wait until next year!

YM2016-32 Youth & Children Committee

Kate Spry, Clerk, reported for the Youth & Children Committee. She expressed gratitude for the lifeguard this year, and for having a full complement of teachers nominated for next year.

Kate shared the committee's positive thoughts about the work of the Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force.

The strength of our Youth & Children program lies in the friendships the children develop within our community. Fostering those friendships should be a primary focus of our work. It might be worth exploring whether a variation of the model used for the High School program at the FGC Gathering might better serve that purpose.

We are grateful for all of the work of the committee.

YM2016-33 Publications & Archives Committee

Peggy Daub reported for Publications & Archives Committee.

The work of the committee this year has involved putting out publications, assisting the clerks' table in finalizing minutes, and evaluating how best to deliver our publications.

The theme of the fall Bulletin is "Opening Doors." The deadline for submissions is September 15. Because many people are interested in receiving only electronic copies of the Bulletin, the decreased printing costs will allow the committee to print the smaller run of the Bulletin in color.

Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, has agreed to serve as editor of the Annual Records this year. The deadline for submissions is September 1.

In the coming year, the committee's work will involve reviewing what we should send to our archives at the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College.

Publications & Archives Committee Report

Our work this year has involved (1) putting out publications, (2) assisting the clerks' table in finalizing minutes, and (3) evaluating how best to deliver our publications. We are transitioning to increased electronic delivery while making our paper deliveries more accurate. Bill Lefler worked with Meeting Worker Mathilda Navias to contact each Monthly Meeting this year to verify best addresses for sending paper copies of the Bulletin. Those addresses have been updated and Mathilda has added a question on this topic to the statistical information gathered each year from Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, thus ensuring more regular checking of addresses. Berch and Susan Carpenter have chosen the theme "Opening Doors" for the fall Bulletin. Deadline for submissions is September 15. We are introducing direct email delivery of the Bulletin with the fall issue. About 45% of the people who replied on the registration form for this meeting asked for direct email delivery. The other choices are bulk mail to Monthly Meetings, delivery through U.S. mail directly to you, or down-loading from the web site. The question of which method of delivery you prefer will continue to be asked. Let Berch know your preference, if you haven't already. With more copies being delivered online, the number of printed copies is going down; with the money saved by a smaller print run we are planning to print portions of the fall and winter Bulletins in color to make them identical to their online versions. As announced at Representative Meeting, Rosemary Coffey of Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting has agreed to serve as editor of the Annual Records this year. The deadline for getting material to her is September 1. This coming year we will be reviewing what should be sent to our archives at the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College. We have already gathered input from a curator at Swarthmore about the kinds of material that are appropriate to add, and will be canvassing former clerks and clerks of committees to locate potential additions to the archives. We will also contact Monthly Meetings to see if they have been able to institute a program of sending their materials to an archive or if we can offer any assistance.

Peggy Daub, Clerk
Publications & Archives Committee

YM2016-34 Arrangements & Site Committee

Jon Sommer reported for the Arrangements & Site Committee.

Gratitude was expressed for the work of our Registrar, Berch Carpenter.

We had 145 attenders at LEYM this year, 25 of whom were in our Youth & Children's Program, and 16 of whom were first time attenders.

We will meet in Bluffton again next year, July 27 - 30, 2017.

YM2016-35 Adult & Family Planning Committee

Claire Cohen reported for the Adult & Family Planning Committee.

She reports a successful program this year, pending confirmation via the evaluations.

The committee has planned a theme for next year: building young adults and youth in LEYM. To that end, they will survey each Monthly Meeting about youth involvement within each Meeting, and about the potential interest in being involved in the programming for the LEYM Annual Sessions, such as leading workshops. We were reminded that not all youth are affiliated with a Monthly Meeting, and that it would be useful to survey young adults and youth who are not formally connected

YM2016-36 LEYM Epistle

Sally Weaver Sommer, Susan Carpenter, and Jeff Cooper presented the draft epistle for our consideration.

Epistle from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting in Annual Sessions at Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio, July 28-31, 2016

Wealth is attended with power, by which bargains and proceedings, contrary to universal righteousness, are supported; and hence oppression, carried on with worldly policy and order, clothes itself with the name of justice and becomes like a seed of discord in the soul.

– John Woolman

What Would John Woolman Do? Those gathered for our 53rd Annual Sessions found this question at the top and center of the schedule of events, meetings, and workshops, as if to announce that communion with Wool-man's spirit would bring to our discussions a discerning and loving elder from the mid-eighteenth century.

To the planners who presented us with this question, Woolman's life seems full of relevant advice for Quakers in 2016. Our Program Commit-tee set up workshops to address our deepest concerns: institutional racism, climate change, economic and racial justice, financial stewardship, implicit racial bias in our court system and in ourselves, and the extent to which our monetary system contains the seeds of war and injustice. Beginning with the Woolman quotation cited above, our Plenary Speaker, Natalie Finegar, the Deputy District Public Defender for Baltimore City, chronicled the long series of events and practices that led to the "Baltimore Uprising." She illustrated how systemic racism coupled with wealth and power can lead even well-intentioned people to engage in horrific violence.

In worship sharing we considered queries that Woolman might have asked: *Am I learning how to be aware of my own implicit bias that may interfere with my ability to see that of God in every person? Am I mindful of how my lifestyle and my investments can contribute to the improvement of the human condition, or to the exploitation of others?*

There was little mention of Woolman in our business meetings, yet we must have wondered what he would do in the face of problems that we confronted there. We approved a policy to minimize child and sexual abuse by creating an environment that eliminates unnecessary risks and dangers. We agreed to support the call for an institutional audit of implicit biases and racial discrimination within Friends General Conference. The Peace & Justice Committee will consider LEYM's need for a similar self - examination. We approved adding our name to the list of signers of the Quaker United Nations Office's statement: "A Shared Quaker Statement: Facing the Challenge of Climate Change."

We celebrated our new on-line registration system with gratitude to our Meeting Worker and our Registrar. We also expressed gratitude to five of our members, who, in a two-day service project at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Lima, Ohio, supported recycling and housing for low income families, causes that Woolman surely would have appreciated.

In conversations during meals we mused over what Woolman said to slave-owners or how he might have reacted to issues we grapple with today. We suspect he listened intently, drew people out, suggested prayer. Someone wondered whether he would attend a gay wedding.

Woolman learned from indigenous people, a member of the Earthcare Committee pointed out, about their beliefs in spiritual unity and humans' need to connect with nature to be whole people.

One participant took home our idea of learning from Woolman and came up with a written resolve:

> Listen to people.
> Meet people who are different from me.
> Reach out to "the other" whoever s/he is.
> Focus on needs, not wants.
> Slow down, wait in silence, to say or do things.

Friends **approved**, with our gratitude for the service of the Epistle Committee.

YM2016-37 Other Report Received

Olney Friends School

July 29, 2016

Dear Friends of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,

It is my pleasure to inform you of the recent events and achievements happening at Olney Friends School. Of significant importance is that Olney has now been USDA-certified as an organic farm and campus. This complements the ever-growing farm-to-table program that allows the Olney community to grow and consume much of its own food. Olney has also renewed its accreditation through ISACS (Independent Schools Association of the Central States). Implementation of the new project-based curriculum has allowed for a highly individualized curriculum, leading students to take a greater initiative and responsibility for their personal education.

Olney has maintained its commitment to good stewardship of the earth and the environment. Researchers from Yale University are currently using Olney as home base for a study of Ohio water and air quality. Olney hosts an annual "passport to fishing" event, administered by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, designed to teach youth not only fishing techniques, but also safety and environmental health. Olney classes consistently make good use of their 350- acre campus and farm as living laboratories for study. Finally, let us join in celebration that Olney has elected NOT to lease its mineral rights to the oil and gas industries.

On a more personal note, I now have a niece who enrolled at Olney this past year as a sophomore. She is not shy about giving me the "inside scoop." I am happy to say that I am highly encouraged by her account of the current Olney community and education.

Olney is a great community and school. Head of school Ken Hinshaw specifically asked me to stress that he wants Olney to be available to Quaker and Yearly Meeting families, and not to let finances be an obstacle. They will make it work if it is a good fit. They did it for my niece.

As Olney states on its website, "Olney adheres to basic principles or 'testimonies' that draw on Quaker tradition and values. Among these testimonies are truthfulness, simplicity, non-violence, and respect for the good in every person." In today's world, how many places give teenagers these values?

Truthfulness ... Simplicity … Non -Violence … and respect for the good in every person. It is my belief that providing support to Olney is well-aligned with the values of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. I encourage LEYM to continue its support of Olney.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Mott

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Representative Meeting
April 1, 2017
Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting

RM2017-01 Worship

Representative Meeting opened with a period of open worship near the appointed hour of 1:15 pm. Clerk Mike Holaday welcomed Friends and requested the roll call.

RM2017-02 Roll Call

Akron	2		
Ann Arbor	5	Indiana Worship Group	0
Athens	2	Kalamazoo	7
Birmingham	4	Kent	0
Broadmead	11	Manitou Worship Group	0
Chelsea Allowed Mtg.	0	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Circleville Worship Group	0	North Columbus	2
Cleveland	3	Oberlin	1
Delaware	0	Pine River	0
Detroit	2	Pittsburgh	2
Erie Worship Group	1	Red Cedar	0
Fremont Worship Group	0	Somerset Worship Group	0
Grand Rapids	3	Tustin Worship Group	0
Granville	0	Waysmeet Worship Group	0
Holland	0	Wooster	3
		Total	48

RM 2017-03 Clerk's Announcements

The clerk announced the LEYM ad hoc Committee on Racial Justice, formed at the direction of LEYM at our 2016 Annual Sessions. The Committee consists of Marvin Barnes and Carolyn Lejuste. The Committee will be inviting our Monthly Meetings to join in this work in our lives, our meetings, and our communities.

Friends General Conference has selected Toledo as the site of the 2018 Gathering of Friends. There will be many opportunities for service in connection with their presence within our region.

The debt that was incurred by a teacher in Friends School in Detroit has been liquidated as a result of contributions by many individuals and Meetings.

LEYM will sponsor a service project just before our Annual Sessions at the Habitat ReStore in Lima, Ohio. Please let Olwen Pritchard or Peggy Daub know if you are interested in participating.

A reprint of the LEYM *Advices and Queries* is available. The document is also available online.

RM 2017-04 Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting Request

We have received a request from Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting to assist in work they are undertaking to make their Meeting House accessible. Pittsburgh Meeting has been in discernment for a number of years to determine how to move forward. The Meeting House is a center for activity in Pittsburgh and is used by hundreds of people each week, but cannot currently meet the needs of some local organizations because it is not physically accessible to all. The upgrade will cost approximately $1 million. The majority of the funding will come from private contributions by members, supplemented by a relatively small bank loan.

Although we have not supported renovations undertaken by individual Monthly Meetings before, we did give $1000 for the renovation of the Michigan Friends Center in Chelsea, a site that similarly has broad community use.

Friends approved a gift of $1000 to the Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting to assist in its renovation. This amount will be included in next year's budget, and be paid after July 1, 2017.

RM 2017-05 FGC Institutional Racism Assessment

The clerk reported that the Central Committee of Friends General Conference has approved undertaking an Institutional Assessment on Racism. The assessment will be in two parts. The first part will involve a contractor working with staff and officers of Friends General Conference to develop the tools. The second will train Friends from around the country to use the tools to engage in this work on an ongoing basis. The anticipated date for an initial workshop is September, which it is hoped will involve 70–100 people.

The cost for the overall project is $60,000, and FGC needs an additional commitment of $30,000 by May 1 in order to hold the initial workshop in September. LEYM has already committed $1,400 toward this effort in its current budget.

Friends approved contributing an additional $1,500, as an unbudgeted amount this fiscal year to support the second portion of this effort, to be paid before May 1, 2017.

RM2017-06 Meeting Worker's Report

Mathilda Navias reported on her work as Meeting worker for the fiscal year beginning July 2016.

Mathilda has organized our website to make it more accessible and added a new robust resources section, including sections for religious education, information on LEYM scholarships and financial help, and committee descriptions.

Our seven listservs are now hosted via a paid service at a cost of $180/ year, minimizing the challenges associated with keeping us in contact with each other.

We have budgeted her work for 100 hours a year. She has spent 106 hours thus far, and will be over budget by the end of the fiscal year. There is ample money to pay her.

The full report follows.

Report from Mathilda Navias, LEYM Worker

July 1, 2016 – March 29, 2017

LEYM Website

This year, I've added a Resources section to the yearly meeting website. Please check it out. There are new sections with resources for Religious Education, information on LEYM Scholarships & Financial Help, and LEYM Committee Descriptions. The other sections are:

- Contact Information
- LEYM Calendar
- Links to other websites of interest to Friends (this is particularly robust and well worth checking out)
- Resources for Earthcare
- Resources for Outreach
- Resources for Peace & Justice
- Resources for Committees
- Resources for Meetings & WGs

Documents:

- LEYM Queries & Advices
- LEYM Minutes
- LEYM Epistles
- Policies & Procedures manual
- Financial Policies & Reimbursement Forms

Other parts of the website have been reorganized. Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting now has its own tab on the menu at the top of the screen. All the information that used to be on the website is still there. Information that used to be on committee pages has been moved to the resources section or the contact information page. The committee pages are no longer there.

E-mail Lists

Over the past few years, I became increasingly unhappy with the free listserv providers I had been using for e-mail lists for various groups in the yearly meeting. With Executive Committee's approval, I have begun using a paid listserv provider for the e-mail lists I maintain. There are seven of them:

- Clerks of meetings and conveners of worship groups
- Named representatives from meetings to the yearly meeting
- Executive Committee
- Green Pastures Quarter officers and meeting clerks
- Past participants in LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program
- Current participants in LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program
- Prior to Annual Sessions, Friends who have registered on-line for Annual Sessions

The cost for Electric Embers is $15 a month, which is $180 a year.

Policies & Procedures

Since Annual Sessions, I have updated the Policies & Procedures manual with changes approved by Friends. It is posted on our website.

Time Spent

My work during this fiscal year currently totals just over 100 hours, which is the amount budgeted for all the year. Additional work through Annual Sessions will increase that. Finance Committee appears to be fine with that, and Jeff Cooper says they had anticipated that I would go over the budgeted amount.

The hours spent on the tasks I have performed and the percentage of the total time are detailed below (the number of hours are rounded off).

LEYM Website 32 hours (30%)
- Annual updates following Annual Sessions
- News posts
- Updates and maintenance

Format 2016 minutes & upload to web 10 1/2 hours (10%)

Listservs 14 hours (13%)
- Annual updates of lists following Annual Sessions
- Moving lists to Electric Embers
- Updates

Administration (e-mails, prepare reports, misc.)	11 1/4 hours (11%)
Special projects:	38 1/2 hours (36%)
Update Policies & Procedures	
Edit "Resources for LEYM Committee Clerks"	

Total hours: 106:09 hours (106.25) @ $20 = $2125.00

RM2017-07 Treasurer's Report

Mike Hinshaw, treasurer, reported on our finances. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Nearly all Meetings, and one individual, have made contributions for this year so far, totaling $17,125.40.

Although it appears that we have spent only 29% of the money we have budgeted for travel on behalf of the yearly meeting, approximately $1300 more has already been incurred. People who travel for yearly meeting work are encouraged to request reimbursement for their expenses.

We currently have $72,486 in assets. These assets include the Granville Youth Fund, a donation from the Granville Monthly Meeting. The dividends earned on this fund, which is invested in Friends Fiduciary, are transferred to the Youth Activities Fund.

The complete report follows.

GENERAL FUND INCOME - 2016/2017 Fiscal Year

Meeting (Giver)	Amount	Date
Akron Friends Meeting	220.00	12-Sep
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	3,528.00	Jan
Athens Friends Meeting	2,000.00	4-Oct
Birmingham Friends Meeting	476.00	12-Dec
Broadmead Friends Meeting	980.00	25-Feb
Cleveland Friends Meeting	1,232.00	4-Oct
Delaware Friends Meeting		
Detroit Friends Meeting	616.00	5-Dec
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting	504.00	
Granville Friends Meeting	675.00	26-Sep
Holland Friends Meeting	200.00	14-Feb
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting	980.00	16-Mar
Kent Friends Meeting	640.00	23-Jan
Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting		
North Columbus Friends Meeting	900.00	21-Nov
Oberlin Friends Meeting	840.00	4-Oct
Pine River Friends Meeting		
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting		
Red Cedar Friends Meeting	2,800.00	14-Nov
Wooster Friends Meeting	420.00	12-Dec
Individuals	114.40	12-Dec
Total Contributions	**17,125.40**	
FFC Dividends, Base Account	542.41	
FFC change port value, + or -, Base Acc.	1,148.04	
TOTAL INCOME	**18,815.85**	

Individual Budget lines, 2016-2017 Budget Year				Year-End Adjustments		
ACCOUNT	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE	EXPENSE % 0F BUDGET	Year-End Transfers to funds	Total After Adjusted Expense	In-kind & Restricted Donations
Travel	3,000.00	883.80	29%		883.80	150.00
Office	100.00	104.13	104%		104.13	
Contract worker	2,000.00	2,468.31	123%		2,468.31	
Finance [1]	550.00	500.00	91%		500.00	
Publications	2,200.00	842.28	38%		842.28	
Advancement	100.00		0%		0.00	
Ministry & Nurture	100.00		0%		0.00	
Clerk	300.00		0%		0.00	
FGC	6,000.00	6,000.00	100%		6,000.00	
Michigan Friends Center	0.00				0.00	
Records project	100.00		0%		0.00	
FWCC Travel Fund [2]	1,200.00	1,200.00	100%		1,200.00	
Youth Activities Fund [2]	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%		1,000.00	
H. S. Teen Retreat Fund [2]	0.00				0.00	
Spiritual Formation Fund [2]	300.00	0.00	0%		0.00	
Travel Contingency Fund [2]					0.00	
Olney Friends School	2,000.00	2,000.00			2,000.00	
Consultation Fund [2]	0.00		0%		0.00	
Scholarship Fnd for Ministry [2]	100.00	0.00			0.00	
Summer Work Project	600.00		0%		0.00	
Insurance	500.00	500.00	83%		500.00	
Misc. FGC, one time cont.	1,400.00	1,400.00	280%		1,400.00	
Sub-total Misc.	**21,550.00**	16,898.52	78%	**0.00**	**16,898.52**	**150.00**
Totals	**21,550.00**	16,898.52	78%	**0.00**	**16,898.52**	**150.00**

[1] Includes banking costs

[2] Subsidy from General Fund to other funds

Summary of Funds 2016-2017 Fiscal Year

Fund Name	Starting Balance	Income or Change	Subsidy from General Fund	Cash Expenses	End Balance	Fund Floors and ceilings (000's)
General Fund [1]	25,885.05	18,815.85		16,898.52	**27,802.38**	na / 30
Granville Youth Fund [2]	6,689.28	382.47		122.23	**6,949.52**	na / na
Annual Meeting Fund [3]	3,320.89	17,774.32		18,189.39	**2,905.82**	1 / 3
Youth Activities Fund [4 5]	6,066.09	1,212.23	1,000.00	1,443.35	**6,834.97**	4 / 8
High School Teen retreat Fund [4]	8,074.39				**8,074.39**	3 / 6
Spiritual Formation Fund [4]	3,027.62	2,995.00		2,807.30	**3,215.32**	.5 / 1.5
FWCC Travel Fund [4]	539.83	0.00	1,200.00		**1,739.83**	na / 6
Consultation Fund [4]	3,143.68				**3,143.68**	.5 / 2
Ministry Scholarship Fund [4]	2,000.00	0.00			**2,000.00**	na / 2
Summer Work Proj Fund [4]	2,381.89	95.00		156.80	**2,320.09**	na / 2
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00				**3,500.00**	na / na
Travel Contingency Fund [4 6]	4,000.00				**4,000.00**	2 / 4
TOTAL	**68,628.72**	**41,274.87**	**2,200.00**	**39,617.59**	**72,486.00**	

[1] Includes line item accounting from Budget plus contributions;
also reflects dividends and changes in net portfolio value, FFC base account

[2] Granville Youth Fund is separate FFC account; 'Income or Change' reflects both dividend and change in portfolio value; 'Cash Expense' reflects dividends that have been paid and are then are transferred to Youth Activities Fund

[3] Income includes 861.69 in individual donations

[4] Other funds are managed through accounting and may be subsidized by the corresponding budget lines of the General Fund.

[5] Income includes dividends from FFC Granville YF account

[6] Subsidy = Transfer from Travel Budget

BALANCE SHEET

Location of Assets	CASH ASSETS			Change in Value
	07/01/16	03/30/17		7/1/2016 - 6/30/2017
	Beginning	FF Change	End	
Citizens Nat. Bank, Bluffton, Ohio	32,238.64		34,145.23	1,906.59
Friends Fiduciary, Base Account	29,700.80		31,391.25	1,690.45
> Dividends, Re-Invested		542.41		
> Change in Portfolio Value is + or -		1,148.04		
Friends Fiduciary, Granville YF Account	6,689.28		6,949.52	260.24
> Change in Portfolio Value + or -		260.24		
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	**36,390.08**	**1,950.69**	**38,340.77**	**1,950.69**
Total Cash Assets	**68,628.72**		**72,486.00**	**3,857.28**

Allocation of Assets			
General Fund	25,885.05	27,802.38	1,917.33
Granville Youth Fund	6,689.28	6,949.52	260.24
Annual Meeting Fund	3,320.89	2,905.82	-415.07
Youth Activities Fund	6,066.09	6,834.97	768.88
High School Teen Retreat Fund	8,074.39	8,074.39	0.00
Spiritual Formation Fund	3,027.62	3,215.32	187.70
FWCC Travel Fund	539.83	1,739.83	1,200.00
Consultation Fund	3,143.68	3,143.68	0.00
Ministry Scholarship Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Summer. Work Proj Fund	2,381.89	2,320.09	-61.80
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00
Travel Contingency Fund	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
Total All Funds	**68,628.72**	**72,486.00**	**3,857.28**

RM2017-08 Finance Committee Report

Jeff Cooper, clerk, reported for the Finance Committee.

Susan Hartman audited our books 2014–2016. The books appear to be accurate, in good order, and well-kept. She made minor suggestions for improvement, and noted that nearly all of her suggestions in the last audit have been implemented.

The Finance Committee has the task of setting registration fees and scholarships for our Annual Meeting. LEYM will continue the one-third discount on all costs for first-time attenders and the partial discounts for children. Registration and lodging for children are free, and children receive a two-thirds discount on meals. This will bring the total cost for bringing a child to Annual Meeting to $20–$25 per child. Registration for young adults (ages 19–35) will be free this year in order to encourage attendance.

The Finance Committee will also increase the honoraria for the plenary speaker to $400 and for workshop leaders from outside LEYM to $100.

To accommodate the changes, the adult registration fee will increase for the first time in years. It is set at $55 for early bird registration and $65 for later registration. Friends who are able are still encouraged to donate above their costs to offset the discounts for children and young adults.

The draft budget was presented and is attached. In recent years we have set aside money not only for our own travel to FWCC gatherings, but also to support Friends from less affluent areas. This budget includes an increase of $1800, to be divided equally between LEYM and Friends from less affluent regions.

Total proposed expenses are $21,200, down $350 from the current fiscal year. The per-member contribution of $28 will continue. This will give us a $520 deficit. It should be noted that, even though we have budgeted for a deficit for the past few years, we have always come out ahead.

The full report follows.

Finance Committee Report, Representative Meeting, April 2017

Today we bring you three items.

A. Audit

Last fall Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor Meeting) completed a thorough audit of our books for the years 2014–2016, following suggestions provided in the QuakerPress pamphlet *Friendly Audits*, by Elizabeth Muench. Susan wrote, “The books appear to be accurate and in good order,” and “My overall conclusion is that the books are well-kept.” She made some minor suggestions concerning easier tracing of past transactions – mostly providing cross references between paper and email documents, but also noted that most suggestions she made in the previous audit, four years earlier, have been adopted. All in all, she was pleased with the treasurer’s work, and we were pleased with her careful audit.

B. Registration Fee and Scholarships for Annual Meeting

Our Committee has the responsibility to set registration fees and standard scholarships for the Annual Meeting. (Costs the Yearly Meeting is charged for meals, lodgings, and linens are determined by Bluffton University.)

The standard (early bird) registration fee for Annual Meeting has been $50 for the past four years. This year it will increase slightly for two good reasons:

1) The Finance Committee and the Program Committee have agreed to double the honoraria for the plenary speaker (now $400) and workshop leaders from outside LEYM (now $100). This is the first increase in either since 2006. Other honoraria and guidelines concerning discounts for those who undertake work at Annual Meeting remain the same; notably, those who work fulltime with the children’s program have their registration, meals, and room costs covered. (All of this is explained in *Policies & Procedures*, Appendix E.)

2) In an effort to attract more Young Adult Friends to Annual Meeting, we have decided to eliminate their registration fee. This will apply to Friends ages
19–35.

To cover these additional expenses, the registration fee for those of us who *wish* we were still young adults will increase $5, up to $55, for early bird registration, and $65 for those who miss the early bird deadline. A 1/3 discount for first time attenders will continue from last year, as will discounts for children: free registration, free lodging (including linens), and a 2/3 discount on meals. (Thus, the total cost for bringing a child is only 1/3 of the standard cost for meals, or about $20–$25 for the weekend.)

The Annual Meeting fund has a balance of $2906, so if the discounts result in a loss, we can afford it. For the past several years the registration form for Annual Meeting has invited contributions to help cover the costs of children’s discounts; perhaps this

year it can also be put toward discounts for Young Adult Friends. These contributions are much appreciated.

C. Draft Budget for 2017−18

Budgets always try to reflect recent spending patterns, in our case low-spending patterns. We are also in the fortunate position of having substantial funds supporting several budget lines, which enables us to budget small amounts, confident that if expenses increase we can cover the costs.

Looking at the projection, we see expenses and revenue for the past 3½ years on the left and, on the far right, proposed budget lines for next year, along with the difference from the current year. The recent spending patterns have brought about changes in lines such as Travel (down $500 to $2500, but supported by $4000 in a corresponding fund), Contract worker (up $400 to $2400), and Publications & Archives (up $500 to $2700). I want to draw your attention to one more line among the expenses, FWCC Travel.

This budget line was established to subsidize a fund for sending LEYM Representatives to international gatherings. It builds year by year, leading up to each gathering, when most of it is spent. Recently we have budgeted additional amounts to support attendance at these gatherings by Friends from less affluent parts of the world. In the current year we specified that the budgeted $1200 would be divided into $900 for our own representatives and $300 for Friends from other parts of the world. Following a suggestion a Friend made last year, this year we propose increasing the line to $1800, to be divided equally between LEYM Friends and other Friends.

The budget as presented has total expenses of $21,200, down $350 from the current year. Leaving the suggested contribution per member at $28 and assuming 700 contributing members suggests that our contributions income would be $19,600, with total income of $20,680. This would leave a deficit of $520. We have approved deficit budgets for the past several years, and each year have come out ahead. Finance Committee would be delighted if the Yearly Meeting actually spent all or more of the budget, and we have ample money in the General Fund and other funds to cover expenses if our pattern of under-spending should suddenly change.

Your comments and suggestions on the draft budget are invited.

LEYM Draft Budget 2017 - 2018 Proposed April 1,2017

General Fund Expenses	FY 13-14	FY 2014 -2015		FY 2015-2016		FY 2016-2017			FY 2017-2018	
(* = transfers)	Act 13-14	Budget	Act 14-15	Budget	Act 15-16	Budget	Actual thru 3-31		Draft Budget	Change from 16-17
Travel	1546.70	3,000	3000.00	4000	2,762	3,000	884		2500	-500
Office	18.00	50	48.00	50	88	100	104		125	25
Contract worker	938.12	2,040	1638.19	2000	2,249	2,000	2468		2400	400
Finance	40.40	50	11.00	50	67	550	500		75	-475
Publications	2030.71	3,000	3083.21	3200	1,986	2,200	842		2700	500
Advancement	-175.77	600		100	0	100	0		100	0
Ministry & Nurture	150.00	300	-324.93	100	0	100	0		100	0
Clerk's Fund	0.00	300		300	0	300	0		200	-100
FGC	4,500.00	4,500	4,500.00	4500	4,500	6,000	6000		6000	0
MFC one-time donation				1000	1,000	0	0	Pitts MM	1000	1,000
Records project	200.00	100	100.00	100	100	100	100		100	0
FWCC Travel*	1200.00	2,400	2400.00	1500	1,500	1,200	1200		1800	600
Youth Activity Fund*	1000.00	1,000	1000.00	1000	1,000	1,000	1000		1000	0
High School Retreat Fund*	6000.00	6,300	6300.00	1600	0	0	0		0	0
Spiritual Formation*	100.00	800	800.00	800	800	300	0		300	0
Friends School in Detroit	4500.00	4,500	4,500.00	0	0	0	0			0
Olney Friends School	600.00	600	600.00	2000	2,000	2,000	2000		2000	0
Consultation Fund*	0.00	0		0	0	0	0		0	0
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	1,000.00	500	500.00	500	500	100	0		0	-100
Summer work project		1,200	1200.00	1200	1,200	600	0		300	-300
Insurance	500.00	500	500.00	500	500	500	500		500	0
Misc. FGC [1] (one time contribution)	-2357.70	0		0	0	1,400	1400		0	-1,400
Total Expense =	21,790.46	31,740	29,855.47	24500	20,252	21,550	16998		21200	-350
Contributions Income	29,001.00	29,725	29,502.00	23,040	22,821	19,880	17125		19600	-280
FFC Dividends Income	738.71	600	955.94	1050	1,065	1,050	542		1080	30
Other Income	4010.91	250		0	0	0	0		0	0
Total Income =	33,750.62	30,575	30,457.94	24,090	23,886	20,930	17667		20680	-250
Income - Expenses =	11,960.16	-1,165	602.47	-410	3,634	-620	669		-520	100
			BUDGET UNDERFUNDING. Balance, if needed, comes from General Fund.							
Total Contribution / Members=	$40	$41		$32		$28			$28	$0
Members=	725	725		720		710			700	-10
Suggested contribution / member=	40	$41		$32		$28			$28	$0

[1] 2016-17 budget: one-time contribution to FGC for institutional audit

RM2017-09 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

Carla Pratt Harrington, co-clerk, reported for the Ministry & Nurture Committee.

The Committee is in the process of creating an invitation to travel in the ministry. It joyfully drafted a letter of support for Lucia Ann Kalinosky for the Cooper Scholarship and to attend Earlham School of Religion.

LEYM's Spiritual Formation spring retreat will be held on May 13 at Kalamazoo Meeting. Next year's Spiritual Formation topic is Practicing Forgiveness as a Spiritual Discipline, to be led by Sue Regen.

The Committee received responses from 15 Monthly Meetings to this year's Query, which was: "All Meetings have a welcoming message, whether they know It or not. What is yours?"

Concerns were expressed for welcoming racial minorities, the religiously oppressed, and others often considered disadvantaged; some other Meetings struggled to welcome individuals in military uniforms or those with political views that are less traditional among Friends. Some Meetings approached the query mechanically, addressing the practical question of familiarizing new members with the nuts and bolts of finding or participating in Meeting. Sorrow was expressed by many at the lack of age, gender, or racial diversity within their Meetings. For many, the query also generated additional queries that will help them continue the discernment process going forward.

The full summary follows.

Report on Responses to the LEYM Annual Query for 2017

There were expressions of appreciation for the LEYM Query and one stated: "We appreciate LEYM bringing up this query because it has prompted us to discuss our welcoming message that may be more imperfect than we would like. This discussion has enriched our community and has prompted us to work on improving our welcoming message." Others are looking in depth at what they want their welcoming message to be.

Some Meetings have struggled with how to respond to visitors in military uniform, those who identify as Trump supporters, or are fundamentalist Christian, and then quickly identify the need for openness, acceptance, and non-judgmentalism. The following statement, approved by one Meeting and distributed to media, churches, and community organizations, states: "Political rhetoric has sown divisiveness, fear, and distrust; some of this is directed at those of Muslim faith, the black community, immigrants and refugees, women, the LGBT community and many others among us…. [Our] Meeting is led by the Divine Spirit to open our doors and provide a welcoming space for all in our community including those who are oppressed and persecuted." One Meeting made this statement: "Part of the way of Friends is how we live our lives seeking the truth. Though politics is not what our faith is about, faith leads us to values which in turn affect our politics." A Meeting asks themselves, "Are we fully 'Quaker' if we are not willing to engage people and opinions with which we don't agree?" Two Meetings recognized the need for better signage so that newcomers can find their way to refreshments, First Day School, and potluck.

Many Meetings have greeters welcoming visitors and explaining Quaker unprogrammed worship to attenders unfamiliar with Friends worship. One Meeting is asking themselves, "Should we have a greeter?" Most Meetings expressed the importance of engaging newcomers after worship, welcoming them, and expressing joy at their presence in meeting. Some also use websites, Quaker Cloud, and Facebook to inform people about their Meeting and to invite them. One Meeting has a welcoming "Invitation to worship" printed and given to newcomers – in part it reads "The … Friends Meeting welcomes you to this meeting for worship. We gather in worshipful silence, intending to open ourselves wholly to the Divine Spirit, which we believe is within and beyond each person. Our worship has no human leader and no planned program."

Most Meetings invite visitors to rise and introduce themselves after meeting for worship.

Many stated their Meeting's lack of racial, gender, or age diversity. Some expressed a desire to openly acknowledge white privilege and implicit bias. One stated a retreat on racism and white privilege is being planned for the spring. Another is considering possibilities of how to engage with people of color in their community. One asks, "Could individual Friends make a greater effort to invite people of diverse backgrounds to visit our meeting?"

Some Meetings have no children attending. Others are grateful for Friends in their Meeting who volunteer as teachers and "adult presence" in First Day School. One said they cherish and appreciate children and take care to incorporate them into the Meeting's practices and activities. One response expressed joy that a welcomed visiting family kept coming back.

In many Meetings, the LEYM Query gave rise to meaningful questions and some are included here:

- How would a visitor know about our wish to get past our biases?
- What do we expect of people walking in the door?
- Why do people not come back after a few visits?
- How can we insure that all who worship with us feel truly seen?
- How do we meaningfully engage with differences within our community?

An expressed worry that a visitor might perceive its message as "You are welcome here if you are like us" and wondering what responses might be to asking, "Please join us and help us listen to Spirit," or "Welcome, and how might you change us?"

We ask ourselves what it would be like if our Meeting were significantly more racially or culturally diverse?

A concern was expressed that the location of the Meeting House can have an impact on who comes to meeting for worship.

One Meeting is offering monthly midweek meeting at a public library hoping to provide a "quiet and peaceful respite" for anyone interested. More than one Meeting raised for themselves the concern about explaining "insider knowledge and jargon" so that newcomers feel included.

RM2017-10 Earthcare Committee Report

Alan Connor, Peggy Daub, and Mey Hasbrook reported for the Committee. Peggy reported that Michigan Quakers for Environmental Action (MQEA) plans to work with the Michigan legislature to provide more environmentally friendly laws for the state. If you live in Michigan, expect to be contacted!

Alan reported that FWCC adopted the Shared Quaker Statement on the Environment and encouraged all other Quaker Meetings to support it. Mey reported that a more focused report was produced by the Sustain-ability Group Meeting at FWCC, Section of the Americas, in March 2017. This document will also be available to Friends as they consider the Shared Statement. The document follows.

Report on Sustainability Group Meeting at FWCC, Section of the Americas, 3/2017

On Friday, March 24, 2017, 17 Friends met at the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) gathering in Stony Point, NY, to discuss the sustainability minute approved at Pisac. We had three working groups, and here is a report on what transpired. We'd like to begin with a quote from Isaac Penington:

"Sink down to the Seed … and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows … and will lead … to the inheritance of Life."

Powerful though it was in many ways, we felt the Sustainability minute at Pisac dealt mainly with mitigating anticipated climate disruption. We strongly feel Friends need to go further. Since climate disruption is already adversely affecting the earth as well as the lives of people and other living beings, we need to consider how we can act in solidarity with communities affected by climate disruption as they strive to respond, resist, or adapt. We also need to consider ways in which we can help to restore the damage caused to the Earth.

We see a need for a collective as well as personal spiritual awakening leading to transformative spirit-led action. To be effective, we need to express joy in the changes we have made in our lives and share our joy with others. To be spiritually grounded, we need to deepen our relationship with nature and connect with God's creation. We suggest that Friends traveling in the ministry through FWCC share FWCC's material on sustainability and collect stories about the effects of climate disruption on local communities and how they are responding. We urge each one of us to carry out our Quaker testimony on earth care and lift it up to all the bodies we are part of.

Queries:

How are we as Quakers living our lives as if climate disruption is real and really matters?

How are we showing solidarity with indigenous and marginalized peoples affected by climate disruption?

RM2017-11 Publications & Archives Committee Report

Peggy Daub, clerk, reported for the Publications & Archives Committee.

Berch and Susan Carpenter are stepping down as *Bulletin* editors. A job description was circulated at the meeting. Anyone led to serve LEYM in this role should speak with Susan and Berch.

May 15 is the deadline for submissions for spring *Bulletin*. Jeff Cooper has agreed to edit and compile the *Annual Records* for 2017.

The Committee is working on making more information available on our website. Natalie Finegar, our 2016 plenary speaker, has granted permission to put her talk online. The Committee plans to seek permission to include plenary addresses going forward, and to contact past plenary speakers for consent to include past talks.

The Committee recommends that the Nominating Committee report be posted on our website immediately at the end of Annual Sessions. Friends approved. The directory will not be online until privacy issues on our website are addressed.

The full report is attached.

Publications & Archives Committee: Report to Representative Meeting, April 1, 2017

Our *Bulletin* editors, Berch and Susan Carpenter, are stepping down after serving three years in that position. They have compiled a brief overview of their work, which Susan will distribute now. We appreciate their service and invite you to consider whether you might be led to take up this work. During the past year, they have broadened use of color printing of the *Bulletin*,

allowing the paper copies and electronic copies to look more nearly the same at a modest increase in cost. Offsetting the cost of the color printing, the issues of the *LEYM Bulletin* have been reaching more people electronically. In fact, we have a number of ways in which we offer delivery, so that you can now choose from direct email, downloading from the website, paper copy delivered to the Meeting, or paper copy mailed directly to you. If you don't like the way you are receiving the *Bulletin* now, let us know and we can change it.

Content for the spring issue should be sent to Susan and Berch by May. 15. We are grateful for the work of Rosemary Coffey of Pittsburgh Meeting in com-piling and editing the *Annual Records* for 2016. Jeff Cooper of Ann Arbor Meeting has agreed to compile and edit the *Annual Records* for 2017. Printing, binding, and distribution will be overseen by the Committee.

The three issues of the *Bulletin* are all made available through our website, but the *Annual Records* as a whole is not. Various sections of the *Annual Records* are distributed across different tabs in the website. Minutes from Representative Meeting and Annual Sessions are there, along with the Yearly Meeting history and chronology, guidelines for State of the Meeting Reports, and contact information for monthly meetings.

In thinking about which other sections of *Annual Records* would be usefully accessed from our website we considered questions of both content and privacy. We intend to begin a practice of putting our plenary talks at Annual Sessions online. Last fall we were charged with seeking permission from Natalie Finegar to put the transcription of her 2016 plenary talk online. We now have permission to do this and plan to go back several more years and seek permission to put additional plenary talks online, as well as adding future talks. We recommend that the Nominating Committee report be posted on the website immediately after the end of Annual Sessions each year. This will fill the gap between the end of Annual Sessions and when the *Annual Records* appear in print, which take a few months to compile, print, and distribute. As for other sections of the *Annual Records*, we are clear that we do not want the Directory online until we have some privacy protection, and will continue to consider other sections as to their online propriety and utility.

RM2017-12 Peace & Justice Committee Report

Lucia Anne Kalinosky, clerk, reported for Peace & Justice Committee.

The Committee plans to create a resource packet to assist Meetings who are discerning their leading to become involved in sanctuary or other forms of direct action with respect to immigrants. The packet will include information on actions that may be taken such as sanctuary, accompaniment, and resisting collaboration, as well as the associated legal ramifications. They hope to include phone numbers of lawyers willing to provide legal support. They are discerning whether to recommend to the Yearly Meeting that it provide financial support to Meetings facing legal consequences as a result of offering sanctuary to immigrants.

The Committee reports its concern with the lack of truth and integrity in the public sphere, not just from a political perspective, but also with respect to the spiritual causes and effects of untruths. To the extent we believe in a creator God, untruths in the political realm distort those underlying truths and create spiritual unwellness.

The Committee created a Peace & Justice Roundup in the latest *Bulletin*. Friends welcomed this, and the practice will continue.

RM2017-13 Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

Mathilda Navias, clerk, reported for the Advancement & Outreach Committee. The Committee continues to reach out to Worship Groups and small Meetings to check on their wellbeing and offer assistance. Erie Worship Group is doing well and is offering a community movie night that is increasing its visibility within the community. The Committee is working on an article for the *Bulletin* and samples of outreach materials to be shared at Annual Sessions.

RM2017-14 Nominating Committee Report

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon, clerk, reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The Committee is committed to presenting a full slate of officers before our Annual Sessions. If you are serving on a particular committee but are led to serve on a different committee, please let the clerk of the Nominating Committee know.

RM2017-15 Adult &Family Program Committee

Claire Cohen, co-clerk, reported for the Adult & Family Program Committee. The theme for our Annual Meeting is, "Quakers into the New Millennium." Our plenary speaker will be Greg Woods. Greg currently works in Outreach to Quaker college students on non-Quaker campuses. There will be ten workshops. The talent show will be back, by popular demand, and there will be a movie night on Thursday. The Committee plans a spring push to encourage young adults to attend Annual Meeting. Monthly Meetings are asked to make a special effort to encourage attendance, particularly among young adults.

RM2017-16 Children & Youth Program Committee Report

Joe Mills, clerk, reported for the Children & Youth Program Committee.

The Committee reported it will adopt a practice of "collection" new to LEYM: there will be a brief period of silence and announcements each morning in Ramseyer. Broadmead Youth will send invitations to youth of all monthly meetings inviting them to attend Annual Meeting. It is expected that the program will design a youth t-shirt this year. The Committee reviewed, and is considering, suggestions made by last year's teens.

RM2017-17 Arrangements & Site Committee Report

Jon Sommer, clerk, reported for the Arrangements & Site Committee.

New this year at Bluffton, the control systems in the air-conditioned residences have been updated. Food services is aware of our special dietary needs, and changes will be made to accommodate them. The non-air-conditioned dorm this year will be Bren-Dell, approximately the same distance from Marbeck Center as Ramseyer.

RM2017-18 Minute of Appreciation

Clerk Mike Holaday offered the following minute of appreciation to our hosts, Kalamazoo Meeting.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting expresses its deep appreciation to the Friends of Kalamazoo Friends Meeting for hosting our Representative Meeting for 2017, for opening their homes to traveling Friends, and for providing sustenance for our work together. We wish them much happiness and the many blessings of the Spirit.

Friends approved this minute. The 2017 Representative Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting was adjourned.

Mike Holaday, Clerk
Nancy Reeves, Recording Clerk

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
54th Annual Sessions
July 27 - July 30, 2017
Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

First Session: 7:30 – 9:00 pm, Thursday, July 27, 2017

YM2017-01 Opening Worship and Epistle

The Meeting opened with a period of open worship near the appointed hour.

Clerk Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) read the epistle from the second Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, held March 10–12, 2017. Piedmont Friends shared, with delight, the addition of two Monthly Meetings to their young Yearly Meeting. They also celebrated their early experiences of Quaker process, as they responded to concerns for peace, social justice, care for the earth, and the many who currently feel unsafe in this country. Piedmont Friends were inspired by the actions of their member Meetings in effectively serving the needs of many in their local communities, and of Quaker House in giving love and support to our military returning home from war zones. They seek ways to connect across the Yearly Meeting for effective action, and to sincerely hold the U.S. administration in the Light in loving kindness.

Linked to the concerns, they found at Annual Sessions the joy of gathering, the comfort of shared concerns, the excitement of growing in numbers and energy, and the ever-present love of Spirit among them.

YM2017-02 Opening Comments

Clerk Mike Holaday shared a recent experience of waking up on the wrong side of the bed, taking a walk with a cartoon storm cloud over his head, then unexpectedly encountering a family that included a small girl. As she cruised past him on her bike, she looked up, smiled, and said, "Hello," and the storm cloud magically vanished.

We come together, some of us with our own storm clouds for whatever reasons – personal, related to the state of the world, and so on. Each of us also has the power the little girl had to dissipate storm clouds. The clerk invited us to practice using this power.

YM2017-03 Introduction of the Clerks' Table

Clerk Mike Holaday introduced himself and Nancy Reeves (Cleveland), recording clerk. He noted that we have not had an assistant clerk for the past year. In the absence of an assistant clerk, Rosemary Coffey has agreed to clerk the epistle committee.

YM2017-04 Appreciations

We are grateful for the work of the Arrangements & Site Committee, the registrars, the bookstore manager, and the Bluffton staff in preparing this space for us.

YM2017-05 Welcome and Introduction

We welcomed first-time attenders and guests: Blair Ellis, attender at Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting; Lisa Klopfer, Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting; Stephanie Crumley-Effinger, Earlham Friends School and West Richmond Monthly Meeting; Ginger Swank, Granville Monthly Meeting; and Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting.

Rachel Ernst Stahlhut, FGC Program Coordinator for the Spiritual Deepening Program; Greg Woods, Columbia, Missouri, attending First Friends Meeting of Greensboro, North Carolina, FUM; and Riley Robinson of FCNL are also joining us.

Clerk Mike Holaday requested that Friends with travel minutes bring them to him for endorsement.

YM2017-06 Roll Call

Akron	1	Fremont W.G.	0

Ann Arbor	20	Grand Rapids	4
Athens	13	Granville	1
Birmingham	7	Holland	0
Broadmead	17	Indiana W.G.	0
Chelsea A.M.	1	Kalamazoo	5
Circleville W.G.	0	Kent	0
Cleveland	9	Manitou W.G.	0
Delaware	0	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Detroit	7	North Columbus	5
Erie W.G.	1	Oberlin	2
Pine River	0	Tustin W.G.	0
Pittsburgh	7	Waysmeet W. G	0
Red Cedar	10	Wooster	9
Somerset W.G.	0		
		Total	119

YM2017-07 Acknowledgement of Regular Attenders Absent this Year

We noted the absence of regular attenders: Mike and Vanessa Fuson, Granville Monthly Meeting; Paula Deming, Waysmeet Worship Group; Jo Posti, Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting; Lucia Kalinosky, Cleveland Monthly Meeting; Marvin Barnes, Birmingham Monthly Meeting; and Don and Nancy Nagler, Pine River Worship Group. Friends are invited to sign cards for those who are absent at the table opposite the registration table.

YM2017-08 Naming Committee

Ellen Barnes reported for the Naming Committee. The Naming Committee brings forward the names of Jo Steigerwald, Cleveland Monthly Meeting, to serve a three-year term on the Nominating Committee, and Clémence Ravaçon Mershon, Erie Worship Group, to serve a second three-year term on the committee and to continue serving as clerk.

Friends approved.

YM2017-09 Memorial Minutes

Jim Crowfoot (Ann Arbor) read the memorial minute for Max Heirich.

Max Heirich, 85, a spiritual seeker and member of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, died April 27, 2017, after a long illness. His life was filled with teaching, spiritually informed social activism, and alternative medicine.

A lifelong pacifist, Max was the first conscientious objector in the city of Muskogee. Following a debilitating illness, Max developed a deep commitment to a new synergy of Western and non-Western medicine.

Max will be remembered for his abiding work to make the world a better place, his lifelong passion in defense of social justice, a deep personal identification with the African-American community, his unfailing ability to make close friends, and his love of terrible puns. Max lived from the heart, seeking and expressing his clear sense of divine guidance.

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) noted the passing of John David Stratton, of Wooster Monthly Meeting.

John was a fun-loving guy who spent his life trying to make the world a better and more enjoyable place. He shared his life for 50 years with his wife, Dottie. John was instrumental in beginning the Ashland Center for Nonviolence and Ashland County Oral Health Services. Friends and community members celebrated his life in a memorial service with food fit for partying and dancing in the aisles.

Linda Mills (Kalamazoo) noted the passing of Ruth Pino, a founding member of Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting.

Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens), noted the passing this past year of members David Horn and William

Hummon, and William Beale, attender.

Second Session: 11:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, July 28, 2017

YM2017-10 Opening Worship and Epistle

Into the silence of our opening worship, Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) read the 2017 epistle from Ireland Yearly Meeting.

Reflecting on its theme of "Live simply so that others may simply live," Ireland Friends realized that it can sometimes take longer than we wish to introduce all the changes necessary to "live simply," even though some of these changes may be simple. Reminded that the challenge is as much a spiritual call as a material one, they began a new practice of opening each day with worship and ending with a spiritual reflection on the day's proceedings. Their vision that sustainability must extend beyond their Meetings to their own lives, their families, and their communities was reflected in many sessions and special interest groups and in the simple request to include simpler and more local options in their meals. Under the care of Ministry and Oversight, they heard stories of Friends' loneliness at particular times, and of how they came to an acceptance of being alone and encouraged deep listening of each other's stories. "Vision without action is merely a dream; action without vision just passes the time, but vision with action can change the world." (Joel A. Barker)

YM2017-11 Welcome and Introduction

Clerk Mike Holaday welcomed Friends to the second session of our Annual Sessions and reviewed the agenda. We welcomed first-time attenders Nancy and David Finke, attenders at Oberlin Friends Meeting. David's member-ship is in 57th Street (Chicago) Monthly Meeting.

YM2017-12 Memorial Minutes

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) read the memorial minute for James Satterwhite.

Jim Satterwhite, a beloved member of Broadmead Monthly Meeting, died in August 2016, after a 13-year struggle with Parkinson's disease. As a life-long pacifist, Jim reflected his belief that one's commitment to peace should put oneself on the line in his early experience as a conscientious objector being subjected to biological warfare experiments, as a member of Christian Peacemaker teams in Chechnya, Serbia, and Hebron, and later as a war tax resister whose wages were distrained and against whose home a lien was placed. He urged Friends to join the "bag of rice" campaign to send the message to George Bush that we should feed the people of Iraq, rather than attack them: "If your enemies are hungry, feed them" (Romans 12:20). Jim's interest in the broader world is reflected in his mastery of seven languages, and in the invitation he, and his wife, Olwen Pritchard, extended to students from Poland and Bosnia to attend Bluffton College/University and, at times, to live in their home.

Jim served as a model and a challenge to students, colleagues, Quakers, and others to improve our world.

YM2017-13 Correspondence

We received a letter of thanks from FGC for our gift of $1500 to support the Institutional Assessment focused on identifying and dismantling structural racism within FGC. If total gifts for this purpose exceed the cost of the assessment, unspent gifts will be used to implement the Assessment's recommendations.

We received a letter from Cleveland Monthly Meeting witnessing to its understanding that we are called upon to love each other, no exceptions. Hatred and division never lead to a just society. Cleveland Meeting announced its leading to open its doors and to provide a welcoming space for all in their community, including those who are oppressed and persecuted.

Cleveland Friends encouraged public officials at all levels of government and of all political persuasions to speak truth at all times, and to pursue and model actions that are motivated by love and integrity.

The letter from Cleveland Friends Meeting follows.

Cleveland Meeting

To Mike Holaday, Clerk
2nd Month 26, 2017

Dear Friends

As a Christian community, the Cleveland Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is led by our witness of God to love all of our neighbors. We know through the practice of our faith that we are required by God to love everyone. All persons are equally worthy of love, respect, and justice, and this includes those with whom we do not agree.

Political rhetoric has sown divisiveness, fear, and distrust, some of this directed at those of the Muslim faith, the Black community, immigrants and refugees, women, the LGBTQ community, and many others among us. We also know that many have been left behind, including the unemployed, the under-employed, and abandoned veterans. We are all equally loved by our Creator. Hatred and division never lead to a just society and must be rejected. We are all neighbors united by our common humanity. We are called upon to love each other. No exceptions.

While we continue to pray that our public officials, at all levels of government and of all political persuasions, will reject racist, divisive, and hateful language and policy, the President's initial actions have been to introduce policy that puts marginalized people in danger. We believe that God requires the President and all elected leaders to speak truth at all times. We pray that the administration will change course and will recognize the value of all people within and outside our borders, and will pursue and model actions which are motivated by love and integrity.

Cleveland Friends Meeting is led by the Divine Spirit to open our doors and provide a welcoming space for all in our community, including those who are oppressed and persecuted.

On Behalf of Cleveland Meeting,
Tom Nowel, Clerk

YM2017-14 Epistle Committee

Rosemary Coffey has agreed to convene the Epistle Committee. Clerk Mike Holaday requested additional individuals to join the committee. Friends approved adding Sheila Johnson and Ginger Swank to the committee.

YM2017-15 Database Manager's & Meeting Worker's Reports

Mathilda Navias reported on her work as database manager, a volunteer appointed position. She noted that she and her husband will be leaving Lake Erie Yearly Meeting in two to five years, and encouraged Friends to listen carefully to discern whether they might have the skills and interest to serve LEYM in this capacity in the future.

The work of the database manager is gathering and curating the information we need to carry out our work together, and in the wider Quaker community. The database was recently revised and contact information for Meetings and members completely updated. The database includes information on individual members, Monthly Meetings and worship groups, and LEYM. The ongoing work for the database manager includes systematically gathering current data from our Monthly Meetings, adding data individuals submit periodically, and responding to requests to use the data for Quaker work.

The full report follows.

LEYM Database Manager's Report

July 2017

Mathilda Navias, Database Manager, reported.

I wear a number of hats within Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Many of you know me as the Yearly Meeting Worker, which is a paid position. I am also the Yearly Meeting's database manager, which goes through the nominating process. I would like to make you aware of what that involves.

First, a little history. Since LEYM's newsletter, the *Bulletin*, was first published in 1961, someone has maintained a mailing list. Originally, it was on paper, but in the 1990s it was put on computer. By 2003, instead of being primarily a mailing list for the *Bulletin*, the database had become primarily a tool for

producing a Yearly Meeting directory of members and attenders every two years. The editor of the *Bulletin* maintained a separate, smaller mailing list.

In 2005, Leslie Walden set out to redesign the database from scratch in Microsoft Access 2003. In 2006, I took over that effort and finished designing the new database. Rather than importing the often-outdated information from the old database, however, I decided to start with current data, obtained from each Meeting and worship group. Getting the information from all the groups took perseverance.

In 2007, the directory at the back of the *Annual Records* was expanded from attenders at Annual Sessions to include everyone on the Yearly Meeting nominating slate, Monthly Meeting officers and committee clerks, and worship group conveners. It was hoped that this would meet Friends' need for published contact information. The last separate directory with contact information for everyone in the database was published in 2009. Yearly Meeting officers and committee clerks can get up-to-date contact information, mailing lists, and e-mail lists from the Yearly Meeting worker as needed throughout the year.

Every few years, with the approval of the Yearly Meeting, I have asked Meetings and worship groups for contact information for their members and active attenders in order to keep that information current. Other information is requested of Meetings and worship groups via an "Annual Statistical Report" form. Originally, LEYM's recording clerk was responsible for sending out the blank form, first by mail, then by e-mail; but this didn't always happen, as some recording clerks weren't aware of the responsibility. By 2012, the task had been re-assigned to the database manager. Since then, a report customized for each Meeting or worship group has been e-mailed to them with much of the information already filled out, so that only changes need to be marked. Almost all groups e-mail their reports back; one or two print them out and mail them in each year. The report form has also been revised to make it easier to fill out and to capture new information, such as Meeting websites.

Meetings and individuals send in updated information during the year as occasion arises.

So, what's in the database? The database now contains the following information:

- The current Yearly Meeting slate of appointments
- The list of Monthly Meetings, Preparative Meetings, and worship groups in the Yearly Meeting, as well as the information they report in the annual Statistical Reports. This includes place and time of worship, contact information, officers, and committee clerks or conveners.
- For members and active attenders in the Yearly Meeting, the most recent available contact information, membership status, and Meeting attended, as well as names and years of birth of children. A note about children: the database does not include e-mail addresses for those under 18. Birth years are used to mark them as youth in the Directory at the back of the *Annual Records* until they turn 18. Parents may choose to have their children's names omitted from the Directory. Birth years are also used to generate e-mail addresses to receive information on LEYM's annual K-8 retreat.

As of July 21st, there were 2167 people in 1226 different households in the database, or approximately 2200 people in 1200 households. Friends' information is gathered through requests to Meetings and worship groups, from the annual Statistical Reports, and from registration forms for Annual Meeting and Spiritual Formation retreats.

LEYM has a policy that only Friends General Conference may use this information for mailings. Any other use of the information by a group outside LEYM must be approved by the Yearly Meeting. Individuals may choose to opt out of mailings.

Meetings' annual Statistical Reports are due shortly before Annual Sessions each year, and the information is entered in the database. Following Annual Sessions, information from registrations for those who attended is used to add or update information. This fresh data is then used to generate the following updated contact information:

LEYM's website has a section on Meetings and worship groups to help seekers as well as LEYM Friends find or contact a Meeting.

The Yearly Meeting worker updates a number of e-mail lists to help Friends in the Yearly Meeting communicate with one another, including sending messages and supporting discussion among Monthly Meeting clerks as well as within Green Pastures Quarter.

Sections of LEYM's *Annual Records* book, including information on Meetings, membership, and the

Directory.

If you have a need for information in the database, please inquire. Also, please send any changes you are aware of to me.

Mathilda Navias also reported on the 123 hours she spent as our LEYM Worker. About half of her time is spent on the website. She encouraged Friends to use the LEYM website and to subscribe to it to receive regular news updates. She noted that the Links page in our new Resources section is particularly robust.

The rest of her time was spent managing our various listservs, performing other administrative tasks, and updating the *Policies and Procedures* manual and the Annual Meeting online registration form. A new task was vetting individuals who work with our children during Annual Meeting.

The full report follows.

LEYM Worker's Report

July 2016 – June 2017

Report from Mathilda Navias, LEYM Worker

It's been a busy year for me as LEYM Worker. A little under half of my time was spent on the usual tasks for LEYM's website, including posting news items I took from Quaker publications and e-mails as well as Yearly Meeting news. Would Friends who are currently subscribed to the Yearly Meeting website please raise your hands? Ninety-three Friends are currently subscribed, which means that all news posts are e-mailed to you. There are few enough of these that they don't get annoying, and it's easy to subscribe. Just follow the directions in the upper left corner of the Home page. I also invite you to send me news items to post.

Another quarter of my time was used developing a new Resources section of the website. Please check out the new resource pages. The Links page is especially robust. The LEYM Minutes page has the Yearly Meeting minutes from 2001 through 2016, including a composite file to facilitate searching in the minutes.

I continue to add earlier minutes.

There have been about 8000 views of Yearly Meeting web pages in the past year. Here is a brief run-down of the ten web pages that were accessed the most often (not counting the Home page).

	Page	**Times Viewed**
ii.	Meetings & Worship Groups (2 pages)	over 700
iii.	Annual Sessions	over 600
iv.	*LEYM Bulletins*	over 300
v.	About LEYM	about 250
vi.	About Quakers	almost 200
vii.	*Policies & Procedures* manual	over 200
viii.	Contact Information	about 150
ix.	GPQM Minutes, Reports, & Other Files	about 150
x.	LEYM Queries & Advices	about 100
xi.	Spiritual Formation Retreats	about 100

In addition to the website, I spent my time maintaining and forwarding messages to several e-mail listservs, responding to e-mails, and other administrative tasks.

I brought Policies & Procedures up to date with the latest changes approved by the Yearly Meeting. You can find the updated version on the website.

I updated the on-line registration form for this year's Annual Meeting. We had a bit of a scare when the registrar discovered that not all registrations were reaching her e-mail inbox, but I found the missing forms in the Spam folder of the gmail account for registrations.

The only thing added to my regular tasks this year was vetting the Friends who work with the children at Annual Sessions, which has happened this month, so is not included in the summary.

My total time for the year was about 123 hours, down a little bit from last year. Both years, 100 hours were budgeted, but I was assured by our clerk, Mike Holaday, and Jeff Cooper, clerk of the Finance Committee, that going over budget was not a problem. Without the work on the new Resources section of the website, I would have been within the budgeted hours.

The tasks I have performed during the 2016-2017 year are detailed below.

LEYM Website	52 hours (42%)
Do annual updates following Yearly Meeting	
Post *Bulletins*	
Post news of interest to LEYM Friends	
Format & upload minutes (10:36 hours)	
Prepare & post Epistles (1:17 hours)	
Maintenance	
Special project: New Resources section of website	33 hours (27%)
Listservs (Exec. Cmt., MM Clerks, MM Reps, GPQM) & gmail	15 hours (12%)
Annual updates of lists following Yearly Meeting	
Forward messages to lists	
Maintain & update	
Maintain gmail accounts for officers	
Administration (e-mails, prepare reports, misc.)	13 hours (11%)
Update on-line registration for 2017 Annual Sessions	6 hours (5%)
Gather e-mail addresses from registration & send out e-mails with preliminary documents for 2016 Sessions	2 1/4 hours (2%)
Update Policies & Procedures	1 1/2 hours (1%)
Total	123 hours

Total: 122.95 hours @$20/hr = $2459.00 Total (detailed hours above are rounded)
Total budgeted for year: $2000 for 100 hours of work

YM2017-16 Service Project Report

Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead) reported on this year's service project. Tuesday through Thursday this week, seven members of LEYM worked with Habitat for Humanity Restore in Lima, Ohio, sorting and repricing items that had not yet sold, and meeting with each other, volunteers, staff, and customers in the store. A good time was had by all.

The full report follows.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Service Project

During Tuesday, 25 July, to Thursday, 27 July, seven of us spent time together at the Habitat for Humanity Restore in Lima. We worked on sorting out and repricing items that had not sold in the past three months. Plus, we sorted out and priced Christmas items in the back of the store. We had meeting together, plus lunch, and talked with volunteers, staff, and customers in the store. A good time was had by all.

Olwen S. Pritchard, Broadmead Monthly Meeting
Paul Helbling, Broadmead Monthly Meeting
Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting
Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham Monthly Meeting
Jonah Brownfain, Birmingham Monthly Meeting
Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead Monthly Meeting

YM2017-17 Friends Committee on National Legislation Report

Riley Robinson, FCNL Major Gifts Officer, reported to us on FCNL's work.

FCNL embarked on a capital campaign in 2012, envisioning what FCNL needed to be going forward – including a larger nationwide network and a strong young adult program. Simultaneously, "We are the organization that we need to be, and we are proving it."

FCNL has often been in the leadership in Washington, as one of the oldest, largest, religious- and peace-lobbying groups. In that role it has been able to make a difference.

Riley noted that the "skinny repeal" of the ACA[2] was voted down last night by one vote, thanks to the

[2] The Senate's amendment 667 (McConnell) to H.R. 1628

votes of John McCain, Lisa Murkowski, and Susan Collins – the latter of whom have been facing strong pressure for their stance on healthcare, and attacks as "those lady senators." David Bantz, an Alaskan Friend and a member of FNCL's General Committee, flew to DC on Tuesday morning this week and was able to speak with Lisa Murkowski. FCNL's bipartisan approach gives it the opportunity to meet with people from both parties and to make a difference.

Earlier, the FCNL's Spring Lobby Weekend gave 400 young adults an opportunity to meet with their senators and representatives. This lobby weekend occurred just before the first attempt in this Congress to repeal the ACA. Prior to these visits, FCNL was aware that some members of Congress were wavering. Ultimately, a vote that had been overwhelmingly in favor of repeal in prior Congresses passed by only a narrow margin. We do make a difference.

This win on healthcare gives us a chance to dispel the myth that government doesn't work for us. But we need more, because as significant as this win is, it is not an inclusive win. An inclusive win would be one we would each be comfortable talking about with our neighbors and friends. We are not there yet. What we need is more like consensus – or better than consensus. We need a win that takes into account, and addresses, the real needs of everyone.

FCNL expects a similar process to be used to pass the defense budget, and that it will face steep opposition from corporate lobbyists. Especially in this era of drafting bills in secret and voting on them before anyone has had a chance to read them, bipartisan one-on-one advocacy is critical. Such advocacy gives us a chance to educate our representatives in advance of a vote on a bill that few may have had the opportunity to read. FCNL is ready, having expanded its advocacy teams from 34 to 60 since the beginning of the year.

FCNL continues its work on environmental care, justice reform, and advocacy for Native American concerns. FCNL believes that civil discourse is important in moving forward, and our work with Congress has to involve real discussion and has to address real issues facing us.

Third Session: 1:45 – 3:15 pm, Friday, July 28, 2017

YM2017-18 Friends General Conference Report

We heard from Rachel Ernst Stahlhut, FGC Staff Visitor and coordinator of the Spiritual Deepening Program.

Friends General Conference is a collaboration of Quakers. Rachel shared that she is here in many capacities: to learn about what really good stuff is happening within LEYM and its Monthly Meetings; to pay attention to concerns we may have; and to learn what Friends are longing for, so that FGC can be a better hub to connect Quakers within the U.S. and Canada.

Rachel reminded us that the FGC Gathering will be held in Toledo, Ohio, in 2018.

She shared that the institutional assessment on structural racism within FGC is moving forward.

Friends General Conference programs include a Quaker bookstore – both online and at Pendle Hill, a substantial ministry on racism to support Monthly Meetings working on addressing structural racism and racial healing, supporting Friends of Color within our predominantly white Society of Friends, the Quaker Cloud (an FGC-powered web toolkit), four new Faith and Play stories for use in First Day School, and the year-old Spiritual Deepening program – providing opportunities to deepen our spiritual lives individually and as a community.

YM2017-19 Ad hoc Task Force on Child and Sexual Abuse Prevention Report

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported for the ad hoc task force on child and sexual abuse prevention. The task force included Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh), Flo Friender (Kalamazoo), Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor), Joann Neuroth, and Robb Yurisko (North Columbus). The task force has been able to implement all four elements of the policy that was adopted at our last Annual Sessions, at least in part:

- **Education**: The educational effort belongs to all of us, so we are each invited to read the single-page information sheet and to watch the educational PowerPoint created by the task force.

- **Vetting of volunteers**: A Quaker Meeting, or similar Quaker body, vets each volunteer who works in our children's program during our annual sessions, other than special volunteers for such things as driving to swimming.
- **Two-person presence**: Two volunteers who have been educated and vetted will be present at all times with our children.
- **In Sight**: Everyone involved with children, including special volunteers, is to stay in sight of the group at all times when interacting with children.

We are deeply grateful for the significant work done by this task force in developing and helping us to implement this plan to make our time together a safer space for all of us.

We approved laying down this task force.

YM2017-20 *Policies and Procedures* Manual Report

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), acting at the request of Executive Committee, drafted changes to the *Policies and Procedures* manual to incorporate the new child and sexual abuse prevention policy, and to reconcile it with the reporting policy that was adopted in 1995.

Friends approved the draft, with two minor changes.

A copy of all changes to the *Policies and Procedures* manual, as modified, follows.

Proposed Changes to LEYM *Policies and Procedures* to Integrate the Policy on Preventing Child and Sexual Abuse

7/27/2017

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO P&P (with changes in *italics*):

1. Combine the new policy on prevention of abuse with the existing policy on reports of child abuse (Appendix F), making them two parts of the same appendix:

F. Policies on Child and Sexual Abuse
F.1. Policy on Child and Sexual Abuse Prevention
F.2. Policy for Reports of Child Abuse Made at Yearly Meeting

2. When the earlier policy on reports of abuse was adopted, responsibility for several actions in it were given to the clerk of LEYM. Add a statement to the list of the clerk's duties at III.A. to reflect this:

III.A.1.m. Carry out the specific responsibilities assigned to the clerk in Appendix F.2., Policy for Reports of Child Abuse Made at Yearly Meeting.

3. In the second paragraph of Appendix F.1. change "Children's Program Coordinator" to "Clerk of the Youth & Children's Program Committee." This was a misnaming of the person meant to be responsible for the task:

This policy applies to any time that children are in the organized youth program. Parents or guardians are responsible for their own children during all other hours. The *Clerk of the Youth and Children's Program Committee* or other program staff shall clearly advise parents, guardians, and young Friends of the times covered by the organized program.

4. In the third paragraph of Appendix F.1. change the word "and" (the next-to-last word of the paragraph) to "when." This better reflects the policy's intent, which instructs the Yearly Meeting on what to do when there are reports of abuse:

This policy supplements LEYM's current policy (*LEYM Policies and Procedures, Appendix F.2*. Policy for Reports of Child Abuse Made at Yearly [Annual] Meeting, Adopted June 17, 1995), which addresses how an incident of suspected abuse should be handled ~~*and*~~ *when* reported.

5. In Appendix F.1.a. remove "in their orientation materials" as this information may be conveyed in a number of ways:

Volunteers who work with young Friends shall participate before beginning each year's program in an educational session that matter-of-factly outlines the risk of various kinds of abuse (intentional or otherwise), why these strategies have been designed to mitigate those risks, and the importance of being able to talk frankly about situations that don't feel right.

Attenders to Yearly Meeting sessions all get a brief explanation of our practices and an invitation to attend this session ~~*in their orientation materials*~~. Anyone who is considering answering a call for one-time or last-minute volunteers ("special helper" – see section c) is strongly encouraged to attend this session.

6. Insert Appendix F.1.b.iii. to reflect a change adopted from the floor last year. It states that another Quaker reference may be used if a volunteer is not associated with a Monthly Meeting.

iii. If a volunteer is not connected to a Monthly Meeting, another Quaker reference may be used.

7. Change F.1.b.iv. to remove the words "and considered" and replace with "so that each volunteer has at least one person from their Meeting to vouch for them." The intent is to ensure that a Friendly reference is able to answer yes or no to the questions comfortably, not that the Committee will further test those answers:

iv. Those organizing the youth program shall allow sufficient time in planning and recruiting volunteers to assure that *positive* references are received, ~~*and considered*~~ *so that each volunteer has at least one person from their Meeting to vouch for them* before the program begins.

8. Remove the first paragraph from Appendix F.2. Guidelines and Procedures that recommends two adults be assigned to each group. This is superseded by the new policy in F.1. Renumber the remaining paragraphs.
9. Change index to reflect the changes made in the text:

INDEX
Child Abuse, policy for prevention: Appendix F.1
Child Abuse, policy for reports: *Appendix F.2*
Presiding Clerk: III.A.1; III.A.3.a; III.A.3.d; *Appendix F.2*
Youth & Children Committee: III.C.2.3; *Appendix F.1*

YM2017-21 FGC Working Group on an FGC Institutional Assessment Report

Carolyn Lejuste (Red Cedar) reported for the working group on an institutional assessment focused on identifying and dismantling structural racism within FGC.

Sparked by experiences of racism at Friends General Conference Gathering of Friends held in St. Joseph, Minnesota, in 2016, a number of Friends petitioned FGC to examine the structural and institutional racism within it. The experiences of Friends of Color at the Gathering in Minnesota were not

isolated. At least since 1998 Friends of Color have reported feeling uncomfortable with the geographic sites chosen for the Gathering, outreach that is often ineffective for their community, Quaker traditions and practices that can make sharing a spiritual journey more challenging, and more.

Because FGC has been unable to meet its program budget, it would have been unable to fund this additional work without further cutting programs or finding an additional source of money. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and other Yearly Meetings, Monthly Meetings, and individuals made additional restricted contributions to FGC specifically to cover the estimated $60,000 cost of undertaking this assessment. The full amount has been raised.

FGC has engaged Crossroads Consulting to undertake this assessment. Crossroads Consulting employs a participatory model, develops a shared understanding of institutional culture, teaches us the tools of assessment, and serves as an ongoing resource. This model will allow the benefits of this assessment to continue beyond the period of assessment, and to be shared broadly within FGC constituent groups.

A working group was formed in February 2017. The working group includes Marvin Barnes, Sharon Lane-Getaz, Justin Connor, and Carolyn Lejuste. Additional ex-officio participants include Vanessa Julye, Barry Crossno, Frank Barch, and Amirah Fadhlina (Quaker Voluntary Service).

A task force of 12 people, ideally half white and half People of Color, will soon begin the process of gathering information on structural racism within Friends General Conference.

In November, after the information is gathered, 45 individuals, including the task force, FGC staff, and selected members of Central Committee, will participate in a two-and-a-half-day training. The goal of this training is to help us understand the nature of this predominantly white river in which we exist, and how the identified structural racism prevents Friends of Color from fully participating in the life of our community, so that we can begin to change it. Once the assessment is completed, a full report will be presented to FGC Central Committee.

On a related note, Carolyn Lejuste encourages all Friends to begin or continue their thinking about race by attending, or volunteering to help, the White Privilege Conference that will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on April 4–7, 2018.

Fourth Session: 9:45 – 11:45 am, Saturday, July 29, 2017

YM2017-22 Introduction of Co-Clerks of the 2018 FGC Gathering

Claire and Paul Tinkerhess (Ann Arbor) were introduced as the co-clerks of the 2018 FGC Gathering of Friends, which will be held in Toledo, Ohio, July 1–7.

The theme of the gathering is “The Power of Truth.” This theme stimulates a variety of productive reflections, including the personal sharing of our truths, creating spaces where others feel safe sharing their truths, scientific truth, the challenges of finding the truth in our national leadership these days, and pondering whether we might yet see the powerful emergence of truth in the face of the troubling absence of truth we face recently.

Many LEYM Friends are already working to plan the gathering: Ellen and Marvin Barnes, Friends in residence; Carolyn Lejuste, evening program; Joann Neuroth, workshop committee; Sally Weaver Sommer, local arrangements; Lisa Klopfer, worship; Mathilda Navias, recorder; and Flo Friender, communications.

Friends are invited to join the planning committee. The fall meeting of the planning committee will be held September 22–23 in Toledo, Ohio.

YM2017-23 Treasurer’s Report

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) gave the treasurer’s report. He noted that LEYM has received, and is grateful for, contributions from almost all of our Monthly Meetings. The contributions total $21,477. Our primary investments increased in value by $2990, with generated dividend income of $1094.

We spent $3588 on travel, slightly over our budget of $3000. The excess was taken from the travel contingency fund, a fund set up to permit us to go over-budget on travel in any year. We spent approximately $23,636, a bit more than our budget of $21,550, with $2200 coming from the general fund to make up the difference. Our balance going into the 2017–18 fiscal year is $71,829.

The report follows.

GENERAL FUND INCOME - 2016/2017 Fiscal Year

Meeting (Giver)	Amount	Date
Akron Friends Meeting	220.00	1-Jul
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	3,528.00	12-Sep
Athens Friends Meeting	2,000.00	4-Oct
Birmingham Friends Meeting	476.00	12-Dec
Broadmead Friends Meeting	980.00	25-Feb
Cleveland Friends Meeting	1,232.00	4-Oct
Delaware Friends Meeting	336.00	18-May
Detroit Friends Meeting	616.00	5-Dec
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting	504.00	8-Jan
Granville Friends Meeting	675.00	26-Sep
Holland Friends Meeting	200.00	14-Feb
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting	980.00	16-Mar
Kent Friends Meeting	640.00	23-Jan
Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting		
North Columbus Friends Meeting	900.00	21-Nov
Oberlin Friends Meeting	840.00	4-Oct
Pine River Friends Meeting		
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting	3,976.00	5-May
Red Cedar Friends Meeting	2,800.00	14-Nov
Wooster Friends Meeting	420.00	12-Dec
Individuals	154.40	12-Dec
Total Contributions	**21,477.40**	
FFC Dividends, Base Account	1,093.93	
FFC change port value, + or -, Base Acc.	2,990.11	
TOTAL INCOME	**25,561.44**	

Individual Budget lines, 2016-2017 Budget Year

ACCOUNT	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE	EXPENSE % 0F BUDGET	Year-End Adjustments: Year-End Transfers to/from funds	Total After Adjusted Expense
Travel [1]	3,000.00	3,588.36	120%	(588.36)	3,000.00
Office	100.00	557.65	558%		557.65
Contract worker	2,000.00	2,936.58	147%		2,936.58
Finance [2]	550.00	500.00	91%		500.00
Publications	2,200.00	2,353.00	107%		2,353.00
Advancement	100.00		0%		0.00
Ministry & Nurture	100.00		0%		0.00
Clerk	300.00		0%		0.00
FGC	6,000.00	6,000.00	100%		6,000.00
Michigan Friends Center	0.00				0.00
Records project	100.00	100.00	100%		100.00
FWCC Travel Fund [3]	1,200.00	1,200.00	100%		1,200.00
Youth Activities Fund [3]	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%		1,000.00
H. S. Teen Retreat Fund [3]	0.00				0.00
Spiritual Formation Fund [3]	300.00		0%		0.00
Olney Friends School	2,000.00	2,000.00			2,000.00
Consultation Fund [3]	0.00		0%		0.00
Scholarship Fnd for Ministry [3]	100.00				0.00
Summer Work Project	600.00		0%		0.00
Insurance	500.00	500.00	100%		500.00
Misc. FGC, *two* times cont.; FG(	1,400.00	2,900.00	207%		2,900.00
Sub-total	**21,550.00**	23,635.59	110%	**(588.36)**	**23,047.23**
Misc.					
Totals	**21,550.00**	23,635.59			

[1] Actual expense adjusted from the Travel Contingency Fund
[2] Includes banking costs
[3] Subsidy from General Fund to other funds

Summary of Funds 2016-2017 Fiscal Year

Fund Name	Starting Balance	Income or Change	Subsidy from General Fund	Cash Expenses	End Balance	Fund Floors and ceilings (000's)
General Fund [1]	25,885.05	25,561.44		23,047.23	**28,399.26**	na / 30
Granville Youth Fund [2]	6,689.28	912.80		244.46	**7,357.62**	na / na
Annual Meeting Fund [3]	3,320.89	17,774.32		18,189.39	**2,905.82**	1 / 3
Youth Activities Fund [4 5]	6,066.09	1,334.46	1,000.00	2,244.16	**6,156.39**	4 / 8
H S Teen retreat Fund [4]	8,074.39				**8,074.39**	3 / 6
Spiritual Form. Fund [4]	3,027.62	3,165.00		3,372.48	**2,820.14**	.5 / 1.5
FWCC Travel Fund [4]	539.83		900.00		**1,439.83**	na / 9
FWCC Travel Donation [4]			300.00		**300.00**	na / 9
Consultation Fund [4]	3,143.68				**3,143.68**	.5 / 2
Ministry Sch'ship Fund [4]	2,000.00				**2,000.00**	na / 2
Summer Work Proj Fund [4]	2,381.89	95.00		156.80	**2,320.09**	na / 2
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00				**3,500.00**	na / na
Travel Cont'cy Fund [4 6]	4,000.00			588.36	**3,411.64**	2 / 4
TOTAL	**68,628.72**	**48,843.02**	**2,200.00**	**47,842.88**	**71,828.86**	

[1] Includes line item accounting from Budget plus contributions; also reflects dividends and changes in net portfolio value, FFC base account

[2] Granville Youth Fund is separate FFC account; 'Income or Change' reflects both dividend and change in portfolio value; 'Cash Expense' reflects dividends that have been paid and are then are transferred to Youth Activities Fund

[3] Income includes 861.69 in individual donations

[4] Other funds are managed through accounting and may be subsidized by the corresponding budget lines of the General Fund.

[5] Income includes dividends from FFC Granville YF account

[6] Subsidy = Transfer from Travel Budget

BALANCE SHEET

Location of Assets	CASH ASSETS			Change in Value
	07/01/16	07/17/17		7/1/2016 - 6/30/2017
	Beginning	FF Change	End	
Citizens Nat. Bank, Bluffton, Ohio	32,238.64		30,686.40	-1,552.24
Friends Fiduciary, Base Account	29,700.80		33,784.84	4,084.04
> Dividends, Re-Invested		1,093.93		
> Change in Portfolio Value is + or -		2,990.11		
Friends Fiduciary, Granville YF Account	6,689.28		7,357.62	668.34
> Change in Portfolio Value + or -		668.34		
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	**36,390.08**	**4,752.38**	**41,142.46**	**4,752.38**
Total Cash Assets	**68,628.72**		**71,828.86**	**3,200.14**

Allocation of Assets				
General Fund	25,885.05		28,399.26	2,514.21
Granville Youth Fund	6,689.28		7,357.62	668.34
Annual Meeting Fund	3,320.89		2,905.82	-415.07
Youth Activities Fund	6,066.09		6,156.39	90.30
High School Teen Retreat Fund	8,074.39		8,074.39	0.00
Spiritual Formation Fund	3,027.62		2,820.14	-207.48
FWCC Travel Fund (incl. Travel & Donation)	539.83		1,739.83	1,200.00
Consultation Fund	3,143.68		3,143.68	0.00
Ministry Scholarship Fund	2,000.00		2,000.00	0.00
Summer Work Proj Fund	2,381.89		2,320.09	-61.80
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00		3,500.00	0.00
Travel Contingency Fund	4,000.00		3,411.64	-588.36
Total All Funds	**68,628.72**		**71,828.86**	**3,200.14**

YM2017-24 Finance Committee Report

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor), clerk, reported for the Finance Committee.

Expenditures in July

Jeff noted that our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30, which occasion-ally creates challenges because our Annual Sessions are now held in July, rather than June. The Finance Committee agreed that the treasurer is authorized to spend up to 10% or $100 per line item of the proposed draft budget in July.

Per-mile reimbursement

The per-mile reimbursement rate for driving was increased to 45¢ per mile last year, and the Finance Committee decided it should remain there.

Assistance to attend the 2018 FGC Gathering of Friends

The Finance Committee considered how to encourage attendance at the FGC Gathering of Friends in

Toledo in 2018. It proposes three ways to do so:

Scholarships for children: Finance Committee proposes setting aside $2000 from the Youth Activities Fund to help children attend the FGC Gathering, one of the designated purposes of the fund. In accordance with the fund guidelines, scholarships would be limited to $300 for any one child.

Scholarships for teens: The High School Teen Retreat Program has a balance of $8074 and no current activity. The Finance Committee proposes taking $3000 from this fund, to be made available to support the attendance of teens at the FGC Gathering of Friends. Because this is not an authorized purpose for this fund, it would require approval from this body.

Scholarships for adults: The value of our Friends Fiduciary accounts increased by $2990 in the past year. The Finance Committee suggests that this unbudgeted increase in assets could be added as an expense in our budget and made available as scholarships to adults to attend the FGC Gathering of Friends, and seeks Friends' guidance. Providing scholarships to individuals who have not been appointed as our representatives to attend Quaker events would be a departure from our usual practices.

Friends suggested that the Finance Committee also consider setting aside a similar scholarship for Friends who wish to attend the White Privilege Conference, and perhaps appointing an attender or representative.

Concerns were raised about treating an increase of value of our assets as real income, and suggested that it would be more appropriate to consider what we want to do independent of the increase in value of our assets, and that we might also consider the ethical implications of investing such significant assets in the capitalist system, as opposed to using and circulating our assets for good.

Enthusiasm was expressed for supporting teen attendance at the FGC Gathering, and it was suggested that, if we are enthusiastic about supporting children and teens, we may need to support their parents attending as well.

Budget

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2017–18 was presented.

The suggested per-member contribution to LEYM for fiscal year 2017–18 will be $29, a $1 increase from last year. [*Note: this amount was adjusted to $30 in YM2017-29*]

Loan

Friends School in Detroit has closed, and the property been put up for sale. The Board of Friends School is seeking loans to carry the School forward until it is sold. The Finance Committee recommends loaning it $5000, with the expectation that it would be repaid by the end of the calendar year. The expected sale price would permit repayment of the loans with 2% interest.

It was noted that Friends School in Detroit has a history of unexpected things happening, and that if this happens we might not be repaid in full, or at all. Although nothing is guaranteed, the Board of Friends School in Detroit previously received, and rejected, an offer of $1 million for the property. It expects to receive higher offers within the next month.

We will revisit matters requiring action this afternoon.

Finance Committee Report

I. Mileage reimbursement

The **per-mile reimbursement** rate for driving was increased to 45¢ per mile last year and we decided that it should remain there.

II. Expenditures in July

Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. When LEYM changed its schedule to hold Annual Meeting in late July, we created the possibility of needing to pay expenditures in July *before* our budget for the fiscal year was approved. Fortunately, there are not many expenditures in July other than those for Annual Meeting, which don't depend on the budget. We at last decided the time had come to address this issue, and agreed on a policy

whereby the treasurer is authorized, for any budget line, to spend up to 10% of the amount presented in the draft budget at Representative Meeting or up to $100, whichever is greater; for any expenditure exceeding 10% of a budget line or $100, the treasurer must seek approval of the Finance Committee.

III. Review of our Investment in the Friends Fiduciary Green Fund

Last summer we were somewhat concerned that our investment in the Green Fund was not a good investment from a fiscal perspective. The semi-annual payouts were reliable, but our accounts had lost nearly $2000 (dropping from $38,348 to $36,390) in the previous fiscal year. This year the fund has done much better, increasing by over $4750 (to $41,142), and we are no longer concerned. We continue to think that the Green Fund better reflects the values of the Yearly Meeting.

IV. Helping Friends Attend the 2018 FGC Gathering in Toledo

The idea was suggested to us that, with the FGC Gathering in our region next year, we should try to encourage attendance by offering financial assistance to Friends in the Yearly Meeting. We are presenting three ways to do so, divided by age group.

A. Scholarships for Children. One of the intended purposes of the Youth Activities Fund is to support children attending the FGC Gathering. With that in mind, we propose setting aside $2000 from that fund for scholarships for children up through grade 8 to attend the Gathering next year. By definition, the maximum for any one child is $300. We envision setting an application deadline of perhaps March 25, at which point all applications would be considered and distribution of money approved. This would follow the usual process of applicants completing the Youth Activities Fund "application for assistance" form, which would then be considered by the presiding clerk, the treasurer, and the clerk of the Youth & Children Committee. The current balance in the Youth Activities Fund is $6156.

B. Scholarships for Teens. The High School Teen Retreat Program has been inactive for the past two years, and the fund for High School Teen Retreats has a balance of $8074, including a donation of $3500 earmarked for that fund shortly before the program became inactive. We propose that $3000 from this fund be made available to high-school-age youth wishing to attend the 2018 Gathering. The process for distributing scholarships would be the same as for the children, but without the $300 limit per individual. Using this fund for scholarships to attend the FGC Gathering **would require approval** from Yearly Meeting, as this does not match the fund's original purpose.

C. Scholarships for Adults. As the treasurer's report showed, in 2016–17, the value of our Friends Fiduciary accounts increased by $2990. We do not budget for portfolio changes, but this increase helped our cash assets grow by $3200. If the Meeting wishes to support adults attending the 2018 Gathering, this $2990 could be made available for scholarships by adding it as an expense in this year's budget. This would likely result in income falling short of expenses, but we can afford to lose the $2990 that we gained this year.

Note that funding such scholarships would be a departure from the way LEYM has traditionally spent its money. Most budget lines and funds support the functions of the Yearly Meeting or our representatives to other organizations. The Finance Committee presents this method of supporting adults within the Yearly Meeting as a *possibility* – not a proposal or recommendation – if Friends are led to pursue this path.

V. Budget for 2017–18

At Representative Meeting we presented a budget with total expenses of $21,200. Since then, we have made adjustments based on end-of-year figures in the treasurer's report and other new information. The most significant changes are Travel (up $1000 because of many new travel expenses since Representative Meeting) and Publications (because we estimated low last year and printing costs will likely be higher in the new year). These and other small changes result in a new total of $22,275 *without* scholarship money for helping adults attend next year's FGC Gathering, and $25,265 *with* this scholarship funding. We have re-budgeted contributions income at $21,680 by adding $1 to the suggested per-member contribution, bringing this figure up to $29/member. This number is again based on 710 contributing members.

This is a deficit budget, as we have had for the past several years, during most of which we have come out ahead. The deficit is $595 *without* the scholarship funding, and $3585 *with* scholarship funding.

VI. Loan to Friends School in Detroit

As you may have heard, Friends School has closed and the property has been put up for sale. Certain expenses either continue (e.g., insurance, utilities, maintenance of building and grounds) or are associated with the sale (e.g., legal fees), and the School's bank account is nearly depleted. The Board of Friends School has asked Monthly Meetings within Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting for small loans to carry the School forward until it is sold; the expected sale price would easily allow repayment of loans with a 2% per annum interest rate, though nothing is guaranteed.

The Finance Committee proposes that LEYM loan Friends School $5000, with the expectation that it would be repaid by the end of the calendar year. (Note that in the recent past we contributed $4500 a year to Friends School.) Full disclosure: all three members of the LEYM Finance Committee are also members of the Board of Friends School in Detroit.

YM2017-25 Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

Mathilda Navias, clerk, reported for the Advancement & Outreach Committee.

One of the roles of Advancement & Outreach Committee is to engage in outreach to our smaller Monthly Meetings and worship groups. After a period of exploring whether Pine River Monthly Meeting wanted to remain a Monthly Meeting, Pine River has decided that being a worship group meets the needs of the eight to ten attenders, many of whom do not have a Quaker background. The worship group does not currently plan to be under the care of a Monthly Meeting. This means that individual members who wish to remain members of the Religious Society of Friends will need to transfer their membership to a Monthly Meeting. Carolyn Lejuste, Red Cedar Monthly Meeting, volunteered to reach out to Pine River Friends.

Fremont Worship Group will consider this fall whether they will disband. Friends from Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting, which has care of the worship group, plan to meet with them.

Advancement & Outreach Committee will continue to be in touch with the worship groups and smaller Meetings in the Yearly Meeting to see if they can be of assistance.

The full report follows.

Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

Pine River Friends have been going back and forth in the last two years whether to remain a Monthly Meeting or revert to a worship group. On their Statistical Report, Don and Nancy Nagler reported that they have decided to become a worship group. I have spoken with them on the phone, and they report that the current group of eight to ten is made up mostly of people with no Quaker background, for whom a worship group works well.

Herbert Lindsay, who is the convener of the Fremont Worship Group, reported on their Statistical Report that they are not meeting over the summer, and will decide in the fall whether to disband. Several Friends from Grand Rapids Meeting, which has care of the worship group, plan to meet with them then.

Members of the Advancement & Outreach Committee continue to be in touch with the worship groups and smaller Meetings in the Yearly Meeting to ask how they are doing and if we can be of help.

The A&O Committee has a display upstairs that we invite Friends to visit. There are a bunch of things you can take home with you, including sample Quaker business-sized cards, maps of the Yearly Meeting, and a number of FGC bookmark-sized cards to welcome and inform newcomers. A poster of suggestions for what things to avoid saying and good things to say to welcome newcomers is on display. The bookmarks and poster can be downloaded from FGC's website. Please take some for your Meeting.

In May, Baltimore Yearly Meeting sent LEYM an invitation to visit their annual sessions, which are from July 31 to August 6, and begin right after our sessions end. Through their Intervisitation Program, they offered to cover registration, room, and board for two Friends who felt led to visit. It appears that they sent this invitation to all Yearly Meetings in North America. Mike Holaday, our clerk, asked the Advancement & Outreach Committee to find LEYM Friends led to visit.

E-mails with this news were sent to all LEYM Meetings and worship groups and a news item was posted on the Yearly Meeting website. Sam Milford of Pittsburgh Meeting is scheduled to attend with her husband. Sam is a member of Pittsburgh's Outreach Committee and serves LEYM as a representative to FWCC. Pittsburgh is close to the area Baltimore Yearly Meeting covers, and she thinks of them as a neighbor. Sam plans to write a

brief report to be printed in the *Bulletin*.

Becky Morehouse and other committee members wrote an article for the *Bulletin* describing how to organize Friendly Eights groups.

The committee has scheduled a Saturday meeting in September.

Fifth Session: 1:15 – 3:15 pm, Saturday, July 29, 2017

YM2017-26 Earthcare Committee Report

Russ Adams (North Columbus), co-clerk, reported for the Earthcare Committee.

The Earthcare challenge, as voiced by Ken Lawrence, is that planetary catastrophe is now inevitable. Working to avoid catastrophe is no longer useful; instead we need to create resilient communities that will face the difficulties ahead with grace and love.

The Earthcare Committee is considering creating its own sustainability platform, premised in part on concepts embodied in the 1754 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Epistle:

Now dear friends, if we continually bear in Mind that highest law, of doing to others, as we would be done by, we shall never think of bereaving tomorrow's people of that valuable Blessing, freedom . . . that where we live at the expense of those yet to come, such lives tend to harden the Heart, and render the Soul less susceptible of that holy Spirit of Love, Meekness, and Charity which is the peculiar Character of a true Christian and of other golden-ruled friends of many global faiths.

Is it possible that, by addressing root causes as well as symptoms, we might help tomorrow's people open pathways to prosperity, freedom, and peace for all time? Is it possible that some of us might do for the fullest-possible sustainability, today, what our ancestors did for abolition?

The full Earthcare Committee report follows.

LEYM Earthcare Report 2017

1.01 Greetings, Friends, from your Earthcare Committee, where worry should be part of our name.

1.02 As we sat down this week, Ken Lawrence shared his views of earthcare challenges.

a. "**Planetary catastrophe is now inevitable,** and for many people it is happening already. It will get much worse. Climate change, resource shortages, overpopulation, and economic dysfunction are some of the contributing factors. We have passed the time when it might have been possible to turn things around. Humanity may never have had the cultural capacity to make the changes that were needed.

b. "I don't view this statement as pessimistic or despairing, but as facing reality with eyes wide open. If we don't recognize hard truths honestly, how can we make good decisions about our actions?"

1.03 So, as Prince sang, "Are we just gonna party like it's 1999?" Here's what Ken suggested:

"Working to avoid catastrophe is no longer useful. Instead we need to work to create resilient communities that will face the difficulties ahead with grace and love, trying to preserve what is good about humanity, and to appreciate the beauty and pleasure of each new day."

1.04 Most of those present at Earthcare Committee did not dissent from Ken's dire assessment. At some point, Shannon Pratt-Harrington, a young adult Friend, very politely reminded all of us older "silver hairs" that this is her generation's future we're talking about!

1.05 So, many in Quaker Earthcare Witness, QUNO, FWCC, and elsewhere fear that, as unsustainable societies degrade, a cascade of symptoms will be thrown off like sparks from an emery wheel. Our "love tomorrow's neighbors as we love ourselves" must be big enough to deal with all symptoms. And our "love for tomorrow's neighbors" must be big enough so that we can also recognize and deal with **root causes**, like overpopulation and overconsumption, that explain our persistent human lack of sustainability!

1.06 Is it possible, as we discussed at some length in Earthcare Committee, that an accurate model of civilization might better explain human history, especially genocide, re-enslavement, and war? Is it possible that the population-cycle civilization model predicts more exacting steps needed to improve our resilience in both peace care and earthcare? A **Handout** is circulating for all Friends who wish to

follow or contribute to this earthcare discussion.

1.07 Is it possible, also as we discussed in Earthcare Committee, that something really beautiful was lost in the decades after 1972? Then, population-aggressive industrial businesses and religion businesses killed Public Law 91-513, the Commission on Population and America's Future. Again, if you want to follow along or contribute to this discussion, a separate **Handout** is circulating.

LEYM/QEW EARTHCARE PLATFORM

1.08 Very exciting to some of us is a new QEW effort to draft a platform. QEW expects to work from great resources like Black Lives Matter and the LEAP Manifesto (Canadian Indigenous/Migrant peoples).

1.09 Some of us discussed a possible LEYM Earthcare platform of our own, perhaps built on the 1754 Epistle of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting that became a basis for the Abolition movement.

1.10 Might we capture historic continuity between the *abolition movement* and the *sustainability movement* that Shannon's generation deserves?

1.11 Might this help us open doors to sister faiths – Mennonites, UU – about our call to resilience that Shannon's generation deserves?

1.12 Some Friends will find some older language antiquated. So we may add a short, modern explanation using language like that of the Pisac Plenary Minute on "Sustaining Life on Earth."

1.13 I'll share with you this short, slightly-modified paragraph from the 1754 PYM Epistle.

"Now dear Friends, if we continually bear in Mind that highest law, of doing to others, as we would be done by, we shall never think of bereaving tomorrow's people of that valuable Blessing, freedom; nor to endure growing comfortable by tomorrow's people's loss. To live in Ease and Plenty, by resources that our recency of birth has put in our Power, is neither consistent with Christianity, nor common Justice; and we have good Reason to believe, draws down the Displeasure of Heaven, it being a melancholy but true Reflection, that where we live at the expense of those yet to come, such lives tend to harden the Heart, and render the Soul less susceptible of that holy Spirit of Love, Meekness, and Charity, which is the peculiar Character of a true Christian and of other golden-ruled friends of many global faiths."

1.14 Friends, is it possible that by addressing *root causes* in addition to *symptoms* we might help tomorrow's people open pathways to prosperity, freedom, and peace for **all** time? Is it possible that some of us might do for the fullest-possible sustainability, today, what our ancestors did for abolition?

1.15 Dear Friends, this is your Earthcare Report for 2017. If there are questions, you know who we are!

YM2017-27 Nominating Committee Preliminary Report

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie), clerk, made a preliminary report for the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee has made nominations for all of the officers, communications people, the database manager, most committees, and representatives to most Quaker organizations. Friends are being appointed to positions that, generally, have three-year terms. A few Friends have accepted such nominations with the understanding that they will be able to reconsider their ability to continue serving in those positions on an annual basis.

The Nominating Committee is still seeking individuals to serve on Advancement & Outreach (2 persons), Finance (1), Publications & Archives (1), Adult & Family Program (1), and Youth & Children's Program (1), and someone to serve on FGC Central Committee beginning later this year.

YM2017-28 Peace & Justice Committee Report

Shelley Kotz (Broadmead) and Helen Fox (Ann Arbor) reported for the Peace & Justice Committee. Lucia Kalinosky, who has been clerking the committee, has moved to Minneapolis to study interreligious chaplaincy. The committee asks that we join them in holding her in the Light as she begins this new venture.

LEYM has significant investments in Friends Fiduciary Corporation. Friends Fiduciary is the investment company that manages the assets of about 360 U.S. Quaker institutions, including Yearly, Quarterly, and Monthly Meetings, trusts, retirement communities, schools, and other non-profits. Friends Fiduciary actively selects investments that are consistent with human rights and social responsibility, and has zero

tolerance for investments in companies that enable or directly participate in weapons productions. Currently, however, it does not exclude companies that contribute in other ways to Israel's Occupation.

At the request of the Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting, three specific companies that support or enable Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands have been excluded under Friends Fiduciary's existing screening policies. Ann Arbor Friends Meeting has now requested that Friends Fiduciary expand its Quaker Values Screening Criteria to exclude any company that provides products or services that contribute to:

Violent acts that target either Israeli or Palestinian civilians;

The maintenance of the Israeli military occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem;

The maintenance and expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories;

The maintenance and construction of the Separation Wall

Currently, Ann Arbor Friends are seeking minutes in support of expanded screening criteria, in response to the suggestion from Friends Fiduciary that statements from additional investors would carry more weight. It is hoped that these minutes will urge a change in investment strategy by Friends Fiduciary, with the ultimate goal of changing Israeli behavior in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Peace & Justice Committee recommends that LEYM adopt the following minute:

> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting requests that Friends Fiduciary Corporation expand its Quaker Values Screening Criteria to exclude investments in companies that support or are complicit with Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands, its economic exploitation and control of the Palestinian population, and/or its violations of international human rights law.

Friends approved the minute.

The full report follows.

Peace & Justice Committee Report

Request

LEYM's Peace & Justice Committee requests that Lake Erie Yearly Meeting adopt a minute urging Friends Fiduciary Corporation to exclude companies from its investments that support or are complicit with Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands, its economic exploitation and control of the Palestinian population, and/or violations of international human rights law.

Background

Friends Fiduciary Corporation is the investment company that manages the assets of about 360 U.S. Quaker institutions including Yearly, Quarterly, and Monthly Meetings, trusts, retirement communities, schools, and other non-profits. According to its mission, FFC is guided by Quaker principles, values, and testimonies, and aims to "align its investments with mission through proactive Quaker-Values Screening." It evaluates companies across multiple dimensions, including human rights and other socially responsible measures. It has zero tolerance for investments in companies that produce weapons or parts of weapons or that enable weapons. Currently, however, it does not exclude companies that contribute in other ways to Israel's Occupation.

In 2012, responding to a request of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, Friends Fiduciary removed three companies that support or enable Israel's Occupation from its socially responsible investment screen: Caterpillar, Hewlett Packard, and Veolia Environment, on the grounds that they violate existing Quaker values criteria, including military and environmental concerns.

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting now requests that Friends Fiduciary take the next step. Our new minute asks Friends Fiduciary to expand its Quaker Values Screening criteria to exclude any company that provides products or services that contribute to:

- violent acts that target either Israeli or Palestinian civilians
- the maintenance of the Israeli military occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem
- the maintenance and expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories

- the maintenance and construction of the Separation Wall

Currently, Ann Arbor Friends Meeting is seeking minutes on this issue from Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings and other Quaker institutions in order to demonstrate to Friends Fiduciary a broad base of constituent support. Since LEYM was one of the first regional Quaker Meetings to recommend divestment from companies that support the Occupation (Minute on Israel-Palestine, 2013), we hope it will join AAFM in this effort.

Proposed wording of LEYM's Minute:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting requests that Friends Fiduciary Corporation expand its Quaker Values Screening Criteria to exclude investments in companies that support or are complicit with Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands, its economic exploitation and control of the Palestinian population, and/or violations of international human rights law.

YM2017-29 Finance Committee Report

Jeff Cooper, clerk, reported. He noted that making a profit is not a goal of the Finance Committee, and that, when we do, we seek ways to use it.

In response to five specific proposals from the Finance Committee, Friends took the following actions:

Friends approved spending up to $3000 from the High School Teen Retreat fund for scholarships to help LEYM high school-age students attend the 2018 FGC Gathering of Friends.

Friends approved spending up to $3000 from the General Fund to provide financial assistance to LEYM adults to attend the 2018 FGC Gathering of Friends. $3000 would be withdrawn from our Friends Fiduciary account for this purpose.

Friends approved spending up to $1000 to help LEYM Friends who register through Friends General Conference to attend the White Privilege Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 2018. This would be partially offset by adding $1 to the suggested per-member contribution to LEYM, bringing the suggested contribution to $30 per member.

The White Privilege Conference is not a Quaker gathering, but FGC has helped sponsor it and receives a registration discount. The conference provides tools that participants describe as invaluable in making a difference in their work of dismantling white privilege in the broader world.

Friends approved the 2017–2018 budget, as modified to take into account the items just approved.

Friends approved loaning Friends School in Detroit up to $5000, as needed.

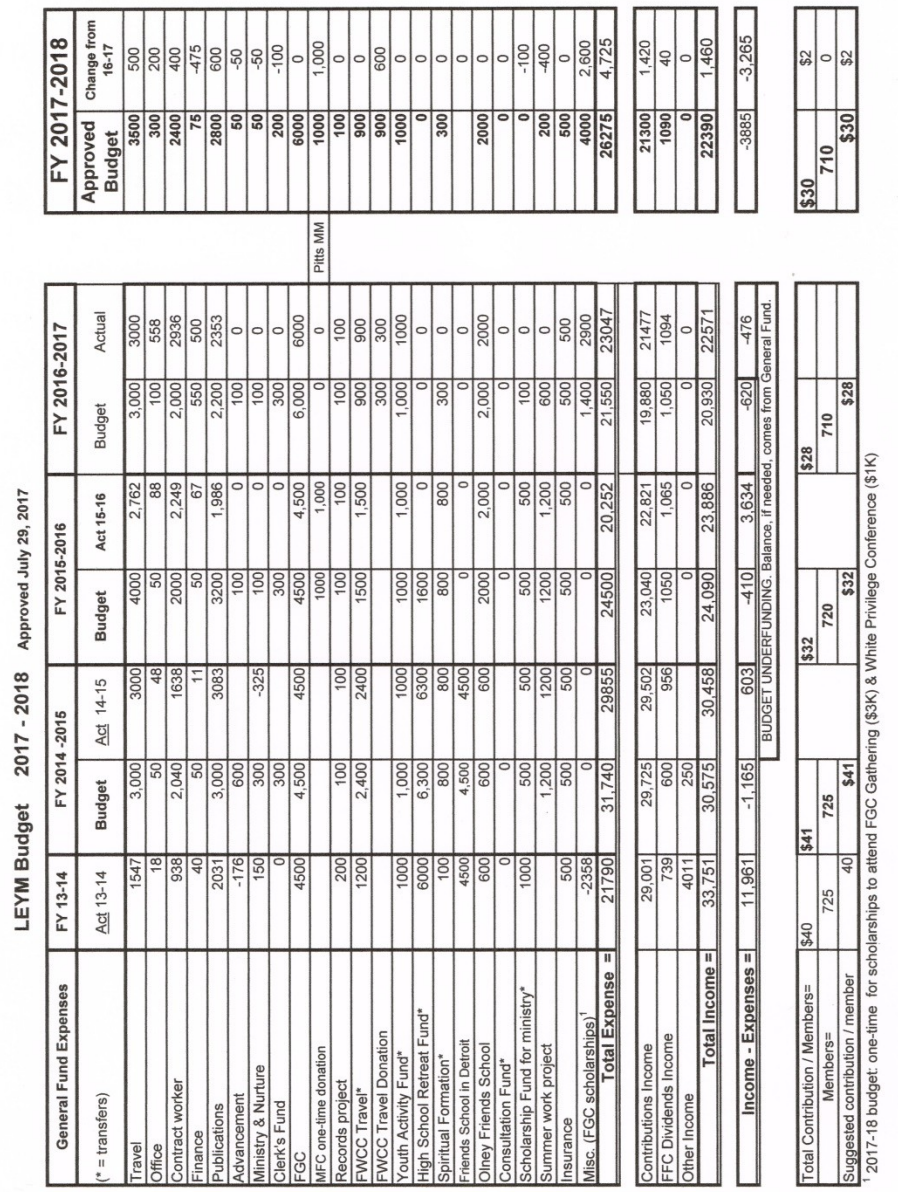
LEYM Budget 2017 - 2018 Approved July 29, 2017

General Fund Expenses	FY 13-14	FY 2014 -2015		FY 2015-2016		FY 2016-2017		FY 2017-2018	
(* = transfers)	Act 13-14	Budget	Act 14-15	Budget	Act 15-16	Budget	Actual	Approved Budget	Change from 16-17
Travel	1547	3,000	3000	4000	2,762	3,000	3000	3500	500
Office	18	50	48	50	88	100	558	300	200
Contract worker	938	2,040	1638	2000	2,249	2,000	2936	2400	400
Finance	40	50	11	50	67	550	500	75	-475
Publications	2031	3,000	3083	3200	1,986	2,200	2353	2800	600
Advancement	-176	600		100	0	100	0	50	-50
Ministry & Nurture	150	300	-325	100	0	100	0	50	-50
Clerk's Fund	0	300		300	0	300	0	200	-100
FGC	4500	4,500	4500	4500	4,500	6,000	6000	6000	0
MFC one-time donation				1000	1,000	0	0 Pitts MM	1000	1,000
Records project	200	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0
FWCC Travel*	1200	2,400	2400	1500	1,500	900	900	900	0
FWCC Travel Donation						300	300	900	600
Youth Activity Fund*	1000	1,000	1000	1000	1,000	1,000	1000	1000	0
High School Retreat Fund*	6000	6,300	6300	1600	0	0	0	0	0
Spiritual Formation*	100	800	800	800	800	300	0	300	0
Friends School in Detroit	4500	4,500	4500	0	0	0	0		0
Olney Friends School	600	600	600	2000	2,000	2,000	2000	2000	0
Consultation Fund*	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	1000	500	500	500	500	100	0	0	-100
Summer work project		1,200	1200	1200	1,200	600	0	200	-400
Insurance	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	0
Misc. (FGC scholarships)[1]	-2358	0	0	0	0	1,400	2900	4000	2,600
Total Expense =	21790	31,740	29855	24500	20,252	21,550	23047	26275	4,725
Contributions Income	29,001	29,725	29,502	23,040	22,821	19,880	21477	21300	1,420
FFC Dividends Income	739	600	956	1050	1,065	1,050	1094	1090	40
Other Income	4011	250		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Income =	33,751	30,575	30,458	24,090	23,886	20,930	22571	22390	1,460
Income - Expenses =	11,961	-1,165	603	-410	3,634	-620	-476	-3885	-3,265

BUDGET UNDERFUNDING. Balance, if needed, comes from General Fund.

Total Contribution / Members=	$40	$41		$32		$28		$30	$2
Members=	725	725		720		710		710	0
Suggested contribution / member	40	$41		$32		$28		$30	$2

[1] 2017-18 budget: one-time for scholarships to attend FGC Gathering ($3K) & White Privilege Conference ($1K)



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Records project	200	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0
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Consultation Fund*	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	1000	500	500	500	500	100	0	0	-100
Summer work project		1,200	1200	1200	1,200	600	0	200	-400
Insurance	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	0
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Suggested contribution / member	40	$41	$32	$28	$30	$2

[1] 2017-18 budget: one-time for scholarships to attend FGC Gathering ($3K) & White Privilege Conference ($1K)

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YM2017-30 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens), co-clerk, reported for the Ministry & Nurture Committee.

The Ministry & Nurture Committee has several charges. The committee administers the Ministry Scholarship Fund, holds the Spiritual Formation Program under its care, collects and reviews the annual State of the Meeting Reports, and drafts a query for Monthly Meetings to respond to.

Ministry Scholarship Fund

Again this year, the committee received no requests for scholarship funds, either for ministry or for travel by ministers approved by the Yearly Meeting. It encourages Friends who are following a leading that may be aided by scholarship funds to bring it to their Monthly Meeting; after seasoning, the Monthly Meeting may then bring a request for a scholarship to this committee.

State of the Meeting Reports

Ministry & Nurture Committee received State of the Meeting reports from 17 Monthly Meetings. Some

themes were common to several of the reports – for example, how Meetings are addressing racism, white privilege, and implicit bias. Many Meetings included their concerns and efforts about welcoming, inclusion, and building community.

Some of our Meetings are going through significant transitions and others have experienced losses this year. Several noted their awareness of an aging membership. A few Meetings have introduced sharing of "joys and concerns" at the end of meeting and have found this an enriching experience. Deep concern about the new political administration and the rise in the tolerance of hate in our country was expressed. Friends are striving to maintain balance and persist in finding ways forward that are grounded in Spirit.

Once again the committee encourages Friends to read the full reports when they are published in the *Annual Records*.

Query

The Ministry & Nurture Committee has prepared the following Query for this next year:

> *How might we support each other as we find peaceful and persistent responses to actions that exclude and judge?*
>
> *In what ways do we, as Quakers, hold ourselves and the Other in the Light when our disagreements seem insurmountable?*
>
> *How do we find common ground as we listen to those with whom we disagree?*

Spiritual Formation Program

Mathilda Navias, clerk of the Spiritual Formation Planning Committee, reported.

Two Spiritual Formation retreats are sponsored each year. In addition, some Monthly Meetings have smaller groups that meet regularly through retreats each year; several Monthly Meetings also have groups that meet regularly throughout the year.

The theme for the 2016–2017 Spiritual Formation retreats was "Spiritual Companions from the Past: John Woolman, Caroline Stephen, and Howard Thurman," with Della Stanley-Green as leader. The theme for the coming year is "Forgiveness as a Spiritual Discipline," led by Sue Regen. The fall retreat will be held September 15–17, 2017, at the Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan. The spring retreat will be on May 5, 2018.

This year everyone in LEYM is invited to come, whether or not they have been involved in a Spiritual Formation group in their Meeting, so this is a good opportunity to explore whether your Meeting might like to start one.

The full reports follow.

Report of the Ministry & Nurture Committee

The Ministry & Nurture Committee has several charges. First, we collect and summarize the annual State of the Meeting Reports. Second, we hold the Spiritual Formation Program under our care. Third, we administer two scholarships for ministry. In addition, it has been our tradition to develop a query that Meetings are encouraged to respond to in an effort to deepen spirituality.

Scholarships Funds

The Ministry scholarship fund has not been used for several years We encourage Friends who are following a leading that may be aided by this scholarship fund to bring it to their Monthly Meeting; after seasoning, the Monthly Meeting may then bring a request for a scholarship to this committee. This could help Friends to attend classes, workshops, or other appropriate educational programs that would help them follow their leading.

In addition there is a traveling scholarship. If you have a message you would like to share outside your local Meeting, a scholarship is available to assist with travel expenses. To apply, contact the Ministry & Nurture clerk (currently Flo Friender) with your seasoned message and we will help work through a proposal for this scholarship.

State of the Meeting Reports

Ministry & Nurture Committee received State of the Meeting reports from 17 Monthly Meetings. Some themes were common to several of the reports – for example, how Meetings are addressing racism, white privilege, and implicit bias. Ann Arbor's efforts have evolved into a focus on police-community relations, while Birmingham has had monthly discussions on race and three of its members led the mid-winter Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting gathering with the theme, "Why Can't We Be F/friends? Who is missing from our Meetings and why?" Other Meetings have made these issues a focus of adult education.

Many Meetings included their concerns and efforts about welcoming, inclusion, and building community. One creative program undertaken by the Oberlin Meeting collaborated with Oberlin students to organize a series of 12 bi-weekly evening Meet-ups for Quaker and Quaker-interested students. These gatherings included worship, food, and conversation. Oberlin Meeting also offers its welcoming message to newcomers, a statement originally written in response to the LEYM Query. This states, "We are a diverse Meeting, not racially, but spiritually, representing many branches of American Quakerism. As a consequence, it is important for us to warmly affirm our commitment to welcome all into our worship. There is also a real concern to look behind the particular language of a ministry to the intention and the wisdom that prompted it. There is a warm, unified commitment to welcoming all and to respecting the diversity of our religious experience and expression." This statement also serves as a reminder that we have many areas of diversity in our Meetings, although we continue to ask ourselves, "Who is missing?"

Some of our Meetings are going through significant transitions and others have experienced losses this year. Several noted their awareness of an aging membership. A few Meetings have introduced sharing of "joys and concerns" at the end of meeting and have found this an enriching experience. One mentioned the inclusion of thoughts that were not shared during worship. Meetings continue to participate in and support individual members' participation in a range of social justice activities. Detroit Meeting has been active in support of families at risk of deportation, and approved a minute that concludes, "We strive to stand together with other faith communities to ensure that every member of our community is respected and welcomed. As Quakers, we affirm that of God in every person and that of living our testimonies of community, equality, and supporting the integrity of families. We ask individuals to explore unmet needs or roles that we can offer to deepen our commitment to help. We see deep spiritual significance in this movement."

Deep concern about the new political administration and the rise in the tolerance of hate in our country was expressed. Friends are striving to maintain balance and persist in finding ways forward that are grounded in Spirit.

Once again we encourage Friends to read these reports when they are published in the *Annual Records*. Our committee experienced coming to know the Meetings in a different way and felt a greater sense of community among us as a result. Insights and helpful ideas offered in these reports may be useful to other Monthly Meetings.

Query

How might we support each other as we find peaceful and persistent responses to actions that exclude and judge?

In what ways do we, as Quakers, hold ourselves and the Other in the Light when our disagreements seem insurmountable?

How do we find common ground as we listen to those with whom we disagree?

LEYM Spiritual Formation Program Report to LEYM Ministry & Nurture Committee

The Past Year (2016–17)

LEYM's Spiritual Formation retreats this past year were much appreciated. The theme for the year was "Spiritual Companions from the Past: John Woolman, Caroline Stephen, and Howard Thurman." The leader was Della Stanley-Green, from Indiana, a member of Western Yearly Meeting. The year started with a weekend retreat in September at the Weber Center, a Catholic retreat center in Adrian, Michigan, where we've been going for a number of years now. One participant wrote, "I got much more than I expected. I'm surprised in manifold ways!" During the year, those who participated in the retreat and many more met regularly in their home Meetings for spiritual sharing and discussion. As part of the program, each individual is to commit to a spiritual practice during the year. The year ended with a Saturday retreat in May, hosted by Kalamazoo

Friends.

The Upcoming Year (2017–18)

I am really excited about our upcoming year. Sue Regen has been leading work-shops and retreats on "Forgiveness as a Spiritual Discipline" for Friends since 2002 at the FGC Gathering, Pendle Hill, and other retreat centers, as well as for numerous Monthly Meetings across the country. Helen Hebben of Kalamazoo Meeting told me, "I took Sue's workshop, and it changed my life."

I ask you to help get the word out to people at your Meeting about this year's weekend retreat, on September 15–17 at the Weber Retreat Center. Because of the timely topic and the known abilities of our leader, we are inviting everyone to attend whether or not you are involved in a Spiritual Formation group in your Meeting. Given the political situation as well as personal lives, many Friends find themselves dealing with feelings of anger, fear, or pain.

At the retreat, we will let everyone know about LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program and how they can become a part of it if they want to. So this is also an opportunity for Friends from Meetings that have not recently had a Spiritual Formation group to find out how to start one. There will be a follow-up retreat on May 5. We need a Meeting to volunteer to host it.

Please publicize the September retreat widely in your Meeting. There are flyers and registration forms here for you to take, and they will be available upstairs in the display area for the rest of the weekend. Additional forms and information on the Spiritual Formation Program are available on the Yearly Meeting's website.

Planning Committee

The committee that plans the program and the retreats currently consists of Mathilda Navias, clerk (Broadmead), Aran Reinhart (Broadmead), Rebecca Hatton (Ann Arbor), Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), and Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead). Mathilda plans to step down as clerk in the next two years. We ask Ministry & Nurture to once again find one of its members to serve on the planning committee as liaison between our committee and M&N. We also encourage members of the Ministry & Nurture Committee to participate in the program.

YM2017-31 Friends World Committee for Consultation Report

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon summarized the reports she has received from two of our three representatives. The third report, from Sam Milford (Pittsburgh), has been published in the *Bulletin*.

Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting, attended LEYM as our representative and also served as convener of pastoral care for the 2017 FWCC Section of the Americas gathering in Stony Point, New York. This is a role in which she has served before, and she reported a great increase in the use of the pastoral care team and center at the gathering. Each person shared that, while they began not knowing what to expect, they left feeling privileged to have grown, after being led by Spirit in service to others.

Mey Hasbrook, Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting, noted the dedication of an FWCC Traveling Ministry Corps, including three Bolivians and four North Americans. These Spanish- and English-speaking Friends are being sent as traveling ministers throughout the Section. Local Friends Churches and Monthly and Yearly Meetings in the Americas can request a visitor. Mey also reminded Friends to take part in the second annual World Quaker Day, on October 1st.

The full reports follow.

2017 FWCC Section of the Americas Report

Representative Jana Norlin

It was my honor to serve as Convener of Pastoral Care for the 2017 FWCC Section of the Americas gathering in Stony Point, New York. I sent out Spanish and English communications to attenders before the conference. Arriving at the conference, I organized the Pastoral Care Center to create a welcoming space for reflection and consultation, which was open throughout the conference. I provided bilingual printed resources, coffee/tea/food, tissues, cough drops, and medical supplies, among other things that would help attenders feel supported in times of need. Before the conference began I held a bilingual orientation for 15 diverse volunteers of a wide age range from various countries. I created a schedule for when Pastoral Care givers would serve at the Pastoral Care Center, and I provided volunteers with green sashes so that they would be identifiable as approachable care givers at any time during the conference. It seemed to be very successful, as

a first-time strategy, that the Pastoral Care Center was located just before the plenary room, so all attenders were invited to stop in before and after each session. It was especially helpful that the Pastoral Care team positioned them-selves in the hallway to remind attenders to enter the plenary room with an attitude of worship. Besides the Center rotation, I created a schedule for Pastoral Care givers to sit on the facing bench and throughout the room during each session to hold individuals, the body of attenders, and the work of FWCC in the Light. Having served on Pastoral Care the previous two years in Mexico and Peru,

I observed a great increase in use of the Pastoral Care team and center at this gathering. The needs were varied and volunteers either responded themselves or made connections with others to respond to those who sought support. The team sought Divine guidance to meet the challenges of crossing cultural, language, and spiritual-practice differences. During the conference, members of Pastoral Care team also supported and ministered to each other. At the end of the conference the team reassembled for a bilingual debriefing to reflect on the experience. Each person shared that, while they began not knowing what to expect, they were leaving feeling privileged to have grown, after being led by Spirit in service to others. I co-created a bilingual survey about the Pastoral Care experience so that team members could submit comments and suggestions to the Planning Committee for implementation for ministry at future gatherings.

I humbly thank Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for support to do this work for the FWCC Section of the Americas.

Report on Friends World Committee for Consultation

Representative Mey Hasbrook

Greetings, Friends. I am unable to join you in person due to health challenges, and am grateful to Clémence Ravaçon Mershon for sharing this report on my behalf.

FWCC's **Section of the Americas Meeting** took place from March 23 to 26, 2017, in Stony Point, New York. Around 120 Friends attended, with at least 18 from the Caribbean and Latin America. LEYM representatives were Sam Milford (Pitts-burgh), Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids), and Mey Hasbrook (Kalamazoo). Both Sam and I were in attendance for the first time as representatives, while Jana dually served as Convener of Pastoral Care. Additional LEYM Friends Mike Hinshaw and Clémence Ravaçon Mershon attended in service of FWCC committees.

The meeting's theme, **"Vivir La Paz - Living Peace,"** took inspiration from the Bible verse John 16:33: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (New International Version). From bilingual worship to fellowship – with advance-prepared devotionals to our morning small groups – we explored this theme among one another, beyond our comfort zones, and with reflection upon the wider world.

Stirring **plenary messages** were given by Carl Magruder (Pacific YM), "Invocation: Apocalypse"; Kirenia Criado (Cuba YM), "Faith, Works, and Other Alternatives for Peace"; and Jonathan Vogel-Borne (New England YM). Written messages and more Meeting resources are online at http://fwccamericas.org/_wp/event/2017-section-meeting-of-theamericas/

The first **Traveling Ministry Corps**, with three Bolivians and four North Americans, was dedicated and commissioned by the entire Meeting. These Spanish- and English-speaking Friends are being sent as traveling ministers throughout the Section. Local Friends Churches and Monthly and Yearly Meetings in the Americas can request a visitor; FWCC pays for traveling expenses. Directions for invitation as well as applications are available online at http://fwccamericas.org/visitation/ traveling-ministry.shtml. September 30, 2017, is the deadline to apply as an FWCC traveling minister for the second group, with an emphasis being put on Young Adult Friends for this cycle.

A **report on sustainability** was presented as a result of a workshop attended by 17 Friends in response to the Pisac Minute on Sustainability from the 2016 World Plenary. Both Clémence and I participated in this workshop; I also contributed to the report's composition. This report was presented during LEYM's Representative Meeting in April 2017 through the Earthcare Committee. Friends are encouraged to consider the report alongside the Minute on Sustainability as LEYM discerns a response.

Friends were reminded to take part in the 2nd annual **World Quaker Day** on October 1. The theme is "Gathering in Worship Around the Globe." More details are given online at http://fwccamericas.org/_wp/event/2017-world-quaker-day/.

Additional points to note:

- FWCC Section Meetings are now being held biannually, with the Americas gathering again in 2019.

- The world plenary will take place every seven years, with the next expected in 2023.
- Minutes are not yet available from this meeting, which will be provided later to LEYM.

It is my hope that Friends engage FWCC with consideration of its powerful impact, reaching from our local Meetings to the United Nations. For an example, I would share how I came to submit this report. I had been an attender for nine years among three unprogrammed Meetings between the US and Belgium. It was during my first FWCC event – the 2016 world plenary – that a leading arose to record membership. And while my membership was still in process last summer, I received a nomination to become a Yearly Meeting representative.

In conclusion, here is a paraphrased message given by Kristen Olson, Clerk of the Traveling Ministry Corps, at the recent Section of the Americas meeting: "This body is not about the bubble that we exist in. It is about building bridges. It is our responsibility to build those bridges. We are here for daily work."

Sixth Session: 8:45 – 9:30 am, Sunday, July 30, 2017

YM2017-32 Publications & Archives Committee Report

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), clerk, reported for the Publications & Archives Committee.

The committee notes that Berch and Susan Carpenter are stepping down as *Bulletin* editors. During their tenure, LEYM has moved toward more electronic distribution, and the *Bulletin* can now be delivered in a number of ways. The committee has also obtained permission from all but one of the Annual Sessions plenary speakers since 2010 to post their talks on our website. It is in the early stages of discerning whether Memorial Minutes should also be put online, to preserve, and share with a wider audience, a record of the spiritual lives of our deceased members.

Submissions for the 2017 *Annual Records* are due by Sunday, August 27, and should be sent to Jeff Cooper. The deadline for submissions for the fall *LEYM Bulletin* is Sunday, October 1, and may be sent to Peggy Daub or Jeff Cooper, the new co-editors of the *Bulletin*.

The full report follows.

Publications & Archives Committee Report

The members of the Publications & Archives Committee this year have been Peggy Daub, Bill Lefler, Seth Reichenbach, and Leslie Walden, with ex officio members *Bulletin* editors Berch and Susan Carpenter and webweaver Mathilda Navias.

The *Bulletin* editors will change this year, as Berch and Susan are stepping down after serving three years. During that time, we have moved toward more electronic distribution, and can now offer you the content in a number of ways, namely, multiple paper copies sent to a Monthly Meeting, a single paper copy to your mailbox, an email copy to your mailbox, or downloading from LEYM.org. Let us know which is most convenient for you. The *Bulletin* exists to serve the Yearly Meeting, so it carries a lot of nuts-and-bolts information about the Yearly Meeting itself. But, like the Yearly Meeting, its underlying purpose is to build community among Friends, which might mean sharing the journeys of individuals and Monthly Meetings. Let the editors know if you have ideas for articles or artwork for future issues.

During the past year, the committee reviewed the contents of *Annual Records* to see if there are any additional parts of this paper-only publication that could go online. We decided that plenary talks from our annual sessions could be of value outside the Yearly Meeting and should be on the web, if possible. Bill Lefler has contacted speakers from the last seven years (2010–2016), and obtained permission for all but one year so far. Watch for those to be added to the website soon. We are just beginning the process of discerning whether Memorial Minutes should also be put online. We are checking on the practices of other Yearly Meetings, and then will ask for input from Monthly Meetings and individuals as we consider this question. We like the idea of preserving a record of the spiritual life of our de-ceased members for a wider audience, but are mindful that there may be privacy concerns.

Submissions for the 2017 *Annual Records* are due by Sunday, August 27. Jeff Cooper will serve as editor, with help from others on the committee. The deadline for submissions for the fall *LEYM Bulletin* is Sunday, October 1, and may be sent to me [Peggy Daub] or to Jeff.

YM2017-33 Arrangements & Site Committee Report

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), member and registrar, reported for the Arrangements & Site Committee.

We had 127 attenders at the Annual Meeting of LEYM this year, 11 of whom were first-time attenders (7 adults and 4 children). 27 younger Friends participated in our Youth & Children's Program, and there were 9 young adult Friends.

Online registration worked well, and Friends are encouraged to register online.

We will meet in Bluffton again next year, July 26–29, 2018, and in 2019, July 25–28.

YM2017-34 Nominating Committee Report

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon, clerk, reported for the Nominating Committee.

A few additional nominations are included in the report. Friends are encouraged to test whether they are led to fill any of the remaining open positions, on Advancement & Outreach (1), Peace & Justice (1), Publications & Archives (1), Adult & Family Program (1), and Youth & Children's Program. The Nominating Committee will continue to seek individuals for the open positions, and to discern with those already considering accepting nominations. Nominations made between Annual Sessions and Representative Meeting are considered by the Executive Committee.

As a reminder, Monthly Meetings are encouraged to appoint individuals to participate in the work of the Ministry & Nurture, Earthcare, and Peace & Justice Committees.

Friends are encouraged to visit neighboring Yearly Meetings, but first to identify themselves to the Nominating Committee so that they can be formally nominated, and then to report back to us on their visits.

Friends approved the nominations.

Nominating Slate
LEYM Officers, Committee Members, & Representatives

Terms begin and end at rise of Annual Sessions.

(^ = serves on LEYM Executive Committee.)

Officers

Role	Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
Presiding Clerk ^	Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	1	2020
Assistant Clerk ^	Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids	4	2018
Recording Clerk ^	Peter Wood, Red Cedar	1	2020
Treasurer ^	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	6	2018

Communications

Bulletin Editors	Peggy Daub & Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor	1	2020
Database Manager	Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	13	2018

Committees

Advancement & Outreach

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Sheila Johnson, Ann Arbor	1	2020
Blair Ellis, Ann Arbor	1	2020
Erika Smith, Ann Arbor	5	2019
Becky Morehouse, Ann Arbor	5	2019
Mathilda Navias, Broadmead, Clerk ^	3	2018
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham	3	2018

Earthcare

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Mey Hasbrook, Kalamazoo	1	2020
Richard Hogan, Athens	1	2020
Ken Lawrence, Broadmead	2	2019
Phil Balderston, Wooster	5	2019
Shannon Pratt-Harrington, Athens	6	2018
Russ Adams, North Columbus, Clerk ^	3	2018

Alternate: Phil Clampitt, Birmingham

Finance

of Members: 3 Years of Term: 3

Joe Mills	1	2020
Joan Sampieri, Ann Arbor	2	2019
Bob Orr, Detroit	6	2018

Notes: Treasurer serves ex officio

High School Teen Retreat

3 adults with 3-year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2-year terms

Jenn Seif, Grand Rapids	2	2019
Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar	3	2018
Jonah Brownfain, Birmingham	2	2018

Notes: High schoolers to be appointed by teens

Ministry & Nurture

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each Monthly Meeting encouraged

Years of Term: 3

Ruth Carey, Ann Arbor	5	2020
Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens, Co-Clerk ^	5	2020
Flo Friender, Kalamazoo, Co-Clerk ^	5	2019
Wink Covintree, Birmingham	2	2019
Margaret Walden, Cleveland	6	2018
Ann Sprague, Detroit	2	2018

Nominating

of Members: 6 (Appointed by YM through Naming Committee)
Years of Term: 3

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon, Erie WG, Clerk ^	4	2020
Jo Steigerwald, Cleveland	1	2020
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	2	2019
Bill Warters, Birmingham	2	2019
Janet Dando, Akron	3	2018
Linda Mills, Kalamazoo	6	2018

Peace and Justice

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each Monthly Meeting encouraged
Years of Term: 3

Joel Ottenbreit, Detroit	1	2020
Linda Beaty, Akron	2	2019
_____		
Shelley Kotz, Broadmead Co-Clerk ^	3	2018
Joyce Balderston, Wooster	6	2018
Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead Co-Clerk ^	6	2018
MM Rep. for Pittsburgh, Scilla Wahrhaftig		

Publications and Archives

of Members: 4 Years of Term: 3

Bob Roehm, North Columbus	1	2020
_____	1	2019
Bill Lefler, Pittsburgh, Clerk ^	3	2018
Seth Reichenbach	3	2018

Yearly Meeting Planning:
Arrangements & Site

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Jon Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk ^	14	2020
_____	1	2020
Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead	2	2019
Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead Registrar	2	2019
Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead	3	2018
John Templin, Broadmead	8	2018

Adult and Family Program

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor	1	2020
Susan Hartman, Ann Arbor	1	2020
Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh, Clerk ^	5	2019
Aran Reinhart, Broadmead	1	2019
Josephine Posti, Pittsburgh	3	2018

_____

Youth & Children's Program

of Members: 12 Years of Term: 2

Greg Mott, Broadmead	Clerk ^	2018
_____	Assistant Clerk	2019
Employed student or YM vols.	Infants & Toddlers	
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham		
Jenn Seif, Grand Rapids		
Conleth Crotser, Cleveland		
Marc Smith, Ann Arbor		
Peter Crowley, Cleveland		
Kate Spry, Cleveland		
Alfred Clapp, Athens		
Diane Mott, Broadmead		
Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar		
Diane Mott, Broadmead	Fall retreat clerk	
Conleth Crotser, Cleveland	Fall retreat assistant	

LEYM Bookstore

Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 16

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

Organization	Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
(* indicates clerk of that group of representatives)			
AFSC Corp	Shannon Pratt-Harrington, Athens	1	2020
AFSC Corp	John Deikis, Ann Arbor	6	2019
FCNL Gen Com	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	2	2020
FCNL Gen Com	Jim Crowfoot, Ann Arbor	2	2019
FCNL Gen Com	John Howell, Athens	2	2019
FCNL Gen Com	Michael Fuson, Granville *	3	2018
FCNL Gen Com	David Snyder, Oberlin	3	2018
FCNL Gen Com	Richard Shaw, Pittsburgh	3	2018
FGC Cntl Cmte	Robb Yurisko, N. Columbus	4	2020
FGC Cntl Cmte	Helen Hebben, Kalamazoo	4	2019
FGC Cntl Cmte	Carolyn Lejuste, Red Cedar	2	2018
(LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee)			
FWCC	Mey Hasbrook, Kalamazoo	2	2020
FWCC	Sam Milford, Pittsburgh	2	2019
FWCC	Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids	3	2018
Q Earthcare Witness	Russ Adams, N. Columbus	3	2018
FLGBTQC	Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	3	2018
Wm. Penn House	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	10	2018
Olney Friends School	Greg Mott, Broadmead	10	2018

Visitors to Neighboring Yearly Meetings

Yearly Meeting	Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
Baltimore YM	Sam Milford, Pittsburgh		2017
Canadian YM	_____		

EFI Eastern Region	_____	
Ohio YM	_____	
Ohio Valley YM	_____	
Wilmington YM	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	8

YM2017-35 American Friends Service Committee Corporation Report

John Deikis (Ann Arbor), representative to AFSC Corporation, reported on his participation in its Annual Meeting, as well as that of Claire Cohen and Lucia Kalinosky.

AFSC grounds itself in the worship life of American Quakers through the participation of approximately 120 appointed and at-large members in its Annual Meeting.

John reports that AFSC continues to struggle with financial uncertainty, and an inability to move quickly and decisively in the face of the changing financial landscape after the 2008 financial crisis.

There is a tension between the slow and patient working toward unity, which lies at the heart of our discernment process, the long time between meetings of the decision-making body that locks in spending decisions 18 months before they occur, and the reality that financial decisions that are not made quickly have longer-term consequences than they otherwise might.

AFSC has taken exceptional steps to build a more stable future by engaging in a successful capital campaign and making deep budget cuts. A new General Secretary and new Chief Financial Officer will join AFSC this coming year. AFSC's presiding clerk noted that "I am hopeful that we can acknowledge our failures, have faith in the value of our work and the goodness of each other's intentions, and move forward together to rebuild a better AFSC. I believe that this is what the Spirit asks of us and what the world needs to do."

The full report follows.

AFSC 2017 Corporation Meeting

The American Friends Service Committee Corporation meets annually to provide oversight of the organization's governance. It functions as a proxy for American Quakers to bring Friends' concerns to AFSC and to communicate back to our Yearly Meetings the work and challenges of an organization active in 37 U.S. cities and 16 countries engaging with others in the work of social justice and peace.

Yearly Meetings are invited to appoint representatives to the Corporation proportionate to their registered membership. LEYM sends three to join approximately 60 representatives and another 60 members-at-large from around the country. Gathered in worship, this group provides the expression of a collective spiritual experience. Out of this "meeting for business" the Corporation appoints commit-tees addressing issues like engaging Quaker communities in its work, selecting members-at-large, and appointing people to the Board of Directors. This is the Corporation's formal role. But out of this worship together, the Corporation is the way AFSC grounds itself in the worship life of American Quakers.

The format of the annual meeting involves worship, business, and smaller sessions that increase understanding of local AFSC programs. This year, the Corporation meeting paralleled the Centennial Summit. This allowed the three LEYM reps to be inspired by the symposia and speakers who were a part of that celebration and energized to approach the difficulties presented in the meeting for business.

AFSC continues to struggle with financial uncertainty, in part because of internal inefficiencies but also because it was difficult to anticipate the 2008 financial crisis. The Board was unable to move quickly and decisively in the face of a changing financial landscape. The Quaker need to come to unity on decisions that require decisive action does not lend itself well to timely response. The budget, which has been viewed as an "intention to spend," as opposed to a balance between income and expenses that must be continually monitored, is prepared many months before the beginning of the fiscal year. In effect, decisions on spending are locked in some 18 months before they occur. The General Secretary and her staff had not had the ability to rapidly deploy actions believed essential to immediately place the brakes on spending in response to changing circumstances. An AFSC report summarized the following: "Our Quaker process is outstanding for spiritual discernment. But, the slow and patient working toward unity which lies at the heart of it does not always lend

itself as well to the required pace of timely and responsive financial management decisions which organizational reality and the dynamics of our surrounding society require."

Internally, AFSC has been highly focused on finding ways to fund popular programs and to grow following the major organizational contraction in 2008–2010. As a donor-supported effort, its primary income has been bequests and donations, which understandably fluctuate from year to year. Aging demographics of the donor base and excessive dependence on a few large donors have exacerbated this challenge. As the organization needed to dip into financial reserves to cover periodic income/spending problems, it eroded its reserves-to-expense ratio. In a nutshell, the external problems have to do with our Quaker process and the volatility of the financial environment, and the internal issues of AFSC's decisions about spending limited reserves to support "the many needs of a troubled and suffering world."

The good news is that AFSC has taken exceptional steps to build a more stable future. The Centennial Capital Campaign has been far more successful than anticipated. Like many nonprofits, AFSC took a big hit in the 2009 recession. To correct for this, the organization increased fundraising efforts and made some difficult budget cuts to keep expenses in line with income. Subsequent growth may have been too rapid. Last year, it became apparent even the current budget was not sustainable. An *Ad Hoc Core Program Working Group*, together with the international and Regional Executive Committees, worked to reduce spending and establish programming priorities. The Sunday meeting of the Board of Directors included staff and volunteers to confront difficult issues of financial oversight, business practices, and necessary program devolution. The Board expressed commitment to monitoring the results of this process and holding itself account-able for improving financial sustainability. It is also taking concrete steps to improve communication with staff and local communities.

The coming year will welcome a new General Secretary as well as a new Chief Financial Officer. For Friends, it remains even more important today to bear witness corporately, to stand against militarism, and to protect human rights.

AFSC Presiding Clerk Phil Lord ended his comments to staff by writing, "I am hopeful that we can acknowledge our failures, have faith in the value of our work and the goodness of each other's intentions, and move forward together to rebuild a better AFSC. I believe that this is what the Spirit asks of us and what the world needs us to do."

We are grateful for the opportunity to represent LEYM to AFSC and to bear Quaker witness in this increasingly unpredictable world.

LEYM Appointed Representatives: Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh), John Deikis (Ann Arbor), Lucia Kalinosky (Cleveland)

YM2017-36 Friends General Conference Central Committee Report

Robb Yurisko (North Columbus), representative, reported on FGC Central Committee.

Robb received correspondence this week noting that FGC Central Committee will spend most of its time at its next meeting in discernment, rather than committee work, listening deeply for the needs and concerns of its constituent Yearly and Monthly Meetings. Friends are invited to contact Robb, or our other representatives, Carolyn Lejuste and Helen Hebben, to inform their participation in this process.

YM2017-37 Youth & Children's Program Committee Report

Joseph Mills (Kalamazoo), clerk, reported for the Youth & Children's Program Committee.

The program introduced Collection as a new practice this year. Each morning the 27 youth and their group leaders gathered and walked together to Ramseyer lounge, settled into a circle together, explored a point of Friends practice and discipline, and entered into a five-minute period of silent worship, followed by a short exercise in community building.

Our treasured younger Friends are wonderful to be with and provide us the best example of learning by instructing and sharing. This year the two Elementary groups were combined, and the High School and Middle School groups were also combined, because there were not enough leaders to sup-port separate groups. Although this worked well this year, more Friends are needed to share their time with our younger Friends during Annual Meeting.

We deeply appreciate the work of this dedicated team.

The full report follows.

Youth & Children's Program Committee Report

Twenty-seven young people registered for the 2017 Annual Meeting. We had six full-time group leaders and three who assisted or volunteered to assist part time. We had one paid position shared by three individuals for infant and toddler care.

A new practice that was introduced was *Collection*. Each morning we gathered as a group after breakfast at Marbeck and walked over to the Ramseyer lounge. There we settled into a circle together and explored a point of Friends practice and discipline. One day we brought up the topic of group silence and its benefit and another the Light and holding someone in the Light. We then settled into about five minutes of silent worship, after which we conducted a short exercise in community building.

Partly because we were a little short staffed, the high and middle schoolers combined many of their morning activities. This was something they were willing to try as a group and it worked out pretty well. This left us with an elementary group and one for infants and toddlers.

The program needs more group leaders for our children. Also, we struggled to find volunteer drivers for swimming, but certainly are most appreciative to those who did volunteer. Our treasured younger Friends are wonderful to be with and pro-vide us the best example of learning by instructing and sharing.

YM2017-38 Adult & Family Program Committee Report

Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh), clerk, reported for the Adult & Family Program Committee.

Claire reported that the work was challenging this year because the committee was shorthanded. Despite the small committee, they were able to create a successful program, and the plenary speaker was well received.

The committee has not identified a theme for next year, and would welcome suggestions!

Also, please fill out the evaluations!

YM2017-39 Youth and Children Epistles

Baby, Toddler, and Preschool Program

Things we loved:
- Playing outside, especially with balls and cones and rocks (Declan)
- The Fisher-Price Little People
- Eating in the cafeteria
- Books (GiGi)
- Ring around the Rosie
- Swimming off a stranger's raft (Starr)
- Going down the big slide (GiGi)

Things we learned:
- That we pay attention to other children's body language and words to see if they are enjoying our play.
- That we can use words to ask our friends (or complete strangers!) for help or cooperation.
- That sometimes accidents are more scary than painful (like tumbling on the slide). That's when you get hugs and reassurance that everything is OK.
- But sometimes they are both scary and very painful! That's when you get Mommy and Daddy to take you to the doctor and get stitches

Things our grown-ups will remember:
- Declan's "Master Plan"
- Also his voice narrating every move and his laugh
- GiGi climbing into our laps & snuggling in

- Her cute comments
- Starr's back, curls bouncing as she runs off toward adventure
- Zeke's beaming smile and sweet surrender to sleep

Elementary School Program

Dear Young Friends Everywhere –

These are the words of the elementary school group of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting:
Even though the meetings seem like they would be boring, the activities were a lot of fun.
We went outside a lot. We played games and had a lot of fun.
I like free time and drawing and I get to make new friends.
I liked going to the farmers market.
I liked to go swimming. I liked the cats.
I liked going to the lake.
I liked eating lunch and making a fort with my brother.
I liked staying in the dorms and going to the Bluffton pool.

We also talked about SPICES, especially simplicity, peace, and community. We looked for God in nature. We talked about how simplicity should be simple but is really hard. We went to the farmers market and thrift store for community. And we made lots of paper airplanes.

Sincerely,

Conleth, Diane, Ethan, Douglas, Elizabeth, Matthew, Adrianna, Bradley, Amanda, and Andrew

Following the reading of their epistle, they also read us the story, "Good Night iPad."

Middle and High School Program
On Thursday we all arrived
And upon arrival we were revived
And then we realized
Jonah was the same size
Jabiri placed a pizza order
And Sophie helped us interact with our aura
The pizza was good and the soda was great
But going to bed was the part we all hate
Friday we took a walk to the bridge
And met a chill wasp and it was big
The water pump was locked again (improv)
And discovering a new road made us do a jig
We climbed the tree which Alex pruned
While others saw it as very rude
After lunch we swam at the pool
And got down the slide without too many stops
Then we all left early 'cause the air was too cool
Some of us went to pre-dinner workshops
We met the Clapps and had some laughs
Then went outside and played on the grass
While some people went to the plenary speech
Others split up and got snacks for each
The very next day
We went downtown
And Sophie acted like a clown
Alex found rollerblades in his exact size
And thankfully he's still alive
We came back from the market and climbed in a tree

And Samantha lost her room key
We went to lunch
Munch munch
We went to the lake, it was too blue
And off the raft all of us flew
While the raft was at a tilt
Sandcastles were built
When we got back
We went to Marbeck
Vinaigrette and milk were mixed
And Alex found himself in a fix
We went to the talent show and were amazed
Now writing this we're all in a daze
We've come to the conclusion
Through ice cream and Jaywalking:
Quakers are not average;
We're simple but savage.

A request from the teachers: Please help! Middle School and High School was the most wonderful experience.

YM2017-40 Epistle Committee Report

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh), on behalf of the Epistle Committee, presented the draft epistle for our consideration.

Friends asked the committee to add more of a sense of the spirit of the sessions, the successful efforts to increase young adult attendance, and the success of the children's program.

After revision in accordance with these suggestions, the Executive Committee will consider the final version for approval.

Friends expressed gratitude for the service of the Epistle Committee.

YM2017-41 Close

The Annual Sessions closed for the year.

Other Report Received

Report from Friends School in Detroit to Annual Meeting, 7th Month, 2017

In early February, 2017, after the significant indebtedness of Friends School in Detroit remained unpaid, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting reconstituted the Board of Trustees of the School such that it would consist of Friends committed to formally laying down the School and selling its property. A proposal from a private lender to loan enough money on a secured basis to pay off all of the School's current debts fell through. The current Board has now listed the property for sale; as of yet, no offer has been considered by the Board of Trustees.

The current trustees are engaged in considerable efforts to lay down the School in a responsible manner. A committee has been formed to address issues of record retention and disposal. Also, a group has arranged an inventory of the building contents and is exploring its liquidation. Records and documents of a historical nature are being donated to the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan.

To cover operation and holding costs until a sale of the real estate closes, the Board of Trustees has sought loans from individual Friends and Monthly Meetings in the area. These are now starting to come to fruition.

The Board of Trustees hopes to consummate the sale and pay off all of the indebtedness before the end of the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Mills
Clerk of the Board of Trustees of Friends School in Detroit

Submitted by Mike Holaday, presiding clerk
Nancy Reeves, recording clerk

Epistle

The Epistle was approved by LEYM Executive Committee in October 2017.

**Epistle from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
in Annual Sessions at Bluffton University
in Bluffton, Ohio, July 27-30, 2017**

To Friends Everywhere:

The one hundred-plus adult Friends gathered for our 54th Annual Sessions addressed the topic "Quakers in the New Millennium." Our plenary speaker, Greg Woods, member of Columbia, Missouri, Friends Meeting in Illinois Yearly Meeting, spoke specifically to "*Reviving* Quakerism in the New Millennium." He challenged us with the question, How can we build the Beloved Kingdom on Earth with only people who look and act like us? We were asked not to rest on the past laurels of abolition and women's suffrage, but instead to see how the spirit is moving among us now.

In powerful language, Greg gave us a vision of Quakers in the new millennium by offering three suggestions. The first was to deepen our worship by preparing to be present ahead of meeting for worship. Did we expect the divine to be in our midst? Were we ready to be transformed?

The second suggestion was to reach out to others so that they know that we exist and what we believe. We fail each other when we are quiet about our faith. We fail our youth when we do not teach them about our Christian roots and about the profound devotion of early Friends.

The third suggestion was to welcome newcomers and to reach out to young adults. We need to ask ourselves how we feel welcomed when coming into a new space. If we are more public and more proactive, people will be more drawn to what we have to offer.

We shared a tender moment when a 12-year-old boy rose to speak to how hard it is to "be community" when we live so far apart and see each other so seldom. Friend Greg spoke for us all when he said, "You are wise beyond your years." May we learn from this young man's wisdom.

We need to share our radical message with the world, that we are all ministers who are able to be called by God to serve. Let us stop hiding it.

In worship-sharing sessions, we considered two related queries arising from the central theme of these sessions:

1. How do we continue to make Quakerism relevant in today's world in order to inspire young adults? and
2. In what ways can we, as Quakers, incorporate people of different generations and backgrounds, especially young adults, into our spiritual community?

Meanwhile, our workshops covered a wide range of topics: Campus Outreach/Ministry to Non-Quaker Campuses; There Is No New Normal; Beyond Reform: Quakers and Prison Abolition; Lucretia Mott Visits LEYM; Friends, Gnostics, and the Still-Speaking Spirit; Trending Immigration Topics under President Trump; and Are You Now, or Have You Ever Been, a Young Adult?

These workshops not only invited us to consider the depths of our roots, perhaps extending back to Gnostic thought and sensibility, but challenged us to consider in what ways our Quaker identity calls us to engage with the modern world. How does the Spirit call us to address mass incarceration and threats to immigrants and refugees? How do we call young people into our precious vision?

Several important matters came before our sessions, on which we reached unity. We approved a minute to be sent to Friends Fiduciary, which holds the Yearly Meeting's funds, asking them to expand its Quaker Values Screening Criteria to exclude investments in compa-nies that support or are complicit with Israel's occupation of Pales-tinian lands, its economic exploitation and control of the Palestinian population, and/or its violations of international human rights law. We approved scholarships to support adult Friends from the Yearly Meeting who want to attend the White Privilege Conference in Grand Rapids next spring. And we introduced a video designed to familiar-ize our child care givers and others with the sexual abuse prevention policy adopted by Lake Erie Yearly Meeting after much work over the last three years.

In sum, we left the 2017 Annual Sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meet-ing with new knowledge, new friends, and a new commitment to welcome interested visitors into our Meetings and share our faith with others as Way opens.

Nancy Reeves
Clerk, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Representative Meeting
April 14, 2018
Athens Friends Meeting

Clerks' table: Nancy Reeves, clerk; Mike Holaday, assistant clerk; Peter Wood, recording clerk

RM2018-01 Worship

Representative Meeting opened with a period of open worship.

RM2018-02 Roll Call

Akron	1		
Ann Arbor	2	Kalamazoo	1
Athens	6	Kent	0
Birmingham	1	Manitou Worship Group	0
Broadmead	7	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Circleville Worship Group	0	North Columbus	3
Cleveland	1	Oberlin	0
Delaware	0	Pine River Worship Group	0
Detroit	2	Pittsburgh	2
Erie Worship Group	0	Red Cedar	2
Grand Rapids	1	Somerset Worship Group	0
Granville	0	Tustin Worship Group	0
Holland	0	Waysmeet Worship Group	0
Indiana Worship Group	0	Wooster	1
Total 30			

RM2018-03 Friends School in Detroit Report

Jeff Cooper, board member, reported on the sale of Friends School in Detroit and how the process by which the 1 million dollars remaining after expenses is to be disbursed. The report follows.

Friends School in Detroit

I am reporting as one of the nine Board members of Friends School in Detroit. The building and property on which the School stood were sold on March 7, 2018, for over $2 million to a trio of builders and real estate developers who intend to build residential housing there. The proceeds will cover all known debts, the realtor's commission, and legal fees, with roughly $1 million left over. Our treasurer has paid off most of the debts already; any debts still unpaid are because we are trying to determine the precise amount owed. The Board has formed a subcommittee to consider how the remaining money might be distributed in accordance with the articles of incorporation, which state that they must go to "corporations ... organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes." The subcommittee does not intend to propose a list of recipients until December 2018 at the earliest.

RM2018-04 Olney Friends School Report

Greg Mott, LEYM Representative to Olney, reported. Greg described a February 10 letter from Olney outlining the financial risks and desperate financial straits the school faces. Olney has since raised 140% of the funds needed to continue for at least another year. The School has engaged a consulting firm to analyze the School's financial situation and to make recommendations. LEYM members can help in these ways: visit the School, contribute, spread word-of-mouth to attract students, pray, and assist as you feel led. The student body has hovered around 50 in the past 10 years, but the school foresees a shortage 2 years down the road because this year's graduating class will number 22. The report follows.

Update: Olney Friends School

On February 10, 2018, Olney Friends School sent a mass email to its alumni and friends that began with

the statement “Olney Friends School is at risk.” A variety of financial concerns have led to a time of desperation: Raise $250,000 by March 30, or close the School in fall. This gave the Olney community a little more than 1½ months to raise this money.

The sources of the financial crisis are many: the recession negatively impacted the last major funding campaign, financial aid is over-distributed, and refusing to sell mineral rights to fracking companies is a missed source of income, but preserves the integrity of Olney’s commitment to creating a healthy world.

Despite the ongoing concerns and challenges, I am pleased to report that Olney has already raised $360,000, and has announced it will remain open in 2017–2018, its 181st year.

The School has engaged the services of EMD Consulting, who specialize in working with nonprofits to improve their development and business models. They will be presenting a major report at the upcoming board meeting (April 20–22). We are eagerly awaiting their analysis of our situation.

How LEYM can help:

- Come visit.
- Sponsor a workshop or a class.
- Contribute to the Annual Fund.
- Word of mouth is still the most effective recruitment for Olney. Help spread the word.
- Please keep Olney Friends School in your prayers, and offer assistance as you feel led.

RM2018-05 Nominating Committee Report

Janet Dando, Committee clerk, reported. Needed immediately: an assistant clerk for Youth & Children’s program. In July, we will need: an assistant clerk of the Meeting, a clerk and two to three members for Advancement & Outreach, a committee member for Finance, two members for Adult Program, one for Peace & Justice, two for Ministry & Nurture, and three representatives to Friends General Conference.

Joe Mills was nominated for clerk of the Finance Committee. The Meeting approved Joe Mills for this position.

RM2018-06 Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

Mathilda Navias, Committee clerk, reported. Fremont Worship Group has been laid down. Mathilda also reported on displays at the Annual Meeting and on an e-newsletter focusing on outreach, to be produced by New England Yearly Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting jointly. The report follows.

LEYM Advancement & Outreach Committee
Report to Representative Meeting, April 14, 2018

Fremont Worship Group has been laid down.

We plan to have handouts and a display on welcoming and including all newcomers at Annual Sessions.

There is a brand-new outreach e-newsletter from New England and New York Yearly Meetings, who are working together on it. They plan to produce it quarterly. It will share strategies, resources, and questions about building the Quaker movement, as well as religious education and “inreach.” They are inviting other yearly meetings to participate in submitting articles and disseminating it. We will be contacting meetings to ask who at each meeting or worship group should receive copies.

RM2018-07 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

Carla Pratt-Harrington reported on this morning’s group meeting. The Spiritual Formation program will host the final retreat for this year’s program at Red Cedar Friends Meeting on May 5. Carla also read aloud some of the 11 responses from Meetings on this year’s query. M&N’s report follows.

Ministry & Nurture Report

Ministry & Nurture Committee received a request for support (financial and hospitality arrangements) for traveling ministry. After communication with the individual's monthly meeting it was decided to hold the request until the monthly meeting processed the request for a traveling minute. The monthly meeting was uncertain that a traveling minute is appropriate. The request for financial support was subsequently withdrawn by the individual with hopes that the travel (and support) might occur at a later date.

Flo Friender and Carla Pratt-Harrington, Co-Clerks

RM2018-08 Peace & Justice Committee Report

Shelley Kotz, Peace & Justice co-clerk, reported. The Committee has not met yet in person. The Bulletin incorrectly listed the clerks of this committee, and this will be corrected. It's a six-person committee, and is down one person at this time. Shelley requested that anyone who wishes to bring a minute related to peace and justice for consideration at Annual Sessions be in touch with her beforehand. The report follows.

Peace & Justice Committee Report

The Peace & Justice Committee has met twice by internet/phone conference. We created a survey about peace and justice concerns; a link to the survey has been sent to meeting clerks and leaders. If you have not yet completed the survey, we hope that you will. We are also requesting that meetings will send us photos or other information about their peace and justice activities, which will be used to create a display celebrating our joint activities to be shown at Yearly Meeting.

We have received an update regarding the screening of investments made by Friends Fiduciary Corporation, which was the subject of a minute at the 2017 Annual Sessions. The Friends Fiduciary Board has now adopted new guidelines that include a concern for human rights and will address the suffering of people who live under occupation and in areas of conflict, including not only Palestinians in the West Bank, but also occupied populations in Crimea, East Ukraine, South Sudan, and other areas of conflict.

RM2018-09 Meeting Worker's Report

Mathilda Navias reported on her last 9 months' work. There were 13,000 views of the LEYM website. She listed the more popular pages. She put in 50 hours of work, most of which was devoted to updating the website. The clerk will be leading the search for a new worker, as Mathilda will be moving in the summer of 2019. Her report follows.

Report from Mathilda Navias, LEYM Worker
July 2017 – March 2018 (Nine Months)

LEYM Website

There have been over 13,000 views of LEYM web pages so far this year. July always has the most, when Friends get information and register for Annual Sessions. Popular pages include information on meetings and worship groups, downloading Bulletins, contact information for LEYM officers and committees, information on Spiritual Formation retreats, LEYM's calendar, and two information pages, "About LEYM" and "About Quakers." A news post about a split and subsequent new yearly meeting in the Northwest U.S., several resource pages, and the Links page also got 50-100 views each.

My work this year so far has been doing the annual updates to the website, posting news items, and making minor tweaks here and there.

Meetings and worship groups that are having difficulty maintaining a website are encouraged to ask me for a one-page site hosted by LEYM, which is pro-vided free of charge. Friends are also encouraged to check out the extensive Resources and Links pages.

Email Lists

The new paid email service, Electric Embers, is working well. We can create an unlimited number of lists with plenty of room for the folks we need to put on them. The cost is $15 a month, which is $180 a year.

Policies and Procedures

I need to add the changes that were approved at last year's Annual Sessions on LEYM's Policy on Preventing Child and Sexual Abuse to the Policies and Procedures manual.

Time Spent

My work during this fiscal year currently totals just over 50 hours, about half of my hours at this time last year, when I went over budget. There are still some annual tasks that need doing.

The hours spent on the tasks I have performed and the percentage of the total time are detailed below (the

number of hours is rounded off).

LEYM Website	23½ hours (43%)
Annual updates following Annual Sessions	
News posts	
Updates and maintenance	
Format 2017 minutes & upload to web	3½ hours (6%)
Listservs & Gmail	17 hours (31%)
Annual updates of lists and Gmail addresses following Annual Sessions	
Updates during the year	
Administration (emails, prepare reports, misc.)	8½ hours (15%)
Special Project (July)	3 hours (5%)
Update online registration for Annual Sessions	

Total hours: 55½ hours

RM2018-10 Treasurer's Report

Mike Hinshaw reported. He outlined contributions made to LEYM by monthly meetings, totaling $12,241 so far this fiscal year. Several meetings have yet to contribute. The value of LEYM investments has risen 7%. Mike outlined the expenses paid so far this year, coming to $16,854 out of a total budget of $26,275 (about 64%). He listed the dedicated funds that we fund with revenues from contributions. Some of these funds have not been used, for example the Traveling Ministries fund. Finally, he described where LEYM monies are located. LEYM's total assets come to $71,415.

RM2018-11 Finance Committee Report

Mike Hinshaw and Bob Orr reported. Bob described each year's budget as an adjustment of the previous year's budget. He outlined preliminary ideas for adjustments in FY 2018–2019: reduce the travel line to $2000; remove Pittsburgh remodeling funds (a one-time need); remove the FGC Gathering and White Privilege Conference scholarships, which were created in recognition of the fact that both events occur in LEYM's "territory" this year; increase the contribution to Olney Friends School.

Publications & Archives will ask for more money.

The total effect of these changes would amount to a $4500 reduction. Bob thought that LEYM would maintain the $30-per-member suggested contribution.

There was discussion of whether to continue to fund the scholarship to White Privilege conferences and similar anti-racist events. The Finance Committee would like seasoned input on this scholarship. We ask Peace & Justice to do this seasoning work, and to communicate with Finance in a timely manner.

Bob reported on the FGC Gathering and White Privilege conference scholarships; a total of 11 requests for funds were made. He also reported that maximum and minimum values for some LEYM funds have been established, and we need to consider how much is too much, when we have exceeded a maximum, and how to use excess funds. Three funds are currently above the maximum level, though one of those should spend down its funds by summer. We need to discern whether some of the purposes budgeted for are no longer consonant with leadings in LEYM and what our leadings are now.

There was a $1000 shortfall for funding last year's Annual Meeting. But there is enough money to cover, so the same registration fee as last year for LEYM Annual Sessions is recommended for 2018. The Annual Meeting has been self-funding; perhaps this is the time to institute a budget line item for the Annual Meeting.

Finance would like an appropriate committee to consider the amount of LEYM's donation to Friends General Conference. Executive Committee will do this work.

A written report from Joe Mills, Finance Committee clerk, follows.
Report of Finance Committee
to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Representative Meeting
4/11/2018

Joseph Mills (Kalamazoo) will serve as clerk of the Committee.

As of this date, Mike Hinshaw, Joe Mills, and Nancy Reeves arranged for the granting of financial assistance to Friends in the Yearly Meeting to attend the Friends General Conference 2018 Gathering being held this summer in Toledo, Ohio. This was in accordance with a Yearly Meeting minute adopted at the last Annual Sessions. A total of $1819 for eight individuals was awarded. $350 of the total was for teens, and the rest for adults.

RM2018-12 Arrangements & Site Committee Report

Jon Sommer, clerk, reported. The Annual Meeting will take place July 26-29 at Bluffton, Ohio. There will be a very slight fee increase because of rising meal prices. There are discounts for young adults, children, and first-time attenders; these discounts will be the same as last year.

RM2018-13 Children & Youth Program Committee Report

Greg Mott, clerk, reported. During the Annual Meeting, there will be a short period of worship for children and youth each morning, a visit to a museum in Findlay, and a mapping project on monthly meetings and worship groups. The Meeting approved a policy that drivers of children be 21 or older. A meeting for parents will be organized.

The fall youth retreat will be held on September 28–30 at Templed Hills Camp in central Ohio.

A connection with youth leaders in Northern Yearly Meeting has been established. This may be fruitful for creating future programs for LEYM youth.

A report follows.

Youth & Children Committee Report In looking ahead to Annual Meeting

Old business

We look to continue the new practice of a 15-minute meeting for worship at the beginning of each day. We began this practice in 2017, and it was well received.

I have met with the directors of the Mazza Museum (children's books' illustrations) about the possibility of bringing the LEYM youth group there for an afternoon outing, in lieu of one day of swimming. They were open to the idea, which may be done for approximately $100-$150, depending on size of the group.

We are also considering a mapping project involving pictures of LEYM places of worship on a map of LEYM meeting locations. Theme: Building the Beloved Community: Who is My Neighbor?

New Business

Child Safety Video training for children group leaders. How do we record this? Who collects these records? May leaders watch it at home ahead of time?

Who is a contact for the Young Friends? We need to communicate regarding Annual Meeting interactions between Young Friends and the Youth Program, particularly regarding attendance at swimming and giving rides.

Update/clarification on setting driver age limit to 21.

Can the registration form add a line for individuals to check Young Friends?

Possibly adding a brief "orientation" for parents?

Fall youth retreat has been set for a date yet to be determined, at Templed Hills camp in central Ohio. With the approval given by executive Committee on 4/13/2018, it will be offered to children ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade.

As a resource of youth programming ideas, we have been referred to Dave Minden, of Northern Yearly Meeting. They have a variety of youth initiatives, including their own Quaker campground, and could be a strong partner to troubleshooting or gaining new ideas.

RM2018-14 Adult & Family Program Committee Report

Jo Posti reported. The theme of this year's Annual Meeting is "Building the Beloved Community: Who Is My Neighbor?" Nine workshops have been decided on; Jo described each briefly. The format for the Annual Meeting is the same as last year. Yvette Shipman will deliver the plenary, called "Being a Good

Neighbor Takes Practice."

RM2018-15 Publications & Archives Committee Report

Bill Lefler, P&A clerk, reported. Bulletins will continue to be bulk-shipped. The Committee wants permission to notify LEYM members via email three times a year when a new Bulletin appears on the website. The Meeting approved.

Plenary addresses from the last five years will be available on the website. After consultation with monthly meetings, Publications will bring a recommendation to Annual Sessions regarding the publishing of memorial minutes of deceased LEYM members on the website.

The full report follows.

Publications & Archives Report, 4/14/2018

Publications & Archives will continue to bulk-mail Bulletins to monthly meetings and those individuals who have requested paper copies. Bulletins are emailed to all persons who have requested electronic copies either at the Annual Sessions or via the website. Notification of Bulletin availability is emailed to monthly meeting clerks and representatives.

Action item – Publications & Archives is requesting permission to email a Bulletin availability notification, three times per year, to all individuals on the Yearly Meeting email list.

As reported at the November Executive Committee meeting, plenary addresses from the last five years are ready to be published on the LEYM website.

The Committee proposes a new section of the website, "Memorial Minutes," which will include as many memorial minutes as are currently available in our Annual Records (35 are currently available just from the last five years). We have contacted several other yearly meetings and they publish their memorial minutes online as part of their yearly meeting minutes. Due to privacy concerns we will be sending an inquiry to all monthly meetings inviting comment on the proposal and will bring a recommendation to the Annual Sessions.

The deadline for the Spring Bulletin, which will include registration material for the Annual Meeting, is May 15. We are asking that any material for inclusion in that Bulletin be sent in as early as possible.

Due to the increase in printing and mailing rates over the last year, we are asking that our 2018-19 budget be increased from $2800 to $3200.

RM2018-16 Appreciation

We deeply appreciate the hospitality of Athens Friends Meeting. Spirit is clearly present in the preparers of food!

RM2018-16 Worship

Representative Meeting closed with a brief period of open worship.

Nancy Reeves, Clerk
Peter Wood, Recording Clerk

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Annual Meeting
July 26 - July 29, 2018
Bluffton, Ohio

First Session: 7:30 – 9:00 pm, Thursday, July 26

YM2018-01 Opening worship and epistle

After a reminder that the land we are meeting on was originally the dwelling and hunting area of Six Nations and other indigenous peoples, we settled into open worship.

Mike Holaday, assistant clerk, read aloud an epistle from Great Plains Yearly Meeting 2018 Annual Sessions, a gathering encompassing a wide variety of spiritual approaches. Listening to and discerning leadings formed a focus of the gathering. Notable in this Yearly Meeting gathering was the presence of Lacina Onco, a Shinnecock and Kiowa Fellow with FCNL, who led several workshops addressing ways in which FCNL is focusing on programs affecting Indian welfare. Outreach and visitation was another strong concern reflected in session programs. Bible study reminded attenders that the Holy Spirit is available to all. Osage dancing and drumming formed part of the fellowship.

YM2018-02 Introduction of the clerks table and roll call

Nancy Reeves (Cleveland), clerk, introduced the clerks' table: herself; Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids), assistant clerk; and Peter Wood (Red Cedar), recording clerk. She then invited attenders to identify themselves in a roll call.

Akron	2		
Ann Arbor	18	Kalamazoo	5
Athens	15	Kent	0
Birmingham	6	Manitou Worship Group	0
Broadmead	16	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Circleville Worship Group	0	North Columbus	10
Cleveland	7	Oberlin	0
Delaware	0	Pine River	0
Detroit	4	Pittsburgh	14
Erie Worship Group	1	Red Cedar	11
Grand Rapids	4	Somerset Worship Group	0
Granville	0	Tustin Worship Group	0
Holland	0	Waysmeet Worship Group	1
Indiana Worship Group	0	Wooster	1
		Other/Unaffiliated	14
		Total	129

Regular attenders who were absent this year were acknowledged: Flo Friender, Joyce and Phil Balderston, Joel and Sharon Ottenbreit, Valerie Groszmann, Richard Lee, Ruth Carey.

YM2018-03 Welcoming visitors

We welcomed visitors: Stephanie Crumley-Effinger, West Richmond Monthly Meeting, New Association of Friends, and Earlham School of Religion; Jerry Knutson, Orlando Monthly Meeting of Southeastern Yearly Meeting and Monongalia (West Virginia) Monthly Meeting of Baltimore Yearly Meeting; David Eley, Ohio Yearly Meeting and member of the Keystone Fellowship.

Nancy ready a traveling minute from Southeastern Yearly Meeting for Jerry Knutson.

YM2018-04 Acknowledgement of deceased Friends

Out of the silence, deceased Friends were named: Helen Horn (Athens), Rusty Sweitzer (Pittsburgh and

Clear Creek), Art Wolfe (Ann Arbor), Fran Mendez (Grand Rapids), and Sue Leonard (longtime attender at North Columbus).

YM2018-05 Epistle Committee

We appointed Seth Reichenbach and Su Penn to join Mike Holaday (assistant clerk) on the Epistle Committee; Mike will clerk the committee.

YM2018-06 Announcements

Nancy Reeves, clerk, made several announcements:

- Announcements should be handed to the assistant clerk.
- Attenders are invited to "test drive" committees, especially Program, Ministry & Nurture, and Peace & Justice, which need members.
- We also will soon need a database manager, as well as a Meeting worker: consult with Mathilda Navias.

YM2018-07 Naming Committee

Nancy Taylor was approved to the Naming Committee. Another name will be brought forward later [*see* YM2018-35].

YM2018-08 Concern about sexual harassment

Jo Posti has raised the following concern: how to address sexual harassment among adult Friends, and the need to set policy regarding this. Jo is willing to convene an ad hoc committee to take up this concern. Claire Cohen volunteered to serve. We will continue to keep open the invitation to serve on this committee. (*See* YM2018-34.)

YM2018-09 Meeting Worker's Report

Mathilda Navias reported that she spent three quarters of the time budgeted attending to a variety of tasks. Subscriptions to the website allow news posts to be automatically emailed to subscribers. There are 103 subscribers. Mathilda outlined the kinds of information that can be found on the website. Hits to the website come from all over the world. Mathilda also outlined the sorts of skills a Meeting worker will need. The time budget is at 100 hours a year. Some years the work is under this amount, some years over.

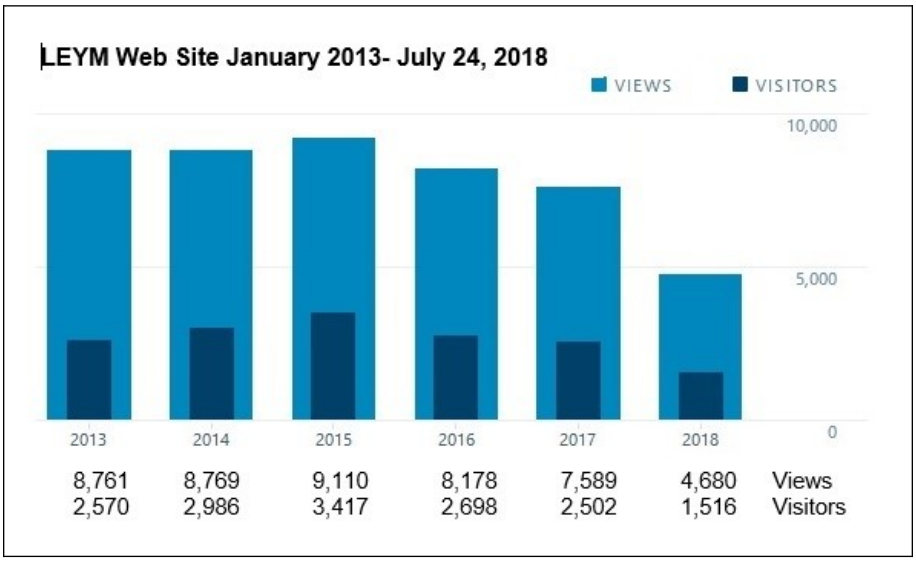
The full report follows.

Report from Mathilda Navias, LEYM Worker
July 2017 – June 2018

This year has gone fairly smoothly, and I have spent only about three-quarters of the time budgeted. As usual, maintaining and posting news to the website has taken the bulk of my time – about 40%. Maintaining the listservs and email accounts for Yearly Meeting officers has taken about another 30%. A little under 20% has been spent on administrative tasks like writing reports. Other tasks I have worked on are: updating the online registration for the 2018 Annual Sessions; formatting and uploading LEYM minutes to the website; vetting youth workers for Annual Sessions; and updating the Policies and Procedures manual. You can get the updated Policies and Procedures on LEYM's website.

(Would Friends who are currently subscribed to the Yearly Meeting website please raise your hands?) When you subscribe, all news posts are emailed to you. There are few enough of these that they don't get annoying, and it's easy to do. Just follow the directions in the upper left corner of the Home page. Currently, 103 Friends are subscribed, about 10 more than last year.

Here is a chart showing the number of views and visitors to LEYM's website since its beginning in 2013. Overall, it's been pretty steady, with 8000 to 9000 views and 2500 to 3500 visitors each year. This year shows fewer because we are only three-quarters of the way through 2018.



The most visited pages of the website include: the Home page, Annual Sessions, Meetings & Worship Groups, LEYM Bulletins, About LEYM, LEYM Contact Information, the *Policies and Procedures* Manual, and Spiritual Formation Retreats. Surprisingly, people who visit the website come from all over the world. While the vast majority are from the United States, we also get people from Canada, Europe, India, Australia, and China. People who live in 37 additional countries around the world have visited, including from former Russian provinces, South America, the Orient, and Africa.

We had some problems this year with online registrations for Annual Sessions not reaching the registrar, but got those resolved, so Sally received at least the names of everyone who registered online. I am working with technical support from the software vendor to figure out what went wrong, so it doesn't happen again.

I am looking into changing the LEYM officers' email accounts from Gmail to a different utility that will allow users to log in with just the email address and password. Gmail has started making people answer security questions if they log in from a different computer from mine, which has caused people delays in getting access to their emails.

The tasks I have performed during the 2017–2018 year are detailed below.

LEYM Website	30:59 hours (30.98) (41%)
Do annual updates following Yearly Meeting	
Post Bulletins	
Post news of interest to LEYM Friends	
Maintenance	
Listservs (Exec. Cmt., MM Clerks, MM Reps, GPQM) & Gmail	22 hours (29%)
Annual updates of lists following Yearly Meeting	
Forward messages to lists	
Maintain & update	
Maintain Gmail accounts for officers	
Administration (emails, prepare reports, misc.)	11:44 hours (11.73) (17%)
Other:	
• Update online registration for 2018 Annual Sessions	4:41 hours (4.68) (6%)
• Format & upload minutes	3:23 hours (3.38) (4%)
• Update *Policies and Procedures*	0:55 hours (0.92) (2%)
• Vet youth workers for Annual Sessions	0:25 hours (0.42) (1%)

Total: 75:12 hours (75.2)

Total budgeted for year: $2000 for 100 hours of work.

YM2018-10 Concern about new Philadelphia YM *Faith and Practice*

A Friend raised a concern about the new Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*. Our Yearly

Meeting recommends this *Faith and Practice* (among others) in its *Policies and Procedures*, since LEYM does not have its own Faith and Practice. Such a concern might need to be seasoned in more than one committee. Suggestions entertained were to assign the discernment task to individual monthly meetings, to create our own *Faith and Practice*, to have the Yearly Meeting as a whole take up the concerns about the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice* to help inform member monthly meetings, or to have Representative Meeting outline and take up the concerns. We are reminded that we can address not only what we critique, but also what we want.

The sense of the meeting is to have Representative Meeting take up the concern, with Marvin Barnes (Birmingham) presenting his specific concerns in writing in advance so that they can be seasoned. Marvin will give his document to the Executive Committee meeting at the end of these sessions, but have an outline available by Saturday afternoon.

Representative Meeting has not been truly representative in recent years because of the number of meetings that don't send representatives. It was suggested that we actively reach out to meetings to ask them to appoint representatives and see that they attend. Suggestion: When we invite representatives, send them the agenda.

Second Session: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Friday, July 27, 2018

YM2018-11 Worship and epistle

The assistant clerk read the epistle from Southeastern Yearly Meeting, held in March 2018 in Florida. The gathering was focused on an experiential presentation on "roots of injustice" in the experience of native peoples in North America. The Doctrine of Discovery was formally repudiated by the SEYM gathering. This was followed by a presentation on how injustice has been addressed in Ramallah on the West Bank, and how we as Quakers can address violence and oppression. A minute on repudiating gun violence was approved by that meeting.

This Epistle, and all Epistles read at these sessions, can be found on the FWCC website.

YM2018-12 Visitors and first-time attenders

New visitors introduced themselves:

- Mary Comfort Ferrell, representing Friends Committee on National Legislation. The clerk read a letter of introduction from FCNL.

- Lily Rockwell, Ohio Yearly Meeting Conservative. The clerk read a letter of introduction from Ohio Yearly Meeting.

- Melissa Stoner, representing the American Friends Service Committee.

First-time attenders introduced themselves: Heather Paris and son Grady Buehler (Red Cedar); Kathie Hollingshead and son John Irv Hollingshead (Pittsburgh); Ally Day (Broadmead); Susan and Bob Towner-Larson (North Columbus); Carolyn Holland and son Marcos Carbary (Ann Arbor); Robert Berardi (Athens); Grace Anne Gasperson (Athens); and Ann Kangas (North Columbus).

YM2018-13 Nominating Committee Report (no. 1)

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Nominating clerk, observed that we need volunteers to fill 90 positions, and the usual adult attendance at LEYM summer sessions is also about 90. Vacant positions exist in the following committees: Advancement & Outreach, Peace & Justice, Publications & Archives, Finance, Adult & Family Program, and Arrangements & Site (a technical person); we also need representatives to AFSC and FGC Central Committee. Friends are encouraged to approach the Nominating Committee members: Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Bill Warters, Linda Mills, Janet Dando, Jo Steigerwald, and Ellerie Brownfain.

YM2018-14 Publications & Archives Committee Report

Bill Lefler, Committee clerk, reported. Members include Bob Roehm and Seth Reichenbach, with *ex-officio* members Jeff Cooper, Peggy Daub, and Mathilda Navias. The *Bulletin* is being sent out in paper

form, which is expensive; it is also produced in a variety of electronic forms to be more economical. Paper copies go only to individuals requesting them and to Monthly Meetings and worship groups. *Annual Records* is still produced yearly in hard copy, but not online. Submissions for the *Annual Records* need to go to Jeff Cooper by September 4, 2018. There is an October 1 deadline for Fall *Bulletin* submissions.

The Committee has examined the possibility of publishing memorial minutes on the website. Other yearly meetings have this practice, and descendants seem comfortable with it. The Meeting approved the publication of future memorial minutes on the website; publication of memorial minutes already received will need approval by monthly meetings. There was a suggestion that monthly meetings could benefit by having guidelines for the writing of memorial minutes.

The full report follows.

Publications & Archives Committee Report

The members of the Publications & Archives Committee this year are Bill Lefler, Seth Reichenbach, and Bob Roehm, with ex-officio members Bulletin editors Jeff Cooper and Peggy Daub, and LEYM worker Mathilda Navias.

We continue to distribute the Bulletin primarily in paper form, but during the past two years we have moved toward more electronic distribution. The cost of these paper copies has escalated due to printing and mailing expenses. We now offer the content in several ways, namely, an email with a link to the Bulletin page on leym.org, a pdf copy to your email, multiple paper copies sent to a monthly meeting, and a single paper copy to an individual's address. The electronic method is of course more ecologically responsible. Please let us know which is best for you.

The Annual Records continues to be distributed in multiple hard copies to the monthly meetings, libraries, and archives. Submissions for the 2018 Annual Records are due by September 4. Jeff Cooper will serve as editor, with help from others on the committee. Annual Records submissions should be sent to Jeff at cooperdaub@hotmail.com. If your meeting is receiving more or fewer copies than you need, please let us know.

The Bulletin editors invite more content from our member meetings. This can include monthly meeting news and events, workshop reports, and meeting participation in local and regional special interest groups. The deadline for submissions for the Fall LEYM Bulletin is October 1; these may be sent to Jeff and Peggy at bulletinleym@gmail.com.

For the past year we have been studying whether we should publish memorial minutes on LEYM's website. These have already been published in the Annual Records. Questions were raised about privacy issues, so we checked with other yearly meetings and found that they do publish them either directly on their website or in their online Annual Meeting minutes. We also talked with a couple of descendants of our departed members and they were delighted.

Therefore:

Publications and Archives recommends publishing future memorial minutes online. In addition, we would like to add past minutes from the Annual Records.

Are we ready to proceed with publishing memorial minutes on LEYM's website or do we need to consult further with our monthly meetings?

YM2018-15 Friends General Conference Report

Carolyn Lejuste, LEYM representative to FGC, listed the names of LEYM representatives to FGC. FGC is in a serious financial position.

Highlights of last year include:

- Executive Committee has to balance the budget by 2020. That task is halfway accomplished.
- FGC has received a $50K grant to fund spiritual deepening e-retreats.
- Exploration of dynamic governance as a model for reorganizing Central Committee. This model encourages all voices to be heard.
- Institutional assessment on racism is in full swing. A report with recommendations will be submitted to Central Committee in October 2018.

Assistance in "digital training," e.g., use of social media, is now available. A variety of other resources are also available through the FGC website.

FGC is interested in hearing from monthly meetings on how it can better serve them.

The FGC Gathering in Toledo seemed to have made some progress in addressing concerns of Friends of color.

The full report follows.

FGC Representative Report to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting 2018

Representatives: Robb Yurisko, Sally Weaver Sommer, Carolyn Lejuste, Claire Cohen. Also serving FGC: Mathilda Navias, FGC Recording Clerk, and Marvin Barnes, Assistant Clerk.

The general tone is that FGC is in a very serious financial situation. We have, for a number of years, drawn from our unrestricted fund to cover shortfalls. If major changes are not undertaken with our current budget and structure, we risk running out of money within the next four years.

With that caution, here follows a list of highlights of the last year.

- Executive Committee has been charged with the task of balancing the budget by 2020.
- We recently received a $50,000 grant to support Spiritual Deepening E-Retreats.
- A process of reorganization of Central Committee. One model is called Dynamic Governance, which encourages all voices to be heard.
- Institutional Assessment on Systemic Racism is in full working mode and will submit a final report to CC in October.

FGC is currently training a cohort on digital outreach training, including developing a social media presence and local Facebook ads. Information regarding a September cohort can be found on the FGC website at https://www.fgcquaker.org/digital-outreach-opportunity-quaker-meetings.

FGC is moving toward building better relationships with yearly meetings, especially the smaller meetings. Therefore, it welcomes requests from both yearly meetings and monthly meetings in ways it can better serve us. We all are encouraged to use the current resources on the website.

The recent gathering in Toledo was highly successful. The Gathering was housed in an urban environment for the first time in many years. Our Friends of Color report appreciation of sharing a campus with other people of color (students and local community). We are not finished with identifying our unexamined racism but the 2018 Gathering was a start. A shout out to LEYM Planning Committee.

YM2018-16 Peace & Justice Committee Report (no. 1)

Co-clerk Shelley Kotz reported. The results of a survey of what monthly meetings and worship groups are doing in the area of peace and justice are summarized in a display at this gathering. Resources in peace and justice work can be shared and found on the LEYM website.

Instead of developing a minute on immigration, the Committee is working to provide resources. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants is especially valuable.

A just and sustainable economy is another concern being addressed through a proposal available on the website for monthly meetings to use in their own discernment.

The Executive Committee has charged the Peace & Justice Committee with looking for ways to acknowledge the lands that have been taken from indigenous peoples.

Peace & Justice is proposing a minute on nuclear weapons. Nancy Taylor read aloud the proposed minute, based on the Ann Arbor minute in support of a treaty developed in the United Nations. Action on this proposed minute will be taken at a future session.

A full report follows.

Peace & Justice Committee Report
July 27, 2018

The primary work of the Committee during the last year was a survey of what monthly meetings and worship groups in LEYM are doing in the area of peace and justice. The survey was available on the internet; meetings

that did not do the survey online were contacted by phone. Twelve meetings in all responded to the survey. The results of the survey were summarized and are on display upstairs in the loft.

The final question of the survey asked what input from the Peace & Justice Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting monthly meetings and worship groups would like to have. Many of the responses indicated that meetings would like more information on how other meetings address topics. They are interested in the nuts and bolts of actions taken: if a retreat was held on a given topic, what specific topics were addressed, who was the presenter, what kind of materials or activities were used? If queries on a topic were used, what were they? How do community collaborations come about? These are the kind of details that will help other meetings in their own actions to address concerns.

All of these can be shared with other meetings by way of the LEYM website, which has a section for Peace & Justice resources. The Peace & Justice Committee will consider ways to make meetings and worship groups aware of this resource, and to encourage them to share information from their meetings.

The Peace & Justice Committee discussed proposing a minute on immigration. Due to the wide reach of the topic, the constantly changing situation both in the United States and in other parts of the world, and the sparse Committee attendance at this year's Annual Sessions, we decided that for now we will share some of the resources we have been using; these will be available on the LEYM website, under the "Resources" heading. Of particular value is the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, a statement that resulted from the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants in 2016, as well as ongoing information from the United Nations in their work to establish an international compact of refugees and migrants. Other resources include minutes from various monthly meetings on the topic of immigration.

The Peace & Justice Committee encourages all meetings and worship groups to continue their concern for issues surrounding immigration, to study and take action, and to share their activities with all of us.

Ann Arbor Meeting has brought forward a concern regarding nuclear weapons and is proposing a minute on the topic. The minute and supporting material are attached (see Minute YM2018-36). If approved, this minute will be distributed to other yearly meetings; monthly meetings are also encouraged to share the minute with their local community and newspapers.

The Committee has received a proposal for studying the priorities for establishing a just and sustainable economy. The proposal addresses the problems of sustaining life within the limits of a planet with finite resources. It was developed as part of a Summer Research Seminar of the Quaker Institute for the Future (quakerinstitute.org) and is intended for use by monthly meetings in considering input to the Friends Committee on National Legislation. The proposal will be avail-able on the website; we encourage meetings to read this information and use it for their own exploration of these concerns.

The Executive Committee has asked Peace & Justice to consider ways in which Lake Erie Yearly Meeting can acknowledge and honor the native peoples who previously lived on this land. The Committee will be considering this matter in the coming year.

Third Session: 1:45 – 3:15 pm, Friday, July 27, 2018

YM2018-17 Worship and epistle

The assistant clerk read the Epistle from the gathering of Friends Association for Higher Education, held at Wilmington College on June 14–17, 2018; the theme was "Keeping Faithful in a Time of Rapid Change." Issues of class and homelessness were explored. Attenders were challenged to be authentic and vital and to welcome transformative experience. Idols such as technology and personal comfort must be relinquished in favor of the beloved community. We must be both custodians and critics of culture, emphasizing the power of the positive in addressing idolatry.

YM2018-18 Arrangements & Site announcements

Sally Weaver Sommer reported. The Arrangements & Site Committee is seeking to make meals greener by reducing paper use through provision of cloth napkins, composting uneaten food, which can be put in buckets provided in the cafeteria, and cutting back on the amount of meat provided. Feedback is welcome on these efforts.

YM2018-19 Naming Committee

The clerk proposed that Erika Smith be added to the Naming Committee, to serve with Nancy Taylor. This name was approved.

YM2018-20 Adult & Family Program Committee Report

Claire Cohen, Committee clerk, started by introducing and thanking current Committee members for their stellar service.

This year's theme is "Building the Beloved Community: Who Is my Neighbor?" Our plenary speaker is Yvette Shipman. Once again, this year the talent show will rock. Solicitations for next year's theme are sought. The Committee wishes to raise the budget for the honorarium for the plenary speaker. Bible study is back; its leader receives the same honorarium as workshop leaders.

Raising the honorarium budget for the plenary speaker from $400 to $500 was approved.

YM2018-21 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mike Hinshaw reported.

Receipts: Meeting contributions amounted to $16,531. Two meetings sent contributions too late to be counted in this year's receipts, amounting to about $4600. They will be added to next year's income.

Expenses: The total amount spent was $21,551.98. Representatives to organizations are encouraged to submit their expenses. An unusually large amount was budgeted to support travel this year to the FGC Gathering and the White Privilege Conference. Most of the budgeted amount in this line item was spent. Youth and children funds are very actively used, as is the spiritual formation fund. Some funds are over their ceilings.

Assets: Present assets amount to $69,561.77.

The full report appears below.

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND INCOME - 2017/2018 Fiscal Year

Meeting (Giver)	Amount	Date
Akron Friends Meeting	420.00	31-Mar
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	3,750.00	3-Feb
Athens Friends Meeting	2,000.00	9-May
Birmingham Friends Meeting	392.00	9-Oct
Broadmead Friends Meeting	1,200.00	3-Feb
Cleveland Friends Meeting	1,290.00	29-May
Delaware Friends Meeting		
Detroit Friends Meeting		
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting	540.00	19-Feb
Granville Friends Meeting	675.00	25-Sep
Holland Friends Meeting		
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting	980.00	3-Feb
Kent Friends Meeting	720.00	15-Jan
Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting	144.00	15-Jan
North Columbus Friends Meeting	900.00	14-Nov
Oberlin Friends Meeting	1,000.00	29-May
Pine River (now a worship group)		
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting		
Red Cedar Friends Meeting	2,070.00	13-Mar
Wooster Friends Meeting	450.00	9-Oct
Individuals		
Total Contributions	**16,531.00**	
FFC Dividends, Base Account	1,130.76	
FFC change port value, + or -, Base Acc.	1,169.73	
TOTAL INCOME	**18,831.49**	

ACCOUNT	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE	EXPENSE % 0F BUDGET
Travel	3,500.00	1,023.76	29%
Office	300.00	228.00	76%
Contract worker	2,400.00	1,289.93	54%
Finance [1]	75.00		0%
Publications	2,800.00	2,685.65	96%
Advancement	50.00	79.39	159%
Ministry & Nurture	50.00		0%
Clerk	200.00		0%
FGC	6,000.00	6,000.00	100%
Pittsburgh MM, remodel contribution	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Records project	100.00	100.00	100%
FWCC Travel Fund [2]	900.00	900.00	100%
FWCC Travel Donation [2]	900.00	900.00	100%
Youth Activities Fund [2]	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%
H. S. Teen Retreat Fund [2]	0.00		
Spiritual Formation Fund [2]	300.00	300.00	100%
Olney Friends School	2,000.00	2,000.00	100%
Consultation Fund [2]	0.00		
Scholarship Fnd for Ministry [2]	0.00		
Summer Work Project	200.00		0%
Insurance	500.00	500.00	100%
Misc. (FGC scholarships)	4,000.00	3,545.25	89%
Sub-total	**26,275.00**	21,551.98	82%
Misc.			
Totals	**26,275.00**	21,551.98	82%

[1] Includes banking costs

[2] Subsidy from General Fund to other Funds

Summary of Funds 2017-2018 Fiscal Year

Fund Name	Starting Balance	Income or Change	Subsidy from General Fund	Cash Expenses	End Balance	Fund Floors and ceilings (000's)
General Fund [1]	28,399.26	18,831.49		21,551.98	**25,678.77**	na / 30
Granville Youth Fund [2]	7,357.62	502.73		244.46	**7,615.89**	na / na
Annual Meeting Fund [3]	2,905.82	15,144.57		16,105.77	**1,944.62**	1 / 3
Youth Activities Fund [4 5]	6,156.39	1,249.46	1,000.00	1,410.28	**6,995.57**	4 / 8
H S Teen retreat Fund [4]	8,074.39			1,181.75	**6,892.64**	3 / 6
Spiritual Form. Fund [4]	2,820.14	4,180.00	300.00	4,643.40	**2,656.74**	.5 / 1.5
FWCC Travel Fund [4]	1,739.83		900.00		**2,639.83**	na / 6
FWCC Travel Donation			900.00		**900.00**	na / 9
Consultation Fund [4]	3,143.68				**3,143.68**	.5 / 2
Ministry Sch'ship Fund [4]	2,000.00				**2,000.00**	na / 2
Summer Work Proj Fund [4]	2,320.09	58.85		196.55	**2,182.39**	na / 2
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00				**3,500.00**	na / na
Travel Cont'cy Fund [4 6]	3,411.64				**3,411.64**	2 / 4
TOTAL	**71,828.86**	**39,967.10**	**3,100.00**	**45,334.19**	**69,561.77**	

[1] Includes line item accounting from Budget plus contributions;
also reflects dividends and changes in net portfolio value, FFC base account

[2] Granville Youth Fund is separate FFC account; 'Income or Change' reflects
both dividend and change in portfolio value; 'Cash Expense' reflects
dividends that have been paid and are then are transferred to Youth Activities Fund

[3] Income includes 861.69 in individual donations

[4] Other funds are managed through accounting and may be subsidized by the corresponding budget lines of the General Fund.

[5] Income includes dividends from FFC Granville YF account

[6] Subsidy = Transfer from Travel Budget

BALANCE SHEET

Location of Assets	CASH ASSETS			Change in Value
	07/01/17	06/30/18		7/1/2017-
	Beginning	FF Change	End	
Citizens Nat. Bank, Bluffton, Ohio	30,686.40		25,860.55	-4,825.85
Friends Fiduciary, Base Account	33,784.84		36,085.33	2,300.49
> Dividends, Re-Invested		1,130.76		
> Change in Portfolio Value is + or -		1,169.73		
Friends Fiduciary, Granville YF Account	7,357.62		7,615.89	258.27
> Change in Portfolio Value + or -		258.27		
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	**41,142.46**	**2,558.76**	**43,701.22**	**2,558.76**
Total Cash Assets	**71,828.86**		**69,561.77**	**-2,267.09**

Allocation of Assets			
General Fund	28,399.26	25,678.77	-2,720.49
Granville Youth Fund	7,357.62	7,615.89	258.27
Annual Meeting Fund	2,905.82	1,944.62	-961.20
Youth Activities Fund	6,156.39	6,995.57	839.18
High School Teen Retreat Fund	8,074.39	6,892.64	-1,181.75
Spiritual Formation Fund	2,820.14	2,656.74	-163.40
FWCC Travel Fund (incl. Travel & Donation)	1,739.83	3,539.83	1,800.00
Consultation Fund	3,143.68	3,143.68	0.00
Ministry Scholarship Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Summer. Work Proj Fund	2,320.09	2,182.39	-137.70
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00
Travel Contingency Fund	3,411.64	3,411.64	0.00
Total All Funds	**71,828.86**	**69,561.77**	**-2,267.09**

YM2018-22 Finance Committee Report (no. 1)

Joe Mills, Committee clerk, outlined the proposed budget of $22,050 for next year, explaining the rationale for some changes from last year's budget.

The Finance Committee made several recommendations: eliminate the travel contingency fund; create a new line item for attendance at conferences compatible with Quaker values; combine several line items into one line item to cover administrative needs. The mileage reimbursement will remain the same (45¢ per mile) but may need review in instances when the mileage exceeds 500 miles.

The report appears below.

A suggestion was made to support the Quaker legacy by supporting Quaker education through contributions to Quaker colleges such as Earlham or scholarships to Quaker educational institutions. Concern was also raised

about the financial needs of FGC, in thinking about how we allocate our contributions. Friends with budgetary concerns or ideas should approach Finance Committee as it formulates its final budget.

Report of Finance Committee
7/27/2018

The Committee recommends the following changes to the Yearly Meeting's budgetary structure to promote simplicity without sacrificing meaningful detail:

- Eliminating the Travel Contingency Fund. This has been rarely used and all travel expenses can be handled through the budget line without a supporting fund. The treasurer can pay in excess of budget in consultation with the clerk or Finance Committee.
- Establishing a line item without a supporting fund for Conference Attendance. This would be for conferences such as White Privilege, conferences sponsored by Friends organizations, and others in keeping with Quaker testimonies and values.
- Combining budget line items for Clerk's Fund, Office, and Finance into one line item titled

"Administration."

The mileage reimbursement remains at 45¢ per mile. Reimbursement for over 500 miles should be reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee.

A request for support of a Friends organization was received. The policy of the Yearly Meeting is to support only FGC, of which the Yearly Meeting is an organizational member, and rely on monthly meetings and individual Friends to support other Friends organizations.

Fourth Session: 9:45 – 11:45 am, Saturday, July 28, 2018

YM2018-23 Worship and epistle

After a period of open worship, the clerk read the Epistle from the FLGBTQC gathering, held at Toledo, Ohio, during the 2018 FGC gathering.

YM2018-24 Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns Report

Nancy Reeves, LEYM representative to FLGBTQC, outlined its history. It has found increased difficulty in filling committee roles, leading to a reduction in duties of the group. The group processed and mourned feelings of loss of its traditional functions and energy. The group cherishes its legacy, citing the many contributions of members of FLGBTQC to the Religious Society of Friends, and values recent developments in society. Its future, however, is unclear.

YM2018-25 Children & Youth Committee Report

Greg Mott, Committee clerk, reported. The 2017 fall youth retreat was filled with fun and fellowship, with educational moments at the Balderston farm, and with worship. Registration for the 2018 fall youth retreat is open for K–12 youth. The retreat will be held at Templed Hills, Ohio.

Twenty-nine children are attending this year's gathering. Children investigated houses of worship in LEYM by asking adults to identify pictures of them.

The full report follows.

Children & Youth Committee
July 28, 2018

It is my pleasure to report on an exciting year for the Children & Youth Committee. Our first event occurred from September 29 to October 1 of 2017 as 13 youth and 7 adults gathered at Pilgrim Hills in Brinkhaven, Ohio, for our annual fall youth retreat. The weekend was full of silkscreening, hiking, Ga-Ga ball, and, most importantly, fellowship. One highlight of the weekend was our visit to the Balderston farm, where we were treated to a lesson in identifying different types of wood and soil, followed by a nice hike through the woods with a few moments of silence atop a large rock surrounded by trees. We concluded the weekend with a Sunday morning worship beside a small pond. We are thankful for the financial support from LEYM, which helps make the retreat possible. Registration for the fall 2018 retreat has begun, and the weekend is set for September 28–30. This year, it will be held at Templed Hills, in Bellville, Ohio. Registration forms can be found at the LEYM registration table, or by contacting Diane Mott. At the April 2018 Executive Committee meeting, a motion was approved to allow the youth retreat to expand from K–8 to K–12.

Currently, we are enjoying the company of 29 youth, including 6 who were not in the program last year. Their ages range from 18 months old to 18 years old. The Meeting should know that it has a very talented and dynamic group of youngsters. I would like to thank the group leaders, the volunteer drivers, parents, and the LEYM support network that make the weekend special.

YM2018-26 Olney Friends School Report

Greg Mott, LEYM liaison to Olney, reported on the degree of financial risk facing Olney. Olney was able to address financial problems successfully enough to stay open this year. It has a new Director, Christian Acemah, starting August 1, 2018. Olney will work with a consulting firm to ensure continued viability.

The organic farm on campus is a central part of Olney, helping to provide part of the 40% of the campus food which is locally grown.

How to help Olney stay open and vital: Come visit, sponsor a workshop or class, contribute to the annual

fund, and give word of mouth.

The full report follows.

Olney Friends School Report
July 28, 2018

On February 10, 2018, Olney Friends School sent a mass email to its alumni and friends that began with the statement "Olney Friends School is at risk." A variety of financial concerns have led to a time of desperation: Raise $250,000 by March 30, or close the school in fall."

This gave the Olney community a little more than one and a half months to raise this money.

The sources of the financial crisis are many: The recession negatively impacted the last major funding campaign, financial aid is over-distributed, and refusing to sell mineral rights to fracking companies is a missed source of income, but preserves the integrity of Olney's commitment to creating a healthy world.

Despite the ongoing concerns and challenges, I am pleased to report that Olney has already raised $360,000, and has announced it will remain open in 2018-2019, its 181st year. Several steps are being taken to address its financial concerns, including a reduction of administrative staff and possibly combining the students into one dorm.

The Olney board has hired Christian Acemah as head of school. Christian is an Olney Alumnus. He is a former Director of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences and has extensive work experience in university and non-profit organizations. His leadership for Olney begins August 1, 2018.

In addition to new leadership, the school has engaged the services of EMD Consulting, who specialize in working with nonprofits to improve their develop-ment and business models.

The farm program at Olney continues to be key to its identity. It remains the only USDA-certified organic campus in the nation. The farm has 52 beef cattle, 8 goats, 150 laying chickens, 800 meat chickens, 2 beehives (looking to add 5 more), and the occasional pig. Olney also grows hay, fruit, numerous vegetables, and herbs. The school derives 40% of its food from the farm and local area, aided in part by the 28,500 eggs gathered from the chickens.

How LEYM can help:
- Come visit
- Sponsor a workshop or a class
- Contribute to the Annual Fund
- Word of mouth is still the most effective recruitment for Olney. Help spread the word.
- Please keep Olney Friends School in your prayers, and offer assistance as you feel led.

YM2018-27 American Friends Service Committee Corporation Report

Claire Cohen, an LEYM representative to AFSC, reported on the AFSC Corporation meeting held in Philadelphia this year. AFSC has a new Director, Joyce Ajlouny. Immigration concerns were at the forefront of the plenary speech, as well as being a central concern of AFSC because of the current political climate. AFSC has gone through a painful downsizing, but is now in a stable financial state, though it has approved a deficit budget for the coming year in order not to cut programs. It remains vital, with 60 varied programs in the U.S. and worldwide.

AFSC supports the abolition of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

A current aim is to strengthen relationships with monthly meetings. A strategic planning process is underway to reassess goals and structure as AFSC enters its second century.

Melissa Stoner, visiting AFSC representative, gave a report on some of the programs important to the Midwest region: immigration concerns, youth work, ending discrimination, addressing the school to prison pipeline, and mass incarceration. The Dayton office has been focusing on African refugees.

YM2018-28 Friends Committee on National Legislation Report

John Howell, an LEYM representative to FCNL, listed the other LEYM representatives: Nancy Reeves (at large), Al Connor, Richard Shaw, Jim Crowfoot, Michael Fuson, and David Snyder.

The aims of FCNL were reviewed, and we were reminded that FCNL de-pends for its direction on input

from members of the Religious Society of Friends and monthly meetings. The Annual Meeting this fall will recommend FCNL priorities based on the input it has received.

"The World We Seek" capital campaign has been successfully completed, leading, among other things, to the creation of the Quaker Welcome Center, where common ground can be sought by people with political differences.

FCNL is quite successful in bringing youth into advocacy programs to establish ongoing relationships with local politicians and their aides. At this election time, it is important to speak to candidates, and FCNL has produced a pamphlet called "Questions for Candidates."

FCNL staff visitor Mary Comfort Ferrell will be offering a workshop at this gathering and there will be an open table at dinner where she can talk over FCNL concerns with those interested.

It was noted that there will be a 75th anniversary celebration of FCNL this year; it is the oldest religious lobby organization in the U.S.

YM2018-29 Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

Mathilda Navias, Committee clerk, reported. A display called "Resources for Inclusiveness" is available at this gathering. It aims to help meetings to learn ways to be more welcoming to varieties of people, and suggests other resources. These resources are now or soon will be available on the website. Some QuakerSpeak videos appropriate for newcomers are also available through links on the website.

The Committee wishes to explore how to better use social media. Ideas for this should be addressed to Ellen Barnes.

Fifth Session: 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Saturday, July 28, 2018

YM2018-30 Worship and epistle

After a period of open worship, the assistant clerk read the Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting, held in Coventry, England, on 29 July to August 5, 2017.

A consistent recent theme at BYM has been "Living Out our Faith in the World – how we work with others to make a difference in the world." How do bonds form out of concern for the common good? We are increasingly and urgently aware of increased insecurity and environmental degradation, of injustice in the world. How do we respond?

Many examples come forth in our meeting of ways of addressing such issues as homelessness. We can focus on listening, both to others and to the Holy Spirit. This listening will lead us to right action in a variety of venues, small and large. Sometimes our simple presence may be enough.

As ever, in many ways, we are called to be instruments of change.

YM2018-31 Earthcare Committee Report

Phil Clampitt reported. Climatic problems are on the increase leading to increased suffering around the world. Phil read from an article titled "Is Earthcare a Quaker Value?" The answer to this question is clearly in the affirmative.

The full report follows.

Report of the Earthcare Committee
2018 Annual Sessions

As we enjoy a perfect, lovely summer day here in Northwest Ohio, we are mindful that in many places around the world the situation is less idyllic – floods, fires, drought, high temperatures, and water shortages are affecting millions. These situations will only become more widespread.

We urge Friends to consider ways we might help ease the suffering of those in need and to find joy in the small and large gifts we receive each day.

We wish to pass on the wisdom of the following two paragraphs of Shelley Tanenbaum's article, "Is Earthcare a Quaker Value?" (published by Western Friend in 2018).

What are our assumptions about environmental concerns? Why isn't this prioritized in our lives as much as our traditional "peace and justice work"?

We understand that climate change poses a mortal threat, but when do we start taking action? Why haven't we? What needs to change in our assumptions, lifestyle, worship, and in our meetinghouses to embrace Earthcare as a core part of our faith and practice as a Friend?

Here is the good news. First of all, there is tremendous joy in embracing our oneness with the universe. We are made of stardust and the stars are us – how beautiful is that! Many of us find our deepest connection with Spirit when we are in nature. We are facing an existential crisis. We need to embrace as much spiritual guidance as we can get.

YM2018-32 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

Carla Pratt-Harrington reported. Attendance at M&N meetings at this Annual Meeting threatened to be sparse because of many absences of regular members of the Committee, but many gathering attenders have stepped forward to help.

Thirteen monthly meetings and two worship groups sent in "State of the Meeting" reports. Several meetings report joy, hope, and vitality. But others report significant troubles due to aging and loss of members to death. Seekers and new attenders revitalize meetings. Many find refuge and nourishment in meeting activities. There is a rhythm like breathing which gives many a sense of the life in the Spirit. Dealing with change can be an opening to growth.

"State of the Meeting" reports are published in the *Annual Records*. Friends are encouraged to read them.

The annual query for meetings to consider in the coming year, developed in collaboration with the Earthcare Committee, will be:

As we face ongoing degradation of our planet and the general lack of political will to address this, we ask: What are the connections we experience between earthcare and our traditional Quaker concerns for peace and justice? How do we use spiritual guidance to respond with a sense of abundance and hope?

If you are called to travel in the ministry, supportive funds can be sought through M&N.

The full report follows.

Ministry & Nurture Report
July 28, 2018

Ministry & Nurture Committee met with only one co-clerk and one member this year during Annual Sessions. Other members of our committee have been experiencing health concerns and were unable to attend. We were grateful to have Lisa Klopfer step up and join us in reading State of the Meeting reports, drafting a summary, and considering queries. We also had help from Su Penn Dierauer, Eric Dierauer, and David Eley. Thank you to all for your mindful assistance.

Ministry & Nurture Committee received State of the Meeting reports from 13 monthly meetings and two worship groups. A few themes were common to many of these reports, although there was, of course, diversity among the meetings in the specific challenges, practices, and activities the reports described.

Several meetings described an experience of joy, hope, and vitality. Birmingham Monthly Meeting, for example, described the spiritual condition of the Meeting being on the upswing and named significant signs of this. Akron referred to their meeting as "small but vital" and other meetings described themselves as "vibrant." There were significant struggles for many meetings in the past year and an ongo-ing awareness that we are an aging community. Several reports also mentioned deaths of members and the experience of grief resting heavy in many meetings. Despite this side of reality, we also heard in the Grand Rapids report about the "dedication and commitment of a core group of Friends," and Red Cedar spoke about the efforts of their members that "provided the spiritual energy to support our Blessed Community." Seekers, new attenders, and new members continue to enrich our Meetings.

A second theme we heard was that meetings are serving as places of refuge and rest for many. These are unsettling times. Meetings also described struggles specific to their own communities and situations. Meeting for worship has become even more a mainstay and treasure because of this. Several reports also described efforts to nourish community through increased fellowship activities, establishing Friendly Eights, and sharing spiritual journeys. Friends read books to educate themselves on various issues such as White privilege and

spiritual life. Ann Arbor's report used the metaphor of breath: "the rise and fall, expansion and contraction, the energy of the Spirit as it is expressed in organic life." We turn to the meeting for refuge and comfort and, in turn, find energy to go into the world, following diverse leadings.

A third theme we discerned was that many meetings have experienced growth and spiritual deepening through experiences of struggle. Irritations can also function in us, as the Detroit report states, like "the softening and rounding of stones." Unexpected and unwanted changes also bring unexpected growth and blessing. Learning to listen deeply and continuing loving one another are a great gift if we are able to persevere.

As always, we feel uplifted and educated by the opportunity to read these reports that provide a window into the life of the meetings. State of the Meeting reports are published in the Annual Records, and we encourage Friends to read them.

This year we had a suggestion from Earthcare Committee to work with them on a query. It was delightful to have a chance to overlap with another committee on our concerns and desires to do that which we are called to do. The following query is the result of this work and will be sent to meetings this fall to consider and to respond. May it be useful to your spiritual growth.

Query

As we face ongoing degradation of our planet and the general lack of political will to address this, we ask: What are the connections we experience between earthcare and our traditional Quaker concerns for peace and justice? How do we use spiritual guidance to respond with a sense of abundance and hope?

Traveling Ministry Fund

Funds for traveling are available for LEYM Friends traveling in a ministry that has been recognized by their monthly meeting and LEYM through a travel minute. Information is available on the LEYM website under "resources."

YM2018-33 Spiritual Formation Program Report

Mathilda Navias, clerk of the Spiritual Formation Planning Committee, reported. The spiritual formation program is a semi-autonomous group under M&N. Sue Regen led two retreats on "Forgiveness as a Spiritual Practice." Individual meetings held their own ongoing gatherings to deepen their exploration of this theme.

The theme for next year is "A Spiritual Spa." Activities will help attenders center, relax, and be nurtured – exploring spirit/body connections. The fall retreat will be held September 7-9 at Adrian, Michigan; on May 4, 2019 a one-day retreat will be held at a place to be announced.

The full report follows.

LEYM Spiritual Formation Program
Report to LEYM Ministry & Nurture Committee
July 2018

The Past Year (2017-18)

LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program held two retreats this year. Sue Regen gave a weekend workshop on "Forgiveness as a Spiritual Discipline" in September, and followed up on a Saturday in May hosted by Red Cedar Meeting. These were rich experiences. In between the retreats, groups of Friends in local meetings held regular gatherings for spiritual deepening.

The Upcoming Year (2018-19)

This coming year, we are offering something a bit different in light of the distressing times we are living through. For the September retreat, you are invited to relax and get grounded with a weekend of activities to both help you move to your spiritual center and to relax and pamper your body. You can deepen your spiritual life doing activities that help you center and that gently use your body to help reach a deep spiritual place. The weekend will be relaxing, varied, challenging, centering, and nurturing. Activities include body prayer, guided meditation, centering techniques, walking meditation, and mindful eating of chocolate. Overall, we'll explore spirit-body connections.

A team of Friends will lead the exercises: Mathilda Navias (Broadmead), Kate Enger (Athens), Della Stanley-Green (Plainfield Meeting, Western Yearly Meeting), Aran Reinhart (Broadmead), and Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham). [I have flyers & registration forms here and there are more upstairs in the display area. Please

take a flyer with you and help get the word out to people at your meeting. Additional forms and information on the Spiritual Formation Program are available on the Yearly Meeting's website.] Did I mention that there will be chocolate?

The fall retreat is scheduled for September 7-9 in Adrian, Michigan (close to Ann Arbor and Detroit). There will be a follow-up retreat on Saturday, May 4. We need a meeting to volunteer to host it.

Planning Committee

The committee that plans the program and the retreats currently consists of Mathilda Navias, clerk (Broadmead), Aran Reinhart (Broadmead), Rebecca Hatton (Ann Arbor), Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), and Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead). Mathilda will step down as clerk in May. We ask Ministry & Nurture to once again find one of their members to serve on the planning committee as liaison between our committee and M&N. We also encourage members of the Ministry & Nurture Committee to participate in the program.

YM2018-34 Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Harassment

The clerk reported that Jo Steigerwald has agreed to serve on the ad hoc committee to address sexual harassment (*see* YM2018-08).

YM2018-35 Naming Committee Report

Nancy Taylor reported. The Naming Committee, comprised of Nancy and Erika Smith, brought forward two names for approval to serve on the Nominating Committee through 2021: Janet Dando and Mike Holaday.

Friends approved these appointments.

YM2018-36 Peace & Justice Committee Report (no. 2)

Shelley Kotz reported. The Peace & Justice Committee brought back for consideration a minute on nuclear disarmament (see below). Friends approved.

> **Minute Urging U.S. Support for the United Nations Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons**
>
> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (LEYM) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) supports the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We urge the United States to drop its opposition and ratify this legally-binding treaty and to persuade other nuclear-armed nations to do the same. We are deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of an accidental or intentional nuclear strike, as well as the waste of economic and human resources on programs for the production, maintenance, and modernization of nuclear weapons. We believe that dialogue, trust-building, and enlightened leadership provide a more effective and responsible path to peace.

This minute was approved by Lake Erie Yearly Meeting at its Annual Sessions on July 28, 2018.

This minute would be distributed by the clerk to all meetings and to Nikki Haley (current U.S. Ambassador to the UN), and could be made available to news outlets.

A background statement appears below. It was recommended that this statement be included in communications with monthly meetings.

Background

Concerned about the slow pace of nuclear disarmament, the United Nations formally adopted a treaty banning nuclear weapons last year on July 17, 2017. (The text of the Treaty is available at www.icanw.org/ treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons/). The treaty was endorsed by 122 countries over strong opposition from the United States and all other nuclear-armed nations and their allies. The legally binding treaty would go into effect after ratification by at least 50 countries. Signatories must agree not to develop, test, manufacture, or possess nuclear weapons or threaten to use them or to allow any nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. The treaty does not affect the "inalienable right" of signatory nations to develop, research, produce, and/or use nuclear energy for non-military purposes.

YM2018-37 Finance Committee Report (no. 2)

Bob Orr reported. Yesterday's report outlined the financial state of LEYM, as well as giving some suggestions for change as part of a proposed budget.

Recommendation to consider contributing to Quaker universities or colleges. The Finance Committee does not recommend this at this time, feeling it needs more discussion, and observing that there are no Quaker colleges in the LEYM catchment area.

Proposal to add a scholarship line item for LEYM members who wish to go to Quaker post-secondary educational institutions. The Committee recom-mends adopting this proposal, suggesting a $1000 line item to begin with. Criteria to select recipients remain to be worked out.

The Committee retains the proposal to have a $30 donation per meeting member to support LEYM activities.

Friends approved this budget, but *without* the $1000 contribution to Quaker universities or colleges. It was suggested that Executive Committee season the scholarship proposal and ultimately develop appropriate criteria for scholarship disbursement. Quaker-related activities and service might be an alternative use of the funds. Friends further asked EC to develop criteria for attendance at "Conferences

LEYM Draft Budget 2018 - 2019 Proposed July 28, 2018

General Fund Expenses	FY 2014 -2015		FY 2015-2016		FY 2016-2017		FY 2017-2018		New Label	FY 2018-19	
(* = transfers)	Budget	Act 14-15	Budget	Act 15-16	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		Budget	Change
Travel	3,000	3000	4000	2,762	3,000	3000	3500	1,024	Travel	2000	-1500
Office	50	48	50	88	100	558	300	228	Office Administration	500	200
Contract worker	2,040	1638	2000	2,249	2,000	2936	2400	1,290	Contract worker	2400	0
Finance	50	11	50	67	550	500	75	0			-75
Publications	3,000	3083	3200	1,986	2,200	2353	2800	2,686	Publications	3200	400
Advancement	600		100	0	100	0	50	79	Advancement	200	150
Ministry & Nurture	300	-325	100	0	100	0	50	0	Ministry & Nurture	50	0
Clerk's Fund	300		300	0	300	0	200	0	College/University Scholarship	1000	
FGC	4,500	4500	4500	4,500	6,000	6000	6000	6,000	FGC	6000	0
MFC one-time donation			1000	1,000	0	Pitts MM	1000	1,000			-1000
Records project	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Swathmore Records project	100	0
FWCC Travel*	2,400	2400	1500	1,500	1,200	1200	1800	1,800	FWCC Travel*	1800	0
Youth Activity Fund*	1,000	1000	1000	1,000	1,000	1000	1000	1,000	Youth Activity Fund*	1000	0
High School Retreat Fund*	6,300	6300	1600	0	0	0	0	0	High School Retreat Fund*	0	0
Spiritual Formation*	800	800	800	800	300	0	300	300	Spiritual Formation*	300	0
Friends School in Detroit	4,500	4500	0	0	0	0		0	Attendance, Conf w/ Quaker Values	1000	1000
Olney Friends School	600	600	2000	2,000	2,000	2000	2000	2,000	Olney Friends School	3000	1000
Consultation Fund*	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	Consultation Fund*	0	0
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	500	500	500	500	100	0	0	0	Scholarship Fund for ministry*	0	0
Summer work project	1,200	1200	1200	1,200	600	0	200	0	Summer work project	0	-200
Insurance	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	Insurance	500	0
Misc. (FGC scholarships)	0	0	0	0	1,400	2900	4000	3,545	Misc.		-4000
Total Expense =	31,740	29855	24500	20,252	21,550	23047	26275	21,552		23050	-3225
Contributions Income	29,725	29,502	23,040	22,821	19,880	21477	21300	16,531		22600	1300
FFC Dividends Income	600	956	1050	1,065	1,050	1094	1090	1,131		1000	-90
Other Income	250		0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Total Income =	30,575	30,458	24,090	23,886	20,930	22571	22390	1,460		23600	1210
Income - Expenses =	-1,165	603	-410	3,634	-620	-476	-3885	-3,265		550	4435
		BUDGET UNDERFUNDING. Balance, if needed, comes from General Fund.									
Total Contribution / Members=	$41		$32		$28		$30	$2			
Members=	725		720		710		710	0		600	-110
Suggested contribution / member=	$41		$32		$28		$30	$2		30	0

† 2017-18 budget: one-time for scholarships to attend FGC Gathering ($3K) & White Privilege Conference (

with Quaker Values."

Sixth Session: 8:45 – 9:30 am, Sunday, July 29, 2018

YM2018-38 Epistle Committee

Mike Holaday reported. Eric Dierauer was an active contributor to the Epistle Committee. Mike asked that his name be added to the Epistle Committee. The Meeting approved this addition.

YM2018-39 Nominating Committee Report (no. 2)

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon reported, with assistance from Bill Warters. Clémence explained the format of the report, and outlined the clerks' rotation.

The following vacancies remain: Database manager, Advancement & Outreach (1 person), Earthcare (young Friend), Peace &Justice (2 persons, including a clerk), Publications & Archives (1-2 persons), Adult & Family Program (2 persons), Youth & Children (assistant clerk), and LEYM Representatives to AFSC and to FGC Central Committee (1 person each). Some people have not yet been reached to see whether they will serve an additional term, and the Committee will continue to work at contacting them. They are also working to reach people not in attendance at these sessions as they seek to fill remaining roles.

The Meeting approved the names brought forward to serve LEYM at this time.

LEYM Officers, Committee Members, & Representatives

Approved 7-29-2018.
Terms begin and end at rise of Annual Sessions.
* Approved by Executive Committee after Annual Sessions
^ Serves on LEYM Executive Committee

Officers

Role	Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
Presiding Clerk ^	Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	2	2020
Assistant Clerk ^	Josephine Posti, Pittsburgh	1	2022
Recording Clerk ^	Peter Wood, Red Cedar	2	2020
Treasurer ^	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster	7	2019

Communications and Other Workers

Bulletin Editors	Peggy Daub & Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor	2	2020
Web Master	Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	8	2019
Database Manager	Mathilda Navias, Broadmead	14	2019
Bookstore	TBD		

Committees

Advancement & Outreach
of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
Erika Smith, Ann Arbor	6	2019
TBD	1	2019
Blair Ellis, Ann Arbor	2	2020
Sheila Johnson, Ann Arbor	2	2020
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham, Clerk ^	4	2021
Kathie Hollingshead, Pittsburgh	1	2021

Earthcare
of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3 Others interested welcome

Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
Ken Lawrence, Broadmead	2	2019
Phil Balderston, Wooster	5	2019
Mey Hasbrook, Kalamazoo	2	2020
Richard Hogan, Athens	2	2020
Russ Adams, North Columbus, Clerk ^	4	2021
Jonah Brownfain*, Birmingham	1	2021

Finance
of Members: 3 Years of Term: 3

Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
Joseph Mills, Kalamazoo, Clerk ^	2	2020
Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar	1	2021
Seth Reichenbach	1	2021

Note: Treasurer serves ex officio

High School Teen Retreat (Committee is dormant)
3 adults with 3-year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2-year terms

Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
Jenn Seif, Grand Rapids, Adult	3	2019

Ministry & Nurture
of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each monthly meeting encouraged Years of Term: 3

Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
Flo Friender, Kalamazoo, Co-Clerk ^	6	2019

Ann Sprague, Detroit	3	2019
Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens, Co-Clerk ^	6	2020
Lisa Klopfer, Ann Arbor	1	2020
Shelley Kotz, Broadmead	1	2021
Rebecca Morehouse, Ann Arbor	1	2021

Nominating

of Members: 6 (Appointed by YM through Naming Committee) Years of Term: 3

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	3	2019
Bill Warters, Birmingham	3	2019
Clémence Ravaçon Mershon, Erie WG, Clerk ^	5	2020
Jo Steigerwald, Cleveland	2	2020
Janet Dando, Akron	4	2021
Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids	1	2021

Peace & Justice

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each monthly meeting encouraged Years of Term: 3
Others interested welcome

Linda Beaty, Akron	3	2019
Helen Fox, Ann Arbor	2	2019
Joel Ottenbreit, Detroit, Clerk*	2	2020
TBD	1	2020
John Howell, Athens	1	2021
Nancy Taylor*, Ann Arbor	1	2021

Publications & Archives

of Members: 4 Years of Term: 3

Bill Lefler, Pittsburgh, Clerk ^	4	2019
Bob Roehm, North Columbus	2	2020
TBD	1	2020
TBD	1	2021

Note: Web Master and Bulletin Editors serve *ex officio*.

Yearly Meeting Planning:
Adult & Family Program

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh, Clerk ^	6	2019
Aran Reinhart, Broadmead	2	2019
Susan Hartman, Ann Arbor	2	2020
Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor	2	2020
Steve Morehouse*, Ann Arbor	1	2021
TBD	1	2021

Arrangements & Site

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead	3	2019
Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead Registrar	3	2019
John Templin, Broadmead	9	2019
Bill Warters, Birmingham	1	2019
Jon Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk ^	15	2020
Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead	4	2021

Youth & Children's Program

of Members: 15 Years of Term: 2

Greg Mott, Broadmead, Clerk ^	3	2019
Kate Enger*, Cleveland, Assistant Clerk	1	2019

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham
Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar
Alfred Clapp III, Athens
Conleth Crotser, Cleveland
Peter Crowley, Cleveland
Diane Mott, Broadmead
Jenn Seif, Grand Rapids
Marc Smith, Ann Arbor
Kate Spry, Cleveland
Christa White*, Athens
Diane Mott, Broadmead, Fall retreat clerk
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham, Acting fall retreat assistant

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

Organization	Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
AFSC Corp	Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh	4	2020
AFSC Corp	Bill Warters, Birmingham	1	2021
AFSC Corp	John Deikis*, Ann Arbor		
FCNL Gen Cmte	Jim Crowfoot, Ann Arbor	2	2019
FCNL Gen Cmte	John Howell, Athens	2	2019
FCNL Gen Cmte	Al Connor, Ann Arbor	2	2020
FCNL Gen Cmte	Nancy Taylor*, Ann Arbor	1	2021
FCNL Gen Cmte	Thomas Taylor*, Ann Arbor	1	2021
FCNL Gen Cmte	David Snyder*, Oberlin	4	2021
FGC Cntl Cmte	Robb Yurisko, N. Columbus	5	2020
FGC Cntl Cmte	Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead	1	2021
FGC Cntl Cmte	Marvin Barnes, Birmingham	1	2021
(LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee)			
FWCC	Sam Milford, Pittsburgh	3	2019
FWCC	Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids	5	2019
FWCC	Mey Hasbrook, Kalamazoo	3	2020
FLGBTQC	Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	4	2019
Olney Friends School	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	1	2021
Q Earthcare Witness	Russ Adams, N. Columbus	4	2021
Wm. Penn House	Greg Mott, Broadmead	1	2021

Visitors to Neighboring Yearly Meetings

Yearly Meeting	Name & Meeting	Year of Service
EFI Eastern Region	TBD	1
Ohio (Conservative)	TBD	1
Ohio Valley (FGC)	TBD	1
Wilmington (FUM)	Alan Connor, Ann Arbor	9

* Approved by Executive Committee after Annual Sessions

YM2018-40 Youth and Children Epistles

Epistles were presented by the children and youth groups.

Epistle from the Toddler/Pre-schooler Group
We watched: band marching, flags twirling.
We listened: stories read, band playing, big kids rushing by.
We laughed: "This Little Piggie" caused fits of giggles and demands for "more!"
We ate: lots of grapes, sandwiches, animal crackers, and, of course, ice cream! Even for breakfast!
We learned: we took a nature walk and made prints on photo-reactive paper.
We were neighborly: We sang our "Hello, Neighbor" song, read "The Good Samaritan," had snacks with the bigger kids; Zeke searched for (and found!) friend John Howell from his home meeting at every meal!
We shared: bubbles and ride-on scooters – our favorite toy – with the other children, and Zeke got to try one of the big-kid scooters.
We didn't let being tired slow us down! We had fun!

Epistle from the Lower Elementary Program

We are the Lower Elementary Group of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. We are kindergarten through third grade. We come from Athens, Bowling Green, Cleveland, and Columbus, all in Ohio. We talked about neighbors and decided that a neighbor is a person who lives by you. Snakes can be neighbors. Your mom and dad are neighbors, and anybody in your neighborhood and community are neighbors. We know that neighbors are people who appreciate and like you. While at LEYM, we had fun swimming, playing with friends, riding scooters, playing games in Bob's Place, singing, sleeping, eating ice cream, playing games with Kate, and making stained glass windows. We liked being with each other.

Andrew Mott, Adrianna Clapp, Starr Clapp, Bradley Clapp, Matthew Vacheresse, Conleth Crotser, and Diane Mott

Epistle from the Middle Group, Grades 4-8

We hugged trees, rode scooters, played music, went swimming, played four square, went to the farmers market, and played with the little kids.

Popcorn Peter, Elisabeth Elephant, Amanda Panda, Jello Jesse, Dodge Douglas, YOLO Yev, Ethan Eagle, Finn Fish Filet, and Jen Hen.

Epistle from the High School Group

Written by Samantha Smith

Summary of our experience at LEYM 2018 in the teen program.

<u>Thursday</u>

Gabe
Arrived at the Bluffton college campus from long drives
We were very excited to meet with old friends again
Excited for the upcoming week

Alex
We were still settling in
Some of us walked down to the store to buy some snacks
Waited for others to arrive

<u>Friday</u>

Samantha
Had our first breakfast together
Played icebreaker games
Go to know each other better

Sophie
Ate our first lunch together, and it was delicious
Went to the pool, ate grapes and popcorn
Attempted to get the water slide to work (Alex succeeded)

Brianna
Played tag
Attended the plenary
Got the chance to see Mars!

Saturday

Jonah
Blind dates with trees (activity):

- Grace Anne and Noah blinded us with bandanas and took each of us to our own tree
- The bandanas were removed, and we had to find the tree we were assigned to

Carl
Bought a pint of cherries, some ripe peaches, and pizza to share in the lounge from the farmer's market

Micah
Bought a little too much food, and didn't eat all of it
Went to dollar store and thrift store

Jayson

Unfortunately, we didn't enjoy the new lake as much as the old one; no dock, had a tiny slide, etc.

Skylar

After dinner, we had an all-night party – it was a blast!

YM2018-41 Epistle

Mike Holaday, assistant clerk, read the LEYM Epistle. Friends made suggestions for revision or addition before the final version was approved with deep gratitude.

YM2018-42 Database Manager Report

Mathilda Navias requested and the Meeting gave approval for the database manager to get updated information on members and attenders in order to bring the LEYM database up to date.

YM2018-43 Appreciation

LEYM attenders expressed appreciation to Bluffton University for its hos-pitality, friendliness of staff, and welcoming atmosphere.

YM2018-44 Arrangements & Site

Jon Sommer, Committee clerk, reported. 129 people attended the Annual Meeting, including 29 young people from 18 months to 18 years and 5 young adult Friends.

A fully functioning online registration system is still a work in progress.

Next year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 25-28, 2019. Construction on campus will be in progress at that time. 2020's Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 30 to August 2.

Attenders are reminded to fill in paper evaluations. Online versions may be available in future years.

Nancy Reeves, Presiding Clerk
Peter Wood, Recording Clerk

Representative Meeting
Minutes and Reports
April 6, 2019

Hosted by Ann Arbor Friends Meeting

Clerks' table: Nancy Reeves (Cleveland), clerk; Jo Posti (Pittsburgh), assistant clerk and acting recording clerk

RM2019-01 Worship
Representative Meeting opened with a period of open worship.

RM2019-02 Roll Call

Akron	1	Kent	0
Ann Arbor	7	Manitou Worship Group	0
Athens	2	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	2	North Columbus	1
Broadmead	7	Oberlin	3
Cleveland	2	Pine River Worship Group	0
Delaware	0	Pittsburgh	3
Detroit	3	Red Cedar	1
Erie Worship Group	1	Somerset Worship Group	0
Grand Rapids	0	Tustin Worship Group	0
Granville	0	Waysmeet Worship Group	0
Holland	0	Wooster	1
Indiana Worship Group	0	Unaffiliated	1
Kalamazoo	4	**Total**	**39**

RM2019-03 Program Committee Report
Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh) reported (by phone) on behalf of the Program Committee. The Annual Sessions plenary speaker is Joyce Ajlouny, General Secretary of AFSC. We have nine or ten workshops. FCNL has offered two workshops, and the Committee asked, if FCNL does two workshops, does their representative get two payments? The Meeting suggested the Program Committee discern whether to have two workshops and, if so, ask the Finance Committee to discern payment.

RM2019-04 LEYM Meeting Worker and Database Manager Report
Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) gave her final report as Meeting worker/database manager. She reported that there have been over 6000 views of the LEYM website in the past nine months and shared statistics regarding what resources users are reading on the site. The website is ready to hand over to a new Meeting worker. She has spent 68 hours out of 120 possible so far this year and described how that work has been spent. She described her work as a pleasure and a blessing.

The Executive Committee has advertised both positions but does not think someone will be in place prior to Annual Sessions. They welcome volunteers to fill the role of Meeting worker until Annual Sessions. This work would include:

a. Update website
b. Create new or update current registration form
c. Disseminate information to listserv.

The Executive Committee recommended paying Mathilda as database manager for up to six additional months. Finance Committee is authorized to determine the amount.

Mathilda is still collecting updates on the directory, which will complete her work as database manager.

The full Meeting worker report follows,

Report from Mathilda Navias, LEYM Worker

July, 2018 – March, 2019 (Nine Months)

LEYM Website

There have been over 6000 views of LEYM web pages in the last nine months. July always has the most, when Friends get information and register for Annual Sessions. The most viewed pages include a page of links to the *Bulletin*, information on meetings and worship groups, contact information for LEYM officers and committees, a page about Quakers, information on Annual Sessions, and a page about LEYM. Two other pages with lots of views over the lifetime of the website are information on LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program and the *Policies and Procedures* manual. Viewers have come from expected places such as search engines and FGC's website as well as 18 people from Wikipedia.

Bill Lefler, clerk of the Publications & Archives Committee, is now posting new memorial minutes to the website. The website is ready to be handed over to a new Worker.

Please check out the extensive Resources and Links pages.

Time Spent

My work during this fiscal year currently totals just over 68 hours. There are still some annual tasks that need doing.

The hours spent on the tasks I have performed and the percentage of the total time are detailed below (the numbers of hours are rounded off).

Listservs & Gmail	21½ hours (31.5%)
Annual updates of lists and Gmail addresses following Annual Sessions	
Updates during the year	
Posts to listservs	
LEYM Website	21 hours (31%)
Annual updates following Annual Sessions	
News posts	
Updates and maintenance	
Administration (emails, prepare reports, misc.)	14 hours (21%)
Format minutes & upload to web	9½ hours (14%)
Update online registration	½ hour (.7%)
Vet yearly meeting youth workers	½ hour (.7%)
Update online registration for Annual Sessions	½ hour (.7%)
Update Policies & Procedures	¼ hour (.4%)
Total hours:	67¾ hours

Handing over the Job

Documenting Work

There are a few annual tasks yet to do. Other than that, I will keep up with things as they arise. One of the things I do is respond to emails and phoned questions from Friends.

As I head into the final months of my job as LEYM's Worker, I will be spending time adding to the documentation on what I do and how to do it for the next Yearly Meeting Worker.

RM2019-05 Spiritual Formation Committee Report

Mathilda also gave the Spiritual Formation Committee report. The spring retreat for this year's Spiritual Formation Program will be held Saturday, May 4, here in the Ann Arbor Meetinghouse, continuing with the theme of "A Spiritual Spa." All Ann Arbor Friends are welcome, whether they have participated in the local Spiritual Formation Program or not. There is a registration form on LEYM's website.

Next year's Spiritual Formation retreats will be led by Joann Neuroth of Red Cedar Meeting. Joann is under a leading to bring the idea of corporate spiritual formation to LEYM – how a meeting as a whole can grow into a deeper place. She has suggested that it might be possible for her to visit a number of meetings in LEYM to introduce this idea and give a taste of what the retreats would be like. She especially wants to encourage clusters of Friends from the same meeting to attend together.

RM2019-06 Appreciation for Mathilda Navias

Nancy Reeves read this minute of appreciation for Mathilda:

> With deep gratitude for her seven years of faithful service to LEYM, we note that Mathilda Navias is nearing the end of her formal and informal service as our Meeting worker, collective memory/historian, minder of LEYM and broader Quaker practices, facilitator of communication among committees, clerks, and the broader Quaker community, and spiritual mentor, particularly as a mainstay of the Spiritual Formation Program. Mathilda is moving, in early May, to Rochester, New York. We will miss her.

The meeting approved.

RM2019-07 Meeting Worker Payment Rate

Nancy Reeves reported that the clerks would like to work with the Finance Committee to develop a new rate of pay for the Meeting worker position. Mathilda is willing to continue as database manager on an interim basis for up to six months at her current rate as Meeting worker, but the clerks will work with Finance to discuss any retroactivity. Meeting approved.

RM2019-08 Youth & Children Program Committee Report

Greg Mott (Broadmead) reported on behalf of the Youth & Children Program Committee. The Committee is excitedly looking forward to another fun-filled year at Annual Sessions. They appreciate the support from the Meeting and the work of the Arrangements & Site Committee for providing appropriate space for our youth to gather, enjoy fellowship, and explore together. No major changes are being requested or made. They are looking at adjusting the afternoon outings so as to offer two options: one geared toward youth and one for the children. At this point, all teaching positions have been filled, yet they will plan for the inevitable occasion of a late change of circumstances. They are always in need of afternoon drivers for outings and welcome anyone willing to share a talent or gift with the group.

A strong way to support the program would be to encourage families and children from monthly meetings to consider attending. The children often form long-lasting friendships and are glad to know that they are not the only Quaker children in the world.

RM2019-09 Arrangements & Site Committee Report

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reported on behalf of Arrangements & Site Committee and shared dates for the next three Annual Meetings at Bluffton University: July 25–28 this year, July 30 – August 2 in 2020, and July 29 – August 1 in 2021. He described road work being done in town as well as some changes on campus, although nothing should impact our program or accessibility. The Committee is addressing suggestions made regarding the talent show set- up. There are no increases in lodging costs and a $.50/weekend increase for adult meals for the entire weekend.

RM2019-10 Nominating Committee Report

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG) reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Its members are looking for several committee clerks and will be replacing a number of Friends who are completing six-year terms. They are also looking for a new treasurer and ask Friends to please let the Committee know about Friends within their monthly meetings who have these skills and talents. They are focused on finding Friends to serve on Adult & Family Program, Publications & Archives, and Advancement & Outreach, specifically someone from Ohio for A&O. Friends from the Earthcare Committee shared concerns about the need for an interim clerk for that committee. If Friends who have not been appointed to a particular committee are led to bring concerns to that committee, they are encouraged to do so and to also contact Nominating Committee members with suggestions for any of the committees mentioned.

The clerk shared concerns that arose during last night's Executive Committee about the spiritual health of the Yearly Meeting and a concern that our current structure may not be sufficient. One suggestion is to

encourage meeting clerks and worship group conveners to come to Annual Sessions and to offer a reduced registration fee as well as someone to facilitate a discussion about what monthly meetings need from their yearly meeting. The clerks will work with the Program, Arrangements & Site, Finance, and Advancement & Outreach Committees to discuss how this gathering within Annual Sessions can be accommodated and whether there is additional planning that can be done for intervisitation.

Publications & Archives expressed concerns about whether some of its responsibilities should be turned over to the Meeting worker and what the Committee's scope is. The Committee has seen its scope change due to the high competence of the Meeting worker.

RM2019-11 Publications & Archives Committee Report
Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported on behalf of Publications & Archives. May 15 is the next deadline for the *Bulletin*, and Friends are encouraged to send any committee information to be published prior to that date. The editors would love Friends to send a sentence describing why they attend Annual Meeting. There are now 45 memorial minutes on the LEYM website. If your monthly meeting writes one, please send it to Bill Lefler so it can be published on the website. The Committee clarified that it is comfortable with its workload, just looking for further clarification on scope of work.

RM2019-12 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report
Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens) reported on behalf of Ministry & Nurture. The Committee is discussing issues surrounding dual memberships, a travel minute, and this year's annual query.

Carla shared some of the themes that arose from our monthly meetings' consideration of the annual query: Social justice is a part of Earthcare and this is interconnected with our testimonies. There's an acknowledgement that climate change impacts poverty but that our abundance gives us hope. Taking the next right step resonated with many people. It's difficult to live in a country focused on short-term profits rather than values. Taking time out for gratitude is helpful. War is a contributor to environmental devastation. We need to discern what is sacred in our lives and let that drive our actions. People are encouraged to speak out, support people with time and treasure, and seek opportunities to listen to people who don't share our beliefs. Getting out in nature and making a commitment to environmental stewardship as spiritual practice also ground us. Do we need to reconsider the term "earthcare" in order to focus on our participation rather than oversight of our environment?

RM2019-13 Finance Committee Report
Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. The Committee recommends increasing the Annual Meeting registration fee by $10, from $55 to $65 for early registration for full-time adults this year and $75 for regular registration. Discounts and scholarships will remain the same, although they suggest limiting the discount offered to young adult Friends to the age range of 19–25. Meeting preferred keeping the age range from 19–35 in order to encourage participation from this group.

The Meeting discussed the suggestion to offer monthly meeting clerks a discount in order to encourage them to be a part of a discussion regarding the spiritual health of the Yearly Meeting, and the Finance Committee's recommendation is to continue the first-time attender discount in order to encourage those clerks who have not attended Annual Meeting before. Friends shared concerns about how these changes might impact the program, suggested outreach specific to clerks, encouraging them to attend, and expressed a desire to extend a discount to all monthly meeting clerks and worship group conveners in order to make their participation less cost-prohibitive. Finance will develop discount details. Meeting approved.

RM2019-14 Treasurer's Report
Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) shared the treasurer's report. LEYM is doing well financially and has received contributions from all monthly meetings except Cleveland and Oberlin. Our expenses are under budget in most areas and we've spent only about half of our travel budget and about ⅔ of our contract worker budget. We have almost $10K more in the checking account now than at the beginning of the year.

RM2019-15 Ad Hoc Conference Scholarship Committee Report

Greg Mott (Broadmead) reported on behalf of the Ad Hoc Conference Scholarship Committee. The presiding clerk, treasurer, and clerk of Ministry & Nurture Committee would review applications. The fund's creation was inspired by last year's White Privilege Conference, an opportunity where other sources of funding were limited. With this in mind, the Committee has created a set of criteria specifying that the fund can be used for conferences or workshops that are sponsored by Quaker groups or organizations or are closely aligned with Quaker testimonies. The Committee would like to focus availability for one-time conferences and non-traditional sources of inspiration rather than funding participation in programs such as the FGC Gathering. The idea would be to have the fund for experiences outside of regular programming that already enjoys a large number of participants from LEYM. This fund has already been funded for the fiscal year. Friends approved the new procedure in order for applications to be considered before Annual Sessions.

RM2019-16 Ad Hoc College Scholarship Committee Report

Jo Posti (Pittsburgh) reported on behalf of the Ad Hoc College Scholarship Committee, reminding Friends that a draft of the policy was published in a recent *Bulletin* [Winter 2019, p. 10] and will be discussed at Annual Sessions.

RM2019-17 Earthcare Committee Report

Mey Hasbrook (Kalamazoo) reported on behalf of the Earthcare Committee. Members met jointly with Peace & Justice and will survey monthly meetings in order to develop an action proposal to be presented at Annual Sessions. This comes from a request that arose during FWCC's recent annual plenary. The three topics addressed were sustainable practices, engagement of youth and young adults, and ministry with attention to sustainability. They welcome participation in their work, especially among young Friends.

The Earthcare Committee calls attention to recent reports on the climate crisis with a short-term window for intervening to reduce the worsening death toll across nature and global warming. They propose an action by LEYM in response to this reality as well as to deepen this year's query on Earthcare. The Committee also revisited LEYM's commitment to the 2015 Quaker statement on climate change.

They ask Yearly Meeting for Annual Sessions this year to commit as much as possible to a vegetarian food service as a response to the dire circumstances of our planet. The Committee is not asking all Friends to become vegetarian through this action. The Committee is willing to provide simple reflective materials in the food area or among Yearly Meeting participants for use at meal times. A Friend near Bluffton also is willing to consult with local arrangements to support this process. Peace & Justice Committee will inquire if any members are available to co-support.

Earthcare will write something for the *Bulletin* explaining this new standard and it will be included in this year's registration materials. The Arrangements & Site Committee will provide direction to the food service team to develop a variety of vegetarian options that are the default for Annual Meeting attendees while providing limited meat options for Friends with specific dietary needs.

Friends acknowledged the challenge this practice would have in our time together but also the possible favorable impact it may have in deepening our spiritual commitment to Earthcare.

RM2019-18 Peace & Justice Committee Report

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) read a report written by Joel Ottenbreit (Detroit), clerk of Peace & Justice Committee. The report follows.

Peace & Justice Committee Summary Report

Committee Members: Helen Fox, John Howell, Joel Ottenbreit (clerk), and Nancy Taylor

This summary report is prepared for the LEYM Representative Meeting on April 6, 2019.

The LEYM Peace & Justice Committee has met four times virtually since December, 2018. The virtual monthly meeting format, allowing members to meet from home, was well received by committee members.

The following items have been the focus of the Committee's work to prepare for the LEYM in July:

1) The LEYM P&J Committee continued to gain additional knowledge and insights in more fully addressing peace and justice topics from the monthly meetings.

2) Clarifying the purpose of the Committee has been an important topic. The language stating the Committee's purpose has not been finalized, but the general idea is that the Peace & Justice Committee is an agency that provides opportunities for monthly meetings and worship groups to send concerns or minutes so that these may be amplified by a larger body. The Committee was not established to educate monthly meetings, but to be a clearinghouse or sounding board for their concerns. The Committee will provide clarity for monthly meetings and worship groups on how to advance a P&J topic or write a minute as an additional resource for support. The Committee may develop topics or even establish workshops for Yearly Meeting.

3) The Committee also focused on the following services it provides to monthly meetings.

a. Using email as the primary method of communication to address concerns.
b. Sending a description of the purpose and services provided by the LEYM P&J Committee to the monthly meetings at the start of each new Committee year.
c. Sending a survey to monthly meetings prior to LEYM to gather information on current topics that are being discussed and acted upon, so that these can be disseminated at Yearly Meeting.

4) The Athens Monthly Meeting requested that the LEYM P&J Committee consider asking the monthly meetings to consider their recommendation to the FCNL's Policy Committee to:

a. Include in the 2019 version of "The World We Seek" the need for reforming the financial system as a necessary step toward a sustainable economic system.
b. Establish a process within FCNL for discerning the kind of policy changes FCNL should promote to advance a transition to a sustainable economic system.

5) Athens MM's request was forwarded to other monthly meetings for consideration. Along with the Athens Monthly Meeting, the Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting and the Detroit Monthly Meeting have responded to the request from the Athens Monthly Meeting to make changes to the FCNL document "The World We Seek" to include financial considerations. The Ann Arbor Meeting endorsed point "a" above. However, it stated that point "b" wasn't necessary because FCNL has a good process already in place. The Detroit Monthly Meeting revised point "b" by stating a need for a "transition to a sustainable and '*transparent*' economic system."

6) The Committee also learned that Helen Fox would be permanently moving to Florida and would no longer be a member of the Committee. Helen's insights and voice will be greatly missed on the Committee.

RM2019-19 Ad Hoc Committee on Policies and Procedures Report

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on *Policies and Procedures*. He shared a draft of proposed changes that he and Mathilda Navias developed and asked that Friends review the document and share feedback with them prior to June 1.

RM2019-20 Clerks' Announcement

The clerk said clerks will be in touch with Friends to inquire whether they'll serve on the Naming Committee and will share those names with the Executive Committee for approval prior to Annual Sessions.

Announcements Following Close of Meeting

Mey Hasbrook (Kalamazoo) announced an event Kalamazoo is hosting about justice, environment, and the arts in May. In June, the city will host a program about water, and grandmothers, and will offer creative activities.

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reminded Friends about registration for FGC Gathering and its special emphasis on families this year, with a special discount being offered for children and young adult Friends.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Reeves, Clerk
Jo Posti, Assistant Clerk and Acting Recording Clerk

LEYM Annual Meeting
July 25 – July 28, 2019
Bluffton, Ohio
Minutes and Reports

First Session: 7:30 – 9:00 pm, Thursday, July 25, 2019

YM2019-01 Opening Worship and Epistle from Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting
Within the quiet of our opening worship, Jo Posti, assistant clerk, read aloud the Epistle of the newly formed Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting. The letter outlined many feelings of grief and struggle this new yearly meeting has experienced as it separated in travail from Northwest Yearly Meeting; yet it has found in Spirit the capacity to celebrate the grace present in healing and new beginnings.

YM2019-02 Introduction of the Clerks' Table and Roll Call
Nancy Reeves (Cleveland), clerk, introduced the clerks' table: herself; Josephine Posti (Pittsburgh), assistant clerk; and Peter Wood (Red Cedar), recording clerk. She then invited attenders to identify themselves in a roll call.

Akron	1	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Ann Arbor	17	North Columbus	4
Athens	13	Oberlin	2
Birmingham	7	Pine River	0
Broadmead	18	Pittsburgh	9
Cleveland	7	Red Cedar	21
Delaware	0	Somerset Worship Group	0
Detroit	4	Tustin Worship Group	0
Erie Worship Group	2	Waysmeet Worship Group	0
Grand Rapids	2	Wooster	4
Granville	1	Other/Unaffiliated	6
Holland	0	Visitors	7
Indiana Worship Group	0	**Total**	**133**
Kalamazoo	7	Adults 36 and over	101
Kent	0	Youth and children	25
Manitou Worship Group	1	Young adult Friends	7

YM2019-03 Welcoming Visitors
We welcomed visitors:

José Santos Woss - FCNL

Anne Marie Taber - Olney Friends School

Jerry Knutson, traveling under the care of Orlando MM

Jo Posti read a travel minute from FCNL regarding José Woss, outlining his background in social justice issues, human rights, and criminal and incarceration reform.

She also read a travel minute from the Orlando Monthly Meeting on behalf of Jerry Knutson, who is traveling widely in a ministry regarding teaching about spirituality, discernment, and prison visitation.

Dolores and Dave Avner (Pittsburgh), Ruth Carey and Jim Crowfoot (Ann Arbor), Helen Hebben (Kalamazoo), Mathilda Navias (Broadmead), Michael and Vanessa Fuson (Granville), and Al Connor (Ann Arbor), longtime attenders of LEYM Annual Sessions, will not be attending these sessions this year.

YM2019-04 Naming Committee Formation and Nominating Committee Update
Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) and Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) were suggested as a Naming Committee. Friends approved these names.

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG) of the Nominating Committee outlined vacancies that need to be filled, and further invited attenders to come forward with leadings they might feel to serve.

Wearing another hat, she also appealed to Friends to help find conference centers large enough to host the FWCC Section of the Americas upcoming 2021 Biennial Conference to be held somewhere in the Southeastern U.S.

YM2019-05 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report (no. 1)
Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens), Committee co-clerk, spoke on behalf of the Spiritual Formation Program's need for people to organize its retreat programs after this year. The Spiritual Formation Program is under the care of Ministry & Nurture, hence is not under the purview of the Nominating Committee. The Spiritual Formation Program is adequately covered for this year.

YM2019-06 Ad Hoc College Scholarship Committee Report: Guidelines for Scholarships and Disbursing Monies
Jo Posti (Pittsburgh) discussed a fund for those who wish to attend Quaker colleges or participate in Quaker service organizations and get financial support. Two items needing attention are timeframes for applications and criteria for application, including membership or junior membership in a monthly meeting. The question is whether regular attenders to a meeting might qualify. The other criterion is that the applicant be interested in attending a Quaker institution or a Quaker organization that offers training or Quaker-related service but requires that the applicant be self-funded. Jo outlined steps that would need to be taken by an applicant.

Discussion ranged over the meaning of membership, which is practiced differently among the member meetings of LEYM, and discernment of who qualifies to apply. This item will come up in a future business session for further refinement.

YM2019-07 Bookstore Procedure
Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo), bookstore coordinator, reported that the bookstore needs to be patronized and sales need to increase in order to keep this service viable. Sales need to cover at least the cost of returning unsold books. Attenders' response to this information will determine whether we have a bookstore in the future.

Second Session: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Friday, July 26, 2019

YM2019-08 Worship and Epistle from Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Jo Posti read the epistle from Southeastern Yearly Meeting, which included corporate testimony on ecology and care for the oppressed among the incarcerated refugees. "Taking off the masks," the primary theme of the gathering, focused on undoing white supremacy and privilege in a cultural atmosphere of backlash.

YM2019-09 Youth & Children Program Committee Report (no. 1)
Greg Mott (Broadmead) reported that 24 kids are participating in this year's youth program. We expressed gratitude to all those shepherding the youth programs for care being provided our children.

YM2019-10 Epistle Committee
Jo Posti will be joined by Lisa Klopfer (Ann Arbor) and Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), in writing this year's epistle.

YM2019-11 Publications & Archives Committee Report
Bill Lefler (Pittsburgh) reported on behalf of the Publications & Archives Committee. The printing and distribution cost of the *Annual Records* and *Bulletins* ($2853) came to less than was budgeted. Forty memorial minutes have been added to the LEYM home page. Swarthmore College continues to preserve records of LEYM. The Fall *Bulletin* deadline for contributions is October 15, 2019.

The full report follows.

Publications & Archives Report to LEYM Annual Meeting 2019

The members of the Publications & Archives Committee this year are Bill Lefler and Bob Roehm, with ex officio members Jeff Cooper and Peggy Daub, *Bulletin* editors.

The *2018 Annual Records* was published and distributed on schedule.

The Fall, Winter, and Spring 2018-19 *Bulletins* have been printed and distributed.

The costs of publication and printing these items are:

Annual Records printing	$1236.03
Printing Fall, Winter, and Spring *Bulletins*	$916.40
Mailing cost	$603.18
Supplies	$98.38
Total	**$2853.99**

These costs are below last year's due to the distribution of some of the *Annual Records* and *Bulletins* at the [November] Executive Committee Meeting. We now distribute 170 bulletins, which is considerably less than four years ago due to electronic distribution. Most are bulk-mailed to monthly meetings, but if you are receiving a *Bulletin* by mail and don't need it anymore, please let us know.

After receiving only positive responses from our monthly meetings, 40 memorial minutes from the last six years have been made available on the LEYM web page; 8 current minutes have been added.

All current Yearly Meeting records have been archived in the Swarthmore College Friends Historical Library. If your monthly meeting or your committee has records it would like to have preserved, please consider this method. The library is currently collecting only hard copy documents but is moving towards digital storage.

Bill Lefler
Clerk, Publications & Archives

YM2019-12 Ad Hoc Committee on Policies and Procedures Report (no. 1)

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported on the updating proposed to *Policies and Procedures*. Mathilda Navias and Jeff have compiled suggestions to further this work. Major proposed changes were printed in the Spring *Bulletin* and were also posted to the LEYM website. There were four categories of change described: a) those needing discernment, b) those recognizing current practice, but not written up yet as policy, c) those approved but not yet appearing in P&P, and d) minor changes in wording.

Jeff brought as examples for current consideration the proposed policy on the proper place for the Spiritual Formation Program, LEYM visitors to other yearly meetings, and the procedure for traveling minutes.

Jeff will be available through the course of these Annual Sessions to receive Friends' comments and suggestions on proposed changes. Proposed final changes will be discussed at a later business session. The full report follows.

Ad Hoc Committee on Updating the *Policies and Procedures* Manual
Report to Annual Sessions 2019

A year ago at Annual Meeting, Executive Committee recognized that our *Policies and Procedures* manual needed some updating to reflect changes in addition to new policies minuted at business sessions, most of which had already been added. At Executive Committee's meeting in November, Mathilda Navias and I were asked to compile a list of recommended changes to *Policies and Procedures*. Both of us had served on the ad hoc committee that shepherded the last major revision to *Policies and Procedures* in 2011, and Mathilda had already updated the manual a few times as Meeting worker.

Through the winter months she and I compiled a list of possible changes we were aware of, also inviting Executive Committee members to recommend changes. The project had an alarming tendency to expand, as we not only identified procedures and practices that we now do differently than in 2011, but also wondered whether there were procedures that perhaps we *ought* to do differently.

At Representative Meeting, I reported on our work to-date and distributed a handout listing suggested changes. We received only one response to these, but continued to refine our recommendations. We announced the proposed revisions in the spring *Bulletin*, providing text for those proposals most likely to require discernment, and alerted Friends that both the complete list of changes and the full text of *P&P* incorporating these changes would be posted on the Yearly Meeting website, which was done in mid-June. Last week both documents (complete list and full text) were emailed to Friends who had registered to attend Annual Meeting. In addition we have provided at this gathering two printed copies of the full text and six printed copies of the list of proposed changes.

In the list, the proposed changes are divided into four categories:

A) those we believe require discernment by Friends;

B) those recognizing changes in current practice;

C) those policies and procedures already approved but not yet included in P&P; and

D) those involving minor changes in wording or arrangement.

We hope that the proposals in groups B, C, and D won't require much attention, but recognize that there may be reservations about one proposal or another, especially proposals reflecting changes in current practice, where we may have misinterpreted current practice or Friends may feel that current practice has slipped away from what our policy should be.

It is, of course, up to you which proposed changes we want to accept.

YM2019-13 Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

Kathie Hollingshead (Pittsburgh) reported on the use of Facebook displays to attract younger people – information provided on the upstairs tables at these sessions.

Tustin Worship Group wishes to be under the care of a monthly meeting, and Advancement & Outreach is looking to help provide it with this support.

YM2019-14 Finance Committee Report (no. 1)
Mike Hinshaw (Wooster), treasurer, and Joe Mills (Kalamazoo), clerk of Finance, reported on a preliminary budget for the coming fiscal year, outlining notable changes. The total of the proposed budget will come to $25,775, and may require a per-member increase of $5, to $35 per year. The final proposed budget will be brought forward at a future business meeting.

YM2019-15 First-time Attenders
First-time attenders introduced themselves: Cathy Clifford (Red Cedar), Mark Michener (Ann Arbor), Mey Hasbrook (Kalamazoo), and Pamela Moore (Erie Worship Group).

Third Session: 1:45 – 3:15 pm, Friday, July 26, 2019

YM2019-16 Worship and Epistle from Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Jo Posti read the Epistle from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, "Radical Listening: Rooted in Love." It focused on the need to change our habits to engage with those who differ from us, and to listen to the voices of the oppressed, both in our culture and elsewhere in the world. We can become a global partnership, sharing power and influence, being prepared to listen in trust and to allow ourselves to be changed. We are an incomplete organization, seeking to become whole, and we will find this through honoring and understanding our diversities. The epistle highlighted the fruitful work of young Friends in Baltimore Yearly Meeting through the STRIDE program, which reaches out to distressed neighborhoods. As one attender commented, "Things will change as we come to change ourselves."

YM2019-17 Ad Hoc Committee on Harassment Report
Jo Posti reported, bringing forth recommendations which would prepare the Yearly Meeting to deal with harassment should it occur in the context of Yearly Meeting sessions. The recommendations, which apply to adults and have been published on the website and in the *Bulletin*, consider and borrow from the fine work done in other meetings. They define harassment, suggest steps for Friends who feel harassed (or witness harassment) to take, outline a structure for a harassment discernment committee, and lay out next steps to take when harassment has been discerned.

Friends expressed gratitude for the work of this committee and reminded us that such a policy covers or should cover all the varied areas and forms of harassment (e.g., racial harassment), not only sexual harassment. There is a separate policy covering young people, and they are regularly informed about it.

With a few edits, Friends approved the recommendations of this committee. The Harassment Policy follows.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Harassment Policy

Friends General Conference, in keeping with Friends' historical concerns for equality and justice, is committed to providing environments for staff, volunteers, committee members, and program participants which are free of discrimination and harassment. Demeaning actions, words, jokes or comments based on an individual's gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, age or faith will not be tolerated. We also note that sexual harassment, both overt and subtle, is an illegal form of demeaning and oppressive misconduct which we want to prevent and which, if alleged, we will investigate thoroughly and fairly.

FGC Central Committee, 10/22/95

In spite of some Quakers' participation in the abolition movement to end enslavement in the United States; in spite of some Quakers' commitment to dismantling Jim Crow during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's; in spite of some Quakers' visible work to support the Black Lives Matter movement and in spite of all of us feeling horrified when yet another unarmed black or brown person is shot by police, our Meetings remain mostly white and Friends of Color do not necessarily feel safe or welcomed in a Quaker faith community.

Institutional Assessment on Systemic Racism within Friends General Conference, October 2018

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting wants to make its Annual Gathering and other committee meetings, visits, and programs free of harassment. This policy addresses a number of forms of harassment, described below. Our consciousness of the need to prevent and respond to these types of harassment has been heightened by our realization that such behavior does occur at Friends' events.

Sexual harassment is unwanted sexual or gender-based behavior generally involving the exercise of formal or informal power by the perpetrator over the victim. It is a form of misconduct that is demeaning to another person and undermines the integrity of the

relationship. It is illegal, and is strictly prohibited within LEYM. Sexual harassment may be verbal (suggestive comments, threats, insults, jokes, sexual propositions), nonverbal (suggestive, insulting or obscene gestures, noises, leering, displaying pornographic material), or physical (touching, brushing body, coercing sexual intercourse, assault).

Other forms of harassment based on race, age, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity all generally involve the exercise of formal or informal power by the perpetrator over the victim. The key words are “unwanted,” “discrimination-based,” and “formal or informal power,” plus the basis of the behavior in differences in gender, race, age, ability, sexual preferences, or gender identity. While this list includes several characteristics that we are aware often form the basis for harassment, the policy is intended to be broadly interpreted to include harassment based on other similar characteristics.

Harassment is defined both by the feelings of the person who experiences it and by the intentions of the alleged perpetrator. What one person might consider an innocent comment or behavior could actually be experienced as harassment by another person, particularly if the alleged perpetrator persists in the behavior after the implications have been brought to his or her attention.

Does this mean that we must refrain from offering hugs to friends, or making comments about a friend’s appearance? No – not if the person welcomes the hug or the comment. But we should be sensitive to the possibility that another might be made uncomfortable by such behavior. If there is any question about how another may feel, ask first (e.g., “May I give you a hug?”). This is simply part of our responsibility as members of a caring community of Friends.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FEEL HARASSED

1. **If you feel harassed by the comments or behavior of another person at an LEYM event, and if you feel able, you can tell that person clearly that you find their behavior objectionable and ask them to stop it.** Of course, there are situations in which it is difficult to confront such behavior on the spot. If someone does tell you that they have been offended or embarrassed by something you did, please do not argue about their feelings or how you intended your behavior. You cannot tell someone else how they should feel about something you say or do. Just apologize and be mindful so as not to repeat the objectionable behavior.

2. **Reporting incidents of sexual harassment, racial harassment, or harassment based on sexual orientation:** LEYM has established a small "Harassment Discernment Committee" (H.D.C.), which includes a group of five people made up of diverse representation, so that people bringing a harassment complaint will feel comfortable. Please see the following section for details on the H.D.C. If you feel unable to confront the person, or find that they repeat the objectionable behavior despite your request to stop it, you may approach this committee with your concern. **Note that you may choose to pursue either an informal or a formal procedure for dealing with the situation.**

3. **If you witness or are told about a situation involving possible harassment:** Try to check it out with the person who appears to be experiencing the harassment; if they feel uncomfortable about the behavior, encourage them to confront it or report it. If it is impossible to talk with the person, or if the person is not prepared to make a report themselves, yet you are convinced that harassment occurred, then a report may be made directly to the H.D.C.

WHAT LEYM'S HARASSMENT DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE WILL DO IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTED INCIDENT OF HARASSMENT

Who is the Harassment Discernment Committee (H.D.C.)?

The H.D.C. is made up of five people of diverse representation (male, female, LGBTQ, persons of color, younger, older). Diversity is crucial to this process, so that the person bringing a harassment complaint will feel both represented and able to trust members of the Committee.

Two members are tied to LEYM positions: one appointed by Ministry & Nurture, and one member of the Executive Committee. These two individuals will proactively recruit the remaining three positions. These positions will be recruited and named during Annual Sessions, for approval during a business session, and will serve for one year. They can be asked if they wish to serve in subsequent years.

H.D.C. members will be identified in all event program information.

1. **Informal procedure:** If you feel embarrassed or offended by another's behavior, you may simply want an opportunity to discuss the experience with another Friend and think together about how to handle it. If so, a member of the Harassment Discernment Committee will be glad to meet with you for a confidential discussion of the incident(s). We welcome you to bring a support person with you during this conversation. If this discussion is sufficiently helpful, and you are able to stop or avoid further objectionable behavior, the H.D.C. will consider your concern to have reached closure and no further steps will be taken unless the committee member determines that the nature of the complaint is serious enough to warrant further action, such as a formal procedure.

2. **Formal procedure:** If you wish a formal investigation and more assistance in dealing with the alleged harassment than that afforded by the informal procedure, you will be asked to submit a written, signed complaint. This complaint may be brief, but it

should include name(s) and a description of the objectionable behavior, the context, and your feelings. When such a complaint is received, two members of the H.D.C. will meet with you in confidence, discuss the alleged harassment with you, and then proceed with a thorough investigation of the complaint. As in informal procedures, a support person is welcome. Such investigation will always include, but not necessarily be limited to, a meeting of the investigators with the alleged perpetrator. The H.D.C. reserves the right to make an independent decision to initiate the formal procedure in any case which it deems sufficiently serious to require a formal investigation and the possible consequences as listed below. In this event, both the complainant and the alleged harasser will be notified of such a decision.

3. **The members of the committee will discern the merits and gravity of the complaint and how to handle the situation.** If the H.D.C. team determines that harassment did indeed occur, possible consequences include:

a) Asking the person perceived to harass to acknowledge and stop the offending behavior;

b) Requiring this person to stay away from the person who experienced the harassment for the duration of the event,

c) Engaging in a restorative circle/conversation, if both persons agree,

d) Requiring the person perceived to harass to leave the event, and/or

e) Refusing to accept this person at future events.

The discernment team will communicate its decision and the action taken to the individual who submitted the formal complaint and to the full H.D.C. Any decision to exclude a harasser from future events may be appealed by the harasser to the H.D.C. prior to the registration period for a subsequent event.

4**. Complaints will be treated with confidentiality and discretion.**

5. **Every effort will be made to protect persons making bona fide complaints from any kind of retaliatory action.**

ACTING AS FRIENDLY BYSTANDER

A person who has experienced sexual harassment may need to share the distress with someone in whom she or he has confidence and respect. If you are chosen, remember that, however inadequate you feel, the other person trusts and respects you enough to share a matter of concern with you.

The most important gift you can offer is time – time for listening in a supportive and non-judgmental way, allowing space and silence for reflection.

The ideal outcome would be one where the harasser has been helped to accept and understand the outcome of her or his behavior, and has stopped it; the person who has been harassed no longer feels threatened; and both are enabled to remain at peace in the LEYM community.

YM2019-18 Update on FGC Anti-Racism Work

Marvin Barnes (Birmingham) and Carolyn Lejuste (Red Cedar) reported. FGC has been endeavoring to become an anti-racist faith community. There has been a recent institutional assessment on racism in FGC, the results of which were published in October 2018. The recommendations that arose from the report were accepted as a whole. Each decision to be made by FGC is to be in light of the query, "How will this decision square with the anti-racist stance FGC is committed to?" Weekly e-retreats on racism will be held September 22 to October 18, sponsored by FGC, and accessible on the FGC website. They will be supported by a variety of written and broadcast materials, giving participants chances also to interact with others via Zoom technology or phone contacts.

We are encouraged to consider the quality of welcome we afford to Friends of color, or to people of color who are new attenders.

The FGC plenary addressing the report is available online and as a YouTube link.

An "implementation team" has been created to ensure that the assessment recommendations are being attended to. Carolyn will serve on the team for the next two years, along with nine others in an equal balance of people of European descent and people of color, also balancing gender, age, and geographic location. A traveling ministry will be formed to help meetings become aware of what FGC is doing to become an anti-racist community and to help meetings to develop their own capacities to become anti-racist communities.

We are reminded that "people of color" doesn't refer only to black people.

Members of several meetings described the anti-racist activities in their meetings. Books were recommended.

There were questions on mixed-race participation on the implementation team. Four members are of mixed race. The main attempt is to promote diversity of membership. In respect of decolonization – of the Executive Committee, Marvin is the first person of color to serve as clerk or assistant clerk. Only one person of color has been General Secretary. This needs to be only the start of this decolonization, and steps are being taken to broaden the participation of Friends of color.

Further question or comments or requests for help can go to *institutionalassessment@fgc.org*.

Fourth Session: 9:45 – 11:45 am, Saturday, July 27, 2019

YM2019-19 Worship and Epistle from New Association of Friends

Jo Posti read aloud the Epistle of the New Association of Friends. In addressing George Fox's famous question, "What canst thou say?" Friends at this gathering found themselves exploring four themes: first, *drawing inspiration* from our rich heritage; second, *intentionality,* new directions arising from the break from Indiana Yearly Meeting; third, *change,* also resulting from a new structure from the separation from Indiana YM and from our awareness of deep community needs; and finally, *hope* in a future that centers in warm relationships and a trust in God's leadings.

YM2019-20 AFSC Corporation Meeting Report

Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh) and Bill Warters (Birmingham) reported on the overwhelming but rewarding nature of the AFSC Corporation's meeting, and the rich resources provided to new attenders. Among the many presentations Claire and Bill described was that of Lamont Hill, this year's inspiring plenary speaker, who spoke on his work for human rights. Pedro Riaz also spoke on "Love Knows No Borders." Other presentations addressed the situation in Gaza, the new Jim Crow, looking at the world from the perspective of those without privilege, and the history of AFSC in supporting those struggling with oppression.

YM2019-21 Peace & Justice Committee Report

Joel Ottenbreit (Detroit), clerk, reported, introducing members of the Committee. Four areas of endeavor were: a) define the purpose and scope of the Committee, b) respond to concerns brought by monthly meetings, c) use the Zoom video platform to promote ongoing peace and justice work, and, finally, d) send out a survey to monthly meetings on their current concerns and work.

Peace & Justice will continue to meet with Earthcare to explore what they have in common and decide whether they should be a unified committee.

There was a suggestion that LEYM purchase a Zoom subscription so that it may be more widely used by LEYM committees.

The full report follows.

LEYM Peace & Justice Committee Report for 2019 Annual Sessions

The LEYM Peace & Justice Committee this past year has focused on the following:

1) To define the purpose and scope of the Committee.
2) To respond to concerns brought forward from monthly meetings.
3) To create a viable virtual platform to conduct monthly meetings for the Committee.
4) To survey monthly meetings to gain valuable information regarding their interests and activities.

The Purpose and Scope of the Committee

The historic work of the Peace & Justice Committee has been to provide monthly meetings and worship groups with opportunities to present peace and justice concerns or Minutes in order to amplify and share them with the larger body at LEYM. The role of this committee has not been as an activist. The role is to encourage monthly meetings to share and bring issues under advisement. The Committee does not try to educate monthly meetings, but to be a clearinghouse or sounding board for their concerns

A secondary role of the LEYM Peace & Justice Committee is to gain additional knowledge and insights, so these concerns can be explored more fully.

Respond to Concerns from Monthly Meetings

A concern was brought forward from the Athens Monthly Meeting to consider
an important revision to FCNL's central document, "The World We Seek." The document asserts that "the biosphere is finite" and recognizes the need for "economic policies that are environmentally sustainable." However, there is currently no shared

understanding regarding what sustainable economic system would be required. It embraces many of the Green New Deal's proposals but is silent on the need for financial reform that will be essential for funding the major investments proposed.

It was decided that LEYM's P&J Committee ask meetings to consider recommending to the FCNL Policy Committee that the following steps be taken:

1. Include in the 2019 version of "The World We Seek" the need for reforming the financial system as a necessary step toward a sustainable economic system.

2. Establish a process within FCNL for discerning the kind of policy changes FCNL should promote to advance a transition to a sustainable economic system.

The Committee felt it was important to make resources available to help monthly meetings address these issues. The Committee sent out a communication to the monthly meeting clerks for consideration.

Creating a Virtual Platform to Conduct Monthly Business

The Committee decided that having sessions only at Representative Meeting and Annual Sessions would not be enough to fulfill its purpose and goals. The Committee decided to have monthly virtual meetings using Zoom software. Dates and times were scheduled most months, meetings transpired, and minutes were kept. The overwhelming response from Committee members was that this was a valuable platform for members. It was suggested that other committees and LEYM explore this option.

Survey Regarding Monthly Meetings' Interests and Activities

An online survey was developed by the Peace & Justice Committee along with the Earthcare Committee to assess the interests and activities of monthly meetings/ worship groups within LEYM. Out of the 28 monthly meetings and worship groups, 18 completed the online survey.

The most addressed topic among monthly meetings was the one requested by FCNL to examine the document "The World We Seek" to provide feedback on legislative initiatives. The next three most addressed topics that were discussed within monthly meetings were: racism/white privilege, immigration/sanctuary cities, and climate issues.

A more complete description and analysis of the survey questions and results are provided at the display section of LEYM.

Other Notable Activities

The P&J Committee had a joint discussion at Representative Meeting. This opened discussion on having joint activities and meetings between the Peace & Justice Committee and Earthcare Committee and resulted in the development of a joint display board.

Future Consideration

A stated goal was to provide educational opportunities for members of LEYM's Peace & Justice Committee that may lead to discussion topics for monthly virtual meetings next year. Due to the success of the joint project with Peace & Justice and Earthcare, there may be additional interest in having a joint committee and meetings in the future.

YM2019-22 Earthcare Committee Report

Mey Hasbrook (Kalamazoo), acting clerk, reported. A local action is to alter food options at these Annual Sessions to respond to needs arising from climate change. The Committee is looking for ways to coordinate with the Peace & Justice Committee. The Sixth Mass Extinction is underway, and the Committee acknowledges the grief inherent in this massive planetary change.

The full report follows.

Earthcare Committee Report – 2019 Annual Sessions

We wish to recognize that through this year's Annual Sessions climate-crisis action – observing a vegetarian meal service as much as possible – we are observing a way to honor our food with respect and reciprocity. As one drop in a deep well of potential change for the health of the planet, the meal service draws upon last year's efforts by the Arrangements & Site Committee to increase vegetarian food options. Since animal agriculture is known to be a large contributor to climate breakdown, we are encouraged by this direction for Annual Sessions' food service and are mindful that it is direction worthy of discernment toward an ongoing practice for LEYM.

In carrying out preparations for the commitment made in April by Yearly Meeting to this food service, we published an article for LEYM's *Bulletin* and provided materials on the Earthcare Resources page of LEYM's website. We worked with Arrangements & Site Committee to facilitate a menu mindful of the input from the April Representative Meeting. Out of this year's 133 registrants, most stayed with the new default of vegetarian meals, with 60 selecting meat. Special thanks to monthly meetings that provided displays for meal tables to engage Friends' attention in this year's action: Athens, Broadmead, Detroit, and Kalamazoo. Contributions from young Friends included co-creating one of the meal-table displays, directing the compost station at meals, and creating a 3D display located near the compost station.

The Earthcare Committee cooperated with the Peace & Justice Committee for a survey of monthly meetings about Friends' social concerns and actions along with monthly meetings' suggestions for Yearly Meeting. We are weighing these results in discerning the Committee's focus for the coming year. We note that one of the top concerns was "climate breakdown." In discerning an update toward the Committee's description and responsibilities, these results are informing our process. Additionally, we are further tending a growing relationship with the Peace & Justice Committee after a rich time jointly shared during these sessions.

In closing our report, we acknowledge our collective grief for the great loss of life across the planet called the sixth mass extinction, an increasing death toll of animal life and plant life due to ongoing harmful actions by humans. We acknowledge that this grief includes climate breakdown's deadly and damaging impact to human beings. Amid the grief, we uplift the call to love our neighbors as ourselves as a call to love all of Earth in which we are part.

YM2019-23 Quaker Earthcare Witness Report

R.E. Hogan (Athens) reported on its activities. The most significant change happens within the hearts of people who realize their profound connection with all the cosmos. This means that action everywhere, for example, helping African farmers retain and use their land well, benefits us all. Population and population migration are major concerns. See the website *quakerearthcarewitness.org* for further information on its current activities and suggestions for action.

An epistle from QEW follows.

"The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that its center really is everywhere. It is within each of us." — Black Elk

To Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from the Quaker Earthcare Witness Spring Steering Committee Meeting, April 11–14, 2019.

We write from the occupied lands of the Dakota, in St. Paul, Minnesota, where an April blizzard greeted our arrival. Due to the storm, some were unable to attend the meeting and others arrived late, reminding us that climate disruption is a reality that increasingly affects all of us.

Friends from the vibrant local Quaker community graciously welcomed our group of 30 Friends from across the United States into their homes, their worship spaces, and their hearts. We thank Twin Cities Coordinating Committee for their tender care.

Our opening evening worship brought forth a shared sense of "coming home" and recognizing that being faithful means acting without knowing. What we need is right here. Daily worship sharing helped us deepen our personal relationships and our connection with Spirit.

We meet twice yearly to do the business of the organization. Our smaller committees met to discuss finance and development, publications, outreach, spiritual nurturance, and nominating issues. Our working groups focused on projects related to population concerns, work at the United Nations and the diaspora, mini-grants, Unity with Nature, and connecting with Friends Committee on National Legislation.

We sense that we are steadily getting better at what we do: being faithful to our individual leadings and our corporate action, worshipping for business together, raising money to facilitate the work, engaging in conflict and difficult conversations with grace, sharing a Quaker message of eco-spirituality and the urgency of climate disruption, connecting with Friends across the U.S. and Canada, and strengthening ties between branches of Friends.

"Our faith teaches us that what is small and humble is often a profound message." We shared in appreciation for individual ministries of Friends' zero waste work and for the creation of a profoundly beautiful movie about Quaker Earthcare Witness ministry.

We shared much of our weekend with local friends, including two potlucks, one lunch, two evening presentations, a forum, and Sunday worship. Middle-school students from the Friends School of Minnesota shared their documentary about protecting pollinators as part of their work with the Environmental Action Club. The young friends spoke our minds and hearts, as we feel the urgency expressed by the recent report by the International Panel on Climate Change:

"We have to help pick up the world because right now it's not doing so great."

"One of the scariest things for me is that [climate disruption] isn't sometime in the indefinite future—there is a clock and it's ticking."

"I really like social justice issues and being an activist and I really like spending time in nature and I wanted to combine those things."

We were also treated to a bus ride to learn about the history and geography of the area and heard a beautiful testimony from a Friend suffering from brain cancer on the healing power of the Mississippi River as we crossed it.

We asked, "What does transition look like?" with a panel of five Friends who are putting transition principles into their daily lives. On Sunday afternoon, 15 of us visited an urban farm, a Friend's personal garden, and a Friend's zero energy-use house.

By the time we were preparing to leave, much of the snow had melted, and spring was in the air. This was an opportunity for our beloved community to hear, share, and care about each other and the Earth and how to care thoughtfully about "the others" – people who do not share our thoughts, concerns, or understandings.

How do you walk gently on Earth answering that of God in everything, everywhere, in all Life Spirit? How do we live our lives in the spirit of connection with all life? How can we collectively create a community of healing and resolve?

A constant thread throughout our time together was the love of all living things – people, animals, nature, and planet — and each other. How we love is how we live.

The world we seek begins with the relationships we make. We at Quaker Earthcare Witness are grateful for our Friends in St. Paul and Minneapolis and our global community of Friends who keep the Light shining brightly.

In peace and friendship,
Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee, April 2019

YM2019-24 Friends Committee on National Legislation Report

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported on FCNL's activities, now in their 76th year. Peace, justice, and environmental sustainability are major areas of work. Background and perspectives are provided to legislative staffs to assist in creation of helpful and effective legislation. She spoke to the value of advocacy teams in local communities to promote contact with local political offices. FCNL's annual meeting, with the theme, "Love Thy Neighbor, No Exceptions," will happen in Washington, DC, on November 14–17, 2019. We welcome our guest, José Woss, as FCNL's visiting representative.

FCNL needs more LEYM representatives.

The full report follows.

Report to LEYM 2019 on the FCNL Annual Meeting (of 2018) and Activities

FCNL was founded in 1943 and celebrated its 75th anniversary last year, so the Annual Meeting in November was marking that with appropriate festivities like cake and great speeches.

During the year the Quaker Welcome Center next to the FCNL office had opened. It's a place for dialogue and the promotion of peace, justice, and environmental sustainability. They have advocacy trainings, a speaker series and workshops, meeting spaces, and Witness Wednesdays.

There are 12 full-time registered FCNL lobbyists, dedicated to advancing the legislative priorities of the organization. They often provide information and background research on specific policies and bills to congressional staff. Lobby training was the initial event of the Quaker Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting weekend. Participants in QPPI went on 193 lobby visits representing 45 states, and met with 39 members of Congress. Lobbying with FCNL always begins with listening and remaining open to the possibility of transformation.

We spent Thursday and Friday lobbying to protect SNAP, America's most effective anti-hunger program; our efforts were rewarded when the program was saved!

During the Annual Meeting the main speaker was Ruth Flower (formerly on staff), who shared lessons learned from video games, hurricanes, and random conversations. The recipient of the Ed Snyder Award for 2018 was Representative Ro Khanna (CA) for his courageous work to prevent war with North Korea, end U.S. support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen, and strengthen U.S. diplomacy abroad.

An Annual Meeting highlight is always short talks by the Young Fellows, who come from a wide variety of backgrounds to dedicate a year to the vital FCNL work with Congress. We also enjoyed an inspiring talk by Diane Randall, Executive Secretary, and an armchair conversation with Emily Temple, Joe Volk, and Diane.

One particularly good way for us to engage with FCNL is to join an Advocacy Team, where we are trained to be effective and persistent lobbyists with our Senators and Representatives. There are several active Advocacy Teams in our Yearly Meeting – they would welcome your participation. We were fortunate to have José Santos Woss as the FCNL guest at Yearly Meeting; José is the Legislative Manager for Criminal Justice and Election Integrity in the Washington FCNL office and he led two workshops at our Annual Sessions.

The 2019 FCNL QPPI and Annual Meeting will be held in Washington on November 14 –17 with the theme "Love Thy Neighbor (No Exceptions)." Please consider attending; you can find more information and registration forms on the *fcnl.org* website.

YM2019-25 Nominating Committee Update

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon presented the activities of the Committee. Current needs were described. A final report will be presented at a later business session.

Fifth Session: 1:15 – 3:15 pm, Saturday, July 27, 2019

YM2019-26 Worship and Epistle from Great Plains Yearly Meeting
Jo Posti read aloud the 2018 Epistle from Great Plains Yearly Meeting, a meeting which encompasses the diversity to be found in theological orientations among Friends. A central concern of the meeting was visitation, a ministry which, in their words, "should be approached from a place of love and with a commitment to deep listening." Workshops during their gathering focused on listening to the needs of Native Americans and listening to the promptings of God. Attenders left with the sense that God is moving and working through them in their communities, their meetings, and their relationships.

YM2019-27 Acknowledgement of Deceased Friends
Friends who died in the past year were acknowledged: Henry Van Dyke (Ann Arbor), Dorothy Freedman (Pittsburgh), Edith Wilson (Pittsburgh), Nancy Lee (Birmingham), Richard Lee (Red Cedar), Marion Gyr (Manitou Worship Group), Eloise Piper (Pittsburgh), Kirk Roose (Oberlin), Marilyn Gallagher (Oberlin), and Tina Storch (Oberlin).

[*See* the memorial minutes and obituaries in the *Annual Records*, starting on p. 124.]

YM2019-28 Report from Olney Friends School
Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) reported that Olney is in "a much better place," newly directed by Christian Acemah, an Olney graduate. Thirty-five students from a wide diversity of countries started the school year. All 17 new graduates will be attending college. An exciting part of the program will integrate academics with community experience. Financial literacy is a requirement for graduation, a part of the set of tools for practical living.

School finances are now more stable. The new school year expects to open with 35+ students.

Anne Marie Taber, Olney's Director of Development, described the school atmosphere and mission, and encouraged the support of Friends, either through financial donations or through enrollment of a relative or friend. LEYM's long support of Olney is much appreciated by the Olney community.

Ellerie's written report follows.

Report on Olney Friends School

It's my honor and pleasure to say Olney Friends School is in a better place as a community and financially than it has been for the past two years. A permanent head, Christian Acemah, is a 2001 alumnus. His expertise in working with Boards has strengthened the educational community.

The 2018–2019 year opened with 35 students, including students from the U.S., China, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Rwanda, and Japan. In May, 17 students graduated, and all will be attending four-year colleges.

One of Olney's strengths is its core humanities curriculum, and to strengthen that a new course has been established to help students integrate academics and their Olney experience. Having a teen myself, I knew the importance of teaching finan-cial literacy to high schoolers. Not all high schools do this, and at Olney it is a requirement for graduation. That is a wonderful thing.

Finances are stable for this year, and I urge you to give to Olney in any way you can.

Respectfully submitted, Ellerie Brownfain

YM2019-29 Ministry and Nurture Committee Report (no. 2)
Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens), co-clerk, reported, listing the names of Committee members. She spoke of the Committee's concern for the leadership of the Spiritual Formation Program. Those who have been organizing retreats for years are stepping down, so a replacement is needed for next year. School of the Spirit is willing to provide speakers. If no new leadership appears, other ways of deepening spirituality will be sought.

The Committee brought a recommendation for an endorsement for Mey Hasbrook. Carla read aloud the letter provided by Kalamazoo Friends, endorsing her ministry as she travels outside the Yearly Meeting. LEYM is asked to add its endorsement of this ministry to the letter. Carla spoke to ways in which the Yearly Meeting might support Mey and engage with her in terms of accountability. Mey offered a workshop to the Yearly Meeting which gave attenders a chance to get to know her ministry. It was pointed out that right ordering, according to FGC guidelines, ought to have had approval of the YM for a ministry outside of the YM from the beginning. Furthermore, this endorsement could open the door to some forms of financial support for the ministry.

This report has been received, and consideration of the endorsement is held over to a later business meeting.

Carla summarized the State of the Meeting reports, which are published in full in the *Annual Records* [pp. 79–123].

The query for meetings to consider for the next year is: "The world we live in can leave many of us with broken hearts. We turn to one another in our meetings, in worship, and in friendship. Let us rest in the Light. What are we finding there?"

Aran Reinhart (Broadmead) reported for the Spiritual Formation Program. For 2018–19, "Partaking in a Spiritual Spa" was the theme of the retreat; it gave retreatants a chance to explore several spiritually deepening practices. The next retreat will be held September 6–8 at the Weber Retreat Center in Michigan. The theme will be "Meetings as Spiritual Crucibles and Incubators," and the retreat will be led by Joann Neuroth. Joann spoke on her aim and approach to this retreat, which explores the calls both individuals and meetings can feel.

The full Ministry & Nurture report follows.

Ministry & Nurture Report, LEYM 2019 Annual Sessions

Members: Ann Sprague, Shelley Kotz, Becky Morehouse, Lisa Klopfer, Flo Friender, and Carla Pratt-Harrington

The Ministry & Nurture Committee has worked on several items this session. We took up a concern for the leadership of the Spiritual Formation Program. This is a group of Friends that meets for a weekend retreat in the fall and a Saturday in the spring to deepen their spirituality. Although this group has been under the care of Ministry & Nurture, it has operated independently for many years, finding its own leadership among those who attend. It is organized for this year. However, those who organized are ready to step down and no one has stepped up yet to organize 2020 –2021 retreats. We have discerned to request at Annual Sessions and at the fall retreat to find several who would be willing to take on this task of organizing these retreats. We have been approached by School of the Spirit, which would be willing to provide speakers/activity leaders. If several people do not step into this role, M&N may want to consider re-envisioning how we might serve this need of deepening our spirituality.

We are pleased to bring to you a recommendation to endorse a traveling minute for Mey Hasbrook. Through a series of communications we have arrived at an understanding of her ministry. Ministry & Nurture members met with Mey before Annual Sessions to clarify this leading and found our time with her grounded and valuable. Through her sharing with us parts of her spiritual journey, we believe endorsing her traveling minute is the next step in supporting her in this ministry.

We received 17 State of the Meeting Reports from meetings and worship groups. Several themes stood out:

Some meetings report a balance between deep silent worship and spoken ministry, while others are trying to foster more vocal ministry. Meetings described a number of activities that enhance deepening relationships and shared spiritual life. These include book groups, informal gatherings, potlucks, sharing of spiritual journeys, and special interest groups.

Many meetings mentioned action arising from concerns about racism, immigration, and the environment. One meeting offers sanctuary and others support it in various ways. Working with other faith groups and organizations increases our strength and impact in social justice activity.

Different meetings are coping with challenges due to aging of our membership, requiring more awareness of how we offer and accept help. As the sizes of meetings change, adaptations are needed. Some are reviewing their organizational structures and responding creatively to current situations. Ann Arbor reminded us that "Committees are the loom on which we weave community . . . on which we practice our values and faith."

Some meetings expressed gratitude about their meeting spaces. Other meetings are grappling with concerns about their meeting locations, needed renovations, maintenance costs, rental instability and seeking a stable home.

Some meetings reported that newcomers feel welcomed, which led them to offer types of Quaker 101 programs. Newcomers and younger attenders bring vitality and joy into many meetings. Nurturing young families and youth is a priority and a challenge in these times.

Friends find themselves supporting wider Quaker organizations, including Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, Friends General Conference, Friends Committee on National Legislation, American Friends Service Committee, and Friend World Committee for Consultation.

To quote Kalamazoo Friends Meeting, our meeting "*remains a vibrant community of dedicated, caring, flawed, and lovely Quakers. Gathering together for worship, study, fellowship, or work strengthens our bonds and renews our spirits. We face the uncertain future not afraid and not alone. Puzzled sometimes and often tired, but willing to try in love, in kindness, in hope and grace. We are finding our way step by prayed step.*"

Our query for the upcoming year is as follows

The world we live in can leave many of us with broken hearts. We turn to one another in our meetings, in worship, and in friendship. Let us rest in the Light. What are we finding there?

YM2019-30 Ad Hoc Policies and Procedures Committee Report (no. 2)

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported. Of the several changes recommended to *Policies and Procedures*, Jeff began by focusing on a new policy regarding travel minutes. That policy, shown below, includes the definition of a travel minute, the process of obtaining a travel minute, and the accountability procedure to be followed in reporting back to the Yearly Meeting. The policy as stated is approved.

II. E Travel Minute

1. ***Description.*** A statement of endorsement a meeting may give to a member (or sometimes an attender) who has a concern to visit other meetings and/or groups. It establishes the good standing of the Friend and indicates the affectionate interest of the meeting in the various groups being visited. When travel is to groups beyond Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, it should have the endorsement of the Yearly Meeting as well as the home meeting. This is distinct from a *letter of introduction*, which is written for a Friend who will be visiting other meetings in the course of his or her secular travels, but who is not traveling under a concern.
2. ***Process.*** To obtain Yearly Meeting endorsement, the local meeting's clerk or the clerk of the meeting's ministry committee should provide the clerk of LEYM's Ministry & Nurture Committee a copy of the meeting's travel minute, along with an explanation of the Friend's concern and the request that the Yearly Meeting endorse it. This request will be taken to the next meeting of the Ministry & Nurture Committee, whose clerk may ask a Friend from the meeting who is familiar with the concern and/or the Friend under concern to meet with them or hold a conversation by phone. If the Committee is clear to recommend that LEYM endorse the travel minute, it will bring that recommendation to the next business session of the Yearly Meeting. If the Yearly Meeting is clear to endorse the travel minute, LEYM's clerk will provide the local meeting with a copy of the travel minute with the Yearly Meeting's endorsement.

   It is Friends' practice for the clerk of each group of Friends visited to sign the minute (on the back or on an accompanying piece of paper), including a note about the visit. On returning home, the traveling Friend will give the minute with all of its "endorsements" back to the business meeting/s that issued it and report on the travels.

Sixth Session: 8:45 – 10:30 am, Sunday, July 28, 2019

YM2019-31 Worship and Epistle from Wilmington Yearly Meeting

Jo Posti read aloud the Epistle from the 2018 Wilmington Yearly Meeting. The Epistle described the task that faced them: to love one another as best they could, through blessing the future work for Christ of those who chose or will choose to leave the Yearly Meeting and affirming the bonds of fellowship between those who have chosen to remain. An irreconcilable issue of what constitutes valid marriage had been wrestled with for years, and reluctantly some meetings have finally chosen to disaffiliate from Wilmington Yearly Meeting, a decision not to be taken lightly in light of their conviction that they are called to unity in the Divine. Brotherly love for all attenders was mixed with deep grief at the coming loss of members of meetings choosing to leave. Rebuilding is now the task that lies ahead, now that the years-long conflict has reached this resolution.

YM2019-32 Friends World Committee for Consultation Report

In a charmingly improvised skit presented at the previous evening's talent show, four representatives to FWCC – Sam Milford (Pittsburgh), Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids), Mey Hasbrook (Kalamazoo), and Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG) – described the atmosphere of the recent FWCC Section of the Americas gathering and the activities undertaken through FWCC.

YM2019-33 Ministry & Nurture Committee: Travel Minute

Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens) reported that the request for an addition to a travel minute for Mey Hasbrook had come from Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting. If the endorsement is approved, M&N suggests requiring that a member of LEYM not a member of Kalamazoo Meeting be part of Mey Hasbrook's anchoring committee. The importance of a specific ministry lasting for a specified period of time was raised. With the proviso that this endorsement extends for one year, and that the Yearly Meeting will re-evaluate at the next yearly sessions, the endorsement was approved, with one member, Valerie Groszmann, not in unity.

YM2019-34 Epistle from the Pre-School Group

Christa White (Athens) and Alfred Clapp (Athens), Gigi, and Zeke reported on their playground activities, locating playgrounds in many places around the campus. The report was accompanied by a pictorial slide show of photos of the kids' activities. Their report follows.

When Gigi and Zeke were asked what they wanted to do, Gigi answered without hesitation, "Go to the playground." The goal was set. We were going to "Walk humbly with God."

We got to be part of the big kids' "worship sharing" playground.

Finding different playgrounds is what we did. Like the "green" playground, where there was chalk, big kids to play with, and don't forget the scooters.

We found two inside playgrounds: the Music Park and the pre-school home base, aka Home!!!!

We found three outside playgrounds. This park had big red slides and a big swing for both kids to play on. The rock playground was a lot of fun too! There was a water playground where we explored different ways to splash and walk in the water.

YM2019-35 Epistle from the Elementary Age group

Stephanie, Adriana, Starr, Raina, Andrew, Bradley, Matthew, and Conleth related some of their favorite things about being at the Annual Sessions. Their report also was accompanied by a pictorial slide show of photos of the kids' activities.

An epistle, printed below, outlined the round of activities engaged in by the group, including a look at the theme of "Love Justice and Do Mercy."

Epistle from the Elementary Age Group

The elementary age group had lots of fun. We were very busy enjoying each other's company. We started with collection – all the youth program members gathered together for worship, singing, and playing a get-to-know-you game in which Andrew ended up the King of Hearts. We found ourselves in groups, missing him because he was all by himself until we invited him into a group with us.

- Then our group played our name game.
- Colored pictures.
- Made pipe cleaner sculptures, including a Harry Potter costume.
- Ate snacks.
- Read stories to talk about the weekend theme of "Do justice, love mercy…."
- Tried friendship bracelet-making.
- Took a walk and watched for bugs.
- Floated boats of sticks and leaves in the creek (and got our feet wet – surprise!)
- Talked about the turkey buzzards sailing overhead.
- *Loved* swimming.
- Some of us went bowling (and we all won bowling games because we had fun).
- Some of us visited and loved the children's book museum with paintings from books, a play area, and a slide (the rabbit hole from *Alice in Wonderland*) that went from the second floor winding down to the first.
- Walked a labyrinth.
- Performed in the talent show.
- And ate ice cream all day, every day!

Stephanie Charlot*
Starr Clapp
Raina Lagrou
Matt Vacheresse
Conleth Crotser*
Bradley Clapp
Andrew Mott
Adrianna Clapp

* Official teachers – We all learned from each other!

YM2019-36 Epistle from the Middle School Age group

The group started by agreeing on guidelines**,** practicing doing love through the gathering by listening to each other respectfully. Their Epistle follows.

Epistle from the Middle School Group

Our group is learning how we can do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

1. We began our journey this weekend by agreeing on the rules for our group. The most important rule was not to hurt ourselves or others on the inside or outside.
2. We used a talking piece to allow each of us to speak from our experience. Each of us carries a piece of the truth, we need to speak ours and hear others.

3. Our cell phones are needed to stay in touch with those not present. We only need them during our 15-minute snack break and to share music with the group.
4. We learned that loving mercy means showing kindness to each other, encouraging each other to participate fully in our games, truth-sharing, and activities outside of the formal program times.
5. We learned to do justice by recognizing inequalities that can exclude some of us from group activities. We struggled with differences in access to funds for purchasing food and items in our trip to town.
6. We learned to walk humbly with that of God in ourselves and each other by taking turns, speaking and listening to each other's truth.

Jenn Seif*
Jesse Mott
Douglas Smith
Amanda Vacheresse
Yevgeny Dierauer
Willow Lagrou
Ethan Charlot
Elisabeth Clapp
Peter Crowley*

YM2019-37 Epistle from the High School Group

Each in poetry described the round of activities of the group throughout the gathering. Their Epistle follows.

Epistle of the High School Group

Thursday we arrived, prepared for a weekend of fun,
We went to the store, where we all bought a ton.

On the way back we spotted a park,
That said we could play if it wasn't too dark.

We took our time getting back,
Then we played cards, got through a whole stack.

After a while we were sent off to bed,
At least that's what Carl's mom said.

We rolled out of bed with hopes of French toast,
Then after we ate we learned to compost.

We walked to the pump like we've done for years,
But the site that we saw filled us with tears.

The scene was in shambles, the pump was in half,
Then we shook up the bridge and had a good laugh.

After lunch the group was ready to roll,
We hopped in our cars and went to go bowl.

Elizabeth told the story of her sock,
The details of which will leave you in shock.

This year's plenary we felt was commercial,
Though our group's opinions were quite controversial.

We came back to the dorm to play in the grass,
Until we and the kids ran out of gas.

Saturday morning we took a long walk,
We went to the thrift store and bought out their stock.

Then again to the dollar store,
The first time was great, but we still wanted more.

The afternoon hit and it was off to the pool.
We swam for a bit, the water was cool.

The talent show ice cream made us loosen our belts.
We saw some performances that were quite heartfelt.

This took us forever to write.
We stayed up late into the night.

In the high school group we are all each other's friend.
Which is why we were so sad to see this year end.

Sophie Hull
Alexander Charlot
Gabe Mott
Jabiri Crowley
Jonah Brownfain
Rosa Seif
Micah Seif
Carl Dierauer
Jason Smith

YM2019-38 Youth & Children Program Committee Report (no. 2)

Greg Mott (Broadmead) and Kate Enger (Athens) reported. Twenty-five children (both children and grandchildren, some not associated with meetings) were present, including two new children. Greg expressed appreciation for helpers, and talked about the fall youth retreat.

Kate requested input for next year's program.

Heartfelt affirmation was expressed for the ministry for children as led by Greg and Kate at Yearly Meeting sessions.

The full report follows.

Report from the Youth & Children Program

Currently, we are enjoying the company of 25 youth, including 2 who were not in the program last year. Their ages range from 2 ½ years old to 17 years old. Aside from a couple bruised knees, our time together was filled with laughter, companionship, and a whole lot of ice cream. I would like to thank the group leaders, the volunteer drivers, and parents, who helped keep the children moving. A special note of appreciation must be given to Noah Molina, who led group singing, directed yard games, and provided an extra burst of energy for the program.

This year, the LEYM Fall youth retreat will be held at Templed Hills Camp, located in Bellville, Ohio, on September 27–29. Registration forms can be found on the LEYM website or by contacting Diane Mott. The retreat is available for K–12 youth.

YM2019-39 Finance Committee Report (no. 2)

Joe Mills (Kalamazoo), clerk, reported, presenting a final proposed budget. There would be an increase of $500 for an audit, and an increase in compensation for the office worker and data base manager. The big increase of $2000 was for scholarships. The total increase in the budget would require a $5 increase per member contribution, from $30 to $35. The budget was approved.

The budget appears below.

Budget for 2019–20

LEYM Draft Budget 2019 - 2020 Approved July 28, 2019

General Fund Expenses	FY 2015-2016		FY 2016-2017		FY 2017-2018		Label	FY 2018-19		Proposed '20	
(* = transfers)	Budget	Act 15-16	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		Budget	Actual	Budget	Change
Travel	4000	2,762	3,000	3000	3500	1,024	Travel	2000	2069	2000	0
Office	50	88	100	558	300	228	Office Administration	500	301	1000	500
Contract worker	2000	2,249	2,000	2936	2400	1,290	Yearly Meeting Worker	2400	2215	3000	600
Finance	50	67	550	500	75	0	Database Mgr.			625	625
Publications	3200	1,986	2,200	2353	2800	2,686	Publications	3200	2854	3200	0
Advancement	100	0	100	0	50	79	Advancement	200	15	200	0
Ministry & Nurture	100	0	100	0	50	0	Ministry & Nurture	50	0	50	0
Clerk's Fund	300	0	300	0	200	0	College, Univ., scholarship	0	0	2000	2000
FGC	4500	4,500	6,000	6000	6000	6,000	FGC	6000	6000	6000	0
MFC one-time donation	1000	1,000	0	Pitts MM	1000	1,000					0
Records project	100	100	100	100	100	100	Swathmore Records project	100	100	100	0
FWCC Travel*	1500	1,500	1,200	1200	1800	1,800	FWCC Travel*	1800	1800	1800	0
Youth Activity Fund*	1000	1,000	1,000	1000	1000	1,000	Youth Activity Fund*	1000	1000	1000	0
High School Retreat Fund*	1600	0	0	0	0	0	High School Retreat Fund*	0	0	0	0
Spiritual Formation*	800	800	300	0	300	300	Spiritual Formation*	300	300	300	0
Friends School in Detroit	0	0	0	0		0	Attend. Conf w/ Quaker Values	1000	-18	1000	0
Olney Friends School	2000	2,000	2,000	2000	2000	2,000	Olney Friends School	3000	3000	3000	0
Consultation Fund*	0	0	0	0	0	0	Consultation Fund*	0	0	0	0
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	500	500	100	0	0	0	Scholarship Fund for ministry*	0	0	0	0
Summer work project	1200	1,200	600	0	200	0	Summer work project	0	0	0	0
Insurance	500	500	500	500	500	500	Insurance	500	500	500	0
Misc. (FGC scholarships)	0	0	1,400	2900	4000	3,545	Misc.				0
Total Expense =	24500	20,252	21,550	23047	26275	21,552		22050	20137	25775	3725
Contributions Income	23,040	22,821	19,880	21477	21300	16,531		22600	24064		
FFC Dividends Income	1050	1,065	1,050	1094	1090	1,131		1000	1196		
Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0		
Total Income =	24,090	23,886	20,930	22571	22390	1,460		23600	25260		
Income - Expenses =	-410	3,634	-620	-476	-3885	-3,265		1550	5123		
Total Contribution / Members=	$32		$28		$30	$2					
Members=	720		710		710	0		600	-110		
Suggested cont. / member=	$32		$28		$30	$2		$30	0	$35	$5

YM2019-40 Treasurer's Report

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster), treasurer, reported. Mike outlined his report, encouraging member meetings to consult the LEYM website on the uses that their Meeting contributions are put to.

The report appears below.

Treasurer's Report, p. 1

GENERAL FUND INCOME - 2018/2019 Fiscal Year

Meeting (Giver)	Amount	Date
Akron Friends Meeting		
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	3,630.00	26-Jan
Athens Friends Meeting	2,100.00	8-Apr
Birmingham Friends Meeting	510.00	20-Nov
Broadmead Friends Meeting	1,500.00	4-Feb
Cleveland Friends Meeting	1,200.00	20-May
Delaware Friends Meeting	180.00	13-Dec
Detroit Friends Meeting	616.00	31-Jul
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting	570.00	26-Jan
Granville Friends Meeting	765.00	10-Sep
Holland Friends Meeting	200.00	7-Jan
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting	960.00	26-Jan
Kent Friends Meeting	570.00	21-Dec
Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting	108.00	26-Jan
North Columbus Friends Meeting	900.00	24-Sep
Oberlin Friends Meeting	960.00	30-Jun
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting	6,525.00	14-Aug
Red Cedar Friends Meeting	2,220.00	3-Dec
Waysmeet	100.00	7-Jan
Wooster Friends Meeting	450.00	17-Dec
Individuals		
Total Contributions	**24,064.00**	
FFC Dividends, Base Account	1,195.97	
FFC change port value, + or -, Base Acc.	1,133.22	
TOTAL INCOME	**26,393.19**	

Treasurer's Report, p. 2

ACCOUNT	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE	EXPENSE % 0F BUDGET
Travel	2,000.00	2,069.18	103%
Office	500.00	300.94	60%
Contract worker	2,400.00	2,215.33	92%
Finance [1]	0.00		0%
Publications	3,200.00	2,853.99	89%
Advancement	200.00	14.83	7%
Ministry & Nurture	50.00		0%
College, Univ., scholarship	0.00		
FGC	6,000.00	6,000.00	100%
Records project	100.00	100.00	100%
FWCC Travel [2 3]	1,800.00	1,800.00	100%
Youth Activities Fund [2]	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%
H. S. Teen Retreat Fund [2]	0.00		
Spiritual Formation Fund [2]	300.00	300.00	100%
Attend Conf. w/ Quaker Values	1,000.00	(17.50)	-2%
Olney Friends School	3,000.00	3,000.00	100%
Consultation Fund [2]	0.00		0%
Scholarship Fnd for Ministry [2]	0.00		0%
Service Projects	0.00		0%
Insurance	500.00	500.00	100%
Sub-total	**22,050.00**	20,136.77	91%
Misc.: Travel Cn'tcgy Fund Clos		(3,411.64)	
Totals	**22,050.00**	16,725.13	76%

[1] Includes banking costs
[2] Subsidy from General Fund to other Funds
[3] Includes FWCC Travel Fund & Contribution

Treasurer's Report, p. 3

Summary of Funds 2018-2019 Fiscal Year

Fund Name	Starting Balance	Income or Change	Subsidy from General Fund	Cash Expenses	End Balance	Fund Floors and ceilings (000's)
General Fund [1]	25,678.77	26,393.19		16,725.13	**35,346.83**	na / 30
Granville Youth Fund [2]	7,615.89	477.10		250.38	**7,842.61**	na / na
Annual Meeting Fund [3]	1,944.62	14,721.21		16,579.16	**86.67**	1 / 3
Youth Activities Fund [4 5]	6,995.57	2,115.38		1,756.85	**7,354.10**	4 / 8
H S Teen retreat Fund [4]	6,892.64				**6,892.64**	3 / 6
Spiritual Form. Fund [4]	2,656.74	3,000.00		2,769.45	**2,887.29**	.5 / 1.5
FWCC Travel Fund [4]	2,639.83		900.00		**3,539.83**	na / 6
FWCC Travel Donation	900.00		900.00	1,800.00	**0.00**	na / 9
Consultation Fund [4]	3,143.68				**3,143.68**	.5 / 2
Ministry Sch'ship Fund [4]	2,000.00			151.00	**1,849.00**	na / 2
Summer Work Proj Fund [4]	2,182.39				**2,182.39**	na / 2
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00				**3,500.00**	na / na
Travel Cont'cy Fund [4 6]	3,411.64			3,411.64	**0.00**	2 / 4
TOTAL	**69,561.77**	**46,706.88**	**1,800.00**	**43,443.61**	**74,625.04**	

[1] Includes line item accounting from Budget plus contributions;
also reflects dividends and changes in net portfolio value, FFC base account

[2] Granville Youth Fund is separate FFC account; 'Income or Change' reflects
both dividend and change in portfolio value; 'Cash Expense' reflects
dividends that have been paid and are then are transferred to Youth Activities Fund

[3] Income includes -0- in individual donations

[4] Other funds are managed through accounting and may be subsidized by the corresponding budget lines of the General Fund.

[5] Income includes dividends from FFC Granville YF account

[6] This fund closed 9/15/2018

Treasurer's Report, p. 4

BALANCE SHEET

Location of Assets	CASH ASSETS			Change in Value
	07/01/18	06/30/19		06/30/19
	Beginning	FF Change	End	
Citizens Nat. Bank, Bluffton, Ohio	25,860.55		28,367.91	2,507.36
Friends Fiduciary, Base Account	36,085.33		38,414.52	2,329.19
> Dividends, Re-Invested		1,195.97		
> Change in Portfolio Value is + or -		1,133.22		
Friends Fiduciary, Granville YF Account	7,615.89		7,842.61	226.72
> Change in Portfolio Value + or -		226.72		
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	**43,701.22**	**2,555.91**	**46,257.13**	**2,555.91**
Total Cash Assets	**69,561.77**		**74,625.04**	**5,063.27**

Allocation of Assets				
General Fund	25,678.77		35,346.83	9,668.06
Granville Youth Fund	7,615.89		7,842.61	226.72
Annual Meeting Fund	1,944.62		86.67	-1,857.95
Youth Activities Fund	6,995.57		7,354.10	358.53
High School Teen Retreat Fund	6,892.64		6,892.64	0.00
Spiritual Formation Fund	2,656.74		2,887.29	230.55
FWCC Travel Fund (incl. Travel & Donation)	3,539.83		3,539.83	0.00
Consultation Fund	3,143.68		3,143.68	0.00
Ministry Scholarship Fund	2,000.00		1,849.00	-151.00
Summer. Work Proj Fund	2,182.39		2,182.39	0.00
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00		3,500.00	0.00
Travel Contingency Fund	3,411.64		0.00	-3,411.64
Total All Funds	**69,561.77**		**74,625.04**	**5,063.27**

YM2019-41 Minute of Gratitude for Mike Hinshaw

Jo Posti read aloud a minute for Mike Hinshaw's work as treasurer over the past seven years, citing aspects of his work on behalf of the Meeting. The minute was approved, and the full text follows.

> The Yearly Meeting thanks Mike Hinshaw for his service as Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's treasurer for seven years. His attentive and careful work has helped us to preserve our treasure, even as we've seen our membership decrease, and to think creatively about how our budget reflects our values. During Mike's tenure, way has opened for LEYM to offer Friends General Conference seed money to fund an institutional audit and to develop new line items to support scholarships for LEYM Friends to attend Quaker colleges and conferences. We are grateful to Mike for his precision and his creative solutions to fund initiatives that enhance our faith experience.

YM2019-42 Nominating Committee Report

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG) reported on the vacancies that have been filled. She expressed gratitude that this is a "more complete" report than she has been able to make at times in the past. The Program Committee continues to need people to step forward to participate in this very fun committee. The full slate appears below.

LEYM Officers, Committee Members, & Representatives
Nominating Committee Report 2019

Approved 7-28-2019. *Terms begin and end at rise of Annual Sessions.*

* = Approved by Executive Committee after Annual Sessions.

ExC = serves on LEYM Executive Committee.

Officers

Role	Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
Presiding Clerk *ExC*	Josephine Posti, Pittsburgh	2	2022
Assistant Clerk *ExC*	Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	3	2020
Recording Clerk *ExC*	Peter Wood, Red Cedar	3	2020
Treasurer *ExC*	Tom Kangas, North Columbus	1	2020

Communications and Other Workers

Bulletin Editors	Peggy Daub & Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor	3	2020
Database Manager	Maryann Concannon, Red Cedar	1	2020
Meeting Worker	Bill Warters, Birmingham	1	
Bookstore	Valerie Groszmann	18	

Committees

Name & Meeting		Year of Service	End Year
Advancement & Outreach			
# of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3			
Blair Ellis, Ann Arbor		3	2020
Sheila Johnson, Ann Arbor		3	2020
Ellen Barnes, Birmingham	Clerk *ExC*	5	2021
Kathie Hollingshead, Pittsburgh		2	2021
Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens		1	2022
TBD		1	2022

Committees (continued):

Name/Meeting		Year of Service	End Year
Earthcare			
# of Members: 6 Others interested welcome.			
Years of Term: 3			
Mey Hasbrook, Kalamazoo	Clerk *ExC*	2	2020
R. E. Hogan, Athens		3	2020
Jonah Brownfain, Birmingham		2	2020
Finance			
# of Members: 3 Years of Term: 3			
Joseph Mills, Kalamazoo	Clerk *ExC*	3	2020
Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar		2	2021
Seth Reichenbach, Unaffiliated		2	2021
Note: Treasurer serves ex officio			
High School Teen Retreat (Committee is dormant)			
Normally 3 adults with 3-year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2-year terms			
Ministry & Nurture			
# of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each monthly meeting encouraged Years of Term: 3			
Lisa Klopfer, Ann Arbor		2	2020
Shelley Kotz, Broadmead	Co-Clerk *ExC*	2	2021
Rebecca Morehouse, Ann Arbor	Co-Clerk *ExC*	2	2021
Linda Mills, Kalamazoo		1	2022
Sharon Ottenbreit, Detroit		1	2022
David Snyder, Oberlin		1	2022
Nominating			
# of Members: 6 (appointed by YM through Naming Committee)			
Years of Term: 3			
Clémence Ravaçon Mershon, Erie WG, Clerk *ExC*		6	2020
Jo Steigerwald, Cleveland		3	2020
Janet Dando, Akron		5	2021
Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids		2	2021
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham		4	2022
Lisa Sinnett, Ann Arbor		1	2022

Committees (continued):

Name/Meeting		Year of Service	End Year
Peace & Justice			
# of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each monthly meeting encouraged			
Years of Term: 3 Others interested welcome.			
David Finke, Oberlin		1	2020
Joel Ottenbreit, Detroit	Clerk *ExC*	3	2020
John Howell, Athens		2	2021
Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor		2	2021
TBD		1	2022
TBD		1	2022
Publications & Archives			
# of Members: 4 Years of Term: 3			
Bob Roehm, North Columbus		3	2020
TBD		1	2021
Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor	Clerk *ExC*	1	2022
Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh		1	2022

Note: Web Master and Bulletin Editors serve *ex officio*.

Yearly Meeting Planning:

Adult & Family Program

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh		7	2020
Susan Hartman, Ann Arbor		3	2020
Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor	Clerk *ExC*	3	2020
Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor		2	2021
Aran Reinhart, Broadmead		3	2022
Greg Mott, Broadmead *		1	2022

Arrangements & Site

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Jon Sommer, Broadmead	Clerk *ExC*	16	2020
John Templin, Broadmead		10	2020
Bill Warters, Birmingham		2	2020
Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead		5	2021
Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead		4	2022
Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead	Registrar	4	2022

Committees (continued):

Name/Meeting		Year of Service	End Year

Youth & Children's Program

of Members: 15 Years of Term: 2

Kate Enger, Athens	Clerk *ExC*	1	2020
Christa White, Athens	Assistant Clerk	1	2021
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham			
Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar			
Alfred Clapp III, Athens			
Cathy Clifford, Red Cedar			
Conleth Crotser, Cleveland			
Peter Crowley, Cleveland			
Noah Molina, Athens			
Diane Mott, Broadmead			
Jenn Seif, Grand Rapids			
Diane Mott, Broadmead	Fall retreat clerk		
Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	Fall retreat assistant		

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

Organization	Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year
AFSC Corp	Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh	5	2020
AFSC Corp	Bill Warters, Birmingham	2	2021
AFSC Corp	Kathleen Helbling	1	2022
AFSC Corp	Paul Helbling	1	2022
FCNL Gen Cmte	TBD	1	2020
FCNL Gen Cmte	David Snyder	5	2021
FCNL Gen Cmte	Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor	2	2021
FCNL Gen Cmte	Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor	2	2021
FCNL Gen Cmte	John Howell, Athens	3	2022
FCNL Gen Cmte	TBD	1	2022

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations (continued)

Organization	Name & Meeting	Year of Service	End Year

FGC Cntl Cmte	Marvin Barnes, Birmingham, Clerk	2	2021
FGC Cntl Cmte	Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead	2	2021
FGC Cntl Cmte	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo	1	2021

(LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee)

FWCC	Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids	6	2020
FWCC	Sam Milford, Pittsburgh	4	2022
FWCC	Mey Hasbrook, Kalamazoo	4	2022
FLGBTQC	Nancy Reeves, Cleveland	5	2022
Olney Friends School	Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham	2	2021
Q Earthcare Witness	Mey Hasbrook, Kalamazoo	1	2022
Wm. Penn House	Greg Mott, Broadmead	2	2021

Visitors to Neighboring Yearly Meetings

Yearly Meeting	Name & Meeting	Year of Service
EFI Eastern Region	TBD	1
Ohio (Conservative)	TBD	1
Ohio Valley (FGC)	TBD	1
Wilmington (FUM)	TBD	1

YM2019-43 Naming Committee Report

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported. Lisa Sinnett (Ann Arbor) has agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee, and Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) will continue to serve. Meeting approved these names.

YM2019-44 Adult & Family Program Committee Report

Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh) submitted a written report on behalf of the Adult & Family Program Committee. The report follows.

ADULT AND FAMILY PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

First, I'd like to thank my fellow committee members, who worked so hard and whom I could not do without: Susan Hartman, Thomas Taylor, Aran Reinhart, and Steve Morehouse.

The theme of this year's Annual Session was "Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly With God: Finding our Calling in Disturbing Times." Our Plenary speaker was Joyce Ajlouny, General Secretary of American Friends Service Committee. We had five workshops scheduled for each day, including two by FCNL. Joyce's Plenary speech on Friday night was followed by an informal breakfast chat on Saturday morning. On both Friday and Saturday mornings, we held Bible study and three worship sharing groups simultaneously, including one worship sharing group outside. An early morning worship session was also offered. This year, we also had a monthly meeting clerks' dinner on Saturday night. Finally, we had our ever-popular Talent Show and Ice Cream Social. This year, we were able to offer watermelon, lactose-free ice cream, and no-sugar-added ice cream.

So far, informal feedback about all aspects of the programming has been positive. We have evaluations for you to fill out, both upstairs at the registration table and on a chair outside the door to Kreisler. Please fill one out before you leave. We really value them and use them to improve the program every year.

Claire Cohen, Committee Clerk

YM2019-45 Minute of Gratitude for Nancy Reeves

Jo Posti read aloud a minute of gratitude for our outgoing presiding clerk:

> Lake Erie Yearly Meeting thanks Nancy Reeves for her service as Yearly Meeting clerk during 2018 and 2019 as well as her work as recording clerk in 2015–2017. Nancy has helped guide LEYM through important policy changes such as our recently approved harassment policy and our new scholarship policies, and has helped us to work creatively to support the Meeting worker transition. Nancy's ability to listen deeply to Friends' concerns during business meetings has helped us to discern work thoughtfully and in a spirit of love and tenderness toward each other.

The minute was approved.

YM2019-46 LEYM Epistle
Jo Posti read aloud the LEYM Epistle formulated during the Annual Sessions. Some additions and emendations were recommended and incorporated. The Epistle was approved, with gratitude to the epistle committee composed of Jo Posti, Lisa Klopfer (Ann Arbor), and Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh). The full text appears below**.**

Submitted by Nancy Reeves, presiding clerk
Peter Wood, recording clerk

Epistle to all Friends
Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
July 25–28, 2019
Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

"(We) remain a vibrant community of dedicated, caring, flawed, and lovely Quakers. Gathering together for worship, study, fellowship, or work strengthens our bonds and renews our spirits. We face the uncertain future not afraid and not alone. Puzzled sometimes and often tired, but willing to try in love, in kindness, in hope and grace. We are finding our way step by prayed step."

~ Kalamazoo Friends Meeting

To Friends Everywhere,

We arrived in Bluffton, Ohio, from college towns like Ann Arbor and Athens, big cities like Pittsburgh and Cleveland, and communities throughout Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania with small worship groups and growing meetings. Bluffton is a place that for many is full of memories of past Yearly Meeting sessions; those who gathered found comfort in the familiar and also engaged energetically with what is new.

The 25 participants in the children's program delighted to be with each other and spent their time singing, crafting, and in active play. Our evening of talent and ice cream brought out surprises and hidden skills among us, including delightful round-singing by the children, original poetry and song, and music from Pete Seeger to J. S. Bach. We heard creative re-interpretations of a Psalm and of Micah 6. Four Friends presented a report on their sojourn at the FWCC Section of the Americas gathering in dramatic form, some of it in Spanish, ending in the group song that summed up their joyful experience of listening and ministering with Evangelical, Conservative, and Unprogrammed Friends: *Demos Gracias al Señor*.

We were led to go deeper in our corporate business. With thoughtful, substantive consideration of inclusion, we approved a new policy to provide guidance to adults who feel they have experienced harassment during our time together and developed a new scholarship fund for LEYM youth who choose to attend a Quaker college or internship experience. The theme of inclusion was also reflected in discussion of FGC's process of becoming an anti-racist organization, and in reports on how individual meetings within LEYM have taken up this work. We were reminded that true anti-racist practice – and, indeed, radical inclusion on a wider scale – must be practiced like preventative dental care. While there is no fixed destination or closure to this work, we had the hopeful sense that, in many cases, we are reporting from a place of new experimentation and implementation – one step along the way.

One example of this experimentation was our intentionality around food choices during Sessions. Broadmead Monthly Meeting, in coordination with LEYM's Earthcare Committee, created signage around the dining hall that educated us on the environmental cost of different food choices, menus were largely vegetarian, and youth served as compost helpers/ educators. Both participants and dining hall staff were enthusiastic about the resulting reduction in waste and impact.

Our plenary speaker, Joyce Ajlouny, American Friends Service Committee's General Secretary, shared information

on AFSC's history as well as the ways its work is manifesting in the world, led by people who are impacted by oppression. Their current planning process is illustrating that AFSC fills needs where others do not go. Its work shows ways we can join in their courage to accompany and support those whose voices are silenced, including immigrants, the incarcerated, and – as Joyce shared in stories from her own life – the Palestinian people.

The gaps in our Nominating Committee slate and a dinner with monthly meeting clerks provoked reflection on the core value of LEYM to its members. We know that many members of monthly meetings do not even know of, let alone take advantage of, LEYM resources or opportunities. We have an opportunity to learn more about who we are. What do meetings most need from a larger Quaker body? How does this match, or not match, ways we are currently organized? What new forms and practices might emerge if we identified different objectives? Exploring these possibilities already releases us from guilt and gives access to new energy and enthusiasm.

Repeatedly, in business sessions and in workshops, we heard of the value of connections to each other and to the Earth, meeting-to-meeting, meetings to Quaker organizations, between individuals within meetings, and with the Divine [God]. We turn to each other with more urgency in a world with needs that leave us, at times, hopeless and despairing. We struggle to live with the damage and our complicity, unsure how to balance comfort and challenge in our lives.

In sessions, we heard a request for endorsement of a traveling minute and considered ways we may be best equipped to support people whose call is to travel among Friends and how we support gifts both at the monthly and yearly meeting levels. In various workshops, the theme of moving from inward deepening to interconnection was frequently raised up. We have hope that, with deeper connections, we may learn better how to name our gifts and understand the work that we are uniquely suited to do.

Our hearts have been made lighter and more tender through sharing your epistles, whether you are yearly meetings that are regrouping after rupture or are finding community in diverse expressions of our faith. We are grateful for the opportunity to be in relationship and send prayers that Truth continues to prosper with you all.

Nancy Reeves, Presiding Clerk

Representative Meeting
April 4, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

RM2020-01 Bill Warters explained the use of the tools we are using for this virtual meeting

Zoom and Trello.

RM2020-02 Friends in attendance settled into a period of open worship

RM2020-03 The roll of attendees was called and recorded

Akron MM – 0

Ann Arbor MM – 6

Athens MM – 1

Birmingham MM – 3

Broadmead MM – 7

Cleveland MM – 0

Delaware MM – 0

Detroit MM – 1

Erie Worship Group – 1

Grand Rapids MM – 0

Granville MM – 0

Holland MM – 0

Indiana Worship Group – 0

Kalamazoo MM – 2

Kent MM – 0

Manitou Worship Group – 0

Mid-Ohio Valley MM – 0

North Columbus MM – 3

Oberlin MM – 2

Pine River Worship Group – 0

Pittsburgh MM – 3

Red Cedar MM – 2

Somerset Worship Group – 0

Tustin Worship Group – 0

Waysmeet Worship Group – 0

Wooster MM – 0

Unaffiliated – 0

Ken Stockbridge - guest Baltimore YM

RM2020-04 Program Committee

Thomas Taylor reported.

A minute to hold the annual sessions virtually this year was approved.

RM2020-05 Clerk's Report

Jo Posti

Jo reported on committees willing to postpone discussion. See Committee reports posted to Trello inbox and responses to survey sent out to meetings.

RM2020-06 Treasurer's Report

Tom Kangas reported.

The report is available on Trello. Invested money has declined 17% in value. Meeting reps are asked to assess their meetings' financial positions as we consider MM contributions. The Finance Committee proposes that the budget for 2020-21 duplicate the budget for 2019-2020. This proposal will be brought to the yearly session.

RM2020-07 Finance Committee

Joe Mills reported.

The Committee recommends that the travel fund be reinstated. The report was accepted.

RM2020-08 Ministry & Nurture

Shelley Kotz reported.

Bill Warters has been invaluable in organizing and hosting worship meetings, but attendance has declined, probably as monthly meetings have made their own arrangements. The report was accepted.

Discussion:

Shelley reported that the online Sunday meeting at 10am has met three times with Bill Warters as host, with participation of 17, 6 and 5 people each week and new people joining each week.

Committee invited to consider shifting online worship to midweek to see if that might meet a need (taking into account already scheduled meetings at the other meetingsti. Committee invited to consider distinguishing roles of host (techti and clerk (holding worship in prayer, opening, closingti.

Committee invited to work out how to sign up and manage volunteer hosts and clerks. Committee invited to consider how else to support online worship in member meetings as well as LEYM.

If individual meetings are willing to host worship, they should let M&N know. There was discussion of how long this ministry should be maintained, especially given that new people have appeared each week.

There was also discussion of the differing functions between on-line meeting host and meeting clerk.

Perhaps holding mid-week meetings would lessen "competition" with Monthly Meetings.

RM2020-09 Executive Committee

Given the uncertainty of how business sessions will look in the near future, EC recommends that Executive Committee make decisions needing immediate action, for example budget decisions, on behalf of the Yearly Meeting until the Yearly Meeting can ratify them. This proposal is approved.

RM2020-10 EarthCare and Peace & Justice

Mey Hasbrook

Mey raised a concern regarding the ways in which EarthCare and Peace & Justice might coordinate. They wish to be released from the usual functions those Committees pursue in order to form a working group to discern way forward in coordinating. Friends approve this proposal.

Discussion: For the committees, Mey proposes: 1. releasing the two committees from their assigned responsibilities; 2. forming an ad hoc committee or working group to consider how these two committees might more flexibly serve the YM. 3. proposes a fuller proposal with timeline for the working group to be brought in July, including how these committees and the working group would be represented in

Executive Committee. (Clemence Mershon volunteers to be this conduit.ti

The functions usually held by these two committees might be held by other bodies, such as FWCC, until a restructuring proposal of the two committees is worked out and presented to the YM. The working group would need to have a member on Executive Committee.

RM2020-11 Detroit Friends Meeting

Joel OCenbreit reported. Regarding Detroit Friends Meeting's progress toward securing a worship space: the city has awarded the meeting $300,000, but this doesn't go far to construct a new space. The Meeting is looking at space-sharing possibilities.

RM2020-12 The Clerk closed the meeting with a period of open worship

LEYM Annual Meeting
July 30 – August 2 and August 12, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

First Session: 3:00 – 4:30 pm, July 30, 2020

YM2020-1 Opening Worship and Epistle from Wilmington Yearly Meeting

Out of our open worship, Nancy Reeves, assistant clerk (Cleveland), read aloud the epistle from Wilmington Yearly Meeting. It focused on the chal-lenges Friends face when engaging with the suffering strangers, challenges to keep compassion that may stretch us to our limits. Such compassion is nurtured in community, and it is just that intimate community that has been so disrupted by the distancing required as all try to stay safe in the pan-demic. Member meetings are finding creative ways to bridge the gaps in community, even as Friends are called to address racism as a major dis-ruption in our wider community. They feel the gaps in themselves between ideals and action, the love-in-action of compassionate engagement in a world that desperately needs mending, and are called to step forward.

YM2020-2 Welcome and Report from Executive Committee

Jo Posti, clerk (Pittsburgh), welcomed attenders to these Annual Sessions, acknowledging the enormous changes in our Yearly Meeting that have resulted from the pandemic. She described the discussion in the Executive Committee that looked at both challenges and opportunities opening in our virtual meeting this year. Keeping connection is an ongoing challenge. We are looking at developing an ad hoc long-range planning committee to look at the Yearly Meeting structure and how we can support monthly meetings and their clerks, as well as reevaluating the structure of our current YM committees. What skill sets are needed in our committees? We need to discern LEYM's mission and priorities. Jo invited Friends to contact her with their willingness to serve on such a long-range planning committee.

YM2020-3 Orientation to Virtual Meeting and Roll Call

Bill Warters, LEYM Meeting worker (Birmingham), oriented us to this virtual meeting, its agenda, and its procedures. He then displayed the attendance roll in a variety of graphs, a triumph of technology. 153 people have registered for these Annual Sessions.

Akron 0

Ann Arbor 25

Athens 5

Birmingham 9

Broadmead 19

Cleveland 3

Delaware 0

Detroit 8

Erie Worship Group 1

Grand Rapids 3

Granville 0

Holland 0

Indiana Worship Group 0

Kalamazoo 11

Kent 0

Manitou Worship Group 0

Mid-Ohio Valley 3

North Columbus 8

Oberlin 5

Pine River Worship Group 1

Pittsburgh 14

Red Cedar 18

Somerset Worship Group 0

Tustin Worship Group 0

Waysmeet Worship Group 0

Wooster 5

Unaffiliated 3

Others 12

Total Registered 153

Young children's program

in Athens 10

Total Adults 36 and over 140

Total Youth and children 18

Total Young adult Friends 5

YM2020-4 Welcoming Visitors and First-Time Attenders

a. Jo welcomed visitors, including:

Bobby Trice, FCNL

Tom Roberts, Noblesville MM (Indiana YM)

Kathleen Wooten, Fresh Pond MM (New England YM) Jeffery Barr, Fredonia MM (New York YM)

Meghan Cochran, Larkspur, California

Sarah Freeman-Woolpert, FCNL

Lori Sinitzky, FGC

Daniel Lean-Moctezuma, Junta Mensual de Ciudad México Stanley Chagala Ngela, Richmond, Indiana

Allison Kirkegaard, Pacific YM

Jackie Stillwell, RSWR

April Vanlonden, ESR

Roberta Gellner, Saint Marys, West Virginia

b. She also welcomed first-time attenders at this session, including Rick Adams (North Columbus), Bill Greenberg (Broadmead), and Lindsay Dykema, Lynn Drickamer, Marilyn Siegel, and Mark VanRaden (all Ann Arbor). The number of first-time attenders is 52. Eight of these are visitors and 44 are from within LEYM.

[At this point and others throughout Annual Sessions, Bill Warters, Meeting worker, provided musical interludes appropriate to our theme, mainly from the website "Playing for Change." ~ Ed.]

YM2020-5 Epistle Committee

The work of the Epistle Committee was described by Nancy Reeves. The Committee would meet a

couple of times during the Annual Sessions and prepare the epistle for Saturday afternoon. Participation was invited. Please send an email to Nancy at neohdiver@gmail.com.

YM2020-6 Documents Available in Advance

The clerk reminded Friends of the documents made available in advance on our website. She also noted that we will acknowledge Friends who have died in the past year at a later session.

YM2020-7 Adult and Family Program Committee: Presentation of the Theme

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) welcomed all and described the Adult and Family Programs to come at these sessions. Other members of the committee are Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh), Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor), Greg Mott (Broadmead), Steve Morehouse (Ann Arbor), and Aran Reinhart (Broadmead). There will be no plenary speaker this year. “Letting Go: Listening with Whole Hearts and Open Minds” is this year’s theme. The theme is especially relevant in this era of closed minds and hearts, with its plentiful instances of violence, oppression, and untruth.

Thomas proposed two queries to reflect on as we open the Annual Sessions: 1) What do I have to let go of to listen more fully and openly? 2) What and whom do I need to listen to?

He invited us to consider where our “center” is, its bodily base, and to experience it intentionally through guided movement. He referred to Eight Pillars of Joy formulated by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, which enable us to listen: four pillars of the mind – Perspective, Humility, Humor, Acceptance; and four pillars of the heart – Forgiveness, Gratitude, Com-passion, Generosity. He encouraged us to stretch and flex ourselves and move! Be kind to your body!

YM2020-8 Consent Agenda and Announcements

a. The clerk described the process of working with a consent agenda, a way of accepting reports as published in the advance documents without taking them up in sessions when no action is required. Saturday’s business agenda will ask for these items to be accepted. She listed the items in question (see pp. 49–63).

b. Those wishing to have announcements read should email them to Jo. c. Jo talked about a Zoom meeting for interested prospective parents for the coming academic year at Olney Friends School. Friends can contact Jo for the link.

d. A new database manager is needed, a paid position. Friends knowing of a potentially interested person should contact Jo ASAP for the link.

We closed with a period of open worship.

Second Session: 11 am – 12:30 pm, Friday, July 31, 2020

YM2020-9 Opening Worship and Epistle from FGC Pre-Gathering Retreat for Friends of Color and their Families

Out of a period of open worship, Nancy Reeves, assistant clerk, read the Epistle of the 2020 FGC Pre-Gathering Retreat for Friends of Color and their Families.

Because Friends at these Annual Sessions felt the weight and importance of this epistle, which spoke directly and forcefully to our hearts, we reprint the epistle in full. Member meetings are encouraged to lift up the queries in the epistle.

The Outgoing Epistle of the 2020 Virtual Pre-Gathering of Friends of Color and their Families

Friends General Conference

“We are a harvest of survivors. But then, that's what we've always been."

-Octavia E. Butler, Parable of the Sower

To Friends Everywhere:

We begin by remembering our ancestors who were strong enough to make a way for us. Friends of Color

and their families met for Pre-Gathering Retreat on 26 Day through 28 Day Sixth Month 2020. This is the eighth year Friends of Color have met for our Pre-Gathering Retreat. First-timers felt welcomed and validated. This year, we met virtually with our largest attendance yet. There were 47 attendees, ranging in age from 11 months through 77 years, from Canada, Mexico, Switzer-land, and the United States of America.

The importance of this Gathering for Friends of Color worshipping in community together cannot be overstated. To our Friends in the wider Quaker world, we, the Friends of Color, can't breathe. During this weekend, we enjoyed the rare oppor-tunity of not being othered in Quaker space. We experienced the joy of being seen as we are and the affirmation of a supportive spirit among ourselves in the "Amen corner." The term "Amen corner" comes from the Black church and is a communal space that validates, affirms, and uplifts the spirit. In isolation, due to COVID19, we are being kept apart and away from those we love, trust, and need. The pre-gathering retreat brought back the source of community and family that has been missing. We were able to exhale, relax, and breathe together. Many of us did not realize how exhausted we were until we were able to relax with one another. The gifts of the spirit were abundant. We shared in worship, gentle yoga and meditation, meaningful discussions, journaling, and self-discovery. We also listened and shared in each other's joys, triumphs, pains, and sorrows. We experienced spiritual renewal that was awakened by moving through pain to hope for the future for ourselves and our children. Attention and space was given for people to play games, dance, talk, grieve, play music, watch videos, and write.

We have much gratitude to the Program Coordinator for the Ministry on Racism – the pioneer who laid the groundwork to make the Pre-Gathering Retreat available to us within FGC gathering and who faithfully makes it happen each year. We are grateful for being able to acknowledge all that makes us human, for finding home and connection. Our inner Light is magnified and our capacity to breathe deeply is nurtured when that of God is acknowledged in each of us. It is our hope that other Friends of Color will know that such a space exists and know that they are desired, needed, and will be warmly embraced.

The Pre-Gathering Friends of Color Retreat provides a reprieve. Friends of Color need respite from the systemic racism too often found in our American Quaker community that often goes unseen by many white Friends. Friends of Color need respite from the insidious lie of white supremacy manifested in daily oppressive traumatic stressors (microaggressions) which have the effect of blaming the oppressed for our own oppression. Friends of Color need respite and support which our home meetings have not provided. Friends of Color are fatigued from being asked to teach white folks.

We ask all Quakers to heed a Call to Action. Please sit with these queries: 1) What is the Spirit leading me to do about the historic and ongoing racial pandemic across my meeting, my community, my work environment, and my country?

2) How can we honor the memory of people who have lost their lives to the struggle for a better world?

3) How can we construct ways for people to engage and remain engaged beyond good intentions in the struggle for true equality in health, education, wealth, and against state sanctioned violence? 4) How can we encourage the support of Friends of Color in Quaker worship and meetings around the world?

5) How can Friends de-center themselves in order to listen to and hear Friends of Color?

6) How can I support respite for Friends of Color?

In this time of COVID19, People of Color discovered that a deadly pandemic is secondary to the long-time pandemic of racism in our lives. People of Color are more likely to die from COVID19 due to the effects of racism and oppression. Think about how this pandemic has turned your world upside down, economically, emotionally, psychologically. Now imagine there is no one working on a vaccine, and that if you get sick or die, no one notices or cares. For People of Color, the human-made pandemic of racism is deadlier than COVID19, and we need you to do work so that we can BREATHE.

In Peace, Love and ….

2020 FGC Virtual Pre-Gathering Retreat for Friends of Color and their Families

Jo Posti offered reflections on the importance and timeliness of the theme of this epistle.

YM2020-10 Ad Hoc Committee on Updating Policies and Procedures, Report

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) shared a report from the ad hoc committee. Friends approved the proposed revisions to the policy on budget sections of the Policies and Procedures.

The report follows.

Ad Hoc Committee on Updating Policies and Procedures: Report and Proposal

Jeff Cooper reporting.

In the interest of streamlining our business sessions, the proposed changes at this time are limited to financial matters. I have corresponded with Finance Committee and the treasurer, and they were helpful with wording these proposals in a way that they support. The proposed changes occur in four places but two address the same issue, so there are only three issues, all involving drawing up a budget. Below, the proposed changes are shown in red [gray] ink.

III. C. 4. b: Finance Committee responsibilities.

At responsibility (2), recommend a budget, add the text in red [gray] to reflect current practice:

> (2) Recommend the budget for the following fiscal year to Representative Meeting for consideration and transmittal to Annual Sessions. This includes the per-mile reimbursement rate. (See IV. A. 3. c, on travel costs.) In consultation with the presiding clerk, the Committee also proposes a pay rate and the number of hours per year for the Meeting worker.

III. C. 4. b (3) and IV. A. 6. a-b: Predicting Contributions from Monthly Meetings.

Explanation: Budgeting for income from monthly meetings based solely on the number of members reported in the annual Statistical Reports (shown as current practice) is not always the best procedure, as this number tends to differ from the number on which meetings base their contribution. Recognizing this suggests changing two places:

At III. C. 4. b, Finance Committee responsibilities (3), “Determine the recom-mended share per reported member,” delete “reported”: “Determine the recommended share per reported member.”

And at IV. A. 6. Remittances from Monthly Meetings, clarify our procedure as follows:

> Delete the current IV. A. 6. a: Monthly meetings provide current membership statistics in their annual Statistical Reports. Instead, cover this with new text in the current IV. A. 6. b, which then becomes IV. A. 6. a: a. The Finance Committee determines a recommended per-member share for the constituent monthly meetings, based on the final budget approved by the Yearly Meeting and, in part, on the membership figures supplied by monthly meetings in their annual Statistical Reports, and notifies each monthly meeting of this per-member share. (Monthly meetings decide how to count members for the purpose of making their contribution to LEYM.)

IV. A. 2. b: Paragraph on money budgeted to send Friends to FWCC World Plenary Meetings: Add two sentences as follows (shown in red [gray]) to clarify current practice:

> b. The annual budget should include a proportional amount of the estimated travel expenses for two delegates to attend periodic international gatherings World Plenary Meetings of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. This money is transferred into the FWCC Travel Fund, where it builds until requested by LEYM representatives attending these meetings. Currently an equal amount is budgeted to support enabling Friends from less affluent parts of the world to attend these World Plenary Meetings; this latter amount is transferred into the FWCC Travel Donation Fund.

The full text of LEYM Policies and Procedures can be seen on the LEYM website (leym.org).

YM2020-11 Finance Committee Report No. 1

Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) reported.

a. Travel Fund – At Representative Meeting, the committee proposed that the travel fund be re-established. This proposal was approved.

b. Signatory authority – The Committee proposes appointing Sally Weaver Sommer as an ongoing signatory for the LEYM Citizens National Bank of Bluffton account. The full list of signatories, to be updated in August 2020, is: the treasurer, the presiding clerk, and the clerk of Finance, plus Sally Weaver Sommer, who is a local resident of Bluffton and has easiest access to the bank. This was approved. c. Audit – An annual audit is proposed, to replace the current practice of auditing LEYM accounts every four years. Friends approved the proposal.

d. Budget – The proposed deficit budget would reduce the general fund, but that fund is already above its suggested ceiling. There are further proposals to reduce mileage reimbursement to 17 cents a mile, and lower per-member assessment amounts for monthly meetings to $30. Friends will consider this proposal at the Saturday business meeting.

The report of the Finance Committee follows.

Report of Finance Committee

Items for Action

Travel Fund

> We recommend that a Travel Fund be re-established. We note that this is in accordance with existing LEYM policy documents, and [approval of] its dis-continuance in 2018 is unclear. Transfers will go into it each year, expenses come out of it, and unused funds in a given year accumulate over time. This recommendation was made to LEYM Representative Meeting in April 2020, but we are unclear about whether Representative Meeting's acceptance of our report constituted approval. We propose that unexpended funds from the FY19-20 budget line item (originally budgeted for $2000) would be the first transfer if the Fund is re-established.

Signatory authority

Sally Weaver Sommer has signatory authority with the bank (and we find it useful because both Sally and the bank reside in Bluffton, Ohio). Current LEYM policy does not support this practice. We recommend a formal minute author-izing Sally to be a signatory at Citizens National Bank on LEYM's behalf and related updates to policy. In August we would update bank signatories to include treasurer (Tom Kangas), presiding clerk (Jo Posti), and the new Finance clerk to the FFC account and the same people plus Sally at the bank.

Annual audit cycle

We currently have an audit every four years or with the arrival of a new treasurer. We propose an annual audit, believing documentation will be fresher if we do it annually, resulting in better oversight for roughly the same fee, and more sense of routine. Our past auditor, Susan Hartman, is supportive of this change.

Budget

The proposed budget for FY20-21 would generate a $6357 reduction to the General Fund. Finance Committee asserts that this is reasonable given that, as of June 30, 2020, the balance in the General Fund exceeds its suggested ceiling by $8,700. The principal drivers for the $6357 deficit budget are expected database conversion costs (to use a new database program) budgeted in the Administration line, and reduction to income resulting from a recommendation to reduce the assessment from $35 to $30 per member for 2020-21.

We propose that the mileage reimbursement rate for Yearly Meeting travel for FY2020-21 be set at $0.17. This matches the IRS rate for medical and moving expenses. The Committee feels reimbursing at a higher rate could possibly result in taxable income to the person being reimbursed leading to more IRS reporting requirements.

For the FY2020-21 budget we considered whether funds are nearing or over the top of their range relative to budget transfers to each fund from the General Fund.

Informational Items

Technology grant

FWCC has announced the availability of $1000 grants to YMs to help with special technology needs during the pandemic. Bill Warters has helped us to identify uses that would benefit LEYM, and the Finance Committee (in consul-tation with the Executive Committee) will ask for a grant.

Contractors v. Employees

The Committee has reviewed the Independent Contractor status for Yearly Meeting workers. Based on review of IRS guidelines and our actual practice, the Finance Committee, treasurer, and presiding clerk affirm that “independent contractor” is the appropriate classification (as opposed to employee) for the roles of database manager and Web manager, who perform work for LEYM.

Finance Committee asks

1. That LEYM refrain from referring to Web manager and database manager in minutes or published materials as “employees.” 2. That LEYM discontinue use of now overly broad “Meeting worker” designation, in favor of “Web manager” and “database manager,” terms which more closely reflect our current practice. 3.That LEYM describe the liaison role played by the clerk with our Web manager and database manager as “contract management” rather than “supervision.”

YM2020-12 Treasurer’s Report (no. 1)

Tom Kangas, treasurer (North Columbus), reported. The income picture is good, with a total income of $27K. Total expenses came to $24K, representing 94% of the budgeted amount. Three line-items exceeded their budgets – data base manager, web manager, and office administration.

The general fund and, indeed, all but two of the funds have increased in value.

Tom displayed the proposed budget for 2020–21 and outlined the salient points.

The treasurer’s report appears below and on the following pages.

Further business was held over until the next business session when some concerns about the wording of minute 9 could be worked out.

ANNUAL MEETING

We ended with a brief period of open worship.

Treasurer's Report, p. 1

LEYM General Fund Income **As of 6/30/2020**

For the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year (12 months ended June 30, 2020)

Contribution From	Amount	Deposit Date
Akron Monthly Meeting	300	7/29/19 & 2/3/20
Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting	4,270	2/15/2020
Athens Monthly Meeting	2,100	12/26/2019
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	525	12/7/2019
Broadmead Monthly Meeting	1,500	1/16/2020
Cleveland Monthly Meeting	1,400	4/6/2020
Delaware Monthly Meeting	50	7/2/2020
Detroit Monthly Meeting	1,610	1/29 & 2/3/20
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting	595	1/21 & 2/22/20
Granville Monthly Meeting	840	9/9 & 12/23/19
Holland Monthly Meeting	200	4/3/2020
Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting	1,050	2/13/2020
Kent Monthly Meeting	665	10/15/19 & 2/12/20
Mid-Ohio Valley Monthly Meeting	162	1/8/2020
North Columbus Monthly Meeting	1,050	12/10/2019
Oberlin Monthly Meeting	1,000	1/15 & 4/14/20
Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting	6,445	1/18, 1/22, & 6/29/20
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting	2,765	11/19/2019
Wooster Monthly Meeting	450	12/7/2019
Contributing MM or WG subtotal	26,977	
Individuals	100	
Total Cash Contribution Income	**27,077**	
In-Kind Donations	351	
Total Contribution Income	**27,428**	

We ended with a brief period of open worship.

Treasurer's Report, p. 1

Treasurer's Report, p. 2

LEYM General Fund Expenses - with comparison to Budget

For the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year (12 months ended June 30, 2020)

Account	Actual Expense through 6/30/2020	Budget	Actual expense as a % of Budget	Variance, budget-to-actual, favorable (unfavorable)	In-kind activity through 6/30/2020	Total Expense through 6/30/2020
Operations						
Database Manager	1,330.00	625	213%	(705)	-	1,330
Web Manager & YM Worker	3,021.13	3,000	101%	(21)	-	3,021
Insurance	500.00	500	100%	-	-	500
Office Admin (incl. banking costs)	1,006.71	1,000	101%	(7)	-	1,007
Travel	1,042.80	2,000	52%	957	351.40	1,394
Committees						
Advancement & Outreach	-	200	0%	200	-	-
Ministry & Nurture	-	50	0%	50	-	-
Publications	3,011.75	3,200	94%	188	-	3,012
Members						
Attend conference w/ Quaker values	-	1,000	0%	1,000	-	-
Organizations						
Friends General Conference	6,000.00	6,000	100%	-	-	6,000
Olney Friends School	3,000.00	3,000	100%	-	-	3,000
Swarthmore records project	100.00	100	100%	-	-	100
Subtotal cash expenditures	19,012.39	20,675		1,663	351.40	19,363.79
Subsidies from General Fund to other Funds						
Youth Activities Fund	1,000.00	1,000	100%	-		
Quaker College/Service Scholarshp Fund	2,000.00	2,000	100%	-		
Spiritual Formation Fund	300.00	300	100%	-		
Work Projects Fund		-				
FWCC Travel Fund & Donation	1,800.00	1,800	100%	-		
Subtotal non-cash transfers	5,100.00	5,100		-		
Totals - General Fund Expenses	**24,112.39**	**25,775**	94%	1,663		
	ok	ok				

Treasurer's Report, p. 3

LEYM Summary of Funds Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2019	Friends Fiduciary Account Activity[1]	Transfers between funds	Cash Income	Cash Expenses	Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/30/2020	Floor/Ceiling Suggested floor/ceiling amounts for each fund	Last activity prior to FY19-20
Funds held in (i) Base account with Friends Fiduciary Corp and (ii) Citizens National Bank checking account									
General Fund[2]	35,346.83	399.47	(5,100.00)	27,077.00	(19,012.39)	**3,364.08**	**38,710.91**	na	30,000
Annual Meeting Fund	86.67			18,453.11	(19,173.17)	**(720.06)**	**(633.39)**	1,000	3,000
Youth Activities Fund[4]	7,354.10		1,260.24	1,190.00	(2,267.75)	**182.49**	**7,536.59**	4,000	8,000
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	-		2,000.00	-	(2,000.00)	-	-	na	na
HS Teen Retreat Fund	6,892.64					-	**6,892.64**	3,000	6,000 FY17-18
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,849.00				(200.00)	**(200.00)**	**1,649.00**	na	2,000
Spiritual Formation Fund	2,887.29		300.00	5,180.00	(4,190.94)	**1,289.06**	**4,176.35**	500	1,500
Consultation Fund	3,143.68					-	**3,143.68**	500	2,000 FY11-12
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00					-	**3,500.00**	na	na [3]
Work Projects Fund	2,182.39					-	**2,182.39**	na	2,000 FY17-18
FWCC Travel Fund	3,539.83		900.00			**900.00**	**4,439.83**	na	9,000
FWCC Travel Donation	-		900.00		-	**900.00**	**900.00**	na	9,000
Funds held in separate account with Friends Fiduciary Corp									
Granville Youth Fund[3]	7,842.61	88.72	(260.24)			**(171.52)**	**7,671.09**	na	na
TOTAL	74,625.04	488.19	-	51,900.11	(46,844.25)	**5,544.05**	**80,169.09**		
NOTES>	ok, agrees to Bal Sheet						ok, agrees to Bal Sheet		

Funds other than the General Fund are managed through accounting and may be subsidized by the corresponding budget lines of the General Fund.

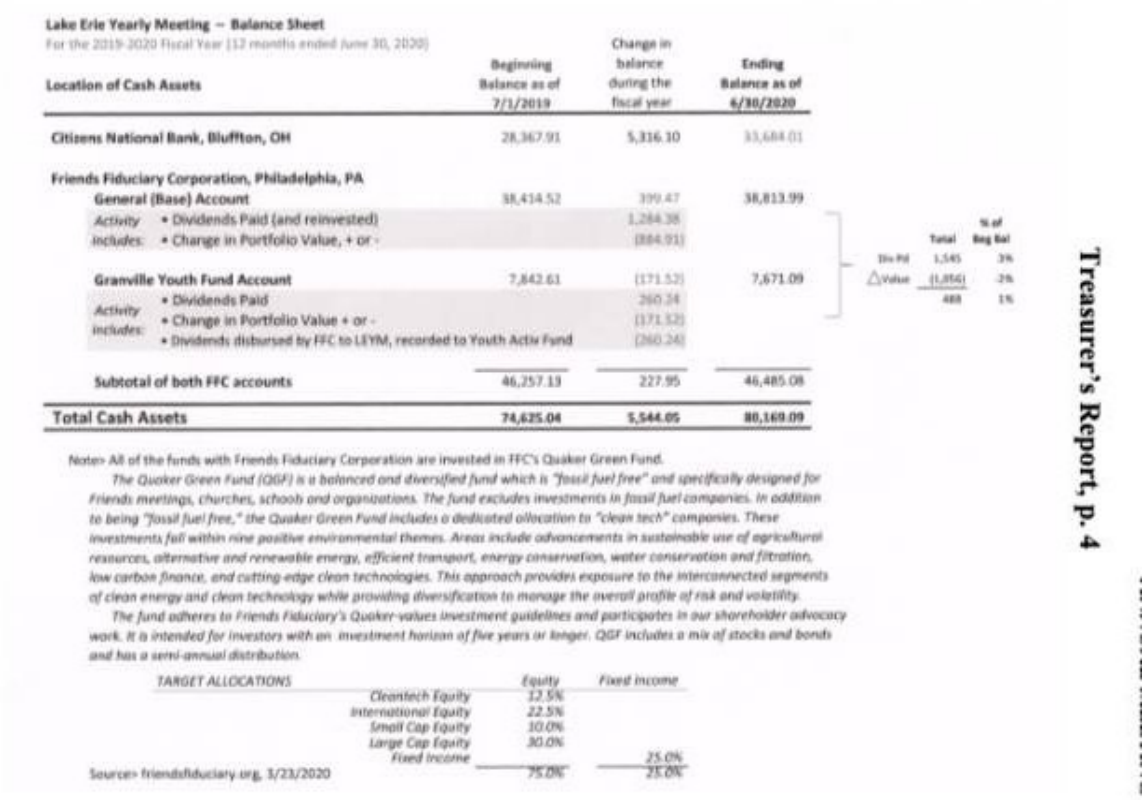
[1] Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC) activity includes dividends and net change portfolio value due to market conditions. See Balance Sheet for detail.

[2] FFC General (Base) Account activity is included here in LEYM's General Fund.

[3] Granville Friends Youth Fund is a separate FFC account. FFC activity shown on this line reflects only that fund's change in portfolio value.

[4] FFC dollars transferred to this line represent dividends paid to the Granville Friends Youth Fund during current fiscal year and credited to YAF

[5] Established in FY13-14 by a donation toward LEYM's Traveling Ministry Program, this fund has had no activity from inception to date.



Lake Erie Yearly Meeting – Balance Sheet
For the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year (12 months ended June 30, 2020)

Location of Cash Assets		Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2019	Change in balance during the fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/30/2020
Citizens National Bank, Bluffton, OH		28,367.91	5,316.10	33,684.01
Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Philadelphia, PA				
General (Base) Account		38,414.52	399.47	38,813.99
Activity includes:	• Dividends Paid (and reinvested)		1,284.38	
	• Change in Portfolio Value, + or -		(884.91)	
Granville Youth Fund Account		7,842.61	(171.52)	7,671.09
Activity includes:	• Dividends Paid		260.24	
	• Change in Portfolio Value + or -		(171.52)	
	• Dividends disbursed by FFC to LEYM, recorded to Youth Activ Fund		(260.24)	
Subtotal of both FFC accounts		46,257.13	227.95	46,485.08
Total Cash Assets		**74,625.04**	**5,544.05**	**80,169.09**

	Total	% of Beg Bal
Div Pd	1,545	3%
△Value	(1,056)	-2%
	488	1%

Note> All of the funds with Friends Fiduciary Corporation are invested in FFC's Quaker Green Fund.

The Quaker Green Fund (QGF) is a balanced and diversified fund which is "fossil fuel free" and specifically designed for Friends meetings, churches, schools and organizations. The fund excludes investments in fossil fuel companies. In addition to being "fossil fuel free," the Quaker Green Fund includes a dedicated allocation to "clean tech" companies. These investments fall within nine positive environmental themes. Areas include advancements in sustainable use of agricultural resources, alternative and renewable energy, efficient transport, energy conservation, water conservation and filtration, low carbon finance, and cutting-edge clean technologies. This approach provides exposure to the interconnected segments of clean energy and clean technology while providing diversification to manage the overall profile of risk and volatility.

The fund adheres to Friends Fiduciary's Quaker-values investment guidelines and participates in our shareholder advocacy work. It is intended for investors with an investment horizon of five years or longer. QGF includes a mix of stocks and bonds and has a semi-annual distribution.

TARGET ALLOCATIONS	Equity	Fixed Income
Cleantech Equity	12.5%	
International Equity	22.5%	
Small Cap Equity	10.0%	
Large Cap Equity	30.0%	
Fixed Income		25.0%
	75.0%	25.0%

Source> friendsfiduciary.org, 3/23/2020

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Treasurer's Report, p. 4

Third Session: 11 a.m. – 12:30 pm, Saturday, August 1, 2020

YM2020-13 Opening Worship and Epistle from Intermountain Yearly Meeting

Out of a period of open worship, Nancy Reeves, assistant clerk, read the Epistle from Intermountain Yearly Meeting, June 9–16, 2019. The theme of the Yearly Meeting was "Faith, Fear, and Future." The gathering explored ways to sustain love, faith, and hope in our connections to God and to one another and to overcome fear in uncertain, turbulent times. They found renewal and restoration in the beauty of the land and in the depth of their listening, especially in their worship sharing, in creative arts, and in the inspiration that others can provide. Despite aging memberships and a sense that many meetings are fragile, member meetings continue to address the injustices closest to them, primarily in the plight of immigrants and oppression at the border with Mexico as they seek to "bend toward justice."

YM2020-14 Announcement about Scheduling

Jo Posti, clerk, observed that these virtual business sessions have gotten overfilled. We are not able to conduct all the Yearly Meeting's business within the time allotted. Therefore, we will hold an additional business meeting later in August, at a time to be determined.

[At this point we approved wording for minute 2020-09, deciding to print the entire Epistle from the FGC Pre-Gathering Retreat for Friends of Color and their Families. ~Ed.]

YM2020-15 Nominating Committee Report (no. 1)

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group) gave a first reading of the Nominating report, outlining positions filled and positions yet to be filled and answering clarifying questions.

YM2020-16 Peace & Justice Committee Report

Joel Ottenbreit (Detroit) outlined a joint proposal from Peace & Justice and Earthcare Committees. It has been difficult to attract LEYM people interested in participating. The proposal is to have a four-session

interest group over the next year which would engage with the topics that have been part of both Earthcare and Peace & Justice. The format would be less for-mal, with no reporting obligations to the Yearly Meeting. It would generate fellowship and ideas on moving forward. The full proposal follows.

> **Proposal for the Development of an LEYM Interest Group for Addressing Concerns Regarding Peace & Justice and Earthcare** 1) There will be four 90-minute virtual meetings offered during the year for a group of up to 12 people, designed for attenders to express concerns about peace, justice, and earthcare. Individuals in this group would attend based on interest, and no commitment would be made to attend more than one meeting.

2) There will be a topic provided with some limited media to view or an article to read – one topic for Peace & Justice and one topic for Earthcare. The resources would be provided prior to the meetings, but reviewing the material is optional.

3) The meetings will begin with introductions and some fellowship, giving each person an opportunity to say something about their current situation if they so desire.

4) The topics will be discussed using a worship sharing format. Each person can express their feelings about the P&J topic, the Earthcare topic, or a topic of personal interest related to P&J or Earthcare.

5) After everyone has had a chance to speak, attenders will be asked if they have

a reflection about the discussion to share. If a topic stands out with significant interest, the convener will ask if anyone wishes to form a working group to advance this idea. If there are several people who are interested, the names of the members of this group will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval to become a working group.

6) The participants will be given the opportunity to take an online survey that will gage interest in this group's new structure and offer suggestions for improvement.

7) The convener of the group will collect ideas offered by the group along with the survey information to present to the Executive Committee for review in the future.

Benefits

1) The interest group provides a platform for Quakers to speak their minds on concerns related to P&J along with Earthcare.

2) The built-in principles of fellowship, worship sharing, and no formal commitment are designed to increase attendance. This will provide a "spiritual refuge" for Quakers to express their concerns without judgment.

3) The business of Yearly Meeting can happen organically in this structure. If there is an overwhelming sense that one topic has stood out in discussion, a working group can happen organically to advance an action item or make a presentation at LEYM.

– In Friendship, Joel Ottenbreit

YM2020-17 Treasurer's Report (no. 2)

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented earlier (YM2020-12).

YM2020-18 Finance Committee Report (no. 2)

Friends approved the budget presented earlier (YM2020–11), including the proposals to reduce mileage reimbursement to 17 cents a mile and lower per-member assessments for monthly meetings to $30. (See below and on next page.)

Budget for 2020–21

ANNUAL MEETING

LEYM Budgets		History					
		FY 2016-2017		FY 2017-2018		FY 2018-19	
General Fund Expenses		**Budget**	**Actual**	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Budget**	**Actual**
General	Yearly Meeting Worker/Web Database Manager	2,000	2,936	2,400	1,290	2,400	2,215
	Insurance	500	500	500	500	500	500
	Administration	950	1,058	575	228	500	301
	Travel	3,000	3,000	3,500	1,024	2,000	2,069
Committees	Advancement & Outreach	100	-	50	79	200	15
	Ministry & Nurture	100	-	50	-	50	-
	Publications	2,200	2,353	2,800	2,686	3,200	2,854
Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	1,400	2,900	4,000	3,545	1,000	(18)
Organizations	FGC	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
	Olney Friends School	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000
	Swarthmore Records Project	100	100	100	100	100	100
		-	Pitts MM	1,000	1,000		
Funds (xfers)	Youth Activity Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship						
	Ministry Sch'ship/Grants Fund	100	-	-	-	-	-
	Spiritual Formation Fund	300	-	300	300	300	300
	Work Projects Fund	600	-	200	-	-	-
	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,200	1,200	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
	Total Expenses and Transfers =	21,550	23,047	26,275	21,552	22,050	20,137
General Fund Income							
	Contributions Income	19,880	21,477	21,300	16,531	22,600	24,064
	FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	1,050	1,094	1,090	1,131	1,000	1,196
	Total Income =	20,930	22,571	22,390	17,662	23,600	25,260
	Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(620)	(476)	(3,885)	(3,890)	1,550	5,123
	FFC chg in portfolio value(Base)						1,133
							3,412
	Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =	-	-	-	-	-	4,545
	Total Change in General Fund =	(620)	(476)	(3,885)	(3,890)	1,550	9,668
	# members used to produce above est =	710		710		600	
	Suggested contribution per member =	$28		$30		$30	

ANNUAL MEETING

Budget continued

LEYM Budgets		Budget approved 7/28/2019		Budget approved 8/1/2020	
	**Final - as of 6/30/2020	FY 2019-20		FY 2020-21	
General Fund Expenses		**Budget**	**Actual****	**Budget**	**Change**
General	Yearly Meeting Worker/Web	3,000	3,021	3,100	100
	Database Manager	625	1,330	1,400	775
	Insurance	500	500	500	-
	Administration	1,000	1,007	3,500	2,500
	Travel	2,000	1,043	2,957	957
Committees	Advancement & Outreach	200	-	500	300
	Ministry & Nurture	50	-	50	-
	Publications	3,200	3,012	3,200	-
Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	1,000	-	1,000	-
Organizations	FGC	6,000	6,000	6,000	-
	Olney Friends School	3,000	3,000	3,000	-
	Swarthmore Records Project	100	100	100	-
					-
Funds (xfers)	Youth Activity Fund	1,000	1,000	-	(1,000)
	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship	2,000	2,000	2,000	-
	Ministry Sch'ship/Grants Fund	-	-	-	-
	Spiritual Formation Fund	300	300	-	(300)
	Work Projects Fund	-	-	-	-
	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,800	1,800	1,800	-
	Total Expenses and Transfers =	25,775	24,112	29,107	3,332
General Fund Income					
	Contributions Income	25,375	27,077	21,750	(3,625)
	FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)		1,284	1,000	1,000
	Total Income =	25,375	28,361	22,750	(2,625)
	Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(400)	4,249	(6,357)	(5,957)
	FFC chg in portfolio value(Base)		(885)		
	Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =	-	(885)	-	-
	Total Change in General Fund =	(400)	3,364	(6,357)	(5,957)
	# members used to produce above est =	725		725	
	Suggested contribution per member =	$35		$30	
	Travel mileage reimbursement rate, rate per mile =	$ 0.45		$ 0.17	

Budget continued

Fourth Session: 3:00 – 4:30 pm, Sunday, August 2, 2020

YM2020-19 Preschool and Elementary School Report and Epistle

The Elementary Group consisted entirely of families from Athens, who met in person there. Diane Mott (Broadmead) described their activities, and Jo Posti read aloud their epistle, which appears below. Many photographs of the group's weekend were shared online.

Preschool and Elementary School Epistle

Even though we were not at Bluffton University, the Preschool and Elementary groups were able to be together in person. Friday consisted of pancakes and ice cream for breakfast, playing with friends, and a short worship sharing in the Clapps' home. Saturday was filled with the Samuel story about listening, lunch, sharing hammocks, playing in the rain, and ice cream making. So much fun was had with Friends of Athens, Ohio.

Eight students attended: Elisabeth Clapp, Bradley Clapp, Adrianna Clapp, Star Clapp, Maggie Snow, Claire Mowery, Gigi White, and Zeke White.

YM2020-20 Teen Epistle

Jonah Brownfain (Birmingham) read the Teen Epistle: Our epistle this year is quite succinct.

> On Thursday we played Scattergories to calm our nerves; hilarity ensued (but we ultimately got what we deserved). Friday came to highlight our art skills with us playing Pictionary, not for the posterity.
>
> On Saturday we wrote our epistle while eating ice cream with caramel drizzle.
>
> Jonah, Alex, Gabe, Sophie, Danielle, Jessie, Micah, and Rosa

YM2020-21 Middle School Epistle

The Middle school epistle was submitted in writing on August 2. It reads: Christa White and Diane Mott (teachers), Ethan Charlot, and Andrew Mott. We learned for three days how to listen with whole hearts and open our minds to let go. We played a game with household objects that were related and unrelated

and learned how to take other people's thoughts. We practiced active listening with a drawing game. We listened to the black sock song.

The session ended with an extended period of open worship.

Fifth Session: 7:00- 8:00 pm, Wednesday, August 12, 2020

The meeting opened with a brief period of open worship.

YM2020-22 Acknowledgment of Deceased Friends

Margaret Eleanor Starbuck* (Salem Monthly Meeting, Ohio), mother of Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh), died at 102. Other deceased Friends from Pittsburgh include Ellie Piper,* Anne Kuhn,* Bill Matlack,* and Phillip Smith.*

Mary Beth McCalla* of Oberlin Meeting, died in May 2020, at 98. James Drummond, a longtime attender of Red Cedar Meeting, and Will Alexander,* another longtime attender of Red Cedar, who had moved to Oregon.

James Eblin from Athens, then North Columbus, lately of Oregon. William Garland of Kalamazoo Meeting; Robert Nagler, active in Kalamazoo.

*See the Memorial Minutes and Obituaries

YM2020-23 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

Shelley Kotz (Broadmead) reported.

a. Shelley outlined a proposed substantial expansion to the current policy on Traveling Minutes recorded in Policies and Procedures. The revisions were approved.

b. Kalamazoo MM continues its support of Mey Hasbrook's traveling in the ministry and requests another year's endorsement from LEYM. Friends approved this endorsement, with one Friend standing aside. The full report follows.

Ministry & Nurture Report, 2019–2020

Since Representative Meeting in April, Ministry & Nurture has met several times via Zoom and been in regular contact by email and phone to discuss items that we are working on.

A. In June a special meeting was held with members of the anchoring committee for an individual engaged in traveling ministry. The meeting concerned the role of Ministry & Nurture when a travel minute is submitted to the Yearly Meeting.

A travel minute originates within a monthly meeting. If the individual will be traveling outside the area of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, the travel minute should be endorsed by Yearly Meeting. The request for endorsement should be forwarded to the Ministry & Nurture Committee for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting by the clerk of the monthly meeting. The request should include the name of the person who will be ministering, a description of their ministry, the names of individuals on their anchoring committee, an end date for the travel minute, and the name of the standing committee that oversees the anchoring committee. The request should include the name of a contact person (one) from the monthly meeting that Minis-try & Nurture may contact if there are questions or concerns. If the request is for renewal of a travel minute, it should include a copy of endorsement and the new end date, as well as any changes to the other information.

The information to be included with the request for endorsement of a travel minute from a monthly meeting is more extensive than what is currently listed in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Policies and Procedures manual. We arrived at this list of information based on our experience with a recent travel minute as well as refer-ring to the procedures used by other yearly meetings. We are recommending that the existing procedure for travel minutes be updated to include this information.

Ministry & Nurture Committee would like to add some of the information that was shared with us before this meeting to the LEYM website in the resources section. The materials are Jewels of Quakerism on Anchor Committees, and one from FGC called Some Guidelines for Care of Friends Led to Various forms of *Ministry*.

The Committee was very grateful to the individuals from the traveling minister's anchoring committee for spending time with us to clarify this situation.

We have received a letter from Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting stating that they are continuing to support the traveling ministry of Mey Hasbrook and are requesting that LEYM continue its endorsement of Mey's ministry. Based on the information included in their letter and the endorsements from the meetings that Mey visited, we are recommending that LEYM endorse Mey's traveling ministry for a period of one more year. A copy of the letter from Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting is included.

B. Rebecca Morehouse, one of the co-clerks of Ministry & Nurture, worked for several weeks with Bill Warters, the LEYM Meeting worker, to facilitate an online meeting for worship for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting in response to stay-at-home orders due to COVID-19. After several weeks, as individual monthly meetings started their own online meetings, the meeting sponsored by LEYM was laid down. We are especially grateful to Bill Warters and Jo Posti for encouraging and facilitating this meeting.

C. The Ministry & Nurture Committee also reviewed the State of the Meeting Reports sent to us by monthly meetings. A summary of monthly meeting State of the Meeting Reports is attached as a separate part of this report (see p. 49).

Individual SoM's are included in the Annual Records. Please read them if you are interested in having more information on any of the actions mentioned here.

An issue that came to our attention in reviewing the State of the Meeting Reports is that several meetings reported having experienced tension within their meetings owing to interpersonal problems between members. We were contacted by or reached out to clerks from these meetings to see if Ministry & Nurture could be of help. At this time the meetings have managed issues with right order. We assured them of our availability if any future help is needed.

Because interpersonal problems do have the potential to cause tension and discord within a meeting, Ministry & Nurture would like to explore materials from FGC or other sources that might be useful to have in the resources section of the LEYM website.

D. Ministry & Nurture completed a summary of responses to the 2019–2020 Query, which is included as

part of this report (see p. 11). Responses to the query were limited in number. We discussed why this might be, what we can do to increase response, or if we should even have a query. After discussion, we agreed that having a query is an important and useful tool. It is a traditional manner of addressing questions that shape our beliefs and can direct us to thinking about issues that are important but difficult. We have received some feedback regarding last year's query and continue to welcome feedback. Members of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting may contact a member of Ministry & Nurture to share their thoughts.

In discussing a query for the coming year, we feel that events of the last six months – the COVID-19 pandemic and the tragic police killings and subsequent protests – are too important not to be addressed. We are continuing to work on the query at this time.

E. Ministry and Nurture holds the Spiritual Formation Program under its care; the work of choosing themes, arranging retreats, and suggesting readings is done by the Spiritual Formation Planning Committee. Typically the Spiritual Formation Program consists of a fall weekend retreat based on a theme chosen by the planning committee with a follow-up one-day retreat in the spring. In the intervening months, smaller Spiritual Formation groups within monthly meetings meet regularly to discuss readings based on the theme and to support one another in their spiritual life.

A Spiritual Formation retreat was held in September at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan. The retreat, led by Joann Neuroth from Red Cedar Meeting, was titled, "Meetings as Spiritual Crucibles and Incubators."

At Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions in 2019, the Spiritual Formation Planning Committee members stated that, after having served on the committee for a number of years, they wished to step down and requested that others who participate in Spiritual Formation volunteer to be on the committee. At the time of the retreat, several individuals stepped forward to plan the spring retreat and theme for 2020–21 as well as make arrangements for a leader for the upcoming year.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the spring retreat for Spiritual Formation did not take place. We have learned that the new Spiritual Formation Planning Committee has met and is planning a fall retreat.

Rebecca Morehouse and Shelley Kotz, co-clerks

YM2020-24 Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

Ellen Barnes (Detroit) described the plan the A&O Committee has drawn up to increase outreach through social media. The full report appears below.

Advancement & Outreach

Report to LEYM Annual Session, 2020

The purpose of this report is awareness.

An idea was presented to A&O about LEYM advertising on social media to help meetings, especially smaller ones, attract new attenders. We currently can be found online, but potential seekers need to know what to look for. This will not be proselytizing, but awareness of who we are.

The A&O Committee all thought it was a good idea. However, research needs to be done.

The current plan is:

- Educate ourselves on what social media advertising looks and feels like. (The majority of the Committee members do not use social media.)
- Research:
  - What kind of message we want to deliver, and how best to do it.
  - Find out what resources/material/information FGC might have.
  - Find out what other Yearly Meetings are doing.
- Pick the brains of LEYM and brainstorm ideas. Outline plan and determine necessary resources
  - Themes
  - Media/medium
  - Costs

- Potential leverage partners (Other yearly meetings? FGC?)
- Develop options and examples
- Determine pilot markets
- Timeline:
  - Outline plan to present to Executive Committee in October.
  - Solidify plan, potentially with examples, by Representative Meeting next April.

This is a preliminary plan. There will be additions and changes as we work through it.

YM2020-25 Youth & Children Program Committee Report

Kate Enger (Athens) reported. Plans are afoot to revive the Teen Retreat, with help from Robb Yurisko (North Columbus) and Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham). Noah Molina (Athens) will see that Minecraft participation can continue among young Friends. The full report follows.

Children & Youth Committee Report, Spring 2020

1) Requested action item: Reviving Teen Retreats

Robb Yurisko, who led teen retreats in the past, is willing to help revive the events, and some teens do appear to be interested. Friends who feel led to help, or even to take leadership, are encouraged to contact him at rlyurisko@gmail.com. Robb wrote:

> I wouldn't mind getting things started and seeing how things unfold. Perhaps planning a retreat to see what energy there is among the teens.
>
> Where Spirit leads is best. Some time in discernment with Committee members about a way forward would be ideal if there is a need for the work.

Perhaps another Friend in the YM would feel called to the position. Then I would be happy to serve on the Committee instead.

I hope to be at YM this year!

2) Fall Youth Retreat:

Diane Mott sought feedback on whether to reserve space for the fall youth retreat this year. It sounded like the consensus via e-mail was that having children gather in the fall would still be too risky due to public health concerns.

3) Annual Sessions Plans

a. LEYM Annual Sessions will include Minecraft world building and a Mine-craft adventure for all children and teens. Minecraft is an online game that focuses on exploration and creativity rather than conflict. Noah Molina has been building some virtual areas to explore, and he and Jonah Brownfain will host a special event during which youth will endeavor to rescue an endangered village together. Noah will also serve as a friendly young adult presence during scheduled sessions to keep the space safe, and will choose game settings to make this Minecraft realm as creative and positive as possible. Young participants will need a Java edition Minecraft member-ship, which costs about $27, to participate. Memberships are available at Minecraft.net. If young Friends already play Minecraft and have a Java edition of the game, they do not need to purchase another. Noah Molina will need each child's username so they can be invited to the realm where they can play together. Noah's email is ockanoah@gmail.com. If a child has friends from other yearly meetings, those friends are welcome to send their usernames and join in the fun. Parents are encouraged to contact Kate Enger at psychdrkate@gmail.com if financial assistance would help their young person participate in the Minecraft activities.

I suspect youth will want to spend more time in their Minecraft realm. If anyone would like to buy an adult membership and help Noah provide friendly adult supervision, please contact Noah at the email above. I (Kate) plan to help out some, too.

b. Annual Sessions will also include Zoom time for age-specific activities. If a child would like to participate in these activities, parents will need to provide the email to which their invitation to the meeting should be sent on their Annual Sessions registration form. Zoom classes are scheduled in between adult activities so parents can help children sign on, and to facilitate the sharing of computers.

c. Young adults will also have some Zoom time set aside for their own use. Young adults are encouraged to contact Noah or Bill Warters if they'd like to organize an activity together. Bill can help them get their Zoom session organized.

4) T-shirts are available for purchase.

This year's design was created by Passionworks, a studio for artists living with disabilities. Noah Hogan, an Athens Friend, is a Passionworks artist. A small portion of the sale of each shirt will go to Passionworks to support its mission.

If you'd like a shirt, please send your size and mailing address, along with $17, to Kate Enger at:

75995 Vandyke Road

New Marshfield, OH, 45766

Orders must be in by July 9. Your t-shirt will be mailed to you in hopes that it will arrive in time for you to show it proudly via Zoom. The shirt will likely match the lighter lavender color in the design below:



YM2020-26 Final Nominating Committee Report

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon outlined the final recommendations from the Nominating Committee. The full slate was approved (see pp. 168–172).

YM2020-27 Consent agenda

Reports have been posted to the LEYM website and included in the docu-ments in advance. These are reports from the database manager, AFSC representatives, the Clerk of the FCNL General Committee, FGC Representatives, Olney Friends School representative, Publications & Archives Committee, and Quaker Earthcare Witness. These constitute a series of reports that are accepted in a consent agenda. The Meeting received these reports. [These appear at the end of these minutes, along *with a report from Ministry & Nurture Committee. The report from QEW was not found. ~Ed.]*

YM2020-28 LEYM Epistle

Nancy Reeves, assistant clerk, read aloud the Epistle describing the theme and activities of this year's Virtual Gathering. With some edits, the letter was approved. The full Epistle appears appended to the end of these minutes..

YM2020-29 Clerk's Announcement about Ad Hoc Committee

Jo Posti read aloud names of Friends who have agreed to serve on an ad hoc committee exploring ways that the Yearly Meeting can be more effective in its functioning and outreach: Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), clerking, Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids), Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group), and Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor).

YM2020-30 Minute of Gratitude

Jo thanked Nancy Reeves and Peter Wood for their years of service to the Yearly Meeting as clerk and recording clerk as well as their guidance and friendship. She expressed gratitude for their care for LEYM, especially during this past year, during which their responsibilities changed consider-ably in our virtual format.

The meeting closed with a recorded musical postlude.

Submitted by Jo Posti, Presiding Clerk

Nancy Reeves, Assistant Clerk

Peter Wood, Recording Clerk

Reports accepted by consent agenda (see YM2020-27) but not presented *at business sessions begin on the next page.*

Ministry & Nurture Committee:

Summary of State of the Meeting Reports

The 18 State of the Meeting reports we received are clearly divided into conditions before and after the arrival of COVID-19.

Generally the spiritual state of the monthly meetings and worship groups making up Lake Erie Yearly Meeting remains strong. We value the time spent together in unprogrammed worship, seen as the heart of the Meeting, and we enjoy additional fellowship through potlucks, worship sharing, ongoing small groups, social action, and retreats.

We are generally aging, predominantly white, and relatively affluent. Some meetings report new attenders drawn in by their increased web presence, activities, or outreach. Several meetings have revised their social media presence, most with rewarding results. Other meetings struggle with their small size or aging member-ship. There is a sense from several meetings that we are not providing adequate care and spiritual nurture for families with children. Some meetings lack any regularly attending young people and offer child care or programs only when young people do come. Several meetings have had or are facing major transitions in their physical space for worship.

Quality of worship is mixed, with some meetings worshiping mostly in silence, while others experience varied and spiritually rich vocal ministry. Sometimes political or intellectual messages are not felt to be Spirit-led. Occasionally ministry during worship has been disruptive. Several meetings have experienced inter-personal problems between members, creating tensions that affect trust and cooperation within the meeting.

Two meetings have adopted the practice of reading back decisions or minutes during meetings for business. Reading a Faith and Practice document together is another approach two meetings have taken to deepen knowledge of Quakerism and support rightly ordered practice.

Meetings meet needs for spiritual deepening with Spiritual Formation groups, Seekers series, viewing Quaker Speak videos, groups on aging, sharing individual spiritual journeys, and supporting multiple individual ministries.

Fellowship is further experienced through outreach, such as helping a student financially, eating meals with college students and neighbors, writing letters to U.S. government representatives and Amnesty International, and supporting a Peace Park. Meetings have joined with other faith groups for social action like serving at soup kitchens and food pantries, Alternatives to Violence Program, sanctuary, engaging in local and national racial equity and social justice initiatives, and environmental and immigration issues.

Most meetings are involved with wider Quaker organizations in addition to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, such as Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, Michigan Friends Center, Friends General Conference, American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, the School of the Spirit, and Friends World Committee for Consultation. We also reach out to other faith groups for social action issues. Two meetings are supporting small worship groups.

The arrival of COVID-19 changed the rhythm and dynamics of our meetings significantly. Meeting responses to the sudden end to face-to-face worship ranged from confusion about process to worry about members unwilling or unable to join online worship. Some smaller meetings did not shift to online meetings for worship. In those meetings, members joined online worship with other meetings, reached out to each other with phone calls, held worship simultaneously from separate homes, or experimented with outdoor distanced meetings.

Most meetings quickly shifted to online worship using Zoom. Those that shifted reported relief and pleasure that the process was not too onerous, actually enhanced the ability to hear ministry, and increased attendance due to the presence of those who could not otherwise attend. One meeting wrote,

"Perhaps the biggest surprise for some is the discovery that we still experience being gathered in the Spirit when we are only connected virtually. This reaffirms for us that Spirit is not bound by time or space; that when we are one in Spirit, we transcend limitations."

State of the Meeting Reports from each of the individual meetings and worship groups are included in the Annual Records (see pp. 81 – 128). Please read them if you are interested in having more information on any of the actions mentioned here.

Publications & Archives Committee

Report, July 2020

Publications in the first part of the year proceeded smoothly and on schedule, with the fall Bulletin and the Annual Records mailed out together in late October and the winter Bulletin mailed in January.

With the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in February-March, and both the Representative Meeting in April and these Annual Sessions in July–August being held online, changes were made to both the schedule and the content of the spring Bulletin. That issue highlighted the program and schedule of the Annual Sessions, along with information on accessing them and how to register online. The editors also solicited contributions reflecting Friends' responses to the pan-demic and resulting quarantine and included several poems and an artwork by Friends from the Yearly Meeting.

With many meetinghouses still closed when the spring Bulletin was mailed in June, fewer print copies were made and distributed. This smaller number allowed the issue to be printed in color while still adhering to our budget for the year, spending $3011.75 of our $3200 budget.

Jeff Cooper served as editor of the Annual Records again this year, and he also served as co-editor with Peggy Daub of the Bulletin. Committee member Rosemary Coffey provided eagle-eyed proofreading of the Annual Records and each issue of the Bulletin.

The deadline for submitting materials for the 2020 Annual Records is September 1, and the deadline for the fall Bulletin is October 1.

Peggy Daub, Clerk

Report from Maryann Concannon, Database Manager August 2019 –June 2020 (Ten Months)

LEYM Database

I began my tenure as database manager in August 2019. It was a rough start, finding my Access skills were rustier than I imagined. I had hope that over time I would get the hang of it but found my lack of sophisticated Access skills really hampered me. I also found that experts in Access have become few and far between. I did find someone at Red Cedar Meeting who actually lives in my neighborhood within walking distance, but then Michigan went into lockdown and that source was not available to just walk over and help me. Also, in July of last year I thought my job was going to turn into part-time, giving me the time to work on the database, but that never happened. So I have felt the database has gotten the short stick – so to say. I have asked LEYM to see if they can find a new database manager for 2020–2021.

Time Spent

During these ten months I have worked 59 hours. Currently I am updating the directory, which had not been done in a few years. It needs to be done every few years. I currently have completed the following meetings:

[Ann Arbor]Grand RapidsOberlin

AthensHollandPine River

Broadmead,IndianaPittsburgh

DelawareKalamazooRed Cedar

DetroitManitouSomerset

ErieMid-OhioTustin

This represents all the meetings that got back to me with their updated directories.

A few meetings are “working on updates” or “passed request onto appropriate person.” I have not heard back from a handful, and have made phone calls and second email requests to them.

Tasks I have done in the past year included: FWCC survey completion

Listservs for LEYM Meeting worker

Updates for Website

Work for LEYM Meeting worker

Updating Meeting officers and committee heads for a few meetings Completing query from FGC

And now, of course, updating the directory.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you the past year.

LEYM AFSC Liaisons

Bill Warters, Claire Cohen, Kathleen Helbling, Paul Helbling July 19, 2020

AFSC Liaison Report to LEYM

After Reviewing Its Legacy, AFSC is Charting a Path Forward This year the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) completed its 2020 – 2030 strategic plan, the creation of which was a multi-year effort. The plan was approved June 20 at the Annual Meeting, held virtually by Zoom due to the Pandemic. LEYM Liaisons attended the Annual Sessions virtually this year, so no travel funds were expended. The strategic plan looks forward thoughtfully, while acting courageously in the present to address immediate concerns. AFSC’s updated vision, mission, and core values were articulated as follows:

VISION: A just, peaceful, and sustainable world free of violence, inequality, and oppression

MISSION: Guided by the Quaker belief in the divine light of each person, AFSC works with communities and partners worldwide to challenge unjust systems and promote lasting peace.

VALUES:

- We respect the equality, worth, and dignity of all people and regard no one as our enemy.
- We seek right relationship with all life on a sustainable Earth.
- We accept that our understanding of truth is incomplete and seek ever deeper insights from lived experience.
- We trust the Spirit to guide discernment of our collective actions.
- We assert the transforming power of love and active nonviolence as a force for justice and reconciliation.

1. Structural Changes Ahead

This past year AFSC engaged in a broad search for a new presiding clerk to replace Phil Lord, who has served since 2014. The search committee, after deep deliberation, was unable to bring forward a recommendation for an individual they felt was a good match for the needs of the organization. Phil Lord was asked to stay on through June 2020, at which time Assistant Clerk Nikki Vangsnes agreed to take on the role of interim presiding clerk.

Based on the strategic planning deliberations, AFSC has decided to focus efforts on three strategic programs over the next ten years, namely: Shared and Sustainable Peace, An Economy that Works for People and Earth, and Just Approaches to Forced Displacement and Migration. By pursuing strategic objectives within these three programs, AFSC will be able to contribute toward an overarching organizational goal of transformative shifts in systems of power. This new direction, while making room for most of AFSC’s existing programming, will still result in some structural changes in how AFSC conducts its work, with specific implementation details to be worked out over the coming year. The following graphic provides a broad overview of the vision and underlying organizational development goals.



2. A Sampling of Recent Activities

Protecting people in prisons, jails, and detention centers from COVID-19 As the pandemic took hold, AFSC was among the first to urge immediate action to protect those in U.S. prisons, jails, and detention centers — from making soap available for hand-washing to granting immediate release. More than 10,000 AFSC supporters sent messages to governors and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) directors while our legal team supported several successful petitions for release.

Moving produce from farm to food bank in New Mexico When farmers found themselves without customers and food banks fell short on donations, AFSC's sustainable farming program in New Mexico made an innovative arrangement, helping farmers buy seed and supplies in exchange for donating crops. The program became a national model and continues to attract new partners.

Delivering hygiene kits to Palestinian elders People living under Israeli occupation have difficulty accessing health care and essential supplies — especially dangerous in this time of COVID-19. AFSC's decades-long history in the region positioned us to work with partners to dis-tribute hundreds of sanitation kits to seniors in Gaza and the West Bank — while continuing to advocate for the Gaza blockade to be lifted and for all Palestinians to have the freedom to meet basic human needs.

Providing health care workers with protective equipment in both Zimbabwe and Jordan

In Zimbabwe and in Jordan (especially in densely populated areas where Syrian refugees tend to live), health care workers lacked adequate supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). Working with partners like the Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights and the Jordan Paramedic Society, AFSC has been able to get items such as reusable N95 and medical/surgical masks, goggles, gowns, hand sanitizer, medical gloves, and infrared thermometers to doctors, nurses, paramedics, and pharmacists.

3 Building a Community Network in West Virginia

Through the years, AFSC has played a key role in expanding free school breakfast and lunch to children statewide in West Virginia. But when schools closed and stay-at-home orders were put in place, many children, seniors, and other West Virginians were in danger of going hungry. AFSC mobilized to form Rapid Response WV, a network of organizations and more than 300 volunteers working together to purchase and deliver food and hygienic supplies to people in need. As the above examples illustrate, service remains an important component of the work. Going forward, AFSC will continue to be centered in communities. Workers will also align their work around the three strategic, organization-wide programs focused on peace, economic justice, and migration. This will enable them to respond comprehensively and nimbly to today's and tomorrow's challenges. The goal is to become an even stronger voice for peace and justice, working in greater unity among AFSC staff and volunteers and alongside communities, partners, coalitions, and networks to achieve transformative change.

Friends Committee on National Legislation

July 2020

To our Friends of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting:

Please welcome Sarah Freeman-Woolpert and Bobby Trice as they visit the 2020 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. We are excited that they will have ample opportunities to hear your concerns and leadings while sharing in worship, holding your business meeting in the Light, and leading workshops, July 30 – August 2. They are happy to be in faith and community with you.

Sarah is the Advocacy Teams Trainer. A native of Pembroke, New Hampshire, she was raised in the Concord Friends Meeting. Sarah is instrumental in helping Quakers expand a robust, self-sustaining network of grassroots advocates. Sarah is a strong support in helping Friends and friends build deep advocacy skills to lobby political leaders for peace and justice.

Bobby (Quaker Engagement Associate) fosters open channels of communication between FCNL and the wider Quaker world and coordinates FCNL staff engagement with Quaker communities. Bobby comes to FCNL from Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting (NC) and currently attends Friends Meeting of Washington (Baltimore Yearly Meeting).

We at FCNL seek to strengthen our connection to Friends Meetings and Churches around the country and find areas where FCNL can offer opportunities for action on issues concerning Friends. We are supporting this virtual "travel" in the tradition of Friends' intervisitation, with hope to stir our spirits and open opportunities for understanding one another's experiences of how the Spirit is working in the world toward peace and justice.

We send you greetings, hold you in our prayers, and trust that God will bless your time together in loving community.

In peace,



Ron Ferguson

Clerk, FCNL General Committee

Pastor, Winchester Friends Church (IN)

Friends General Conference

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Representatives' Report Friends,

Your 2019 – 2020 representatives to Friends General Conference, Sally Weaver Sommer, Valerie Groszmann, and Marvin Barnes, are pleased to report on events and circumstances in Friends General Conference.

For Friends who are not familiar with Friends General Conference, FGC is a North American Quaker association of 16 Quaker yearly and 12 monthly meetings in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, who choose to be members. FGC was founded in 1900. A key program of FGC is the annual Gathering of Friends held at a different college campus every July. The event usually attracts attenders from around the world, but most participants come from the United States and Canada. The event features 55-60 workshops and a slate of plenary speakers. Topics covered include Quaker faith and practice, arts and crafts, multigenerational programming, and opportunities for political dialogue and action. The Gathering hosts both Quaker and non-Quaker speakers focusing on messages of interest to Quakers. FGC also supplies Friends with programming and other resources such as Quaker Books at FGC to help Friends in their spiritual journeys.

During the past year FGC has had to deal with a number of events, both internal and external, that have had a profound effect on the organization. Recently, an update to the governing body of FGC, Central Committee, was published. This update [which follows] will give the reader an overview of the past year including the effects of COVID-19 on the organization.

Update for Central Committee on FGC Actions & Status

During the COVID-19 Crisis, FGC staff and committees seek to be of service in a myriad of ways. Here is a listing with links, followed by an update on our financial status.

Compiling Yearly Meeting News & Actions

COVID-19 Resources and news from monthly and yearly meetings:
https://fgcquaker.org/news/coronavirus-prevention-your-quaker-community-fgc-events

The FGC Gathering

Gathering updates: https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/coronavirus- *and-2020-gathering*

The 2020 in-person Gathering was cancelled for 2020 and rescheduled for 2021.

- Sites for 2021 (Radford University) and 2022 (Western Oregon University) were approved by Long Range Conference Planning Committee and sent forward to Executive Committee.
- Patsy and Tony Martin have agreed to serve as Gathering Co-Clerks for 2021 at Radford. FGC has received many notes of sadness, understanding, and support around the cancellation of the 2020 in-person gathering. A need for connection and community was clear, so the Gathering organized three worship opportunities for Friends to join together to release the 2020 Gathering. Between 25 and 55 Friends have participated at each worship.

Planning has begun for a Virtual 2020 Gathering

A virtual gathering committee has met twice to discern program and schedule.

A theme "Virtual Gathering 2020" rose organically from constituents and stakeholders. It became clear that FGC is the host and site of the Virtual Gathering.

Virtual Gathering schedule is in development.

There will be adult, Jr. Gathering, High School, and AYF programing available.

A young clerks training is being explored.

Tech training and online facilitation training will be available to program leaders. The appropriate digital infrastructure is being established.

Opportunities for Friends to Worship and Share Virtual Fellowship

- Many FGC Friends were seeking worship opportunities, so a weekly Saturday meeting for worship at 9pm EDT for FGC Friends was begun. Messages of gratitude come in weekly. Some Friends are attending who do not have weekly access to worship.
  - o Committee for Nurturing Ministry members are taking turns hosting this worship opportunity. Register at www.fgcquaker.org/resources/online-worship-opportunities to receive the Zoom link and phone numbers.
- Gathering staff is collaborating with various FGC groups, including Quaker Earthcare Witness, FLGBTQC, Nontheist Friends, Adult Young Friends, and Friends of Color, to offer worship sharing groups once a month in April, May, and June. There will also be an Open Worship Sharing Group.

QuakerBooks of FGC

- QuakerBooks is still fulfilling online orders. Spread the word!
- Publications & Distribution put together a collection of books and pamphlets to help Friends with grief and loss at

https://quakerbooks.org/collections/support-in-grieving.

- We'll be offering virtual author events through the online Gathering and at other times.

Fund Raising Campaign Feasibility Study:

- The feasibility study has shifted to online group sessions and Zoom/phone confidential interviews.
- We decided to finish the feasibility study and are close to completion; the report will be available by spring Executive Committee meeting. Prior to the crisis, there was much positive feedback.
- At this moment, our consultant sees campaign-related planned giving work as viable in the next several months, while a full campaign should not be launched until some level of economic recovery has been achieved. Some donors have independently echoed his recommendations.

Development:

- Conducting Pastoral Care of FGC donors – checking in our supporters and sharing updates. This will be

ongoing. (We've been in touch with 35 of our top donors, and Development Committee members are checking in with another 20 donors.)

- Applying for small grants for new online programming. We are communicating with funders about grants already received for programs that are no longer being held in person and requesting opportunities to use funds in a different manner, since programs are moving online.
- Updated the annual report to reflect recent programmatic changes.
- Planning a special fundraiser focused around Gathering to help fill the gap from lack of registration income/challenges brought on by coronavirus in general.

CNM/Religious Education

- With many yearly meetings planning virtual instead of in-person annual session events, the Yearly Meeting Visitors Program is coordinating with FGC staff and Central Committee members to serve as "virtual visitors" to our affiliated yearly meetings. In addition to reporting about the technology and strategies that worked (or didn't work) in offering a virtual annual session, these visitors will prepare the traditional visitor report detailing the successes and challenges facing each yearly meeting. The YMVP serves a key role in helping yearly meetings learn from each other during this time of innovation.
- To serve the spiritual needs of Friends and newcomers experiencing social and spiritual isolation, the Spiritual Deepening eRetreat program quickly organized a Quarantine Calendar of online offerings, including an eRetreat, a weekly worship sharing group, and a book discussion group.

The Ministry on Racism Program has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by:

- Adding to our monthly worship for Friends of Color a weekly one held Wednesday afternoon.
- Providing a virtual retreat for Friends of Color in Intermountain, North Pacific, and Pacific Yearly Meetings on April 18.
- Organizing weekly worship sharing, an open house for Friends of Color, and events for the summer virtual Gathering.

The State of FGC Finances During the Crisis

Like non-profits all over North America, FGC is financially impacted by COVID-19. There are steps we're taking to try to mitigate the damage. Here is where we are, the actions already taken and next steps.

- With the cancellation of the in-person Gathering and the fact that Gathering registration fees would have covered costs already expended such as some staff salaries, the total net loss on the Gathering for 2020 could be as high as $275K. We are seeking ways to bring that number down.
- The bookstore usually sells $20–25K worth of books at the Gathering and more through Yearly Meeting annual sessions consignments. While online sales have been a little better than usual, the bookstore will likely require a larger than projected ministerial subsidy this year.
- The $275K Gathering net loss and additional bookstore subsidies are extra-budgetary. The 2020 budget was approved to be $67K beyond sustainable. Theoretically, we could therefore have to make draws beyond sustainable of almost $350K this fiscal year on what was originally a $2M budget.
- In terms of fundraising, we have not seen an appreciable decline in giving to this point. So we're not lowering our expected fundraising total very much for the remainder of this year unless giving changes in the coming months. We are having discussions about what fundraising goals we should have for 2021. This may take time to see whether Friends continue to give, in order to come to a good estimate for 2021.
- Like everyone, our investments have lost value. Fortunately, Finance Commit-tee recommended pre-crisis that we move $300K from investments to a cash position. This means we do not have to liquidate depreciated stock at this time. However, the value of our portfolio in mid-July determines the amount of our recommended sustainable draw for 2021. We do not expect the stock market to have fully recovered by then and therefore we will likely have a lower draw available to us in 2021 vs 2020. This will negatively impact our budget projections.
- The Friends Pension Fund has also been negatively affected by the stock market decline. We will therefore likely have to pay more to the pension fund in the coming year vs. this fiscal year (last year we had to pay $0.20 on each dollar of salary into the pension, which was the highest ever). We will know more later in the year. This will also make the 2021 budget more challenging. The Pension

Board will meet in June to talk options.

What are we trying to do about all this?

- We applied for a $200,200 loan from the federal relief CARES act, the maximum allowed based on our documentation. We were just approved to receive $200,200 to help cover payroll and keep staff employed. Expecting the loan to be later forgiven, this could help us significantly lower this year's deficit and be close to the original projections approved by Central Committee in October 2019.
- Development staff is planning a special fundraiser to run in late April and early May in an attempt to help cover some of the Gathering losses. Please encourage Friends to be generous if they still have the resources to do so.
- We are in the process of determining a recommended (pay as led) attendance fee for the Virtual Gathering that we hope will make it accessible while providing some needed income.
- We continue to look closely at our expenses.
- Finance Committee had a video meeting this week and agreed FGC should stay the course on the FY 2020 budget for the moment. We should wait to see if loan forgiveness is approved and how fundraising and Gathering fees turn out before shifting course. Finance Committee's full spring meeting will be on April 25. It will then make recommendations to the May Executive Committee meeting on how best to steward our resources during this crisis and for the 2021 budget.

Authors: Barry Crossno, FGC General Secretary, and Frank Barch, FGC Clerk

Date: 04/16/2020

SeIn addition:

The Institutional Assessment Implementation Committee is now staffed with a diverse team of volunteers and beginning the task of implementing recommendations of the FGC Institutional Assessment on Structural Racism. During the 2019 Central Committee sessions, the IAIC asked and Central Committee approved:

1. An extension of the minute passed last year resolving that in all FGC decision-making processes each body shall answer the following query with respect to each decision: "How does this decision support FGC in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?"

2. A minute to collect demographic information regarding race and age of Friends in FGC-affiliated Yearly and Monthly Meetings.

- In preparation for the completion of the second term of service for the cur-rent Presiding Clerk, Frank Barch, the Nominations Committee has made the recommendation that Marvin Barnes, the current Assistant Clerk, be the Rising Presiding Clerk. This nomination was approved.
- FGC is evaluating and planning to improve its "Connector" function. This function is key to keeping Friends informed of the many diverse activities and resources within the association and the Quaker community at large.
- To help in the support of the various programs of FGC, the FGC Nominations Committee has begun consultations with yearly meeting nominations committees to keep each yearly meeting informed of the volunteer needs of the organization.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sally Weaver Sommer, Valerie Groszmann, Marvin Barnes LEYM FGC Representatives

2020 Report from LEYM Liaison to Olney School

Olney had a good but challenging year. The school started off with 35 students, 14 of those from outside the United States. A new class was offered in agricultural sciences, using the farm, greenhouse, and vegetable garden as laboratories. Sustainability and stewardship continue to play an important role at the school, taught in classes and practiced every day at Olney.

In March classes were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and all schools closed in Ohio. Fourteen international students were unable to return home and stayed on campus complying with the COVID-19 restrictions. Learning continued via computer and old-fashioned methods such as U.S. mail and the telephone. All 35 students finished the year. The School anticipates next fall's enrollment to be higher

than this year's, despite the pandemic's expected negative impact on enrollment. Olney is planning for students to return to campus in the fall, keeping up to date with guidelines from the state of Ohio for residential schools.

Olney successfully held graduation and an alumni meeting via Zoom. In both cases, more people were able to participate, and it is likely they will be using video conferencing in the future for these events. Class reunions were also conducted via Zoom and were quite successful. The school is in a stronger financial position than it's been in for years.

The annual fund reached its goal of $300,000 and that is good news for Olney.

Respectfully submitted, Ellerie Brownfain

June 27, 2020

Epistle to all Friends

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

July 30 – August 2 & August 12, 2020

Greetings to Friends Everywhere!

We, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, gathered from July 30 through August 2, in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and other locations including Maine and Honduras, with a final business session on August 12, 2020. Although our physical gathering was limited mostly to groups of one or two, collectively, 155 of us worshipped, carried out our business, and played together using the online platforms of Zoom and Minecraft. Our theme this weekend was “Letting Go: Listening with Whole Hearts and Open Minds.”

Letting Go

In the midst of a world health pandemic that separates us from each other and a new awakening to the depth and breadth of our long-standing racial pandemic, we found comfort in seeing each other through Zoom and in the LEYM routines we love. We began some days with Bible study and worship sharing, we delighted in our beloved talent show, and we envied our youngest children, who were able to gather in person. While familiar and comforting, letting go of the physically gathered nature of these routines also created new opportunities. A number of Friends who cannot normally attend a physical gathering, due to cost, mobility, time, or other reasons, were able to join us this year for the first (or first in a long) time. Our talent show this year included a number of favorite and familiar acts, among them several musical performances, but we were also treated to a video walk-through of one Friend’s garden, exploration of a Mine-craft world occupied by our Youth Program during Annual Sessions this year, paintings, an HTML animation, and some scrollwork pieces of art created during the talent show.

We are excited about the possibility that the technology we used out of necessity this year will enhance our work going forward. We are grateful for the skilled and cheerful wizardry that made Zoom our Bluffton this year, and for inspiring musical interludes from Playing for Change. We are also grateful for the thoughtful planning of a Minecraft world which held our Youth Program, and for the gifts and flexibility of all of those serving our community during this time of unexpected challenges. While we are eager to meet together physically in the future, letting go of the need to meet exclusively in person opens up exciting opportunities for ongoing Bible study, year-round Minecraft connections among our youth, and breathing new life into our Earthcare and Peace & Justice Committees as they explore offering a series of free-standing interest groups during the coming year.

Listening with Whole Hearts

Our Bible study group explored the biblical treatment of five words from our theme: listening, whole, minds, hearts, and being open. Participants shared their personal experiences, and also reflected on William Penn’s view that it is not our own salvation we are seeking, but that of the beloved community.

We heard, again, of brokenness in our beloved community. Racism is a pandemic that predates and exacerbates the COVID-19 pandemic; it is more deadly than COVID-19 to People of Color.

Friends of Color, in an epistle written to Friends everywhere, asked us for respite. “Friends of Color need respite from the insidious lie of white supremacy manifested in daily oppressive traumatic stressors (microaggressions) which have the effect of blaming the oppressed for our own oppression. Friends of Color need respite and support which our home meetings have not provided. Friends of Color are fatigued from being asked to teach white folks.” These dear friends ask us to “do work so that” Friends of Color in our midst “can BREATHE.”

Friends in the antiracism workshop expressed frustration with our meetings’ lack of meaningful progress in becoming anti-racist faith communities. The barriers Friends identified are cultural and finan-cial, some limiting our ability to attract attenders, some impacting our work in local communities. Those participating in the workshop expressed a commitment to this work and to continue to have brave conversations, set bold goals, and listen to our Black neighbors and Friends in order to understand our blind spots.

As one step toward becoming more anti-racist, we were encouraged in our bystander intervention workshop to listen with whole hearts to situations involving racism we encounter, to explore what makes us hesitant to intervene, to make our presence as a witness known, and to follow the lead of the individual(s) being harassed.

But we must do more. When our Friends of Color are exhausted not only from interactions in the world at large, but from being othered in Quaker space, we are not doing enough. We encourage all Friends, including those in our constituent monthly meetings, to read “the Outgoing Epistle of the 2020 Virtual Annual Pre-Gathering of Friends of Color and their Families,” to sit with the queries they pose to all Quakers, and to do more.

Open Minds

In the Listening through Relationship workshop, we were called to open our minds to explore what imprisons us – and to ponder where we might be led if we shifted our thinking about our relationship with the earth – to explore what would be different if we treated water and its interaction with land as sacred.

Our workshop on Connecting with Nature as a Spiritual Practice encouraged us to find more in nature than its beauty by exploring outdoor forms of meditation, from simply walking or sitting in nature to attentive observation, active listening, restoration work, gardening, play, and activism. We were reminded that among nature’s spiritual gifts is its profound memento mori, its reminder that all living things must die, and that in these “good deaths” new life is made possible.

A staff member from FCNL encouraged us to open our minds to the power of storytelling as political advocacy, leading us through the steps of identifying and crafting stories we might share as a step to building personal relationships with our members of Congress as we work to heal the world.

We were enriched by our time together, challenged to do more to explore and mend our relationship with the earth, and to more actively and more broadly address the historic and ongoing racial pandemic within our Quaker communities. We long for the physical connections that were absent this year, but leave excited by new possibilities for broadening and deepening our community using the tools that allowed us to meet this year.

In faith, Jo Posti, Presiding Clerk

LEYM Officers, Committee Members, & Representatives Nominating Committee Report, 2020

Approved 8-12-2020. Terms begin and end at rise of Annual Sessions.
* = Approved by Executive Committee after Annual Sessions.

ExC = serves on LEYM Executive Committee.

To contact individual Friends listed below, see the Directory section, starting on p. 173.

Officers

Role Name & Meeting Year of Service End Year Presiding Clerk ExC Josephine Posti, Pittsburgh 3 2022 Assistant Clerk ExC Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh 1 2024 Recording Clerk ExC Kate Enger, Athens 1 2023 Treasurer ExC Tom Kangas, North Columbus 2 2021

Communications and Other Workers

Bulletin Editors Peggy Daub & Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor 4 2023 Database Manager Lynda Rose, Athens 1 2023

Meeting Worker

& Web Master Bill Warters, Birmingham 2

Bookstore Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 18

Committees

Name & Meeting Year of Service End Year

Advancement & Outreach

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Blair Ellis, Ann Arbor 4 2021

Sheila Johnson, Ann Arbor 4 2021

Ellen Barnes, Detroit Clerk ExC 6 2021

Kathie Hollingshead, Pittsburgh 3 2021

Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens 2 2022

TBD 1 2023

Committees (continued):

Name/Meeting Year of Service End Year

Earthcare (For a trial run in 2020–21, becomes an interest group for Friends with concerns about Earthcare and Peace & Justice.) Normally 6 members plus interested Friends.

Finance

of Members: 3 Years of Term: 3

Joseph Mills, Kalamazoo 4 2021

Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar Clerk ExC 3 2021

Seth Reichenbach, Unaffiliated 3 2021

Note: Treasurer serves ex officio

High School Teen Retreat (Committee is dormant) Normally 3 adults with 3-year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2-year terms

Ministry & Nurture

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each monthly meeting encouraged Years of Term: 3

Lisa Klopfer, Ann Arbor 3 2021

Shelley Kotz, Broadmead Co-Clerk ExC 3 2021 Rebecca Morehouse, Ann Arbor Co-Clerk ExC 3 2021 Linda Mills, Kalamazoo 2 2022

David Snyder, Oberlin 2 2022

Maryann Concannon, Red Cedar 1 2023

Nominating

of Members: 6 (appointed by YM through Naming Committee) Years of Term: 3

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon, Erie WG, Clerk ExC 7 2021 Jo Steigerwald, Cleveland 4 2021

Janet Dando, Akron 6 2021

Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids 3 2021

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 5 2022

Peace & Justice (For a trial run in 2020–21, becomes an interest group only, for Friends interested in Peace & Justice and Earthcare.) Normally 6 members plus representatives from monthly meetings.

Continued on next page

Committees (continued):

Name/Meeting Year of Service End Year

Publications & Archives

of Members: 4 Years of Term: 3

Bob Roehm, North Columbus 4 2021

Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor Clerk ExC 2 2022

Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh 2 2022

George Hebben, Kalamazoo 1 2023

Note: Web Master and Bulletin Editors serve ex officio.

Yearly Meeting Planning:

Adult & Family Program

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Susan Hartman, Ann Arbor 4 2021

Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor Clerk*, ExC 4 2021 Steve Morehouse, Ann Arbor 2 2021

Aran Reinhart, Broadmead 4 2022

Greg Mott, Broadmead 2 2022

Arrangements & Site

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Jon Sommer, Broadmead Clerk ExC 17 2021

John Templin, Broadmead 11 2021

Bill Warters, Birmingham 3 2021

Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead 6 2021

Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead 5 2022

Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead Registrar 5 2022 **Committees (continued):**

Name/Meeting Year of Service End Year

Youth & Children's Program

of Members: 12 Years of Term: 2

Christa White, Athens Clerk ExC 2 2021

TBD Assistant Clerk 1 2022

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham

Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar

Alfred Clapp III, Athens

Cathy Clifford, Red Cedar

Conleth Crotser, Cleveland

Peter Crowley, Cleveland

Noah Molina, Athens

Diane Mott, Broadmead

Jenn Seif, Red Cedar

Diane Mott, Broadmead Fall retreat clerk

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham Fall retreat assistant

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations Organization Name & Meeting Year of Service End Year

AFSC Corp Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh 6 2021

AFSC Corp Bill Warters, Birmingham 3 2021

AFSC Corp Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead 2 2022 AFSC Corp Paul Helbling, Broadmead 2 2022

FCNL Gen Cmte David Snyder, Oberlin 6 2021

FCNL Gen Cmte Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor 3 2021 FCNL Gen Cmte Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor 3 2021 FCNL Gen Cmte John Howell, Athens 4 2022

FCNL Gen Cmte John Deikis*, Ann Arbor 1 2023

Continued on next page

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations (continued)

Organization Name & Meeting Year of Service End Year

FGC Cntl Cmte Marvin Barnes, Detroit 3 2021 FGC Cntl Cmte Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead 3 2021 FGC Cntl Cmte Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 2 2022 (LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee)

FWCC Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids 7 2021

FWCC Sam Milford, Pittsburgh 5 2022

FWCC Jo Posti, Pittsburgh 1 2023

FLGBTQC Nancy Reeves, Cleveland 6 2022

Olney Friends School Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 3 2021

Q Earthcare Witness Jonah Brownfain, Birmingham 1 2021

LEYM Annual Meeting
July 28 – August 1, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes and Reports

Kate Enger, Recording Clerk

This session was held via Zoom to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

YM2021-01 Centering Worship started at approximately 7 p.m

Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), Assistant Clerk, read an epistle from Netherlands Yearly Meeting.

YM2021-02 Jo Posti (Pittsburgh), Clerk, welcomed all participants and gave an opening statement

Clerk's Opening Statement

Welcome to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's 2021 Annual Sessions. We have 150 Friends registered this year, a slight reduction from last year's 153, and are grateful to each of you for choosing to spend time with us over the next five days. My prayer is that next year's sessions will be in person and that this week marks the end of our time of only being able to meet virtually.

That being said, the pandemic has taught us some important lessons. Video conferencing has made meeting easier and more accessible to many Friends. Our inability to travel has resulted in reduced carbon emissions. It has inspired us to think creatively about how we offer programming and has increased our interaction with each other throughout the year. I've grown closer to some Friends during this year-and-a-half of isolation, but also recognize the loss many have experienced during this time. Our children and teens are Zoomed out and crave being together in person to play, sing, and eat ice cream in the dining hall.

I'm grateful for the work that Susan Loucks, our Assistant Clerk, our committees, and Bill Warters, our digital communications coordinator, have done to lead the visioning process, interest groups, and committee meetings. I'm grateful to Lynda Rose for transitioning our database to Salesforce this year. This project was significant, but one that will serve our member Meetings and the Yearly Meeting well.

While we have much to be proud of, we are ending this fiscal year with uncertainty. Not only has the emerging Delta variant become a concern that will impact how we plan future sessions, but we have a number of volunteer positions that our Nominating Committee has not been able to fill. If committees such as Adult & Family Program go unfilled, this impacts whether workshops and a plenary session will be offered next July. I'm asking you to think about your capacity to serve and also about Friends from your home Meeting who might have gifts the Nominating Committee should know about.

Whether you're just here for one session or plan to participate in everything, whether you're a casual observer or inspired to get more involved, we hope that this year's sessions feed you and help you connect to other Friends.

We're grateful for the connections we have with Friends visiting us. This year, our guests include:

Kody Hersh - Toward Right Relationship, SEYMRachel Ernst Stahlhut, FGC, OVYM

Jackie Stillwell, Right Sharing of World Resources,Bobby Trice, FCNL NEYM

Riley Robinson, FCNL

Marcia Roberts, Pacific YM

Lyn Cope, SEYM and Quaker Meeting of

Jeffrey Barr, NYYMMelbourne

Kat Griffith, Northern YMShaina Low, unaffiliated

Philip Maurer, NEYMPaula Palmer, Intermountain YM and Friends Peace Teams

Kathleen Wooten, NEYM

Jennifer Bing and Melissa Stoner, AFSCJohn Meyer, Eugene/BYM

Anne Remley, Ann Arbor MM (now in Boulder, CO)

YM2021-03 Bill Warters (Birmingham) provided information on registrants by…

Bill Warters (Birmingham) provided information on registrants by affiliated Meeting as follows:

Akron MM – 3Manitou WG – 1

Ann Arbor MM – 28Mid-Ohio Valley MM – 2

Athens MM – 6North Columbus MM – 7

Birmingham MM – 9Oberlin MM –5

Broadmead MM – 16Pittsburgh MM – 14

Cleveland MM – 2Pine River WG 1

Detroit MM – 9Red Cedar MM – 8

Erie WG – 2Wooster MM – 3

Grand Rapids MM – 8Other – 13

Granville MM – 1Unaffiliated – 3

Kalamazoo MM – 7

LEYM 2021 Registrants by Age CategoryLEYM 2021 Registrants by Gender Identity

Teen/High School – 2Female – 96

Young Adult (19-35) – 13Male – 37

Adult (36-60) –26Not Declared – 11

Adult (61+) – 112Non-binary – 4

Transgender-Male – 1

LEYM 2021 Registrants by Race/EthnicityTransgender-Nonbinary – 1

White/European – 122Different Gender ID – 2

Black/African American – 5

Asian/Pacific Islands – 1

Mixed – 1

Other or Unspecified – 18

YM2021-04 Roll Call by Local Meeting

Kate Enger (Athens), Recording Clerk, asked Friends to react through waves, emoticons, or calling out briefly when their home Meeting was called. Visitors introduced themselves. At this point, approximately 50 Friends were in attendance at the Zoom session.

YM2021-05 Welcome and Highlights of our Annual Sessions Program

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), clerk of Adult & Family Program Committee, presented highlights of the program as follows:

Good evening, Friends. It has been an honor to work with the Program Committee members over the past years. They are Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh), Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor), Steve Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Greg Mott (Broadmead), and Aran Reinhart (Broadmead). We were sorry to lose the helpful contributions of Claire, who had to drop out partway through.

Last year’s Annual Meeting Theme was about Listening.

How did we do? Are we all better listeners now? More work to be done?

Since last August, as we discerned about the right theme for these times, we were aware that Truth had become politicized and that, from our beginnings as a people, Friends have raised up our testimony of Truth or Integrity as central to our inner life. A query common among early Friends was "How does Truth prosper among you?" You can't lie to God!

Wilmer Cooper put it well in his 1991 Pendle Hill Pamphlet, The Testimony of Integrity in the Religious Society of Friends. "Integrity in its root meaning and search for wholeness leads to an even deeper sense of community." Wholeness means health in body, spirit, and community. We have all been painfully aware of how the lack of integrity has led to pain, suffering, and brokenness on a broad scale – personal to global.

And so, we invite you to explore with us our theme for this year: Healing through Truth: Living myths from **the past cause continuing pain. Pathways through truth help heal.**

We are blessed with a wide range of workshops to help us focus on a variety of areas needing truth and healing, including human rights, political advocacy, prisons, the environment, racism, and our personal relationships.

Our plenary speaker on Friday evening, Paula Palmer, will challenge us to move toward right relationships with the people who were living in this region before European settlers took it from them by brutal force. We have listening to do. I encourage you to explore the rich list of resources – printed and on-line – that Paula has provided for us in the LEYM Spring Bulletin.

Finally, to illustrate how all these things come together, and to show practical and positive ways of behavior, let me share with you a selection from a thought-provoking list called How to be an Ally to Indigenous Peoples, which the Onondaga people have provided and is printed as a poster (see Syracuseculturalworkers.com).

Care for the earth.

Live lightly on the earth.

Consider future generations in our actions.

Work to end global warming.

Support renewable energy.

Remember that all beings (animals, plants) are your relatives, not resources.

Live with gratitude.

Give thanks frequently.

Slow down and listen more than you talk.

Read and promote the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Native Peoples.

Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day – October 12.

Learn about and reject the Doctrine of Discovery.

Appreciate the diversity of nations, cultures, and people.

YM2021-06 Epistle Committee formation – Asst

Clerk

Susan Loucks invited Friends to work with her on an epistle. Carolyn Lejuste and Susan Towner-Larsen volunteered to join her.

The Epistle Committee was approved.

YM2021-07 Naming Committee formation – Clerk

Susan Hartman, Sally Weaver Sommer, and Nancy Taylor offered to serve on the Naming Committee.

The Naming Committee was approved.

YM2021-08 Call for Memorial Minutes for Deceased Friends – Clerk

Some minutes had already been received. Friends were asked to send others to the Clerk if they were available.

YM2021-09 Business Sessions Preview, Consent Agenda

Friends were invited to read reports and contact our Clerk if there were issues that needed discussion.

Friends were also invited to look at other documents available in advance, such as proposals to amend some policies.

YM2021-10 Closing Worship and Invitation to Evening Worship – 8 p.m

2021 Second Session: Thursday, 7-29-21

Minutes and Reports

This session was held via Zoom to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

YM2021-11 Meeting settled into expectant worship at 11 a.m

Out of open worship, the Assistant Clerk (Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh) read aloud the epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), 143rd Annual Session.

YM2021-12 Consent Agenda

Several reports were posted to the LEYM website and included in the documents in advance, namely:

- Ministry &Nurture's State of the Meeting Report
- AFSC
- FCNL
- Olney Friends School
- Quaker Earthcare Witness
- Peace & Justice Interest Groups

As noted previously, these were received by LEYM and accepted in a consent agenda. They appear below following their presentation during the meeting.

Ministry &Nurture's State of the Meeting Report: Submitted by Shelley Kotz (Broadmead) and Rebecca Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Co-clerks

Nominated committee members: Linda Mills, Lisa Klopfer, David Snyder, Maryann Concannon

Active participant: Flo Friender (Kalamazoo Meeting Rep)

Reps are welcome to join our committee meetings. Contact M&N clerks for dates and times.

As is the practice of Ministry & Nurture (M&N), we spent time prior to the 2020 LEYM Annual Sessions to create or choose a Query to present to Monthly Meetings (MMs) and Worship Groups (WGs) for reflection. We worked for some time with the topic of Black Lives Matter and a growing understanding of Systemic Racism to try to craft a query that would address this deep concern. We came to realize that the Epistle of the 2020 Virtual Pre-Gathering of Friends of Color and their Families had already created queries coming from a deeper experience and understanding than we have. Heeding their call to action, M&N asked MMs and WGs to sit with these queries and to seek an opening to Spirit with ways to continue learning and to take action. (See M&N summary of Query responses, below).

One of our first decisions in the fall of 2020 after Yearly Meeting was to change the dates for Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to send in their Response to the Query to Jan 15 and their State of the Meeting report to May 15. Those changes will give Ministry & Nurture the ability to summarize the responses in a timely manner.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continued, MMs and WGs were challenged to find new ways to engage in worship, business, and fellowship. In responding to a need for MM Clerks to talk about the new realities, we offered three 90-minute Zoom "Clerks' Chats," which were attended by 12-17 new and experienced clerks. It was a meaningful time of sharing concerns, asking questions of one another, and offering suggestions and advice.

WG conveners also attended. Many have asked for these to continue in the fall.

We took to heart a Friend's suggestion that we host a Bible Study during this time of isolation and discouragement. Maryann Concannon led 5 Zoom sessions on Saturday afternoons from Feb. to June, generally following Michael Birkel's Engaging Scripture: Reading the Bible with Early Friends. 35 Friends signed up initially, although those numbers decreased as good weather and summer schedules took effect. Those who participated found it meaningful and have asked us to consider hosting more Bible Study sessions next year.

The LEYM Policy and Procedures manual states that M&N oversees the Spiritual Formation (SF) Program as presented by a planning committee. Members of the planning committee are typically selected by the existing planning committee and are responsible for organizing both the physical aspects of the retreats that start and end each year's program and choosing a program topic and presenters. Although the pandemic created some delay in planning, the 2020-2021 program occurred virtually on the usual date of the first weekend after Labor Day. The program, Spiritual Companions within an Ecology of Quaker Practice, was led by Cassie Cammann, Nadine Hoover, and Mark Hoover, and included several other (virtual) check-in workshops offered during the year.

The planning for 2021-2022 Spiritual Formation is underway, with Valerie Groszmann, Sally Weaver Sommer, Ellerie Brownfain, and Lisa Klopfer on the planning committee.

M&N began receiving and reading State of the Meeting reports in mid-May. We value the depth of commitment involved in each MM and WG discernment and their reporting of where they are at this time. We learn from one another and grow in our understanding of Quaker faith as we read of the joys, challenges, successes, and insights of those in our Yearly Meeting family. A summary of the State of the Meeting Reports will be submitted in a separate report.

Report from LEYM Representatives to American Friends Service Committee Corporation — Submitted by Bill Warters (Birmingham), YM Representative to AFSC Corporation; Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh), YM Representative to AFSC Corporation; Paul Helbling (Broadmead), YM Representative to AFSC Corporation; and Kathleen Helbling (Broadmead), YM Representative to AFSC Corporation

In this past year, AFSC has been working on restructuring, with over 50 contributing groups helping in planning the next decade for AFSC. The approved 2020-2030 AFSC Strategic Plan is available for review here: https://bit.ly/AFSCStrategicPlan. Three areas were identified as most essential: a just peace, just economies, and just migrations. Just Peace concentrates on divesting in militarism, dismantling incarceration, and advancing civil liberties. Just Economies concentrates on moving to shared prosperity and promoting alternative economies. Just Migration concentrates on demilitarized borders and helping migrants to build supportive communities. Across all these three goals will be added a concern for climate justice.

The methods suggested are changing systems by working with established networks, governmental advocacy, research and analysis of trends, and community organizing. AFSC is committed to anti-racism, feminism, and youth needs. This will also involve increasing revenue and bolstering financial and risk management. Additionally, AFSC wishes to engage more Quakers in its work. A webpage has been set up to provide quick access to engagement opportunities and information: https://www.afsc.org/friends-engage. The goal is to offer effective learning programs and feedback loops to continue improving the connections. Tools for Quakers to do social work and to strengthen relationships with served communities are being developed. One successful project launched this past year was the Quaker Social Change Ministry Program (QSCM), which provides recorded learning content and a getting-started manual. Access it all via https://www.afsc.org/quakersocialchange. For more information on how to start a QSCM group in your Meeting or church, please contact Lucy Duncan at lduncan@afsc.org.

For the second year in a row due to COVID-19, AFSC met online for its annual meeting. The 2021 AFSC annual meeting program, Making New Worlds: Pursuing Peace with Justice, which was open to all Quakers this year, focused on different aspects of abolition. Friends are invited to explore all the recorded sessions here: https://www.afsc.org/corpprogram. A youth initiative is planned for 18–25-year-olds to be involved in leadership development in 2022. The AFSC restructuring spurred by the new Strategic Plan is still in progress, and seasoning is continuing.

Report on Friends Committee on National Legislation for LEYM 2021 — Submitted by Thomas and

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor), for the LEYM Representatives to FCNL

FCNL's multi-issue advocacy connects historic Quaker testimonies on peace, equality, simplicity, and truth with peace and justice issues that the US government is and should be addressing. Since its founding in 1943, FCNL has played a pivotal role in the creation of the Peace Corps, was instrumental in lobbying for the creation of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, helped lobby for the Civil Rights Act, and led efforts in Washington to oppose both the first and second Iraq wars.

FCNL is actually three interlocking non-partisan organizations, led by the General Secretary, working collectively to advance a vision of a peaceful, just, and sustainable world, governed by a 180-member General Committee of representatives from 26 Yearly Meetings and organizations, plus members at large. In recent years, FCNL has made multiple efforts to reach out to and include more young adults in the work, with programs for Young Fellows, Advocacy Corps, Summer Internships, and Spring Lobby Weekend. The 2021 Spring Lobby Weekend took place March 12-15, when more than 500 young people gathered online to advocate to their Senators and Representatives about the Justice in Policing Act (HR 1280), visiting more than 140 Congressional offices by phone and video.

Advocacy Teams in Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania have carried on the work of talking with Congressional staff by video, phone, and the written word about passing bills to repeal the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF). They were successful in assisting with its passage in the House; the work on Senate passage continues.

After ten years of dedicated and excellent service, Diane Randall is stepping down from the post of General Secretary. The search for a new Gen Sec is nearing the end: review of applications begins August 1, and the starting date for the successful candidate will be January 1, 2022. The new Gen Sec will be joining a staff of 65 in this vital and engaging work. You are encouraged to inquire about YOUR local Advocacy Team and seriously consider joining it to carry forward your Quaker concerns for peace and justice.

Olney School Report — Submitted by Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham)

Olney started the year with twenty-six students and the possibility of two more coming this current semester. This is down approximately ten students from last year. The school was anticipating a higher enrollment for the 2021 year, but the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted enrollment. Fall enrollment is expected for 30 students. In spite of its smaller size, Olney is truly a global campus, with students from China, Ethiopia, Uganda, and South Africa. The school continues to follow the COVID-19 protocols from the State of Ohio for residential schools. Fortunately, the campus is large, which includes the 350-acre organic farm, and students have many opportunities for classes and activities in the outdoors, when weather permits.

In the fall, Homecoming was virtual and well-attended. The traditional Olney Distance Run was held with sponsorships and self-reporting times. The school initiated a virtual Guest Speaker program to bring in some knowledge and entertainment from outside. Many speakers -- and virtual guests -- came from the community of alumni. Olney plans to continue and develop that program in the coming year. Other traditionally public events also took place virtually, including Gym-Ex, Commencement, a Silent Auction, and Class Reunions. The Friday night alumni meeting was also held virtually and was well attended.

The school has continued to shrink its projected budget deficit each year. In fact, this year it is operating on a budget that projected no deficits. This was designed before the pandemic and assumed the same annual fund amount as in the last three years. COVID-19, however, has had a negative impact on both admissions and donations.

Donations to Olney continue to be welcomed as well. The Annual Fund goal for 2021-2022 remains at $300,000, as in the last five years. Every gift to the Annual Fund effectively funds scholarships to Olney students receiving financial aid.

I encourage all F/friends to refer potential students to the school and to consider financial gifts to Olney.

Quaker Earthcare Witness — Submitted by Jonah Brownfain (Birmingham)

Quaker Earthcare Witness had a strong presence virtually as they met for Meeting for Worship during the

year and for its Annual Meeting. I encourage Friends to become involved in this necessary Quaker organization.

Peace and Justice Interest Groups Final Report 2021 — Submitted by Joel Ottenbreit (Detroit)

The LEYM Interest group ran three discussion forum sessions during the year. Attendance for the first two was in the range of 25-35 participants. The last session was around half of the first two, because there were other Quaker events scheduled on that day. The feedback from the surveys that were sent out was positive and supportive.

The process for obtaining speakers, registering attendees, and running the program was modified each time to make the sessions operate better. There is a great deal of gratitude for Bill Warters for his technical skills on making the sessions operate smoothly.

If the LEYM Executive Committee chooses to continue this pilot program for next year, these are some changes that should be considered:

1) The day and time of the sessions would probably be more attractive on a Tuesday or Thursday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

2) One concern that was not well addressed was how to turn the interest group ideas into action toward solving issues, although we did talk about this in the last session. It is suggested that another link be listed on the webpage called “Action Groups.” These are groups that are part of LEYM Monthly Meetings that will further topics considered at the discussion forum and turn them into action. For example, the group on Sexism from the Detroit Friends Meeting is continuing its work after presenting at the forum. Members plan to write a blog and to create some lessons for First Day School. They could be listed on the website as an action group for others in LEYM who are interested, thereby creating a way for ideas to be turned into action. The action groups could also send a summary to LEYM for the Annual Session.

Final note: I will not be able to lead the interest group forum for next year if the Executive Committee decides to continue it. I am now the webmaster for the DFM, the convener of the technical committee, and a member of our group that is working on the new Meetinghouse. I would be willing to help someone who wants to lead it, but my plate is full at this time.

As noted previously, these reports were received by LEYM and accepted in a consent agenda.

YM2021-13 Nominating Committee Report

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Erie Worship Group) presented the first reading of the Nominating Committee report. There are important roles still to be filled. Friends who are interested in serving are encouraged to contact members of the current Nominating Committee.

Clémence’s name was put forward for LEYM representative to FWCC.

Advancement & Outreach needs Friends to reach out and facilitate communication between Meetings and Worship Groups throughout our geographic area. We especially need people who can utilize social media to reach out to people who may be Friends and don’t realize it yet and encourage them to join a Meeting or Worship Group.

Adult & Family Program Committee needs Friends to plan programming. Next year, that programming may include scheduling a plenary speaker, interest groups, Bible study, and activities that spring from the work of interest groups.

YM2021-14 Ad Hoc Committee on Policies and Procedures

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor)

In 2018, Mathilda Navias and I were asked to recommend updates to Policies and Procedures to reflect changes beyond new policies minuted at business sessions (which had already been added) and to suggest areas where our policies might be improved. From our original long list, bits and pieces have been approved either by Executive Committee (when feasible) or at past Annual Meetings; other matters, such as what will become of the Earthcare and Peace & Justice Committee, are evolving through their own processes and will be determined in due time.

There remain six specific recommendations, two apiece in three areas (see next page). Recommendations

in the first two areas come from Mathilda and me. As you know, Mathilda has departed from LEYM; last fall, Jo Posti appointed Anya Moon (Pittsburgh) to take her place on this ad hoc committee. Recommendations in this third area came about mainly as a result of Mathilda's no longer filling the role of webmaster.

These recommendations were seasoned by Executive Committee in April and later by Publications & Archives Committee, resulting in revisions reflected in the current proposals. They need Meeting approval (or further discernment) to become Meeting policy/procedure.

Below, proposed new text is in red type and explanations or comments are in green. For those wanting full context, Policies and Procedures can be downloaded from the LEYM website (leym.org).

(At) II. B, Representative Meeting: Two items:

II. B. 2. a, on monthly meeting representatives, states: "Whenever the size of the monthly meeting allows, at least one of these [two] representatives should not be a Yearly Meeting officer or member of a standing committee." Delete this sentence. It is not realistic for a monthly meeting of any size, and those representatives serving on committees may be more aware of YM activities.

II. B. 3. a, on scheduling, states that Representative Meeting should be scheduled in a way that allows distribution of the minutes well before Annual Sessions.

Delete this and state, in a separate paragraph, that Representative Meeting minutes should be made available within one month after the meeting. (This is not truly a scheduling question, but it is useful to have the minutes available well before Annual Sessions.)

These suggested changes were Approved.

(At) III. A. 1, Clerk's responsibilities: Two items

III. A. 1. h, "In wide consultation with members of the Yearly Meeting, secure for Yearly Meeting approval nominees for a Naming Committee that will nominate the Nominating Committee," add "It has been found useful to include at least one Friend who has served recently on Nominating Committee."

III. A. 1. j, "Name members to ad hoc committees, as needed, in consultation with Nominating Committee":

Change to

"Name members to ad hoc committees, as needed; it is recommended that Nominating Committee be consulted."

These suggested changes were Approved.

(At) III. B. 4, Meeting worker. (See below for suggested new title): Last year, Finance Committee proposed changing the Meeting Worker's title to Webmaster, but the Meeting did not act on this proposal, and under current policy the Meeting Worker still has two responsibilities not specifically related to the Web:

"(3) Formats minutes from Representative Meeting, Annual Sessions, and Executive Committee (when available) and posts them on the website."

"(6) On an annual basis, reviews Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Policies and Procedures, advises the presiding clerk of inconsistencies that may have arisen as procedures are changed, and ensures that the latest version is posted on the website."

Reassign these responsibilities to the Publications & Archives Committee.

Both tasks (formatting minutes and updating Policies and Procedures) seem better suited to P&A, as minutes of Representative Meeting and Annual Sessions appear in the Annual Records, and both it and Policies and Procedures are publications.

Formatting of minutes has sometimes been done by the Annual Records editor, but the P&A Committee might also find another Friend interested in this project.

If approved, would change no. 3 as shown below and move to Publications & Archives:

"Edits minutes from Representative Meeting and Annual Sessions for consistency of language and format for the Annual Records and posts them on the website; similarly, edits minutes from Executive Committee meetings for the website."

With the Meeting worker being relieved of these responsibilities, change their title to Digital Communications Coordinator.

A Friend pointed out that our visioning suggests that we may have additional roles for our Meeting Worker in addition To Digital Communications Coordinator. In addition, Bill is doing more than digital communications, especially in regard to preparing and running our virtual sessions. He's also doing some technical maintenance work.

Our Policies and Procedures Manual is a document that must be revisited frequently. We may be considering changes in staffing, especially to support programming for children and youth, and changes may need to be made accordingly.

In the past, committees have been resource-poor, and may not be able to cover the additional work proposed. Peggy Daub clarified during discussion that Publications & Archives Committee does feel that they can take on the suggested additional responsibilities. Policies could be revised again if needed.

Could some of these policies and procedures tasks be taken on by the Assistant Clerk? She or he would then be intimately familiar with recent changes.

A Friend suggested that we table these proposed changes and have the Executive Committee look at some history of how the Meeting Worker position was originally envisioned.

Institutional memory is important, and the Assistant Clerk changes every two years; if he or she takes on the policies and procedures tasks, that may lead to poorer institutional memory.

The suggested change stating that Publication & Archives "Edits minutes from Representative Meeting and Annual Sessions for consistency of language and format for the Annual Records and posts them on the website; similarly, edits minutes from Executive Committee meetings for the website," was approved.

The other suggested change related to reviewing and updating policies and procedures will be held over for additional discussion and consideration.

The discussion whether to change the Meeting Worker's title will also be held over.

YM2021-15 Treasurer's Report

Tom Kangas (N. Columbus)

For the 2020-2021 fiscal year (i.e., the twelve months ended June 30, 2021), LEYM's income picture is good. General Fund contributions were received from all member Monthly Meetings. Total income was $21,460.

By setting the suggested contribution per member rate at $30 for this past fiscal year, Finance Committee in-tended to generate an annual deficit for the General Fund. And indeed, General Fund income was $7K less than money flowing out of the General Fund due to expenditures and transfers.

Expenditures and transfers from LEYM's General Fund totaled $28,453 for the year, which was 98% of the to-tal amount budgeted. Most expense categories were within budget at year's end, although two were not – Database Manager and Web Manager. Database Manager expense was double the budgeted amount due to the impact of transitioning to the Salesforce system. With regards to the budget line item for "Attending con-ferences with Quaker values," one Friend attended a Participating in God's Power retreat with $400 of sup-port from LEYM.

The General Fund actually increased in value over the course of the year despite the fact that income was less than the sum of expenditures and transfers out. This increase was due to dividend income and the change in the value of LEYM's portfolio of investments held by Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC).

Several of LEYM's other funds had activity this year, too, including:

- The Annual Meeting Fund's activity represents the virtual Annual Sessions held in July 2020.
- The Travel Fund's one use this year was in support of an FWCC representative for calls made.
- The Youth Activities Fund's activity represents some income from FFC, deferral of a retreat facility

down-payment until fall 2021, and support for one young Friend to attend Friends Music Camp

- The Quaker College & Service Scholarship Fund's activity represents only an addition of funds, as there were no scholarships requested or awarded for the 2020-2021 academic year
- The Spiritual Formation Fund's activity represents an honorarium paid for a retreat leader and another deferral of a retreat facility down-payment until fall 2021

All of the funds show a year-end balance that is within or above the acceptable range for each fund, with the exception of the Annual Meeting Fund. However, voluntary contributions in summer of 2020 raised the An-nual Meeting fund out of its deficit status.

The General Fund has a year-end balance that is significantly above the suggested ceiling; this fact plays into budgetary recommendations for the 2021-2022 fiscal year that Finance Committee is presenting at these An-nual Sessions.

LEYM's treasury at year end is $95,403, of which $33,962 is held on our behalf by Citizens National Bank of Bluffton, OH. The rest is held by FFC.

All FFC dollars are invested in the Quaker Growth & Income Fund, which is a change from last year. FFC has made the Quaker Growth & Income Fund fossil-fuel free and closed our former investment, the Quaker Green Fund, effective February, 2021.

Over the twelve months ended June 30, the FFC investments returned approximately 4% in dividends and ex-perienced an additional 29% increase in market value. These are the drivers behind the $15K increase in LEYM's total cash balance from $80K to $95K.

Treasurer's Report, page 1

LEYM General Fund Income As of 6/30/2021

For the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2021)

Contribution From	Amount	Deposit Date
Akron Monthly Meeting	250	4/14/2021
Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting	3,630	1/23/2021
Athens Monthly Meeting	2,100	11/14/2020
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	360	11/10/2020
Broadmead Monthly Meeting	1,500	2/8/2021
Cleveland Monthly Meeting	1,230	2/19/2021
Delaware Monthly Meeting	60	4/14/2021
Detroit Monthly Meeting	660	2/1/2021
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting	510	1/9/2021
Granville Monthly Meeting	840	12/21/2020
Holland Monthly Meeting	200	1/12/2021
Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting	840	1/19/2021
Kent Monthly Meeting	595	11/6/2020
Mid-Ohio Valley Monthly Meeting	100	1/23/2021
North Columbus Monthly Meeting	1,050	10/8/2020
Oberlin Monthly Meeting	1,000	2/3/21 & 5/31/21
Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting	3,450	5/15/21 & 7/12/21
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting	2,460	10/29/2020
Wooster Monthly Meeting	525	12/23/2020
Contributing MM or WG subtotal	21,360	
Individuals	100	
Total Cash Contribution Income	**21,460**	
In-Kind Donations	-	
Total Contribution Income	**21,460**	

Treasurer's Report, page 2

Treasurer's Report, page 3

Treasurer's Report, page 4

The report was accepted.

YM2021-16 Finance Committee Report

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar)

Joann called people's attention to changes embedded in the proposed budget. The Web Manager and Database Manager's compensation has been increased by $5/hour. Administrative expenses remove a $2500 item for the one-time purchase of Salesforce and a $275 increase for AirTable Pro. Committee budgets have been adjusted as re-quested. Organizational contributions have been increased to reflect cost of doing business. Transfers have been set to permit funds to reach their established ceilings, and to allow the Scholarship Fund to accumulate to $3000 this year. We recommend that this year's per-person contribution from Monthly Meetings be set at $25 (down from $30 last year), since the General Fund balance is above its recommended ceiling. We will use a mileage reimbursement rate of $0.16/mile.

Individuals are encouraged to consider making a contribution to the Detroit Meetinghouse project. Detroit has a fundraising page set up already through Friends Fiduciary. Friends are encouraged to spread the word to people who were not present today.

Friends are also encouraged to spread the word about and encourage applicants for the college scholarship fund.

Proposed changes to the budget would reduce the General Fund and allow us to meet our expenses without stockpiling funds. Do we want to assume that the stock market will remain stable enough to safely reduce our income?

This budget will be brought forward again for possible approval.

The report was accepted.

Meeting for Business closed with a short period of worship, ending at 12:30 p.m.

2021 Third Session: Friday, 7-30-21

Minutes and Reports

This session was held via Zoom to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

YM2021-17 Meeting settled into expectant worship at 11 a.m

Out of open worship, the Assistant Clerk (Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh) read aloud the epistle from New Zealand Yearly Meeting, 2021.

YM2021-18 2021-22 Budget

Tom Kangas (N. Columbus) and Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) The budget was presented for a second reading.

A Friend raised the philosophical question of whether LEYM wants to keep its General Fund balance stable by raising and lowering annual contributions (in inverse relationship with our investment income), as this budget does. The downside of this approach is that, during an economic downturn, Monthly Meetings would have to be asked to increase their contributions. An alternative would be to keep Meeting contributions stable and treat the variable investment income as a source of unearned wealth, which should be put back into circulation in our economy – possibly as donations or reparations or (in an unusual year like this one) by enabling us to gift more to Detroit Meeting's building campaign. The Finance Committee will take this question into consultation with the Executive Committee as it formulates next year's budget.

Finance Committee also plans to revisit the question of the most appropriate mileage reimbursement rate. The budget was approved. See next page.

YM2021-19 Publications & Archives Committee

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) All issues and publications were completed this year, but the continuing coronavirus pandemic precipitated some changes in how we distributed them.

For the first two issues of the LEYM Bulletin (fall and winter) and the Annual Records, we printed about 70% of the usual number of paper copies. Many people are already accustomed to reading the Bulletin in electronic format, and this year, for the first time, we also made the Annual Records volume available electronically to people who requested it. By the time of the spring issue of the Bulletin, many Meetings were beginning to meet again in person, so we returned to printing the usual number. The lower number printed, both for the Bulletin and the Annual Records, meant lower printing costs this year.

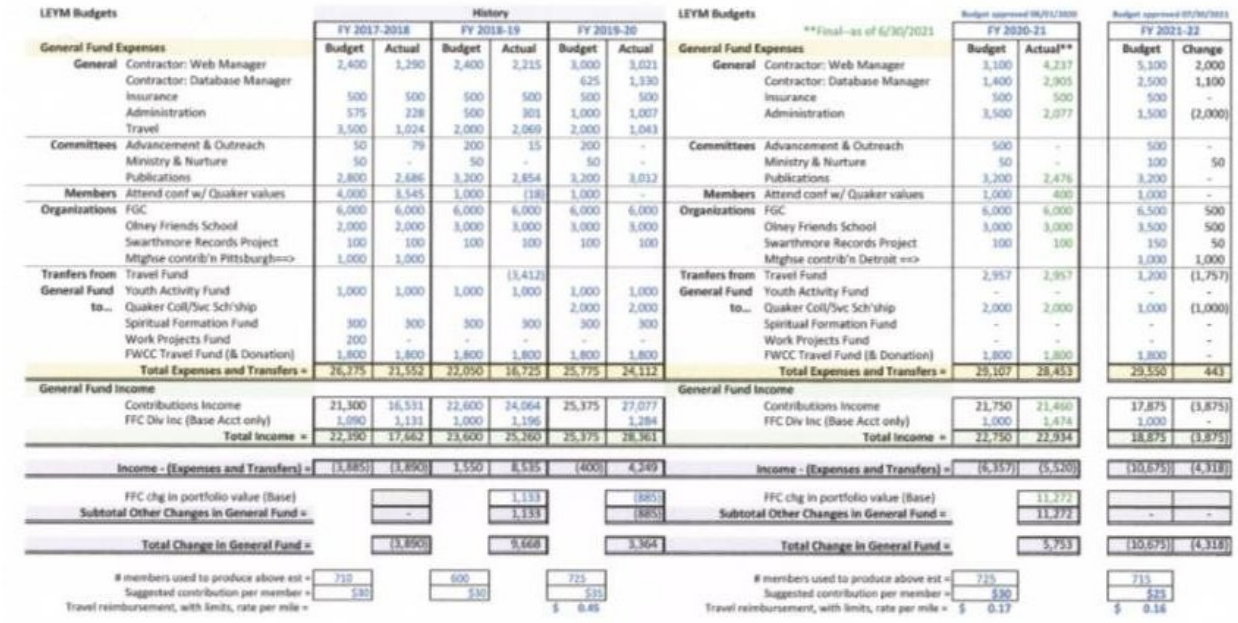
Although we mailed fewer paper copies, mailing costs rose, so the over-all cost stayed almost the same. We saved a little by doing only one mailing with copies of all the publications for the year to institutions and libraries, rather than our usual practice of mailing each item individually as it is published. Going forward:

** Asking for input: We cut back on the number of paper copies of the Annual Records this year since we couldn't distribute through meetinghouses, and for the first time we sent .pdf files of the volume to those who wanted it that way, mailing individual copies of the paper volume to all who preferred that. We can easily make .pdf copies available again this year, but believe it might be a mistake to cut back too far on paper copies. We would love to hear from you if you have an opinion or advice on this question.

**Inviting contributions: We always welcome material for the Bulletin, whether pertaining directly to the work of the Yearly Meeting or describing activities of a Monthly Meeting or Worship Group, or essays, poems, and art by individuals reflecting their spiritual experiences. Materials for the fall Bulletin should be sent to by September 15 to <peggydaub@hotmail.com>.

** Annual Records: We are happy to announce that Elise Yoder of Pittsburgh Meeting will edit the Annual Records this year.

Approved Budget for 2021–22



LEYM Budgets		History						LEYM Budgets		**Final--as of 6/30/2021	FY 2020-21		FY 2021-22	
		FY 2017-2018		FY 2018-19		FY 2019-20								
General Fund Expenses		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	General Fund Expenses			Budget	Actual**	Budget	Change
General	Contractor: Web Manager	2,400	1,290	2,400	2,215	3,000	3,021	General	Contractor: Web Manager		3,100	4,237	5,100	2,000
	Contractor: Database Manager					625	1,330		Contractor: Database Manager		1,400	2,905	2,500	1,100
	Insurance	500	500	500	500	500	500		Insurance		500	500	500	-
	Administration	575	228	500	301	1,000	1,007		Administration		3,500	2,077	1,500	(2,000)
	Travel	3,500	1,024	2,000	2,069	2,000	1,043							
Committees	Advancement & Outreach	50	79	200	15	200	-	Committees	Advancement & Outreach		500	-	500	-
	Ministry & Nurture	50	-	50	-	50	-		Ministry & Nurture		50	-	100	50
	Publications	2,800	2,686	3,200	2,854	3,200	3,012		Publications		3,200	2,476	3,200	-
Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	4,000	3,545	1,000	(18)	1,000	-	Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values		1,000	400	1,000	-
Organizations	FGC	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	Organizations	FGC		6,000	6,000	6,500	500
	Olney Friends School	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000		Olney Friends School		3,000	3,000	3,500	500
	Swarthmore Records Project	100	100	100	100	100	100		Swarthmore Records Project		100	100	150	50
	Mtghse contrib'n Pittsburgh==>	1,000	1,000						Mtghse contrib'n Detroit ==>				1,000	1,000
Tranfers from	Travel Fund				(3,412)			Tranfers from	Travel Fund		2,957	2,957	1,200	(1,757)
General Fund	Youth Activity Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	General Fund	Youth Activity Fund		-	-	-	-
to...	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship					2,000	2,000	to...	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship		2,000	2,000	1,000	(1,000)
	Spiritual Formation Fund	300	300	300	300	300	300		Spiritual Formation Fund		-	-	-	-
	Work Projects Fund	200	-	-	-	-	-		Work Projects Fund		-	-	-	-
	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800		FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)		1,800	1,800	1,800	-
	Total Expenses and Transfers =	26,275	21,552	22,050	16,725	25,775	24,112		Total Expenses and Transfers =		29,107	28,453	29,550	443
General Fund Income								General Fund Income						
	Contributions Income	21,300	16,531	22,600	24,064	25,375	27,077		Contributions Income		21,750	21,460	17,875	(3,875)
	FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	1,090	1,131	1,000	1,196		1,284		FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)		1,000	1,474	1,000	-
	Total Income =	22,390	17,662	23,600	25,260	25,375	28,361		Total Income =		22,750	22,934	18,875	(3,875)
	Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(3,885)	(3,890)	1,550	8,535	(400)	4,249		Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =		(6,357)	(5,520)	(10,675)	(4,318)
	FFC chg in portfolio value (Base)				1,133		(885)		FFC chg in portfolio value (Base)			11,272		
	Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =		-		1,133		(885)		Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =			11,272	-	-
	Total Change in General Fund =		(3,890)		9,668		3,364		Total Change in General Fund =			5,753	(10,675)	(4,318)
	# members used to produce above est =	710		600		725			# members used to produce above est =		725		715	
	Suggested contribution per member =	$30		$30		$35			Suggested contribution per member =		$30		$25	
	Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =					$ 0.45			Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =		$ 0.17		$ 0.16	

YM2021-20 Advancement & Outreach – Ellen Barnes (Birmingham)

Ellen Barnes presented a social media ad with active links to introduce people to Quakerism; Friends offered some feedback and suggestions. Friends are invited to send more suggestions to Ellen. [See A&O report under Executive Committee Minutes from meeting on April 2.]

YM2021-21 Arrangements & Site Committee

Considerations for next year – Jo Posti (Clerk, Pittsburgh)

We are hopeful that we can meet in person or in a hybrid capacity next year.

Holding Annual Sessions in Bluffton presents a challenge to participation for our Friends from the Easternmost meetings.

At this time, Bluffton cannot commit to hosting next year. We need to be aware that Bluffton is a very cost-effective option.

In the past, Annual Sessions locations alternated. Some host locations prefer a consistent, yearly commitment; Bluffton may be among them

One suggestion involved hosting in-person sessions at several locations and linking those locations digitally.

The needs of children and youth need to be carefully considered, as they value their time together and enjoy location-specific traditions.

Decisions will need to be made by the fall Executive Session.

Friends who have some expertise with hybrid meetings are asked to consider if they are led to serve on Adult & Family Program Committee or the Arrangements & Site Committee. Friends are also asked to discuss with their home Meetings their preferences and their driving-time requirements to attend.

Meeting ended with silent worship at 12:34 p.m.

2021 Fourth Session: Sunday, 8-1-21

Minutes and Reports

This session was held via Zoom to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

YM2021-22 Meeting settled into expectant worship at 2 p.m

The Assistant Clerk (Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh) read the Baltimore YM Young Adult Friends epistle. The young adults reported success in finding ways to stay connected and to work toward anti-racist goals together, despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. They continue to work toward finding ways to unite the young adults throughout the Yearly Meeting and finding ways to support one another.

YM2021-23 Naming Committee Report – Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor)

Proposed members for Nominating Committee

Name Year of Service End Year

Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) 6 2022

TBD 2022

Rick Adams (North Columbus) 1 2023

Winifred Covintree (Birmingham) 1 2023

Rachel Edwards (Pittsburgh) 1 2024

Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids), Clerk 4 2024

The Naming Committee is in conversation with a couple of people about filling the still vacant position. We th

hope to find someone to fill it before the Executive Committee Meeting on the 7. Friends are encouraged to get in touch if interested in this position or have suggestions of someone to serve. Contact Susan at <susandhartman@gmail.com>, Sally Weave Sommer at <sallyweaversommer @gmail.com>, or Nancy Taylor at <netaylor@comcast.net>.

YM2021-24 Webworker Report – Development of Tech Platform Committee

Bill Warters (Birmingham Meeting) presented a report on his activities for the year.

Bill Warters has been serving as the LEYM Webworker since August 2019, so we are approaching two full years of experience in the current position. Bill replaced the departing Mathilda Navias, who wore many hats in our organization. By design, not all of the tasks formerly managed by Mathilda were taken over by Bill, with some such tasks now being addressed by the Database Manager or by Publications & Archives or the Bulletin Editors. Making sure we have all the bases covered is still sometimes a challenge, but discussions about changes to LEYM's Policy and Procedures are ongoing to help clarify

responsibilities and ensure that essential services and tasks get addressed appropriately.

Technical Milestones in the Past Year are as follows:

- June-July 2020 – Annual Sessions are hosted online via Zoom for the first time.
- August 13, 2020 – LEYM secured our own webserver, renewable annually.
- September-October 2020 – LEYM works with Espenshade Nonprofit Consulting to migrate LEYM statistical database from Access to Salesforce Non-Profit Success Pack, where we have received a complementary 10-seat license offered to nonprofits who get approval.
- September 2020 – New website designed; 10 years of existing content transferred from Wordpress.com hosting to our own server. Ensured that most offerings are mobile device-friendly.
- October 4, 2020 – Official launch of new LEYM.org website (on World Quaker Day).
- November 2020 – First self-hosted LEYM.org email addresses set up (such as leymworker @leym.org) to begin migration away from generic gmail accounts for LEYM role workers.
- November 2020 – "Subscribe to new website posts" feature enabled at LEYM.org.
- December 2020-May 2021 – New Peace, Justice and the Environment Interest Groups series hosted via LEYM Zoom.
- June 2021 – Legacy leymquaker account at Wordpress.com is laid down; Technical Services maintained by Webworker.
- Email Listservs on Electricembers for Committees, Events, Local MMs.
- LEYM Events Calendar.
- Generic Email Addresses for LEYM Positions.
- Website (LEYM.org, self-hosted on our own server since Oct 2020).
- Twitter Account (@LEYMQuakers).
- Salesforce Database Integration with Website (still early days…).
- Online Directory and Map of LEYM Monthly Meetings.
- Announcements and Document Sharing for Committees and MMs.
- Zoom Meetings Hosting (Committees, Workshops, Bible Study, Interest Groups, Called Meetings, Online Worship, Representative Meeting, Annual Business Sessions, etc.).
- Online Airtable Database (Events registration, Annual Sessions coordination).
- Annual Sessions (coordination and hosting of online sessions).

New Website Traffic Statistics Future Directions

Given the ongoing challenges of service coordination and the COVID-19-inspired increased online services experience and expectations among Friends, I propose that we establish some kind of Technical Platform Advisory Committee to provide support and feedback, as LEYM continues to expand and refine the use of our technical tools and member service offerings. Potential committee members might include the Registrar, the Database Manager, the Webworker, and the Clerk or Assistant Clerk, with consultation with the Committee clerks.

We may also want to consider using some of our Salesforce accounts to enable LEYM Committee clerks to have more autonomy and updated information to help them lead their group efforts. Finally, we think more networking and event information-sharing among LEYM Monthly Meeting webmasters would offer benefits worth exploring. We expect to continue to refine our use of the historical data now organized within our Salesforce NPSP account, and to do more integration between our website, Salesforce, and our Airtable database system. We suggest that we continue with our Airtable Pro account beyond immediate use for Annual Sessions due to the expanded feature set, and we ask that Friends interested in exploring the use of Airtable for their own projects please use this referral link from LEYM (https://airtable.com/invite/r/ua1R67rh), as we'll get $10 credit for each new free account someone creates on Airtable using our referral link. This can help offset the ongoing monthly fee for a pro account.

Respectfully submitted July 13, 2021, by Bill Warters. LEYM Worker

The plan to form an ad-hoc technical platform advisory committee as described in the report was approved.

YM2021-25 Database Report – Submitted by Lynda Rose (Athens Meeting)

Eleven of 19 Meetings responded to requests for updated information:

Ann Arbor MMGrand Rapids MMOberlin MM

Athens MMGranville MMPittsburgh MM

Broadmead MMKalamazoo MMWooster MM

Detroit MMNorth Columbus MM

Monthly Meetings that had not responded to requests for updated information (8 of 19):

Akron MMHolland MM

Birmingham MMKent MM

Cleveland MMMid-Ohio Valley MM

Delaware MMRed Cedar MM

We are making progress on updating and correcting information in Salesforce Database. Birmingham, Cleveland, Red Cedar, and Holland Meetings have submitted their data since this report was written.

One of the main questions is if we want to categorize the children and/or teens by age. At this point we are only using broad categories as follows: Member, Attender, Child Member, or Inactive. Salesforce has the capability to identify age if we want to put in an age. This would allow us to pull a report based on age, as for children in a Meeting. The categories listed above (member, attender, child member, or inactive) must be entered manually; if it changes, it must be manually changed. If we identify children by age, the record changes automatically with time. My recommendation is to use January 1 as the month and day, followed by the child's birth year. This would work in Salesforce and avoid using actual birth dates. No other birth dates need to be entered; this is just for the children.

Another question that has come up is how we want to handle inactive contacts. Do we want to delete persons who become inactive, move, or are no longer involved? Or do we hold that information and just categorize them as inactive? There is a separate entry for deceased folks.

To summarize, annual updating of Monthly Meeting Contact information is in progress. Two questions are: 1) Do we want to use birth-year dates to identify children, teens, & young adults? and 2) Do we want to delete people's contact information when they become inactive?

The Ad Hoc Technical Platform Advisory Committee will consider how race can be included in the identifying information in our database. They will be asked to provide a plan to Executive Committee in six months so that changes can be made in a timely manner.

Making changes to the data in Salesforce may require that Monthly Meetings provide different information or provide it in a different format. The Ad Hoc Committee will also be asked to consider how Monthly Meetings are asked to provide data, as well as how those data will be recorded in Salesforce; they will also bring forth recommendations.

The plan to have the Ad Hoc Committee explore the above recommendations was approved.

YM2021-26 Nominating Committee Report

Submitted by Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon

Approved 8-01-2021. Terms begin and end at rise of Annual Sessions.
* = Approved by Executive Committee after Annual Sessions.

ExC = serves on LEYM Executive Committee.

LEYM Officers, Committee Members, & Representatives

Nominating Committee Report, 2021

Officers

Role Name & Meeting Year of Service End Year

Presiding Clerk ExC Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh 2 2024

Assistant Clerk ExC Josephine Posti, Pittsburgh 4 2024

Recording Clerk ExC Kate Enger, Athens 2 2023

Treasurer ExC Tom Kangas, North Columbus 3 2022

Communications and Other Workers

Bulletin Editors Peggy Daub & Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor 5 2023

Annual Records Editor Elise Yoder, Pittsburgh 1 2022

(appointed each year by Publications & Archives Ctee)

Database Manager Lynda Rose, Athens 2 2023

Web Master/Mtg Worker Bill Warters, Birmingham 3 2022

Bookstore Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 18

Committees

Name/Meeting Year of Service End Year

Advancement & Outreach

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens 3 2022
* Joseph Mills, Kalamazoo 1 2024

4 Open Positions, tbd.

This committee lacks a clerk.

Committees (continued):

Name/Meeting Year of Service End Year

Earthcare Currently dormant. Normally 6 members plus interested Friends.

Finance

of Members: 3 Years of Term: 3

Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar Clerk ExC 4 2024

Ellen Barnes, Birmingham 1 2024
* Seth Reichenbach, Unaffiliated 4 2024

Note: Treasurer serves ex officio

High School Teen Retreat Currently dormant.

Normally 3 adults with 3-year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2-year terms

Ministry & Nurture

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each monthly meeting encouraged Years of Term: 3 Lisa Klopfer, Ann Arbor 4 2024

Shelley Kotz, Broadmead Co-Clerk ExC 4 2024

Rebecca Morehouse, Ann Arbor, Co-Clerk ExC 4 2024

Linda Mills, Kalamazoo 3 2022

David Snyder, Oberlin 3 2022

Maryann Concannon, Red Cedar 2 2023

Nominating

of Members: 6 (appointed by YM through Naming Committee)

Years of Term: 3

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 6 2022
* Sheila Johnson, Ann Arbor 1 2022

Rick Adams, North Columbus 1 2023

Winifred Covintree, Birmingham 1 2023

Rachel Edwards, Pittsburgh 1 2024

Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids, Clerk ExC 4 2024

Peace & Justice Currently dormant.

Normally, 6 members plus representatives from Monthly Meetings.

Publications & Archives

of Members: 4 Years of Term: 3

Bob Roehm, North Columbus 5 2024

Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor, Clerk ExC 3 2022

Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh 3 2022

George Hebben, Kalamazoo 2 2023

Note: Web Master and Bulletin Editors serve ex officio.

Committees (continued):

Name/Meeting Year of Service End Year

Yearly Meeting Planning:

Adult & Family Program

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Aran Reinhart, Broadmead 5 2022

Greg Mott, Broadmead 3 2022

4 Open positions, tbd.

This committee lacks a clerk.

Arrangements & Site

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Jon Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk ExC 18 2024

John Templin, Broadmead 12 2022

Bill Warters, Birmingham 4 2022

Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead 7 2022

Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead 6 2022

Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead, Registrar 6 2022

Youth & Children's Program

of Members: 12 Years of Term: 2

Christa White, Athens, Clerk ExC 3 2024

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham

Jonah Brownfain, Birmingham

Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar

Alfred Clapp III, Athens

Peter Crowley, Cleveland

Noah Molina, Athens

Diane Mott, Broadmead

Jenn Seif, Red Cedar

2 open positions, tbd.

This committee lacks an assistant clerk.

Diane Mott, Broadmead Fall retreat clerk

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham Fall retreat assistant

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

Organization Name & Meeting Year of Service End Year

AFSC Corp Bill Warters, Birmingham 4 2024

AFSC Corp Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead 3 2022

AFSC Corp Paul Helbling, Broadmead 3 2022

1 open position, tbd.

FCNL Gen Ctee John Howell, Athens 6 2022

FCNL Gen Ctee John Deikis, Ann Arbor 2 2023

2 open positions, tbd

Note: In the slate approved by the Meeting on August 1, David Snyder (Oberlin) was listed as a continuing Representative to FCNL. Nominating Committee subsequently realized that David's term expired at rise of Annual Sessions.

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

Organization Name & Meeting Year of Service End Year

FGC Central Ctee

3 open positions, tbd.

(LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee)

FWCC Sam Milford, Pittsburgh 6 2022

FWCC Jo Posti, Pittsburgh 2 2023

FWCC Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 1 2024

FWCC Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon 1 2024

FLGBTQC Nancy Reeves, Cleveland 7 2022

Olney Friends School Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 4 2022

Q Earthcare Witness Jonah Brownfain, Birmingham 2 2022

Nominating Committee plans to continue working on filling open positions. Assistance from Monthly Meeting Clerks would be much appreciated.

Report Approved.

YM2021-27 Deceased Friends – Jo Posti, Clerk (Pittsburgh)

Memorial minutes are available on the LEYM website (leym.org); see also pp. xxx-xxx in these Annual Records.

A Friend requested that the section "Members Gained and Lost" in this year's Annual Records include relevant information from last year, when this column was omitted owing to lack of data.

YM2021-28 Spiritual Formation Retreat

An invitation to a forthcoming Spiritual Formation Retreat will be sent to YM members by e-mail.

YM2021-29 Announcement of the Annual Query for 2021 – Becky Morehouse (Ann…

Announcement of the Annual Query for 2021 – Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) reported for the Ministry & Nurture Committee (comprised of Shelley Kotz & Rebecca Morehouse, Co-clerks, Lisa Klopfer, Linda Mills, David Snyder, and Maryann Concannon, and with active participation from Flo Friender, Meeting Rep from Kalamazoo.)

The Annual Query this year comes from a careful reading of the State of the Meeting reports, along with attentive listening to the interests and concerns of Friends in various gatherings within LEYM.

We are excited about the growing number of young adults who are coming to our Monthly Meetings with a hunger for more connection to spirit and an eagerness to put faith into action. Many aging Friends are wishing to step away from long-held responsibilities, while also sharing their own faith journeys with others seeking a life grounded in a living presence.

In order to create space for all ages and all experience levels to learn where each is in this moment in time, we offer these two queries. One asks us to respond as individuals; the other asks us to respond as a collective Meeting.

In what ways do I experience a sense of spirit in my life?

What is the role of the Meeting in nourishing depth of spirit among us?

The Query will be sent to LEYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups for consideration, with a written response to be sent to M&N by January 15, 2022.

YM2021-30 The Children and Youth epistle was provided by Jonah Brownfain (Birmingham)

I enjoyed playing Minecraft alone.

This year.

Friends expressed gratitude for Jonah's participation and his epistle.

YM2021-31 The Epistle was shared by Asst

Clerk Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh):

To Friends Everywhere:

We greet you from our homes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan, where we have gathered virtually for a second year. We are palpably aware of the skills, time, and love of Friends with gifts in web-based organization and facilitation who make this kind of gathering possible, as well as the foibles of individual internet connections and interfaces.

Our theme this year, "Healing through Truth," was woven throughout our program. Our Bible study leader opened up texts of terror, shame, and oppression that moved us to consider the wrongs of our current societal environment and reminded us that seeking alignment with Truth is both healing and transformative. Afternoon workshops encouraged us to seek truth and healing as individuals and as a corporate body. We considered the disruption our lives might encounter when we ask Spirit to guide us and lifted up the healing available when we take action in the world.

We have been grateful to start and finish our days with worship. Worship sharing times have been rich, deep, and revealing of the complexity and uniqueness of each Friend. The sense of connection, of profound engagement in the themes of healing and truth telling, both individually and communally, was evident throughout. We discerned together how the tender input from others helps us tell the truth and moves us toward healing.

While we met virtually, we recognize that we live and worship on lands that were taken from native peoples including the Potawatomi, Seneca, Cayuga, Shawnee, Odawa, Ojibwe, Delaware, Chippewa,

Ottawa, and many others. Some of the stories of colonization, Christianization, and genocide of native peoples were brought to life by our plenary speaker, Paula Palmer, who led us in a profound and interactive session titled “From Truth to Healing with Native Peoples.” She drew attention to our particular, local history of land acquisition for farming and Quaker management of three of the many Indian boarding schools in our region. Paula promised healing for the colonizers as well as the colonized, if we engage in the work before us, and offered a powerful path to health that she received from Indigenous leaders – speak truth, acknowledge the harms done, apologize, forgive, atone, and repair. She encouraged Friends as individuals and collectively in our Meetings to experience the fruits that come from actively engaging with this traumatizing aspect of our past; a release of guilt, new relationships, and joy-filled alignment with Spirit.

LEYM registrant data holds up a mirror to racial, gender, ethnic, and age imbalances that naturally influence our culture. We recognize our lack of diversity and seek to wrestle with our racism and other oppressive habits, traditions, and practices that separate us from those who seem different. How can we continually interrogate our norms, leaving room for and supporting new experiments and openings? We are encouraged to deepen our friendships across Monthly Meetings, by sharing our ideas, experiences, longings, and stories. We are inspired by the possibility of transformation through our encounter of Truth as we hold ourselves accountable to stay open to continuing revelation.

While web conferencing continues to provide desirable accessibility to many and reduced carbon impacts from travel, we notice and grieve the erosion of personal connection across our community that arises from enforced physical distance. It’s hard to be present in our life together when duties at home are calling us to walk the dog, go to the grocery store, or even attend to work email. Breakout groups offer a welcomed space for deeper sharing, but there are not the impromptu chances to catch up with Friends when we meet in person, share meals, and immerse ourselves in community. We had no children’s program this year, as our young Friends are not interested in web-based interaction. We feel a huge loss of the vitality and perspective of children and young families. We also notice reduced collective energy of Spirit in our business sessions, partly evidenced by much lower participation. On screen it is harder to know when we are in unity.

Like other Yearly Meetings, we are a unique set of people with unique gifts to leverage towards the world’s healing. We recognize that some of us are impatient for change, while others of us need time to process information and experiences, especially the difficult issues of white colonialists’ genocide of indigenous peoples, our own racism, and the on-going genocide of the people of Palestine. We encourage Friends to start from the premise that we are all children of God. From there we seek a personal relationship with Truth where we can align our beliefs with our actions. We leave our LEYM gathering, virtual though it was, a bit more refreshed, steeped in the joy of seeing familiar faces on screen, and blessed with new information and new and renewed leadings of the Spirit.

Jo Posti, Presiding Clerk

Carolyn Lejuste, Susan Loucks, Susan Towner-Larsen, Epistle Committee

Friends thanked the Epistle Committee members for their work.

Submitted by Jo Posti, Presiding Clerk

Susan Loucks, Assistant Clerk

Kate Enger, Recording Clerk

Representative Meeting
April 2, 2022
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Clerks' table: Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), clerk; Jo Posti (Pittsburgh), assistant clerk; Kate Enger (Athens), recording clerk.

Roll call:

Akron 1 Granville 1

Ann Arbor 6 Kalamazoo 5

Athens 3 North Columbus 3

Birmingham 4 Oberlin 2

Broadmead 7 Pittsburgh 3

Detroit 3 Red Cedar 2

Erie WG 1 Wooster 3

Grand Rapids 3 Total 47

9:30 Worship and Worship Sharing

10:00 Gathering

RM2022-01 Epistle from Northern Yearly Meeting

The assistant clerk, Jo Posti, read an epistle from Northern Yearly Meeting's 2021 Annual Sessions. Our Northern Friends shared their anti-racist efforts. Despite the challenges of gathering virtually, they enjoyed activities to build relationships, support spiritual growth, and celebrate the children in their meeting.

RM2022-02 Ministry & Nurture Committee

Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) and Shelley Kotz (Broadmead) reported. The committee has been listening for Spirit to guide them in nurturing the monthly meetings and helping them discern the roles that monthly meetings can take in the Yearly Meeting as a whole. Conflict within meetings has been an area in which the committee has offered support and care to monthly meetings. Resources for managing conflict and information about traveling ministry are available on the LEYM website. Clerks' Chats have led to clarity on how to support and serve the Yearly Meeting and the monthly meetings. The full written report is attached.

RM2022-03 Ad Hoc Technology Committee and Website

Bill Warters (Birmingham) reported on the work and his own efforts to make helpful technology available for Friends in the Yearly Meeting. He walked us through changes and additions to the website. Monthly meetings have been connecting through Clerks' Chats, spiritual retreats, and interest groups. A Technology Advisory Committee has been formed to help guide the YM in developing and utilizing strategies to organize data and to stay connected. Plans for the virtual 2022 Annual Meeting are progressing well. Bill suggests starting a Geek Chat to share notes on how we can better connect through technology. We are also looking at how to use technology to reach out to people interested in attending meetings for worship. Thank you to Bill for creating a clear, professional and helpful website for our Yearly Meeting. Bill's full slideshow and information will be distributed. The slides can be accessed at this link:

https://leym.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/LEYMRepMeetingTechUpdateSlides-web.pdf

RM2022-04 Interest Groups for Earthcare and Peace & Justice

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported on the activity of interest groups focused on earthcare and peace &

justice. Last year, Friends carried out a year-long pilot program to experiment with participation in interest groups in place of the traditional committees. The results of this experiment suggest that Friends appreciated and engaged with the interest groups, so they have continued to meet. The interest groups have welcomed speakers to help increase our understanding and mobilize actions that we can take to address these important issues. Friends interested in participating in the interest groups can find information on the LEYM website. Presently, volunteers are organizing interest groups. If we want them to continue, we need to address a plan for who will take on the responsibility of organizing one or both interest groups.

RM2022-05 Ad Hoc Venue Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) presented an update on the work of the Ad Hoc Venue Committee, charged with exploring options for our 2023 Annual Meeting. They have been incorporating the work of the Ad Hoc Visioning Committee and collaborating with other committees to make our Annual Meeting faithful to Quaker practice, open to Friends from other traditions, community-building, and fun. The committee has been identifying potential obstacles and challenges as well as flexible ways to preserve valued traditions while growing and enhancing the experience of our Annual Meeting. Intergenerational activities have been a focus, along with utilizing online and hybrid options. The committee members are Sally Weaver Sommer, Jon Sommer (Broadmead), Diane Mott (Broadmead), Bill Warters (Birmingham), Briana Charlot (Red Cedar), and Sam Milford (Pittsburgh).

Committee members have made a list of potential sites and have visited the one that seemed the most promising: Ashland University. The visit was promising enough that they plan to return to explore it further. Jon and Sally have more detailed information on Ashland for Friends to review if they wish.

The committee is also looking at changing the date to the third weekend in June. Business sessions may be distributed throughout the year rather than concentrated at Annual Meeting.

Future themes could be selected to encourage activities that Friends could focus on during the Annual Meeting, such as the development of elements of our own Faith and Practice.

RM2022-06 Follow Up to work of Ad Hoc Visioning Committee

Susan Loucks, presiding clerk, presented an update on our application of the ideas that came out of the Visioning Committee. They created a suggested plan for how committees can take responsibility for putting new ideas into practice. Discussion also included possible additions to YM staff, as well as making it easier for Friends to join with a committee for a shorter time, or to share their time and talents by working on specific tasks.

RM2022-07 Adult & Family Program Committee

Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) shared an update from the Adult & Family Program Committee. They are carefully integrating the work of the Visioning Committee. The plenary speaker at Annual Meeting will be Christian Acemah, the Head of Olney Friends School, and the theme will be “Many Roots, One Tree.” Workshop planning is progressing well, and the committee is seeking another workshop, ideally on the topic of the future of Quakerism. The Fun Night may be different this year, and the committee is open to ideas about how Friends can sing, play, or otherwise enjoy fellowship. Intergenerational activities that allow us to get to know one another better will be further explored, and Friends are encouraged to send ideas. The committee is also looking at how we can create a symbolic artwork together that shows our monthly meetings as many roots that unite in one tree. Friends are encouraged to send ideas for that activity to the committee, as well as ideas for welcoming newcomers (susandhartman@gmail.com).

RM2022-08 Teens & Children Programming

Christa White (Athens) and Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) presented plans for the teens and children programming for the Annual Meeting this year. There will be programming, including access to moderated times on a Minecraft server. They are reaching out to monthly meetings to find out which young Friends plan to attend and what they would be interesting in doing together. Please pass the word and encourage youth to participate. If you are willing to help with any of the activities, please contact Christa and Ellerie (christawhite1016@gmail.com, ellerieb@gmail.com).

RM2022-09 Breakout Sessions

Friends each chose to attend two breakout sessions about FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation), Olney Friends School, AFSC (American Friends Service Committee), and FWCC (Friends World Committee for Consultation). In each session, Friends knowledgeable about the organization presented information and answered questions. Reports from each organization will be appended.

RM2022-10 Finance Committee

Tom Kangas (North Columbus), treasurer, and Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) presented a financial report and provided information on next year's budget as it currently stands. It will be updated, presented, and discussed again during Annual Sessions. The full report is appended. The budget is intentionally designed to run at a deficit in order to bring our surplus down to the recommended ceiling level.

The Finance Committee recommends that we financially support the Detroit Monthly Meeting as they build a new meetinghouse and provide a valued, continued presence in Detroit. We were reminded to think in terms of equity, rather than equality.

The scholarship for young Friends who wish to attend a Quaker school may be given to a young Friend who may attend Earlham. The committee awaits his decision about whether he will attend Earlham.

Friends with questions, ideas, or requests should contact Tom (poika2@hotmail.com) or Joann (jneuroth@gmail.com).

RM2022-11 Annual Review of Policies and Procedures

The clerk brought up the question about who should shoulder the responsibility for annual review of Policies and Procedures for any inconsistencies. Executive Committee has decided Publications & Archives Committee would take on this review.

RM2022-12 Minutes of Concern

The clerk presented a refresher regarding our current procedures for how minutes of concern come to Annual Sessions. Minutes of individual or corporate concern can come through a monthly meeting to the clerk or to a committee within the Yearly Meeting. Advance information will ideally be made available to Friends, so we have complete information and are prepared to focus on discernment rather than introducing ideas for the first time during the Annual Sessions. If a monthly meeting has an issue it wishes to discuss with other meetings, it is encouraged to reach out to Bill Warters (digital communications facilitator) or our clerk. (See LEYM Policies and Procedures, II. D, "Bringing Leadings and Concerns to the Yearly Meeting").

RM2022-13 Creating a Faith and Practice

The clerk initiated a discussion of beginning a process that could lead to the creation of a Faith and Practice. We broke into small groups and were asked to consider together: "What statement of shared belief or practice would best serve us and our witness in our region? What would be a right-sized piece for this year? What other preparation or engagement would we need from our meetings before July to be ready to take this on together?"

These questions follow a recommendation made by the Visioning Committee. Small group participants discussed this question briefly. When we returned to the larger group, Friends expressed some confusion, concern about the term "statement of shared belief," and a desire for more time to consider this process.

Appended Reports

Report from LEYM Ministry & Nurture (Submitted by Becky Morehouse and Shelley Kotz) Ministry & Nurture Committee currently has 5 members and 1 faithful Meeting representative who have been meeting monthly via Zoom.

The opportunity to meet virtually has made it possible to get know each other well and we look forward to our fruitful time together. Meeting more frequently than was possible when Friends had to travel, has enabled us to better carry through on responsibilities and new initiatives.

We have continued offering Clerks' Chats every other month with an attendance of 9–12. Many clerks join us every time along with 2–3 new Friends. Our guest hosts are experienced clerks who ensure that each participant's concerns and questions are heard and addressed. Hosts and fellow M&N members offer suggestions of resources beyond the valuable sharing of all the clerks there. Our next Clerks' Chat is on

Saturday, April 9, from 10:00–11:30 AM. We are grateful for Bill Warters' assistance in sending out invitations and reminders, and in setting up the Zoom platform.

We have compiled a summary of the 2021 annual Query responses (see separate attachment) and were gratified to know how strongly the 2 questions this year affected many Monthly Meetings. Responses indicated some deep sharing of how Spirit is experienced by individuals and what the Meeting's role is in nourishing that.

We are adding items to the resources page of the LEYM website for use by individuals and Monthly Meetings and we encourage Friends to make use of them.

M&N Committee Report on 2021 Query Responses

Queries: In what ways do I experience a sense of spirit in my life? What is the role of the meeting in nourishing depth of spirit among us?

Despite the constraints of the ongoing pandemic and difficulty with gathering in person for discussions about the queries, meetings responded strongly to the queries. All but one meeting and a few of the worship groups sent responses.

The first query, "In what ways do I experience a sense of spirit in my life?"in particular seemed to resonate with Friends drawing almost as many and varied responses as there are Friends. One meeting said that, "It was difficult to find dominant themes this year because each person's reflections were heartfelt and unique."

However, there are some general statements that can be made. Many reported members finding spirit in nature, in beauty in all its ways of being expressed, and in connection and love. The sense of spirit is interestingly, but often, found in troubled times when our needs and awareness are heightened. Many found spirit in social justice work, helping others, or being part of a unified task especially when working with other Meeting members. Other sources given were: creativity, early morning hours, and gratitude practice. Friends acknowledged, although expressed in different ways, that personal or daily practice enhances the likelihood of experiencing the spirit and is needed for preparation for Meeting for worship.

The role of meeting nourishing depth of spirit is especially valued for creating a sacred place and time that provides blessed quiet in a noisy world. One meeting described Meeting for Worship as holy. The shared experience of being with others in a gathered meeting is very important to Friends and enhances the experience of spirit. Many meetings long for intimacy felt by in-person Worship. Quakers are grateful to have had Zoom during this troubled time but long to be together with Friends.

Olney Friends School Report (Submitted by Ellerie Brownfain)

Olney Friends School started the 2021–2022 school year with 26 students enrolled and added three more by the second semester. They have come from Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee, as well as Afghanistan, China, Ethiopia, Germany, Malawi, South Korea, South Africa, Spain, and Uganda. They have also welcomed two new teachers and dorm staff, a cook, and a kitchen manager who has revitalized our farm-to table program. The board of trustees has also expanded from 12 to 14 members!

Olney made it all the way to the return from winter break before the first cases of COVID-19 occurred. They immediately resumed masking, and the half-dozen students who had been exposed to the virus have now recovered or completed their quarantines.

The virtual guest speaker program inspired by the pandemic has continued this year, with diverse alumni and other guests sharing experiences in a variety of fields including politics, psychology, literature, and the biology of vaccines. Future speakers this year include a career counselor and artist who runs a small business, a senior manager at Disney's Theatrical Group, and the senior VP of Animal Care and Conservation at the Columbus Zoo. Alumni, friends of school, and prospective student families are welcome to attend via Zoom: for announcements and invitations, visit www.olneyfriends.org, follow on social media, or sign up for Olney's emails.

Olney's transdisciplinary curriculum continues to develop in agricultural science, introduced in 2019; students have been harvesting crops and processing them for storage and use in the kitchen. In the greenhouse, they are improving the aquaponics setup, pruning lemon and fig trees, and expanding table beds for winter planting. In addition to core subjects, they offer electives that this year include digital

filmmaking, finding your artistic voice, creative writing, instrumental music, and more.

In other news, the battered driveway was repaired last summer, and if you've ever been on that driveway, you know it truly needed that fix. That funding came from the generosity of reunion classes. To go along with the new driveway, the school plans to acquire a newer Prius whenever the used car market settles down. At halfway through the fiscal and academic year, they are also halfway to the $300,000 Annual Fund goal. Olney is grateful to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends for financial, moral, and recruiting support. Please consider donating to Olney to help it reach its goal for the Annual Fund. And, of course, you can find much more about Olney on their website, olneyfriends.org. And as a great treat to us, the Head of the School, Christian Acemah, will be our plenary speaker at this year's Annual Sessions and hold an interest group on Olney . . . answering questions much better than myself and giving a workshop with the aim of Youth attending.

AFSC Liaison Report (Submitted by Bill Warters)

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) promotes a world free of violence, inequality, and oppression. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting nominates up to four representatives to serve 3-year terms on the AFSC Corporation, a Quaker oversight body supporting AFSC's work with representatives from across the Quaker spectrum. Current LEYM representatives, nominated for 3-year terms, include Bill Warters (2019–present), Kathleen Helbling (2020– present) and Paul Helbling (2020–present). We have one open slot for a 3-year term starting in 2023, if an interested Friend wished to serve.

AFSC successfully developed an updated strategic plan for the period of 2020–2030. It was the end result of a broad and deep consultation and provides valuable direction that builds on the historic strengths of the organization while positioning it well for the future. As part of the planning process, a statement of values was developed that resonates with many Friends:

- We respect the equality, worth, and dignity of all people and regard no one as our enemy.
- We seek right relationship with all life on a sustainable Earth.
- We accept that our understanding of truth is incomplete and seek ever deeper insights from lived experience.
- We trust the Spirit to guide discernment of our collective actions.
- We assert the transforming power of love and active nonviolence as a force for justice and reconciliation.

Most recently, AFSC has been exploring a restructuring of their organization, perhaps moving away from an emphasis on the current Regional System, to one more centered around key themes that cut across programs. The stated goal is to enable the organization to be more fully able to enact the strategic plan.

A wide-ranging series of internal consultations has not settled internal and now public controversy over potential reorganization plans. In December of 2021, critical public statements from a number of staff and concerned Friends were published in the Western Friend online site in an article entitled "AFSC Is at a Perilous Crossroads." AFSC leadership team responded with their own post with clarifications and additional information.

AFSC staff member Lucy Duncan, a Friend known to many in LEYM due to her role doing outreach to Quaker Meetings, was one of the authors of the critical piece. She was subsequently put on leave and then released from her job for not following internal communication policies. She is grieving the termination using internal processes provided by AFSC's union and leadership. AFSC is treating the matter as a personnel issue and is not making public comments about it.

The April 8–10 2022 Corporation Business Meeting will address some of the issues noted above and will provide opportunities for input from Yearly Meeting representatives.

FCNL Report (Submitted by John Howell and John Deikis)

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is the Quaker lobby organization in Washington, D.C. Its work is guided by the contents of the booklet, "The World We Seek," which is revised periodically – most recently in 2019. Its work is also guided by input from Friends around the country through its biennial priorities process.

FCNL's lobbying work falls under four general categories.

1) We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.

2) We seek a society with equity and justice for all.

3) We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled. 4) We seek an earth restored.

Recent emphases include the following efforts.

1) When "Doing Something" for Ukraine Means Making Things Worse, by Diana Ohlbaum, March 18, 2022. There are voices in Washington urging direct involvement of the U.S. in the war; leaders need to hear voices urging restraint, as Friends can provide. Other FCNL emphases include repeal of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) and cessation of military support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

2) Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act – passed in the House; failed in the Senate; reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act – passed as part of the omnibus spending bill, it restores tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-natives in tribal lands and increases funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to support tribal climate resilience.

3) Urging Congress to make permanent the important expansions to the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit to address the tragedy of America's children caught in poverty.

4) Lobbied for the bipartisan Infrastructure Innovation and Jobs Act, which became law in November 2021, containing significant funding to remove pollution from the water and soil, take down highways built through minority communities, and expand public transit options. Now urging adoption of the Climate initiatives in the Build Back Better Act, which include funding for air pollution monitoring, grants for green community and workforce development, and tax incentives to expand consumer access to renewable energy.

What previously was called the William Penn House is now part of FCNL and has been renamed, Friends Place on Capitol Hill. With its renovation complete, it has event space and accommodates overnight guests and groups to participate in FCNL's advocacy work in Washington.

In November of last year, a large contingent of Quakers gathered on Zoom for the annual Quaker Public Policy Institute to be trained in FCNL's lobbying approach and to meet with their senators and representatives in more than 200 lobbying "visits" which FCNL had set up.

Spring Lobby Weekend, March 12–15, brought over 400 advocates, mostly young people, to Washington to lobby for immigration reform, specifically a path to citizenship for the undocumented.

Bridget Moix is the new General Secretary of FCNL. In following Diane Randall, Bridget becomes the second woman in this critical leadership role within FCNL.

The spirit and vigor of the FCNL witness comes:

– in part from its Quaker roots – how we, as Quakers, support and guide FCNL's work rising out of our belief that there is that of God in every person and that all creation has worth and dignity – in part from its embrace of inclusion and diversity – with people of color, young people and women playing prominent roles in FCNL's leadership, and

– in part from its engagement of people across the country through its Advocacy Teams program. 126 Advocacy Teams, involving about 1500 people across the nation, establish relationships with their representatives through local contacts supporting Quaker positions on legislative issues. In the LEYM area four teams are at work in Ohio and eight teams in Michigan.

Lobbying is in part the art of the possible, seeking to shape existing legislative proposals in Congress, such as a little more funding here and a little less there, and seeking to shape policies arising out of the Executive Branch. FCNL works within a political system dominated by money. Some of us have been urging FCNL to consider fundamental aspects of our nation's financial system that will have to be addressed in order to achieve a world free of war, a society with equity and justice for all, communities where all persons' potentials may be fulfilled, and an earth restored.

FWCC Report

Many LEYM Friends participated in the March 12, 2022, FWCC Section of the Americas Meeting with

the theme of "Hope & Resilience; Drawing Strength from our Quaker Faith." Members of the Section Executive Committee acted as elders during each session, holding the meeting in the Light. Surprisingly, the one-day meeting (covering 5 time zones) combined many of the elements of a usual 4-day in-person Section Meeting.

We began with interactive meet-and-greet exercises within 3 different small breakout groups to answer a query or prompt. What a pleasure to include the Section staff!

Bolivian Friends led us through Devotions, which included a hymn and Bible reading.

The mid-day Regional connections gave us a chance to meet other Friends from our Lower Great Lakes Region, which includes Central Canada, Lake Erie YM, Ohio YM, and Wilmington YM. We set as a goal to have some kind of 2022 Regional Gathering.

After a quick lunch break, we gathered for meeting for worship for business, during which we heard greetings from worldwide Friends organizations, reports from the Section Clerk, Treasurer, and Finance Committee, as well as plans for Consultations and Intervisitation. We approved a budget and a Nominating Slate. Finally, with great joy, we welcomed the announcement of the March 23–26, 2023, IN-PERSON Section Meeting at Haw River State Park, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Valerie Anderson, a Philadelphia YM social worker and educator, led a Bible study about hope and resilience, particularly viewed from the support of children, using affirmation statements.

Late afternoon blended worship (semi-programmed) highlighted musical talents of Guatemalan Friends and the message of “People who hope, break things” (Luke 5:17–26.) from Mike Huber of Sierra Cascades YM, one of the newest YMs of FWCC.

After a break for a quick evening snack, many Friends finished the day with Fellowship and Reflection in small breakout groups, mirroring the morning’s activities and led by the same talented North Carolina young adult Friends. These intimate groups helped bridge miles and times zones, joining Friends from all over the hemisphere.

From January to March, FWCC also co-sponsored (with Beacon Hill and Salvadoran Friends) 3 monthly bi-lingual "Walking with the Bible” sessions.

FWCC has also been helping to facilitate Meeting for Worship with Ukraine and Moscow.

Friends from North America and Latin America felt joined in feeling hope and resilience as they prepare with other Friends for World Quaker Day, October 2, 2022, with the theme of Becoming the Quakers the World Needs.

Draft Budget for 2022–23

History						LEYM Budgets		**Actual as of 3/23/2022	(prelim budget, not approved)	
FY 2018-19		FY 2019-20		FY 2020-21		Budget approved 07/30/2021	FY 2021-22		FY 2022-23	
Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	General Fund Expenses	Budget	Actual**	Budget	Change
		625	1,330	1,400	2,905	General Contractor: Database Manager	2,500	2,436	2,500	-
2,400	2,215	3,000	3,021	3,100	4,237	Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	5,100	3,500	5,100	-
500	500	500	500	500	500	Insurance	500	597	600	100
500	301	1,000	1,007	3,500	2,077	Administration	1,500	584	1,500	-
2,000	2,069	2,000	1,043			<==Travel				
200	15	200	-	500	-	Committees Advancement & Outreach	500	-	500	-
50	-	50	-	50	-	Ministry & Nurture	100	-	100	-
3,200	2,854	3,200	3,012	3,200	2,476	Publications	3,200	2,167	3,200	-
1,000	(18)	1,000	-	1,000	400	Members Attend conf w/ Quaker values	1,000	-	1,000	-
6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	Organizations FGC	6,500	6,500	6,500	-
3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	Olney Friends School	3,500	3,500	3,500	-
100	100	100	100	100	100	Swarthmore Records Project	150	150	150	-
						Detroit meeting hse contrib'n	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
	(3,412)			2,957	2,957	Tranfers from Travel Fund	1,200	1,200	1,200	-
1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	General Fund Youth Activity Fund	-	-	-	-
		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	to... Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
300	300	300	300	-	-	Spiritual Formation Fund	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	Work Projects Fund	-	-	-	-
1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,800	1,800	1,800	-
22,050	16,725	25,775	24,112	29,107	28,453	**Total Expenses and Transfers =**	29,550	24,433	29,650	100
						General Fund Income				
22,600	24,064	25,375	27,077	21,750	21,460	Contributions Income	17,875	14,480	17,875	-
1,000	1,196		1,284	1,000	1,474	FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	1,000	838	1,000	-
23,600	25,260	25,375	28,361	22,750	22,934	**Total Income =**	18,875	15,318	18,875	-
1,550	8,535	(400)	4,249	(6,357)	(5,520)	**Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =**	(10,675)	(9,115)	(10,775)	(100)
	1,133		(885)		11,272	FFC chg in portfolio value (Base)		1,895		
	1,133		(885)		11,272	**Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =**		1,895	-	-
	9,668		3,364		5,753	**Total Change in General Fund =**		(7,220)	(10,775)	(100)
600		725		725		# members used to produce above estimate =	715		715	
$30		$35		$30		Suggested contribution per member =	$25		$25	
		$ 0.45		$ 0.17		Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =	$ 0.16		$ 0.18	

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LEYM General Fund Income As of 3/23/2022

For the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2022)

Contribution From	Amount	Deposit Date
Akron Monthly Meeting		
Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting	3,075	1/24/2022
Athens Monthly Meeting	1,600	11/23/2021
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	350	11/4/2021
Broadmead Monthly Meeting	1,500	1/27/2022
Cleveland Monthly Meeting		
Delaware Monthly Meeting	75	1/13/2022
Detroit Monthly Meeting	550	2/15/2022
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting	350	1/13/2022
Granville Monthly Meeting	840	10/25/2021
Holland Monthly Meeting	200	2/3/2022
Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting	700	3/10/2022
Kent Monthly Meeting	510	10/29/2021
Mid-Ohio Valley Monthly Meeting	180	1/31/2022
North Columbus Monthly Meeting	750	12/13/2021
Oberlin Monthly Meeting	1,000	1/15/2022
Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting		
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting	2,225	11/18/2021
Wooster Monthly Meeting	375	11/17/2021
Contributing MM or WG subtotal	14,280	
Individuals	200	
Total Cash Contribution Income	**14,480**	
In-Kind Donations	-	
Total Contribution Income	**14,480**	

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LEYM General Fund Expenses - with comparison to Budget

For the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2022)

Account	Actual Expense through 3/23/2022	Budget (annual)	Actual expense as a % of Budget	Variance, budget-to-actual, favorable (unfavorable)	Non-cash, in-kind donations through 3/23/2022	Total Expense through 3/23/2022
Operations						
Contract Worker: Database Manager	2,435.50	2,500	97%	65	-	2,436
Contract Worker: Digital Comm Facil'r	3,500.10	5,100	69%	1,600	-	3,500
Insurance	597.00	500	119%	(97)	-	597
Office Admin (incl. banking costs)	583.92	1,500	39%	916	-	584
Committees						
Advancement & Outreach	-	500	0%	500	-	-
Ministry & Nurture	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Publications	2,166.54	3,200	68%	1,033	-	2,167
Members						
Attend conference w/ Quaker values	-	1,000	0%	1,000	-	-
Organizations						
Friends General Conference	6,500.00	6,500	100%	-	-	6,500
Olney Friends School	3,500.00	3,500	100%	-	-	3,500
Swarthmore records project	150.00	150	100%	-	-	150
Detroit meeting house contribution	1,000.00	1,000	100%	-	-	1,000
Subtotal cash expenditures	20,433	25,550	80%	5,117	-	20,433
Transfers from General Fund to other Funds						
Travel Fund	1,200.00	1,200	100%	-		
Quaker College/Service Scholarshp Fund	1,000.00	1,000	100%	-		
FWCC Travel Fund & Donation	1,800.00	1,800	100%	-		
Subtotal Transfers	4,000.00	4,000		-		
Totals - General Fund Expenses	**24,433.06**	**29,550**	83%	5,117		

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LEYM Summary of Funds Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2021	Friends Fiduciary account activity[1]	Transfers between funds	Cash Income	Cash Expense	Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 3/23/2022	Floor / Ceiling Suggested floor/ceiling amounts for each fund	Notation: cash, in-kind donations, through 3/23/2022	Last activity prior to FY21-22
Funds held in (i) Base account with Friends Fiduciary Corp and (ii) Citizens National Bank checking account										
General Fund[2]	44,463.88	2,733.34	(4,000.00)	14,480.00	(20,433.06)	(7,219.72)	37,244.16	na	30,000	-
Annual Meeting Fund	242.42			1,090.00	(913.41)	176.59	419.01	1,000	3,000	-
Travel Fund	2,807.00		1,200.00	-	(62.00)	1,138.00	3,945.00	2,000	4,000	-
Youth Activities Fund[4]	7,137.16		(496.34)	-	(1,272.00)	(1,768.34)	5,368.82	4,000	8,000	-
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	2,000.00		1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	3,000.00	2,000	4,000	-
HS Teen Retreat Fund	6,892.64					-	6,892.64	3,000	6,000	- FY17-18
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649.00				-	-	1,649.00	na	2,000	- FY19-20
Spiritual Formation Fund	3,876.35		-	1,245.00	(1,077.76)	167.24	4,043.59	500	1,500	-
Consultation Fund	3,143.68					-	3,143.68	500	2,000	- FY11-12
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00					-	3,500.00	na	na	- FY13-14[5]
Work Projects Fund	2,182.39					-	2,182.39	na	2,000	- FY17-18
FWCC Travel Fund	5,339.83		900.00			900.00	6,239.83	na	9,000	-
FWCC Travel Donation	1,800.00		900.00		-	900.00	2,700.00	na	8,000	-
Funds held in separate account with Friends Fiduciary Corp										
Granville Youth Fund[3]	9,880.56	518.49	(160.66)			357.83	10,238.39	na	na	
Funds moved to the Balance Sheet										
Balance Sheet-Prepaid Exp	488.00	-	657.00			657.00	1,145.00	na	na	
TOTAL	95,402.91	3,251.83	-	16,815.00	(23,758.23)	(3,691.40)	91,711.51			

NOTES>
Funds other than the General Fund are managed through accounting and may be subsidized by the corresponding budget lines of the General Fund.
[1] Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC) activity includes dividends and net change portfolio value due to market conditions. See Balance Sheet for detail.
[2] FFC General (Base) Account activity is included here in LEYM's General Fund.
[3] Granville Friends Youth Fund is a separate FFC account. FFC activity shown on this line reflects only that fund's change in portfolio value.
[4] FFC dollars transferred to this line represent dividends paid to the Granville Friends Youth Fund during current fiscal year and credited to YAF.
[5] Established in FY13-14 by a donation toward LEYM's Traveling Ministry Program, this fund has had no activity from inception to date.

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Lake Erie Yearly Meeting – Financial Position

For the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2022)

Location of monetary assets	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2021	Change in balance during the fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 3/23/2022
The Citizens National Bank of Bluffton, OH	33,962.23	(6,782.57)	27,179.66
Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Philadelphia, PA *			
General (Base) Account	51,560.12	2,733.34	54,293.46
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid (and reinvested)		838.00	
• Change in Portfolio Value, + or -		1,895.34	
Granville Youth Fund Account	9,880.56	357.83	10,238.39
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid		160.66	
• Change in Portfolio Value + or -		357.83	
• Dividends disbursed by FFC to LEYM, recorded to Youth Activ Fund		(160.66)	
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	61,440.68	3,091.17	64,531.85
Total monetary assets	**95,402.91**	**(3,691.40)**	**91,711.51**

	Total	% of Beg Bal
Div Pd	999	2%
△Value	2,253	4%
	3,252	5%

Notation: Prepaid Expenses

UCCR deposit for Youth Activities retreat, Sept 2022	388.00	657.00	1,045.00
Weber Ctr deposit for Spiritual Formation retreat, Sep 2022	100.00	-	100.00
	488.00	657.00	1,145.00

* Note> All of the funds with Friends Fiduciary Corporation are invested in FFC's Quaker Growth & Income Fund (QGIF).
The Quaker Growth & Income Fund is a diversified, co-mingled fund with allocations to equities, fixed income and real estate investment trusts (REITs). Its primary objective is to provide stable current income and long-term growth consistent with protecting principal investments against inflation over time. The fund adheres to Friends Fiduciary's Quaker-values investment guidelines and participates in our shareholder advocacy work. It is intended for investors with an investment horizon of five years or longer. The Fund has a standard income distribution policy based on the fund's total return.

Source> friendsfiduciary.org, 12/31/2020

TARGET ALLOCATIONS	*Equity*	*Fixed Income*	*REITS*
International Equity	*26.3%*		
Small and Mid Cap Equity	*18.0%*		
Large Cap Equity	*28.4%*		
Fixed Income (Domestic, Global, Short-Term, plus Cash)		*23.7%*	*3.5%*
	72.7%	*23.7%*	*3.5%*

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LEYM Annual Meeting
July 27 – July 31, 2022
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Kate Enger, Recording Clerk

Opening Session, Wednesday, July 27, 2022

All sessions were held via Zoom to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

YM2022-01 Meeting started with enjoyment of the welcome video shared by digital…

Meeting started with enjoyment of the welcome video shared by digital communications facilitator Bill Warters (Birmingham) and created by Bill Warters and Barbara LeSage (North Columbus).

YM2022-02 Jo Posti (Pittsburgh), assistant clerk, shared an epistle from Wilmington Yearly Meeting

Friends in Wilmington gathered with a focus on compassion in action. Their discussions included how that compassion will inform their relationship to Wilmington College, their support of the young Friends in the Meeting, and the processes for future gatherings with one another. They expressed hope that Friends choose to focus on current healing and future activities rather than feeling bound by past traditions. Wilmington Friends shared their hope that they, and others, will find healing and hope as they strive to match compassion with action.

YM2022-03 Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), presiding clerk, acknowledged the peoples…

Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), presiding clerk, acknowledged the peoples on whose lands we meet. We recognize that we belong to the land rather than the land belonging to us, and respectfully acknowledge the peoples that nurtured these lands before their lives were displaced by colonization and who continue to do so now. Our clerk recommended https://native-land.ca for exploring the first peoples inhabiting land around the globe.

YM2022-04 Susan Loucks welcomed Friends and introduced the theme for this year's sessions

"Many Roots, One Tree."

Susan thanked Friends for choosing to spend time together. She thanked the Program Committee for the work that they did to prepare these sessions, and the ongoing virtuosity of Bill Warters in making these virtual sessions possible.

Both those well-versed in Quakerism and those just getting started are welcome. Likewise, those attending for the first time and those who see this gathering as a homecoming are welcome. We are a community that has an opportunity to discern Spirit's leadings for us and to follow those leadings.

YM2022-05 Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) thanked each participant in the Adult &…

Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) thanked each participant in the Adult & Family Program Committee by name and described the fulfilling nature of their work. She expressed hope that the image of "Many Roots, One Tree" will help us feel grounded and nourished, as a tree is nourished by roots and leaves, along with branching out and bearing fruit.

Our plenary speaker, worship sharing, panel sessions, social gatherings, Bible study, and workshops will support our exploration of this theme.

YM2022-06 Bill Warters presented a report on the demographics of 2022 Annual…

Bill Warters presented a report on the demographics of 2022 Annual Sessions registrants (see below).

We are about 130 strong. We celebrate the diversity in our group, while recognizing that our group tends to be more White, older, and female. 40 people are first-time attenders.

LEYM 2022 Annual Sessions Registration Demographics

138 Total Number of Registrants

44 First Time Attenders

Registration by Monthly Meeting **Registration by State/Province**

Akron MM 1 MI 55

Ann Arbor MM 15 OH 47

Athens MM 3 PA 18

Birmingham MM 9 MA 3

Broadmead MM 14 CA 2

Cleveland MM 5 WV 2

Detroit MM 14 MD, NC, DC, WA, IN, Erie Worship Group 2 MN, GA, TN, Grand Rapids MM 5 NY, Ontario 1

Granville MM 1

Kalamazoo MM 7 **Age Distribution**

Mid-Ohio Valley MM 1 Teen/High School 5

North Columbus MM 7 Young Adult 19-35 9

Oberlin MM 4 Adult 36-60 31

Pittsburgh MM 12 Adult 61+ 93

Red Cedar MM 10

Unaffiliated 2 **Declared Gender Distribution**

Wooster MM 6 Female 77

Male 46

Non-binary 3

Transgender 3

Declared Race/Ethnicity Distribution

White/European 115

Black or African American 9

Hispanic or Latino 1

Other 1

YM2022-07 The clerk called for names of absent and deceased friends

Those deceased included:

Birmingham Meeting: Julie Poll and Margaret Kanost

Oberlin Meeting: Connie Bimber

Athens and Granville Meetings: Joyce Miller

Vaughn Peebles, a frequent past attender from Wabash, Indiana, sends his greetings and holds this LEYM gathering in the Light.

YM2022-08 Visitors and first-time attenders introduced themselves and were…

Visitors and first-time attenders introduced themselves and were welcomed to Annual Sessions. Those who are more familiar with Annual Sessions were encouraged to offer support, as the weekend unfolds.

YM2022-09 Bill Warters and Kate Enger (Athens), recording clerk, called roll by…

Bill Warters and Kate Enger (Athens), recording clerk, called roll by Meeting, and Friends raised virtual hands to indicate which Meeting or Worship Group they attend.

YM2022-10 Story Trees

Some Meetings presented Story Trees that featured photos and historical information about their Meetings. Stories included Friends taking a stand against injustices such as redlining, hunger, and war, Friends learning more about Quaker faith and practice and teaching others (we are not the oatmeal people), and Friends expressing joy and fellowship through sundae Sundays and other events.

The Story Tree gallery can be browsed at your leisure here: https://leym.org/story-tree-gallery/.

Some Friends signed into a different Zoom meeting for worship, while others stayed to enjoy the full presentation of Story Trees.

Second Session: Thursday, July 28, 2022

Minutes and Reports

YM2022-11 Friends started this meeting for worship with attention to business…

Friends started this meeting for worship with attention to business with silent worship at 10:30 a.m. Out of the silence, Jo Posti, assistant clerk, shared an epistle from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of Friends, who met to explore the theme, "Embrace the Healing Power of Community." They considered challenging questions, such as institutionalized racism and the shrinking size of their Meetings, and they explored ways to glimpse the Light, heal, and maintain hope.

YM2022-12 Susan Loucks, presiding clerk, gave some pointers on using our…

Susan Loucks, presiding clerk, gave some pointers on using our virtual format in a manner that respects and supports Quaker process. The clerks' table was introduced: presiding clerk Susan Loucks, assistant clerk Jo Posti, and recording clerk Kate Enger.

YM2022-13 Epistle Committee

Susan Loucks

Susan Towner-Larsen (North Columbus) and Erika Smith (Detroit) have volunteered to work with Jo Posti on the epistle committee. Friends approved.

YM2022-14 Clerk's Report

Susan Loucks

The visioning report led to some processes that have helped Friends consider some new approaches to meeting the needs of the Yearly Meeting, such as clerks' chats, and to start making plans for how to meet for Annual Sessions and whether to change committee sizes and structures.

The Yearly Meeting has been exploring the possibility of creating our own Faith and Practice. An upcoming session this weekend gives Friends an opportunity to begin exploring that task further by specifically addressing our stand on anti-racism.

YM2022-15 Digital Communications Facilitator

Bill Warters (Birmingham)

Bill reported on his work. His attentions have been focused on the considerable task of setting up these online Annual Sessions.

We have the resources to support Friends who may want to do online presentations in the coming year. Interested Friends are encouraged to contact Bill at leymworker@gmail.com.

YM2022-16 Naming Committee

Pamela Moore (Erie WG) presented the Naming Committee report on behalf of herself, Elliott Brannon (Ann Arbor), and Ann Sprague (Detroit).

Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar) has offered to serve on Nominating Committee for one year, then re-assess if she can continue. Approved.

YM2022-17 Nominating Committee, Report No

1. Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids)

Mike presented the preliminary slate for the Nominating Committee. We have quite a number of openings, and Friends are encouraged to consider how they are led to serve. See YM2022-29 for the final report of the *Nominating Committee.*

The Nominating Committee found about 110 positions listed in Policies and Procedures. There are only about 600 Friends listed as members in the Yearly Meeting, which means one of six Friends would need to take on a responsibility in order to fill the whole slate. The Committee has also noted a lack of good fit between stated policies and procedures and our actual working practices. For example, two committees have been happily functioning as interest groups, but those committees have not been formally laid down or re-designed. It may be time to look at our Policies and Procedures document to make sure it serves our purposes effectively.

LEYM Nominating Committee Report: Preliminary, July 2022

The Nominating Committee is pleased to submit the attached slate of nominees for 2022. Our charge is to "discern and secure" Friends to serve as officers, members of standing committees, representatives to other Quaker organizations, visitors to neighboring Yearly Meetings, and two other positions, as specified in Policies & Procedures. However, it hasn't been possible for the Nominating Committee to discern and secure all 108–112 positions defined by P&P for many years. We've noticed a trend over the last decade or so, continuing this year, toward an increasing number of unfilled positions at rise of Annual Sessions. This concerns us.

We can point to several factors that seem to contribute to shortfalls in nominations.

(1) Discernment requires that we know the Friends we nominate. Our best opportunity to get to know Friends, especially those new to us, has always been the four days we've spent together at Annual Meetings. That personal contact has been denied us by the pandemic since 2019. Virtual Annual Meetings just don't provide the insights into Friends' gifts and interests that come from conversation and observation. Such was a crucial and rewarding part of our work before, and we're hopeful that, starting next year, Nominating can do that again.

(2) Securing nominees needs the willing participation of the Friends the discernment process leads us to approach. Recently we've seen three entire committees become dormant. The YM hasn't appointed any visitors to neighboring Meetings for several years. Some of our organizational representative appointments go unfilled annually. Many of our standing committees (including Nominating) are short a Friend or two in most years. This year, for the second time in recent memory, we haven't been able to nominate an assistant clerk going into Annual Sessions. The Nominating Committee can ask, but most of those we ask decline. Most of those who accept have served the YM already, often many times in many capacities, and we're losing these Friends as the YM ages.

(3) Our numbers are declining overall. In our 2021 census, the YM counted 601 adults, meaning that on average we need one out of every six Friends across our 19 constituent MMs and WGs to hold an appointed position, every year. This may be an unrealistic expectation. LEYM's governance seems to have been designed for a bigger Yearly Meeting than we have these days.

Each unfilled appointment represents a small departure from our stated policy. In the aggregate, they suggest to us a certain lack of fit between our policy and our actual practice. We've noticed other evidence of such lack of fit. For example, when the YM declared the Earthcare and Peace & Justice Committees dormant three years ago, it wasn't for lack of interest within the Meeting. On the contrary, plenty of Friends carried concerns for the earth, peace, and justice, then as well as now. What Friends weren't interested in, the former clerks of those committees told us, were all the formalities that come with being a committee: having a clerk, having agendas, making reports, making a commitment to a three-year term, etc. In response to their request, the YM replaced the committees with a non-traditional interest group "scaffolding framework," an arrangement that can't be found in P&P.

Here's another kind of discrepancy between P&P and our actual practice. Three of our committees, Adult & Family Program, Youth & Children, and Arrangements & Site, are described in P&P as subcommittees of a single Yearly Meeting Planning Committee. Yet they don't seem to work together in any way. If coordination is intended, our practice doesn't reflect it.

Here's another. We've noticed that at the beginning of our Annual Meetings, a group of parents and other Friendly adults gets together to plan how they'll keep the kids busy and happy. We call them the Youth & Children Program Committee, but they largely do without those same elements that define a committee that the Friends on the former Earthcare and Peace & Justice Committees objected to. Much the same could be said about the cadre of Friends in the Bluffton area that have handled all the logistical tasks related to in-person meetings on that campus for years, whom we've always called the Arrangements & Site Committee. We may call these committees, and precisely define their structures in P&P, but they look more like coordinated groups of volunteers who work together to provide needed (and much appreciated) services to the YM. Again, with Adult & Family Program, what we have had for the last two years is a couple of regular appointees and some enthusiastic volunteers, not the P&P-specified six-person committee with three pairs of Friends serving overlapping three-year terms – and that will continue for the next year. In fact, few committees match their P&P specs these days.

As we carve out exceptions like these to our stated policies, we tacitly acknowledge that the policies don't actually work in practice. From the Nominating Committee's point of view, it would be better to revise P&P to reflect our practice than to attempt to revise our practice to conform to P&P. We believe the Yearly Meeting has come to the point where a reimagining of our governance would be in good order. We recommend that the presiding clerk appoint an ad hoc committee to consider this question.

In the meantime, the Nominating Committee welcomes Friends interested in the open positions on this preliminary slate to contact us. We also remind Friends that all standing committees except Executive, Finance, and Nominating have meetings open to any interested Friend. In other words, it isn't necessary to be appointed to most committees to take part in their work.

Rick Adams, North Columbus

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham

Wink Covintree, Birmingham

Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids, clerk

Sheila Johnson, Ann Arbor

YM2022-18 Ad Hoc Site Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead)

The ad hoc committee focused on planning where and how we will hold future Annual Sessions. They incorporated the work of the visioning committee and worked in collaboration with the Program Committee, Arrangements & Site Committee, Youth & Children Committee, and the digital communications facilitator. They presented the following recommendations:

1. Focus more on activities that build connections in ways that will complement the business of the Yearly Meeting. Activities will provide opportunities to share Friends' gifts and talents and to have fun and to nourish our spiritual growth. We will seek to nurture interactions between the children and adult Friends, and between our Meeting and other Yearly Meetings.

2. Meet at Ashland University in 2023, which the committee believes meets our needs. That site will require more travel time for some Friends, and less for others, but still provides a somewhat central location. The change will require some adaptations to how we organize our Annual Sessions and an increase in the costs that we will incur. Benefits include a contact person who has been very easy to work with, the opportunity to collaborate with the Ashland Center for Nonviolence, nearby coffee shops, and access to parks and a pool for the children to enjoy.

3. Switch to a meeting date of June 15–18, which returns us to an older tradition for meeting earlier in the summer and will, we hope, mean lower temperatures and fewer other groups on campus.

4. Ask the Finance Committee to look into strategies for managing the additional cost.

5. Hold some business meetings via Zoom and spread them throughout the year, so that less time needs to be dedicated to business at Annual Sessions. The theme for the year would also be carried through the year and would influence activities planned.

6. Offer more intergenerational activities and more interest group activities.

7. Finally, the committee recommends that we retain some hybrid elements, so that Friends who cannot travel to the meeting can still be active participants.

LEYM Ad Hoc Site Committee Report, July 2022

Members: Sam Milford (Pittsburgh), Brianna Charlot (Red Cedar), Bill Warters (Birmingham and LEYM worker), Diane Mott (Broadmead and Youth & Children's Program), Jon Sommer (Broadmead and clerk of Arrangements & Site Committee), Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead and registrar)

Terminology used in this report: This report uses the terms Yearly Meeting, Annual Meeting, and Annual Sessions as defined in LEYM Policies and Procedures:

- Yearly Meeting (capitalized) – Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, the institution (a body of Friends) ● Annual Meeting – Our annual summer gathering of Friends in its entirety, including all activities from registration through checkout
- Annual Sessions – The sessions of meeting for worship with attention to business at Annual Meeting

Committee's charge: To take a proposal for the 2023 Annual Sessions and beyond to the 2022 Annual Sessions.

Background

The committee began its work by reviewing the report from the visioning committee. The following highlights from the report informed our work:

- Annual Meeting is a place for discerning and declaring shared values/ truths. Do we need forums for discussing an LEYM Faith and Practice?
- Annual Meeting should be a place that helps Friends get to know each other's gifts and backstories and special interests.
- Annual Meeting could be a venue for engagement and interaction among Quakers from different branches in our YM sessions or other events.
- We need to create a balance between meetings for business following strict Quaker process and other kinds of activities.
- Annual Meeting should be a place for spiritual growth.
- Annual Meeting should enhance our sense of wholeness within the entire LEYM family through more intergenerational activities.

Building on the report from the visioning committee, we concluded that it is time to rethink the format of our Annual Meeting. We believe that changing the balance during our Annual Meeting between conducting business and building community will contribute to the social and spiritual health of the Yearly Meeting. This would likely result in more time spent building community and a redesign of the ways business meetings and workshops have been a focus of Annual Meeting.

Thus, we articulated the following goals for the Yearly Meeting and the Annual Meetings:

- We will make business decisions using Quaker process.
- We will build connections among Friends from different MMs. ● We will provide opportunities for spiritual/personal growth through workshops, worship sharing, plenaries, and other activities.

● We will provide opportunities to learn about and share the gifts and talents of Friends both at the Annual Meeting and beyond.

● We will create opportunities for Friends to have fun with each other. ● We will encourage engagement between young Friends and older Friends. ● We will provide for children and youth to connect with other Quaker youth and to grow in a nurturing community.

In addition, we considered challenges and obstacles to meeting these goals:

● Resistance to change (though all the change we've gone through recently due to COVID may be reducing this resistance)

● Costs of bringing people together

● Time needed for Quaker process

● Difficulty in identifying and addressing Yearly Meeting concerns and needs ● Traditional practices making business meetings inaccessible and uninviting to some people ● Lack of flexibility in meeting needs of young Friends

● Parallel nature of children/youth and adult programs: no place for intersection ● COVID-related uncertainty

Recommendations

In consideration of all this, we bring the following recommendations to the 2022 Annual Sessions for Yearly Meeting to consider:

1. Hold the 2023 Annual Meeting at Ashland University June 15–18. 2. Request Finance Committee to explore forms of financial subsidies to ensure that our first year back in face-to-face meeting feels affordable.

3. Hold business sessions at multiple times throughout the year, starting with the 2023 Annual Meeting. Request the Executive Committee to set what agenda items are addressed at which meetings for business.

4. Create themes for our Annual Meetings which we can work together on throughout the weekend.

5. Create more intergenerational programming at our Annual Meetings. 6. Continue and perhaps expand programming throughout the year. 7. Include hybrid elements in our Annual Meetings.

Rationale for recommendations

Site for 2023 Annual Meeting: Bluffton University still has not made a decision about hosting outside groups in 2023, which meant the committee needed to explore an alternate site for the future. Committee members carefully considered what we need and want in a site for LEYM Annual Meetings. We investigated three schools that we anticipated might meet our criteria: Oberlin College, Baldwin Wallace University, and Ashland University. We eliminated the first two as options because the prices were inhibitive. Ashland's prices, while higher than Bluffton's prices, were much closer to what we considered doable. Two committee members made a preliminary visit to Ashland University on March 28. They brought back a positive report to the committee, resulting in a visit by the whole committee on June 6. At the end of this visit, the committee made the decision to recommend Ashland as the site for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Ashland is centrally located (a bit farther for Michigan folks and Western Ohio folks, closer for North Central and Eastern Ohio folks, closer for Pennsylvania folks, about the same for Central and Southern Ohio folks, compared to Bluffton). The ambiance of Ashland's campus is not as pleasing as that of Bluffton's campus, and we will not have access to the wide range of rooms and other facilities without extra charge as we had at Bluffton. We saw a number of spaces on campus and several places off campus including parks, a swimming pool, and a bowling alley, that could be used for the Youth & Children's program. The dining service appears to be able to meet our needs more easily than Bluffton's dining service could. The non-air-conditioned dorms are reasonably priced and right next to the building where most of our sessions will be held. The air-conditioned dorm is a bit farther away and quite a bit more expensive. There are a number of reasonably priced motels in Ashland where attenders could stay. Ashland's conference director assured us that the campus is LBGTQ+ friendly. In addition, the Ashland Center for Nonviolence, founded by John Stratton, is eager to work with us.

The committee also started a list of retreat centers located in Ohio. We suggest that this list be considered for subsequent years.

Fees for attendance: The budget for Annual Meeting will be larger in 2023 than it has been in the past. Room and board charges will be higher than we are used to, plus we will now need to pay rental fees for all the meeting rooms we use. We want to ensure that cost of attendance does not deter people from coming to the 2023 Annual Meeting. Thus, we recommend that we consider larger discounts for attendance than we have had in the past. This will mean that the Annual Meeting will need to be subsidized by the General Fund.

Yearly Meeting business sessions: To make room during our Annual Meeting for more time to nurture the LEYM community, the committee recommends holding business sessions on Zoom at various times throughout the year in addition to the business sessions held during Annual Meeting. A schedule would need to be determined as to what business is conducted at what date. Doing this would open up space during the Annual Meeting, allowing for deepening relationships among Monthly Meetings and individuals and nurturing us spiritually. It would also give us time for more fun activities to do together.

Themes for Annual Meetings: We believe our Yearly Meeting could be strengthened by working more closely together during our Annual Meetings. Thus, we envision creating themes for our Annual Meetings that are conducive to ongoing work throughout the weekend. These could be themes related to the creation of an LEYM Faith and Practice, should we decide to move forward with this idea.

Cross-generational interaction: The parallel structure of our adult vs. youth and children programs inhibits interaction among generations. We believe that Yearly Meeting is weakened by this lack of interaction, which will likely result in further decline of Yearly Meeting membership in the future. Therefore, we envision planning more activities during our Annual Meetings in which Yearly Meeting attenders of all ages participate.

Programming throughout the year: We believe that encouraging interaction among members of different monthly meetings throughout the year will help us create a stronger Yearly Meeting community. We would like to see the programming that we have conducted the last couple years continue and perhaps expand.

Hybrid elements of Annual Sessions: We know that there are people who cannot make the trip to an in-person Annual Meeting for a variety of reasons. We now have the technology to include these people in at least some of the activities during Annual Meeting. The plenary and some of the workshops are examples.

For answers to questions and a fuller report on Ashland University, please contact Sally Weaver Sommer at sallyweaversommer@gmail.com.

Meeting closed with silent worship at 12:00 noon.

Third Session: Friday, July 29, 2022

Minutes and Reports

YM2022-19 Out of the expectant silence that began at 10:30, Jo Posti, assistant…

Out of the expectant silence that began at 10:30, Jo Posti, assistant clerk, read an epistle from Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends. Those Friends shared a sense of growth, connection, and development, following years of meeting virtually. They faced losses and changes with faith and trust, while aspiring to remain open to the breath of God and live in divine love.

YM2022-20 Susan Loucks, presiding clerk, read a Memorial Minute for Margaret (Eme) Kanost

Margaret served both in the U.S. and abroad, and was beloved by Friends and a large family. She was a member at Birmingham Monthly Meeting and attended Oberlin Monthly Meeting.

YM2022-21 Ministry & Nurture Committee

Flo Friender (Kalamazoo)

Flo read the query for next year:

“In what ways has our Meeting been affected by the turmoil of the world around us? How might I use my own gifts from Spirit in responding to these new realities?” Monthly Meetings will be asked to respond to this query and send their responses to the Ministry & Nurture Committee, whose members will summarize those responses.

YM2022-22 Spiritual Formation Fall Retreat

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead)

The Spiritual Formation fall retreat will not be held this year. Instead, Spiritual Formation recommends

studying J. Brent Bill's book Imagination and Spirit. Spiritual formation could use more people on the committee, and Friends are encouraged to contact Sally or other members to express interest: sallyweaversommer@gmail.com.

YM2022-23 The clerk invited discussion about the recommendations made by the ad hoc site committee

1. Hold the 2023 Annual Meeting at Ashland University, June 15-18, 2023. Approved.

2. Hold some business sessions at multiple times throughout the year, starting with the 2023 Annual Meeting. Some committee reports, for example, can be handled in these online meetings. We would still seek unity and clearness as a whole body. Executive Committee will continue to explore this idea and bring forth more specific recommendations for possibly implementing this process.

3. The first three of the following recommendations would be handled by the Adult & Family Program Committee, and the fourth responsibility would be shared with other interest groups and committees. Approved.

● Create themes for our Annual Meetings on which we can work together throughout the weekend.

● Create more intergenerational programming at our Annual Meetings. ● Include hybrid elements in our Annual Meetings.

● Continue and perhaps expand programming throughout the year.

YM2022-24 Treasurer's Report

Tom Kangas (North Columbus)

Tom reported that we are in good financial shape overall.

Treasurer's Written Report.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is in good financial health.

General Fund contributions were received from all member Monthly Meetings (MM). MM contributions totaled $18,580, just a little more (4%) than expected. Compared to the year before, total MM contributions were down, but this was by design, because the suggested contribution rate had been reduced by $5 to $25 per MM member.

Expenditures and transfers from the General Fund totaled $28,285. Overall, this was just a little less (96%) than the total amount budgeted. Four expense categories had unfavorable budget-to-actual variances for the year. These pertained to expenditures for our contract workers, insurance, and publications. None of these variances were particularly large relative to their annual budgeted total.

LEYM approved a deficit budget for FY21–22, with planned expenditures greater than planned income. The idea was to bring the General Fund balance down a bit. With some additional "help" from the decrease in the market value of the investments held on LEYM's behalf by Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC), at fiscal year end, the General Fund balance is just below its suggested ceiling.

Besides the General Fund, other LEYM funds had activity this year, too: ● The Annual Meeting Fund activity resulted from the virtual Annual Sessions held one year ago; ● The Travel Fund had one expenditure, for our presiding clerk to attend an FGC Central Committee meeting;

● The Youth Activities Fund had: income from FFC, deferral of a "retreat facility down-payment" until fall 2022, other expenses related to a fall retreat, and support for one young Friend to attend Friends Music Camp;

● The Quaker College & Service Scholarship Fund shows only an addition of funds, because there were no scholarships requested or awarded for the 2021–2022 academic year; and ● The Spiritual Formation Fund's activity was related to the annual retreat held this past September.

LEYM's total treasury at year-end is $80,431. The decrease of $15K from the beginning of the year is split between the $6K net cash outflow from our checking account at Citizens National Bank of Bluffton, Ohio, and the $9K net decrease in value of funds held by FFC.

All dollars held by FFC are invested in the Quaker Growth & Income Fund. Over the twelve months

ended June 30, FFC accounts were credited with approximately 3% in dividend income but also experienced a 17% decrease in market value.

LEYM General Fund Income As of 6/30/2022

For the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2022)

Contribution From	Amount	Deposit Date
Akron Monthly Meeting	125	6/18/2022
Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting	3,075	1/24/2022
Athens Monthly Meeting	1,600	11/23/2021
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	350	11/4/2021
Broadmead Monthly Meeting	1,500	1/27/2022
Cleveland Monthly Meeting	1,000	6/7/2022
Delaware Monthly Meeting	75	1/13/2022
Detroit Monthly Meeting	550	2/15/2022
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting	350	1/13/2022
Granville Monthly Meeting	840	10/25/2021
Holland Monthly Meeting	200	2/3/2022
Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting	700	3/10/2022
Kent Monthly Meeting	510	10/29/2021
Mid-Ohio Valley Monthly Meeting	180	1/31/2022
North Columbus Monthly Meeting	750	12/13/2021
Oberlin Monthly Meeting	1,000	1/15/2022
Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting	3,175	4/8/2022
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting	2,225	11/18/2021
Wooster Monthly Meeting	375	11/17/2021
Contributing MM or WG subtotal	18,580	
Individuals	200	
Total Cash Contribution Income	18,780	
FFC Dividend Income (Base Acct only)	1,728	
Total Income	20,508	(cash income, excluding in-kind)

Expected, per budget	*Actual as a % of Budget*	*Variance, favorable (unfavorable)*
17,875	104%	705

	In-kind	Total contribution income
+	300	19,080

Treasurer's report continued on next page.

LEYM General Fund Expenses - with comparison to Budget

For the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2022)

Account	Actual Expense through 6/30/2022	Budget (annual)	Actual expense as a % of Budget	Variance, budget-to-actual, favorable (unfavorable)	Non-cash, in-kind donations through 6/30/2022	Total Expense through 6/30/2022
Operations						
Contract Worker: Database Manager	2,898.00	2,500	116%	(398)	300.00	3,198
Contract Worker: Digital Comm Facil'r	5,570.10	5,100	109%	(470)	-	5,570
Insurance	597.00	500	119%	(97)	-	597
Office Admin (incl. banking costs)	676.84	1,500	45%	823	-	677
Committees						
Advancement & Outreach	-	500	0%	500	-	-
Ministry & Nurture	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Publications	3,393.15	3,200	106%	(193)	-	3,393
Members						
Attend conference w/ Quaker values	-	1,000	0%	1,000	-	-
Organizations						
Friends General Conference	6,500.00	6,500	100%	-	-	6,500
Olney Friends School	3,500.00	3,500	100%	-	-	3,500
Swarthmore records project	150.00	150	100%	-	-	150
Detroit meeting house contribution	1,000.00	1,000	100%	-	-	1,000
Subtotal cash expenditures	24,285	25,550	95%	1,265	300.00	24,585
Transfers from General Fund to other Funds						
Travel Fund	1,200.00	1,200	100%	-		
Quaker College/Service Scholarshp Fund	1,000.00	1,000	100%	-		
FWCC Travel Fund & Donation	1,800.00	1,800	100%	-		
Subtotal Transfers	4,000.00	4,000		-		
Totals - General Fund Expenses	28,285.09	29,550	96%	1,265		

LEYM Summary of Funds for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2021	Friends Fiduciary account activity[1]	Transfers between funds	Cash Income	Cash Expense	Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/30/2022	Floor/ Ceiling Suggested floor/ceiling amounts for each fund	Last activity prior to FY21-22
Funds held in (i) Base account with Friends Fiduciary Corp and (ii) Citizens National Bank checking account									
General Fund[2]	44,463.88	(7,131.19)	(4,000.00)	18,780.00	(24,285.09)	**(16,636.28)**	**27,827.60**	na	30,000
Annual Meeting Fund	242.42			1,090.00	(913.41)	**176.59**	**419.01**	1,000	3,000
Travel Fund	2,807.00		1,200.00	-	(62.00)	**1,138.00**	**3,945.00**	2,000	4,000
Youth Activities Fund[4]	7,137.16		(328.38)	-	(1,272.00)	**(1,600.38)**	**5,536.78**	4,000	6,000
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	2,000.00		1,000.00	-	-	**1,000.00**	**3,000.00**	2,000	4,000
HS Teen Retreat Fund	6,892.64					-	**6,892.64**	3,000	6,000 FY17-18
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649.00				-	-	**1,649.00**	na	2,000 FY19-20
Spiritual Formation Fund	3,876.35		-	1,245.00	(1,077.76)	**167.24**	**4,043.59**	500	2,000
Consultation Fund	3,143.68					-	**3,143.68**	500	2,000 FY11-12
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00					-	**3,500.00**	na	na FY13-14[5]
Work Projects Fund	2,182.39					-	**2,182.39**	na	2,000 FY17-18
FWCC Travel Fund	5,339.83		900.00			**900.00**	**6,239.83**	na	9,000
FWCC Travel Donation	1,800.00		900.00		-	**900.00**	**2,700.00**	na	9,000
Funds held in separate account with Friends Fiduciary Corp									
Granville Youth Fund[3]	9,880.56	(1,345.16)	(328.62)			**(1,673.78)**	**8,206.78**	na	na
Funds held by others - see Statement of Financial Position									
Prepaid Expense	488.00	-	657.00			**657.00**	**1,145.00**	na	na
TOTAL	95,402.91	(8,476.35)	-	21,115.00	(27,610.26)	**(14,971.61)**	**80,431.30**		

NOTES>

Funds other than the General Fund are managed through accounting and may be subsidized by the corresponding budget lines of the General Fund.

[1] Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC) activity includes dividends and net change portfolio value due to market conditions. See Balance Sheet for detail.

[2] FFC General (Base) Account activity is included here in LEYM's General Fund.

[3] Granville Friends Youth Fund is a separate FFC account. FFC activity shown on this line reflects only that fund's change in portfolio value.

[4] FFC dollars transferred to this line represent dividends paid to the Granville Friends Youth Fund during current fiscal year and credited to YAF.

[5] Established in FY13-14 by a donation toward LEYM's Traveling Ministry Program, this fund has had no activity from inception to date.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting – Financial Position
For the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2022)

Location of monetary assets	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2021	Change in balance during the fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/30/2022
The Citizens National Bank of Bluffton, OH	33,962.23	(6,166.64)	27,795.59
Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Philadelphia, PA *			
General (Base) Account	51,560.12	(7,131.19)	44,428.93
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid (and reinvested)		1,728.04	
Activity includes: • Change in Portfolio Value, + or -		(8,859.23)	
Granville Youth Fund Account	9,880.56	(1,673.78)	8,206.78
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid		328.62	
Activity includes: • Change in Portfolio Value + or -		(1,673.78)	
Activity includes: • Dividends disbursed by FFC to LEYM, recorded to Youth Activ Fund		(328.62)	
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	61,440.68	(8,804.97)	52,635.71
Total monetary assets	95,402.91	(14,971.61)	80,431.30
Notation: Prepaid Expenses			
UCCR deposit for Youth Activities retreat, Sept 2022	388.00	657.00	1,045.00
Weber Ctr deposit for Spiritual Formation retreat, Sep 2022	100.00	-	100.00
	488.00	657.00	1,145.00

	Total	% of Beg Bal
Div Pd	2,057	3%
△Value	(10,533)	-17%
	(8,478)	-14%

* Note> All of the funds with Friends Fiduciary Corporation are invested in FFC's Quaker Growth & Income Fund (QGIF).
The Quaker Growth & Income Fund is a diversified, co-mingled fund with allocations to equities, fixed income and real estate investment trusts (REITs). Its primary objective is to provide stable current income and long-term growth consistent with protecting principal investments against inflation over time. The fund adheres to Friends Fiduciary's Quaker-values investment guidelines and participates in our shareholder advocacy work. It is intended for investors with an investment horizon of five years or longer. The Fund has a standard income distribution policy based on the fund's total return.

Source> friendsfiduciary.org, 12/31/2021

HOLDINGS BY ASSET CLASS	Equity	Fixed income	REITS
Global and International Equity	25.1%		
Small and Mid Cap Equity	17.7%		
Large Cap Equity	28.6%		
Fixed income (Domestic, Global, Short-Term, plus Cash)		22.9%	5.6%
	71.4%	22.9%	5.6%

YM2022-25 Finance Committee, Report No

1. Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar)

Joann presented the proposed budget. Changes in the budget are generally small. For example, there is an increase in hours and hourly wages for the digital communications facilitator and database manager. See the *approved budget at Minute YM2022-30.*

The Finance Committee has started discussing how to manage the increased cost of meeting at Ashland next year in such a way that all interested Friends can attend. They have the following recommendations:

1) Allocate $10,000 from the General Fund reserves for supporting the costs of the Annual Sessions. 2) Return the contribution amount requested from Monthly Meetings to $35 per person.

Friends also requested that Finance Committee look into investing in the Quaker Green Impact Fund.

YM2022-26 Ad hoc Committee on Organizational Structure

The Clerk

Susan Loucks described a plan to establish an ad hoc committee for organization/structure. The group will be charged with considering the current and potential value of our functions for the Yearly Meeting and Monthly Meetings and coming up with recommendations for an organizational structure that allows us to accomplish simply what we need to do. If you are interested in participating in this group, please contact the clerk at susanloucks@gmail.com.

Meeting rose at 12:00 noon.

Session Focused on Racism: Saturday, July 30, 2022

This focused session was designed to prepare and give participants a chance for discernment on a single topic, anti-racism, and departs from typical business format.

YM2022-27 This meeting started with silent worship at 10:30 a.m

The presiding clerk shared themes gathered from Monthly Meeting minutes on racism and police

violence.

As Meetings and as a Yearly Meeting, we acknowledge that we mirror the racism that has been cultivated and institutionalized in the U.S. since its inception. We yearn to model a society transformed.

As we undertake that work in our Meetings, we notice patterns:

- We burn with the urgency of change, and yearn to anchor in Spirit-led community; these desires can compete, and require a commitment to balancing tensions with "both/and" thinking habits.
- We recognize that we often seek to avoid conflict, and when conflict emerges in this work, we are challenged in reaching deeper unity. Seeing this requires a commitment to deepen our skills of differing, and our willingness to stay at the table.
- The projects, educations, and actions we undertake often feel inadequate when we see the complexity and pervasiveness of the problem. Understanding the scope of change needed requires a commitment to cultivating grief, joy, and relationship to sustain the long-haul work.
- We dedicate and re-dedicate ourselves to meaningful movement in this work, and to doing so in ways that build our connections to each other, to God, and to our communities.

Out of silence, the clerk invited Friends to discuss the following: Considering this YM, what are we led to take on together as far as FAITH (beliefs we share?) or PRACTICES (behaviors to which we are called?)

Friends broke into small groups to discuss the above, then returned to the main meeting to share thoughts.

Friends appeared unified by determination to address racism both in our meetings and in our society. Three main themes emerged:

1) The need for internal exploration to identify areas in which we need to improve our functioning. Friends suggested, for example, checking over our policies and procedures, watching for patterns of both oppression and faithfulness in our interactions, and listening to Friends of color who are willing to share their experiences at our meetings.

2) The challenge of writing a statement of belief based on discussion, study, and spirit-led discernment.

3) Motivation to choose bite-sized ways to take action, preferably hand in hand with individuals and communities who have experienced racism, as well as other organizations that are making efforts to address racism.

The Executive Committee will be developing these ideas further and bringing them forward as possible next steps for supporting Monthly Meetings in their anti-racism work.

Friends closed this meeting at 12:00 noon.

Fifth Session: Sunday, July 31, 2022

Minutes and Reports

YM2022-28 Friends settled into silent worship at 1:00

Out of the silence, Jo Posti, assistant clerk, read an epistle from the 2022 Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. They celebrated the theme, "Welcome as You Are," with intergenerational activities. Friends chose to oppose recent legislation harmful to LGBT and other individuals, such as the "Stop Woke Act," and to support other people who stand up against oppression and discrimination. They explored and celebrated gifts that nurture families and communities.

YM2022-29 Nominating Committee, Report No

2. Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids)

Mike presented a revised Nominating Committee slate.

The Peace & Justice and Earthcare Committees were not staffed. Their work has been largely taken up by interest groups. Friends interested in proposing an interest group topic or activity can do so through a form found on the LEYM webpage. The structure and function of these interest groups will be further discussed by the ad hoc committee on organization.

Advancement & Outreach Committee has only one member. Executive Committee will look at ways to

pick up the tasks that would normally be handled by Advancement & Outreach and will consider whether the Committee should be regarded as dormant.

Friends who feel led to serve on a committee are encouraged to contact Nominating Committee members. All committees, with the exception of Executive, Nominating, and Finance Committees, are open to Friends to participate in without being officially named as a member of those committees. Interested Friends can contact the clerk of the committee with which they wish to work. Likewise, a Friend who feels led to serve as assistant clerk of the Yearly Meeting is also encouraged to contact the Nominating Committee.

The slate presented by the Nominating Committee was approved.

YM2022-30 Finance Committee, Report No

2, Budget. Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar)

Joann presented a revised budget, which includes the Finance Committee's recommendations to move $10,000 from the General Fund to the Annual Meeting Fund and to increase the suggested per-member payment from Monthly Meetings to $35 (from $25 last year, and $27 in the earlier presentation of the budget).

The budget was approved. See below.

We thanked the Finance Committee and the treasurer, Tom Kangas, for their work and the clarity of their presentation.

History						LEYM Budgets		**Actual as of 6/30/2022	(prelim budget, not approved)	
FY 2018-19		FY 2019-20		FY 2020-21		Budget approved 07/30/2021	FY 2021-22		FY 2022-23	
Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	General Fund Expenses	Budget	Actual**	Budget	Change
		625	1,330	1,400	2,905	General Contractor: Database Manager	2,500	2,898	3,900	1,400
2,400	2,215	3,000	3,021	3,100	4,237	Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	5,100	5,570	6,200	1,100
500	500	500	500	500	500	Insurance	500	597	650	150
500	301	1,000	1,007	3,500	2,077	Administration	1,500	677	1,500	-
2,000	2,069	2,000	1,043			<sa>Travel				
200	15	200	-	500	-	Committees Advancement & Outreach	500	-	500	-
50	-	50	-	50	-	Ministry & Nurture	100	-	100	-
3,200	2,854	3,200	3,012	3,200	2,476	Publications	3,200	3,393	3,500	300
1,000	(18)	1,000	-	1,000	400	Members Attend conf w/ Quaker values	1,000	-	600	(400)
6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	Organizations FGC	6,500	6,500	6,500	-
3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	Olney Friends School	3,500	3,500	3,500	-
100	100	100	100	100	100	Swarthmore Records Project	150	150	150	-
						Detroit meeting hse contrib'n	1,000	1,000	-	(1,000)
	(3,412)			2,957	2,957	Tranfers from Travel Fund	1,200	1,200	-	(1,200)
1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	General Fund Youth Activity Fund	-	-	-	-
		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	to... Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
300	300	300	300	-	-	<sa>Spir Form | | Anni Mtng <sa>	-	-	10,000	10,000
1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,800	1,800	1,800	-
22,050	16,725	25,775	24,112	29,107	28,453	Total Expenses and Transfers =	29,550	28,285	39,900	10,350
						General Fund Income				
22,600	24,064	25,375	27,077	21,750	21,460	Contributions Income	17,875	18,780	26,005	8,130
1,000	1,196		1,284	1,000	1,474	FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	1,000	1,728	1,500	500
23,600	25,260	25,375	28,361	22,750	22,934	Total Income =	18,875	20,508	27,505	8,630
1,550	8,535	(400)	4,249	(6,357)	(5,520)	Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(10,675)	(7,777)	(12,395)	(1,720)
	1,133		(885)		11,272	FFC chg in portfolio value (Base)		(8,859)		
	1,133		(885)		11,272	Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =		(8,859)		
	9,668		3,364		5,753	Total Change in General Fund =		(16,636)		
600		725		725		# members used to produce above estimate =	715		743	
$30		$35		$30		Suggested contribution per member =	$25		$35	
		$ 0.45		$ 0.17		Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =	$ 0.16		$ 0.22	

YM2022-31 The clerk invited Friends to give a brief report of the work on their…

The clerk invited Friends to give a brief report of the work on their committees or projects. Friends enthusiastically shared recent successful efforts and thanks for each other's efforts. Jo Posti was thanked for her many contributions during four years at the clerks' table.

YM2022-32 Jo Posti, assistant clerk, shared the epistle, and expressed…

Jo Posti, assistant clerk, shared the epistle, and expressed gratitude to Susan Towner-Larsen and Susan Hartman for their contributions.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Annual Sessions Epistle

July 27-31, 2022, Held Virtually

To Friends Everywhere:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gathered virtually for our Annual Sessions, July 27 through July 31, considering our theme, "Many Roots, One Tree." More than 130 Friends met for Bible study, expectant worship and worship sharing, business sessions, workshops, panels on various Quaker organizations, a plenary on our theme led by Christian Acemah, Head of Olney Friends School in Ohio, lunchtime chat groups, and a family-friendly evening of entertainment.

We launched right into our theme on Wednesday evening. The clerk of our Program Committee, Susan Hartman, inspired us to consider the multilayered dimensions of the metaphor, "Many Roots, One Tree,"

citing the pervasive, timeless symbolism of the tree across many cultures and through countless generations.

Our opening session featured an interactive roll call where our Monthly Meetings shared their "story trees": short histories of how their Meetings took root in local communities throughout Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. We learned about Friends who helped each Meeting grow and how their roots of social justice and spiritual development have supported the new growth that hybrid worship and today's equity movements demand.

As our gathering moved through times of worship and learning, panel discussions, and meetings for worship with attention to business, we found the images of a tree and roots to be both expansive and foundational, expertly woven through all we did together.

Roots, of course, are often thought of as our past – our individual childhood experiences, the places we come from, the culture we are a part of, our deep grounding values, the anchor that holds us in place. Yet roots of a tree are also alive and growing; they are the sources through which nourishment of water and minerals are absorbed from the soil, stored, and distributed to the rest of the tree. We know that roots can even serve as a means of communication or information between trees.

Our metaphor throughout the gathering often focused on the roots, but we also were reminded that they are not the only sources of the tree's nutrition. The whole tree, including the roots themselves, is also nourished by the sugar that is produced in the leaves through photosynthesis, using the sun's energy and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This sugar – the tree's food – is stored in all parts of the tree and feeds the roots so they can do their work. In this complex system, each part of the tree relies on the others to maintain its health and growth.

As we considered ourselves and our organization, the metaphor seemed to expand before us, and grew to include not only the roots, trunk, branches, and leaves but also the sun – the source of light – that allows the tree to grow and produce food. Only with this light can the tree live and bear fruit.

The theme of new growth and our deep, intertwined roots unfolded in various ways during the week. In the keynote talk on Friday evening, Christian Acemah asked us to think together about "What Lies within this Tree with Many Roots?" He encouraged us to explore with him the questions: "What makes a nourishing, vibrant inside? What do we need to cultivate Spirit-led approaches to address apparent, latent, and emergent threats to the tree's internal health?" Our two worship sharing times on Friday and Saturday considered the queries: "How do I experience the roots of my spiritual growth? How do we nurture our collective spiritual growth?" Our Bible study, led by April Vanlonden, considered first the Bible as a whole, and then our complex relationship to it as Quakers, our roots in it, both beautiful and "messy," and why, in American culture today, we are wise to know something about the Bible and not to simply "ditch it." We also explored the Exodus story, which is deeply rooted in many cultures and understood from radically different perspectives, several of which we looked at together.

The ten workshops on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday offered opportunities to stretch and expand our exploration of the theme, from the physical roots of gardening to exploring Quaker family trees; re-creating our "grounding roots" of public safety, conflict resolution, and peacemaking; exploring the roots of our personal spiritual journeys; considering the health and integrity of the whole "tree" – individual or organizational.

In a slightly new format this year, many of us attended three different panel sessions. Each panel introduced several Quaker organizations, with a representative of each organization briefly presenting a summary of the "roots and fruits" of the organization, with time for more in-depth information in separate breakout rooms.

We've explored creative ways to bring together our younger and older Friends during the pandemic. In addition to our annual evening of intergenerational entertainment, we again provided space within Minecraft for our middle and high school-aged Friends and young adult Friends to meet, build, and explore together.

Some of the most significant decisions we discerned during our time together are seeds for our future. Our ad hoc Site Committee has worked faithfully this year to identify a new location for our Annual Sessions, and we're excited to share our plans to hold the 2023 Annual Meeting at Ashland University in Ohio, June 15–18. Just as planting a seed requires sun, rain, and protection, we see this decision as an opportunity to discern how we can better support Friends in affordability, whether we might spread business sessions across multiple times throughout the year, starting with the 2023 Annual Meeting, and how we can create more intergenerational programming at our Annual Meetings. We approach planning our 2023 sessions with the excitement of a gardener sorting fresh packets of seeds, overlooking a tilled bed, ready to support this season's sprouts.

Throughout our many deep explorations of the tree and root metaphor, we were inspired to consider the solid, nourishing roots under and around us as a Yearly Meeting. Epistles from other Yearly Meetings, interwoven through our time together, helped us both center our souls and remind us of Friends beyond us, of our roots and branches reaching across miles and time, belovedly entwined. Explorations of the images of gardening, of seeds and new growth, provided firm foundation for our deep dives into life after the realities of COVID and offered hope throughout our considerations of the many present, urgent challenges before us as part of the global faith community.

We send on to other Yearly Meetings our assurances of Light and all that nourishes the roots and branches that connect us. We take with us the sense of having been deeply nourished by our time together and of carrying renewed visions of hope for vitality and growth in our future.

Susan Loucks, Presiding Clerk

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

The epistle was approved.

Meeting closed at about 3:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Susan Loucks, Presiding Clerk

Jo Posti, Assistant Clerk

Kate Enger, Recording Clerk.

LEYM Officers, Committee Members, & Representatives

Nominating Committee Report, Final Slate, July 2022

Approved 7-31-2022. Terms begin and end at rise of Annual Sessions.

ExC = serves on LEYM Executive Committee.

To contact individual Friends listed below, see the Directory section, starting on p. xxx.

Officers

Role Name & Meeting Year of Service End Year

Presiding Clerk ExC Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh 3 2024

Assistant Clerk ExC tbd 2026

Recording Clerk ExC Kate Enger, Athens 3 2023

Treasurer ExC Tom Kangas, North Columbus 4 2023

Communications and Other Workers

Bulletin Editors Peggy Daub & Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor 6 2023 Annual Records Editor Elise Yoder, Pittsburgh 2 2023

(appointed by Publications & Archives Committee)

Database Manager Lynda Rose, Athens 3 2023

(contracted by presiding clerk)

Digital Communications Facilitator

Bill Warters, Birmingham 4 2023

Bookstore Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 19 2023

Committees

Name/Meeting Year of Service End Year

Advancement & Outreach

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Joseph Mills, Kalamazoo Clerk, ExC 2 2024

5 open positions, tbd. 1 2025

Earthcare This committee is dormant. No nominations were made. Normally 6 members plus interested Friends.

Finance

of Members: 3 Years of Term: 3

Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar Clerk ExC 5 2024

Ellen Barnes, Birmingham 2 2024

Aran Reinhart, Broadmead 1 2025

Note: Treasurer serves ex officio

High School Teen Retreat Currently dormant.

Normally 3 adults with 3-year terms + 2 high schoolers with 2-year terms **Committees (continued):**

Name/Meeting Year of Service End Year

Ministry & Nurture

of Members: 6 + 1 Rep. from each monthly meeting encouraged Years of Term: 3 Shelley Kotz, Broadmead Co-Clerk ExC 4 2024

Flo Friender, Kalamazoo Co-Clerk ExC 1 2025

Maryann Concannon, Red Cedar 3 2023

Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 1 2025

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 1 2025

tbd 1 2025

Nominating

of Members: 6 (appointed by YM through Naming Committee)

Years of Term: 3

Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids Clerk ExC 5 2024

Rick Adams, North Columbus 2 2023

Winifred Covintree, Birmingham 2 2023

Stefanie Charlot, Red Cedar 1 2025

2 open positions, tbd 1 2025

Peace & Justice This committee is dormant. No nominations were made. Normally 6 members plus representatives from monthly meetings.

Publications & Archives

of Members: 4 Years of Term: 3

Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor Clerk ExC 4 2022

George Hebben, Kalamazoo Asst clerk 3 2023

Bob Roehm, North Columbus 6 2023

Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh 4 2025

Note: Digital Communications Facilitator and Bulletin Editors serve ex officio.

Annual Meeting Planning:

Adult & Family Program

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon, Erie WG, Clerk, ExC 1 2025

Greg Mott, Broadmead 4 2025

4 open positions, tbd 1 2025

Volunteers: Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor), Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), Barbara LeSage (North Columbus), Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham)

Arrangements & Site

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Jon Sommer, Broadmead Clerk ExC 19 2024

Bill Warters, Birmingham 5 2024

Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead 7 2025

Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead 7 2025

Mike Hinshaw, Wooster 1 2025

Registrar (selected by Committee): Sally Weaver Sommer **Committees (continued):**

Name/Meeting Year of Service End Year

Youth & Children Program

of Members: 12–16 Years of Term: 2 (Clerk only)

Erika Smith, Detroit Clerk ExC 1 2024

Christa White, Athens

Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham

Alfred Clapp III, Athens

Jenn Seif, Red Cedar

Cristin Graham, Detroit

This committee lacks an assistant clerk.

Diane Mott, Broadmead Fall retreat clerk

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham Fall retreat assistant

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

Name & Meeting Year of Service End Year

AFSC Corporation

Bill Warters, Birmingham 5 2024

Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead 4 2025

Paul Helbling, Broadmead 4 2025

tbd 1 2025

FCNL General Committee (3-year terms, limited to two consecutive terms) FCNL Gen Cmte John Howell, Athens 7 2025

FCNL Gen Cmte John Deikis, Ann Arbor 3 2023

2 Open positions tbd 1 2025

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations (continued)

Name & Meeting Year of Service End Year

FGC Central Committee (3-year terms, limited to two consecutive terms) (LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee)

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 1 2025

Brad Shaw, Red Cedar 1 2025

2 Open postions tbd 1 2025

FWCC (3-year terms)

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 2 2024

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon 2 2024

FLGBTQC Nancy Reeves, Cleveland 8 2023

Olney Friends School

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 5 2024

Greg Mott, Broadmead 1 2025

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Richard Tucker, Ann Arbor 1 2025

Written Reports

Several reports were posted to the LEYM website and included in the documents in advance, but not presented in Annual Sessions. These appear below.

Report from Ministry & Nurture Committee to Annual Sessions 2022 The Ministry & Nurture Committee met (via Zoom) at Annual Sessions 2021. Our membership was unchanged from the previous year and consisted of members Shelley Kotz and Becky Morehouse (co-clerks), Maryann Concannon, Lisa Klopfer, Linda Mills, and David Snyder; with faithful attendance and valuable participation from a Meeting representative, Flo Friender. One Friend had to drop out due to her husband's diagnosis of a critical illness. We missed her strong Spiritual guidance and have held her in Light and Love. During the second half of the year, another member began the process of moving to Maryland, which involved some time away from LEYM and limited his participation. Even so, he continued to be a grounding influence in our work.

Our first task of the new year was to find supplemental readings to accompany the Annual Query, which

we sent to all clerks of Monthly Meetings and conveners of Worship Groups, along with the request to send us their responses by 1-15-22. We were pleased to receive 12 and, as always, we read and appreciated each one. (See summary in separate report.)

In the fall we accepted a report from the Spiritual Formation Planning group (which is "under the guidance of Ministry & Nurture of LEYM," as stated in our Policies and Procedures). Their fall retreat (via Zoom) with Marcelle Martin on the theme of "Going Deeper Together" led to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups forming their local Spiritual Formation groups for the year. A spring retreat for all followed in May. The Planning Group is considering themes and presenters for fall 2022.

Many Friends in LEYM have continued their involvement in Spirit Companion Groups (SCG) after the introduction of SCG in the fall Spiritual Formation Retreat of 2020. M&N has had ongoing correspondence with the leaders of SCGs to come to a mutual understanding of their relationship with LEYM. Our discernment continues.

Due to the enthusiastic response from Monthly Meeting clerks, we again offered 90-minute Clerks' Chats every other month, alternating between Saturday mornings and Friday evenings. We had guest shepherds/hosts (experienced LEYM clerks) and M&N members/techs to hold space and ground the experience. Clerk-initiated topics have included: how to handle the responsibilities of that position, how to deal with difficult people/situations, how to stay Spiritually grounded, how to navigate the balance of "online and in-person," and how to set agendas and clerk meetings for business. Clerks have asked us to continue these sessions in the coming year.

We have received 14 State of the Meeting reports, and our summary has been sent to LEYM clerks for inclusion in the Annual Records (see below). It is with gratefulness that we read these reports, and it is our hope that the process that Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups follow to determine the state of their meetings is a valuable and enriching experience.

A query for fall 2022 will be announced at Annual Sessions (see Minute 2022-21).

With thanks to the members and active participants of our committee, we submit this report,

Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) and Shelley Kotz (Broadmead)

Summary of LEYM State of the Meeting Reports, Spring 2022

With the COVID Pandemic still causing uncertainly and disruption, Meetings and Worship Groups in LEYM have been challenged in finding meaningful ways to gather for worship, business, and fellowship.

Most Meetings have offered "in-person" worship and meetings for worship for business this year, while carefully staying within CDC guidelines of mask wearing and keeping a distance while together. Most have also experimented with "hybrid solutions" using Zoom technology. This has allowed Friends and attenders to join from home and from far away and, in some cases, has drawn in newcomers who have found us online.

Some Friends feel that technology in the worship space is a distraction, and one Meeting is exploring having an alternative space to meet simultaneously with no technology. We long to be together but are mixed on whether hybrid meetings are here to stay. Committee meetings online have helped increase participation and saved on gas, thus helping the environment.

The depth and breadth of vocal ministry vary from Meeting to Meeting, with some reporting a richness and others reporting the desire for more spoken messages. For some, the quality of worship in the Zoom environment is not the same as when we were all together in person.

Friends find Spiritual enrichment in participating in small group discussions, Spiritual Formation Groups, and Spiritual Companion Groups.

Meetings have found creative ways to stay connected, such as planning outdoor activities, having intergenerational games in lieu of potlucks, hosting book and discussion groups online, Bible study, small groups meeting for a meal in homes, and a weekly walking group – rain or shine. Two Meetings joyfully celebrated a wedding/marriage under their care.

Many Meetings mentioned that we are an aging and predominantly white group. We long for a wider range of ages and a more diverse population. First Day School has been suspended in most Meetings,

although some offered lessons and fellowship on Zoom. As COVID vaccines become available for younger children, some are making plans to revitalize their FDS in the coming fall.

Social justice work remains strong and takes a wide variety of forms. Many Meetings have made a commitment to become an anti-racist faith community. We are learning the history we were not taught in schools, reading books by authors of color, investing in Black-owned banks, hosting a rotating men's shelter, contributing to food banks, and helping with refugee families.

Some Meetings are thinking about adding a testimony on justice to the existing SPICES.

One Meeting mentioned that they were being "stretched into unfamiliar choices." Another wrote that they were "listening to one another with love and respect despite differences in experience and expression." Another tells us that "Spiritual Nourishing enables them to act in the world."

Our Meetings have had challenges, but many see the struggles as opportunities for evolving. We are in transition, and one Meeting said, "we may be moving toward being a community in a different way."

Publications & Archives Committee Report, July 2022

Production of Annual Records and Bulletins:

The LEYM Annual Records and three issues of the LEYM Bulletin were published as usual this year. In 2020-21, we reduced the number of paper copies of the Bulletin by about 30% because many people were not meeting in person during the COVID-19 pandemic and so did not have ways to pick up copies at their places of worship. Issues are always available in PDF format at the LEYM website. This year, most meetinghouses were open again, so we resumed sending batches of publications for in-person distribution. The Annual Records, which we offered for the first time in PDF format in late 2020, was distributed again in that format to anyone who requested it, allowing us to reduce the number of paper copies by about 15%, compared to two years ago. Printing and mailing costs rose, resulting in a slight over-expenditure of our budget, even with reduced numbers printed and mailed.

Change in Responsibilities:

At the LEYM Sessions in July 2021, the Meeting agreed to give our committee responsibility for editing for consistency of language and format the minutes from Representative Meeting and Annual Sessions for the Annual Records and the website, and minutes from Executive Committee meetings for the website. During Representative Meeting in April 2022, a recommendation from the LEYM Executive Committee was accepted that our committee should take on responsibility for regular review of the LEYM Policies and Procedures publication for inconsistencies and necessary changes based on practice. Our committee has incorporated this additional work during the past year.

Going Forward:

We always welcome contributions that describe activities of Monthly Meetings or Worship Groups or the spiritually-based writings of individual Friends. The deadline for the Fall Bulletin is September 15. Jeff Cooper and Peggy Daub (both Ann Arbor) will continue as co-editors of the Bulletin. Elise Yoder (Pittsburgh) has agreed to compile the LEYM Annual Records again this year, with support from our committee.

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Clerk

Youth & Children Committee Report

During the LEYM Sessions of 2022, all youth are invited to participate in the Minecraft activities from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. from Wednesday night through Saturday night. This event will be hosted by Ellerie Brownfain, Jonah Brownfain, Gabe Mott, and Jenn Seif.

Young adults and teens who attend the Minecraft are invited afterwards to hang out and chat. An adult will be present during all Minecraft sessions.

An effort was made numerous times to spread the word by contacting clerks, parents of youth, and youth, inviting them to attend Yearly Meeting for Minecraft, our Saturday night sessions, and anything else that might be of interest.

We are planning to hold our annual Fall Retreat the third weekend in September unless COVID 19

numbers are a concern.

One of our members is researching how other Yearly Meetings handle low numbers of youth, wide gaps in age, and, at times, lack of interest in this committee. Hopefully, ideas will be brought forward that the Yearly Meeting can discuss in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham)

Christa White (Athens)

Database Manager Report

Resolved issues from 2021: Categories in Salesforce for identifying levels of activity in a Monthly Meeting are Member, Attender, Child Member, Inactive, and Archive. Archive was added to Salesforce this past year to hold information about those who are no longer involved in the Monthly Meeting. All children 18 years and younger are being identified as Child Members.

No “race” designations are being made in Salesforce.

Updates for each Monthly Meeting and for statistics will be sent to each individual Meeting clerk from the database manager. Success in updating LEYM records relies upon information returned to the database manager.

The two main goals of this database manager for the coming fiscal year are:

1.) Communicate and interact with each Monthly Meeting. To update information and return this information back to them in a form that will assist each Meeting’s record keeping.

2.) Focus on identifying each person in each Meeting as to their status (Member, Child Member, Attender, Inactive, or Archive). Identify each person’s phone # as being Mobile or Home. The phone numbers that were brought from the old Access database do not identify cell phone numbers.

Thoughtfully submitted,

Lynda Rose (Athens), LEYM Database Manager

Representative Meeting
March 11, 2023
Toledo, Ohio, and via Zoom

This was a blended meeting, with some participants in person in Toledo, Ohio, and others attending via Zoom.

Clerks' Table: Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), clerk; Flo Friender (Kalamazoo), acting recording clerk

RM2023-01 Worship

Representative Meeting for business began with worship.

RM2023-02 Epistle

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) read the Epistle from the May 2022 meeting of the Europe and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation. It spoke of the shadow of the war in Ukraine and the support being given, both spiritually by Quakers and in physical form from surrounding countries. [Full text of the Minute is available here: https://fwccemes.org/news/emes-annual-meeting-2022-epistle.]

RM2023-03 Care of the Meeting

Paul Helbling (Broadmead) agreed to hold our business session in the Light.

RM2023-04 Activity in the Yearly Meeting

Susan Loucks, presiding clerk, invited reports of what's happening in our Yearly Meeting.

- Bill Warters (Birmingham) described a series, "Digital Issues Awareness for Friends," he is offering online to LEYM Friends.
- Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) spoke of Spiritual Companion groups and invited Friends to join the interest group the first Sunday in May. This group meets every other month on the first Sunday. Information is on the LEYM website.
- Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) reported that the Youth Retreat that occurred last fall in person in Camp Temple Hills, in Bellville, Ohio, was highly successful.
- Susan Loucks, presiding clerk, spoke of the Ad Hoc Committee that was asked to think about the structure of LEYM. They have contacted other yearly meetings for ideas. There are no recommendations that will be brought to Annual Sessions but work is continuing. They welcome additional people on the committee.
- Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported that there was no Spiritual Formation retreat last fall. Their planning committee has regrouped as a group of six. They have discerned a vision for the group. Marty Grundy will be the Retreat Leader for the Spiritual Formation retreat on September 8-10, 2023, at the Weber Center, Adrian.

RM2023-05 Roll Call/Attendance

Akron 1 Granville 1

Ann Arbor 5 Kalamazoo 3

Birmingham 4 North Columbus 4

Broadmead 5 Oberlin 3

Cleveland 1 Pittsburgh 2

Detroit 1 Red Cedar 2

Erie Worship 1 Wooster 2

Grand Rapids 2 Total 37

RM2023-06 Arrangements & Site Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported on the arrangements for Annual Meeting on June 15-18 in Ashland, Ohio. Registration will be available in the Spring Bulletin. Sally said there are many differences from Bluffton. One is that Ashland College charges by the room, not by the person. Friends are encouraged to reach out to Sally with any questions about registration.

RM2023-07 Programs - Adult

Clemence Mershon (Erie Worship Group) spoke about the adult program. Their committee is working on workshops and the schedule so that friends do not feel rushed during the Annual Meeting. Emily Provance (New York Yearly Meeting) will give the Plenary Talk on Friday evening and also a Saturday workshop.

> The Committee is also working on a Covid policy to be in effect for Annual Meeting that will be open to change due to the local circumstances in Ashland at the time. A question was raised about how many events during Annual Meeting will be available by Zoom. This is still being worked out, with Plenary sessions, Meeting for Business, and possibly on-line workshops; to be covered.

RM2023-08 Programs - Youth

Erika Smith (Detroit) reported that the Children's Program will depend largely on how many children attend. Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) described intergenerational activities that are being planned. Friends are encouraged to reach out to young adults in their meetings.

RM2023-09 Treasurer's Report

Tom Kangas (North Columbus) provided a treasurer's report as of March 7. (See below.) Several meetings have not yet made their annual contributions. He reminded us that $10,000 from the general fund will be used to help fund attendance at Annual Meeting this year. The changed timing for Annual Meeting means we will be approving a budget for 2023-24 without having final numbers for 2022-23. We know we have moved to a site for Annual Meeting that is more expensive than in previous years. There was a sense of this group that we favor higher assessments to monthly meetings to enable more people to attend LEYM. Tom reminded us that we lowered assessments in recent years because we had reserves to cover us. There is now an additional method for sending money (individual donations, assessments, from Meetings or registration) to LEYM and for other activities of LEYM like Spiritual Formation using the web app from Friends Fiduciary Corporation on LEYM's website.

RM2023-10 Finance Committee

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) spoke of the availability of our scholarship for youth attending Quaker institutions of higher education or Quaker Voluntary Service; the extended deadline is April 30.

RM2023-11 Consideration of this meeting

Friends were invited to name good and/or bad things about this, our first time as a hybrid meeting. We acknowledged that the process was complex, but largely successful.

RM2023-12 Outreach

Bill Warters (Birmingham) shared posters advertising LEYM for members to take home to their Meetings.

RM2023-13 Meeting closed with grateful worship

LEYM General Fund Income

As of 3/7/2023

For the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2023)

Contribution From	Amount	Deposit Date
Akron Monthly Meeting		
Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting	4,270	1/30/2023
Athens Monthly Meeting	2,000	10/15/2022
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	455	11/12/2022
Broadmead Monthly Meeting	1,500	1/18/2023
Cleveland Monthly Meeting		
Delaware Monthly Meeting		
Detroit Monthly Meeting		
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting	490	1/10/2023
Granville Monthly Meeting	805	12/7/2022
Holland Monthly Meeting		
Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting		
Kent Monthly Meeting	425	10/21/2022
Mid-Ohio Valley Monthly Meeting	140	1/27/2023
North Columbus Monthly Meeting	1,050	11/20/2022
Oberlin Monthly Meeting	1,050	2/13/2023
Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting		
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting	2,415	1/7/2023
Wooster Monthly Meeting	525	8/26/2022
Subtotal - contributing MM or WG	**15,125**	
Individuals	425	
Interest income from Savings Acct	12	
Total Cash Contribution Income	**15,562**	
FFC Dividend Income (Base Acct only)	948	
Total Income	**16,510**	(cash income, excluding in-kind)

Expected, per budget	*Actual as a % of Budget*	*Variance, favorable (unfavorable)*
26,005	58%	(10,880)

	In-kind	Total contribution income
+	104	15,666

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LEYM General Fund Expenses - with comparison to Budget

For the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2023)

Account	Actual Expense through 3/7/2023	Budget (annual)	Actual expense as a % of Budget	Variance, budget-to-actual, favorable (unfavorable)	Non-cash, in-kind donations through 3/7/2023	Total Expense, including in-kind, through 3/7/2023
Operations						
Contract Worker: Database Manager	2,158.00	*3,900*	*55%*	1,742	104.00	2,262
Contract Worker: Digital Comm Facil'r	2,423.16	*6,200*	*39%*	3,777	-	2,423
Insurance	597.00	*650*	*92%*	53	-	597
Office/administration	722.26	*1,500*	*48%*	778	-	722
Committees						
Advancement & Outreach	-	*500*	*0%*	500	-	-
Ministry & Nurture	-	*100*	*0%*	100	-	-
Publications	1,913.12	*3,500*	*55%*	1,587	-	1,913
Members						
Attend conference w/ Quaker values	-	*600*	*0%*	600	-	-
Organizations						
Friends General Conference	6,500.00	*6,500*	*100%*	-	-	6,500
Olney Friends School	3,500.00	*3,500*	*100%*	-	-	3,500
Swarthmore records project	150.00	*150*	*100%*	-	-	150
Subtotal cash expenditures	17,964	27,100	*66%*	9,136	104.00	18,068
Transfers from General Fund to other Funds						
Annual Meeting Fund	10,000.00	*10,000*	*100%*	-		
Quaker College/Service Scholarshp Fund	1,000.00	*1,000*	*100%*	-		
FWCC Travel Fund & Donation	1,800.00	*1,800*	*100%*	-		
Subtotal Transfers	12,800.00	12,800		-		
Totals - General Fund Expenses	**30,763.54**	**39,900**	*77%*	9,136		

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Lake Erie Yearly Meeting – Financial Position
For the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2023)

Location of monetary assets	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2022	Change in balance during the fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 3/7/2023
The Citizens National Bank of Bluffton. OH			
Checking Account	27,795.59	(25,982.90)	1,812.69
Savings Account	-	11,512.13	11,512.13
Subtotal of both CNB accounts	27,795.59	(14,470.77)	13,324.82
Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Philadelphia, PA *			
General (Base) Account	44,428.93	641.08	45,070.01
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid (and reinvested)		948.08	
Activity includes: • Change in Portfolio Value, + or -		(307.00)	
Granville Youth Fund Account	8,206.78	(56.96)	8,149.82
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid		175.26	
Activity includes: • Change in Portfolio Value + or -		(56.96)	
Activity includes: • Dividends disbursed by FFC to LEYM, recorded to Youth Activ Fund		(175.26)	
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	52,635.71	584.12	53,219.83
Total monetary assets	**80,431.30**	**(13,886.65)**	**66,544.65**
Notation: Prepaid Expenses			
UCCR deposit for Youth Activities retreat, Sept 2023	237.75	-	237.75
Weber Ctr deposit for Spiritual Formation retreat, Sep 2023	100.00	-	100.00
	337.75	-	337.75

	Total	% of Beg Bal
Div Pd	1,123	2%
△Value	(364)	-1%
	759	1%

* Note> All of the funds with Friends Fiduciary Corporation are invested in FFC's Quaker Growth & Income Fund (QGIF).

The Quaker Growth & Income Fund is a diversified, co-mingled fund with allocations to equities, fixed income and real estate investment trusts (REITs). Its primary objective is to provide stable current income and long-term growth consistent with protecting principal investments against inflation over time. The fund adheres to Friends Fiduciary's Quaker-values investment guidelines and participates in our shareholder advocacy work. It is intended for investors with an investment horizon of five years or longer. The Fund has a standard income distribution policy based on the fund's total return.

Source> friendsfiduciary.org, 12/31/2022

HOLDINGS BY ASSET CLASS	*Equity*	*Fixed Income*	*REITS*
Global and International Equity	*25.1%*		
Small and Mid Cap Equity	*17.7%*		
Large Cap Equity	*28.6%*		
Fixed Income (Domestic, Global, Short-Term, plus Cash)		*23.0%*	*5.6%*
	71.4%	*23.0%*	*5.6%*

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LEYM Summary of Funds for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2022	Friends Fiduciary account activity[1]	Transfers between funds	Cash Income	Cash Expense	Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 3/7/2023	Floor/ Suggested floor/ceiling amounts for each fund	/Ceiling	Last activity prior to FY22-23
Funds held in (i) Base account with Friends Fiduciary Corp and (ii) Citizens National Bank										
General Fund[2]	27,827.60	641.08	(12,800.00)	15,562.13	(17,963.54)	**(14,560.33)**	**13,267.27**	na	30,000	
Annual Meeting Fund[0]	419.01		10,000.00	1,940.00	(14,200.00)	**(2,260.00)**	**(1,840.99)**	1,000	3,000	
Travel Fund	3,945.00		-	-	(70.00)	**(70.00)**	**3,875.00**	2,000	4,000	
Youth Activities Fund[4]	5,536.78		982.51	840.00	(754.62)	**1,067.89**	**6,604.67**	4,000	8,000	
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	3,000.00		1,000.00	-	-	**1,000.00**	**4,000.00**	2,000	4,000	
HS Teen Retreat Fund	6,892.64					**-**	**6,892.64**	3,000	6,000	FY17-18
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649.00				-	**-**	**1,649.00**	na	2,000	FY19-20
Spiritual Formation Fund	4,043.59		-	-	-	**-**	**4,043.59**	500	2,000	
Consultation Fund	3,143.68					**-**	**3,143.68**	500	2,000	FY11-12
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00					**-**	**3,500.00**	na	na	FY13-14[5]
Work Projects Fund	2,182.39					**-**	**2,182.39**	na	2,000	FY17-18
FWCC Travel Fund	6,239.83		900.00			**900.00**	**7,139.83**	na	9,000	
FWCC Travel Donation	2,700.00		900.00		-	**900.00**	**3,600.00**	na	9,000	
Funds held in separate account with Friends Fiduciary Corp										
Granville Youth Fund[3]	8,206.78	118.30	(175.26)			**(56.96)**	**8,149.82**	na	na	
Funds held by others - see Statement of Financial Position										
Prepaid Expense	1,145.00	-	(807.25)			**(807.25)**	**337.75**	na	na	
TOTAL	80,431.30	759.38	-	18,342.13	(32,988.16)	**(13,886.65)**	**66,544.65**			

NOTES> Funds other than the General Fund are managed through accounting and may be subsidized from the General Fund.

[0] Annual Meeting Fund for FY2022-2023 contains activity for two Annual Meetings: one held July, 2022 and another held June, 2023.

[1] Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC) activity includes dividends and net change portfolio value due to market conditions. See Balance Sheet for detail.

[2] FFC General (Base) Account activity is included here in LEYM's General Fund.

[3] Granville Friends Youth Fund is a separate FFC account. FFC activity shown on this line reflects only that fund's change in portfolio value.

[4] FFC dollars transferred to this line represent dividends paid to the Granville Friends Youth Fund during current fiscal year and credited to YAF.

[5] Established in FY13-14 by a donation toward LEYM's Traveling Ministry Program, this fund has had no activity from inception to date.

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LEYM Annual Meeting
June 15 – 18, 2023
Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio

All sessions were held in a blended (hybrid) format with many participants in person at Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio, and a few online.

Clerks' Table: Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), clerk; Kate Enger (Athens), recording clerk.

Opening Session, Thursday, June 15, 2023

Friends were welcomed and introduced to some changes in this year's Annual Meeting via a multi-media presentation including a printed program and a skit. Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) presented a welcoming statement on behalf of the Adult Program Committee that explored this year's theme "Navigating Anew."

Welcoming Statement from Susan Hartman

On behalf of the Program Committee, I welcome you to our 2023 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting annual meeting. How wonderful to be with all of you in person this year in our new location of Ashland University. I want to acknowledge and thank all those who worked on the Program Committee this year: Clerk Clemence Mershon of Erie Worship Group and Pittsburgh; Ellerie Brownfain and Bill Warters, Birmingham; Greg Mott, and Sally Weaver-Summer, Broadmead; and Barbara LeSage, North Columbus. Each of them has contributed to both the creative and the practical needs of planning as we gather in person for the first time since 2019. I particularly want to thank them for sharing their ideas about this year's theme for our time together: Navigating Anew.

The word navigation, from the Latin navis, or ship, and agere, to drive describes the science and art of conducting a ship across the sea. Navigation still consists of the same basic parts, whether the navigator is a traditional sailor, a modern driver following GPS, or a yearly meeting on a metaphorical spiritual journey.

Consider what is needed for any navigation:

● first, a chosen destination or direction

● second, identification of your current position

● third, a course or a route that you intend to follow

● fourth, tools to measure where you are on your course and ● lastly, flexibility and tools to adjust your route if you get off course or encounter unexpected obstacles

We found ourselves wandering when a major storm (COVID) forced us to seek safety & shelter. As we start to come out of isolation, we have the opportunity and challenge to consider how we navigate in this new situation. Navigating anew will involve engaging with all five parts of navigation.

On a physical journey, a destination may be specific—to travel to a known place—or it may be one of exploration—to travel west to find uncharted territory. Without defining a goal, the traveler does not navigate, but simply wanders around, trying to avoid collisions. In our spiritual journey, we must ask ourselves, have we defined the journey we want to embark on? Is it toward a specific goal? In a specific direction? Has the storm led us to change our destination, or has it reinforced the direction of our prior spiritual journey?

The second vital step is identifying where the journey begins. If I don't allow my GPS app to access my current location, it can give me no directions. A prehistoric sailor on a foggy day before the invention of compass, sextant, or other modern tools, was literally "at sea" with no idea of which way to proceed. If our meeting does not know where it now is, it will find itself lost in trying to decide what direction to head. Where is our meeting starting our spiritual journey? Are we in the same place as we were four years ago, or do we need to determine our spiritual location now before we set off again?

Before the actual journey begins, the traveler must chart the course. The sailor maps out a proposed route from their own experience, their knowledge of stars, prevailing winds, and weather patterns. A sailor also relies on others' experience as recorded in existing maps, sky charts, logs, or books. Drivers may use a paper map or GPS to chart the best course to the proposed destination. Whatever the means, the more information the navigator has, the better a course can be charted. If a traveler knows that icebergs are likely to form in a northern sea in the winter, she may chart a more southern course. If a driver wants a more scenic route, he may avoid interstate highways in favor of country roads.

What spiritual tools or guidance does our meeting have to chart our course? Like the sailor, we have our own experience and knowledge of our prior journeys and seeking of the way. We seek the wisdom of our forebears who wrote about the courses of their spiritual journeys; we turn to our inner light and listen for guidance; we gather in community to seek the light and spirit through that community for guidance in love and unity. Like the physical navigator, if we have defined our priorities, what kind of route we want to follow, considering the values and testimonies that define the fixed points in our navigation system, we will find a course.

Then we are ready to start the actual journey. Navigating during the journey requires continuous checking of current location, the course, the actual conditions, and then adjusting as needed. No matter how well the course is planned and implemented, a sailing ship inevitably strays from the planned course, due to currents, winds, human error, or imprecision of a flat map in a round globe. The navigator constantly uses navigation tools, whether stars and compass or radio waves and satellites, to determine current location and what changes and corrections are needed.

In addition to going off course, the traveler may encounter unexpected obstacles—storms, icebergs, damage to the ship, illness of crew or passengers—which may require not just an adjustment back to course, but a decision to change the course, modify the destination, or even abandon the journey and return to the starting point.

Having the correct tools and the flexibility either to get back on course or to change our route or destination if needed are vital to our ability to navigate in our continuing changing environment. In our metaphorical journey, here is where we are navigating anew. We start assessing the damage from the storm; what still works? What's been destroyed, broken, or no longer useful? Do we get back on our old course, or plot a new one? What are the disciplines, exercises, or practices that keep us "in-shape" spiritually, ready to be called on & serve in a moment's notice, ready to set sail, and take the adventure we're called to do? What are the spiritual tools that can aid us in navigating a new terrain and keep us grounded deeply in spiritual rootedness? Are we yielding to listen to Spirit, even when it's hard or we don't like what's being asked of us or where we're being asked to go? Where are we headed? And is this still our best way forward????

Let us continue as a community to be clear in identifying our goals, recognizing our fixed points, seeking and responding to the guidance of spirit in community to adjust our course as we navigate together again.

YM2023-01 Out of a centering silence, Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) shared excerpts…

Out of a centering silence, Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) shared excerpts of the Epistle of the 2023 South Central Yearly Meeting. SCYM met in a hybrid fashion and shared their joy and gratitude in strengthening bonds of faith and friendship. Together, they addressed sources of suffering in the world, our nation, and within their yearly meeting. They were pleased to present a first draft of the SCYM Faith and Practice, and they plan to discern the leadings of Spirit in continuing this effort.

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YM2023-02 Presiding clerk, Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), welcomed Friends to the…

Presiding clerk, Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), welcomed Friends to the 60LEYM Annual Sessions here on the land of the Kaskaskia people.

YM2023-03 Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), from the Arrangements & Site…

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead), from the Arrangements & Site Committee, presented demographics about our attenders, including ages, the number of first-time attenders, and Youth & Children Program participants.

By State

OH 47

PA 11

MI 42By Age

DC 12-18 9

NH 119-34 3

IN 236+ 96

NY 1 Total 108

MD 2

CO 1 First time 21

Total 108

YM2023-04 Our meeting was interrupted by a Tornado Warning

Friends were encouraged to remain in our windowless meeting room or take shelter in the basement as they felt led.

YM2023-05 Friends who were not able to attend Annual Sessions this year, and…

Friends who were not able to attend Annual Sessions this year, and Friends who have passed on, but for whom we do not yet have a memorial minute, such as Linda Brandenberg (North Columbus), were recognized.

YM2023-06 Visitors and representatives of other organizations were welcomed,…

Visitors and representatives of other organizations were welcomed, along with first time attenders.

YM2023-07 Susan Loucks, clerk, read a roll call

Numbers of attendees from each monthly meeting and worship group per the Registrar are:

Akron 3 Kalamazoo 6

Ann Arbor 8 Kent 0

Athens 8Mid-Ohio Valley 0

Birmingham 6 North Columbus 9

Broadmead 14 Oberlin 4

Cleveland 5 Pittsburgh 7

Delaware 0 Red Cedar 9

Detroit 8 Wooster 4

Grand Rapids 3LEYM (No MM) 1

Granville 2 Other 11

Holland 0 Total 108

YM2023-08 Memorial Minutes were read by Tom Kangas, Barbara LeSage, and Bob…

Memorial Minutes were read by Tom Kangas, Barbara LeSage, and Bob Roehm for North Columbus Monthly Meeting Friends Rose Conrad, Sue Fletcher, and Jim Perkins. The full texts of the memorial minutes will be available in the Annual Records and the LEYM website.

YM2023-09 Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) led an icebreaker activity

Second Session, Friday, June 16, 2023

YM2023-10 Committees shared updates using a new, interactive format beginning…

Committees shared updates using a new, interactive format beginning with short introductions.

- Flo Friender (Kalamazoo): The Zoom clerks' chats organized by the Ministry & Nurture Committee have been appreciated. The Committee has been reading responses to queries and State of the Meeting reports and discerning the value of queries. They are seeking suggestions for making queries more useful to meetings.
- Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead): Arrangements & Site would like Friends to join the Committee. It is currently Broadmead-heavy.
- Clemence Mershon (Erie Worship Group): The Adult & Family Program Committee is looking for volunteers.
- Kathleen Helbling (Broadmead): Spiritual Formation, a Sub-Committee of the Ministry & Nurture Committee, announced the fall retreat will be held at the Weber Center, Adrian, Michigan. Marty Grundy, author of A Call to Friends: Faithful Living in Desperate Times, will lead the retreat in September. All are invited.
- Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar): The Finance Committee is navigating anew. Our finance report is where we are starting from, and the budget is the destination. There are budget choices to be made later in the weekend.
- Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor): The Publications & Archives Committee produces four publications a year. They need information by July 31 for this year's Annual Records. The Committee is producing suggestions for how to write memorial minutes.
- Joe Mills (Kalamazoo): He is the only member of Advancement & Outreach Committee at this point. He has visited other meetings to offer support and maintain connections. Should this committee be laid down?
- Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar): The Nominating Committee requested that Friends interested in serving on the Committee see Naming Committee members Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) or Donna Rodriguez (Broadmead). If you would like to volunteer for another committee, see the current Nominating Committee members: Stephanie Charlot, Rick Adams, or Mike Holaday.

Youth & Children Program Committee members were with the youngest friends, and not present at this meeting.

YM2023-11 Out of a centering silence, Thomas Taylor read the Epistle from the…

Out of a centering silence, Thomas Taylor read the Epistle from the 2023 Southern Africa Yearly Meeting Gathering. Friends at that gathering focused on the theme, Ubuntu, which means acting for the sake of community and promoting community interests before individual interest. Friends experienced spiritual enrichment as they applied this theme to addressing social and environmental crises and healing from trauma. They announced that they will be hosting the World Plenary Meeting of FWCC in 2024.

YM2023-12 Epistle Committee

Clerk Susan Loucks sought volunteers to work on the Epistle Committee. Aran Reinhart (Broadmead) and Su Penn (Red Cedar) accepted this task.

YM2023-13 Arrangements & Site Committee Report

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) presented the Arrangements & Site Committee Report. We are getting to know this new site of Ashland University, and the Conference Director here has been very helpful. Friends were encouraged to take COVID precautions appropriate for their situations and to respect the precautions being taken by other Friends. Next year will likely be easier in terms of preparations because the committee recommends returning here to Ashland.

YM2023-14 Digital Communications Facilitator Report

Bill Warters (Birmingham) presented Digital Communications Facilitator report. Friends can sign up for e-mail alerts about LEYM events by using a link on the LEYM webpage (LEYM.org). About 5,000 people access the website each month. We are finding our stride in terms of meeting via Zoom. Bill presented a series of Zoom sessions to explore Digital Issues Awareness for Friends. Bill has publicized the opportunity for Friends to address other topics through online interactions, and Friends are

encouraged to contact him with ideas for other topics that we can explore together. (The full report follows.)

Digital Communications Facilitator Report

Things are going well with regard to the online presence of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Our website, hosted on our own server since August of 2020, has served as a hub of information about activities happening across our region and as a way to bind together our group between in-person events like Representative and Yearly Meetings. Website traffic, i.e., visitors to our site, remains steady, with upticks often happening around major events like Annual Sessions or the release of a new issue of the Bulletin.

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits
Jan 2022	1,878	3,332
Feb 2022	2,183	3,061
Mar 2022	2,724	4,223
Apr 2022	3,158	4,936
May 2022	2,821	3,718
Jun 2022	2,975	3,923
Jul 2022	3,440	5,092
Aug 2022	3,156	4,442
Sep 2022	2,781	4,095
Oct 2022	3,666	5,033
Nov 2022	3,006	4,583
Dec 2022	5,249	7,160
Total	37,037	53,598

2022 Website Visitor Tally

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits
Jan 2023	5,628	7,300
Feb 2023	4,480	6,099
Mar 2023	4,461	7,137
Apr 2023	1,961	3,336
May 2023	2,543	4,710
Jun 2023	0	0
Jul 2023	0	0
Aug 2023	0	0
Sep 2023	0	0
Oct 2023	0	0
Nov 2023	0	0
Dec 2023	0	0
Total	19,073	28,582

2023 Website Visitor Tally (through May 23rd)

The digital communications facilitator's (DCF) primary task is maintaining the LEYM website with current information and developing and posting new material. Additional central tasks include maintaining the LEYM server where our projects are hosted, managing the events calendar, posting news to social media, and hosting LEYM sponsored online events, including the online portions of the annual sessions. In addition, the DCF manages our email distribution lists and our online Airtable database tool for collecting information and managing registrations via online forms. A rough breakdown of time billed (in 10-minute increments) from April 2022 through April 2023 (167 hours) is as follows:

AREA of ACTIVITY HOURS

Annual Sessions Work 80

Zoom-related Hosting and Scheduling 40

Website Updates 27

Research and Reporting 7

Mailing Lists and Correspondence 7

Online Database 4

Social Media Management 2

TOTAL HOURS (approximate) 167

The 2022 online-only Annual Meeting, which occupied much of the DCF's time, was particularly fulfilling and got very good reviews. The chosen theme "Many Roots, One Tree" proved to be quite engaging for the more than 135 Friends in attendance. Eight Monthly Meetings contributed visual "Story

Trees" for our opening welcome session that helped paint a picture of the life of their Meetings over time. A gallery of these is archived and visible online at https://leym.org/story-tree-gallery/

The following quote taken from the meeting evaluation form provides an example of people's positive experience this last year: "Beyond merely the smooth registration process, the whole virtual aspect was *so spot-on this year - the website so attractive and professional, links and calendar super-easy to find and intuitive, the daily emails making everyone feel connected and positive. I couldn't think of a single improvement. I so appreciate all the thoughtfulness followed by diligence in execution from the program committee. You went beyond giving us a program to giving us an experience together."*

More recently, LEYM successfully held the March 2023 Representative Meeting in a hybrid format, with Broadmead MM hosting the event in Toledo, with Friends also joining online via Zoom. Thanks to the creativity of our Clerk, Friends were treated to a unique "Open Space" format that got people online and in the room talking together about topics that mattered to them. Fortunately, or unfortunately (depending on where you were), the online folks couldn't partake of the great food that was shared, including a truly amazing dessert table!

Some new digital initiatives for LEYM in the last year included the development and presentation of a Digital Issues Awareness for Friends series of three webinars that were recorded and are now archived on the Peace, Justice and the Environment Interest group page https://leym.org/pje-interest-group/ The topics addressed were:

- Mis/Disinformation Awareness for Friends of the Truth
- UnFriendly Persuasion: Digital Dark Patterns Awareness
- Data Brokers and Modern Surveillance: Dangers for Marginalized People Also new this year was the addition of a dedicated section of the website to support the emerging work of Spiritual Companioning support groups being led by LEYM Friends.

YM2023-15 The clerk welcomed Donna Lueke (Broadmead) into her new role as…

The clerk welcomed Donna Lueke (Broadmead) into her new role as Database Manager, and thanked Lynda Rose (Athens) for her work in that role for the past few years.

YM2023-16 Treasurer's Report

Tom Kangas (North Columbus) presented the Treasurer's report. We expect this Annual Meeting to end in the black, as was the case with the last Annual Meeting, leading to modest increases in our Annual Meeting fund. Our overall financial health is good. Contributions from monthly meetings were lower than expected. (The full report and financial figures, updated to the end of the fiscal year, are below.)

Treasurer's report on fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 (FY22-23)

Financial report on Annual Meeting held July 2022

● This Annual Meeting, held online only, was financially simple ● We had very good donations from attendees ($1,940)

● We paid honoraria to presenters ($1,200)

● The net income from the event of $740 was added to our Annual Meeting Fund, the balance of which rose to $1,159

Financial report on Annual Meeting held June 2023

● This Annual Meeting's finances are not yet final, but the final results are expected to look a lot like this report

● The first income line represents the $10,000 transferred from the General Fund to the Annual Meeting Fund last year to make sure that attendance at Annual Meeting would be affordable ● The next line ($4,700) is the amount that the Finance Committee would like to see transferred back to the General Fund this fiscal year as it now seems that $10,000 was more than was needed ● This year's registration payments have arrived through two channels: by paper check and by LEYM's new giving webpage hosted by Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC) ● The donations to Annual Meeting Fund this year are less than last year, and almost all of these donations arrived via check and not from online payments

● There are three main groups of expenses—those related to Ashland University, those related to our presenters, and those related to the Youth and Children program (the $500 for which shown here is a rough estimate)

● We expect this Annual Meeting to end in the black with net income greater than $1,000 being added to the Annual Meeting Fund

● Finance Committee would like to see the Annual Meeting fund end with a balance of around $2,500

Considering Lake Erie Yearly Meeting overall, we are in good financial health.

Income

● General Fund contributions were received from all member Monthly Meetings (MM) ● MM contributions totaled $22,915 which were $3,090 less than expected

- o There was a significant increase in suggested/requested per-member contribution rate for this year—from $25 to $35, or 40%
- o The fact that we received only 88% of expected MM contributions suggests to me that the MMs may not have been readily responsive to the change, or membership has decreased ● The General Fund was the beneficiary this year of several contributions by check which totaled to $2,435 and for which I don't recommend assuming will repeat next year ● Test donations to the General Fund totaling $15 came in through our online giving page ● Also new this year is $20 of interest income from a savings account was set up this year to hold cash not currently needed in the checking account

● LEYM investments held by FFC pays dividends twice yearly

- o The $948 shown here $948 represents only dividends paid in December 2022
- o A second dividend will be paid this month and will be included in this fiscal year's activity

Expenses

● As this report is a on a fiscal year not yet ended, I have attempted to represent where I expect we will end the year, but in some cases I have had to estimate ● For example, the first two lines of General Fund expenses pertain to our contract workers

- o Invoices are not yet in hand for most or all of the second half of this year (Jan-Jun)
- o The expense amounts shown here were increased to the maximum budgeted level
- o I expect the actual expenses to be a little lower at year end than what's shown here ● Other than for Contract Workers, I think most of the other lines are fairly accurate for the year ● There are no line-items that are unfavorable when compared to the approved budget for the year ● Total General Fund expenses overall are only 82% of the approved budget, and this is mainly due to the reduction in the transfer from the General Fund to the Annual Meeting Fund

Funds – General Fund (GF)

● There is a $2,757 pertaining to investments held by FFC

- o we already $948 dividends on the income report
- o The rest comes from financial market value recovery from last June through this March nd
- o I expect this figure to rise even more by the end of the 2calendar quarter ● The estimated GF ending balance of $23,350 is okay in relation to our target balance for this fund

Funds – Other Funds

● The Travel Fund activity pertains to one of LEYM's representatives attending the AFSC 2023 Corporation Meeting in Philadelphia

● The Youth Activities Fund activity was for the Youth & Family Retreat held at the Templed Hills camp in September 2022

● The Quaker College & Service Scholarship Fund had another $1,000 added to it this year

- o This fund now stands at its maximum target balance, so it requires no further funding
- o There were no for scholarships paid out during this fiscal year

o And because no requests were received this Spring, nothing will be paid out next fiscal year

Statement of Financial Position

● The total treasury is estimated to be $80,226, essentially the same as where it started the year

o Reflects a $3K increase in value of funds held by FFC, and

o A $3K decrease in CNB accounts this year

● The balance shown as being held by Citizen National Bank is an estimate that includes

o checks for Annual Meeting registration not yet deposited (and indeed, some not yet received as of this writing)

o certain payments for current year expenses not yet paid

● FFC

o Over the nine months ended March 31, FFC accounts were credited with approximately

- 2% in dividend income and
- experienced a 4% increase in market value (compare to a 17% decrease in FY21-22)

o All dollars held by FFC are invested in the Quaker Growth & Income Fund

Financial report for last year's Annual Meeting:



Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Financial Report for Annual Meeting - July 28 - 31, 2022

Income		
Donations from attendees		1,940.00
	Total Income	$ 1,940.00
Expenses		
Honoraria for presenters		1,200.00
	Total Expenses	$ 1,200.00
Net Income <Deficit> from Annual Meeting Activities		$ 740.00
Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of July 1, 2022 (surplus)		$ 419.01
Net Income <Deficit> from Annual Meeting Activities		740.00
Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of September 31, 2022 (surplus)		**1,159.01**

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Financial report for this year's Annual Meeting:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Financial Report for Annual Meeting - June 15 - 18, 2023

Income			
Subsidy from LEYM General Fund			10,000.00
Return excess subsidy to LEYM GF			(4,700.00)
Registrations from attendees paid online (via FFC)			7,429.15
Registrations from attendees via check			12,384.29
Donations from attendees			934.36
Total Income			$ 26,047.80
Expenses			
Ashland University			
Facilities		4,500.00	
Lodging		7,935.00	
Meals		8,975.16	
Purchased materials (e.g., linen packages/rental, cups, etc.)		1,224.00	
		22,634.16	22,634.16
Honoraria for presenters			1,100.00
Travel reimbursement for plenary speaker			440.00
Youth and Children program (t-shirts)			500.00
Online registration payment fees not covered by payors (FFC)			2.75
Total Expenses			$ 24,676.91
Net Income <Deficit> from Annual Meeting activities			$ 1,370.89
Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of September 31, 2022 (surplus)			$ 1,159.01
Net Income <Deficit> from Annual Meeting Activities June 2023			1,370.89
Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of June 30, 2023 (surplus)			2,529.90

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Income, 2022-23:

LEYM General Fund Income As of 6/13/2023
For the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2023)

Contribution From	Amount	Deposit Date
Akron Monthly Meeting	400	3/24/2023
Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting	4,270	1/30/2023
Athens Monthly Meeting	2,000	10/15/2022
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	450	11/12/2022
Broadmead Monthly Meeting	1,500	1/18/2023
Cleveland Monthly Meeting	1,400	3/16/2023
Delaware Monthly Meeting	75	4/3/2023
Detroit Monthly Meeting	770	3/19/2023
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting	490	1/10/2023
Granville Monthly Meeting	805	11/7/2022
Holland Monthly Meeting	200	4/1/2023
Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting	550	3/20/2023
Kent Monthly Meeting	425	10/21/2022
Mid-Ohio Valley Monthly Meeting	340	1/27/2023
North Columbus Monthly Meeting	1,050	11/27/2022
Oberlin Monthly Meeting	1,050	2/15/2023
Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting	4,235	3/24/2023
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting	1,415	1/7/2023
Wooster Monthly Meeting	525	6/26/2022
Subtotal - contributing MM or WG	**22,515**	
Individuals - via check	2,435	
Individuals - via FFC online	15	
Interest income from Savings Acct	20	
Total Cash Contribution Income	**25,385**	
FFC Dividend Income (Rec'd Annually)	548	
Total Income	**26,933**	(cash income, excluding in-kind)

	Expected per budget	Actual as % of Budget	Variance, favorable (unfavorable)
	26,005	98%	(3,090)

	In-kind	Total contribution income
+	104	25,489

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Expenses, 2022-23:

LEYM General Fund Expenses - with comparison to Budget

For the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2023)

Account:	Actual Expense through 6/13/2023	Budget (annual)	Actual expense as a % of Budget	Variance, budget-to-actual favorable (unfavorable)	Newsletter, in-kind donations through 6/13/2023	Total Expense, including in-kind, through 6/13/2023
Operations						
Contract Worker: Database Manager	3,900.00	3,900	100%	-	104.00	4,004
Contract Worker: Digital Comm Facil'r	6,198.46	6,200	100%	1	-	6,199
Insurance	597.00	650	92%	53	-	597
Office/administration	797.48	1,500	53%	703	-	797
Committees						
Advancement & Outreach	-	500	0%	500	-	-
Ministry & Nurture	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Publications	2,876.09	2,500	82%	624	-	2,876
Members						
Attend conference w/ Quaker values	-	600	0%	600	-	-
Organizations						
Friends General Conference	6,500.00	6,500	100%	-	-	6,500
Olney Friends School	3,500.00	3,500	100%	-	-	3,500
Swarthmore records project	150.00	150	100%	-	-	150
Subtotal cash expenditures	24,520	27,100	90%	2,580	104.00	24,624
Transfers from General Fund to other Funds						
Annual Meeting Fund	5,300.00	10,000	53%	4,700		
Quaker College/Service Schclarshp fund	1,800.00	1,800	100%	-		
FWCC Travel Fund & Donation	1,800.00	1,800	100%	-		
Subtotal Transfers	8,100.00	12,800		4,700		
Totals - General Fund Expenses	32,620.03	39,900	82%	7,280		

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Funds held:

LEYM Summary of Funds for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2022	Friends Fiduciary account activity[2]	Transfers between funds	Cash income	Cash Expense	Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/13/2023	Floor/Ceiling Suggested floor/ceiling amounts for each fund	Last activity prior to FY22-23
Funds held in (i) Base account with Friends Fiduciary Corp and (ii) Citizens National Bank									
General Fund[4]	27,827.60	2,757.27	(8,100.00)	15,184.36	-24,320.03	(4,477.80)	23,349.80	no	30,000
Annual Meeting Fund[1]	419.01		5,300.00	14,850.89	-28,340.00	2,110.89	2,529.90	1,000	2,530
Travel Fund	3,945.00		-	-	(909.30)	(909.30)	3,035.70	2,000	4,000
Youth Activities Fund[4]	5,536.78		982.51	640.20	(1,365.87)	751.64	6,289.42	4,000	8,000
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	3,800.00		1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	4,000.00	2,000	4,000
HS Teen Retreat Fund	6,892.64					-	6,892.64	3,000	6,000
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649.00				-	-	1,649.00	no	2,000
Spiritual Formation Fund	4,843.59		-	-	-	-	4,843.59	500	2,000
Consultation Fund	2,142.68					-	2,142.68	400	2,000
Traveling Ministries Fund	3,500.00					-	3,500.00	no	no
Work Projects Fund	2,102.39					-	2,102.39	no	2,000
FWCC Travel Fund	6,239.83		900.00			900.00	7,139.83	no	6,000
FWCC Travel Donation	2,700.00		900.00		-	900.00	3,600.00	no	6,000
Funds held in separate account with Friends Fiduciary Corp									
Granville Youth Fund[3]	8,206.78	300.99	(75.28)			325.70	8,532.48	no	no
Funds held by others - see Statement of Financial Position									
Prepaid Expense	1,145.00	-	(807.25)			(807.25)	337.75	no	no
TOTAL	80,431.30	3,258.23	-	31,875.85	-54,339.20	(205.12)	80,226.18		

NOTES> Funds other than the General Fund are managed through accounting and may be subsidized from the General Fund.

[1] Annual Meeting Fund for FY2022-2023 contains activity for two Annual Meetings: one held July, 2022 and another held June, 2023.

[2] Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC) activity includes dividends and net change portfolio value due to market conditions. See Balance Sheet for detail.

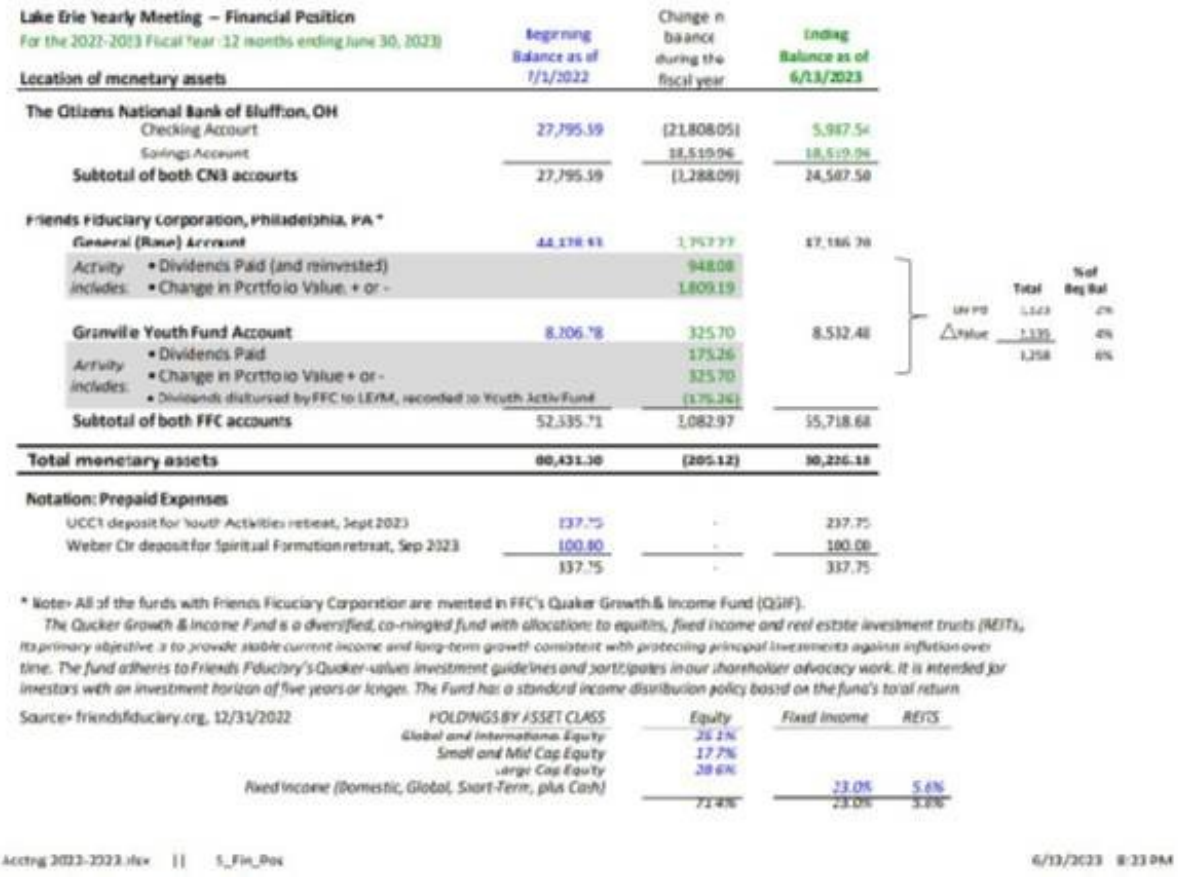
[3] FFC General (Base) Account activity is included herein LEYM's General Fund.

[4] Granville Friends Youth Fund is a separate FFC account. FFC activity shown on this line reflects only that fund's change in portfolio value.

[5] FFC dollars transferred to this line represent dividends paid to the Granville Friends Youth fund during current fiscal year and credited to YAF.

[6] Established in FY13-14 by a donation toward LEYM's Traveling Ministry Program, this fund has had no activity from inception to date.

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Lake Erie Yearly Meeting – Financial Position
For the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year :12 months ending June 30, 2023)

Location of monetary assets	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2022	Change in balance during the fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/13/2023
The Citizens National Bank of Bluffton, OH			
Checking Account	27,795.59	(21,808.05)	5,987.54
Savings Account		18,519.96	18,519.96
Subtotal of both CNB accounts	27,795.59	(3,288.09)	24,507.50
Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Philadelphia, PA *			
General (Base) Account	44,378.93	1,757.77	17,186.70
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid (and reinvested)		948.08	
• Change in Portfolio Value + or -		1,809.19	
Granville Youth Fund Account	8,206.78	325.70	8,532.48
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid		175.26	
• Change in Portfolio Value + or -		325.70	
• Dividends disbursed by FFC to LEYM, recorded to Youth Activ Fund		(175.26)	
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	52,585.71	1,082.97	15,718.68
Total monetary assets	**80,431.30**	**(205.12)**	**30,226.18**
Notation: Prepaid Expenses			
UCCI deposit for Youth Activities retreat, Sept 2023	137.75	-	237.75
Weber Ctr deposit for Spiritual Formation retreat, Sep 2023	100.00	-	100.00
	337.75	-	337.75

	Total	% of Beg Bal
Un Pd	1,123	2%
Δ Value	1,135	4%
	1,258	6%

* Note: All of the funds with Friends Fiduciary Corporation are invested in FFC's Quaker Growth & Income Fund (QGIF).
The Quaker Growth & Income Fund is a diversified, co-mingled fund with allocations to equities, fixed income and real estate investment trusts (REITs), its primary objective is to provide stable current income and long-term growth consistent with protecting principal investments against inflation over time. The fund adheres to Friends Fiduciary's Quaker-values investment guidelines and participates in our shareholder advocacy work. It is intended for investors with an investment horizon of five years or longer. The Fund has a standard income distribution policy based on the fund's total return

Source: friendsfiduciary.org, 12/31/2022

HOLDINGS BY ASSET CLASS	Equity	Fixed Income	REITS
Global and International Equity	25.1%		
Small and Mid Cap Equity	17.7%		
Large Cap Equity	28.6%		
Fixed Income (Domestic, Global, Short-Term, plus Cash)		23.0%	5.6%
	71.4%	23.0%	5.6%

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YM2023-17 Finance Committee, Report no. 1

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Tom Kangas proposed changes to our policies to align current practices, the Financial Practices Manual, and Policies and Procedures. These changes will clarify the remuneration for Friends who provide services at Annual Meetings. Friends approved these changes, which appear below.

B. Guidelines Regarding Honoraria and Expenses for Annual Meetings (from Policies and Procedures, *Appendix F)*

1. Keynote speaker receives $500 plus travel, registration, meals, and room. Clerk of Program Committee gives name to registrar and to treasurer.

2. Non-LEYM folks who give workshops or lead Bible study receive $100 plus room, meals, and registration. Clerk of Program Committee gives names to registrar and treasurer. 3. LEYM folks who give workshops receive no honoraria or expenses. 4. Leaders of special evening programs receive up to $150 plus room, meals, and registration. Clerk of Program 19

Committee gives names to registrar and treasurer.

20

5. One representative from FGC receives registration, meals, and room, if this person is not an FGC employee. Presiding clerk gives name to registrar.

20

6. FGC pays registration, room, and meals for FGC staff.Quaker organizations (e.g., AFSC, FCNL, FGC, **FWCC, QVS, RSWR) pay registration, room, and meals for their staff who attend Annual Meeting to represent their organizations.**

a. If such staff member also presents a workshop, the honorarium will be paid to their respective organization.

b. A keynote speaker who is a staff member of Quaker organization is in a different

category. Although they may direct that the honoraria from their keynote speech (and workshop, if applicable) be paid to their respective organization, the default is that honoraria and expenses for such person are handled as for any other keynote speaker.

7. People who work full time with the children's program receive registration, meals, and room. Clerk of Youth & Children Committee gives the list of workers to the registrar. 8. Registrar receives registration, meals, and room.

9. Bookstore manager receives registration, meals, and room. These are guidelines and not strict rules. The presiding clerk, in consultation with the treasurer, can override these 21

guidelines in any given year.Guidelines are approved by the Finance Committee. The monies to cover these honoraria come from registration fees paid by LEYM Annual Meeting attenders.

YM2023-18 Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) read a memorial minute for Shirley Wolfe, and…

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) read a memorial minute for Shirley Wolfe, and Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) read one for Andrew Zweifler, both from Ann Arbor meeting. The memorial minutes will be available in the printed Annual Records and on the LEYM website.

Third Session, Friday, June 16, 2023

YM2023-19 Out of a centering silence, Thomas Taylor read the Epistle from the…

Out of a centering silence, Thomas Taylor read the Epistle from the 2023 Annual Sessions of the Great Plains Yearly Meeting. The Great Plains Friends expressed excitement about gathering their theologically diverse and geographically separated group. They shared a sense that God had been moving in their hearts to revitalize the monthly and yearly meetings. Friends connected through music, workshops, and roundtable discussions. With hope and determination, they explored possibilities for sharing God's love and peace with a hurting world.

YM2023-20 Finance Committee, Report no. 2

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) presented the Finance Committee report and the first reading of the proposed budget for the coming year. This year's theme was appropriate, as the committee faced the challenge of projecting the new budget without the last fiscal year being completed.

The proposed budget includes an increase in pay for our Digital Communications Facilitator and Database Manager, and the hours for the Database Manager have been increased. Joann described some belt-tightening measures. For example, the money budgeted for some committees has not been utilized, so the amount set aside has been reduced. Olney Friends and FGC contributions were lowered.

The Ashland site is more expensive than Bluffton was. In order to avoid passing the increased cost to participants, the general fund was utilized to subsidize this year's Annual Meeting. Without that subsidy of $10,000, the registration cost would have been $135 rather than $65. The proposed budget includes a subsidy of $5,000 for next year's Annual Meeting. Registration represents only a portion of the costs for Friends to attend Annual Meeting.

The Committee suggests increasing the amount assessed annually for each member of monthly meetings from $35 to $42. This increase is actually a return to the amount assessed in the early 2010s. This number is suggested after finding that less than expected was provided to the yearly meeting from the monthly meetings this past year. The increased assessment would also help balance the overall budget. The decrease in income may have been due to a decrease in membership at our monthly meetings, though we do not know that for a fact.

In the past, we made a contribution to the Detroit Monthly Meeting's efforts to establish a new meetinghouse. They have now met for worship in their recently acquired building. The Finance Committee suggests another donation at some point, but currently the budget does not include a donation. Friends are encouraged to share with the Finance Committee information about last year's contributions from monthly meetings and thoughts on the importance of subsidizing the costs of registration for the Annual Sessions.

YM2023-21 Nominating Committee, Report no. 1

Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) shared the first reading of the Nominating Committee's proposed slate of nominees. The Committee is especially concerned about finding an assistant clerk who will become the clerk after Annual Sessions in 2024 and a recording clerk. The Ministry & Nurture Committee also needs two additional members. Friends who feel led to serve are encouraged to speak with Rick Adams or Stephanie Charlot, or to e-mail Mike Holaday.

Su Penn (Red Cedar) has agreed to be the Bulletin Editor. The Youth & Children Program Committee members are discussing changes that will be presented later in the weekend.

The Nominating Committee suggested adding a new position to the slate – a representative to Friends Peace Teams. The budget includes funds to cover transportation costs incurred by representatives to other organizations. Would we need to adjust the budget to support this new position? Friends are encouraged to speak to Friends who have been active on Friends Peace Teams or attend the lunch discussion about that group tomorrow. If the position is approved, Nominating Committee suggests that the position be filled by Don Buckingham (North Columbus).

The full Nominating Committee report is attached below under YM2023-34.

YM2023-22 Clerk's Report

Susan Loucks said we are a Phoenix rising into Ashland, and the Phoenix is transformed as it rises. Our Annual Meeting features a new setting, a new employee, and new types of programming. We demonstrate a real desire and real energy to be here. Some challenges that we face include the age of our leadership and the current diminished size of our youth program. Friends were invited to engage in discernment - Where is Spirit leading us? How are we being called? Themes in Friends responses included the need to energize advancement and outreach activities at both the yearly meeting and in monthly meetings. The importance of encouraging and supporting young Friends to attend got significant attention, as did the value of reaching out to families with children and building connections between monthly meetings. Friends recognized the importance of joyful, creative activities to share our enthusiasm and spirituality.

This session closed with centering silence.

Fourth Session, Saturday, June 17, 2023

YM2023-23 Out of a centering silence, Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) read the…

Out of a centering silence, Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) read the Epistle of the 2023 Netherlands Yearly Meeting. Food, music, and outdoor activities provided Friends opportunities to enjoy meeting together in person again. Friends explored the theme of Ubuntu and Sustainability by providing a supportive community to manage the grief and fear that Friends feel for the destruction of creation and by sharing ways to take action for the preservation of creation.

YM2023-24 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

Shelley Kotz (Broadmead) presented an update on the work of the Ministry & Nurture Committee. The Committee has summarized the query responses and State of the Meeting reports from Monthly Meetings. Monthly Meetings reported various levels of success with adapting to hybrid meeting. The needs and geography of the meetings, and their access to good technology were important factors in their success. The Committee notes that some monthly meetings, and some First Day programs, are growing. The Committee plans online Yearly-Meeting-wide worship on July 26 at 7 pm. The Committee requests feedback and ideas about the use of queries. (The full report is appended below.)

YM2023-25 Youth & Children's Program Report

Diane Mott (Broadmead) reported on the Youth & Children's Program. Last year's Fall Youth Retreat included about 15 people who enjoyed hiking and re-connecting. Information on the upcoming Fall Youth Retreat will be sent out to the monthly meetings.

Eight children are enjoying the Annual Meeting together thanks to the help of teachers, teen Friends, and volunteers. The new location has met their needs and has facilitated inter-generational connection. Supporting the children and families is a key part of growing the Youth & Children's Program and our yearly meeting. Those who would like to work with the kids next year are invited to talk to Nominating Committee members or to Diane Mott. Non-parents are especially encouraged to share their time and

talents. (The full report is below.)

Report from the Youth & Children's Program Committee

Eight children attended the Youth and Children's Program Annual Sessions. The age range was 2 – 16 years. Children attended from Athens, Broadmead, Cleveland, Detroit, and North Columbus monthly meetings. Erika Smith was clerk and teachers were Ellerie Brownfain, Cristin Graham, Diane Mott, Carla Pratt-Harrington, and Crista White. We are very thankful for volunteers Jonah Brownfain, Susan Hartman, Paul Helbling, Greg Mott, and Jayson Smith.

This year we had a multi-age group for most of our activities. On the first night, we got to know each other by playing games and hanging out together in the downstairs restroom because of the tornado warning. We spent time navigating in the new space of Ashland University. In the mornings, we visited the Center for Nonviolence, the hanging hammocks, and the octagonal porch swings, and we explored the green spaces on campus. In the afternoons we went to the Buckeye Imagination Museum and Kingwood Center Gardens. On Friday and Saturday nights we played music and games and did crafts with our intergenerational friends. We feel that the new location works well for the Youth and Children's Program.

Moving forward, the teachers and clerk of the Youth and Children's Committee wonder if a more generous scholarship for children might make attendance at Annual Sessions more accessible for families. We also like the Athens Meeting model of offering and announcing the availability of financial scholarships for Annual Sessions.

YM2023-26 Finance Committee, Report no. 3

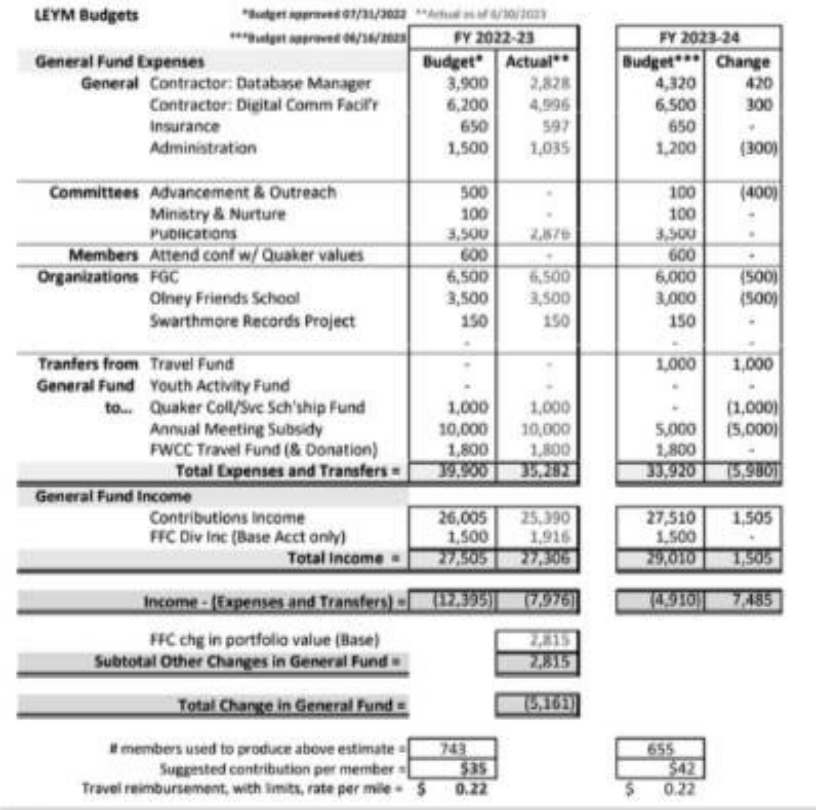
Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar), Finance Committee, presented the budget again. The final budget was not amended from the one previously presented. If committees need funds beyond what is budgeted, they can approach the clerk. The Committee will strive for more communication with and better data from the monthly meetings. The budget was approved. [NB: The budget as it appeared in Annual Records 2023 is below.]

LEYM Budget

LEYM Budgets		History					
		FY 2019-20		FY 2020-21		FY 2021-22	
General Fund Expenses		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General	Contractor: Database Manager	625	1,330	1,400	2,905	2,500	2,898
	Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	3,000	3,021	3,100	4,237	5,100	5,570
	Insurance	500	500	500	500	500	597
	Administration	1,000	1,007	3,500	2,077	1,500	677
	Travel	2,000	1,043				
Committees	Advancement & Outreach	200	-	500	-	500	-
	Ministry & Nurture	50	-	50	-	100	-
	Publications	3,200	3,012	3,200	2,476	3,200	3,393
Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	1,000	-	1,000	400	1,000	-
Organizations	FGC	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,500	6,500
	Olney Friends School	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,500
	Swarthmore Records Project	100	100	100	100	150	150
	Detroit mtg hse contribution					1,000	1,000
Tranfers from	Travel Fund			2,957	2,957	1,200	1,200
General Fund	Youth Activity Fund	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-
to...	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship Fund	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000
	Spiritual Formation	300	300	-	-	-	-
	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
	Total Expenses and Transfers =	25,775	24,112	29,107	28,453	29,550	28,285
General Fund Income							
	Contributions Income	25,375	27,077	21,750	21,460	17,875	18,780
	FPC Div Inc (Base Acct only)		1,284	1,000	1,474	1,000	1,728
	Total Income =	25,375	28,361	22,750	22,934	18,875	20,508
	Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(400)	4,249	(6,357)	(5,520)	(10,675)	(7,777)
	FPC chg in portfolio value (Base)		(885)		11,272		(8,859)
	Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =		(885)		11,272		(8,859)
	Total Change in General Fund =		3,364		5,753		(16,636)
	# members used to produce above estimate =	725		725		715	
	Suggested contribution per member =	$35		$30		$25	
	Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =	$ 0.45		$ 0.17		$ 0.16	

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LEYM Budget (continued)



LEYM Budgets	*Budget approved 07/31/2022 **Actual as of 6/30/2023				
	***Budget approved 06/16/2023	FY 2022-23		FY 2023-24	
General Fund Expenses		Budget*	Actual**	Budget***	Change
General	Contractor: Database Manager	3,900	2,828	4,320	420
	Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	6,200	4,996	6,500	300
	Insurance	650	597	650	-
	Administration	1,500	1,035	1,200	(300)
Committees	Advancement & Outreach	500	-	100	(400)
	Ministry & Nurture	100	-	100	-
	Publications	3,500	2,876	3,500	-
Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	600	-	600	-
Organizations	FGC	6,500	6,500	6,000	(500)
	Olney Friends School	3,500	3,500	3,000	(500)
	Swarthmore Records Project	150	150	150	-
		-		-	-
Tranfers from General Fund to...	Travel Fund	-	-	1,000	1,000
	Youth Activity Fund	-	-	-	-
	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship Fund	1,000	1,000	-	(1,000)
	Annual Meeting Subsidy	10,000	10,000	5,000	(5,000)
	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,800	1,800	1,800	-
	Total Expenses and Transfers =	39,900	35,282	33,920	(5,980)
General Fund Income					
	Contributions Income	26,005	25,390	27,510	1,505
	FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	1,500	1,916	1,500	-
	Total Income =	27,505	27,306	29,010	1,505
	Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(12,395)	(7,976)	(4,910)	7,485
	FFC chg in portfolio value (Base)		2,815		
	Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =		2,815		
	Total Change in General Fund =		(5,161)		
	# members used to produce above estimate =	743		655	
	Suggested contribution per member =	$35		$42	
	Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =	$ 0.22		$ 0.22	

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YM2023-27 Publications & Archives Committee

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Publications & Archives Committee, suggested a Policy and Procedures update. The current policy (Policy and Procedures IV.B.3.c.) states that documents to be archived in the Annual Records will be submitted four weeks after the rise of Annual Sessions. The Committee suggests changing four weeks to six weeks. This change was approved.

Monthly meetings are encouraged to supply names of couples marrying under their care and the dates of their marriage to the Yearly Meeting so those marriages can be archived with the Yearly Meeting records.

YM2023-28 Nominating Committee, Report no. 2

Rick Adams (North Columbus), Nominating Committee, brought back the question of appointing a representative to Friends Peace Teams. Cassie Cammann (Ann Arbor) spoke about being led to serve on a working group with the Friends Peace Teams, and her support for the idea of LEYM choosing a Friends Peace Teams representative. Nominating Committee supports the addition of this position on the slate and recommends that the position be filled by Don Buckingham (North Columbus). Travel related to this position may be financially supported in the future. The addition of the position was approved.

YM2023-29 John Howell (Athens) read a memorial minute for Marjorie Nelson…

John Howell (Athens) read a memorial minute for Marjorie Nelson Perisho, formerly of Athens Monthly Meeting. Shelley Kotz (Broadmead) read a memorial minute for Regula Kummer-Josi of Broadmead. Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) read a memorial minute for Hanna Deutsch Clampitt of Birmingham Meeting. Full minutes will be printed in the Annual Records and available on the LEYM website.

YM2023-30 Clerk Susan Loucks read a letter of introduction from FWCC for Norma Wallman

Hanae Togami from FGC's Ministry on Racism introduced herself and invited Friends to connect with her.

YM2023-31 Nominating Committee, Report no. 3

Rick Adams brought an update from Nominating committee. Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)will serve as recording clerk. Friends led to help with the Adult & Family Program Committee, the Youth & Children

Program Committee, or to serve as assistant clerk are encouraged to speak to members of Nominating Committee.

After this business session, organizational representatives shared information in a new interactive panel discussion format. Each was asked to respond to the queries: Where is Spirit moving in the organization? How is LEYM tied to this organization?

- Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) and Clemence Mershon (Erie Worship Group encouraged monthly meetings to consider the important work that Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) does to connect Friends across cultures and across styles of worship, and to offer financial support as they are able.
- Don Buckingham (North Columbus) said that Friends Peace Teams work internationally toward healing and reconciliation.
- Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) reported that Olney Friends School hosted LEYM Annual Sessions for many years, and some of our members attended the school and found it to be life changing. The school embraces the spirit of community.
- John Howell (Athens) said that the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) speaks for us in Washington in terms of policy. They work to shift behavior not only in Washington, but globally, using subtle, professional strategies. Empowering young people has been a focus, as has urging our government to seek solutions other than war.
- Bill Warters (Birmingham) relayed that the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) celebrates a long history of successfully supporting issues and individuals who address challenges including racism. The energy of their work is rising.
- Ellerie Brownfain and Marvin Barnes (Birmingham, presiding clerk of FGC Central Committee) said our yearly meeting was one of the first to help Friends General Conference (FGC) with an institutional assessment to address racism. That assessment has carried on and blossomed by informing the work of other institutions.

(See full reports appended below or speak to representatives for more information.)

Fifth Session, Sunday, June 18, 2023

YM2023-32 Out of the silence, Thomas Taylor read the Epistle of the Ireland Yearly Meeting

Friends met in hybrid fashion to explore the theme: Building Community Together. They drew from the wisdom of representatives and speakers who challenged them to address social injustice, war, and environmental destruction clearly and forcefully. Friends supported one another through thoughtful engagement, and they celebrated the success of their growing social media presence and the involvement of young Friends.

YM2023-33 Naming Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported on the work of the Naming Committee. Rick Adams, Wink Covintree, and Stephanie Charlot will continue on the Nominating Committee. The Naming Committee proposes the addition of Mike Hinshaw, Wooster, to that Committee. This addition was approved. The Naming Committee recommends that there be additions to Nominating Committee from the Eastern portion of our region. The clerk will support Nominating's ongoing work.

YM2023-34 Nominating Committee, Report no. 4

Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids) reported on the work of the Nominating Committee. The work of all committee members is recognized with appreciation. The full slate appears below.

Some openings remain, such as assistant clerk, and members for the Advancement & Outreach Committee. Four open positions remain on the Adult & Family Program Committee. They welcome volunteers to help again. The Nominating slate will be available online in the advance documents for Friends to consult before the final version is archived.

Friends expressed gratitude to Mike Holaday for his years of service to this yearly meeting as he relocates. Specifically, Friends recalled him working tirelessly during annual sessions despite a lack of sleep, and his personal support of a Friend who was experiencing a significant family challenge. The slate

as it appears below was approved.

LEYM Officers, Committee Members, & Representatives

Final Slate, June 18, 2023

Officers

Role Name & Meeting Year of Service End Year

Presiding Clerk ExC Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh 4 2024

Assistant Clerk ExC TBD 1 TBD

Recording Clerk ExC Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor 1 2026

Treasurer ExC Tom Kangas North Columbus 5 2024

Communications and Other Workers

Bulletin Editor Su Penn, Red Cedar 1 2024

Annual Records Editor (appointed by Publications & Archives) Elise Yoder, Pittsburgh 3 2024

Meeting Workers (contracted by presiding clerk)

Database Manager Donna Lueke, Broadmead 1 2024

Digital Communications Facilitator

Bill Warters, Birmingham 5 2024

Bookstore Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 20 2024

Committees

Advancement & Outreach

of Members: 6 Years of Term: 3

Joseph Mills, Kalamazoo, Clerk ExC 3 2024

Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar 1 2026

Susan Hartman, Ann Arbor 1 2026

Barbara LeSage, North Columbus 1 2026

OPEN (2 positions)

Earthcare

This committee is dormant. No nominations were made.

Finance

of Members: 3 Years of Term: 3

Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar, Clerk ExC 6 2024

Ellen Barnes, Birmingham 3 2024

Aran Reinhart, Broadmead 2 2025

Treasurer serves ex officio.

Ministry & Nurture

of Members: 6 + 1 rep. from each monthly meeting

Flo Friender, Kalamazoo, Co-Clerk ExC 2 2025

Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo, Co-Clerk ExC 2 2025

Shelley Kotz, Broadmead 6 2024

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 2 2025

Cathy Clifford, Red Cedar 1 2025

Mark Hoover, Ann Arbor 1 2025

Nominating

of Members: 6; appointed by YM through Naming Committee; Years of Term: 3 Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar, Co-Clerk ExC 2 2025

Rick Adams, North Columbus, Co-Clerk ExC 3 2024

Winifred Covintree, Birmingham 3 2024

Mike Hinshaw, Wooster 1 2026

OPEN (2)

Peace & Justice. This committee is dormant. No nominations were made.

Publications & Archives

of Members: 4; Years of Term: 3

Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor ExC 1 2026

Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor 4 2025

Bob Roehm, North Columbus 7 2024

Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh 5 2025

Digital Communications Facilitator and Bulletin Editors serve ex officio.

Note: The Annual Meeting Planning Committee consists of the following three committees.

Adult & Family Program

of Members: 6; Years of Term: 3

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie WG, Clerk ExC 2 2025

Greg Mott, Broadmead 2 2025

OPEN (4)

Arrangements & Site

of Members: 6; Years of Term: 3

Jon Sommer, Broadmead, Clerk ExC 20 2025

Bill Warters, Birmingham 5 2024

Mike Hinshaw, Wooster 2 2025

Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead 8 2025

Janet Dando, Akron 1 2025

Carolyn Lejuste, Red Cedar 1 2026

Registrar (selected by committee): Sally Weaver Sommer

Youth & Children Program

of Members: 12-16; Years of Term: 2 (Clerk only)

Diane Mott, Broadmead, Clerk ExC 1 2025

Erika Smith, Detroit, Asst. Clerk 2 2024

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham (Fall Retreat assistant)

Jonah Brownfain, Birmingham

Cathy Clifford, Red Cedar

Cristin Graham, Detroit

Lee Monroe, Wooster

Su Penn, Red Cedar

Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens

Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

AFSC Corporation

Bill Warters, Birmingham 6 2024

Paul Helbling, Broadmead 5 2025

Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead 5 2025

OPEN (1)

FCNL General Committee (3-year terms; limited to two consecutive terms) John Deikis, Ann Arbor 4 2026

John Howell, Athens 8 2025

Wink Covintree, Birmingham 1 2026

Michael Fuson, Granville 1 2026

FGC Central Committee (3-year terms; limited to two consecutive terms) (LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee)

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 2 2025

Brad Shaw, Red Cedar 2 2025

Rick Adams, North Columbus 1 2026

FWCC (3-year terms)

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 3 2024

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie WG 3 2024

OPEN (2)

FLGBTQC

Nancy Reeves, Cleveland 9 2024

Olney Friends School

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 5 2025

Greg Mott, Broadmead 2 2025

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Richard Tucker, Ann Arbor 2 2025

Friends Peace Teams

Don Buckingham, North Columbus 1 2026

YM2023-35 Our clerk invited Friends to give "one breath" reports about…

Our clerk invited Friends to give "one breath" reports about happenings here or at their monthly meetings.

- North Columbus will be moving into an accessible space and will be adding a once-a-month alternate-format worship session.
- Athens has added a Lawnchair Dance team to their advancement and outreach efforts.
- Tom and Nancy Taylor are key to the weekly Ann Arbor Meeting for Walking, which explores various

parks.

- Kalamazoo reported that their Peace Park is appreciated by the community. They are collaborating with other faith groups to support two extended families of Afghan refugees.
- North Columbus is finishing their second year of Quakerism 101, and they hope to collaborate with other meetings on providing that support to newcomers.
- Ann Arbor meeting has been supporting a person in sanctuary. His health has improved, he is no longer in fear of deportation, and he is doing very well.
- Detroit Friends are worshipping in a new building after a five-year journey to have their own space.
- Broadmead has found some new Friends to help design their website, and they shared excitement about this project.

Friends expressed thanks to our clerk for her willingness to be creative and nudge us out of our cozy ruts. Experimentation is very much in line with the work of early Friends.

YM2023-36 The youth and children in attendance, along with their teachers,…

The youth and children in attendance, along with their teachers, shared a power-point and poster board map that illustrated their explorations and adventures during Annual Meeting. They shared an Epistle that appears below, and that celebrates exploration of this new setting. This epistle was joyously accepted.

LEYM Youth and Children's Epistle

June 18, 2023

Dear Young Friends everywhere,

We are the youth and children at Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions. We really enjoyed exploring our new location at Ashland University.

While at Annual Sessions this year, we enjoyed:

- Making new friends
- Playing frisbee
- The swinging benches
- Hide and seek
- Running
- T-ball
- Kingwood Center Garden
- And scootering on the carpet roads of the Alumni Room.

The adults in the Youth and Children's program truly appreciate the adult helpers: Jonah Brownfain, Susan Hartman, Paul Helbling, Greg Mott, and Jayson Smith. This program is much stronger because of the loving support of the helpers and other adults in the Yearly Meeting.

We appreciate the kind, loving, and helpful manner in which the teens played with younger children, helped children safely get places, and helped adults move in and un-bunk beds in the dorm.

We thank the Program and Site and Arrangements Committees for taking the children's program's needs into consideration when planning activities that everyone could enjoy and making spaces that fit the needs of our program. Our hearts are touched when witnessing the incredible interactions of the children, teens, and adults. This has been a blessing.

Respectfully submitted, Amaya, Zeke, Gigi, Andrew, Douglas, Rory, Cristin, Christa, Diane, Ellerie, Carla, and Erika

YM2023-37 Su Penn and Aran Reinhart shared the epistle for our 2023 Yearly Meeting

Friends enthusiastically approved the epistle. The full text follows:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of Friends

Together in Ashland, Ohio, June 15-18, 2023

To Friends everywhere:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting greets you with affection and joy from our first in-person Annual Meeting since 2019, enriched by the virtual presence of some Friends who joined us via Zoom. After many years in the same location, we convened at a new campus this year, and were greeted on our opening evening by a tornado warning that disrupted our first business session of the year, sending some Friends to shelter on a lower level, catching some Friends as they were arriving and complicating registration and access to dormitories, and drawing some Friends, true Midwesterners all, outside to stand under the building's awning to watch the sky. No tornado was sighted, but heavy rain, thunder and lightning accompanied us as we settled damply into our lodging.

The rest of the weekend has featured clear, cool days with light breezes. Our children's program, though much smaller than in some previous years, found much to like about the new campus, including an indoor space closer to the rest of the meeting's activities, and outdoor spaces that included a beautiful circle of garden swings, leading to the invention of a new game called "Swingball." The small number of youth attenders led to teenagers and younger children spending the weekend together, which was enriching for all.

The drop-off in the number of small children among us, as well as the increased age of many stalwart and beloved Friends, prompted us to consider our future. "Where is spirit leading us?" we asked together. "Where are we being called?" Though we do not yet have the answer, we faithfully await clarity and new direction. We find that, despite the diminishments of age that affect many of us, our faith and fellowship remain powerful.

Friends offered eleven workshops during the weekend, on topics as diverse as nonviolence, Faithful Meetings, the poetry of Friend Helen Morgan Brooks, and Multi-Age Inclusion. The positive buzz about these workshops from those who attended spoke well of the many spiritual gifts being well-expressed among us.

We enjoyed an evening of sharing each other's gifts in an event we called a fair. Friends played board games and sang, while others taught juggling, steampunk creation, jewelry making, quilling, and more. It was an evening of joy and camaraderie as we learned more about each other's lives and talents outside of our shared life as Quakers.

We were blessed and challenged by our plenary speaker, Emily Provance, who spoke to us of inflexible ideas about limited models of faithfulness and happiness that can stifle spirit in some faith communities. She invited us to reflect on our relationship to these ideas, and offered us guidance in the form of new truths, such as the reminder that there is always hope we can hear God together, and that deep listening, even to people with whom we disagree deeply, opens all involved to the possibility of transformation.

Some among us who identify as members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and Two-Spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) community found ourselves connecting with several of the college's cafeteria staff who are young trans and queer people. They seemed hungry to have accepting adults hear their stories, share their joys, empathize with their challenges, and coo over pictures of their pets and sweethearts. This intergenerational sharing enriched us all, and some of these connections seem likely to endure past the end of our time at Ashland. This generation of LGBTQIA2S+ people are growing up in an unprecedented time of acceptance and self-knowledge, but are imperiled by family rejection and targeted right-wing attacks in state legislatures across the USA. We hold these young people in our hearts and commend them to your care, and to the care of God.

Friends of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting send you our love from the American Midwest, where we faced a deadly natural peril but were unharmed by it, and where we renewed our affection for one another, our faithful connections, and our hopeful determination that our faith will bring us to a vital future. We look forward to sharing this future with Friends everywhere.

Susan Loucks, Presiding Clerk

Su Penn, Aran Reinhart, Epistle Committee

Friends closed the Meeting for Business for these Annual Sessions at 10:21 am to prepare for Meeting for Worship.

Appended Written Reports

Several reports were included in the advance documents but not presented in Annual Sessions. These appear below.

Adult & Family Program Committee Report

The Adult & Family Program Committee began its planning for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's 2023 Annual Meeting in August 2022 when Susan Hartman shared notes and folders of what the Committee had done during three years of virtual Annual Meetings. Fortunately, most Friends who had served previously, continued on the Committee, so the steepest learning curve was for me, the only new member.

In addition to the challenges of planning for a completely new site and working with a new venue coordinator were an 8-week shorter timeline and an innovative schedule guided by recommendations from the 2020-2021 Ad-Hoc Visioning Committee, as well as helping the Children & Youth Committee to coordinate their program with us.

Meeting virtually for about two hours each session, more often than monthly, then weekly, the seven members diligently juggled personal schedules and the many tasks involved in planning a 3+ day Annual Meeting. Quickly, we agreed on the theme "Navigating Anew" and developed a list of speakers we wanted to invite. We sought the counsel of Executive Committee whose opinions coincided with ours. We felt it a good omen that our first choice of Plenary speaker agreed. Those initial quick successes turned out to be the easy parts.

Eventually we garnered so many excellent workshop topics that we reconfigured the schedule to allow for three workshop times. That meant imagining new ways to do committee work and the business of the Yearly Meeting so that we could have all the activities LEYM Friends love (worship & worship sharing, Bible study, workshops, Thursday night welcome, Friday night Plenary, Sat. Night fun, late night-movies, ways of sharing ideas, hobbies and work of Friends' organizations) and not have to make too many choices.

I feel immensely grateful for the many small and big tasks each member took on. The Friends who had already visited the site and venue helped us to visualize the challenges and advantages of a large, open space where we could again meet face to face. Team/Committee members: Ellerie Brownfain, Susan Hartman, Barbara LeSage, Greg Mott, Clemence Ravacon-Mershon, Bill Warters, and Sally Weaver Sommer, provided answers from Ashland to our many questions, letters to presenters, maps, messages, minutes, "navigating designs," original and quirky ideas, plans, and summaries to steer the program on its mid-June path. We hope that you feel the joy in our efforts to bring LEYM Friends together once again Face to Face. Please help us by filling out the evaluation form.

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon

Ministry & Nurture Committee Report to Annual Sessions 2023

Members of the LEYM Ministry & Nurture Committee are Flo Friender and Shelley Kotz (co-clerks), Ellerie Brownfain, Maryann Concannon, Valerie Groszmann, and Mark Hoover. The Committee met monthly from August 2022 to June 2023 via Zoom.

During the last year Ministry & Nurture facilitated several meetings of individuals in LEYM. Three Clerks' Chats were held. Members from M & N, acted as tech support and as a shepherd (holding the participants in the Light.) Former clerks from LEYM, and clerks or former clerks from individual meetings acted as the facilitators for these meetings. The meetings have been well received by the participants, many of whom have participated regularly. Participants in the group decide how often and when they would like to meet. They share concerns and seek help from each other regarding concerns.

In the fall, Ministry & Nurture also facilitated a meeting with Wooster Monthly Meeting to help them move forward in discerning whether to lay their meeting down or to continue as a monthly meeting. Joe Mills, a member of LEYM's Advancement & Outreach Committee also participated. LEYM Clerk, Susan Loucks, led the meeting and encouraged the members and attenders to speak about their concerns regarding the path forward. At the end, Susan also provided them with several excellent questions to consider in their ongoing discernment. Members from Wooster Meeting expressed gratitude for the sessions and indicated a sense of greater clarity in their ongoing discernment.

At this time, based on a request we have received, we are planning an all LEYM worship via Zoom on

Wednesday, July 26.

A traditional activity of Ministry & Nurture has been writing and presenting a query for worship groups and meetings to consider during the fall of each year. Typically, the query is presented during Annual Sessions with a written notice and supplementary materials to help explore the topic of the query sent out in September. The queries are often based on concerns that seem to be arising in meetings as described in the State of the Meeting reports that are submitted in the spring.

The query for 2022 at annual sessions last July was:

> In what ways has our Meeting been affected by the turmoil of the world around us? How might I use my own gifts from Spirit in responding to these new realities?

Responses were received through January A summary of the responses was completed prior to Representative Meeting and is available on the LEYM website and attached below.

The committee is currently working on a summary of the State of Meeting reports which will be available on the website and is attached below.

While a number of meetings do respond to the requests for Query and State of the Meeting reports in a timely way, some do not. Typically, it is necessary to contact meetings to remind them of the due dates for the reports. Nevertheless, there are always some reports that arrive well after that date. The deadlines are based on factors such as the time necessary to summarize and write a report and other activities that are planned. At the Representative Meeting held in March of this year, members of the Ministry & Nurture Committee raised concerns about trying to manage our schedule given the difficulty in obtaining the materials we need.

Our comments at Representative Meeting led to a lively discussion of queries and their usefulness. Many meetings seem not to see a value in the queries, which makes responding to them seem to be only a chore. Others appreciate the traditional nature and use of queries among Friends. The conversation gave the Ministry & Nurture Committee much to consider regarding queries. As a result, the Committee spent considerable time at recent meetings, considering the subject of queries: how to make them more relevant, how to better determine what is on the minds of meetings and members, and if we should even continue to provide queries at all. This discernment is ongoing.

If there is a query this year, it will be presented later. The committee believes, based on comments when we contacted meeting clerks to remind them of the query report deadline, that the announcement and information sent to clerks in the fall may not have caught the attention of clerks, especially if they were new to the position. We are thinking of ways to make sure the information is seen and understood.

The Ministry & Nurture Committee for LEYM seeks to be a resource for the individuals, worship groups, and monthly meetings of LEYM. We work best when we know what is needed. During Annual Sessions or at any time during the year, we urge you to contact us if you feel that there is some way that we can be of use to you or your meeting.

Summary of Responses to 2022 LEYM Query

Several Meetings shared that the queries gave them value and benefit from the discussions.

1. In what ways has our Meeting been affected by the turmoil of the world around us?

Covid and the changes it caused to Meetings still are in the forefront of members' minds. The effects of the changes are paradoxical. On the positive side, some Meetings are stronger, with new connections, new attenders and members, Friends from near and far, and accessibility for the home bound. One Meeting reactivated Ministry & Nurture with the access to videoconferencing. On the negative side, Covid has affected children's participation, socialization skills have slipped, collectively, we share a wound, and social connections between members/attenders have suffered.

The turmoil of the world has weighed heavily on the Meetings. There are feelings of heaviness, anxiety, and detachment. Polarization and political divisiveness are happening everywhere and are not a good place to be. "The turmoil of the world around us" is the turmoil within us. One Meeting has been overwhelmed with social issues, wanting to take action while feeling stretched to capacity. The war in Ukraine and the conflict in Yemen place stress on the steadfastness of our testimony on peace. Dealing

with racism was mentioned by several Meetings.

2. How might I use my own gifts from Spirit in responding to these new realities?

Gifts don't need to be grandiose, just being available and listening, the gift of awareness, seeking that of God in others, and a willingness to keep seeking solutions and additional truths. Meetings have responded with their gifts corporately as a Meeting, taking real social action in the world. One Meeting aptly said, "Recalling how both Christianity and Quakerism had their beginnings amid great turmoil similar to what we are currently experiencing, there is a sense that our spiritual lives, work on committees, and turning to God for comfort, direction, and encouragement offer opportunity." The gift of Quakerism can be described in a three-word summary, "'The Quaker way' – contemplation and social action, quiet peace, and duty to others." Another Meeting said the greatest sin is despair, and we should not give in to despair when we think about the world today. Quaker worship is a refuge from the world and a place to experience many gifts.

Corporate responses to turmoil have included refugee work, gun control, outreach to neighborhoods, working in a soup kitchen, and providing meals or assistance to neighbors for items not available through the SNAP program, including a tiny pantry. One non-social action corporate response was to participate in the Faithful Meetings program offered by School of the Spirit.

Summary of LEYM State of the Meeting Reports Spring 2023

> (We are) "small, but mighty".
>
> "Our Meeting matters and is worth cherishing."
>
> "Our Meeting family is our spiritual rock in the midst of this somewhat troubled world."

These are a few of the sentences that meetings used in describing the state of their meetings. Twelve meetings responded to our request for State of the Meeting (SotM) reports. An item in the LEYM spring Bulletin encouraged meetings to try novel or creative ways of thinking about the state of their meetings, and several meetings responded with an image, metaphor, or design from the activity of considering the state of the meeting.

Change was a theme through many of the reports. Change is represented in the ongoing effects of the pandemic and its aftermath. Nearly all meetings are in person now, with some retaining a hybrid model and some going back to in-person only. Several of the hybrid meetings have concerns with a sense of separation between those who are present in person and those who are present online. There is a very real concern with this creating separation in the meetings.

Some meetings have adjusted well to hybrid meetings. A few factors seem to influence the sense of positivity. If a meeting had some far-flung members who found it time-consuming and difficult to get to meeting, the option of attending virtually is welcome. Similarly, members who had physical issues that made it difficult to attend were grateful for the ease of attending from home. Finally, those meetings without a meeting house who meet in donated facilities with excellent audio-visual systems felt the awkwardness of a hybrid meeting less than those with a less adequate system.

Several meetings are adjusting to major to changes in their meeting place. One meeting that sold its meeting house more than a year ago, continues to adjust to its new space. Another, which was forced by eminent domain to move from its former meeting house, has found and purchased a new meeting house after years of exploring alternatives. Another meeting has made the difficult decision to sell their meeting house so that they can have a meeting space accessible to all. Given the profound significance in our spiritual lives of the physical space where we worship, these decisions are not done lightly. Each of these meetings has spent much time in discernment and in adjusting to the changes as they were accomplished.

Some meetings found that the turmoil of recent years has led to a smaller number of active members and attenders. However, many also acknowledge that the aging of the membership has played a role in this as people become less active due to diminished physical abilities. At the same time, there are meetings that have found new members, including families with children and report new activity in their first day schools. One meeting described recent years as bringing back some people who had once attended, new people who have become regular attenders, and some who were seekers that attended once or twice and not again. Meetings recognize their role in being part of someone's spiritual journey no matter how long

the person is with them.

Quaker meetings and worship groups in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting approach the tradition of Quaker activism for justice and peace in multiple ways. Some primarily support members as they personally engage in addressing social concerns. Some meetings have relationships with other organizations that allow them to provide support on specific concerns. All meetings rely on their individual "experts" for ongoing education about various topics. Areas of social concern that meetings are engaged with include: Lake Erie water quality, sustainability issues, multifaith activities, relationships with neighboring diverse religious communities, racism, economic injustice, assisting a local Indian band in obtaining tribal recognition from the U.S. government, assisting immigrants, and other concerns.

In reading the State of the Meeting reports together, there is frequently a celebratory note: a sense of having made it through a storm. There is a recognition of change and of the constant need for our Quaker practices to achieve reconciliation where there is conflict, to discern our way forward in addressing our concerns, and to find ways to comfort and celebrate with one another in our individual lives. We know that we have been given tools of great value, and we remain committed to using those tools on our spiritual journey.

Spiritual Formation Committee Report, June 2023

The Spiritual Formation Committee has been working hard at planning the coming year's programming after missing a year of minimal programming. We began our planning by articulating our commitment to a program that encourages Friends to listen carefully to God's call in their lives. As our website says, "Through retreats and regular local group meetings, participants create with one another a close faith community for spiritual growth, mutual support, and encouragement. The group provides a structured, supportive community in which each member can discern the divine call and prepare to follow it." Our plans for the 2023-2024 year include a fall retreat at Weber Center, September 8-10, a check in session on Zoom on a Saturday in January, and a wrap up retreat in the spring. The fall retreat will prepare us for our year of individual spiritual practices and our participation in local groups meeting in person or online throughout the months between the two retreats. We are delighted that Marty Grundy, once a member of Cleveland Monthly Meeting and instrumental in getting LEYM's Spiritual Formation program going, will be the facilitator for the 2023-2024 retreats. This year's theme is "Let Our Lives Speak; Using Words When Necessary."

Members of this year's Spiritual Formation Committee are Ellerie Brownfain, Olwen Pritchard, Barbara LeSage, Valerie Groszmann, Kathleen Helbling and Sally Weaver Sommer. Any of us would be delighted to talk with you about the program. Feel free to grab one of us during annual meeting and we'll sit down for a chat. Also, check out the Spiritual Formation Program display in the Alumni Room and the LEYM website for more information about spiritual formation in general and about this year's retreat in particular. We hope to see many of you at the Weber Center in September!

Sally Weaver Sommer

Clerk of Spiritual Formation Committee

Nominating Committee Report

6th Month, 5th Day, 2023

The Nominating Committee reports that the yearly meeting will go into annual sessions once again this year with a number of open positions. Owing to expiring terms and some resignations, several of the most important positions became open this year, and we've not been able to fill them. The nominations to committees that we can make now follow the trend of recent years, which is to say most committees will have openings on the preliminary slate. Nominees for representatives to other Quaker organizations may increase this year.

Most notably, we haven't been able to identify a Friend to nominate as assistant clerk. Since the yearly meeting didn't find someone to step in when the position became open at rise of Annual Sessions last year (2022), if no one is appointed during the upcoming Annual Sessions, or by action of the Executive Committee afterward, the yearly meeting will lack both a presiding clerk and an assistant clerk when the current presiding clerk's four-year term expires next year (2024).

Of more immediate concern, perhaps, we haven't been able to find a nominee for recording clerk. We're also searching for an editor for the Bulletin and a new database manager. All three positions will become open at the rise of annual sessions. These positions call for particular skills, and since our committee knows little about Friends in the yearly meeting who might have these skills, we've asked for leads, without success so far.

The yearly meeting has three committees that have been dormant for several years: High School Teen Retreat, Earth Care, and Peace & Justice. Friends interested in re-invigorating any of these should let that be known during the Annual Meeting.

As we've mentioned before, the pandemic virtually froze the Nominating Committee's familiarity with the yearly meeting at 2019 levels. It seems likely that with a return to in-person annual meetings, the Committee will be able to get back to its previous form in the years ahead. In the meantime, we're eager to hear from Friends who feel called to service. We hope they'll make themselves known to us soon.

We'll present a preliminary slate of appointments for Friends' information early in the Annual Sessions, and a formal slate for approval later during the sessions.

With appreciation for all those who serve the yearly meeting, we are: Rick Adams, North Columbus; Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar; Wink Covintree, Birmingham; Mike Holaday, Grand Rapids, clerk

Publications and Archives Committee Report

All four of the expected publications the Committee oversees (three Bulletins and the Annual Records) were produced on time and under budget in 2022-23. Hurray!

We recently integrated two new areas of work: 1) checking the Minutes adopted by the Yearly Meeting to find any decisions that require changes in our Policies and Procedures, and 2) editing minutes from LEYM meetings to put them in a standard format for publication. We also format the Memorial Minutes added to the LEYM website and published in the Annual Records.

In the coming year, Elise Yoder will again serve as compiler of the Annual Records, with Jeff Cooper editing many parts of it. We are asking to receive materials for the Annual Records by July 31.

We are embarking on a project to consider how we might guide people writing memorial minutes for deceased Friends. We believe that some suggestions similar to those we use to guide the writing of State of the Meeting reports might be useful for Friends.

LEYM Publications & Archives Committee

Rosemary Coffey, Jeff Cooper, Peggy Daub (Clerk), Bob Roehm

Youth and Children's Program Committee Report

June 17, 2023

On the weekend of September 23, 2022, eight families gathered for the LEYM Youth Retreat at Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio. There were nine adults and ten children ranging from kindergarten to ninth grade. Families came from Athens, Birmingham, Broadmead, Detroit, and Red Cedar Monthly Meetings. It was amazing to be back together with Friends.

Over the weekend, we went hiking, played games, beach volleyball, frisbee, gaga ball, ping pong, and air hockey, decorated and signed t-shirts for each other, made jewelry, and spent some time coloring with markers and colored pencils. On Saturday evening, we ordered pizza from a local pizzeria for supper. After supper, we had a bonfire with s'mores. The older youth and two adults stayed late at the bonfire, enjoying each other's company. On Sunday morning we had Worship Sharing before cleaning up Heritage Lodge and heading home. For most of us, the best part of the weekend was spending time with friends and making new friends.

Finances:

Twenty-one people registered for the 2022 retreat, and nineteen people attended the retreat. Two of the children were under the age of six. Heartland Conference UCC, who owns Templed Hills Camp, charges a flat rate for the nightly rental of Heritage Hall, and charges per person for provided meals for people over the age of five. We paid for three prepared meals for nineteen people over the age of 5 since this was

the official number turned in and paid for before the retreat. LEYM asks for people over the age of five to pay $70 for the retreat. The family not able to attend did not pay anything, and six people asked for full scholarships. One family paid for their five-year old, so I collected $840 for twelve people. In 2020, LEYM cancelled the Youth Retreat and rolled most of the money already paid toward the retreat in 2021. The deposit was donated to Heartland UCC. In 2021, the Youth Retreat Clerk cancelled the retreat only a few weeks before the retreat because of extremely high Covid and hospitalization rates in Richland County, Ohio, where the retreat is held. Heartland UCC generously rolled over the money to 2022. When I ordered meals for this year, the online registration site did not show meal credit from 2021, so I paid the full price of meals. After the retreat, Jill Frey at Heartland gave us credit of $294 for the 2021 meals paid in the form of a discount for 2023.

The table below shows the 2022 Youth Retreat cost breakdowns: LEYM costs Comments

1100.00 Heritage Hall cost for two nights, paid in 2020 and 2021 315.00 Templed Hills meals for 2021

378.00 Templed Hills meals for 2022

138.87 Cost for Pizza Saturday night and weekend snacks for 2022 – 294.00 Overpay for meals in 2022. Credit for 2023

– 840.00 Registration paid for 12 people in 2022

Total 797.37 Final Cost for LEYM Youth Retreat 2022

Representatives' Reports

AFSC Representatives Report

After several years of virtual-only annual meetings due to COVID, AFSC once again hosted the Annual Corporation Meeting in-person at Friends Center in Philadelphia on Thursday April 13 - Saturday, April 15. The 2023 theme was "Connecting for Lasting Change." Bill Warters, one of your LEYM Representatives to the Corporation, attended these sessions and brings back a detailed report, available at https://tinyurl.com/LEYMAFSCrep as a formatted PDF. AFSC's official epistle to YM's is also available at https://tinyurl.com/AFSCEpistle.

FGC Representatives Report

In the fall representatives from the FGC Yearly Meetings and affiliated Monthly Meetings gathered together for Central Committee. This year it was held in person and online. Central Committee consists of Representatives from these Yearly Meetings and co opted individuals who are appointed for their specific gifts. Central committee consists of many smaller committees. From Finance to Nominating, Personnel, Ministry on Racism and of course the LRCP. (Long Range Conference Planning). This committee deals with the policies and procedures that fine-tunes the gathering to make it happen. If you are interested in working on the summer Gathering, please reach out to FGC. They're always looking for volunteers. Of course, FGC is not just the summer Gathering. There are ways to be involved during the year from the annual fund to the spiritual deepening program. Please refer to the listing online and see how you can be part of this community.

One of the lesser-known committees is Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee (CIRC). They participate in dialogues and finds other ways for Friends to be active and involved in interfaith, ecumenical, and broader Quaker activities. As a member of this committee, I am blessed to be attending the FUM (Friends United Meeting) Triennial this summer at Kabarak University in Nakuru Kenya.

FGC is committed to become an anti-racist faith community. In 2018 an institutional assessment was started on becoming an anti-racist institution. The goal is to build an institution that could recognize and overcome structural racism. FGC is continually working towards this goal. This is evident in every piece of work FGC does from small committee meetings, online programs to the summer gathering. Meetings are encouraged to contact FGC regarding the institutional assessment and anti-racism resources. For the past several years the FGC summer gathering has been online because of covid -19. However, last summer, after much discernment, Youth and Young Adult Friends, aged 0 - 35, met in person. This was deemed safer rather than having a larger gathering.

This year with much excitement the FGC gathering will be held in person at Western Oregon University in Monmoth Oregon. This is conveniently located only 20 minutes from the State's capital of Salem and an hour and a half from Portland. FGC is hoping Friends will be comfortable attending this year's gathering. Much research and discernment has gone into planning the program and the Covid Policy. If interested, please go to the FGC website. This year's theme is:" Listen, so that we may live." This year it's not only special because we haven't been meeting in person for a few years, but it's the first time in a generation it's being held in the Pacific Northwest. We hope to attract many attenders from the West Coast and those who wish to explore the beauty of the Pacific Northwest. FGC offers many programs that support individuals, Monthly and Yearly Meetings. These varied programs cost money to maintain. FGC needs financial help from all of us to maintain many of these programs. As a friend suggested $5 a month or every couple months would significantly help to maintain our programs. And that is the price some of us pay for a cup of coffee or soda pop during the month.

FGC is also interested in your ideas, talents and gifts. Please reach out to our main office and let us know what you can offer and share.

Respectfully submitted, Ellerie Brownfain

FWCC Representatives Report

FWCC Section of the Americas was excited to hold its first truly hybrid Section Meeting March 23-26, 2023, at Haw River State Park near Greensboro, North Carolina. Despite a weak internet signal at the venue, Friends from all over the Western Hemisphere (including 13 attending from Latin America) were able to tune into Bible study, Meeting for Business, devotionals, several varieties of Worship, Home groups, and a Saturday evening Plenary with Noah Merrill speaking from New England. Regional meetings and Workshops occurred either in-person or online but not both simultaneously. The Section Meeting's theme focused on Becoming the Quakers the World needs, the theme of the 2022 World Quaker Day and the current Capital Campaign. Friends were introduced to the world-wide Capital Campaign and the 2024 FWCC Plenary in South Africa and on-line. Its theme will be Ubuntu (I am because you are). Since the Section of the Americas committees are now completely bi-lingual, a training for new interpreters was held in conjunction with the March 2023 Section Meeting. Further, a new program group (like a committee): Consultation (meetings to discuss a topic or to get advice) and Intervisitation (in-person visits to a Friends church or meetinghouse). was approved to carry out greater connections within the Section.

Spiritual preparation prior to the Section Meeting drew on 4 sub-themes, each with queries, a prayer focus and Bible passages. Spiritual preparation begins with nurturing the roots of our connection and devotion to God first. From there, we connect with the leaves on our branch: personal relationships in our families, local Meeting/Church and our yearly Meetings. From there, we connect with all the branches – the sacred community of our shared humanity. Finally, we reflect this love, rooted and grounded in God, into the actions we take in supporting peace and healing in our world through shining our light.

1: Loving God. Queries – How do I seek to deepen my devotion to God on a daily basis? What practices support my faith connection? Has my faith/devotion to God been shaken by outside world events and if so, how? Prayer Focus – I pray for the continued deepening of my connection and devotion to God

Matthew 22:37-38. Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. Deuteronomy 6:4-5. Hear O Israel: The lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your Heart, with all your soul and with all your strength. 2: Loving Our Family, Neighbors, Church/Meeting Queries – How can the love of God shine through me in my family relationships? What gifts do I offer to show my love and support for neighbors and community? Are there other ways I may nurture and deepen these connections? Prayer Focus – I pray for God's love to nurture and support my compassion and understanding in my family relationships. I pray to know and understand my neighbors and community and to support them with heart and compassion.

Mark 12:30-31. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'. There is no other commandment greater than these". 1 John

4:20. If someone says, “I love God”, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen. How can he love God whom he has not seen? 3: Loving our World Queries – In what ways am I working towards healing our earth? How am I committing myself to wise use of resources? In what ways may I help with bringing peace when there is conflict, and supporting those in need of shelter? Prayer Focus – I pray for healing among nations and shelter for those who must move due to climate or politics. May I find the strength to offer compassion and love to those in need.

Leviticus 19:18. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord. James 2. My brethren do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him “You sit here in a good place, and say to the poor man, You stand there” or “Sit here at my footstool, have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 4. Shining our Light. Queries – How might I continue to shine my light in the world? What special gifts do I have that I would like to offer? How do I renew my fire so my light might continue to shine? Prayer Focus – I pray for strength, courage, and hope as I share my love with the world. Matthew 5:14. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life”.

The worldwide Capital Campaign has numerous components. Some are projected for more immediate focus: Interactive Map and Quaker directory, Interpreters Training and Glossary, Consultations and Intervisitation. Others have a longer-term focus: Quaker Connect Pilot Project and Travel and Technology Quasi-Endowment Fund. Because 20% of the funds raised by the Section of the Americas is reserved for the functioning of the World Office in London which supports the other 3 Sections (Africa, Asia-West Pacific, Europe and Middle East), a large portion of the funds raised will underpin the future work of Quakers around.

One example of reaching beyond its geographic borders was the fellowship gathering organized by Friends in the Southwest Region. Small groups began with celebrations of what we like about our Friends’ meetings and churches before Emily Provance, spoke about Listening to God Online. Since the Southwest Region includes Mexico City Meeting this gathering was bi-lingual Spanish/English. Friends from as far away as Guatemala joined this diverse gathering.

The 2023 FWCC Section of the Americas visitor will be Executive Committee member Norma Walman from Western YM (Indiana).

Submitted by Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon

Olney Friends School Representative

On May 27, Olney Friends School is having its 185th commencement exercises. Eight students -- one each from South Africa, Ethiopia, and Uganda, and five from the US. We started the year with 29 students enrolled and expect a comparable number for 2023-2024.

Some educational highlights: In a transdisciplinary project, students from Humanities 9 and 10 and Chemistry classes learned how to blacksmith, crafting metal S-hooks with a forge using locally sourced coal. During our February Fridays this year, the Environmental Science class visited the Green Building Alliance in Pittsburgh. Students enjoyed teacher-led activities in winter hiking, wood carving, sewing with zippers, and group singing. Dr. Michael Luick-Thrams, a native of Iowa and professor of social history at the Universität Erfurt in Thüringen, Germany, presented about the Quaker-sponsored Scattergood Hostel for European Refugees in Iowa during the second World War. We also had a visit from the Wild at Hart Wildlife Rehabilitation group with ambassador animals including a woodchuck and a pair of flying squirrels.

By May first, we had raised 86% of the $300,000 annual fund goal. This year's alumni reunion fundraising projects include upgrades in information technology, kitchen appliances, and faculty housing. Thanks to more financial support through grants and major gifts in early 2023, the Board of Trustees has approved funding for several much-needed renovation projects: ● Renovation of the Guindon (Boys) Dorm's second-floor bathroom ● New boiler and components for the Guindon Dorm's 47-year-old heating system ● New flooring in the Main Building's kitchen and storage rooms ● Energy-conserving

replacement windows in the Towe Ranch faculty house ● Replacement of the failing retaining wall supporting the bicycle shed and parking lot.

The school is currently seeking an admissions director, art teacher, and assistant farmer. If interested give them a call.

Olney is grateful for LEYM's interest and support over the years. Individuals and monthly meetings are encouraged to help Olney. From financial contributions to volunteering as a guest speaker and sharing your talents and gifts.

Respectfully submitted, Ellerie Brownfain

Representative Meeting
March 9, 2024
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Clerks Table: Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), Clerk; Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Recording Clerk

Clerk Susan Loucks welcomed the group of Friends gathered via Zoom for the 2024 Representative Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

RM2024-01 Opening and Reading of Epistle

Friends settled into waiting worship at 10 am.

The Clerk reviewed the day's agenda with Friends. Ellerie Brownfain (Broadmead) and Don Buckingham (North Columbus) volunteered to hold our gathering in Light.

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) read the Epistle from the All-African Leaders' Retreat convened by FWCC in Rwanda in December 2023. The Meeting was held so that leaders of yearly meetings in Africa could receive updates and share their views on decisions facing FWCC. Friends in attendance were of various ages and came from different Quaker traditions. They learned from each other as well as from the speakers as they considered the future of FWCC and the thematic streams of the 2024 World Plenary gathering. (Full text of the Epistle at: https://fwcc.world/resources_cpt/epistles/ .)

RM2024-02 Roll Call

Roll Call (information from registration and attendance)

Ann Arbor: 4North Columbus: 5

Athens: 1Oberlin: 2

Birmingham: 2Pittsburgh: 2

Broadmead: 6Red Cedar: 5

Cleveland: 2Wooster: 1

Detroit: 1Erie WG: 1

Grand Rapids: 1TOTAL: 37

Kalamazoo: 4

No representation present from the following monthly meetings: Akron, Delaware, Granville, Holland, Kent, and Mid-Ohio Valley.

RM2024-03 Reports from Around the Yearly Meeting

Meetings who were not represented in last year's State of Meeting report were invited to report:

John Howell reported for Athens Meeting, summarizing a report that was not submitted for the Annual Records. The Meeting is returning to pre-pandemic levels. Hybrid meetings continue, with attendance up to about 30 and the youth program reviving. They have reached out to members of the community where their Meetinghouse is located (Chauncey), particularly using skills of their members to help those facing utility shutoffs. They hosted FCNL's Riley Robinson and are laboring with making statements of conscience on the conflicts in Palestine and Ukraine.

Our clerk reminded all that if statements of conscience are to be presented to Yearly Meeting for consideration, that process is initiated by monthly meetings. Contact the clerk if this is of interest.

Shelley Kotz (Broadmead), from the Ministry & Nurture Committee, said she welcomes this way of sharing reports that would otherwise not be public. The state of the meeting reports should be submitted to the M&N Committee, as well as being shared with the Publications & Archives Committee for Annual Records. Friends may need a reminder about this. Flo Friender (Kalamazoo), to whom reports are sent,

corrected her email to flo@dougandflo.com.

Other Brief Reports:

- Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported that Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting held its Midwinter Gathering Saturday, March 2, and was pleased to welcome about 25 people to the online event. Dwight Wilson (Ann Arbor) presented a program reading passages from his books of historical fiction that are based on his extensive research into the Black and Quaker roots of his family's history.
- Jeff Cooper reported that Ann Arbor Meeting is appreciating an influx of younger Friends attending worship and participating in Meeting activities. Monthly dinners for Young Adult Friends are supported by older Friends who offer their homes and plentiful food. The children's program has grown and is beginning to use an additional room.
- Bill Warters reported that Birmingham Meeting has responded to an offer from Quaker Meeting Network in Britain to help with hosting their website. They are happy with the service and invite inquiries.
- Tom Kangas reported that North Columbus Meeting has temporarily relocated to the basement of a Methodist church as they follow their intentions to make the Meeting more accessible. They recently added a "meeting for fidgeting" to welcome people who may not feel comfortable in a traditional setting. This practice is represented in a recent Friends Journal article.
- Jana Norlin joyfully reported that Grand Rapids Meeting has restarted a First Day School program because of an increase in children and young families attending; people stay in touch through a group chat/text. Jana has been accepted as an attendee at the upcoming FWCC meeting in South Africa and intends to be in touch with European Friends on that trip.
- Jack Smith reported that Red Cedar Meeting completed their engagement with the Faithful Meetings program from School of the Spirit ministry. The Meeting found it useful and are seeking ways to continue the deep engagement they found in this program as they go forward.

RM2024-04 Advancement & Outreach Committee Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) reported

The Committee has organized a series of online events this year called Quakerism 101. Four have occurred so far, with three more scheduled, each one focused on a basic topic and designed for both those experienced in Quakerism and those new to Friends.

The Committee reviewed State of the Meeting reports submitted last year and reached out to Meetings that had not submitted them. The Committee is currently contacting worship groups to encourage them to send to the committee their worship schedule and contact information for distribution.

Grand Rapids Meeting reported in January that Manitou Worship Group, which has been under their care, has been laid down.

The full Committee report:

Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

The Advancement & Outreach Committee has organized a series of monthly topics and discussions referred to as Quakerism 101 designed to enrich monthly meetings and to share information with those new to Friends. They are modeled after a series held by North Columbus Monthly Meeting last year and consist of live Zoom sessions with a variety of formats.

The North Columbus Meeting held two of these sessions for the wider Yearly Meeting: one on "What is Quakerism?" and a second on "Vocal Ministry and Meeting for Worship." Shelley Kotz of Broadmead Meeting presented a session on "Sharing the Life of Lucretia Mott." Ann Arbor Meeting has presented one on "Faith & Practice." The Kalamazoo Meeting is scheduled to do a session in March on "What do Quakers believe?" In April the Pittsburgh Meeting will do one on "Business Meeting," and in May, Red Cedar Meeting will give a presentation on "Quaker Organizations."

When the Annual Records came out, the Committee noticed the Meetings that had not submitted State of the Meeting reports and proceeded to contact them to see how they were doing and what may have led them to not submit a report. Several of these Meetings had prepared reports but they were not received by the Yearly Meeting. The Committee also reviewed the submitted State of

the Meeting Reports focusing on provisions relating to the growing of Meetings and outreach to new Friends.

The Committee currently is in the process of contacting smaller worship groups in the Yearly Meeting to publicize their worship schedules and contact information in the Bulletin. We hope this information might encourage Friends to visit worship groups if they are in their area during spring and summer travel plans. Respectfully submitted: Susan Hartman, Stephanie Charlot, Barbara LeSage, Mary Igoe Meyers, and Joseph Mills, clerk

RM2024-05 Arrangements & Site Committee Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) & Bill…

Arrangements & Site Committee Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) & Bill Warters (Birmingham) reported.

The Committee has gone through evaluations received after the Annual Meeting and is working on changes to improve our collective experience at the Annual Meeting at Ashland University in 2024. Registration will be completely online this year, with ample support available for anyone wishing it. Aids for the very high beds are being worked on, and ways to make people staying in hotels feel they are in community are being pursued. There will be greeters to help with questions about the dining area and tray carriers available. Different room arrangements for business meetings are being investigated to make them more accessible and comfortable for both those in person and those wishing to attend by zoom. The Committee is working on better signage. Details are included in the full report attached below.

Bill Warters (Birmingham) mentioned a few highlights of this year's annual session, including the theme th

"Friends Together: Outpourings of the Spirit" and a 400birthday party for George Fox on Saturday night. He demonstrated the new online registration system.

The full Committee report:

Arrangements & Site Committee Report

1. Registration process: Summary from evaluations

> Registration process (4.67)- Is there a way for folks to be able to save or access their registration form after submission to look up what they registered for? Is there a way to make the registration on-line only? And is there way to emphasize more explicitly the offer of assistance to anyone who is having challenges navigating the form? Most people had no problems.

i) We are going to use only online registration this year. Anyone who has any trouble whatsoever can call the registrar and get help. She will fill out the registration form for you if needed. There will be a registration process fee included. There will also be a credit card fee for those paying by credit card. Friends will also be able to send a check to the registrar.

ii) We will include volunteer opportunities on the form. (See Bill's demonstration) iii) All registrants will receive an email with their registration information. iv) Registration deadline (Last year the deadline was May 10)

2. Accommodations: Summary from evaluations

Dorm Facilities (3.83) – two consistent issues mentioned: 1) beds were difficult (undoable for some) and some needed debunking & 2) very cold in air conditioning dorm; Suggestions for next year: advise folks to bring trash bag for dorm rooms if desired; explain to folks in air-conditioned dorms to bring blankets & to close bathroom doors due to auto-light issues; Research other options with Ashland University? i) Bed arrangements on campus

(1) We need volunteers to rearrange bedroom furniture before and after people arrive. (2) We will give recommendations for what people who stay in the dorm might find useful ii) Hotels

(1) Arrangements are a work in progress. We are soliciting input from people who used hotels last year and will continue to seek input from those who choose this option.

(2) We are considering making a recommendation for a hotel for people to stay in. This will provide a chance for more interaction.

(3) We are working to see if we can get a group rate.

3. Meals: summary from evaluations

Meal Service (4.61) – Extremely high praise for the staff & the food except for vegetarian choices; Issues mentioned – some need help carrying trays & coffee cups too small; Suggestions: advise folks to bring their own mugs; more vegetarian options (less meat, oatmeal at every breakfast) i) We will provide greeters to help people find seating and to point out where different food options are located ii) We will provide tray carriers

4. Meeting spaces: Friends expressed concerns about the room and the room arrangement we used for meetings for business.

We are exploring options to respond to these concerns. If we want to continue using Zoom, the Heritage Room is the easiest room to use. Thus, we are discussing how to arrange the chairs and how to provide better microphones. We are also exploring the use of the Trustees Room, thinking about how to set up Zoom and use hand held portable mics.

5. Signage: Some folks had difficulty finding their way around 1) We will make signs for the elevator

2) We will make signs for the dining room

RM2024-06 Adult Program Committee Clemence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group) reported

The Committee is reviewing the schedule for the 2024 Annual Meeting based on comments received after our 2023 Annual Meeting. There will be a session with the Ashland Center for Non-Violence staff on Friday morning. Multiple workshops will be offered at three different times. The plenary will feature Paulette Meier and Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar). Time for in-person committee meetings will be included in the schedule, as well as “birds of a feather” opportunities after dinner. Full details will be provided in the Spring LEYM Bulletin.

RM2024-07 Youth & Children’s Program Committee Diane Mott (Broadmead) reported

th

The May 10deadline for registration is firm for the children’s program. A tee-shirt design has been drafted and they plan to offer similar shirts for sale to anyone in attendance. Different colors will distinguish those in the program from those not to support the safety of the children.

The fall youth retreat will be held September 27-29, 2024. This is the last time it will be held at Templed Hills, as the property is being sold. Future fall youth retreats are being planned, with new options being considered.

The full Committee report:

Youth & Children’s Program Committee Report

To prepare for 2024 Annual Meeting, the committee has started the orientation for the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy which is required for all adults who work with children and youth at LEYM Annual Meeting. The Youth and Children Program shirt design has been drafted and colors have been selected. For the first time, shirts in a different color will be offered for sale (at cost) to adults who are not part of the youth program. Those shirts (tan with black ink) will be available as part of the registration process, and only the shirts that are ordered will be printed. Traditionally the plenary speaker is given a shirt, and this year that shirt will be tan. The youth program shirts will be safety orange with black ink.

The LEYM Fall Youth Retreat for children and youth grades K – 12 will be held on September 27 – 29 at Templed Hills Church Camp in Bellville, Ohio. The Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ is selling the camp in November 2024, so this will be the last year for LEYM Fall Youth Retreat to be held at Templed Hills. This summer, the Youth and Children Program committee clerk and assistant clerk will look for a new location for the Fall Youth Retreat beginning in 2025. One possibility is inviting other Quaker Yearly Meetings in Ohio to join LEYM for the retreat. There is a chance that Templed Hills will be sold before September 29, and the clerk and assistant clerk will make alternate plans for the retreat at that time.

RM2024-08 Ministry & Nurture Committee Flo Friender (Kalamazoo) reported

The Committee has organized several upcoming events. There will be an all-meeting worship this Tuesday, March 12, 7-9 pm, with opportunity to socialize. There will be a clerks' chat for monthly meeting clerks on March 18 at 7 pm.

The full Committee report:

Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

> Ministry and Nurture has met regularly by zoom monthly. During the past year they came up with a query for monthly meetings which was sent out. As of 3/6/24 we have received 14 responses to the query. Responses were on the whole positive for the query. Friends like the idea of getting an annual query;

many appreciated this particular query and have reviewed their use of queries in their meetings. Many felt that queries brought their Meetings closer together.

> We have organized zoom chats for both monthly Meeting Clerks and Committee Clerks of Ministry and Worship committees from monthly meetings, with increasing attendance and enthusiasm. We have also arranged All-Yearly Meeting worship sessions.
>
> We are down to five members, Mark Hoover having dropped out mid-year.

RM2024-09 Publications & Archive Committee Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported

Elise Yoder (Pittsburgh) will once again edit LEYM's Annual Records for 2024. The Committee is considering producing a separate version of Annual Records this year that can be shared on the LEYM website. Comments are invited.

The full Committee report:

Publications & Archives Committee Report

1. We are pleased to announce that Elise Yoder has agreed to edit the 2024 Annual Records. I told her we would try to get items to her in a more timely way this year, and hope we can make good on this request.

2. Following up on a suggestion, we recommend producing a separate pdf version of the Annual Records with the Directory removed, for posting on the website. In addition to removing the Directory, there are two sections that would need slight editing:

> 1) Children's epistles are sometimes "signed" by all the children in an age group. Current policy precludes providing names of children on the website without prior approval of their parent or guardian. Given that often several children are named on each epistle, the best solution is probably to remove those names – perhaps stating "signed by (X number of) children" – rather than seeking permission for each. 2) Posting transcriptions or summaries of plenary talks would require obtaining permission from the speaker(s). These changes would require only a little more work and no additional cost. Sharing thoughts, suggestions, and concerns regarding this recommendation is welcome. We also considered a suggestion that all or parts of Annual Records appear only online but ultimately decided that it should continue as a print publication. 3. Finally, we're not sure what to expect from the discussion of committee/clerking structure at Representative Meeting. IF we move forward with our committee structure intact, then we would like to invite standing committees to look at the description of their committee in Policies and Procedures, and suggest changes to reflect current practice. Depending on the degree of recommended change, this may ultimately need to go before the Meeting for approval at Annual Sessions.

RM2024-10 Annual Meeting Quaker Book Table Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) reported

Quaker Books is no longer taking credit cards and she didn't know that at the time of our 2023 Annual Meeting. She will be contacting people who thought they paid by credit card at last year's annual meeting to ask them to send a check instead.

RM2024-11 Treasurer's Report Tom Kangas (North Columbus) reported

The Treasurer, Tom Kangas, first reported on the finances of the 2023 Annual Meeting. The final numbers showed a deficit of $4,750. The deficit was expected and we provided a subsidy of $6,100 to

cover it.

Tom gave a brief update on final figures for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Expenses in 2022-23 were less than projected due to fewer hours worked by our employees under contract, and income increased through a dividend in June from FFC.

For the current year (2023-24), most of the contributions from monthly meetings have been received. All payments to other organizations have been made. Not all contract employees have billed us for work done to date. There are unpredictable changes in the value of our funds in the Friends Fiduciary Corporation due to market value, but they have been favorable by $2000 this year. The general fund is in good shape. A transfer of $5,000 was made to support the Annual Meeting Fund. Wooster Friends made an additional donation of $1,500 to the Yearly Meeting. The series of payments to Ashland University for Annual Meeting 2024 have begun.

The full Treasurer's report is here (Financial statements are attached to the end of these minutes):

Treasurer's Report

Final results for FY2022-2023 as compared to the projections presented at Annual Sessions last June The final financial statements for the year ended June 20, 2023 (that have now been audited) were published in the Annual Records in Fall of 2023.

A. Annual Meeting Fund

- Net deficit for the Annual Meeting was $4,750, prior to subsidy, was worse by $800 than had been projected in June
- Subsidy from the General Fund was increased by $800 to $6,100, but still less than originally contemplated ($10,000)
- Annual Meeting Fund ended the year with a $2,500 ending balance, as planned
- Reasons for change
  - Revenue overall decreased $294 (down: registration $; up: book store, t-shirt sales, lost keycard reimbursement)
  - Expenses increased by $527 (Ashland Univ charges, Y&C program, office supplies, online payment fees not covered by registrants)

B. General Fund

- Net deficit was $1,267, an improvement by $3,211 from projection
- Reasons for the change
  - Cash Expense decreased by $2,276
    - the actual invoices for contract workers for 2half of the year were for significantly less than budget
    - the projection in June had been set at 100% of budget
  - FFC increased by $2000
    - Income increased by June FFC dividend of $968
    - The market value of the FFC portfolio at year-end was $1006 higher
  - An additional $800 was transferred out of the GF to subsidize the Annual Meeting **Interim results for FY2023-2024**
- Income
  - Have received payments from most MMs, still waiting on three.
  - We are grateful for these contributions from MMs and also for contributions to the GF received from individuals!
- Expenses
  - Completed items:
    - payments to other organizations
    - transfers to other funds (from the general fund)
  - DBM: Lynda Rose final bill paid. Donna Lueke has billed for 4 of 12 months in this FY

- o DCF: Bill Warters has billed for 8 of 12 in this FY
- o Other expenses appear to be on-track or under budget
- • Statement of Financial Position
- o 2/3 of our treasury held by FFC and this account has two types of activity
    - ▪ Dividends happen in December and June, and are predictable
    - ▪ Changes in the investments' market value, are unpredictable
- o Look for this $2,954 benefit to the GF on the summary of LEYM funds
    - ▪ Arising from a December dividend of $1000 and
    - ▪ A $1,949 favorable market value change YTD
- • LEYM Funds
    - o General Fund
        - ▪ In good shape
    - o Annual Meeting Fund
        - ▪ $5,000 subsidy from the GF shown in "Transfers" column
        - ▪ $1,500 contribution from Wooster MM shown in the Cash Income column—thank you very much, Wooster Friends!!
        - ▪ $1,500 expense is the deposit paid for use of Ashland Univ facilities June, 2024
        - ▪ We begin a series of payments to Ashland Univ with a $10,000 installment that will be paid next week
    - o Travel Fund.
        - ▪ Got a $500 refund from AFSC for an amount paid by LEYM's representative to AFSC to attend a meeting last fiscal year
    - o Youth Activities Fund
        - ▪ Activity related to retreat last September
    - o Spiritual Formation Fund
        - ▪ Activity related to retreat last September

RM2024-12 Draft Budget for 2024-25 Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported for the Finance Committee

The current draft budget for 2024-25 was shared with the group. There are only slight changes from the current year's budget. As proposed, there will be a shortfall of nearly $4,000. A raise in expected contribution per member from $42 to $44 will allow Yearly Meeting to continue the level of subsidy of Annual Meeting. The hourly rate paid to our contract workers will be raised by $.50 per hour. The full draft budget is attached at the end of these minutes.

In response to a question about our travel reimbursement of $.22/mile rather than the IRS charitable rate of $.14/mile, Tom Kangas explained that the Committee has sought a level that reflects a more accurate cost due to gasoline prices. A Friend asked if expected dividends from FFF are included in the budget and the Treasurer confirmed that they are.

Joann Neuroth shared that the Committee is examining funds for specialized purposes that are not being used. If it is possible to move some of those funds to more general use, it could take some pressure off our efforts to continue to support Annual Meeting through a subsidy. The funds being considered are the Consultation Fund, the Traveling Ministry Fund, and the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund.

A Friend asked if the Meeting as a whole should also consider whether the activities represented by these funds might be encouraged. There was a question about whether the Teen Retreat might be reinstated. The Fall Youth Retreat extended its range to include teens a few years ago, which partially meets the need.

Continuation of the Business Meeting.

After a lunch break, there was some remaining business to address. The clerk reminded us that our purpose in pursuing business is, by searching together, to find the way we are led outside of our immediate experience.

RM2024-13 Proposal for Travel Reimbursements Tom Kangas reported

The Finance Committee brought a proposal for a change in wording of Policies and Procedures to clarify that our policy is different for covering travel to FWCC international/plenary gatherings by our designated representatives than for other travel on behalf of the Yearly Meeting. There are two different funds, the Travel Fund and the FWCC Travel Fund. (Note: Travel to the FWCC Section of the Americas is covered by our general Travel Fund.) We try to cover expenses required for the international "plenary" gatherings of FWCC more fully than for other travel; that FWCC Travel Fund can cover travel, food, lodging and registration.

There is also a need to clarify the types of expenses covered by the general Travel Fund. The Committee suggests a change to wording in Policies & Procedures saying we do not generally cover food or lodging expenses on the Travel Fund. The changes also explicitly state that registration can be covered. In addition, Friends may request reimbursement for additional travel-related expenses beyond those usually covered, as needed, so that no one is excluded from serving the yearly meeting in this way.

In answer to a question, Tom clarified that LEYM uses a continuing Travel Fund to support travel expenses rather than using a line in the annual budget. This fund helps negotiate variances from year to year and is replenished by transfers from the General Fund periodically.

Friends at Representative Meeting expressed support for the proposal brought by the Finance Committee. It will be presented to the Annual Meeting for a decision. The proposal follows:

> **Proposed edits to LEYM Policies and Procedures from LEYM Finance Committee (10/27/2023)**

LEYM Policies & Procedures excerpts related to FWCC travel funds and the general Travel Fund pulled from Policies & Procedures dated 10-2022

[italicized notes in purple represent comments by Finance Committee]

III. ORGANIZATION

D. Representatives to Quaker Organizations

2. Organizations and Related Information

d. Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas 1) Appointees must be members of the Religious Society of Friends. 2) Representatives to FWCC have three-year overlapping terms. 3) The number of representative positions available is determined by FWCC. FWCC may also co-opt LEYM Friends who are not representatives directly onto its committees. 4) In the past, LEYM has sent two representatives to the FWCC Triennials. Naming to future comparable meetings, at whatever interval, will be made according to the allotment assigned to LEYM by FWCC. 5) Representatives to FWCC international gatherings are named by the Nominating Committee in consultation with the clerk of LEYM and the clerk of the FWCC Representatives. 6) Representatives to FWCC are expected to assist with arrangements for regional meetings or the equivalent whenever they are scheduled. [re-numbered from #7 to #6] 7) LEYM provides reimbursement funds for representatives' attendance at the annual meeting of the Section of the Americas and international gatherings. In the event that funds are not sufficient to cover costs, funds will be apportioned according to the stated financial needs of the named representatives. [re-numbered from #6 to #7]

> **a. Reimbursement for travel of LEYM's FWCC Representatives to regional FWCC gatherings and the annual meeting of the Section of the Americas comes from the Travel Fund (subject to the** guidelines described in section IV. A. 3. b., below). [this is a clarification requested by Finance Committee that brings into LEYM Policies & Procedures existing guidance from the LEYM Financial Manual]
>
> **b. Reimbursement for travel of LEYM's FWCC Representatives to World Plenary Meetings of the** Friends World Committee for Consultation comes from the FWCC Travel Fund. [this is a clarification requested by Finance Committee]
>
> > i. Reimbursable expenses include registration, travel, food, and lodging. [this is a clarification requested by Finance Committee]

ii. In the event that funds are not sufficient to cover costs, funds will be apportioned according to the stated needs of the named representatives.

IV. OPERATIONS

A. Financial Support and Fiscal Policy

2. Budget

a. The Lake Erie Yearly Meeting budget covers costs necessary for the functioning of the Yearly Meeting, such as publications, travel expenses for officers and representatives to Friends' organizations, office administration, and the Yearly Meeting's contribution to Friends General Conference. b. The annual budget should include a proportional amount of the estimated travel expenses for two delegates to attend World Plenary Meetings of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. This money is transferred into the FWCC Travel Fund, where it builds until requested by LEYM representatives attending these meetings. Currently an equal amount is budgeted to support enabling Friends from less affluent parts of the world to attend these World Plenary Meetings; this latter amount is transferred into the FWCC Travel Donation Fund.

c. 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. All requests for Yearly Meeting funds must be brought to the Finance Committee, which will decide whether to bring them to Annual Sessions.

3. Expense Reporting and Reimbursement

a. Yearly Meeting officers, representatives, and committee members are asked to submit to the treasurer reports of out-of-pocket and in-kind expenses such as travel, long distance telephone charges, and postage, so that the cost of conducting Yearly Meeting business may be accurately known.

b. Travel Fund

i. Yearly Meeting officers and representatives to Friends' organizations may receive reimbursement for travel expenses for business on behalf of the Yearly Meeting and for attendance at meetings of Friends' organizations. A committee member may be reimbursed for unusual expenses incurred on behalf of the Yearly Meeting if the presiding clerk provides written approval in advance. A copy of the Travel Expense Reporting Form appears in Appendix E.

ii. The principal travel cost to be reimbursed is the transportation itself; however, this fund may also be used for event registration. [this is a change/clarification requested by Finance Committee**] iii. If a Friend drives and requests reimbursement, the amount is calculated on a per-mile basis. The current reimbursement rate, approved in 2022, is 22¢ per mile. Any change to this rate is part of the budgeting process, proposed by Finance Committee and requiring approval by the Yearly Meeting.

iv. Friends are expected to cover their own food costs and lodging costs (or and, whenever possible, to arrange lodging with Friends in the area of travel). [this is a clarification requested by Finance Committee]

v. However, the intent of the Yearly Meeting is that no one be excluded from representing Lake Erie Yearly Meeting because of limited financial resources; thus, individuals may request reimbursement for additional travel-related expenses or take them as a tax-deductible contribution to the Yearly Meeting.

vi. For special travel needs of Friends within the Yearly Meeting relating to Quaker work, the **presiding clerk, the treasurer, and the clerk of the Finance Committee will consult with one another, and the presiding clerk will respond. Other officers, other committee clerks, and other** members of the Finance committee may be consulted as needed. [this language was approved by Yearly Meeting as YM13-34, but was not previously represented in LEYM Policies & Procedures] c. Monthly meetings are responsible for travel expenses of their representatives to Yearly Meeting who attend Representative Meeting or Annual Meeting.

**Finance Committee notes the following actual reimbursements from LEYM travel funds for event registration costs in recent years:

Fiscal Year $ amount Event

2023-2024 $299.00 FGC Central Committee (shared cost with attendees) 2022-2023 $70.00 FGC Central Committee (shared cost with attendee) 2021-2022 $62.00 FGC Central Committee (shared cost with attendee) 2018-2019 $325.00 FCNL Annual Meeting

2018-2019 $250.00 FWCC Section of the Americas Meeting

2016-2017 $500.00 FWCC Section of the Americas Meeting

Finance Committee suggests that making event registration cost an explicitly named acceptable use of travel funds would be a simplification (i.e., would eliminate the need to use the “special travel” request approval process described in section IV. A. 3. b. vi. above), with the understanding that the change could result in increased reimbursements from the fund.

The business session of Representative Meeting closed at 1:35 pm with worship.

Susan Loucks, Clerk

Peggy Daub, Recording Clerk

Documents appended:

Financial Statements

Draft Budget for 2023-24

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Financial Report for 2023 Annual Meeting - June 15 - 18, 2023

Income		
Registrations fees net of discounts and scholarships		19,414.93
Donations from attendees		816.25
Net earnings from bookstore		116.52
Collected for Youth & Children Program t-shirts		51.00
Payments for lost cards and keys		55.00
Total Income		$ 20,453.70
Expenses		
Ashland University conference charges		22,673.76
Honoraria for presenters (and travel for plenary speaker)		1,540.00
Youth and Children program (supplies, activities, t-shirts)		798.30
Office supplies		162.72
Online registration payment fees not covered by payors (FFC)		28.75
Total Expenses		$ 25,203.53
Net Income <Deficit> prior to subsidy from General Fund		$ (4,749.83)
Original subsidy from LEYM General Fund	10,000.00	
Return of excess subsidy to LEYM General Fund	(3,900.00)	
Net subsidy	6,100.00	6,100.00
Net Income <Deficit> from Annual Meeting activities		$ 1,350.17
Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of September 31, 2022 (surplus)		$ 1,159.01
Net Income <Deficit> from Annual Meeting Activities June 2023		1,350.17
Annual Meeting Fund - Balance as of June 30, 2023 (surplus)		**2,509.18**

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LEYM Summary of Funds for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2022	Friends Fiduciary account activity[1]	Transfers between funds	Cash Income	Cash Expense	Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/30/2023	Floor/ Suggested floor/ceiling amounts for each fund	/Ceiling	Last activity prior to FY22-23
Funds held in (i) Base account with Friends Fiduciary Corp and (ii) Citizens National Bank										
General Fund[2]	27,827.60	4,731.46	(8,900.00)	25,390.00	(22,488.62)	**(1,267.16)**	**26,560.44**	na	30,000	
Annual Meeting Fund[0]	419.01		6,100.00	24,859.72	(28,869.55)	**2,090.17**	**2,509.18**	1,000	3,000	
Travel Fund	3,945.00		-	-	(909.30)	**(909.30)**	**3,035.70**	2,000	4,000	
Youth Activities Fund[4]	5,536.78		1,157.79	840.00	(1,069.87)	**927.92**	**6,464.70**	4,000	8,000	
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	3,000.00		1,000.00	-	-	**1,000.00**	**4,000.00**	2,000	4,000	
HS Teen Retreat Fund	6,892.64					-	**6,892.64**	3,000	6,000	FY17-18
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649.00				-	-	**1,649.00**	na	2,000	FY19-20
Spiritual Formation Fund	4,043.59		-	-	-	-	**4,043.59**	500	2,000	
Consultation Fund	3,143.68					-	**3,143.68**	500	2,000	FY11-12
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00					-	**3,500.00**	na	na	FY13-14[5]
Work Projects Fund	2,182.39					-	**2,182.39**	na	2,000	FY17-18
FWCC Travel Fund	6,239.83		900.00			**900.00**	**7,139.83**	na	9,000	
FWCC Travel Donation	2,700.00		900.00		-	**900.00**	**3,600.00**	na	9,000	
Funds held in separate account with Friends Fiduciary Corp										
Granville Youth Fund[3]	8,206.78	857.02	(350.54)			**506.48**	**8,713.26**	na	na	
Funds held by others - see Statement of Financial Position										
Prepaid Expense	1,145.00	-	(807.25)			**(807.25)**	**337.75**	na	na	
TOTAL	80,431.30	5,588.48	-	51,089.72	(53,337.34)	**3,340.86**	**83,772.16**			

NOTES> Funds other than the General Fund are managed through accounting and may be subsidized from the General Fund.

[0] Annual Meeting Fund for FY2022-2023 contains activity for two Annual Meetings: one held July, 2022 and another held June, 2023.

[1] Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC) activity includes dividends and net change portfolio value due to market conditions. See Balance Sheet for detail.

[2] FFC General (Base) Account activity is included here in LEYM's General Fund.

[3] Granville Friends Youth Fund is a separate FFC account. FFC activity shown on this line reflects only that fund's change in portfolio value.

[4] FFC dollars transferred to this line represent dividends paid to the Granville Friends Youth Fund during current fiscal year and credited to YAF.

[5] Established in FY13-14 by a donation toward LEYM's Traveling Ministry Program, this fund has had no activity from inception to date.

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LEYM General Fund Income

As of 3/8/2024

For the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2024)

Contribution From	Amount	Deposit Date
Akron Monthly Meeting	250	12/17/2023
Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting	5,124	2/6/2024
Athens Monthly Meeting	2,000	10/22/2023
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	588	10/24/2023
Broadmead Monthly Meeting	1,500	12/18/2023
Cleveland Monthly Meeting	1,680	1/15/2024
Delaware Monthly Meeting		
Detroit Monthly Meeting	924	1/15/2024
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting	504	1/15/2024
Granville Monthly Meeting		
Holland Monthly Meeting	200	12/17/2023
Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting		
Kent Monthly Meeting	714	9/9 & 11/18/23
Mid-Ohio Valley Monthly Meeting	180	2/3/2024
North Columbus Monthly Meeting	1,260	11/12/2023
Oberlin Monthly Meeting	1,050	2/21/2024
Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting	4,914	2/24/2024
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting	2,856	1/17/2024
Wooster Monthly Meeting	546	1/19/2024
Subtotal - contributing MM or WG	**24,290**	
Individuals - via check	100	
Individuals - via FFC online	450	
Interest income from Savings Acct	36	
Total Cash Contribution Income	**24,876**	
FFC Dividend Income (Base Acct only)	1,005	
Total Income	**25,881**	(cash income, excluding in-kind)

Expected, per budget	*Actual as a % of Budget*	*Variance, favorable (unfavorable)*
27,510	88%	(3,220)

In-kind		Total contribution income
+	-	24,876

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LEYM General Fund Expenses - with comparison to Budget

For the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2024)

Account	Actual Expense through 3/8/2024	Budget (annual)	Actual expense as a % of Budget	Variance, budget-to-actual, favorable (unfavorable)	Non-cash, in-kind donations through 3/8/2024	Total Expense, including in-kind, through 3/8/2024
Operations						
Contract Worker: Database Manager	1,593.00	4,320	37%	2,727	-	1,593
Contract Worker: Digital Comm Facil'r	1,397.40	6,500	21%	5,103	-	1,397
Insurance	597.00	650	92%	53	-	597
Office/administration	303.44	1,200	25%	897	-	303
Committees						
Advancement & Outreach	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Ministry & Nurture	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Publications	2,188.35	3,500	63%	1,312	-	2,188
Members						
Attend conference w/ Quaker values	-	600	0%	600	-	-
Organizations						
Friends General Conference	6,000.00	6,000	100%	-	-	6,000
Olney Friends School	3,000.00	3,000	100%	-	-	3,000
Swarthmore records project	150.00	150	100%	-	-	150
Subtotal cash expenditures	15,229	26,120	58%	10,891	-	15,229
Transfers from General Fund to other Funds						
Annual Meeting Fund	5,000.00	5,000	100%	-		
Travel Fund	1,000.00	1,000	100%	-		
FWCC Travel Fund & Donation	1,800.00	1,800	100%	-		
Subtotal Transfers	7,800.00	7,800		-		
Totals - General Fund Expenses	**23,029.19**	**33,920**	68%	10,891		

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Lake Erie Yearly Meeting – Financial Position
For the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2024)

Location of monetary assets	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2023	Change in balance during the fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 3/8/2024
The Citizens National Bank of Bluffton. OH			
Checking Account	7,373.51	2,975.90	10,349.41
Savings Account	18,525.00	160.24	18,685.24
Subtotal of both CNB accounts	25,898.51	3,136.14	29,034.65
Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Philadelphia, PA *			
General (Base) Account	49,160.39	2,954.09	52,114.48
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid (and reinvested)		1,004.72	
Activity includes: • Change in Portfolio Value, + or -		1,949.37	
Granville Youth Fund Account	8,713.26	343.39	9,056.65
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid		178.27	
Activity includes: • Change in Portfolio Value + or -		343.39	
Activity includes: • Dividends disbursed by FFC to LEYM, recorded to Youth Activ Fund		(178.27)	
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	57,873.65	3,297.48	61,171.13
Total monetary assets	**83,772.16**	**6,433.62**	**90,205.78**
Notation: Prepaid Expenses			
Ashland Univ credit to be carried over to Jun 2024 Annl Mtg	45.00	-	45.00
UCCR deposit for Youth Activities retreat, Sept 2024	358.75	-	358.75
Weber Ctr deposit for Spiritual Formation retreat, Sep 2024	150.00	-	150.00
	553.75	-	553.75

	Total	% of Beg Bal
Div Pd	1,183	2%
△Value	2,293	4%
	3,476	6%

* Note> All of the funds with Friends Fiduciary Corporation are invested in FFC's Quaker Growth & Income Fund (QGIF).

The Quaker Growth & Income Fund is a diversified, co-mingled fund with allocations to equities, fixed income and real estate investment trusts (REITs). Its primary objective is to provide stable current income and long-term growth consistent with protecting principal investments against inflation over time. The fund adheres to Friends Fiduciary's Quaker-values investment guidelines and participates in our shareholder advocacy work. It is intended for investors with an investment horizon of five years or longer. The Fund has a standard income distribution policy based on the fund's total return.

Source> friendsfiduciary.org, 12/31/2022

HOLDINGS BY ASSET CLASS	*Equity*	*Fixed Income*	*REITS*
Global and International Equity	*25.1%*		
Small and Mid Cap Equity	*17.7%*		
Large Cap Equity	*28.6%*		
Fixed Income (Domestic, Global, Short-Term, plus Cash)		*23.0%*	*5.6%*
	71.4%	*23.0%*	*5.6%*

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LEYM Summary of Funds for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2023	Friends Fiduciary account activity[1]	Transfers between funds	Cash Income	Cash Expense	Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 3/8/2024	Floor/ Suggested floor/ceiling amounts for each fund	/Ceiling	Last activity prior to FY23-24
Funds held in (i) Base account with Friends Fiduciary Corp and (ii) Citizens National Bank										
General Fund[2]	26,560.44	2,954.09	(7,800.00)	24,876.24	(15,229.19)	**4,801.14**	**31,361.58**	na	30,000	
Annual Meeting Fund	2,509.18		5,000.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	**5,000.00**	**7,509.18**	1,000	3,000	
Travel Fund	3,035.70		1,000.00	500.00	(299.00)	**1,201.00**	**4,236.70**	2,000	4,000	
Youth Activities Fund[4]	6,464.70		57.27	970.00	(1,031.30)	**(4.03)**	**6,460.67**	4,000	8,000	
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	4,000.00		-	-	-	**-**	**4,000.00**	2,000	4,000	FY22-23
HS Teen Retreat Fund	6,892.64					**-**	**6,892.64**	3,000	6,000	FY17-18
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649.00				-	**-**	**1,649.00**	na	2,000	FY19-20
Spiritual Formation Fund	4,043.59		(50.00)	5,503.76	(6,507.64)	**(1,053.88)**	**2,989.71**	500	2,000	
Consultation Fund	3,143.68					**-**	**3,143.68**	500	2,000	FY11-12
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00					**-**	**3,500.00**	na	na	FY13-14[5]
Work Projects Fund	2,182.39					**-**	**2,182.39**	na	2,000	FY17-18
FWCC Travel Fund	7,139.83		900.00	-	(1,325.00)	**(425.00)**	**6,714.83**	na	9,000	
FWCC Travel Donation	3,600.00		900.00		(4,500.00)	**(3,600.00)**	**-**	na	9,000	
Funds held in separate account with Friends Fiduciary Corp										
Granville Youth Fund[3]	8,713.26	521.66	(178.27)			**343.39**	**9,056.65**	na	na	
Funds held by others - see Statement of Financial Position										
Prepaid Expense	337.75	-	171.00	-		**171.00**	**508.75**	na	na	
TOTAL	83,772.16	3,475.75	-	33,350.00	(30,392.13)	**6,433.62**	**90,205.78**			

NOTES> Funds other than the General Fund are managed through accounting and may be subsidized from the General Fund.

[1] Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC) activity includes dividends and net change portfolio value due to market conditions. See Balance Sheet for detail.

[2] FFC General (Base) Account activity is included here in LEYM's General Fund.

[3] Granville Friends Youth Fund is a separate FFC account. FFC activity shown on this line reflects only that fund's change in portfolio value.

[4] FFC dollars transferred to this line represent dividends paid to the Granville Friends Youth Fund during current fiscal year and credited to YAF.

[5] Established in FY13-14 by a donation toward LEYM's Traveling Ministry Program, this fund has had no activity from inception to date.

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History						LEYM Budgets			**Actual as of 3/8/2024		(prelim budget, not approved)	
FY 2020-21		FY 2021-22		FY 2022-23			*Budget approved 06/16/2023	FY 2023-24			FY 2024-25	
Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	General Fund Expenses		Budget*	Actual**		Budget	Change
1,400	2,905	2,500	2,898	3,900	2,828	General	Contractor: Database Manager	4,320	1,593		4,400	80
3,100	4,237	5,100	5,570	6,200	4,996		Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	6,500	1,397		6,600	100
500	500	500	597	650	597		Insurance	650	597		650	-
3,500	2,077	1,500	677	1,500	1,035		Administration	1,200	303		1,100	(100)
500	-	500	-	500	-	Committees	Advancement & Outreach	100	-		100	-
50	-	100	-	100	-		Ministry & Nurture	100	-		100	-
3,200	2,476	3,200	3,393	3,500	2,876		Publications	3,500	2,188		3,500	-
1,000	400	1,000	-	600	-	Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	600	-		500	(100)
6,000	6,000	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	Organizations	FGC	6,000	6,000		6,200	200
3,000	3,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500		Olney Friends School	3,000	3,000		3,100	100
100	100	150	150	150	150		Swarthmore Records Project	150	150		150	-
		1,000	1,000	-			<== Detroit mtg hse contrib'n					-
2,957	2,957	1,200	1,200	-	-	Tranfers from	Travel Fund	1,000	1,000		1,500	500
-	-	-	-	-	-	General Fund	Youth Activity Fund	-	-		-	-
2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	to...	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship Fund	-	-		-	-
-	-	-	-	10,000	6,100		Annual Meeting subsidy	5,000	5,000		5,000	-
1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800		FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,800	1,800		1,800	-
29,107	28,453	29,550	28,285	39,900	31,382		Total Expenses and Transfers =	33,920	23,029		34,700	780
						General Fund Income						
21,750	21,460	17,875	18,780	26,005	25,390		Contributions Income	27,510	24,876		28,820	1,310
1,000	1,474	1,000	1,728	1,500	1,916		FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	1,500	1,005		2,000	500
22,750	22,934	18,875	20,508	27,505	27,306		Total Income =	29,010	25,881		30,820	1,810
(6,357)	(5,520)	(10,675)	(7,777)	(12,395)	(4,076)		Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(4,910)	2,852		(3,880)	1,030
	11,272		(8,859)		2,815		FFC chg in portfolio value (Base)		1,949			
	11,272		(8,859)		2,815		Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =		1,949			
	5,753		(16,636)		(1,261)		Total Change in General Fund =		4,801			
725		715		743			# members used to produce above estimate =	655			655	
$30		$25		**$35**			Suggested contribution per member =	$42		20%	$44	5%
$ 0.17		$ 0.16		**$ 0.22**			Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =	$ 0.22			$ 0.22	

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LEYM Annual Meeting
June 13 – 16, 2024
Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio

Sessions were held in a blended (hybrid) format with many participants in person at Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio, and a few online.

Clerks' table: Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), Clerk; Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Recording Clerk

SESSION 1: Thursday, June 13, 2024, 7:30pm –9:00pm

YM2024-01 Opening and reading of Epistle

Friends settled into waiting worship at 7:30 pm. Clerk Susan Loucks welcomed Friends and expressed her joy at gathering together, mindful of both our history and our future. She acknowledged the many gatherings that have been held on this land before we met here, including those of the Kaskaskia people.

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) read an epistle from the newly formed Central European Yearly Meeting. Fifty Friends from eleven countries met in Budapest, Hungary. They arose from previous groups known as Border Meeting, Quaker Spring Regional Gathering, and Central European Gathering, and now define themselves as a yearly meeting. They heard about key threads of Quakerism from Ben Pink Dandelion, learned about the archiving of their own history, accepted greetings from other Friends groups, and acknowledged the story they are writing as they continue gathering and growing. [The full text of this and other epistles read at these sessions may be found at https://fwcc.world/resources_cpt/epistles/ .]

Susan thanked three Friends who volunteered to hold this session in Light. Other Friends will continue this practice as our sessions proceed.

YM2024-02 Program Committee

Bill Warters reported

Bill Warters (Birmingham) welcomed Friends back to Ashland and reminded us of the tornado warning that occurred at our first session here in 2023. With our theme this year, "Friends Together: Outpouring of Spirit," Paulette Meier will appropriately share her experiences of Spirit by pouring out song with us. Bill briefly described many of the activities to come this weekend. He invited Friends to explore the campus and town as well as all that Friends will share through workshops, display tables, "birds of a feather" groups, the children and youth program, and more. Friends were invited to have breakfast in "anchor groups" each day. A new convenience this year is a mobile app. Bill also shared some statistics from the registration information: There are a total of 116 registrants for Annual Meeting, including 17 first time participants. Twelve youth (up to age 18) are registered. Registrants come from 14 monthly meetings and one worship group within our yearly meeting, and from nine states.

YM2024-03 Roll Call (numbers determined from registration figures) Akron 1 Broadmead 14

Ann Arbor 11 Cleveland 9

Athens 9 Delaware 0

Birmingham 7 Detroit 4

Grand Rapids 1 Oberlin 4

Granville 0 Pittsburgh 11

Holland 0 Red Cedar 5

Kalamazoo 8 Wooster 3

Kent 0Erie Worship Group 1

Mid-Ohio Valley 0LEYM (No Meeting) 6

North Columbus 9 Other 11

First time attenders were asked to introduce themselves. We welcomed: Paulette Meier, Community Friends Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting; Zoe Jannuzi, AFSC; Eli Koehn, Athens; Alexa Lake, Pittsburgh; Dennis Gregg, Ann Arbor; Rick Thomas, Ann Arbor; Karla Kauffman, Kalamazoo; Jerry and Ann Becker, friends of Paulette Meier; Liz Olson, North Columbus; Don Badgley, Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting; Vickey and Steve Finger, Cleveland; Nathan Kleban, Right Sharing of World Resources, Iowa City Friends Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

Friends were asked to remember and hold in prayer the following absent or deceased Friends: Terry Grant and Sue Emert, Red Cedar; Joyce Balderston, Wooster; Retta and Asghar Aghbar, Pittsburgh; Ellen and Marvin Barnes, Detroit; Margaret Walden and the late Leslie Walden, Cleveland.

YM2024-04 Epistle Committee

The Clerk invited Friends to consider whether they are led to serve on a committee to write an epistle documenting this 2024 gathering of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Friends approved the following people to serve: Alexa Lake (Pittsburgh), Wink Covintree (Birmingham), and Flo Friender (Kalamazoo).

YM2024-05 Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor)reported on what he has learned about moving one's body

Thomas invited us to welcome three virtual guests: 1) His grandmother, Margaret Fox Bentley Nicholson, whom he last saw in 1951, when she was 83 and mostly sitting. Thomas invited Friends to be mindful of the health dangers of sitting, and then to stand on toes and heels, one leg and then the other. 2) Henry Cadbury, the renowned Quaker scholar who led hiking and nature study in the Adirondacks during Thomas's youth, but died in a fall in his own home, reminding us of how we lose our balancing ability as we age. 3) Our inner physical selves (as he wore clothing showing skeletal structure), the underpinning of our whole being. He found it important to worship without sitting during the time of COVID. He invited Friends to join him at lunch to consider the following queries: 1) What have we learned during the time of Covid, political division, and the persistence of misinformation? and 2) What did I do for physical education as I grew up? What would I rather have done to learn about my body?

YM2024-06 Janet Dando read a memorial minute for Adele Looney, both of Akron Meeting

The full text will be available in the Annual Records and on the LEYM website.

YM2024-07 Naming Committee

Ellerie Brownfain reported Members of the Naming Committee are Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor), and David Finke (Oberlin). They have been meeting for some months seeking Friends to serve on the Nominating Committee but have so far identified just one person to bring forward. Ellerie invited Friends to consider whether they feel led to serve in this way.

YM2024-08 Announcements from the Clerk

Susan invited Friends to read advance documents before upcoming sessions. She also noted that the position of LEYM Database Manger is available as a paid position, and applicants are invited.

SESSION 2: Friday, June 14, 2024, 10:30am – 12:00pm

Before the business session, the Clerk invited committee clerks or a representative from committees to give a brief overview of their activities. Friends then had 15 minutes in which they could choose a few committees they wanted to know more about and visit the designated sites in the room.

YM2024-09 Worship and reading of Epistle

From centering worship, Thomas Taylor read an epistle from South Central Yearly Meeting, which met in Bruceville, Texas, in March 2024. Friends met online for part of the week, noting how this useful practice has continued after the COVID epidemic, followed by sessions in person later in the week. They found a sense of unity and togetherness by reading excerpts from State of the Meeting reports, and from the epistles of other groups of Friends. Their keynote speaker, Pamela Haines, challenged them to "show up in service to the sacred," recognizing that all moments, places, and people are sacred, but can be desecrated.

YM2024-10 Treasurer's Report

Tom Kangas reported

LEYM Treasurer Tom Kangas (North Columbus) led us on a tour of the Meeting's current financial situation. He thanked Detroit Monthly Meeting and their Treasurer, Peter Dale, for acting as recipient of registration fees for our Annual Meeting. The bank used by the company whose software we used for registration would not send the funds directly to LEYM because we lack an official letter from the IRS stating that we are a 501(c)(3) organization. Detroit Meeting's 501(c)(3) status has been certified by the IRS. The Finance Committee will consider whether obtaining such a letter should be pursued. Friends echoed gratitude to Detroit Meeting.

The financial balance of the Annual Meeting Fund is sound as projected through the end of the fiscal year (June 30). With a small increase in fees and a slightly higher number of Friends attending, plus generous donations from Wooster Monthly Meeting and individual Friends, it is projected that just $2,000 will be needed to subsidize the fund, substantially less than the amount we allotted.

The overall condition of yearly meeting finances is healthy. We have a reliable revenue stream from our monthly meetings and we budget conservatively. All meetings have contributed and we are grateful for their support. Expenses were about $10,000 lower than projected in the budget.

The full report and financial statement follow.

Treasurer's report to LEYM Annual Sessions

June 14, 2024

Figures presented are actual through Wednesday, June 11th, plus projected activity through year end.

Online Registration for Annual Meeting

- Gratitude to the Arrangements & Site committee in general and to Bill Warters in particular, who got us set up with the RegFox online registration system
- Gratitude to Detroit Monthly Meeting in general and to their Treasurer Peter Dale in particular, who came to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's aid when we got into a situation with the payment processor for the RegFox system
- The situation was:
  - The very large bank that is currently processing payments for RegFox was perfectly happy to collect funds from the Yearly Meeting registrants who chose to pay online (about 2/3 of attenders)
  - The bank, however, would not release any of the collected funds to the Yearly Meeting because we had no letter certifying our 501(c)(3) status
  - The only place to obtain such a letter is from the IRS—a process that takes effort time and money—and which in the IRS' view is not actually required because…
  - The IRS views LEYM is an "association of churches," which categorically and automatically is a 501(c)(3)—no documentation required
- Gratitude again to Bill Warters for connecting LEYM with Detroit Friends Meeting which has a Letter of Determination from the IRS
- Detroit was able to step into the gap between the very large bank and LEYM and be the official recipient of LEYM's registration funds
- Detroit's process is then to send a check to LEYM for the funds they have received on our behalf

Annual Meeting Fund

- Income
  - Registration: At $22K, this amount is greater than last year by $2500
  - Donations: At $2K, this amount is greater than last year by $1000; due to receipt of a one-time donation from Wooster MM for $1500
- Expenses
  - Facilities and meals at Ashland Univ: This is of course the big expense; it's projected to be $23K, just slightly higher than last year
  - Other: Projecting these other costs including honoraria etc. to be down just slightly overall compared to

last year
• Break-even
o A few more people than last year and rates were raised a bit
o So we came closer to breaking even than we did last year—within about a thousand dollars
o To compare: last year's deficit prior to the subsidy was ($4700)
• Subsidy
o A year ago we approved a subsidy for this weekend's Annual Meeting of as much as $5000
o Finance Committee's goal is to leave the Annual Meeting Fund with a balance of $3000
o The actual subsidy can be a little less; it needs to be only $2000 this year to get us there Overall assessment
• Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is financially healthy
• The revenue stream from our member Monthly Meetings is reliable
• We budgeted conservatively
• Our actual results were well under budget

General Fund

Income
• Have received payments from all MMs—hooray!
• We are grateful for these contributions from MMs and also for contributions to the GF received from individuals!
• Dividend income from investments held by Friends Fiduciary Corp are also shown here Expenses
• All of the variances of actual expenses compared to the budget are favorable—and some are large
• Database Manager expense is only 43% of budget
• Digital Communications Facilitator expense is projected to be only 64% of budget
• Committees are under budget—Publications & Archives is at 78% of budget
• Annual Meeting subsidy—as previously mentioned—was only 40% of original budget
• All told, we spent less than originally budgeted by $10K

LEYM Funds
• General Fund
o Already discussed but this page shows that the fund is likely to end the year at the high end of its desired range due, in part, to the contribution of $6K of Friends Fiduciary Fund activity so far this year (which is part dividends and part change in investment market value)
• Annual Meeting Fund
o Already discussed; leaving this fund with a balance at its desired ceiling
• Youth Activities and Spiritual Formation Funds
o Activity in these funds reflects retreats held this year
• FWCC Travel Fund
o This activity is related to LEYM's FWCC representative's travel to Johannesburg this coming August for a World Plenary session
o Not absolutely certain these expenditures will all happen in this fiscal year but, if not, they will happen soon
• FWCC Travel Donation
o This fund was fully expended with a transfer to FWCC for their use in helping others to travel to the World Plenary

LEYM Balance Sheet
• LEYM has its funds with two institutions
o Citizen National Bank of Bluffton
o Friends Fiduciary Corporation
• FFC holds 2/3 of LEYM's treasury, and activity includes:

o Dividends which are steady and happen in December and June

o Change in investment market value which is unpredictable

o I didn't try to project change in market value for quarter ending June 30, 2024

o The 9% change in market value seen here comes from activity through March 2024

YM2024-11 Finance Committee, 2024-25 Budget: Joann Neuroth reported

The Finance Committee consists of Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar), Aran Reinhart (Broadmead), and Ellen Barnes (Detroit). Joann noted that, as usual, a "friendly audit" was done of LEYM financial records. Terry Grant (Red Cedar) did the audit this year and noted that the records kept by our Treasurer are in good order and a pleasure to review.

The Committee presented a draft budget:

- Expected expenses for next year were slightly lowered, based on this year's experiences, and
- Contributions to Olney Friends School and Friends General Conference were slightly raised.
- There is still a subsidy for the Annual Meeting, to help us keep registration fees low.
- The per member expected contribution is proposed to be the same as it was this year, $42.00.

A question was raised about whether the Arrangements & Site Committee's discussion of where we will meet in the future was taken into consideration. Caroline LeJuste (Red Cedar) reported that we plan to return to Ashland University again next year.

A Friend asked the Finance Committee to consider using a Black-owned bank, noting Red Cedar Meeting recently moved to this practice.

YM2024-12 Finance Committee, Proposed Changes to Travel Policy: Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported

The Committee brought a proposal to change our policy for travel reimbursement. For International Travel for FWCC, we use the FWCC Travel Fund to cover all associated costs of travel. Other people who travel on behalf of LEYM are reimbursed from the Travel Fund, with only actual travel costs covered in current practice. The Committee proposed that reimbursement from the Travel Fund change to include registration and lodging as well as travel costs when Friends travel on behalf of the Yearly Meeting. A clarification was added that this proposal would not affect how the fund to assist Friends in attending conferences with Quaker Values is used. Friends approved the proposal from Finance Committee to add reimbursement of registration and lodging costs, as well as travel costs, for Friends who travel on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

[The necessary changes to Policies & Procedures to reflect this change of policy are in a document following these minutes.]

YM2024-13 Nominating Committee: Rick Adams (North Columbus) reported

The Nominating Committee reported that they are bringing Joe Mills's (Kalamazoo) name forward to serve as Clerk of the Yearly Meeting for one year (2024-25). They will continue to strive to return to our regular cycle of a Clerk and Assistant Clerk, who will each serve four years in a staggered sequence. In the absence of an Assistant Clerk, Executive Committee has agreed to cover the basic duties of that position. Other vacancies in the slate were noted. Rick asked whether the absence of someone ready and able to serve as Clerk of our Yearly Meeting might be seen as an opportunity for us to consider where our energies as a Yearly Meeting are leading us.

YM2024-14 Memorial Minutes

Dotty Stratton and Mike Hinshaw read memorial minutes for Phil Balderston, John Holliger, and Evelyn Kirkhart, all of Wooster Monthly Meeting. The full texts will be available in the Annual Records and on the LEYM website.

SESSION 3: Friday, June 14, 2024, 1:15pm – 3:15pm

YM2024-15 Worship and reading of Epistle

From settling worship, Thomas Taylor read the epistle from Young Adult Friends of New York Yearly

Meeting, who met at the Quaker United Nations Office in February 2024. After learning about the work of QUNO staff and discussing their project, "Youth, Peace, and Inclusion," the group created two calls to action. The first is to organize an online meeting for YAFs globally who are interested in the work of QUNO. The second is a call to Friends everywhere to actively seek out young voices and listen deeply to their concerns. They identified a hunger among YAFs to be engaged in Quaker life, institutions, and process, and asked Friends to nurture this enthusiasm.

YM2024-16 Clerk Susan Loucks invited further newcomers or representatives of…

Clerk Susan Loucks invited further newcomers or representatives of organizations who have not yet done so to introduce themselves. Zoe Januzzi of AFSC spoke of her work with the Palestine Activism Program and invited Friends to join weekly online meetings for worship. Joann Neuroth said she represented the School of the Spirit's ministry program at our sessions and will be leading a new program entitled "God's Promise Fulfilled," which begins in 2025. Nathan Kleban of Right Sharing of World Resources invited Friends to attend a workshop he is giving today and join him at lunch tomorrow. Cassie Cammann (Ann Arbor) spoke of her work with Friends Peace Teams.

YM2024-17 Worshipful Discernment

God's purpose for LEYM this year Susan Loucks, Clerk, introduced our remaining work in this business session as being to consider how God is leading us as a Yearly Meeting. She recognized that it is difficult to discern this issue if we are not all aware of the current work and activities of the Yearly Meeting. We need to go forward with constant attention to this question and she expects we will gain proficiency and comfort with it as we go along. Susan also shared the idea of "holy indifference," in which we might move from the ideas and beliefs we hold as individuals to an attitude of not caring about things for oneself but what is good for all of us or the organization.

Friends were invited to share one- or two-word phrases to characterize their monthly meeting, and then to name the themes and trends among what was just heard. Those two questions were to help us understand what is going on in the rest of Yearly Meeting.

From worship sharing, Friends were invited to name one good thing our LEYM committees can do to respond to the current realities of our meetings. Susan read a list of items from yesterday's LEYM Executive Committee, noting what they observed about our Yearly Meeting. Finally, in answer to the query "What is God calling LEYM to do in the next year?" the following items were named:

- It may not matter so much what we do but what is God calling us to be
- To create a place where Monthly Meetings and their people can feel welcome and explore, see people they don't see every day, go deeper, rest with each other, and support each other
- To reach out to the world from a spiritually grounded space
- To be a connector, a conduit; to continue this discernment and discussion using our fabulous technology to bring meetings together
- To explain Yearly Meeting functions to our membership
- To share the news that Quakers exist

[Friends' responses to the queries of briefly characterizing our Monthly Meetings, seeing themes from those answers, and identifying what LEYM committees might do to address the needs of local Meetings, are shared in an attached report.]

SESSION 4: Saturday, June 15, 2024, 1:15pm – 3:15pm

Before this business session, people who serve LEYM as representatives to other organizations shared information in an interactive panel format. Representatives and their reports were:

- Don Buckingham (North Columbus), Friends Peace Teams are intended to go into places where trauma has happened, especially from war, and help them heal. FPT welcomes feedback from Yearly Meetings to a query they recently formulated: What sustains our faith in justice and peace in the face of war and violence?
- Bill Warters (Birmingham), AFSC has now settled into its plan for 2020-2030; they will focus on peace and justice work. There is a strong program working in prisons in Michigan in which Bill participates. AFSC works internationally (Gaza) and on national issues (military area in Georgia). There is a

policy allowing staff to participate in civil disobedience. Recently, AFSC changed their structure to focus on thematic areas, rather than regional work; they overcame the difficulties of change by hard laboring and careful listening. The terrible situation in Gaza and their care for and involvement there is a great challenge.

- John Howell (Athens), FCNL is a presence for Friends in Washington, DC, where they advocate for peace and sustainability. Last year, FCNL struggled to address abortion and reproductive rights, but they achieved a unified statement. There are advocacy teams in various parts of our Yearly Meeting that actively do lobbying. The Spring Lobby Day and paid internship programs offer opportunities for young Friends. It is extraordinary to watch a group of 100 people laboring together over a difficult issue of deep concern to all. The challenge for FCNL is to find a way a group that aspires to visionary change can work with politicians who serve at the will of the people and are very aware of the whims of public opinion.
- Clemence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie), FWCC is now beginning a capital campaign for FWCC. Later this summer, a World Plenary will be held in South Africa. A new Executive Secretary of the Section of the Americas will be named later this year.

[NB: See full reports from the Representatives below or speak to the representatives for more information.]

The Clerk invited anyone else to speak briefly about other organizations they wanted to bring to our attention.

- Jim Morgan (Pittsburgh) spoke of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund and invited Friends to learn more about Quakers in Bolivia.
- Dennis Gregg (Ann Arbor) spoke about "339 Manumissions and Beyond Project," which has a mission to restore genealogical lines of early Friends who were enslaved and then freed.
- Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids) spoke of the Quaker Religious Education Collaboration.
- Claire Cohen spoke of an informal group of Quakers in Pittsburgh working for peace in Gaza/Israel that will sponsor an event September 5 featuring Joyce Aljouny and of AFSC.
- Sally Weaver Sommer spoke of Right Sharing of World Resources and invited monthly meetings to consider sponsoring a group of women through RSWR, as Broadmead Meeting has now done.
- John Howell spoke of the Quaker Institute for the Future, which has focused mainly on sustainability.

YM2024-18 Worship and reading of Epistle

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From the settling silence, Thomas Taylor read an epistle from the 46General Meeting of Friends in Mexico, who met in May 2024. Together they considered "Living the Spirit of Ubuntu" and concluded that Jesus is perfect, but we are not, but imperfectly we must do the best we can to look for that of God and find strength and wisdom to act and empathize in community. They accepted the challenge of taking care of our biosphere and being the gardeners of our Earth.

YM2024-19 Announcements

Jonah Brownfain (Birmingham) hopes to meet with other Young Adult Friends. Those in the right age group are invited to contact him. Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) announced that Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting will hold its annual worship and picnic in Quaker Park, Battle Creek, th

Michigan, on Sunday, August 4. Kalamazoo Meeting will celebrate its 70anniversary on September 22. All are invited.

YM2024-20 Finance Committee: Proposal to revise how some funds are used: Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported

The Committee believes that being good stewards of the Yearly Meeting's resources means they should examine funds that are not being used. They have gathered information and are bringing recommendations regarding three funds that have been unused for many years. They are the Consultation Fund, the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund, and the Traveling Ministries Fund.

The Consultation Fund was created by transfers from our General Fund and was last used 13 years ago. It

was meant to support gatherings of people from Monthly Meetings working in similar areas (e.g., Clerks, members of Ministry and Nurture Committees). The Finance Committee recommends dissolving the fund and returning the balance in it (ca $3,100) to the General Fund. In discussion, Friends urged us to continue thinking about how we can best stay in communication with each other, using all available avenues. We were assured that there are mechanisms for asking for funds outside of the regular budget as need arises. We also recognize that we now have other options beyond meeting in person to consult among ourselves, and that we can approve money to support in-person gatherings as there are leadings for them. A request was made to advertise the availability of the fund more widely.

Friends approved keeping the Consultation Fund for 2024-25 and, if it is not needed during that time, laying it down in the next budget. If the fund is laid down, the balance will be returned to the General Fund.

The current balance of nearly $6,900 in the High School Teen Retreat Program was created by transfers from the General Fund. The fund has not been used in ten years. The Finance Committee proposes lowering the ceiling of the fund to $4,000 and returning the overage to the General Fund. They hope that way will be found to use this fund to support teen activities in the Yearly Meeting. In discussion, it was clarified that youth activities are currently being supported by other funds that are not affected by this proposal.

Friends approved lowering the ceiling of the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund to $4,000 and encouraging teens, parents, and others to identify ways in which the fund could support our teens being Quakers together. The overage currently in the fund (about $2,900) will be returned to the General Fund.

The Travelling Ministry Fund was created by a restricted donation of $3,500 in 2013-14, with the stated intention that it should be used for “travelling ministry.” The fund has never been used. The Ministry & Nurture Committee has had oversight of the fund since 2015. The Finance Committee recommends that the Advancement & Outreach and the Ministry & Nurture committees consider how to use these funds appropriately. In discussion, Mike Hinshaw (Wooster), who was Treasurer at the time the gift was first made, felt that the original donors would be comfortable with the Yearly Meeting changing how the money is used. We believe the intent was to support Friends from within LEYM who wish to engage in travelling ministry.

Friends approved asking our Advancement & Outreach and Ministry & Nurture committees to consider appropriate uses for this fund.

[The Finance Committee’s documentation of their research on this topic, with their proposals, is among the reports appended to these minutes.]

YM2024-21 Finance Committee, Budget for 2024-25: Joann Neuroth reported

The budget was brought back for further consideration unchanged from how it was presented at our previous session on Friday.

Friends approved the LEYM Budget for 2024-25 as presented by the Finance Committee. [See budget for 2024-25 on following page.]

YM2024-22 Publications and Archives Committee: Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported

Elise Yoder (Pittsburgh) will compile and edit the Annual Records for 2024 for the fourth consecutive year. Christopher Farrand (Cleveland) became editor of the LEYM Bulletin mid- year and produced Winter and Spring issues.

The Committee brought forward a proposal to put a version of our 2024 Annual Records on the LEYM website. To follow our privacy policy, the Directory and names of children would be removed; permission would be sought to publish summaries of presentations by the Plenary speaker and others. The changes would require only a little more work and no additional cost beyond the printed version. Friends approved the proposal to put a revised version of the 2024 LEYM Annual Records on the LEYM website.

The full report follows.

Publications and Archives Committee Report

All members of the Committee (Rosemary Coffey, Bob Roehm, Peggy Daub, and Jeff Cooper)

contributed to preparing and proofreading the Annual Records, but it was ably compiled and edited by Elise Yoder, for which we are most grateful. We are pleased to announce that she has agreed to edit the Annual Records again this year, for the fourth consecutive edition. As usual, Committee members will be writing summaries of the workshops at this Meeting for the next issue of Annual Records.

We started the year without a Bulletin editor and had no Fall issue, but then Christopher Farrand offered his services and, after being approved, hit the ground running with a beautiful Winter issue, continuing his high standard in the Spring issue.

Jeff, in particular, strives to keep the Policies and Procedures manual up to date as new policies are approved by the Meeting or minor changes in practice are announced by committees. The latest version is posted on the website. Suggestions and comments on all publications are welcome.

Today, the Committee proposes producing, in addition to the printed version of the Annual Records, a separate pdf version of the Annual Records for posting on the LEYM website. To comply with the Yearly Meeting's privacy policy, we would remove the Directory section, along with names of children (in, for example, the children's epistles). In addition, posting transcriptions or summaries of plenary talks would require obtaining permission from the speaker(s). These changes would require only a little more work and no additional cost, and would, we believe, improve access to the Annual Records.

When this proposal was brought to Executive Committee in March, a Friend asked whether Monthly Meetings might have reservations about their State of the Meeting reports appearing on the website. Ministry & Nurture Committee asked this question of Monthly Meetings and heard no concerns.

We are asking the Meeting to make a decision on this recommendation.

Jeff Cooper, clerk of Publications & Archives

LEYM Publications & Archives Committee

Rosemary Coffey, Jeff Cooper (Clerk), Peggy Daub, Bob Roehm, Christopher Farrand (ex officio)

YM2024-23 Executive Committee, Proposed amendments to Policies & Procedures on structure: Rick Adams reported

A working group from Executive Committee consisting of Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), Rick Adams (North Columbus), and Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) met a few times after Representative Meeting to consider the structure of committees in LEYM and ways in which the description of committees in our Policies & Procedures might be changed to allow more flexibility and to acknowledge the reality of how many people are currently able to serve LEYM through committee work. They propose the following:

1. Eliminate requirements for the number of people required on most committees by changing the language to say suggested numbers. Thus, language for most committees would change to "Composition: six members suggested, with two named each year." Affected committees are Advancement & Outreach, Arrangements & Site, Adult Program, Ministry & Nurture, and Nominating. For Publications & Archives, wording would change to "Composition: four members suggested." This proposal would not affect the Finance Committee or the Youth & Children Program Committee. In discussion, it was clarified that there is already a procedure for adding people to committees between Annual Meetings by seeking the approval of Executive Committee. There is no minimum but language could be added to say that if there are no more than three members named, the committee's viability would be examined by Executive Committee.

Friends approved having a suggested number of six people serving on most committees rather than a requirement to do so. (Publications & Archives will have a suggested number of four members). When the number of committee members falls to three or fewer, Executive Committee will discern how or whether to cover the work of the Committee.

2. Remove language requiring meetings at certain times from all committee descriptions except Youth & Children. Language already in Policies & Procedures is sufficient to cover the expectation that committees meet or communicate as needed to do their work. Friends approved this proposal.

3. The working group recommended that we spend time each year at Annual Meeting discerning where the energy of the Yearly Meeting is led, and suggest that committees use that discernment to guide their priorities and activities. This proposal will be brought back for consideration at the next business session.

The full report follows.

Proposed Structural Changes from subgroup of Executive Committee We considered information from Representative Meeting, and spent time considering possible new combinations of committees, changing P&P to create more flexibility around existing committees, or redrafting consistent guidance for P&P. We settled on creating more flexibility.

Note: Flexible participation in committees by people who are not officially members is already allowed for in P&P – we encourage continuing and growing use of informal participation, e.g., outsourcing a particular task to an individual. Committees may bring helpers on at their discretion.

The proposals are intended to

- improve alignment between the slate and the number of available people to fill slots
- maintain a sense of the "committed core", with some sense of advance notice if insufficient people are available to support a named function

Proposal 1: Eliminate requirements for number of people required on most committees, changing the language to be suggestions, rather than requirements, including

- Advancement & Outreach (currently 6) ,
- Earthcare and Peace & Justice (currently 6)
- Two planning subcommittees (Arrangements & Site, Adult Program (both currently 6)
- Ministry & Nurture (currently 6),
- Nominating (currently 6),
- Publications & Archives (currently 4).

Note: we are not recommending a change for Finance, which requires 3 people, or the Youth & Children Program Subcommittee. The latter operates very differently from the description in P&P, and we ask for a volunteer to write new language describing the current practice, but no change is recommended at present.

Suggested replacement wording for the other committees is: Composition: Six members suggested, with two named each year. If any committee falls to membership of three committed members, it is a signal for the Yearly Meeting to determine how or whether to cover the functions of that committee.

Proposal 2: Update meeting requirements with current practice We recommend that requirements for meetings be struck from all committee descriptions except Youth & Children. The language on page 12 describing committees is sufficient: "Committees meet or communicate as needed, especially to prepare for Representative Meeting and Annual Meeting." [p. 12, P&P]

Proposal 3: Recommendation that we spend time at Annual Meeting discerning where our energy is directed, and using that discernment as a charge to our committees, allowing them to set precedence among their duties, modify them as needed, work across committees, etc. to work towards those goals.

YM2024-24 Memorial Minute

Jim Brinza read a memorial minute for Linda Brandenburg, both from Cleveland Meeting. The full text will be available in the Annual Records and on the LEYM website.

SESSION 5: Sunday, June 16, 2024, 8:45am – 10:15am

YM2024-25 Worship and reading of Epistle

From centering worship, Thomas Taylor read the epistle from the 362nd sessions of New England Yearly Meeting. More than 500 Friends gathered in Castleton, Vermont, and online in August 2023. They described those who presented to their gathering as speaking plain and true, with direct story and song. They heard from a working group that has been researching the involvement of New England Friends in the Indigenous Boarding School movement. The report illustrated one of the ways Friends participated in the genocide of indigenous people and provided lessons on how our discernment may be shaped and warped by our culture.

YM2024-26 Naming Committee: Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) reported

The Committee brought forward two names to serve on Nominating Committee: Mary Igoe Meyers (Broadmead) and Clemence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group). Friends approved these names to serve on Nominating Committee.

YM2024-27 Announcements

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported that cards to send to people who were not able to attend the Annual Meeting are on a table in the lobby, and Friends are invited to add personal greetings. Sally also gave instructions on check-out procedures from the dorms. Barbara LeSage (Columbus) announced that Don McCormick will be leading the fall retreat of the Spiritual Formation Program. Flyers are now available and all Friends are invited to participate. She also reminded Friends that evaluation forms for Quakerism 101 and these sessions are available.

YM2024-28 Executive Committee, Proposed Amendments to P&P on Structure: Susan Loucks reported

The third recommendation from the working group on structure was brought back for further consideration. The working group recommended that we spend time at Annual Meeting discerning where our energy is directed, and using that discernment as a charge to our committees, allowing them to set precedence among their duties, modify them as needed, work across committees, etc. to work towards those goals. Friends approved this recommendation.

The group looking at structure also considered what might be done if the positions of Clerk or Assistant Clerk of the Yearly Meeting are unfilled. They brought to Executive Committee a proposal that, in the absence of an Assistant Clerk, Executive Committee would do the necessary work. Executive Committee approved this proposal. It reads:

Proposal: While the Assistant Clerk position remains vacant, we propose that Executive Committee take responsibility for the following functions:

> *a. When the Presiding Clerk is absent or unable to perform their duties or if that office becomes vacant, Executive Committee will determine who will perform the functions of the Presiding Clerk until the Nominating Committee can bring forward a name to be considered for Clerk. b. Executive Committee will assist the Presiding Clerk with consultation, duties, and special assignments at the request of the Presiding Clerk.*
>
> *c. A member of Executive Committee will convene the Epistle Committee and work with it during Annual Meeting.*

YM2024-29 Nominating Committee: Stephanie Charlot reported

Serving on Nominating Committee this year were Rick Adams (North Columbus) and Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar) (co-clerks), Wink Covintree (Birmingham), and Mike Hinshaw (Wooster). The Nominating Committee presented a proposed slate of officers, representatives and committee members for 2024-25. Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) has agreed to be nominated to serve as clerk for one year. Jack Smith (Red Cedar) has agreed to be named Assistant Clerk with the intention of following the usual rotation of serving as presiding clerk after a year.

Friends approved the Nominating slate as presented, with gratitude for the faithfulness of the committee. The Nominating Committee report follows.

LEYM Officers, Committee Members, & Representatives

Final Slate, June 16, 2024 [with later updates as noted]

Officers

Role Name & Meeting Year of Service End Year

Presiding Clerk ExC Joe Mills, Kalamazoo NEW 1 2025

Assistant Clerk ExC Jack Smith, Red Cedar NEW 1 2028

Recording Clerk ExC Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor 2 2026

Treasurer ExC Tom Kangas, North Columbus 6 2025

Communications and Other Workers

Bulletin Editor Christopher Farrand, Cleveland 2 2025

Annual Records Editor (appointed by Publications & Archives) Elise Yoder, Pittsburgh 4 2024 (thru Oct)

Meeting Workers (contracted by presiding clerk)

Database Manager Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh * 1 2025

Digital Comms Facilitator Bill Warters, Birmingham 6 2025 Bookstore Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 21 2025

* Contracted by presiding clerk after Annual Sessions

COMMITTEES (3-yr terms unless otherwise noted)

Advancement & Outreach

Suggested # of Members: 6

Susan Hartman, Ann Arbor, Co-Clerk ExC 2 2026

Barbara LeSage, North Columbus, Co-Clerk ExC 2 2026

Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar 2 2026

Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead 2 2026

Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh NEW 1 2027

Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo NEW 1 2027

Earthcare This committee is dormant. No nominations were made.

Finance

of Members: 3

Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar, Clerk ExC 7 2027

Ellen Barnes, Birmingham 4 2027

Aran Reinhart, Broadmead 3 2025

Treasurer serves ex officio.

Ministry & Nurture

Suggested # of Members: 6 + 1 rep. from each monthly meeting Flo Friender, Kalamazoo 3 2025

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 3 2025

Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead NEW 1 2027

Christopher Farrand, Cleveland NEW ** 1 2027

OPEN

OPEN

** Approved by Executive Committee after Annual Sessions Nominating

Suggested # of Members: 6, appointed by YM through Naming Committee. Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar, Co-clerk ExC 3 2025

Mike Hinshaw, Wooster 2 2026

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie WG, Co-clerk ExC NEW *** 1 2027 Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead NEW 1 2027

OPEN

OPEN

*** Selected as co-clerk by Naming Committee and the three clerks

Peace & Justice

Suggested # of Members: 6

Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh Clerk ExC NEW 1 2027

Don Buckingham, North Columbus NEW 1 2027

Paul Helbling, Broadmead NEW 1 2027

Publications & Archives

Suggested # of Members: 4

Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor, Clerk ExC 2 2026

Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor 6 2025

Bob Roehm, North Columbus 8 2027

Rosemary Coffey, Pittsburgh 6 2025

Bulletin Editor serves ex officio.

Note: The Annual Meeting Planning Committee consists of the following three committees.

Adult & Family Program

Suggested # of Members: 6

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie WG, Clerk ExC 3 2025

Greg Mott, Broadmead 3 2025

Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 2 2026

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham NEW 1 2026

Wink Coventree, Birmingham NEW 1 2027

OPEN

Arrangements & Site

Suggested # of Members: 6

Carolyn Lejuste, Red Cedar, Clerk ExC 2 2026

Bill Warters, Birmingham 6 2027

Mike Hinshaw, Wooster 3 2025

Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead 9 2025

Janet Dando, Akron 2 2026

Jon Sommer, Broadmead 21 2026

Registrar (selected by committee): Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead Youth & Children Program # of Members: 12-16 Years of Term: 2 (Clerk only) Diane Mott, Broadmead, Clerk ExC 2 2025

Erika Smith, Detroit, Assistant Clerk 3 2025

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham

Jonah Brownfain, Birmingham

Cristin Graham, Detroit

Su Penn, Red Cedar

Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens

Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead

Cathy Clifford, Red Cedar

Greg Mott, Broadmead

REPS TO OTHER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS Year of Service End Year AFSC Corporation

Bill Warters, Birmingham 7 2025

Paul Helbling, Broadmead 6 2025

Kathleen Helbling, Broadmead 6 2025

Chelsea Middlemiss, Red Cedar NEW 1 2027

FCNL General Committee (3-year terms, limited to two consecutive terms) John Deikis, Ann Arbor 5 2026

John Howell, Athens 9 2025

Wink Covintree, Birmingham 2 2026

Michael Fuson, Granville 2 2026

FGC Central Committee (3-year terms, limited to two consecutive terms) (LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee)

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 3 2025

Brad Shaw, Red Cedar 3 2025

Rick Adams, North Columbus 2 2026

FWCC (3-year terms)

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 4 2027

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie WG 4 2027

Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids, NEW 1 2027

Mike Hinshaw, Wooster NEW 1 2027

FLGBTQC

Nancy Reeves, Cleveland 10 2025

Olney Friends School

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 6 2025

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Richard Tucker, Ann Arbor 3 2025

Friends Peace Teams

Don Buckingham, North Columbus 2 2026

YM2024-30 Friends enthusiastically sent our love and greetings to be carried to…

Friends enthusiastically sent our love and greetings to be carried to Friends by Ellerie and Jonah Brownfain and Jana and Wayne Norlin as they attend meetings including Britain Yearly Meeting and the FWCC World Plenary in Johannesburg in July and August.

YM2024-31 The Clerk invited Friends to share “one breath” reports about where…

The Clerk invited Friends to share “one breath” reports about where Spirit is moving in their monthly meetings. A summary follows:

- Mary Igoe Meyers (Broadmead): they have begun to support a group of women in Guatemala through Right Sharing of World Resources
- Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh): many Friends have been inspired to strengthen their peace testimonies.
- Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar): they have been actively learning how to become an anti-racist community

and have made a financial commitment through a community group working on reparations

- Bob Roehm (North Columbus): after 70 years in their Meetinghouse, they are now renting space that is more accessible and plan to sell their property
- Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor): they are striving to ensure that their budget is aligned with their values and, after setting aside money for reparations this year, they learned of the project to return what had been the John Woolman School property to the Nisenan Tribe and donated to that effort
- Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids): they now record people who share their personal spiritual journeys so that others can view them later
- David Finke (Oberlin): they held a very satisfying spirit-led session looking at FCNL priorities and considering a statement on reproductive rights
- Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor): they have encouraged Young Adult Friends by hosting and preparing dinners for them
- Cassie Cammann (Ann Arbor): they agreed to pay for travel for a young person in Asia to attend a gathering of Friends Peace Teams in Java this month
- John Howell (Athens): their deep sharing of personal spiritual journeys has led to them helping people in their community but outside the Meeting; helping others has brought them closer together
- Janet Dando (Akron): they have written minutes on the police shooting of Jayland Walker and on the death penalty in Ohio, then distributed them widely; they are supporting erection of a statue honoring Sojourner Truth in Akron and in worship they try to dig deeper
- Carla Pratt Harrington (Athens): the number of children in First Day School has grown from 2 to 12!
- Jack Smith (Red Cedar): they have participated in the School of the Spirit's Faithful Meetings Project and found it both demanding and enriching
- Nancy Finke (Oberlin): activity in the Meeting has increased outside of worship, building community
- Barbara LeSage (North Columbus): it is exciting to see significant growth in their Meeting over the last seven years

YM2024-32 Memorial Minute

Jeff Cooper read a memorial minute for Lois (Loie) Gilbert, both of Ann Arbor Meeting. The full text will be available in the Annual Records and on the LEYM website.

YM2024-33 Report from the Youth Program

Although not all the children were still on campus, the children and adults who worked with them introduced themselves and described how they enjoyed meeting new people and spending time together during our Annual Meeting.

YM2024-34 LEYM Epistle for this Annual Meeting

On behalf of the Epistle Committee, Alexa Lake (Pittsburgh) presented an epistle for the 2024 Annual Meeting of LEYM. The epistle was approved by Friends with gratitude. The full text follows:

To Friends everywhere, who have received a faith and a relationship with Spirit as precious as ours:

Greetings from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (LEYM).

On 6th Mo. 13, 2024, 116 Friends of Michigan, Ohio, and Western Pennsylvania, along with visitors from other states, gathered in Ashland, Ohio, for our Annual Meeting. First, we acknowledged our present: new and returning Friends broke bread together and, in conversation, caught each other up on our own monthly meetings, personal lives, and news of absent Friends. From the beginning, the intentional planning of the Program Committee encouraged us to go beyond our familiar social circles.

Second, we acknowledged our past: we once again found ourselves on the campus of Ashland University, whose facilities provided a comfortable setting for Friends to learn together, commune with one another, and listen for Spirit's will. We also appreciated that we were by no means the first to benefit from this place, recognizing the Kaskaskia people, this region's first inhabitants.

We learned from our Plenary presenter, Friend and singer Paulette Meier, how to practice an outpouring of Spirit—this year's theme—through plainsong and chants. Her practice of setting Spirit-imbued quotes *from early Friends to a cappella chants had practical origins: when set to melodies, she found the task of*

remembering these words much easier. But, her practice soon grew into a meditative process itself. We experienced that, gathered in song, Friends' minds are in touch with their bodies; our spirits are bound to one another; and we feel connected to the wisdom of earlier Friends.

One of the many chants we were invited to sing in her plenary and subsequent workshop was excerpted from George Fox's Epistle #19:

> Keep within. And when they say, “Look here or look there is Christ,” go not forth, for Christ is *within you. And those who try to draw your minds away from the teaching inside you, are opposed to Christ. For the measure's and the light of God is within, and the pearl is within you, though hidden. (1652)*

Friends, we began each session of our worship with attention to business with an Epistle from Yearly Meetings the world over. Your words of news and of well-wishes inspired us as we looked within ourselves, asking how we can be a host to an outpouring of spirit.

We established a tradition of setting aside time to ask Spirit for LEYM's purpose in the next year.

Admittedly, that’s a big ask. But, through some structured sharing, we could discern the weightiest issues *on our collective hearts. Our concerns were diverse: for example, growing meetings expressed difficulty integrating new seekers into our practices of worship. Other meetings haven't seen much growth but were heartened that their community felt truly gathered.*

Our session was graced by an abundance of volunteers, whose work caring for children, moving furniture, assisting in the dining hall, and countless other functions made this experience available to all Friends, across the spectra of age, ability, and experience.

Eleven young Friends attended. The older group visited the Ohio Reformatory museum, and our youngest Friends asked how we yield an outpouring of spirit from nature (and played together at every available moment). The compassion of our youth programming and childcare volunteers was palpable.

Friends, Lake Erie is energized. Our format and sense of purpose has been transformed by the Friends who do the Yearly Meeting's work, especially our outgoing Clerk. After our final night, celebrating the 400th birthday of George Fox, we hunger for more. We are filled with Spirit. And, we want you to feel its outpouring from our hearts.

Written for the sake of that Spirit who has moved through the Epistle Committee: Flo Friender, Wink Covintree, & Alexa Lake

Submitted, Susan Loucks, Presiding Clerk

YM2024-35 Gratitude

A Friend rose to thank our outgoing Clerk, Susan Loucks, for her service. The Clerk noted that our work is distributive and shared by many.

The 2024 sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting closed in waiting worship.

REPORTS RELATED TO PRESENTATIONS AT BUSINESS MEETING:

Notes from Consideration of What LEYM is called to do in the next year Finance Committee Supplementary Reports

> Proposed Changes to Policy and Procedures on Travel Reimbursement Background Information on Proposals Regarding Little Used Funds

Additional Notes from Consideration of What LEYM is called to do in the next year

One or two word phrases to characterize your meeting

- Aging but vital
- Concern about inadvertent racism
- Curious newcomers with spiritual hunger
- Welcoming and very close knit

- Querying, seeking, and growing
- Increasingly diverse
- Open to change
- Group of individuals, versus a group in community
- Composting with new life (or light?)
- Still not unified over use of technology
- Property rich, cash poor
- Delightfully resilient

● Love to listen deeply to each other

● Hungry for social justice

● Searching to use our abundant financial resources in ways that are appropriate with our values ● Growing and burgeoning with seekers

● Trying to figure out our path

● Wishing we had children

● Growing in diversity

● Branching out with peace and social justice

● A deepening silence in worship

● High on numbers of new seekers and children, Low on numbers of experienced Friends ● Less energy for caring for building (aging), but getting new people and hopeful

Themes and trends from the phrases shared above

● Many meetings are not where they want to be

● Increased numbers of newcomers and attenders

● Questions of sustainability (too many seekers and new attenders?) ● Fighting the good fight

● Fearing change

● Exploring ways into peace and justice work

● Deepening of silence and listening to each other

● Diversity awareness/aware of lack of diversity and wanting to do something (Additional trends observed by Executive Committee)

● Baby steps in making LEYM-wide activities available online (Quakerism 101, clerks chats) ● Growth in energy toward AVP, Spiritual Formation, away from interest groups a la Earthcare and P&J

● Many meetings are seeing growth and many have challenges in integration of technology ● Continuing exploration of what it means to be hybrid ● Continuing questions of property/space, a place of physical movement

What LEYM committees could do to respond to the current reality: ● Support avenues of discernment for monthly meetings

● How do the questions raised relate to our committee structure ● Committees can look at their original description/why they were created, and broaden to change ● Setting up mechanisms for intervisitation or communication about things we are wrestling with

● Quakerism 101 was helpful and maybe additional education in clerk or how committees ● work could be useful

● Using ways to bring together newcomers, seekers online in Q 101 or other ● Could be support for program in which Friends would do inner seeking—e.g., how to be ● more welcoming to newcomers, etc.

● YM might help with developing skills in group spiritual discernment, online easy ● Include a YAF whenever possible, to hear them and allow them to become leaders ● ADDED: noted large number of people who met together to talk about P&J and ● Earthcare this morning – these committees are dormant, but they can be started up with little ado if there is energy to do so

Finance Committee: Proposed Revisions to Policies and Procedures

LEYM Policies & Procedures excerpts related to FWCC travel funds and the general Travel Fund, from P&P dated January, 2024. [italicized notes in purple represent comments by Finance Committee]

III. ORGANIZATION

D. Representatives to Quaker Organizations

2. Organizations and Related Information

d. Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas 1) Appointees must be members of the Religious Society of Friends. 2) Representatives to FWCC have three-year overlapping terms. 3) The number of representative positions available is determined by FWCC. FWCC may also co-opt LEYM Friends who are not representatives directly onto its committees. 4) In the past, LEYM has sent two representatives to the FWCC Triennials. Naming to future comparable meetings, at whatever interval, will be made according to the allotment assigned to LEYM by FWCC.

5) Representatives to FWCC international gatherings are named by the Nominating Committee in consultation with the clerk of LEYM and the clerk of the FWCC Representatives. 6) Representatives to FWCC are expected to assist with arrangements for regional meetings or the equivalent whenever they are scheduled. [re-numbered from #7 to #6] 7) LEYM provides reimbursement funds for representatives' attendance at the annual meeting of the Section of the Americas and international gatherings. In the event that funds are not sufficient to cover costs, funds will be apportioned according to the stated financial needs of the named representatives. [re-numbered from #6 to #7]

a. Reimbursement for travel of LEYM's FWCC Representatives to regional FWCC gatherings and the annual meeting of the Section of the Americas comes from the Travel Fund (subject to the guidelines described in section IV. A. 3. b., below). [this is a clarification requested by Finance Committee that brings into LEYM Policies & Procedures existing guidance from the LEYM Financial Manual]

b. Reimbursement for travel of LEYM's FWCC Representatives to World Plenary Meetings of the Friends World Committee for Consultation comes from the FWCC Travel Fund. [this is a clarification requested by Finance Committee] i. Reimbursable expenses include registration, travel, food, and lodging. [this is a clarification requested by Finance Committee]

ii. In the event that funds are not sufficient to cover costs, funds will be apportioned according to the stated needs of the named representatives.

IV. OPERATIONS

A. Financial Support and Fiscal Policy

2. Budget

a. The Lake Erie Yearly Meeting budget covers costs necessary for the functioning of the Yearly Meeting, such as publications, travel expenses for officers and representatives to Friends' organizations, office administration, and the Yearly Meeting's contribution to Friends General Conference. [emphasis added by Finance Comm, temporarily, just for sake of this proposal] b. The annual budget should include a proportional amount of the estimated travel expenses for two delegates to attend World Plenary Meetings of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. This money is transferred into the FWCC Travel Fund, where it builds until requested by LEYM representatives attending these meetings. Currently an equal amount is budgeted to support enabling Friends from less affluent parts of the world to attend these World Plenary Meetings; this latter amount is transferred into the FWCC Travel Donation Fund. [this item included because of its relevancy to policies under consideration] c. [not included, not relevant]

3. Expense Reporting and Reimbursement

a. Yearly Meeting officers, representatives, and committee members are asked to submit to the treasurer reports of out-of-pocket and in-kind expenses such as travel, long distance telephone charges, and

postage, so that the cost of conducting Yearly Meeting business may be accurately known.

b. Travel Fund

i. Yearly Meeting officers and representatives to Friends' organizations may receive reimbursement for travel expenses for business on behalf of the Yearly Meeting and for attendance at meetings of Friends' organizations. A committee member may be reimbursed for unusual expenses incurred on behalf of the Yearly Meeting if the presiding clerk provides written approval in advance. A copy of the Travel Expense Reporting Form appears in Appendix E.

ii. The principal travel cost to be reimbursed Reimbursable costs include registration, transportation, and lodgingis the transportation itself. [this is a change requested by Finance Committee]

iii. If a Friend drives and requests reimbursement, the amount is calculated on a per-mile basis. i. The current reimbursement rate, approved in 2022, is 22¢ June, 2024 is 21¢ per mile. Any change to this rate is part of the budgeting process, proposed by Finance Committee and requiring approval by the Yearly Meeting. [to conform to standard rate as updated by IRS in December, 2023]

ii. The incremental portion of mileage reimbursement above the 14 cents per mile standard charitable mileage expense rate is includable in the taxable income of the volunteer. [this note has been in the Travel Expense Form for several years; adding here because it's germane]

iv. Friends are expected to cover their own food costs. and, whenever possible, to arrange lodging with Friends in the area of travel.

v. With regard to lodging:

i. When possible, Friends are asked to arrange lodging with Friends in the area of travel.

ii. If conference-offered lodging is available and the traveler chooses to stay at a higher-cost location, LEYM will reimburse up to the conference-offered lodging cost. [this is an addition by Finance Committee]

vi. However, the intent of the Yearly Meeting is that no one be excluded from representing Lake Erie Yearly Meeting because of limited financial resources; thus, individuals may request reimbursement for additional travel-related expenses or take them as a tax-deductible contribution to the Yearly Meeting.

vii. For special travel needs of Friends within the Yearly Meeting relating to Quaker work, the presiding clerk, the treasurer, and the clerk of the Finance Committee will consult with one another, and the presiding clerk will respond. Other officers, other committee clerks, and other members of the Finance committee may be consulted as needed. [this language was approved by Yearly Meeting as YM13-34, but was not previously represented in LEYM Policies & Procedures]

c. Monthly meetings are responsible for travel expenses of their representatives to Yearly Meeting who attend Representative Meeting or Annual Meeting.

Finance Committee Proposed Revisions to Funds

This document contains

– descriptions of three funds unused by Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for many years – recommendations from Finance Committee for the disposition of these funds The three funds are:

– Consultation (page 1)

– High School Teen Retreat Program (page 3)

– Traveling Ministries (page 5)

Consultation Fund

	Fiscal Year	Beginning Balance (July 1)	Known restricted donations	Subsidy from General Fund	Income	Expense	Subtotal: activity for this fiscal year	Ending Balance (June 30)
1	2023-2024	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	**3,143.68**
2	2022-2023	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	**3,143.68**
3	2021-2022	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	**3,143.68**
4	2020-2021	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	**3,143.68**
5	2019-2020	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	**3,143.68**
6	2018-2019	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	**3,143.68**
7	2017-2018	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	**3,143.68**
8	2016-2017	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	**3,143.68**
9	2015-2016	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	**3,143.68**
10	2014-2015	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	**3,143.68**
11	2013-2014	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	**3,143.68**
12	2012-2013	3,143.68	-	-	-	-	-	**3,143.68**
13	2011-2012	3,556.65	-	-	300.00	(712.97)	(412.97)	**3,143.68**
14	2010-2011	3,556.65	-	-	-	-	-	**3,556.65**
15	2009-2010	2,268.55	-	2,700.00	1,190.00	(2,601.90)	1,288.10	**3,556.65**
16	2008-2009	18.55	-	2,400.00	-	(150.00)	2,250.00	**2,268.55**
17	2007-2008	-	-	-	3,100.00	(3,081.45)	18.55	**18.55**

History of the Consultation Fund

This 2007 minute describes the sort of consultation work that led to the proposal in 2008 to create the fund.

Yearly Meeting minute YM07 - 31 Ministry & Nurture

November Consultation: The Committee has become aware of a need on the part of our local meetings' Ministry and Nurture (or otherwise named) Committees to gather and learn from each other, especially regarding the deepening of the spiritual life of the meeting. To this end, the Committee is working with [FGC's] Traveling Ministries Program to identify a leader for a weekend consultation, to be held November 16-18, 2007 at the Weber Center in Adrian, MI. Local meeting clerks and worship groups will receive a letter asking them to name the clerk of their Ministry and Nurture Committee, or a designate, to attend the consultation. Each meeting will be asked to contribute $100 toward food and housing expenses. LEYM will otherwise cover the cost of the facilitation. The seeds sown by this gathering will be further nurtured by the activities of [FGC's] traveling ministry project in spring 2008. See the report of the Advancement & Outreach Committee for more information about [FGC's] traveling ministry project.

This 2008 minute is the approved proposal to create the fund. Yearly Meeting minute YM08 – 25.3 Ministry & Nurture

Spiritual Consultation: The great success of the November 2007 Spiritual Consultation for representatives of the monthly meeting Ministry and Nurture committees has encouraged Friends to continue the practice. Out of this gathering a need was expressed for such a consultation for LEYM monthly meeting clerks. Thus M&N is proposing funds be set aside to enable such a consultation under the oversight of the LEYM Executive Committee for the fall of 2009.

LEYM's Policies and Procedures today (i.e., 2024) contains no description of the Consultation Fund, but LEYM's Financial Manual has this:

II. Budget Categories and Funds

B. Budget Lines Supporting Funds / Funds Supported by Budget Lines 2. Consultation Fund: This fund was established to support the cost of consultations among monthly meeting clerks or representatives of

monthly meeting Ministry and Nurture committees. [Recommended range: $500 – $2000]

The Consultation Fund has not been used for Consultation in 15 years.

The last use of that fund, 13 years ago, was not for the original purpose of the fund, but "to cover unbudgeted expenses for the FGC Quaker Quest workshop last fall" (YM12-18).

What latitude does the Yearly Meeting have with regards to the Consultation Fund? As the current balance of the Consultation Fund was created by transfers from the General Fund, the Yearly Meeting has full latitude with regard to the disposition of this fund.

Finance Committee's proposal

We believe this fund could be dissolved and its balance returned to the General Fund and recommend doing so.

HS Teen Retreat Program Fund -- aka High School Program

	Fiscal Year	Beginning Balance (July 1)	Known restricted donations	Subsidy from General Fund	Income	Expense	Subtotal: activity for this fiscal year	Ending Balance (June 30)
1	2023-2024	6,892.64	-	-	-	-	-	**6,892.64**
2	2022-2023	6,892.64	-	-	-	-	-	**6,892.64**
3	2021-2022	6,892.64	-	-	-	-	-	**6,892.64**
4	2020-2021	6,892.64	-	-	-	-	-	**6,892.64**
5	2019-2020	6,892.64	-	-	-	-	-	**6,892.64**
6	2018-2019	6,892.64	-	-	-	-	-	**6,892.64**
7	2017-2018	8,074.39	-	-	-	(1,181.75)	(1,181.75)	**6,892.64**
8	2016-2017	8,074.39	-	-	-	-	-	**8,074.39**
9	2015-2016	8,074.39	-	-	-	-	-	**8,074.39**
10	2014-2015	5,773.30	-	6,300.00	215.00	(4,213.91)	2,301.09	**8,074.39**
11	2013-2014	2,982.50	3,500.00	6,000.00	375.00	(7,084.20)	2,790.80	**5,773.30**
12	2012-2013	2,102.98	-	4,900.00	????	(4,020.48)	879.52	**2,982.50**
13	2011-2012	3,422.72	-	3,300.00	710.00	(5,329.74)	(1,319.74)	**2,102.98**
14	2010-2011	6,348.95	-	1,100.00	2,720.00	(6,746.23)	(2,926.23)	**3,422.72**
15	2009-2010	7,211.50	-	1,100.00	590.39	(2,552.94)	(862.55)	**6,348.95**
16	2008-2009	5,796.61	-	1,100.00	1,092.00	(777.11)	1,414.89	**7,211.50**
17	2007-2008	1,496.61	-	5,400.00	-	(1,100.00)	4,300.00	**5,796.61**
18	2006-2007	0.00	-	5,400.00	1,798.00	(5,701.39)	1,496.61	**1,496.61**
19	2005-2006	1,001.21	-	4,900.00	2,705.13	(8,606.34)	(1,001.21)	**0.00**
20	2004-2005	1,447.20	525.00	4,000.00	2,170.00	(7,140.99)	(445.99)	**1,001.21**
21	2003-2004	752.00	1,505.69	4,000.00	1,282.00	(6,092.49)	695.20	**1,447.20**
22	2002-2003	-	752.00	-	-	-	752.00	**752.00**

History of the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund

A description of the purpose of the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund We established a High School Youth Program so that high school Friends, who experienced a paucity of Quaker teens in their meetings, could build community with other Quaker youth" (Clerk's Report, YM10 - 6).

Note> Activities supported by this fund took place outside of LEYM's Annual Meeting.

Fund name changed

Early in this fund's history, it was referred to as the High School Program. Friends agreed to rename the program the "High School Teen Retreat Program" (YM10 – 10).

LEYM's Policies and Procedures today (i.e., 2024) contain descriptions of the currently dormant roles of

– High School Teen Retreat Coordinator, and

– High School Teen Retreat Program Committee

LEYM's Financial Manual describes the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund: II. Budget Categories and Funds

> B. Budget Lines Supporting Funds / Funds Supported by Budget Lines 4. High School Youth Fund: This fund supports the High School Teen Retreat Program – principally a stipend for the High School Teen Retreat Program Coordinator, along with direct expenses of the program. (YM2003-26 & 43, and Report: Proposal for an LEYM High School Program and Coordinator, pp. 61-63.) It can also support the costs of drivers (including the Coordinator) transporting teens to the retreats, but does not support individual teens' participation in the program. [Recommended range: $3000 – $6000]

Policies and Procedures today (i.e., 2024) includes only a partial description of the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund that points all LEYM youth, including High Schoolers, to the Youth Activities Fund for assistance in attending various Quaker events:

> Appendix D "Scholarships and Financial Assistance"
>
> 2. For Children and Teens
>
> b. Youth Activities and Conferences. LEYM's Youth Activities Fund can be used to help underwrite or provide scholarships for activities and conferences for the youth of the Yearly Meeting. This fund was established to help support events such as LEYM-sponsored youth trips to the FGC Gathering, but the use of the fund is not limited to that. It could, for instance, be used to help a youth attend Friends Music Camp. This fund cannot be used for scholarships to attend academic institutions. Friends wanting assistance from the fund should fill out the Youth Activities Fund Application (see next page, also available in the LEYM Financial Manual) and provide a letter of support from their monthly meeting.
>
> c. LEYM High School Retreats. Funds to help teens attend LEYM High School retreats are available from LEYM's Youth Activity Fund. Teens can apply for a scholarship when they register for the retreat. Drivers (including the Coordinator) who transport teens to LEYM High School retreats can apply for reimbursement of their costs from the High School Retreat Fund. Apply to the Coordinator.

The High School Teen Retreat Program Fund has seen no related activity in 10 years. Seven years ago, a one-time, alternate use was approved and $1,182 scholarships were paid for FGC Gathering.

> YM2017-29 Finance Committee Report
>
> Friends approved spending up to $3000 from the High School Teen Retreat fund for scholarships to help LEYM high school-age students attend the 2018 FGC Gathering of Friends.

A one-time, alternate use of the High School Program funds was also approved in 2007: RM07 - 17 Finance Committee - We approve contributing $1,000 from our High School Youth Fund to the FWCC Triennial Travel & Accommodation Fund to enable Friends from economically deprived nations to attend the FWCC Triennial Meeting, to be held in Dublin, Ireland, 11-19 August, 2007.

What latitude does the Yearly Meeting have with regards to the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund?

As the current balance of the High School Teen Retreat Program Fund was created by transfers from the General Fund, the Yearly Meeting has full latitude with regard to the disposition of this fund.

Finance Committee's proposal

We don't believe the Yearly Meeting is ready to give up its intention to support Quaker teens to find and interact with each other. We also recognize that the YM hasn't used these funds in ten years. We propose to lower the ceiling for this fund from $6,000 to $4,000 and transfer the amount above the ceiling to the General Fund (i.e., $2,892.64). Our hope will be to activate interest and use of these funds.

Traveling Ministries Fund

	Fiscal Year	Beginning Balance (July 1)	Known restricted donations	Subsidy from General Fund	Income	Expense	Subtotal: activity for this fiscal year	Ending Balance (June 30)
1	2023-2024	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
2	2022-2023	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
3	2021-2022	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
4	2020-2021	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
5	2019-2020	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
6	2018-2019	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
7	2017-2018	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
8	2016-2017	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
9	2015-2016	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
10	2014-2015	3,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,500.00
11	2013-2014	-	3,500.00	-	-	-	3,500.00	3,500.00

History of the Traveling Ministries Fund

The donation that created the fund:

YM14 – 21 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported […that…] the Yearly Meeting has received a $10,000 anonymous donation to be divided between the Traveling Ministry Program ($3,500), the High School Teen Retreat Program ($3,500), and the General Fund ($3,000). [The related Finance Committee Report represented the donor's intention slightly differently…] Finance Committee Report, Annual Meeting, 2014

A. Anonymous Donation. As you have heard from our treasurer, LEYM recently received an anonymous donation of $10,000, with the request that its use be divided almost equally among the General Fund ($3000), the High School Teen Retreat Program fund ($3500), and "Traveling ministries" (also $3500). The Finance Committee is immensely grateful to the donor and is striving to see that the money is spent as requested.

The approved proposal at 2014 Annual Meeting to create a Traveling Ministries Fund Finance Committee Report, Annual Meeting, 2014

B. Establishment of Funds and Budget Line.

1. To spend the portion of the anonymous gift for traveling ministries, we propose establishing a new fund for that purpose. Last year, we approved supporting Merry Stanford as a traveling minister with funding from the Advancement & Outreach Committee's budget line; for the coming year, the proposed Traveling Ministries Fund would be used in precisely the same way as that budget line, supporting Merry's work.

Context: what was Merry Standford's traveling ministry work? YM13 – 43 Traveling Minute for Merry Stanford

Assistant Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer read a proposed Traveling Minute for Merry Stanford (Red Cedar). This was approved. The minute follows:

Dear Friends, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting sends its love and greetings to you with this travel minute for Merry Stanford of Red Cedar Monthly Meeting (Lansing).

> Red Cedar Friends Meeting has discerned that Merry has a Spirit-led call to visit monthly meetings for the purpose of worship, listening, and sharing the spiritual practice of Quaker dialogue, and has provided her with a traveling minute for that purpose. During our annual sessions in July 2013, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting united with Red Cedar

> Monthly Meeting in recognizing Merry Stanford's gifts of ministry and nurturing service through listening. This letter indicates our support for her leading to visit Friends in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

[…]

YM14 - 29 Advancement and Outreach Committee Report

Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) reported for the committee. The full report follows. The A&O Committee's policies and procedures call for the committee to engage in visitation with monthly meetings and worship groups. The committee is pleased to report that it has been aided in this work very materially during the last year by Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), whose calling to travel in ministry the committee endorsed at annual sessions in 2013. Merry visited four meetings between Sept. 2013 and March 2014: Athens MM, Kent MM, North Columbus MM, and Pine River MM. […]

Oversight of the Traveling Ministries Fund is assigned to M&N in 2015 YM15-22 Roles of the Advancement and Outreach and Ministry and Nurture Committees Clerk Sally Weaver Sommer reported for the Executive Committee on a concern that arose about overlap between, and lack of clarity about the roles of the Advancement and Outreach and the Ministry and Nurture Committees, […]

The Executive Committee recommends the following be added to the responsibilities of the Ministry & Nurture Committee (6.b (6)):

> Encourage and support Monthly Meetings as they recognize, publicly affirm, and practically support those individuals who exercise their gifts in faithful ministry. This includes but is not limited to:
>
> > a. preparing minutes for traveling ministers to be approved by the Yearly Meeting. b. overseeing the traveling ministries fund.

Friends approved.

Current (i.e., 2024) LEYM Policies and Procedures describe the Fund: Appendix D. Scholarships and Financial Assistance

1. For Adults

> g. Traveling Ministries Fund: This fund supports the travel costs of LEYM Friends whose travel in the ministry has been recognized by their monthly meeting and LEYM through a travel minute. It is administered by the Ministry & Nurture Committee.

The Traveling Ministries Fund has been unused in the 11 years since its inception.

What latitude does the Yearly Meeting have with regards to the Traveling Ministries Fund? LEYM is limited to expending these fund according to the donor's original intent to support "traveling ministries."

Finance Committee's proposal

We don't know what to do with this fund. We think that these funds were intended by their donor to be used by LEYM Friends who are traveling in the ministry, but nobody has used these funds in the decade since. We recommend that Advancement & Outreach and Ministry & Nurture figure out a way to spend these funds appropriately.

Representative Meeting
March 8, 2025
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting and via Zoom

Clerks' Table: Joe Mills (Kalamazoo), Clerk; Jack Smith (Red Cedar), Assistant Clerk; Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Recording Clerk

Clerk Joe Mills welcomed the group of Friends gathered in person at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting and via Zoom for the 2025 Representative Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. 14 online, 19 in room

RM2025-01 Opening and Reading of Epistle

Friends settled into waiting worship at 1:35 pm.

Jack Smith (Red Cedar), Assistant Clerk, read an epistle from Tim Gee, General Secretary of FWCC, sent in February 2025. They are grieving the recent death of their clerk, Simon Lamb (Ireland Yearly Meeting), and welcoming a new clerk, Esther Mombo (Highland Yearly Meeting). The year's theme for World Quaker Day in October will be "Love Your Neighbor.'' They noted the many forces urging us to hate our neighbor. The world needs our messages of equality, integrity, and peace. May our measures of Light be enough to find our way in the world. (The full text is at: https://fwcc.world/2025-letter-to-meetings/.)

RM2025-02 Roll Call

Ann Arbor: 3Kalamazoo: 4

Athens: 1North Columbus: 3

Birmingham: 3Pittsburgh: 6

Broadmead: 5Red Cedar: 3

Cleveland: 1Wooster: 2

Grand Rapids: 1Erie WG: 1

TOTAL: 33

No representation present from the following Monthly Meetings: Akron, Delaware, Detroit, Granville, Holland, Kent, Mid-Ohio Valley, and Oberlin.

RM2025-03 Reports from around the Yearly Meeting

Brief Reports from monthly meetings were given as follows :

- Bill Warters reported that Birmingham Meeting used handmade Valentine cards made by Wink Covintree to send messages of gratitude to elected officials who are standing up for democracy.
- Sally Weaver Sommer reported that Broadmead Meeting is celebrating 50 years this year. In the fall, there was an event with people invited back to join the celebration of their Meeting. On May 3, Paul Tinkerhess (Ann Arbor) will present a concert as a special event. This is the same weekend in which the Spiritual Formation Program will have its closing event of the year in Toledo. th
- Vickey Finger reported that Cleveland Meeting will celebrate its 100anniversary on Easter Sunday.
- Joe Mills reported that Kalamazoo Meeting has received requests from a few other congregations to bring their youth groups to visit so that they can experience a Quaker meeting.
- Susan Hartman reported that Ann Arbor Meeting received two requests for marriage under their care this year, a sign that there are more young adults participating in our meetings. Vickey Finger reported that Cleveland also celebrated a marriage this year.
- Susan Hartman and Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported that Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting will hold its Midwinter Gathering by Zoom on Saturday, March 15, when there will be a program on incarceration in Michigan, and especially the work of the Michigan AFSC office. There will also be a time for young adult friends to talk about possible plans to get together.

- Susan Loucks said how happy Pittsburgh Meeting is to be hosting Representative Meeting and reported that they too will soon celebrate a marriage under the care of the Meeting.
- Barbara LeSage reported that North Columbus Meeting has added a box of fidget tools, available to anyone to help them focus during meeting for worship.

RM2025-04 Report and request from Jack Smith (Red Cedar), Assistant Clerk

Jack Smith reported that he plans to intersperse selections from State of the Meeting reports from within LEYM with reading of epistles at the start of our business sessions. He hopes Friends will hear and be led to follow up with others about our shared challenges and opportunities. Friends were invited to comment now or to send him thoughts by email (jsmith@msu.edu).

In discussion, a Friend expressed a desire for retaining the quality of epistles in expressing how other Quakers have felt Spirit move as distinct from a time for sharing news. That difference was recognized. A passage from the LEYM Policies and Procedures was shared that describes the purpose of the epistles as keeping us mindful of Quakers around the world. Another Friend requested that we also share epistles of various kinds that are not international in scope.

Friends approved the proposal that the Assistant Clerk read items before our business meetings that include passages from State of the Meeting reports as well as epistles from other groups. The full report follows.

In my role as Assistant Clerk, in addition to reading (or arranging to be read) some epistles from other international Quaker organizations and Yearly Meetings at our Annual Meeting, I also intend to mix in some selections from our own Monthly Meetings' State of Meeting Reports. My hope in doing this is that Friends will hear about and be led to follow up with others about shared challenges and opportunities. I intend to review the 2025 State of Meeting Reports, due in May, and make thoughtful choices about what segments to read.

My sense is that this is somewhat of a change in LEYM practice, and I want Friends gathered to hear my intention and rationale in advance. I hope Friends will see some promise in the idea, and, if some want to respond, there would be time to hear them. Friends can also write to me separately with reactions and suggestions; my e-mail address (jsmith@msu.edu) is in the Fall and Winter Bulletins.

RM2025-05 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) reported.

a. Susan Hartman described a plan developed by the Advancement & Outreach Committee and the Ministry & Nurture Committee to visit Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups in LEYM. They would give priority to the Meetings that are very small or have not participated in LEYM recently. Visits will be in person or electronically. They will share news of LEYM and listen for how the Committee might support and care for each group.

In order to support this activity, the Committee proposes that the Traveling Ministries Fund be used to reimburse Friends for expenses that arise in carrying it forward. The full report follows.

In discussion, Friends were reminded that this fund has never been used and is restricted to supporting traveling ministry. At our last Annual Sessions, the Finance Committee asked the Ministry & Nurture Committee to suggest ways in which the fund could be used. What we are hearing today is a proposed activity that is seen as a way of accomplishing traveling ministry. If the proposal is approved, the Ministry & Nurture Committee asked for additional guidance about how the funds should be allocated. Friends encouraged the Committee to use the fund. If it is depleted, more money might be found.

Friends recognized intervisitation as a form of travelling ministry and approved using the Traveling Ministries Fund for the purpose of intervisitation within LEYM as proposed by the Advancement & Outreach and Ministry & Nurture Committees. Allocations from the fund are left in the care of the Ministry & Nurture Committee, and they were asked to develop a process so that Friends can readily make requests and report back.

b. Barbara LeSage (North Columbus) and Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) reported that the Committee reached out to Meetings who did not submit State of the Meeting reports to LEYM last year to find out how they were doing. Reports from Mid-Ohio Valley Meeting and Granville Meeting for 2024 were

received. Susan emphasized how enriching the Committee members found the reading of State of the Meeting reports to be. The full Committee report follows.

Members of the Advancement & Outreach Committee, in coordination with the Ministry & Nurture Committee, propose to visit Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups in person or electronically. We will prioritize groups that have not sent a State of the Meeting report in the current year, have not been at Annual Meeting sessions, or are a very small group. This work is part of our charge as a committee.

The purpose of our visitation ministry is to share news of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Annual Meeting sessions and other work and to listen to how each group sees itself in relation to the regional Quaker fellowship. We will be listening for ways to support the groups as they share their own outreach concerns and any issues they have with welcoming new attenders. We will also be listening for pastoral care issues that could be aided by Ministry & Nurture members.

We propose that travel costs and other expenses of these visits be covered by the Traveling Ministries Fund. We believe that this intervisitation is a form of ministry, and is consistent with the intent of the fund.

Description of the fund from Policies and Procedures, Appendix D. 1. g: Traveling Ministries Fund: This fund supports the travel costs of LEYM Friends whose travel in the ministry has been recognized by their monthly meeting and LEYM through a travel minute. It is administered by the Ministry & Nurture Committee.

RM2025-06 Treasurer's Report

Tom Kangas (North Columbus), Treasurer, reported. Tom Kangas (North Columbus) noted that overall the finances of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting are in good shape. Revenue from contributions from Monthly Meetings as of this week was 97% of the anticipated total. Although he expected a 33% increase in cost for using the facilities at Ashland University for our Annual Meeting, that increase was not reflected in a recent invoice he received. The Arrangements & Site Committee will find out more. Budgeted expenses so far this year included the work of two contract employees, publications activity, and support for travel to FGC Central Committee. Activity on funds for the Fall Youth Retreat and the Spiritual Formation program were as expected. The text report follows, with a numerical report at the end of these minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

Preliminary financial results for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 as of 03/06/2025 *General Fund*

Revenue

a. All monthly meetings save one have paid annual contribution b. Revenue from monthly meetings is 97% of the anticipated total Expenses

a. Database Manager—has billed for work done through October 2024 b. Digital Communications Facilitator—has billed for work done through Jan 2025 c. Publications—remaining expenditures are for the Spring Bulletin d. Favorable Variances—if all budgeted amounts were spent by year end, that would be $10K of expenses, but budgeted amounts may be conservative

Fund Summary

a. Friends Fiduciary

i. Will get another $1K of dividends before year end

ii. Changes in market value from Dec 31 forward will be reflected here, too b. Transfers between funds are mostly done for the year unless there is a return of unused subsidy from the Annual Meeting Fund

Annual Meeting Fund

– We've made advance payments of 50% of total cost to Ashland University – The original quote from Ashland had a 33% increase in venue rental fees, but on the most recent invoice *those fees returned to same level as they were for June 2024*

Travel Fund

– Expenditure was for one representative to attend FGC Central Comm meeting in Oct 2024 (includes *registration, mileage, room, but not board)*

Youth Activities Fund

– Activity shown here pertains to the youth and families retreat in Sept 2024 *Spiritual Formation Fund*

– Activity shown here pertains to the retreat in Sept 2024

FWCC Travel Fund

– Expenditure was for one representative to attend the World Plenary in August 2024

Balance Sheet

– Shows where our money is kept and related details

Overall, LEYM's finances are in good shape.

RM2025-07 Draft Budget for 2025–26

Tom Kangas reported.

A draft budget for fiscal year 2025–26 was shared. The hourly rate for our two contracted workers is proposed to rise by about 2.5%, and there are moderate increases in several other line items. It shows funding for the FWCC Travel Donation Fund, but not for sending our own representatives, as the fund is still well supplied. This budget suggests a $43 contribution per member (up by $1), with an overall expected deficit of about $2,000. The draft budget follows at the end of these minutes.

Draft Budget for FY2025-2026

Assumptions included in this draft budget:

– Hourly rate for two contractors is increased by $0.75 each (roughly 2.5%) – Moderate increase for several line items reflected in the "Change" column – FWCC Travel

a. Rep Travel Fund has a balance of $5,385 after $2,229 expended for 2024 World Plenary b. This budget proposes to add no funds to the Representative Travel Fund c. This budget proposes to fund only the FWCC Travel Donation Fund – This draft would suggest a $43 contribution per member (up by $1, or 2% from FY2024–2025) – This draft would expect a $2K deficit for the General Fund for FY2025–2026

RM2025-08 Finance Committee

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported.

a. Joann Neuroth shared that an audit of the LEYM financial records through June 30, 2024, was completed by Terry Grant (Red Cedar). Joann shared the auditor's very complimentary statement on the work of our Treasurer, Tom Kangas. We are grateful for his work.

b. Joann shared Information on a proposal the Committee plans to bring to Annual Sessions in the summer. Reimbursement for food has not been supported thus far through our Travel Fund. It has become complicated and time consuming to untangle the costs of food from other costs of registration and travel. The Committee will propose that we begin to reimburse for food as well as other costs of travel. This will mean additional expense. Note that this is in addition to other travel expenses that were added to what can be covered last year. (Details and necessary changes to Policies and Procedures appear at the end of these minutes.

RM2025-09 Ministry & Nurture Committee

Flo Friender (Kalamazoo) reported.

a. So far, the Committee has received reports from 12 Meetings on their consideration of the LEYM Annual Query. The Committee continues to support "Clerks' Chats" among Monthly Meeting clerks and others. The next one will be on March 20. They are assembling information on how one can attend our various Monthly Meetings that are hybrid and plan to share it to encourage Friends to visit one another's Meetings. The full report follows.

Ministry & Nurture has faithfully met monthly by Zoom since August of 2024. Members are Dennis Greg (Ann Arbor), Christopher Farrand (Cleveland), Kathleen Helbling (Broadmead), Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), Tom Blackwell (Ann Arbor), Recording Clerk, and Flo Friend (Kalamazoo), Clerk. From the 18 Meetings we expect to hear from, we have, to this date, received responses from 12 Meetings to the 2024–2025 Annual Query.

We supported a Clerks' Chat on January 23, attended by 15 people, and have scheduled another on March 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm. One need not be a clerk to attend this meeting and/or bring concerns from their Meeting. We are assembling information of hybrid meetings to allow Friends to virtually visit other Meetings, and are working with Advancement & Outreach to coordinate Meeting visitations to smaller Meetings and Worship Groups. We want to know if Meetings are interested in being visited.

b. Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported on the Spiritual Formation Program. Serving with Sally on that program's planning committee are Barbara LeSage (North Columbus), Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo), and Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead). The retreat in the fall was led by Don McCormick, with the spring retreat scheduled for May 3. There was a mid-year check-in session in January. Next year's speaker will be Michael Wajda. More information will follow.

RM2025-10 Publications & Archives Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported.

a. Jeff was asked to say a few words about updates to LEYM Policies and Procedures, a publication that describes how we do our work (or "the Practice" without "the Faith"). The Publications & Archives Committee has responsibility for keeping Policies and Procedures up to date, based on decisions made by the Yearly Meeting. Jeff has taken on this work and updates P&P a few times a year. Then he asks Bill Warters to load the new version on the website. Changes are usually quite small and so the new versions are not publicized. If anyone sees a problem with P&P, please let Jeff know.

b. The Committee has responsibility for reporting on workshops at Annual Meeting in the Annual Records. This year there are 13 workshops and only four members of the Committee. Volunteers to help are welcome.

RM2025-11 Peace & Justice Committee

Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh) reported.

a. The Committee surveyed all the monthly meetings in LEYM to ask them about their local peace committees. Based on information acquired from the answers to the survey, they have planned a three-part seminar that will help guide meetings in how peace committees are formed and how they function. The seminars will be recorded and preserved on our website. The first seminar will be presented Sunday, April 6.

b. The Committee is tracking the progress of a lawsuit brought by FGC and other faith organizations that aims to prevent ICE from entering houses of worship. (An earlier and similar suit was brought by several yearly meetings.) A preliminary hearing will be held March 14, at which time it is hoped the judge will issue an injunction preventing ICE from carrying out searches in our Meeting spaces. Because we are a constituent part of FGC, all of our Meetings and Worship Groups would be covered by decisions made in this case. It could take a long time to be fully resolved in court.

The full report follows.

In discussion, a Friend added that FGC's suit is in conjunction with some 20 other religious bodies. Friends suggested that Monthly Meetings might wish to discern and write a statement on this issue for the intrinsic value of going through this process together. A Friend asked whether the Committee is interacting with the Alternatives to Violence Project, and Claire responded that they have been encouraging meetings to consider AVP as part of their activity. There are two Friends who are attending committee meetings without being appointed as members. The Nominating Committee will pursue the question of whether they wish to be appointed. A Friend asked the Committee to consider if there are minutes of conscience that could be seasoned and brought to Annual Sessions.

Peace and Justice Committee Report for Representative Meeting 3/8/2025

• We started out with 3 members: Claire Cohen, Don Buckingham, and Paul Helbling. Later, Phil Volk

and *Mary Finney joined.*

- The first thing we did was to do a survey of Meetings and Worship Groups in LEYM to see how many have, *have had, or want to have Peace and Justice (or Peace and Social Concerns) committees. The survey included questions on the quality of functioning of the committees. We sent the survey to the clerks. After a few attempts at contact, we got a roughly 30% response and went with that.*
- We also decided to send notifications to all Meetings, through their clerks, of International Peace Day and *International Human Rights Day yearly, so that Meetings might plan events around them, if they wish.*
- From reviewing the surveys we got back, it was clear there are a lot issues around the functioning of Peace *and Justice committees, such as having difficulty forming one at all, difficulty recruiting members, difficulty agreeing on what to work on, difficulty finding resources, etc. So, we decided to do a seminar series to be recorded and kept on the LEYM website for Meetings as a resource for Meeting Peace and Justice Committees. We ended up with a two- to three-part seminar. (Included is the agenda for the first session of the seminar, which we plan to hold on Sunday, April 6, from 1 to 3 PM. The second session will focus more on problems. The Format will be similar. The Third one will probably be sometime in September and will have speakers from AFSC and FCNL discussing resources.)*
- In January of 2025, a group of Quaker Meetings filed suit against the Department of Homeland Security *over their policy ending restrictions of ICE arrests in "sensitive locations" such as houses of worship. On February 11, FGC filed a suit on behalf of all its component parts, so that other Yearly and Monthly Meetings need not file. There will be a preliminary hearing in D.C. on March 14. FGC is hoping that the judge will issue an injunction against ICE while waiting for the trial. Because the government is being inundated with lawsuits right now, it could take up to several months for the trial to occur. An injunction has been issued in the first suit brought by Philadelphia YM, Baltimore YM, and NEYM.*

RM2025-12 Adult & Family Program Committee

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Erie Worship Group) reported.

Clémence presented several of the highlights that we can look forward to at our Annual Meeting in Ashland this summer. These include 13 workshops, Plenary Speaker Pamela Haines, and Bible Study led by Doug Gwyn. Diane Mott is writing a report on the Youth Program for the LEYM Bulletin to encourage families to attend. The full report follows.

On Friday morning, LEYM is welcome to visit with the staff at the Ashland Center for Non Violence. On Friday and Saturday mornings, we will offer Worship Sharing followed by Bible Study, led by Doug Gwyn. Also on Saturday morning, Paul Helbling will facilitate a time of extended worship concurrent with Worship Sharing and Bible Study. During the 3 Workshop sessions, Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon, there will be 13 workshops to choose from. Plenary Speaker Pamela Haines and her partner, Chuck Esser, will be presenting two different workshops. The Saturday evening program is currently under the careful collaboration of two committees: Advancement & Outreach and Adult & Family Program. More details encouraging Monthly Meeting participation will be forthcoming.

RM2025-13 Arrangements & Site Committee

Carolyn Lejuste (Red Cedar) reported.

The Committee is preparing information about registration for the next LEYM Bulletin. Carolyn will be working directly with staff at Ashland University in the coming weeks. Online registration will once again be offered.

RM2025-14 Youth & Children Program Committee

Diane Mott (Broadmead) was unable to attend, but reported to the clerk that there has been some progress in securing a new space for the Fall Youth Retreat, but it has not yet been finalized.

RM2025-15 Nominating Committee

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Erie Worship Group) reported.

The Committee has begun talking to people about their service and is discerning the needs of the Yearly

Meeting. At present they see the most pressing needs as an assistant clerk and additional people to serve on the Publications & Archives Committee.

RM2025-16 Database Manager

Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh) reported.

Susan Loucks, our new database manager, has found the work to be relatively straightforward so far. She has questions about the purpose of the database that should be addressed at some time: what should be in the database? -- Is it all the members of all the Meetings, or just the information we put in the Annual Records each year? A Friend suggested that a group could be formed to help discern this question with Susan. Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) is interested in serving on such an ad hoc committee, and Bill Warters (Birmingham) is also interested. As clerk, Joe will name an ad hoc committee.

We minuted with gratitude the care and hospitality Pittsburgh Meeting offered us, and closed in worship.

LEYM General Fund Income

As of 3/6/2025

For the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2025)

Contribution From	Amount	Deposit Date
Akron Monthly Meeting	250	12/16/2024
Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting	5,142	1/31/2025
Athens Monthly Meeting	2,000	11/17/2024
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	546	10/1 & 10/13/24
Broadmead Monthly Meeting	1,500	1/31/2025
Cleveland Monthly Meeting	1,680	3/6/2025
Delaware Monthly Meeting		
Detroit Monthly Meeting	924	1/27/2025
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting	462	1/17/2025
Granville Monthly Meeting	1,000	1/17/2025
Holland Monthly Meeting	400	1/5/2025
Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting	1,134	1/22 & 2/28/25
Kent Monthly Meeting	714	1/17/2025
Mid-Ohio Valley Monthly Meeting	180	1/24/2025
North Columbus Monthly Meeting	1,260	12/9/2024
Oberlin Monthly Meeting	1,100	1/31/2025
Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting	4,956	2/7/2025
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting	3,066	1/5/2025
Wooster Monthly Meeting	504	1/31/2025
Subtotal - contributing MM or WG	**26,818**	
Individuals - via check	5	
Individuals - via FFC online	50	
Individuals - via RegFox	27	
Interest income from Savings Acct	34	
Total Cash Contribution Income	**26,935**	
FFC Dividend Income (Base Acct only)	1,044	
Total Income	**27,979**	(cash income, excluding in-kind)

Expected, per budget	*Actual as a % of Budget*	*Variance, favorable (unfavorable)*
27,510	97%	(692)

In-kind		Total contribution income
+	-	26,935

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LEYM General Fund Expenses - with comparison to Budget

For the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2025)

Account	Actual Expense through 3/6/2025	Budget (annual)	Actual expense as a % of Budget	Variance, budget-to-actual, favorable (unfavorable)	Non-cash, in-kind donations through 3/6/2025	Total Expense, including in-kind, through 3/6/2025
Operations						
Contract Worker: Database Manager	533.50	3,575	15%	3,042	-	534
Contract Worker: Digital Comm Facil'r	1,303.50	5,775	23%	4,472	-	1,304
Insurance	613.00	650	94%	37	-	613
Office/administration	307.44	1,100	28%	793	-	307
Committees						
Advancement & Outreach	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Ministry & Nurture	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Publications	2,637.95	3,500	75%	862	-	2,638
Members						
Attend conference w/ Quaker values	-	500	0%	500	-	-
Organizations						
Friends General Conference	6,200.00	6,200	100%	-	-	6,200
Olney Friends School	3,100.00	3,100	100%	-	-	3,100
Swarthmore records project	150.00	150	100%	-	-	150
Subtotal cash expenditures	14,845	24,750	60%	9,905	-	14,845
Transfers from General Fund to other Funds						
Annual Meeting Fund	5,000.00	5,000	100%	-		
Travel Fund	1,500.00	1,500	100%	-		
FWCC Travel Fund & Donation	1,800.00	1,800	100%	-		
Subtotal Transfers	8,300.00	8,300		-		
Totals - General Fund Expenses	**23,145.39**	**33,050**	70%	9,905		

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LEYM Summary of Funds for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2024	Friends Fiduciary account activity[1]	Transfers between funds	Cash Income	Cash Expense	Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 3/6/2025	Floor/ Suggested floor/ceiling amounts for each fund	/Ceiling	Last activity prior to FY24-25
Funds held in (i) Base account with Friends Fiduciary Corp and (ii) Citizens National Bank										
General Fund[2]	36,402.84	2,599.73	(8,300.00)	26,934.53	(14,845.39)	**6,388.87**	**42,791.71**	na	35,000	
Annual Meeting Fund	2,954.99		5,000.00	-	(11,840.00)	**(6,840.00)**	**(3,885.01)**	1,000	3,000	
Travel Fund	2,745.25		1,500.00	-	(919.23)	**580.77**	**3,326.02**	2,000	4,000	
Youth Activities Fund[4]	5,807.90		953.27	345.00	(775.00)	**523.27**	**6,331.17**	4,000	8,000	
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	4,000.00		-	-	-	**-**	**4,000.00**	2,000	4,000	FY22-23
HS Teen Retreat Fund	4,000.00		-	-	-	**-**	**4,000.00**	3,000	4,000	FY17-18
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649.00				-	**-**	**1,649.00**	na	2,000	FY19-20
Spiritual Formation Fund	2,769.34		300.00	6,252.77	(7,095.32)	**(542.55)**	**2,226.79**	500	2,000	
Consultation Fund	3,143.68		-	-	-	**-**	**3,143.68**	500	2,000	FY11-12
Traveling Ministries Fund	3,500.00					**-**	**3,500.00**	na	na	FY13-14[5]
Work Projects Fund	2,182.39					**-**	**2,182.39**	na	2,000	FY17-18
FWCC Travel Fund	6,714.83		900.00	-	(2,229.00)	**(1,329.00)**	**5,385.83**	na	9,000	
FWCC Travel Donation	-		900.00		-	**900.00**	**900.00**	na	9,000	
Funds held in separate account with Friends Fiduciary Corp										
Granville Youth Fund[3]	9,357.66	444.21	(178.27)			**265.94**	**9,623.60**	na	na	
Funds held by others - see Statement of Financial Position										
Prepaid Expense	925.00	-	(1,075.00)	-		**(1,075.00)**	**(150.00)**	na	na	
TOTAL	86,152.88	3,043.94	-	33,532.30	(37,703.94)	**(1,127.70)**	**85,025.18**			

NOTES> Funds other than the General Fund are managed through accounting and may be subsidized from the General Fund.
[1] Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC) activity includes dividends and net change portfolio value due to market conditions. See Balance Sheet for detail.
[2] FFC General (Base) Account activity is included here in LEYM's General Fund.
[3] Granville Friends Youth Fund is a separate FFC account. FFC activity shown on this line reflects only that fund's change in portfolio value.
[4] FFC dollars transferred to this line represent dividends paid to the Granville Friends Youth Fund during current fiscal year and credited to YAF.
[5] Established in FY13-14 by a donation toward LEYM's Traveling Ministry Program, this fund has had no activity from inception to date.

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Lake Erie Yearly Meeting – Financial Position
For the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2025)

Location of monetary assets	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2024	Change in balance during the fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 3/6/2025
The Citizens National Bank of Bluffton. OH			
Checking Account	4,206.54	(3,027.44)	1,179.10
Savings Account	17,711.70	(965.93)	16,745.77
Subtotal of both CNB accounts	21,918.24	(3,993.37)	17,924.87
Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Philadelphia, PA *			
General (Base) Account	54,876.98	2,599.73	57,476.71
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid (and reinvested)		1,044.09	
Activity includes: • Change in Portfolio Value, + or -		1,555.64	
Granville Youth Fund Account	9,357.66	265.94	9,623.60
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid		178.27	
Activity includes: • Change in Portfolio Value + or -		265.94	
Activity includes: • Dividends disbursed by FFC to LEYM, recorded to Youth Activ Fund		(178.27)	
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	64,234.64	2,865.67	67,100.31
Total monetary assets	**86,152.88**	**(1,127.70)**	**85,025.18**

	Total	% of Beg Bal
Div Pd	1,222	2%
△Value	1,822	3%
	3,044	5%

Notation: Prepaid Expenses

Kirkmont Ctr deposit for Youth & Family retreat, Sept 2025	-	-	-
Weber Ctr deposit for Spiritual Formation retreat, Sep 2025	150.00	-	150.00
	150.00	-	150.00

* Note> All of the funds with Friends Fiduciary Corporation are invested in FFC's Quaker Growth & Income Fund (QGIF).
The Quaker Growth & Income Fund is a diversified, co-mingled fund with allocations to equities, fixed income and real estate investment trusts (REITs). Its primary objective is to provide stable current income and long-term growth consistent with protecting principal investments against inflation over time. The fund adheres to Friends Fiduciary's Quaker-values investment guidelines and participates in our shareholder advocacy work. It is intended for investors with an investment horizon of five years or longer. The Fund has a standard income distribution policy based on the fund's total return.

Source> friendsfiduciary.org, 06/30/2024

HOLDINGS BY ASSET CLASS	*Equity*	*Fixed Income*	*REITS*
Global and International Equity	*24.3%*		
Small and Mid Cap Equity	*17.9%*		
Large Cap Equity	*30.4%*		
Fixed Income (Domestic, Global, Short-Term, plus Cash)		*22.7%*	*4.7%*
	72.6%	*22.7%*	*4.7%*

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History						LEYM Budgets	*Budget approved 06/15/2024			***Prelim budget, not approved	
FY 2021-22		FY 2022-23		FY 2023-24			**Actual as of 3/6/2025	FY 2024-25		FY 2025-26	
Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	General Fund Expenses		*Budget	**Actual	***Budget	Change
2,500	2,898	3,900	2,828	4,320	1,838	General	Contractor: Database Manager	3,575	534	3,673	98
5,100	5,570	6,200	4,996	6,500	4,756		Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	5,775	1,304	5,906	131
500	597	650	597	650	597		Insurance	650	613	675	25
1,500	677	1,500	1,035	1,200	557		Administration	1,100	307	1,000	(100)
500	-	500	-	100	-	Committees	Advancement & Outreach	100	-	100	-
100	-	100	-	100	-		Ministry & Nurture	100	-	100	-
3,200	3,393	3,500	2,876	3,500	2,722		Publications	3,500	2,638	3,500	-
1,000	-	600	-	600	-	Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	500	-	500	-
6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,000	6,000	Organizations	Friends General Conference	6,200	6,200	6,350	150
3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,000	3,000		Olney Friends School	3,100	3,100	3,175	75
150	150	150	150	150	150		Swarthmore Records Project	150	150	150	-
1,000	1,000	-					<== Detroit mtg hse contrib'n				-
-	-	10,000	6,100	5,000	3,200	Tranfers:	Annual Meeting subsidy	5,000	5,000	5,000	-
1,200	1,200	-	-	1,000	1,000	from General	Travel Fund	1,500	1,500	1,000	500
1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	Fund to...	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship Fund	-	-	-	-
1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	or (to General	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,800	1,800	900	(900)
-	-	-	-	-	(3,144)	Fund from)...	Consultation Fund	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	(2,893)		High School Teen Retreat Fund	-	-	-	-
29,550	28,285	39,900	31,382	33,920	19,584		Total Expenses and Transfers =	33,050	23,145	32,029	(21)
						General Fund Income					
17,875	18,780	26,005	25,390	27,510	26,863		Contributions Income	27,510	26,935	28,165	655
1,000	1,728	1,500	1,916	1,500	2,038		FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	2,000	1,044	2,000	-
18,875	20,508	27,505	27,306	29,010	28,901		Total Income =	29,510	27,979	30,165	655
(10,675)	(7,777)	(12,395)	(4,076)	(4,910)	9,317		Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(3,540)	4,833	(1,864)	676
	(8,859)		2,815		3,679		FFC chg in portfolio value (Base)		1,556		
	(8,859)		2,815		3,679		Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =		1,556		
	(16,636)		(1,261)		12,996		Total Change in General Fund =		6,389		
715		743		655			# members used to produce above estimate =	655		655	
$25		$35		$42			Suggested contribution per member =	$42	0%	$43	2%
$ 0.16		$ 0.22		$ 0.22			Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =	$ 0.21		$ -	

Portions of LEYM Policies & Procedures that concern the

Travel Fund

IV. OPERATIONS

A. Financial Support and Fiscal Policy

3. Expense Reporting and Reimbursement

b. Travel Fund

i. Yearly Meeting officers and representatives to Friends' organizations may receive reimbursement for travel expenses for business on behalf of the Yearly Meeting and for attendance at meetings of Friends' organizations. A committee member may be reimbursed for unusual expenses incurred on behalf of the Yearly Meeting if the presiding clerk provides written approval in advance. A copy of the Travel Expense Reporting Form appears in Appendix E. ii. Reimbursable costs include registration, transportation, and lodging, and food for the registrant during the event.

iii. If a Friend drives and requests reimbursement, the amount is calculated on a per-mile basis.

(a) The current reimbursement rate, approved in June 2024, is 21¢ per mile. Any change to this rate is part of the budgeting process, proposed by Finance Committee and requiring approval by the Yearly Meeting. (b) The incremental portion of mileage reimbursement above the 14 cents per mile standard charitable mileage expense rate is includable in the taxable income of the volunteer.

iv. Friends are expected to cover their own food costs.

v. With regard to lodging:

(a) When possible, Friends are asked to arrange lodging with Friends in the area of travel.

(b) If conference-offered lodging is available and the traveler chooses to stay at a higher-cost location, LEYM will reimburse up to the conference-offered lodging cost.

vi. However, the intent of the Yearly Meeting is that no one be excluded from representing Lake Erie Yearly Meeting because of limited financial resources; thus, individuals may request reimbursement for additional travel-related expenses or take them as a tax-deductible contribution to the Yearly Meeting.

vii. For special travel needs of Friends within the Yearly Meeting relating to Quaker work, the presiding clerk, the treasurer, and the clerk of the Finance Committee will consult with one another, and the presiding clerk will respond. Other officers, other committee clerks, and other members of the Finance committee may be consulted as needed.

APPENDICES

D. Scholarships and Financial Assistance

1. For Adults

a. Yearly Meeting business. Yearly Meeting officers and appointed representatives to Friends' organizations may receive reimbursement for travel expenses for business on behalf of the Yearly Meeting and for attendance at meetings of Friends' organizations.

The principal travel cost to be reimbursed is the transportation itself. Friends are expected to cover their own food costs and, whenever possible, to arrange lodging with Friends. However, the intent of the Yearly Meeting is that no one be excluded from representing LEYM because of limited financial resources; thus, individuals may request reimbursement for additional travel-related expenses or take them as a tax-deductible contribution to the Yearly Meeting.

An LEYM committee member may be reimbursed for unusual expenses incurred on behalf of the Yearly Meeting by obtaining written approval from the Yearly Meeting clerk in advance.

Friends wishing reimbursement should use the Travel Expense Reporting Form, which appears in Appendix E of this manual and on LEYM's website. The filled-in form and

attached receipts should be mailed or given sent to the treasurer.

Yearly Meeting officers, representatives, and committee members who do not request reimbursement are still asked to submit to the treasurer reports of out-of-pocket and in-kind expenses such as travel, long distance telephone charges, and postage, so that the cost of conducting Yearly Meeting business may be accurately known.

Appendix E, Travel Expense Form

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

TRAVEL EXPENSE FORM

Name and address: _____
_____ *For any item that is a donation in kind to LEYM, please check the Donation box.*

1. Purpose of travel (e.g., meeting attended) _____ 2. Dates of travel _____

3. Auto transportation

From _____ to _____ _____ miles at 21 cents = $ _____
Donation ı

From _____ to _____ _____ miles at 21 cents = $ _____
Donation ı

Note: the incremental portions of mileage reimbursements above the 14 cents per mile standard charitable mileage expense rate are includable in the taxable income of the volunteer. 4. Plane fare, other public transportation, and/or highway tolls. Submit copies of plane tickets or other major items.

Itemize below:

_____ $ _____ Donation ı
_____ $ _____ Donation ı
_____ $ _____ Donation ı 5. Other travel-related expenses (e.g., registration, lodging, and food for the registrant during the event). It is the policy of LEYM that Friends provide their own meals and find their own overnight accommodations, hopefully with Friends, leaving only the cost of travel itself to be covered by LEYM. However, if such If cost-free accommodations cannot be found, and Friends feel that they require assistance in covering such costs in order to serve as LEYM representatives, the costs incurred are to be itemized below for reimbursement. Please include copies of receipts of major expenses such as overnight accommodations.
_____ $ _____ Donation ı
_____ $ _____ Donation ı
_____ $ _____ Donation ı Total to be reimbursed $ _____

Total donation in kind $ _____

Send to: Tom Kangas, 3641 Weston Pl., Columbus, OH 43214 or email to LEYMTreasurer@gmail.com

Portions of LEYM Financial Manual that concern the

Travel Fund

B. Budget Lines Supporting Funds / Funds Supported by Budget Lines 31

6. Travel Fund:

a. Yearly Meeting officers and representatives to Friends' organizations may receive reimbursement for travel expenses for business on behalf of the Yearly Meeting and for attendance at meetings of Friends' organizations. A committee member may be reimbursed for unusual expenses incurred on behalf of the Yearly Meeting if the presiding clerk provides written approval in advance. A copy of the Travel Expense Report Form appears in Appendix E of LEYM Policies and Procedures (and below, as Appendix B).

b. Reimbursable costs include registration, transportation, and lodging, and food for the registrant during the event. (YM 2024-12)

c. If a Friend drives and requests reimbursement, the amount is calculated on a per mile basis.

i. The current reimbursement rate, for FY24-25 is 21¢ per mile based on the IRS variable cost rate for medical travel and moving (YM 20-18); any change to this rate is part of the budget process and must be approved by the Yearly Meeting.

ii. The incremental portion of mileage reimbursement above the 14 cents per mile standard charitable mileage expense rate is includable in the taxable income of the volunteer.

d. Friends are expected to cover their own food costs.

e. With regard to lodging:

iii. When possible, Friends are asked to arrange lodging with Friends in the area of travel.

iv. If conference-offered lodging is available and the traveler chooses to stay at a higher-cost location, LEYM will reimburse up to the conference-offered lodging cost. (YM 2024-12)

f. However, the intent of the Yearly Meeting is that no one be excluded from representing LEYM because of limited financial resources; thus, individuals may request reimbursement for additional travel-related expenses or take them as a tax-deductible contribution to the Yearly Meeting.

g. Special travel requests. For special travel needs of Friends within the Yearly Meeting relating to Quaker work, the presiding clerk, the treasurer, and the clerk of the Finance Committee will consult with one another, and the presiding clerk will respond. Other officers, other committee clerks, and other members of the Finance committee may be 14

consulted as needed. (YM13-34)

h. Monthly meetings are responsible for travel expenses of their representatives to Yearly Meeting who attend Representative Meeting or Annual Meeting. [Recommended range:

$2000 – $4000]

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING TRAVEL EXPENSE FORM

Name and address:_____
_____
_____

Please include copies of receipts for reimbursement.

It is the policy of LEYM that Friends cover their own food/meal costs.

With regard to lodging, when possible, Friends are asked to arrange lodging with Friends in the area of travel.

For any item that is a donation in kind to LEYM, please check the Donation box.

1. Purpose of travel (e.g., meeting attended)

_____

2. Dates of travel _____

3. Auto transportation*

From _____ to _____ _____ miles at 21 cents = $ ___ Donation ❑

From _____ to _____ _____ miles at 21 cents = $ ___ Donation ❑

*Note: the incremental portion of mileage reimbursements above the 14 cents per mile standard charitable mileage expense

rate are includable in the taxable income of the volunteer.

4. Plane fare, other public transportation, and/or highway tolls. Submit copies of plane tickets or other major items. Itemize below:

$ Donation ❑

$ Donation ❑

$ Donation ❑

5. Other travel-related expenses (e.g., registration, and lodging, and food for the registrant during the event).

$ Donation ❑

$ Donation ❑

$ Donation ❑

Total to be reimbursed $ _____

Total donation in kind $ _____

Mail to: Tom Kangas, 3641 Weston Place, Columbus, OH 43214 or email to LEYMTreasurer@gmail.com

(11/2024 update)

LEYM Annual Meeting
June 12 – 15, 2025
Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio

Sessions were held in a blended (hybrid) format with many participants in person at Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio, and a few online.

Clerks' table: Joe Mills (Kalamazoo), Clerk; Jack Smith (Red Cedar), Assistant Clerk; Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Recording Clerk

SESSION 1: Thursday, June 12, 2025, 7:30pm – 9:00pm

YM2025-01 Opening and Reading of Epistle

Clerk Joe Mills welcomed the group of Friends gathered at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio for the 63rd Annual Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2025. Friends settled into restorative worship at 7:30 pm.

> From the silence, Assistant Clerk Jack Smith read an epistle from the FWCC World Plenary held near Johannesburg, South Africa, in August 2024. Some 500 Friends from 53 countries and 95 Yearly Meetings gathered in person and online to consider the theme "Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with Hope to God's Call to Cherish Creation and One Another." They found that the Zulu word Ubuntu, meaning "I am because we are," helped Friends go beyond their individual selves to see the power and work of the Holy Spirit among them. They expanded their understanding and appreciation for who they are, recognizing a shared founder (George Fox) and yet a multitude of differences, while also seeing shared Friendship, deep commitment to peace and justice, love of the earth, and love of God. They bridged geographical and language differences with an inclusive spirit. A group of 46 Young Adult Friends came together for four days before the gathering and formed a world committee of eight Young Adult Friends from all FWCC sections. Friends at the larger gathering talked and talked, seeking to discern Spirit-led ways forward from different perspectives. They ask for God's blessing on the spaces between them as they go forward repeating "We are still here. We are one," and seeking a better world for all creation. [full text: https://fwcc.world/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/WPM-2024-epistle_KiSwahili-Espanol-English.pdf]

YM2025-02 Welcome and holding the sessions in Light

The Clerk appreciated Friends' efforts to gather together tonight. He thanked two Friends who volunteered to hold this session in Light. Other Friends will continue this practice as our sessions proceed.

YM2025-03 Site Committee

Bill Warters (Birmingham) reported. Bill welcomed Friends back to Ashland. As Digital Communications Facilitator he explained that he will be sending out a brief, newsy email each evening describing events of the next day. He invited Friends to use the mobile app for our Annual Meeting and explained how to use the campus Wi-Fi.

> Bill shared a snapshot of who is attending here (as of Tuesday), noting a surge in Young Adult Friends and a good distribution of ages overall. There is also a good geographical distribution of attenders from across our Yearly Meeting. Our lunchtimes will include "topic lunches" on Fridays and Saturdays, when Friends are invited to gather at tables to consider specific topics. Colored dots on our nametags designate another way to gather, this time at breakfast, in random groups to chat. Many Friends have donated money and volunteered their efforts to help make our meeting a success.
>
> This year there is a special opportunity Saturday afternoon to participate in a peace vigil or walk a short distance to join in the town's "No Kings" rally protesting authoritarianism. Materials are

being provided for Friends to make signs to take to these public demonstrations of our beliefs. There will also be a simultaneous Meeting for Worship in our meeting space for Friends to hold these efforts in Light and Love.

YM2025-04 Program Committee

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group) reported.

Last September the Program Committee began their search for a theme and speaker without having any idea of what would happen in the national election and what the tenor of the country would be this June. In spiritual discernment they personally felt the loss of Friends and diminishing abilities, coming up with the theme: "Mending Our Nets: The Power of Becoming Whole." When they invited Pamela Haines to consider being our plenary speaker, she shared a vision of a five-step process: 1) Valuing our nets, 2) Noticing the holes, 3) Grieving the losses, 4) Connecting with the community, and 5) Mending the nets.

YM2025-05 Youth and Children Program

Diane Mott (Broadmead) reported. Thirteen children and youth from six families are attending this year, showing a steady regrowth in the program, although not yet back to the pre-pandemic levels. Each morning, they will begin with "morning collection," followed by different activities for the younger children and older youth. She asked for volunteer drivers to help transport our younger children on Saturday.

YM2025-06 Roll Call

The Recording Clerk read through the list of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups within the Yearly Meeting and Friends stood when their meetings were named. Official numbers from each meeting are listed below based on registration figures: Akron 1 Kent 0

Ann Arbor 11Mid-Ohio Valley 0

Athens 9 North Columbus 7

Birmingham 6 Oberlin 4

Broadmead 12 Pittsburgh 11

Cleveland 4 Red Cedar 12

Delaware 1 Wooster 4

Detroit 8Erie Worship Group 1

Grand Rapids 1LEYM (No Meeting) 11

Granville 0 Other 8

Holland 0

Kalamazoo 7

The Clerk welcomed first-time attenders and asked them to introduce themselves. Included were Friends Gerard Wenson and Andrew Wenson (Birmingham), Mary Kay Pozo and Mateo Pozo (Pittsburgh), Kelsey Middlemiss, Chelsea Middlemiss, and Gideon Middlemiss (Red Cedar), Bryant Stuckey and Mari Isaac Madison (Detroit), and Emilia Marcyk-Taylor and Chandlee Marcyk-Taylor (Red Cedar).

We also welcomed visitors to Yearly Meeting in attendance, including Jackson Napier (Berea, Kentucky), Doug Gwyn (Clear Creek Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting), Chuck Esser and Pamela Haines (Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting), Nathan Kleban (Right Sharing of World Resources, Iowa Yearly Meeting), Bee Wang (Community Friends Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting), Windy Cooler (Sandy Springs Monthly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting), and Marvin Barnes (Detroit, FGC visitor).

YM2025-07 Remembering Friends who were not able to attend this year

Friends named Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh); Geoff & Inge Brieger (Birmingham), Susan McEwan (Birmingham), Paul Helbling (Broadmead), and Vaughan Peebles (Wabash, Indiana). Paulette Meier (Community Friends Meeting), our plenary speaker last year, sent her regards.

YM2025-08 Naming Committee

Rebecca Morehouse (Ann Arbor) and Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh) reported.

The Clerk explained that, as an expedient, Friends Claire Cohen, Rebecca Morehouse, and Rick Adams (North Columbus) were approved in advance of this meeting by Executive Committee to serve as a Naming Committee. They will discern Friends to serve on our Nominating Committee. The Yearly Meeting confirmed approval of these Friends to serve. Rebecca and Claire reported that after previously contacting 20 Friends who were not able to serve, in the last few days they have found several people who do feel led to serve. They expect to bring us a report later this week.

YM2025-09 Harassment Discernment Committee

The Yearly Meeting approved the following Friends to serve on the Harassment Discernment Committee: Bill Warters (Birmingham), Carolyn Lejuste (Red Cedar), and Aran Reinhart (Broadmead).

YM2025-10 Epistle Committee

The Meeting approved the following Friends to serve on the Epistle Committee: Jack Smith (Red Cedar), Alexa Kay (Pittsburgh), Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), and Jonah Brownfain (Broadmead).

YM2025-11 Memorial minutes

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) read Memorial Minutes for Alan Connor and Anne Ogren, both of Ann Arbor Meeting. The full text of both will be included in the LEYM Annual Records and on the LEYM website.

YM2025-12 Announcements

Greg Mott (Broadmead) invited Friends to join in a brief time of closing or collection in worship this evening and other evenings of Annual Meeting.

SESSION 2: Friday, June 13, 2025, 10:30am – 12:00pm

YM2025-13 The Clerk invited Friends to worship

From the centering worship, Jack Smith read an epistle from Friends of New England Yearly Meeting, who met in Castleton, Vermont , th

and online in August 2024, their 364Annual Meeting. Friends at that meeting grieved the turmoil in the world and acknowledged their own participation in many of the world's crises, such as climate change, political polarization, and white supremacy. They have experienced conflict themselves and see a need to strengthen their response to conflict. They tried to understand ways in which they enact patterns of oppression even as they learned more about how their predecessors in the Yearly Meeting were deeply, directly, and intimately involved in the creation and sustenance of Native American boarding schools. And yet, they affirmed the joy and consolation of their community in the Spirit, were reminded of their blessings, and long to become perfect in love.

[full epistle: https://fwcc.world/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/New-England-YM-2024.pdf]

YM2025-14 Additional First Time Attenders

Susan McEwan (Birmingham) and Susan Waltz (Red Cedar), both attending online, introduced themselves.

YM2025-15 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) reported. The work of the Committee is to let Monthly Meetings know what the Yearly Meeting can offer them and to listen to the needs and concerns of the constituent Meetings. This year, they presented three online panels on concerns shared by many meetings. The topics were property and space concerns, hybrid meetings, and families with children. Look for recordings of the sessions on our website (LEYM.org). They welcome feedback and suggestions of panel topics for the coming year.

> The Committee enjoyed reading the State of the Meeting reports from our Meetings, which inspired an activity of asking each Monthly Meeting to create a puzzle piece describing their uniqueness. The pieces are on display here, so that people can guess which Meeting is

represented by which description. They also created a slide show presentation about the Yearly Meeting and shared it with Monthly Meetings to encourage better attendance at our Annual Meeting. They appreciated being able to use the Traveling Ministry Fund (as approved at Representative Meeting) to support these visits by their Committee members. (The full report is below.)

A Friend asked whether the Committee is planning intervisitation with other Yearly Meetings, explaining that seeing other ways people do things is broadening to our understanding of Quakerism. Susan said they would consider this.

YM2025-16 Publications & Archives Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported. Christopher Farrand (Cleveland) will continue to be editor of the LEYM Bulletin and Elise Yoder (Pittsburgh) editor of the LEYM Annual Records in the coming year. Last year, as an experiment, a version of the Annual Records (minus personal information) was made available on the website. There seems to have been little use of it, but the Committee would be interested in hearing reactions. The Committee has responsibility for keeping our Policies and Procedures manual up to date by reflecting changes in policy or procedures approved here or at Representative Meeting. With two long-time members of the Committee reaching the end of their terms this year, additional Friends are needed to serve. (The full report is below.)

YM2025-17 Ministry & Nurture Committee

Flo Friender (Kalamazoo) reported. The Committee has met monthly by Zoom through this year. They collected responses to the annual query from several meetings and so far have 15 State of the Meeting reports. Summaries of these reports have been prepared. They also hosted “clerks’ chats” in which Monthly Meeting Clerks can talk with each other. Dennis Gregg will serve as Co-Clerk of the Committee in the coming year.

(The Committee’s summaries of responses to the annual query and of state of the meeting reports are below, as is a report from the Spiritual Formation Group Planning Committee.)

YM2025-18 Peace & Justice Committee

Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh) reported. After a hiatus, the Committee became active again during last year’s Annual Meeting. Members include Claire Cohen, Don Buckingham (North Columbus), Paul Helbling (Broadmead), Mary Finney (North Columbus), and Phil Volk (Ann Arbor). They have taken on as their main work supporting peace and justice work being done by committees within Monthly Meetings. They surveyed Monthly Meetings about their work and then presented a two-part webinar called “Stimulating Do-able Peace and Justice Work in our Monthly Meetings. The Committee also forwarded email notices about events and news of peace making at the national level. Claire said that the peace vigil Saturday midday will be at the fountain across from our meeting site. The vigil seems especially important in response to Israel beginning to bomb Iran during our Annual Meeting. Friends are invited to the No Kings Rally sponsored by the Ashland community. Friends are also invited to ask their U.S. Senators to support Senate Bill 761 to set up a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools. More members are needed to continue this Committee’s important work. (The full report is below.)

YM2025-19 Friendly Reminder of Why Minutes Matter

Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh) spoke on the importance of listening carefully to minutes read back to the body and asking, “Is this true?” and “Is this what happened?” This practice is an important part of our discernment and bears witness to truth.

YM2025-20 Nominating Committee

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Erie Worship Group) reported.

Clémence outlined the positions the Committee is working to fill and the appointments it will be bringing for approval later in this meeting.

YM2025-21 Committee Sharing Session

The Clerk invited Friends to go to designated areas of the room to talk with committee clerks and to learn more about their committee’s work.

SESSION 3: Friday, June 13, 2025, 1:15pm – 3:15pm

YM2025-22 From settling worship, Jack Smith read the Epistle from Britain…

From settling worship, Jack Smith read the Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting, which met at Friends House, Frontier Centre, Northamptonshire, and online in May 2025. About 1,000 Friends of all ages met with a special focus on Friends' historic peace testimony and what it means today, asking "What is your message of peace for the world?" and "What brings you a sense of inner peace?" They noted that this is an anxious time for the world and feel challenged to accept the radical peacemaker in themselves and others, as well as exploring how they can address violence and conflict in their communities. They spent much time together praying for the situation in Gaza and were moved to speak out. As promptings of love and truth in their heart pushed them to step up, they tried to do so in a spirit of adventure and joy while retaining tenderness to pursue radical peacemaking. At the end of their meeting, many in London stood in silent worship as witnesses to world peace and inner peace. [full text: https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/yearly-meeting-2025-epistle]

YM2025-23 Announcement from Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo)

Valerie, manager of our bookstore at this meeting, noted that Friends are invited to insert a slip of paper with their name in books to indicate which they wish to buy. People who will attend the Spiritual Formation Retreat in the fall can talk to Valerie about ordering books they can pick up then.

YM2025-24 Treasurer's Report

Tom Kangas (North Columbus) reported. LEYM Treasurer Tom Kangas said that the finances of the Yearly Meeting are in good shape overall. Our revenues for the year have been as expected. Expenses for the year thus far (ending June 30) are about 86% of the amount budgeted. Final data on the income and expenses of our Annual Meeting are incomplete but will be shared in the Fall LEYM Bulletin. It is possible some of the subsidy meant for the Annual Meeting Fund will not be needed. After many years of not finding use for our Traveling Ministries Fund, at our Representative Meeting in March 2025 we approved its use by the Advancement & Outreach Committee for their work in visiting constituent Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. That intervisitation has begun. (The full report and financial statement are below.)

YM2025-25 Finance Committee, Draft Budget

Joanne Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported. Joanne Neuroth, Clerk of the Finance Committee, presented a draft budget for our consideration. The draft budget includes an increase of about 2.5% in the hourly pay rate for both the Digital Communications Facilitator and the Database Manager. The hours projected to be worked by the Database Manager are reduced because the database system is stable and does not need development this year. Slight increases in our donations to Olney Friends School and Friends General Conference are suggested. There is a line reserved as a contingency to help North Columbus in their acquisition of a new meetinghouse if they are able to move forward this year. Additions to the FWCC travel fund for our representatives are not needed, but we will contribute to the FWCC Donation Fund as we usually do.

> When the Committee recommended that the Consultation Fund be laid down at last year's Annual Meeting, there was a request to wait a year to see if a need for the fund arose. No need has been identified. The Committee proposes that the amount in the fund ($3,144) be returned to the general fund. The assessment we suggest to our Monthly Meetings would remain at $42 per member in the coming year.
>
> Marvin Barnes (Detroit) brought to the attention of Friends that House Bill 9495 could potentially take away non-profit status for religious organizations affiliated with groups not in agreement with government policy. He suggested we start planning for this. (The full report is below.)

YM2025-26 Finance Committee, Change in Reimbursement Policy

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported.

The Committee proposes that LEYM change its policy in reimbursement for travel so that the cost of food paid to the event organizer may be reimbursed. This is based on how difficult it is to separate food charges from other charges when Friends travel on our behalf. The change would make it much easier for

both our representatives and our Treasurer. Friends approved this change in our policy for travel reimbursement, so that reimbursement for food costs when Friends travel for LEYM is no longer disallowed. (Proposed changes to the LEYM Policies and Procedures are below but were not considered at this meeting.)

YM2025-27 Changing the LEYM Database Records

Joe Mills and Susan Loucks reported. Clerk Joe Mills said that our current policy is to gather and retain lists of everyone in the Yearly Meeting community. Our Database Manager is responsible for this. The following change is proposed:

> *The Yearly Meeting will no longer collect and update the names and contact information of all members and attenders of its constituent Monthly Meetings. It will continue to provide names and contact information in its database for people who 1) have a role in a Monthly Meeting or the Yearly Meeting or 2) attended the previous year's Annual Meeting. The Yearly Meeting will keep a list of the names of all members of a Monthly Meeting at the request of such Meeting. Also keeping a list of number of members and former members of meetings, as well as weddings in the case of Meetings.*

Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh), Database Manager, explained that we have been collecting the information but have not used it to publish a Directory of all members of our meeting communities since 2009. We want to keep lists of all people who have appointed roles in the Monthly Meetings, those with roles in the Yearly Meeting, and those who attended the latest Annual Meeting, all of which go into the Directory published in the LEYM Annual Records. Susan clarified that we are proposing to omit information that has been added to the database but is not published anywhere; the Annual Records Directory would not be affected. A Friend asked how we contact our meeting communities. Susan responded that our practice for some time has been to send many things to Monthly Meeting Clerks and the Meetings' LEYM representatives, asking them to distribute material to the community, rather than doing so directly to individuals. A few Friends asked us to consider whether this information is important for future historians. A Friend pointed out that Meetings who wish to have the names of all their Meeting community kept in the LEYM database can still request that. A Friend said that the question of how we communicate with individuals throughout the Yearly Meeting could be reconsidered. A Friend asked if this change would affect how we include younger Friends or negatively affect the work of our Nominating Committee. Is the time needed to collect and enter the information for more people worth it, or can we do more to encourage and recruit by directly talking to people? Friends were not in unity with this proposal. The Clerk asked the Publications & Archives Committee, working with the Database Manager, to season it further.

YM2025-28 Digital Communications Facilitator

Bill Warters (Birmingham) reported. Bill Warters, Digital Communications Facilitator, invited Friends to join the group who receive emails whenever the LEYM webpage is updated. This year he rejuvenated the LEYM Facebook page and continued using our YouTube account, moving away from Twitter/X posts. Large portions of Bill's time go to 1) supporting the Annual Meeting (including development and improvement of online registration and providing Zoom accessibility for some events) and 2) updating the website. Bill said our website continues to be a strong resource and use in May 2025 reached 5,000 unique visitors for the month. He thanked Jeff Cooper of the Publications & Archives Committee for his assistance in setting up a new page of full-text and/or video recordings of past LEYM Plenary talks. (The full report is below.)

YM2025-29 Friends Peace Teams

Cassie Cammann (Ann Arbor) reported. Peace workers from Friends Peace Teams (FPT) are working in countries in which there is active combat, including Myanmar (Burma), Israel-Palestine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ukraine. They are helping refugees from Sudan and other countries with repressive regimes or who have suffered from war, conflict, and internal violence. The organization is also working on itself in order to operate in a decolonized manner. The Friends Peace Team's work is done almost completely with volunteer effort, and they would welcome other Friends to join. (The full report is below.)

YM2025-30 Report from Detroit Friends Meeting

A video was shown detailing the progress Detroit Friends Meeting has made in renovating their new Meetinghouse and describing work still to be done. [Link to video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8b0oPgbUMsY]

SESSION 4: Saturday, June 14, 2025, 1:15pm – 3:15pm

YM2025-31 Witnessing to peace

Friends were invited to spend the first part of this business session joining one or more of the opportunities available to witness to our peace testimony. Some Friends created a vigil for peace on a sidewalk outside our meeting site on the campus of Ashland University. Some marched to the center of the town of Ashland to participate in the "No Kings Rally" there. A third group stayed in worship at our site to hold in the Light these witness activities and others like them taking place across the country today in response to the display of militarism in Washington, DC, the sudden onset of war between Israel and Iran, the political suppression of free expression, the ongoing denial of rights and abrupt deportation of immigrants, and new government policies that deter efforts to slow climate change and increase the risks of hunger and lack of medical care in our communities.

YM2025-32 Beginning at about 2:00 pm Friends returning from the vigil and rally…

Beginning at about 2:00 pm Friends returning from the vigil and rally joined Friends already in worship at our site. From the silence, Jack Smith read an epistle from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, which met in July 2024. In a retreat led by Francisco Burgos, Friends were asked to notice when Spirit was challenging them and to recognize a collective call to be loving within the world. Their youth program was vital and the adults who sang in a campus chapel found renewal there. The Indigenous Affairs Committee has begun a reparations effort focusing on the harm done to the Pawnee Nation through BYM-supported Quaker boarding schools that deprived children of their language and culture and tore families apart. The group recognized this as a first step in a difficult process. They heard a report from Rania Maayeh on the conditions in Ramallah Friends School and recent horrors experienced in the West Bank and Gaza and produced a minute on the Middle East that was subsequently seasoned by the full Yearly Meeting.

YM2025-33 Memorial Minutes

Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki (Kalamazoo) read a Memorial Minute for Doug Howe, and Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) read one for Patrick Reardon, both of the Kalamazoo Meeting community. The full texts will be included in the LEYM Annual Records and on the LEYM website.

YM2025-34 Travelling minute

Clerk Joe Mills read a travelling minute from Sandy Springs Meeting (Maryland) carried by Windy Cooler, who is a visitor at this Annual Meeting. We welcome her sojourn with us.

YM2025-35 Reports from LEYM Representatives to other organizations

- Marvin Barnes (Detroit) currently serves as Clerk of the Friends General Conference. He described many less-noticed FGC programs including their Young Adult & Youth Ministries, the Ministry on Racism, the Spiritual Deepening Program, and QuakerPress Publishing. The FGC Meetinghouse Fund has been discontinued through lack of use. They are in the process of finalizing a reorganization with a smaller Executive body. They are concerned with a dwindling number of volunteers and youth participating. An FGC Gathering of young adults/youth will take place in Clarkston, Michigan in July 2025. (The full report is below.)
- Bill Warters (Birmingham) is a representative from LEYM to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). AFSC completed a reorganization effort that has resulted in good cross-pollination of programs across offices and geographic location. They are preparing to face possible political reprisals that may come because of their work. After years of effort, they recently succeeded in getting their staff safely out of Afghanistan. They have staff in Gaza who are doing heroic work and frequently experience distress and danger. They cooperate on programs with QUNO (Quaker United Nations Organization.) Bill has heard staff say they believe that "AFSC was built for times like these" in that they can support their staff through difficult times, and they have well-established relationships throughout the world. (The full report is below.)
- Jack Smith urged Friends to consider joining the Apartheid-Free Community sponsored by AFSC and

made up of faith partners who have pledged to support the dismantlement of apartheid in Gaza.

- Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon reported on Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC), a worldwide organization of Quakers and Friends. They completed a capital campaign in 2024. Within the Section of the Americas, they have updated a bi-lingual glossary of Quaker terms in English and Spanish to support their work. FWCC recently began Quaker Connect, a program of support for Quaker Meetings and Friends Churches in a geographic area. The next Section of the Americas' meeting will be in Plainfield, Indiana. Tom Kangas added that Jonah Brownfain of our Yearly Meeting will serve on a board of Young Adult Friends that formed during the FWCC World Plenary in South Africa last year. (Report from the 2024 World Plenary is below.)
- Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids) reported on the participation of Latin America Friends at the FWCC Section of the Americas meeting in Phoenix in March 2025. Friends from Latin America were more fully present in all aspects of this section meeting, including presentations, committee reports, leadership of sessions, attending and participating online, and attending a pre-gathering of Young Adults. Jana served on a team of Friends holding bilingual Friends in Light as they faced the challenging task of interpreting the words of speakers with a spiritual sense. The bi-lingual glossary is a much-appreciated accomplishment. (The full report is below.)

SESSION 5: Sunday, June 15, 2025, 8:45am – 9:30am

YM2025-36 From the settling worship, Jack Smith read an epistle from Ohio…

From the settling worship, Jack Smith read an epistle from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's June 2024 sessions on the campus of Earlham College and online. Their gathering's theme of "Joy" was reflected in many kinds of activities and in their State of the Society report, which was filled with more optimism than was seen for a few years, expressing a sense of spiritual renewal and community revitalization. They created the position of Social Action Coordinator. One of their plenary speakers, Rev. Rhetta Morgan, urged people to encounter their "joyfire" but also encouraged Friends to learn to wail, as it is a powerful tool for healing. [Full text: https://fwcc.world/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/OVYM-Annual-Sessions-Epistle-2024.pdf]

YM2025-37 Announcement

Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) reported. Valerie announced that some books that had been displayed in the bookstore (four copies of Pamela Haines's book, That Clear and Certain Sound) could not now be found and asked Friends to return them.

YM2025-38 Memorial minutes

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) read brief summaries of the lives of Catherine McClary, Ruth Zweifler, and Robin Warner, all of Ann Arbor Meeting. Shelley Kotz read a draft memorial minute for Judy Greenberg of Broadmead Meeting. The full memorial minutes will be included in the LEYM Annual Records and on the LEYM website

YM2025-39 Youth & Children Program

The youth and children, with their teachers and helpers, joined us to report. Thirteen youth attended this Annual Meeting. They listed their favorite things at Annual Meeting, including riding the carousel, being together, going to the Imagination Station and Activate (where they were challenged to solve problems), the older children spending time with the younger children, finger crocheting, and lots of time to play, have conversations, and build relationships. They invited Friends to view a visual display that serves as their epistle.

YM2025-40 Epistle Committee

Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh) reported. The Epistle Committee, consisting of Jack Smith, Alexa Kay, Susan Loucks, and Jonah Brownfain, presented an epistle for the 2025 Annual Meeting of LEYM. The epistle was approved by Friends with gratitude, especially for its moving words about addressing conflict.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Epistle

Sixth Month 12–15, 2025

Beloved Friends everywhere: Grace to you and peace from God.

One hundred seventeen Friends from Meetings and Worship Groups in Michigan, Ohio, and western Pennsylvania returned with joyful anticipation to the campus of Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio, for our sixty-third Annual Meeting. Here for our third year, this location feels ever more like home. In-person attendees settled quickly into our daily routine, as our location again provided great support for our business, workshops, worship, and evening activities. New practices helped on-line attendees connect with greater ease for business and plenary sessions.

With the painful separation of the COVID years behind us, Friends were very thankful for this precious time to gather, renew long-standing connections, and welcome newcomers. We showcased a display of "puzzle pieces," each created by a constituent Meeting or Worship Group, that described some of the characteristics we bring to the Yearly Meeting as a whole. All ages—from youth to adult programming—experienced immediate abundance of Light; togetherness was love beyond imagination. These connections carried qualities of grace, and yet we are thankful for the intentionality needed to lay a groundwork of safety and acceptance. We are dedicated to continuing to build and extend that culture in addition to relishing its fruits.

In many ways, a sense of abundance blossomed among us. We were enriched by the presence and Spirit-led activity of an increased number of children and older young Friends, and one newborn who provided frequent, and welcome, ministry. Our business was completed without significant difficulty or challenge. Our finances remain stable and adequate for our work. Our newly re-formed Peace and Justice Committee reported an active year of work and plans for the next year. Friends responded to calls for Yearly Meeting service for the coming year; cared for our newborn during business and plenary sessions; were generous with donations and gifts of service during our gathering (carrying trays in the dining hall and writing summaries of workshops, for instance); and gracefully adjusted to a bit of rain and minor changes to our schedule.

We gathered around the theme of "Mending our Nets: The Power of Becoming Whole." Friends, we entangle our lives with others. In so doing, we become a robust whole, like knots of cord becoming a net. This form lets us gather joys and collect sorrows, knowing that none is meant to be dealt with alone.

We considered how we respond to the tears in our nets. How can we transform conflicts in our relationships? How can we become whole in the face of death in our community? In our plenary session, Pamela Haines acknowledged the impulse to throw out the broken and buy its replacement. Though replacement is possible for the material at the human-scale, we are called to a mending ethos. Repair is often the only choice—there is no replacement for our Earth or our social net. We have little loving choice but to mend what has frayed. We can darn heels and tie ourselves anew to others in a loving net. It is our mutual responsibility. Mending society relationship-by-relationship is establishing God's Kingdom—it is creation caring for itself. Pamela reminded us not to think only of large-scale rips in our social net, but to tend to mending in our daily actions and choices and our relationships with family, friends, and not-yet-friends. But mending of nets must begin with grieving what has been lost, while also celebrating those sections that remain vital and supportive.

Along with love and connection for each other, we carried constant awareness of the deep gravity of this historical moment—the unprecedented and accelerating erosion of democratic, environmental, and social norms and protections in the United States. We are heartbroken when we consider the consequences of these trends for ourselves and future generations. During our meeting, the crisis provided an opportunity for public witness. Many Friends peacefully expressed our objections at a Quaker vigil on the campus, the local branch of a national "No Kings" rally against autocratic rule, and in worship to hold those who participated in the Light. Our Bible Study sessions reminded us that early Friends also wrestled with despair when they saw the promise of God's kingdom on earth fade into political chaos and human oppression. These Friends learned to look for blessing and spiritual strength "at home" or within themselves, regardless of external trends.

We carry wounds and experiences that diminish our confidence in responding as Quakers to these crises. We are primed with stories of ways our Meetings have not been able to navigate conflict and places where our personal connections have broken and failed us, even with people we knew, loved, and trusted. At the same time, workshops and movies illustrated powerfully how people such as ourselves can model courage and use existing tools to create peace and social change. We hold both this fear and this

potential, as well as hard-won personal lessons that guide us towards wholeness: fully experiencing our grief to release old expectations, learning we can love people whose thoughts or behaviors we see as wrong.

We have been recalled to a greater obedience that frees us from worldly obedience—not obedience to scarcity mindsets, individualism, and fear. We can summon personal and collective power to address the world, and claim the irrevocable power to live richly in connection, and to love each other well.

Friends, we left this Meeting refreshed and renewed for the Spirit-led work, small and not-so-small, in the coming year, grateful that we will return to Ashland again. We know that you are addressing many of the same challenges that grip us. As your nets rend and fray, we pray that you will share openly your grief, that you will be called to mend, and that you will rejoice in your propensity to be woven into wholeness.

Written for the sake of that Spirit who has moved through The Epistle Committee:

Jack Smith, Jonah Brownfain, Susan Loucks, & Alexa Kay

Signed

Joe Mills, Clerk

YM2025-41 Finance Committee

Joanne Neuroth (Red Cedar) and Tom Kangas (North Columbus) reported.

The proposed LEYM budget for 2025-26 was brought back for further consideration unchanged apart from a small correction that did not change any totals. Tom Kangas offered an explanation for the membership number (639) listed in the budget, saying it is not real, but an approximation derived from the amounts of the contributions Monthly Meetings gave, divided by $42 per person. Friends approved the LEYM budget for 2025-26 as presented by the Committee. (The approved budget is below.)

YM2025-42 Naming Committee

Rebecca Morehouse (Ann Arbor) and Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh) reported.

The Naming Committee, consisting of Rebecca Morehouse, Claire Cohen, and Rick Adams, brought three names to serve on the LEYM Nominating Committee: Joe Mills (Kalamazoo), Bernard Miller (Detroit), and Charles Thompson (Detroit). They also brought the names of Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Erie) and Mary Igoe Meyer (Broadmead) to serve as Co-Clerks of the Nominating Committee. Friends approved these recommendations.

YM2025-43 Nominating Committee

Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar) reported. Serving on the Nominating Committee this year were Stephanie Charlot, Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Mary Igoe Meyer, and Mike Hinshaw (Wooster). The Committee brought a proposed slate of officers, representatives, and committee members for 2025–26. Of special note is the position of Assistant Clerk: the Committee has not filled that position but instead suggests that the Executive Committee perform tasks usually undertaken by the Assistant Clerk. This will allow the regular four-year rotation of Assistant Clerk to Clerk and back to Assistant Clerk to be back on track beginning next year. The Committee is paying close attention to adding new members on committees where experienced Friends will soon be leaving. Friends approved the Nominating slate with some minor corrections, as offered. (The full report is below.)

YM2025-44 Announcements

Carolyn Lejuste of Arrangements & Site reported that our final figures show that 117 people attended our Annual Meeting in person. An analysis of the ages of attendees shows that a majority of us are over 60 but we are slowly getting younger. We will gather again in Ashland on June 18–21, 2026. She described details of check-out procedures. The Committee appreciates evaluations and welcomes suggestions.

Joe Mills announced that Green Pasture will host its usual outdoor worship and picnic in Quaker Park, Battle Creek, Michigan, on Sunday, August 3, 2025. John Howell (Athens) called our attention to the continuing good work of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

Michael Fuson of our Yearly Meeting is currently serving as Clerk of FCNL. (A report is available below.) Friends expressed appreciation to Joe Mills for his service as Clerk this year. th

Christopher Farrand announced that the Cleveland Meeting is celebrating its 100 anniversary this year and will host a celebration on Sept 6–7, 2025.

YM2025-45 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting hereby minutes its great appreciation to the…

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting hereby minutes its great appreciation to the staff at Ashland University for the warm hospitality, good working relationships, and nimble responsiveness we have enjoyed at our Annual Meeting this year.

The 2025 sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting closed in waiting worship.

REPORTS PRESENTED:

Advancement & Outreach Committee

Publications & Archives Committee

Peace & Justice Committee

Treasurer's Report

Finance Committee Report on Draft Budget

Finance Committee Draft Changes to Policy & Procedures Digital Communications Facilitator Report

Financial Statement

Budget for 2025-26

Nominating Slate

ADDITIONAL REPORTS:

Ministry & Nurture Committee

Summary of responses to annual query

Summary of state of the meeting reports

Spiritual Formation Program Report

Report from Representative to AFSC

Report from Representative to FCNL

Report from Representative to FGC

Report from Representative to Friends Peace Teams

Report from Representative to FWCC World Plenary 2024

Report from Representative to FWCC Section of the Americas Report from Representative to Olney Friends School ***Report from the Advancement & Outreach Committee***

The Advancement & Outreach Committee has had a full year, with all six members actively involved in the Committee and its activities. We reviewed and expanded our vision for the Committee, considering both "advancement" and "outreach" as we coordinated with the Ministry and Nurture Committee to help Monthly Meetings connect with each other and share resources and provided resources to folks in Monthly Meetings.

Highlights:

Panel Discussions to share resources and information among Monthly Meetings

- We presented 3 workshops during the year, in a changed format from the 2023–2024 *presentations. Each workshop addressed a different topic through a panel of Friends from three different Monthly Meetings, coordinated by a member of the Committee. The new format provided time for participants to raise questions and items for discussion. Topics this year were 1) Fitting Space to Spirit: Challenges of where we worship (challenges, successes, concerns, whether we own, rent,*

buy, build, or share space) Fitting Space to Spirit Video; 2) Hybrid Meetings: How have they affected us? Hybrid Meeting Video; and 3) Families with Children in our Family of Friends Families with Children Video. These events were recorded, and the videos are available through the above links or on the LEYM website.

- Looking at the two different formats and focus from the past two years, the Committee *welcomes and is seeking feedback and ideas for what might most be needed or wanted for the upcoming year by our Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. Intervisitation and connection between Meetings and Worship Groups and the Yearly Meeting Again this year, after consultation with the Ministry & Nurture Committee, we read all the State of the Meeting Reports from Monthly Meetings. We found many of these included not just lists of activities completed, but reflections and sharing about what was important to them, and how their community found joy and value in deepening their spiritual life and strengthening community and trust. Our excitement in reading these reports eventually led to the idea of asking Meetings to share a small sample of their state of the Meeting through constructing "puzzle pieces" illustrating their uniqueness. The intention is to put these puzzle pieces on display at the LEYM Annual Meeting for all to see and interact with, in the hope of offering an additional venue for sharing in the richness and ideas of our Monthly Meetings. We also communicated with those meetings that did not have* State of the Meeting reports printed in the Annual Records and gave summary reports from those *meetings at the Representative Meeting in March.*

Our discussion of intervisitation led us to focus this year on broadening understanding and knowledge about the Yearly Meeting among Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, while also finding out from them what resources they might need from LEYM. We prepared a slide show, highlighting the various aspects of LEYM. Several Committee members visited Monthly Meetings in person or by Zoom to share the slides and discuss the Meetings' relationships. The slide show was presented nine times after its initial showing at Representative Meeting. Six of these presentations included an intervisitation presence, while the others were given by Friends to their own Meetings. In March, Representative Meeting approved a proposal brought by Advancement & Outreach and Ministry & Nurture Committees, allowing money from the Traveling Ministry Fund to be used to support this intervisitation.

Website Review

We have started a review of the Advancement & Outreach materials on the LEYM website but have not yet completed that work.

Submitted by the Advancement & Outreach Committee

Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar), Valerie Groszman (Kalamazoo), Susan Hartman, Co-Clerk (Ann Arbor), Barbara LeSage, Co-Clerk (North Columbus), Mary Igoe Meyers (Broadmead)

Publications & Archives Committee Report

Jeff Cooper, Clerk, Publications & Archives

Christopher Farrand continues to create and distribute handsome, readable, useful, and accurate issues of the LEYM Bulletin, for which we are grateful.

One of P&A's responsibilities is to write summaries of the workshops at Annual Meeting. Recently, we learned that one of our members, Rosemary Coffey, is unable to attend this year. I put out an appeal, inviting Friends to volunteer to report on one to three workshops. Within six hours, I heard from enough Friends to cover all the workshops. Thank you, Friends!

Elise Yoder (Pittsburgh) has agreed to edit LEYM Annual Records again this year – her fifth volume and, she says, her last. We are thankful for her thoughtful editing.

Last year we tried an experiment and posted a digital version of Annual Records on the LEYM *website, deleting the directory section and seeking to remove any other personal contact information, apart from that of Friends serving as the contact person for their Meeting. Our hope was to provide greater accessibility while also cutting back on the number of copies we print and send to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. Our Meeting worker tells us that ten different Friends have visited the website version in the first seven months. So far, we've received little comment on the existence of the online version or*

reduction in numbers of printed copies distributed. Hearing from you would help us decide whether to continue this experiment. Memorial Minutes and Obituaries are printed in the Annual Records, in addition to being read aloud at Annual Sessions. If you know of memorial minutes or obituaries that should appear in AR but are not read here, please send them to me.

Another Committee responsibility is keeping our Policies and Procedures manual up to date, *reflecting changes in policy/procedure as approved by the Meeting. I take most of the responsibility for the updates and sending each revised version to Bill Warters for posting on the website. Finance Committee has been particularly active in proposing or modifying Yearly Meeting policy, and treasurer Tom Kangas is fastidious about suggesting how these changes might be presented in Policies and Procedures, sometimes in more than one place.*

Sadly, Rosemary Coffey and Peggy Daub are rotating off the Committee, each having served for six years, in addition to some years previously. Peggy clerked the Committee for four years before becoming Recording Clerk of LEYM. Rosemary is a truly remarkable proofreader and has expressed a willingness to continue proofreading Committee publications, as needed. We shall miss them but know that Nominating Committee is working to find new members of the Committee.

Peace & Justice Committee Report

After a long hiatus the P&J Committee became active again at the 2024 Annual Meeting. The initial members were Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh), Don Buckingham (North Columbus), and Paul Helbling (Broadmead). Shortly afterwards, Mary Finney (North Columbus) and halfway through Phil Volk (Ann Arbor) became regular attenders and at the March Representatives Meeting, their service was formally acknowledged. We have met monthly by Zoom throughout the year.

We started out with reviewing the charge of the P&J Committee. After that we decided that our role is not so much to be just another P&J Committee but mainly to facilitate and support the functioning of P&J Committees and the peace work of MMs and worship groups under LEYM.

So, we attempted to survey all Meetings and Worship Groups in LEYM about their peace and social justice work and the functioning of their Pece and Justice Committees. We only got a 30% response. From that response, a number of issues were raised. Based on the issues raised, we developed and held a two-part webinar works called "Stimulating Do-able Peace and Justice Work in our Monthly Meetings," which we held in April. The turnout was small, about 15 to 20 people; but the feedback from attendees was that the workshop was thought-provoking and inspiring. Both sessions were recorded and should be on the LEYM website for future reference for members of other Peace and Justice Committees and Meetings and Worship Groups without P&J Committees.

Other actions we did were:

- Sending notification to MMs and WGs of Friends Peace Teams events and encourage *participation*
- Sending notifications about World Peace Day in October and World Human Rights Day in *December*
- Followed the Sanctuary Suits against the government
- Last minute events: Peace Vigil tomorrow, No Kings Demonstration Downtown Ashland, and *asking the body to support Senate Bill 761 to set up a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools.*

Finally, Don Buckingham is coming off the Committee and Paul Helbling is in a period of bereavement. We will definitely be inviting more volunteers to serve to keep the Committee active.

LEYM Treasurer's Report: Preliminary financial results for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 *General Fund*

– Revenue

a. All Monthly Meetings save one have paid annual contribution b. We'll get another $1K of dividend income from Friends Fiduciary investments later this month (i.e., in June)

c. Revenue for the year is where we expected it would be – Expenses

a. Contract Workers

i. Database Manager has billed for actual work performed through October 2024

ii. Digital Communications Facilitator has billed for actual work performed through May 2025

iii. However, for both of these roles, I have estimated amounts to be billed for work through year end and have layered on these amounts so that this report shows forecasted total for the year

b. Transfers between funds

i. show here as being done for the year

ii. one potential change: if the Annual Meeting Fund doesn't end up needing this much, then this $5K subsidy in the Actual column could be decreased c. Variances—comparing actual to budget

i. There are no unfavorable variances

ii. In total, actual expenses are 86% of total amount budgeted Balance Sheet

– Shows where our money is kept and related details

– 1/5 in a bank, 4/5 invested in a fund managed by Friends Fiduciary Corporation – Friends Fiduciary

a. This page shows the change in market value of this investment b. Changes in market value from Dec 31 forward will be reflected here, too c. As of 4/30, the Quaker Growth & Income Fund was down 0.94% YTD – Note ending balance of $82K; we're now going to look at that $80K from a different angle *Funds Summary page*

General Fund

– Note that the total of all LEYM funds is $82K and that the General Fund is just one of many – Each of the components of current year activity has been discussed (e.g., inc, exp, FFC, *xfers)*

– This page puts all those components together and forecasts that at year-end the General *Fund will have essentially no net change from beginning to ending of the year Annual Meeting Fund*

– We see the $5K subsidy from here

– Expense includes advance payments of roughly 90% of total amount owed Ashland Univ – But income and expense data are incomplete

– Decided not to try to guess the final net cost of Annual Meeting; that will be reported in the Fall Bulletin

Travel Fund

– There were expenditures related to

a. a representative attending FGC Central Comm meeting b. a grant toward travel expenses for a Canadian AYF Retreat c. a representative attending an AFSC meeting, and

d. a representative's conference registration for FWCC Section of the Americas Youth Activities Fund

– Activity shown here pertains to the youth and families retreat in Sept 2024 *Spiritual Formation Fund*

– Activity shown here pertains to retreat activities in Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 *Traveling Ministries Fund*

– At Representative Meeting in March 2025, Friends heard a proposal from Advancement & *Outreach and Ministry & Nurture Committees to use this fund for meeting intervisitation to talk about LEYM and Annual Meeting and to listen to how each group sees itself in relation to the regional Quaker fellowship. Friends recognized this as a form of travelling ministry and approved using the Traveling Ministries Fund to support this work.*

– To date $137 has been paid for the traveling expenses of two Friends – Hooray to us for finding a way to use these funds and to begin to do so *FWCC Travel Fund*

– Expenditure was for one representative to attend the World Plenary in August 2024 – Note that after a

$2K expenditure, this fund ended the year with a $5K balance; Finance *Comm will touch on this fact in its budget discussion*

Treasurer's Summary: LEYM's finances are in good shape.

Finance Committee, Proposal for Draft Budget

Assumptions included in this draft budget include:

Expenses

– The Change column reflects some increases, some decreases for budget line items – Contractors

a) Hourly rate for both increased by $0.75 each (roughly 2.5%) b) Hours adjusted downward for Database Manager

– Potential contribution to North Columbus Friends Meeting to support its purchase of a meetinghouse a) Amount is same as has previously been given to Pittsburgh and Detroit Transfers

– Regarding the two FWCC Travel Funds, this budget proposes: a) to add funds only to the FWCC Travel Donation Fund

b) not add anything to the FWCC Representative Travel Fund – Regarding the Consultation fund, this budget proposes a) laying down the Consultation Fund with balance being returned to the General Fund b) Background from minutes of Annual Sessions June 2024: "Friends approved keeping the Consultation Fund for 2024-25 and, if it is not needed during that time, laying it down in the next budget. If the fund is laid down, the balance will be returned to the General Fund."

Revenue

– Proposing no change in the "per member" amount requested from Monthly Meetings (staying at $42).

Finance Committee: Draft Changes to Policy & Procedures

Portions of LEYM Policies & Procedures that concern the Travel Fund

IV. OPERATIONS

A. Financial Support and Fiscal Policy

3. Expense Reporting and Reimbursement

b. Travel Fund

i.Yearly Meeting officers and representatives to Friends' organizations may receive reimbursement for travel expenses for business on behalf of the Yearly Meeting and for attendance at meetings of Friends' organizations. A committee member may be reimbursed for unusual expenses incurred on behalf of the Yearly Meeting if the presiding clerk provides written approval in advance. A copy of the Travel Expense Reporting Form appears in Appendix E. ii.Reimbursable costs include registration, transportation, and lodging, and food for the registrant during the event.

iii.If a Friend drives and requests reimbursement, the amount is calculated on a per-mile basis.

(a) The current reimbursement rate, approved in June 2024, is 21¢ per mile. Any change to this rate is part of the budgeting process proposed by Finance Committee and requiring approval by the Yearly Meeting. (b) The incremental portion of mileage reimbursement above the 14 cents per mile standard charitable mileage expense rate is includable in the taxable income of the volunteer.

iv.Friends are expected to cover their own food costs. v.With regard to lodging:

> *(a) When possible, Friends are asked to arrange lodging with Friends in the area of travel.*
>
> *(b) If conference-offered lodging is available and the traveler chooses to stay at a higher-cost location, LEYM will reimburse up to the conference-offered lodging cost.*

vi.However, the intent of the Yearly Meeting is that no one be excluded from representing Lake Erie Yearly Meeting because of limited financial resources; thus, individuals may request reimbursement for additional travel-related expenses or take them as a tax-deductible contribution to the Yearly Meeting. vii.For special travel needs of Friends within the Yearly Meeting relating to

Quaker work, the presiding clerk, the treasurer, and the clerk of the Finance Committee will consult with one another, and the presiding clerk will respond. Other officers, other committee clerks, and other members of the Finance Committee may be consulted as needed.

APPENDICES

Appendix D. Scholarships and Financial Assistance

1. For Adults

a. Yearly Meeting business. Yearly Meeting officers and appointed representatives to Friends' organizations may receive reimbursement for travel expenses for business on behalf of the Yearly Meeting and for attendance at meetings of Friends' organizations. The principal travel cost to be reimbursed is the transportation itself. Friends are expected to cover their own food costs and, whenever possible, to arrange lodging with Friends. However, the intent of the Yearly Meeting is that no one be excluded from representing LEYM because of limited financial resources; thus, individuals may request reimbursement for additional travel-related expenses or take them as a tax-deductible contribution to the Yearly Meeting.

An LEYM committee member may be reimbursed for unusual expenses incurred on behalf of the Yearly Meeting by obtaining written approval from the Yearly Meeting clerk in advance.

Friends wishing reimbursement should use the Travel Expense Reporting Form, which appears in Appendix E of this manual and on LEYM's website. The filled-in form and attached receipts should be mailed or given sent to the treasurer.

Yearly Meeting officers, representatives, and committee members who do not request reimbursement are still asked to submit to the treasurer reports of out-of-pocket and in-kind expenses such as travel, long distance telephone charges, and postage, so that the cost of conducting Yearly Meeting business may be accurately known.

Appendix E. Travel Expense Form

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

TRAVEL EXPENSE FORM

Name and address: _____
_____ For any item that is a donation in kind to LEYM, please check the Donation box. 1. Purpose of travel (e.g., meeting attended) _____ 2. Dates of travel

_____

3. Auto transportation

From _____ to _____ _____ miles at 21 cents = $ _____ Donation ı From _____ to _____ _____ miles at 21 cents = $ _____ Donation ı Note: the incremental portions of mileage reimbursements above the 14 cents per mile standard charitable mileage expense rate are includable in the taxable income of the volunteer. 4. Plane fare, other public transportation, and/or highway tolls. Submit copies of plane tickets or other major items.

Itemize below:

_____ $ _____ Donation ı
_____ $ _____ Donation ı
_____ $ _____ Donation ı 5. Other travel-related expenses (e.g., registration, lodging, and food for the registrant during the event). It is the policy of LEYM that Friends provide their own meals and find their own overnight accommodations, hopefully with Friends, leaving only the cost of travel itself to be covered by LEYM. However, if such If cost-free accommodations cannot be found, and Friends feel that they require assistance in covering such costs in order to serve as LEYM representatives, the costs incurred are to be itemized below for reimbursement. Please include copies of receipts of major expenses such as overnight accommodations.

_____ $ _____ Donation ı

_____ $ _____ *Donation ı*

_____ $ _____ *Donation ı Total to be reimbursed $* _____

Total donation in kind $ _____

Send to: Tom Kangas, 3641 Weston Pl., Columbus, OH 43214 or email to LEYMTreasurer@gmail.com

Digital Communications Facilitator 2024–25 Report

The Digital Communications Facilitator (DCF) for LEYM serves to maintain our online presence and help Friends across LEYM connect with each other via the website (leym.org), email listservs, webinars, and Zoom meetings. The DCF also plays a central role in preparing for, coordinating, and helping to host our Annual Meeting, including hosting the Zoom portions of the program. Some online events in the past year that the DCF helped promote and support included our regular Clerks' Chats, a new series from the Peace & Justice Committee supporting effective P&J Committee work at the Meeting level, and another webinar series from Advancement & Outreach, this year focused on a range of topics of interest to Monthly Meetings including Fitting Space to Spirit, Hybrid Meetings, and supporting Families with Children. After moving away from posting on Twitter (now called X) as a place to share on social media, this year we rejuvenated our LEYM Facebook page, and we have begun posting more regularly there. Look at the top right of our homepage for links to our Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/LEYMQuakers/) and our YouTube account (https://www.youtube.com/@lakeerieyearlymeeting), which hosts recordings of many past events. We have been using a time-tracking app set to record down to the 10-minute interval, making it easy to track quick website updates and other small tasks that accumulate over time. Most committee meetings that the DCF attended in a dual (volunteer and attending in my role as DCF) capacity were not included for billing. Time billed from June 1, 2024 – June 1, 2025, was just under 160 hours, distributed as follows

Annual Sessions Prep: 73 hours

Online Database: 8 hours

Research & Reporting: 3 hours

Website updates: 48 hours

Zoom-related: 16 hours

Correspondence: 6 hours

Managing Email Accounts/Group Messages/Social: 6 hours Much of the DCF's time is devoted to preparing for and supporting Annual Meeting, and for the 2025 gathering we have again worked with the online service known as RegFox. The system has been working well, enabling the online registration of 120 participants as of this writing. Last year we experienced some challenges getting approval from our payment processor due to the unique nature of religious organizations' status as nonprofits, but this year we have transitioned to a new payment processor that has approved our status as a nonprofit. Thanks go to Tom Kangas for staying with this process to completion.

Our website continues to provide valuable and accessible information for LEYM Friends and others from afar. Here are the visitor statistics for June 2024 through the end of May 2025.

LEYM.org Website Visitors

10000

Unique Visitors Number of Visits

7500

5000

2500

Jun-24 Jul-24 Aug-24 Sep-24 Oct-24 Nov-24 Dec-24 Jan-25 Feb-25 Mar-25 Apr-25 May-25

Some new website additions this year included the posting of a web version of the Annual Records *(scrubbed of personal data - see https://leym.org/annual-records/), and the development of a page providing access to the full-text and/or video recordings of past LEYM Plenary speakers. See https://leym.org/plenary-talks-interviews-at-leym-annual-meeting/. Thanks to Jeff Cooper from Publications and Archives for his assistance on these items. Also in the works is an updated annotated collection of Quaker Resources from around the web, which will replace a more antiquated table of items that proved very hard to maintain. It has been an honor to be able to serve Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for another year in this capacity. While my time is more precious since I became Clerk of Birmingham Friends Meeting in September of 2024, I still look forward to continuing in the role for the coming year. Respectfully submitted by Bill Warters (Birmingham Friends Meeting)*

LEYM General Fund Income

As of 6/11/2025

For the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2025)

Contribution From	Amount	Deposit Date
Akron Monthly Meeting	250	12/16/2024
Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting	5,142	1/31/2025
Athens Monthly Meeting	2,000	11/17/2024
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	546	10/1 & 10/13/24
Broadmead Monthly Meeting	1,500	1/31/2025
Cleveland Monthly Meeting	1,680	3/6/2025
Delaware Monthly Meeting		
Detroit Monthly Meeting	924	1/27/2025
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting	462	1/17/2025
Granville Monthly Meeting	1,000	1/17/2025
Holland Monthly Meeting	400	1/5/2025
Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting	1,134	1/22 & 2/28/25
Kent Monthly Meeting	714	1/17/2025
Mid-Ohio Valley Monthly Meeting	180	1/24/2025
North Columbus Monthly Meeting	1,260	12/9/2024
Oberlin Monthly Meeting	1,100	1/31/2025
Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting	4,956	2/7/2025
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting	3,066	1/5/2025
Wooster Monthly Meeting	504	1/31/2025
Subtotal - contributing MM or WG	**26,818**	
Individuals - via check	5	
Individuals - via FFC online	50	
Individuals - via RegFox	27	
Interest income from Savings Acct	43	
Total Cash Contribution Income	**26,944**	
FFC Dividend Income (Base Acct only)	1,044	
Total Income	**27,988**	(cash income, excluding in-kind)

Expected, per budget	*Actual as a % of Budget*	*Variance, favorable (unfavorable)*
26,250	102%	568

In-kind		Total contribution income
+	-	26,944

LEYM Acctng 2024-2025.xlsx || 2_Income 6/11/2025 11:32 AM

LEYM General Fund Expenses - with comparison to Budget

For the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2025)

Account	Actual Expense through 6/11/2025	Budget (annual)	Actual expense as a % of Budget	Variance, budget-to-actual, favorable (unfavorable)
Operations				
Contract Worker: Database Manager	1,083.50	3,575	30%	2,492
Contract Worker: Digital Comm Facil'r	5,258.00	5,775	91%	517
Insurance	613.00	650	94%	37
Office/administration	542.44	1,100	49%	558
Committees				
Advancement & Outreach	-	100	0%	100
Ministry & Nurture	-	100	0%	100
Publications	3,239.63	3,500	93%	260
Members				
Attend conference w/ Quaker values	-	500	0%	500
Organizations				
Friends General Conference	6,200.00	6,200	100%	-
Olney Friends School	3,100.00	3,100	100%	-
Swarthmore records project	150.00	150	100%	-
Subtotal cash expenditures	20,187	24,750	82%	4,563
Transfers from General Fund to other Funds				
Annual Meeting Fund	5,000.00	5,000	100%	-
Travel Fund	1,500.00	1,500	100%	-
FWCC Travel Fund & Donation	1,800.00	1,800	100%	-
Consultation Fund		-		
Transfers to General Fund from other Funds				
Consultation Fund	-			-
Subtotal Transfers	8,300.00	8,300		-
Totals - General Fund Expenses	**28,486.57**	**33,050**	86%	4,563

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Lake Erie Yearly Meeting – Financial Position
For the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2025)

Location of monetary assets	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2024	Change in balance during the fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/11/2025
The Citizens National Bank of Bluffton. OH			
Checking Account	4,206.54	2,724.74	6,931.28
Savings Account	17,711.70	(7,956.74)	9,754.96
Subtotal of both CNB accounts	21,918.24	(5,232.00)	16,686.24
Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Philadelphia, PA *			
General (Base) Account	54,876.98	1,369.21	56,246.19
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid (and reinvested)		1,044.09	
Activity includes: • Change in Portfolio Value, + or -		325.12	
Granville Youth Fund Account	9,357.66	59.91	9,417.57
Activity includes: • Dividends Paid		178.27	
Activity includes: • Change in Portfolio Value + or -		59.91	
Activity includes: • Dividends disbursed by FFC to LEYM, recorded to Youth Activ Fund		(178.27)	
Subtotal of both FFC accounts	64,234.64	1,429.12	65,663.76
Total monetary assets	**86,152.88**	**(3,802.88)**	**82,350.00**
Notation: Prepaid Expenses			
Kirkmont Ctr deposit for Youth & Family retreat, Oct 2025	100.00	-	100.00
Weber Ctr deposit for Spiritual Formation retreat, Sep 2025	150.00	-	150.00
	250.00	-	250.00

	Total	% of Beg Bal
Div Pd	1,222	2%
△Value	385	1%
	1,607	3%

* Note> All of the funds with Friends Fiduciary Corporation are invested in FFC's Quaker Growth & Income Fund (QGIF).
The Quaker Growth & Income Fund is a diversified, co-mingled fund with allocations to equities, fixed income and real estate investment trusts (REITs). Its primary objective is to provide stable current income and long-term growth consistent with protecting principal investments against inflation over time. The fund adheres to Friends Fiduciary's Quaker-values investment guidelines and participates in our shareholder advocacy work. It is intended for investors with an investment horizon of five years or longer. The Fund has a standard income distribution policy based on the fund's total return.

Source> friendsfiduciary.org, 06/30/2024

HOLDINGS BY ASSET CLASS	*Equity*	*Fixed Income*	*REITS*
Global and International Equity	*24.3%*		
Small and Mid Cap Equity	*17.9%*		
Large Cap Equity	*30.4%*		
Fixed Income (Domestic, Global, Short-Term, plus Cash)		*22.7%*	*4.7%*
	72.6%	*22.7%*	*4.7%*

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LEYM Summary of Funds for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2024	Friends Fiduciary account activity[1]	Transfers between funds	Cash Income	Cash Expense	Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/11/2025	Floor/ Suggested floor/ceiling amounts for each fund	/Ceiling	Last activity prior to FY24-25
Funds held in (i) Base account with Friends Fiduciary Corp and (ii) Citizens National Bank										
General Fund[2]	36,402.84	1,369.21	(8,300.00)	26,943.72	(20,186.57)	**(173.64)**	**36,229.20**	na	35,000	
Annual Meeting Fund	2,954.99		5,000.00	16,789.31	(22,760.84)	**(971.53)**	**1,983.46**	1,000	3,000	
Travel Fund	2,745.25		1,500.00	-	(1,558.66)	**(58.66)**	**2,686.59**	2,000	4,000	
Youth Activities Fund[4]	5,807.90		1,053.27	345.00	(875.00)	**523.27**	**6,331.17**	4,000	8,000	
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	4,000.00		-	-	-	**-**	**4,000.00**	2,000	4,000	FY22-23
HS Teen Retreat Fund	4,000.00		-	-	-	**-**	**4,000.00**	3,000	4,000	FY17-18
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649.00				-	**-**	**1,649.00**	na	2,000	FY19-20
Spiritual Formation Fund	2,769.34		300.00	6,396.77	(8,138.12)	**(1,441.35)**	**1,327.99**	500	2,000	
Consultation Fund	3,143.68		-	-	-	**-**	**3,143.68**	500	2,000	FY11-12
Traveling Ministries Fund	3,500.00		-	-	(136.88)	**(136.88)**	**3,363.12**	na	na	FY13-14[5]
Work Projects Fund	2,182.39					**-**	**2,182.39**	na	2,000	FY17-18
FWCC Travel Fund	6,714.83		900.00	-	(2,229.00)	**(1,329.00)**	**5,385.83**	na	9,000	
FWCC Travel Donation	-		900.00		-	**900.00**	**900.00**	na	9,000	
Funds held in separate account with Friends Fiduciary Corp										
Granville Youth Fund[3]	9,357.66	238.18	(178.27)			**59.91**	**9,417.57**	na	na	
Funds held by others - see Statement of Financial Position										
Prepaid Expense	925.00	-	(1,175.00)	-		**(1,175.00)**	**(250.00)**	na	na	
TOTAL	86,152.88	1,607.39	-	50,474.80	(55,885.07)	**(3,802.88)**	**82,350.00**			

NOTES> Funds other than the General Fund are managed through accounting and may be subsidized from the General Fund.
[1] Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC) activity includes dividends and net change portfolio value due to market conditions. See Balance Sheet for detail.
[2] FFC General (Base) Account activity is included here in LEYM's General Fund.
[3] Granville Friends Youth Fund is a separate FFC account. FFC activity shown on this line reflects only that fund's change in portfolio value.
[4] FFC dollars transferred to this line represent dividends paid to the Granville Friends Youth Fund during current fiscal year and credited to YAF.
[5] Established in FY13-14 by a donation toward LEYM's Traveling Ministry Program, this fund has had no activity from inception to date.

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History						LEYM Budgets	*Budget approved 06/15/2024			***Prelim budget, not approved	
FY 2021-22		FY 2022-23		FY 2023-24			**Actual as of 6/11/2025	FY 2024-25		FY 2025-26	
Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	General Fund Expenses		*Budget	**Actual	***Budget	Change
2,500	2,898	3,900	2,828	4,320	1,838	General	Contractor: Database Manager	3,575	1,084	2,260	(1,315)
5,100	5,570	6,200	4,996	6,500	4,756		Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	5,775	5,258	5,906	131
500	597	650	597	650	597		Insurance	650	613	675	25
1,500	677	1,500	1,035	1,200	557		Administration	1,100	542	1,000	(100)
500	-	500	-	100	-	Committees	Advancement & Outreach	100	-	100	-
100	-	100	-	100	-		Ministry & Nurture	100	-	100	-
3,200	3,393	3,500	2,876	3,500	2,722		Publications	3,500	3,240	3,750	250
1,000	-	600	-	600	-	Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	500	-	500	-
6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,000	6,000	Organizations	Friends General Conference	6,200	6,200	6,350	150
3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,000	3,000		Olney Friends School	3,100	3,100	3,175	75
150	150	150	150	150	150		Swarthmore Records Project	150	150	150	-
1,000	1,000	-					Potential NCFM mtghse contrib			1,000	1,000
-	-	10,000	6,100	5,000	3,200	Tranfers:	Annual Meeting subsidy	5,000	5,000	5,000	-
1,200	1,200	-	-	1,000	1,000	from General	Travel Fund	1,500	1,500	1,500	500
1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	Fund to...	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship Fund	-	-	-	-
1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	or (to General	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	1,800	1,800	900	(900)
-	-	-	-	-	-	Fund from)...	Consultation Fund	-	-	(3,144)	(3,144)
-	-	-	-	-	(2,893)		High School Teen Retreat Fund	-		-	-
29,550	28,285	39,900	31,382	33,920	22,728		Total Expenses and Transfers =	33,050	28,487	29,223	(3,327)
						General Fund Income					
17,875	18,780	26,005	25,390	27,510	26,863		Contributions Income	26,250	26,944	26,838	588
1,000	1,728	1,500	1,916	1,500	2,038		FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	2,000	1,044	2,000	-
18,875	20,508	27,505	27,306	29,010	28,901		Total Income =	28,250	27,988	28,838	588
(10,675)	(7,777)	(12,395)	(4,076)	(4,910)	6,173		Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(4,800)	(499)	(385)	3,915
	(8,859)		2,815		3,679		FFC chg in portfolio value (Base)		325		
	(8,859)		2,815		3,679		Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =		325		
	(16,636)		(1,261)		9,852		Total Change in General Fund =		(174)		
715		743		655			# members used to produce above estimate =	625		639	
$25		$35		$42			Suggested contribution per member =	$42	0%	$42	0%
$ 0.16		$ 0.22		$ 0.22			Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =	$ 0.21		$ 0.21	

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LEYM Officers, Committee Members, & Representatives

FINAL Proposed Slate for approval, June 15, 2025

Officers

Role Name & Meeting Year of Service End Year

Presiding Clerk ExC Jack Smith, Red Cedar 2 (1 as PC) 2028 Assistant Clerk ExC Executive Committee 1 2026

Recording Clerk ExC Peggy Daub, Ann Arbor 3 2026

Treasurer ExC Tom Kangas, North Columbus 7 2026

Communications and Other Workers

Bulletin Editor Christopher Farrand, Cleveland 3 2026

Annual Records Editor (appointed by Publications & Archives) Elise Yoder, Pittsburgh 5 2025 (thru Oct)

Meeting Workers (contracted by presiding clerk)

Database Manager Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh 2 2026

Digital Comms Facilitator Bill Warters, Birmingham 7 2026 Bookstore Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 22 2026

COMMITTEES (3-yr terms unless otherwise noted)

Advancement & Outreach

Suggested # of Members: 6

Susan Hartman, Ann Arbor, Co-Clerk ExC 3 2026

Barbara LeSage, North Columbus, Co-Clerk ExC 3 2026

Stephanie Charlot, Red Cedar 3 2026

Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh 2 2027

Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 2 2027

Cassie Cammann, Ann Arbor 1 2028

Earthcare This committee is dormant. No nominations were made.

Finance

of Members: 3

Joann Neuroth, Red Cedar, Co-Clerk ExC 8 2027

Ellen Barnes, Birmingham, Co-Clerk ExC 5 2027

Aran Reinhart, Broadmead 4 2028

Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead 1 2028

Treasurer serves ex officio.

Ministry & Nurture

Suggested # of Members: 6 + 1 rep. from each monthly meeting Flo Friender, Kalamazoo, Co-Clerk ExC 4 2028

Dennis Gregg, Ann Arbor, Co-Clerk ExC 2 2028

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 4 2028

Christopher Farrand, Cleveland 2 2027

Linda Yoder Szilagye, Broadmead (confirmed by Exec. Comm.) 1 2028 **Nominating**

Suggested # of Members: 6, appointed by YM through Naming Committee. Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie WG, Co-Clerk ExC 2 2027 **Mary Igoe Meyers, Broadmead, Co-Clerk ExC 2 2027**

Mike Hinshaw, Wooster 3 2026

Joe Mills, Kalamazoo 1 2028

Bernard Miller, Detroit 1 2028

Charles Thompson, Detroit 1 2028

Peace & Justice

Suggested # of Members: 6

Claire Cohen, Pittsburgh, Clerk ExC 2 2027

****Phil Volk, Ann Arbor 1 2028**

Publications & Archives

Suggested # of Members: 4

Jeff Cooper, Ann Arbor, Clerk ExC 3 2026

Bob Roehm, North Columbus 9 2027

Elise Yoder, Pittsburgh 1 2028

Emilia Marcyk-Taylor, Red Cedar 1 2028

Abbey Pratt-Harrington, Athens 1 2028

Bulletin Editor serves ex officio.

Note: The Annual Planning Committee consists of the following three committees:

Adult & Family Program Suggested # of Members: 6

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie WG, Clerk ExC 4 2028

Greg Mott, Broadmead 4 2028

Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo 3 2026

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 2 2026

Wink Covintree, Birmingham 2 2027

Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor 1 2028

Arrangements & Site Suggested # of Members: 6

Carolyn Lejuste Red Cedar, Clerk ExC 3 2026

Bill Warters, Birmingham 7 2027

Mike Hinshaw, Wooster 4 2028

Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead 10 2028

Janet Dando, Akron 3 2026

Jayson Smith, Detroit 1 2028

Youth & Children Program # of Members: 12-16 Years of Term: 2 (Clerk only) Diane Mott, Broadmead, Clerk ExC 3 2026

Erika Smith, Detroit, Asst. Clerk 4 2026

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham

Jonah Brownfain, Birmingham

Cristin Graham, Detroit

Carla Pratt-Harrington, Athens

Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead

Greg Mott, Broadmead

REPS TO OTHER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS Year of Service End Year

AFSC Corporation

Chelsea Middlemiss, Red Cedar 2 2027

****Phil Volk, Ann Arbor 1 2028**

FCNL General Committee (3-year terms, limited to two consecutive terms) John Deikis, Ann Arbor 6 2026

Wink Covintree, Birmingham 3 2026

Michael Fuson, Granville 3 2026

FGC Central Committee (3-year terms, limited to two consecutive terms) (LEYM Reps appoint Rep to FGC Executive Committee)

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 4 2028

Brad Shaw, Red Cedar 4 2028

FWCC (3-year terms)

Ellerie Brownfain, Birmingham 5 2027

Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Erie WG 5 2027

Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids 2 2027

Mike Hinshaw, Wooster 2 2027

FLGBTQC

No nomination was made.

Olney Friends School

Greg Mott, Broadmead 1 2028

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Richard Tucker, Ann Arbor 4 2028

Friends Peace Teams

Cassie Cammann, Ann Arbor 1 2028

** Deceased July 2025

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Ministry & Nurture Committee: Responses to 2024/25 LEYM Query

Responses to the LEYM Annual Query were received from nine Meetings: Akron, Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Broadmead, Cleveland, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Granville, and Holland.

The Annual Query consisted of two parts:

1. How do I actively get to know my neighbors?

2. How do we as a Meeting seek opportunities of interaction with communities unlike ourselves?

The responses from most Meetings came in largely as the reflections arising from individual Friends during worship-sharing rather than as a reflection on the query by the entire Meeting.

1. How actively do I get to know my neighbors?

The responses came back in two basic views of neighborliness: (1) casual, and (2) active. The first

response reflecting the casual ways one gets to know one's neighbors and the second the ways in which one actively tries to get to know one's neighbors.

(1) The most common response was that walking in the neighborhood, especially with a dog, *was a good way to meet one's neighbors and initiate conversation.*

(2) Active ways to get to know one's neighbors included:

- Looking out for each other, such as helping with yard work, lending lawn and garden *equipment, providing rides for neighbors.*
- Getting to know one's neighbors requires spending time with them. This can take the *form of participating together in local community organizations or activities.*
- Holding open houses.

2. How do we as a Meeting seek opportunities of interaction with communities unlike ourselves?

Implicit in this query is the question, "Who is my neighbor?" Communities are by their nature insular, and it is easy to maintain one's isolation within one's community. It requires a willingness to make one's self vulnerable in order to reach out to another community. It also requires listening and patience. Building relationships takes time. It is a series of small steps from which trust and understanding arise. Some Meetings look to get to know others through work with other organizations on issues of common interest, such as activities around peace, immigration rights or prison and bail reform or in activities through AFSC or FCNL. A number of Meetings reach out into other communities by providing hot meals or food pantries. A number of Meetings indicated that the communities in which they are located are not very diverse. Most Meeting did not address the question of ways to interact with others who did not share or might even hold incompatible views and concerns. One Meeting suggested that to reach out to other communities first required us to be clear about our own identity as a Quaker community and suggested that Friends might spend more time exploring Quaker history, faith and practice.

Review of LEYM State of the Meeting Reports 2024-2025

LEYM Ministry & Nurture Committee

(Reviewed: Ann Arbor, Athens, Birmingham, Broadmead, Cleveland, Delaware, Grand Rapids, Granville, Kalamazoo, Kent, Mid-Ohio Valley, Oberlin, Red Cedar, Pittsburgh, Wooster)

Membership Situation

Most Meetings appeared to feel that their membership relations were strong. A few of the larger Meetings noted some new attenders and increased numbers of visitors. A number of smaller Meetings mentioned that while they get a steady stream of visitors and short-term attenders, they are not holding on to them. One Meeting felt it was growing (Athens). Other Meetings felt that membership was steady. Smaller Meetings, however, felt the strain on activities due to the small number of Friends and attenders. Several smaller meetings now hold their Meeting for Business every other month (Birmingham, Granville) and one Meeting (Wooster) now holds business meeting quarterly. One Meeting is down to one recorded Friend among those attending and does not hold meetings for worship in the summer months (Delaware). A number of Meetings expressed a concern for increased visibility.

Meeting Location Situation

The situation of Meeting facilities varies. Ann Arbor, Athens, Kalamazoo, Red Cedar, Pittsburgh have their own Meetinghouses. Birmingham, Cleveland, Delaware, Grand Rapids, Granville, Mid-Ohio Valley, North Columbus, Wooster rent space. Grand Rapids will be losing its rented space in June and needs to find a new location. Cleveland is actively looking for a new Meetinghouse of its own. Broadmead meets in two locations. It mentioned that when both Toledo and Bluffton Worship Groups are able to worship together in person, their worship is deeper.

Worship

Most Meetings hold hybrid worship, although the quality of the technology may vary. Several Meetings (Wooster and Bluffton) hold two in-person meetings and two Zoom meetings for worship a month. Red Cedar holds two meetings for worship each week – an earlier one exclusively in-person and a later hybrid one.

The amount of vocal ministry varies, with most Meetings being fairly silent, although Friends in these Meetings are generally comfortable with the silence. Two Meetings (Birmingham, Ann Arbor) have held discussions on the quality of vocal ministry. One Meeting has had friction over hybrid worship and has held several called meetings to discuss the issue.

Fellowship Activities

Meetings hold a broad range of fellowship activities. Fellowship activities include:

- Potlucks (Ann Arbor, Athens, Kalamazoo)
- Birthday celebrations (Athens)
- Men's Breakfast meetings (Kalamazoo)
- Women's Gatherings (Kalamazoo and Ann Arbor)
- Quaker 8s (Athens)
- Quaker Teas (Cleveland)
- Shared meals once a month (Kent)
- Singing before Meeting for Worship (Athens, Ann Arbor, Kent)
- Picnics (Cleveland,)
- Anniversary celebrations (Kalamazoo, Broadmead). Cleveland is planning to hold a 100th *Anniversary event in September.*
- Social Evenings (Ann Arbor).
- Hiking/walking and other group outings (Pittsburgh, Ann Arbor).

Spiritual Strengthening

Several Meetings use worship sharing (Athens, Cleveland) on a regular basis. Ann Arbor uses worship sharing as part of planned discussions outside of worship. Cleveland has held six pre-Meeting Deepening into Worship sessions of a half-hour on techniques to center down. Several Meetings hold regular Bible Study (Cleveland, Ann Arbor). A number of Meetings are reflecting on who and what the Meeting is. Kalamazoo has a "Visioning Committee" to look forward to the future needs of the Meeting. Ann Arbor has held a number of sessions to explore what it means to be part of a Quaker spiritual community, as well as sessions on Eldering, Vocal Ministry, One's relationship with Spirit, One's relationship with the Meeting Community, and one's Relationship with the outer world. Kent held a retreat in February on the role of individual conscience on the Meeting and the Meeting's role on individual conscience. A large number of members of Red Cedar MM participated in last year's LEYM Spiritual Formation retreat and more have participated in the Meeting's small group discussions. Ann Arbor holds spiritual companionship groups and spiritual formation. Few Meetings mentioned religious education, except to say that they needed more (Delaware).

Educational Activities

A number of Meetings hold discussions on topics of interest (Wooster, Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor). Several have had guest speakers (Kalamazoo, Cleveland, Ann Arbor). Cleveland, Ann Arbor, and Oberlin have regular reading and discussion groups. Cleveland's meets weekly along with members of Wooster and have just spent the past 16 months reading George Fox's Journal.

Social and Community Action

A number of Meetings are active to some degree or another working with various outside organizations (Mid-Ohio, Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor, Kent). One Meeting (Athens) contributes 10% of its annual budget to help community organizations. Cleveland contributes the interest from its investments to various local organizations in which Friends participate. A number of Meetings work with AFSC and FCNL.

A number of Meetings provide community meals (Birmingham) several times year. Others provide meals monthly (Cleveland). Kent volunteers help out weekly at social services kitchen. Ann Arbor offers its Meetinghouse as a day shelter for two weeks once a year and an overnight shelter for one week in the year.

One Meeting has recently revived its Social Action Committee (Birmingham). Several Meetings are active in environmental issues (Kalamazoo, Mid-Ohio, Ann Arbor). Ann Arbor is also involved in a wide range

of other peace and social action issues. Ann Arbor and Red Cedar are also actively committed to reparations. One Meeting (Cleveland) is trying to identify a project that the Meeting as a whole can participate in in order to build fellowship and to be more visible in the community. Kent contributes to World Central Kitchen and to AFSC work aiding those in need in Gaza and as a result of the hurricane in North Carolina.

One smaller Meeting (Granville) writes Letters to the Editor and sends minutes to other Meetings. Birmingham recently sent Valentines cards to elected officials. Red Cedar reports becoming more active in several national and international Quaker organizations. Through AFSC's Apartheid-Free pledge, Red Cedar Friends have worked in partnership with another congregation on a Palestinian Interfaith Network. Red Cedar has also continued to be actively involved in FCNL's Advocacy Teams. Kent provided an education grant to a doctoral student from Niger. Red Cedar seeks to use its Meetinghouse purposefully, sharing it with various community service and support organizations and with another faith community.

Children

Few Meetings mentioned children in their reports. Birmingham's First Day School is inactive, and Cleveland's is small. Athens mentions paying for childcare, but it is not clear whether they have a FDS. Pittsburgh has a concern about identifying enough FDS teachers and is considering paying for a teacher to work with volunteer teachers. Cleveland has a paid teacher and childcare person working with volunteers. Ann Arbor has also hired a person to support the Committee. Ann Arbor and Red Cedar have indicated growth in the number of children attending FDS.

Finances

One Meeting (Red Cedar) has faced budget shortfalls, which has led to discussions about giving patterns.

Concerns

A recurring concern among smaller Meetings, especially, is the need for more visibility in order to stop the decline in attendance and to actually increase the number of active attenders. Small Meetings find it difficult to maintain committees and even when there are formally set up committees these are often too small to maintain much activity. There is also a concern for attracting more younger people and families. Several Meetings also expressed a concern with finding people to fill necessary Meeting positions, especially those of Clerk and Assistant Clerk and committee clerks. All Meetings are concerned about finding ways to address the political and social conditions in the country as Quakers.

Spiritual Formation Program Report, June 2025

> *The LEYM spiritual formation program has been growing in terms of the number of participants in our retreats and in local groups. We are aware of local groups in eight of our Monthly Meetings. These groups are using a variety of structures to provide spiritual support for each other. Traditionally, the spiritual formation year has begun with a retreat in the fall and ended with a retreat in the spring. In between the two retreats, local groups meet regularly to support each other in their spiritual life, often focusing on spiritual practices. Recently, we added a three-hour January online session providing an opportunity for a mid-year check-in. The theme of the fall 2024 retreat was mysticism. Don McCormick facilitated the retreat with Ellerie Brownfain as his companion. Thirty-six people from nine Monthly Meetings attended the retreat held at Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan. During the retreat we considered basic concepts of mysticism, theistic and unitive mysticism, and mystical experiences in Quakerism. We ended the retreat by considering the creation of a vision of the role of mysticism in the future of Quakerism. The activities of the retreat included large and small group activities. We followed our tradition of giving time Saturday evening for meeting in local groups to plan for the coming year. The book table provided resources for local groups to consider in their year-long spiritual formation sessions.*
>
> *On January 25, twenty-seven of these Friends joined together on Zoom for a three-hour retreat in which we shared information about our local groups and participated in two different breakout groups. In the first we described what being part of the spiritual formation program does for us in our daily lives. In the second, we considered the following queries: Is there spiritual work that you are specifically focused on? In what areas and in what ways is the group nurturing and supporting*

you? In addition, participants shared how they have intentionally explored mysticism in new ways since the fall retreat. In our closing session, participants shared that they had deep spiritual experiences in their small groups.

We ended the year on May 3 when twenty-two Friends joined together for the spring retreat hosted by Broadmead Friends at the Victory Center in Toledo. During the retreat Don helped us explore, through a set of queries, how we experience mysticism as individuals and in community. All participants were invited to stay for Sunday morning worship with Broadmead Friends followed by a potluck hosted by the Meeting. Sunday afternoon, Don led a workshop on writing one's spiritual autobiography.

Friends attending the spring retreat were led to set a regular meeting time to continue to explore mysticism and mystical experiences and to support each other in the journey. Friends will meet on the third Thursday of July, October, January and April from 7:00 - 8:30. The Zoom link can be found in the LEYM calendar found at leym.org.

Planning for the next year always begins before the current year ends. We are delighted to report that our facilitator for the 2025-2026 year will be Michael Wajda. The theme for the year's retreat will be "Where Next on My (Spiritual) Journey?" The fall retreat will be held September 12-14 at the Weber Center. Attached is a copy of the brochure giving details of the retreat. Hard copy brochures can be found at our table in the display area. Please take brochures with you to share with others in your Monthly Meeting.

Members of the Spiritual Formation Committee are Ellerie Brownfain, Valerie Groszmann, Barbara LeSage, Olwen Pritchard, and Sally Weaver Sommer. We are looking for new Committee members. If you are interested in serving on the Planning Committee, please contact one of our current members.

AFSC Representative Report to Yearly Meeting, Submitted by Bill Warters (Birmingham), May 2025

I have served as an LEYM Representative to the AFSC Corporation since 2019, and have entered my final year of my second 3-year term in the position. In this report I provide some reflections on the state of AFSC and some highlights from this year's Annual Corporation Meeting held April 24-26, 2025, at Friends Center in Philadelphia. Also in attendance from LEYM was Chelsea Middlemiss (Red Cedar) who has just joined the AFSC Corporation representing LEYM this year and John Deikis (Ann Arbor) and Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh), serving as at-large members. Overall, AFSC seems to be in good shape, having made its way through an extended and sometimes challenging strategic planning process to a point where it appears to now be well-positioned to respond to the current crisis created by the second Trump administration, particularly as it impacts humanitarian relief work, diversity and equity work, immigration, supporters of peace in Gaza, and the role of non-profits more generally. A recurring theme was AFSC was built for times like these… The 2025 Epistle from AFSC can be reviewed online: https://afsc.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/2025-afsc-epistle-final-1.pdf. Quaker Meetings interested in getting more involved with AFSC are invited to visit the Friends Engage page to get started: https://afsc.org/friends-engage

Financially, AFSC is on solid ground, with notable new donor growth in funds earmarked for support in specific areas of need (Gaza, Immigration Rights, etc.) and level or slightly declining donations from long-time supporters to the general fund. In response to the change in the Federal administration and all the policy challenges ahead, early this year the AFSC Board released $750,000 in an emergency response fund to enable various AFSC programs to nimbly respond to new risks and challenges. AFSC is also watching for the anticipated release of an executive order that may ask the IRS to revoke the tax-exempt status of certain nonprofits, either by name or through their areas of focus. AFSC believes these actions represent intimidation tactics and an attack on free speech. In the name of safety and security, physical and digital risk assessments are being carried out across the U.S. and International programs to better secure AFSC staff and program participants. It is a stressful time for frontline staff and across the leadership team. Crisis counseling is available for AFSC staff and their families as part of the AFSC benefits package, and staff are encouraged to make use of it.

2025 Annual Meeting of the Corporation

The Annual Meeting had the theme Healing Through Justice: Our Collective Journey and, in addition to the business sessions, it featured a number of powerful events highlighting AFSC's work around healing

and justice. The Thursday evening plenary featured susan abulhawa, a Palestinian author made famous by her debut novel Mornings in Jenin, translated into 30 languages, with over a million copies sold. She was born to refugees of the Six-Day War of 1967, when her family's land was seized and Israel captured what remained of Palestine. She shared painful details about the atrocities happening in Gaza, as well as some of the broader history of injustice in the region. The talk was frank, not holding back on the issue of United States complicity in the tragedy, and was a call to conscience for Friends in the audience. On Friday a panel presentation highlighted the way that AFSC is positioned to work at many levels simultaneously, with the panel exploring AFSC Responses to new federal policy on detention and deportation. The session included a look at impactful on the groundwork done by the local AFSC office in New Jersey, as well as across the United States with Know Your Rights trainings, and internationally in cooperation with the Quaker UN Program and the international peacemaking hub AFSC is part of.

> *On Friday evening, participants traveled to the Eastern State Penitentiary (a museum) where we had a tour, then dinner inside the prison, followed by programmed worship led by Francisco Burgos, executive Director of Pendle Hill. Eastern State Penitentiary was once the world's first true "penitentiary," a prison designed by Quakers to inspire penitence, or true regret, in the hearts of prisoners through experimental approaches to prisoner rehabilitation, such as solitary confinement. It was a remarkably powerful experience and a call for criminal justice reform in the United States. The report from AFSC General Secretary Joyce Ajlouny was also quite moving, especially given that Joyce is a Palestinian and AFSC has staff inside Gaza that are at risk every day. Friends in attendance gathered in spirit to pray for the support of our staff, and Light and Love was felt strongly in the room. We learned about many notable actions by AFSC across a wide spectrum of areas of concern, such as pro-immigrant billboards in Colorado, New Jersey, New Hampshire and San Diego, successful work in North Carolina preventing evictions and promoting housing security, a big win to keep clean water affordable for Atlanta area poor, Third Tuesday activism trainings, and more.*

On Saturday evening, a special program was organized entitled Courage to Resist: Commemorating 50 Years Since Vietnam that featured many AFSC alumni and a special display of materials from the AFSC Archives. The event featured a conversation with Claudia Krich, who with her husband, Keith Brinton, was co-director of the AFSC Quang Ngai program from March 1973 until July 1975. Drawing on her new book Those Who Stayed Krich offered a personal firsthand account of the collapse of the South Vietnamese government and the beginning of the new Provisional Revolutionary Government. Her vivid descriptions of those days emerged primarily from readings from her journal, which captured the uncertainty, fear, and excitement as the North Vietnamese soldiers arrived. Workshops Highlighting AFSC Work

As part of the Annual Meeting, attendees were able to choose to attend several workshops, some of which were also offered online via Zoom.

***Me+We = Stalwart Solidarity: Prudence Crandall, Sarah Harris, & audacious allyship-- then** and now, exploring the transformative power of audacious allyship, using the historic relationship between Quaker activist Prudence Crandall and her student, Sarah Harris, hosted by the St. Louis Peacebuilding Program.*

From the Inside Out: AFSC Strategies Towards Abolition by the New York/New Jersey Healing Justice program exploring the Prison Watch Program and the youth-centered Liberation Academy and Liberation Summer Camp

Sowing the Seeds of Justice with the AFSC Peace by Piece New Orleans program using farming and urban gardening to build food sovereignty and security and support community organizing. Ending Life and Long Sentences in Michigan with the Michigan Criminal Justice program exploring the work to end the state's over-reliance on excessive punishment. Peace Games Simulation hosted by the Quaker UN Office put participants into country-based teams exploring regional issues in Northeast Asia, and the unique challenges and opportunities of negotiating and peacemaking in the twenty-first century. Some AFSC highlights from the year just past include:

- In June 2024, after three years' effort, AFSC was able to support former AFSC *Afghanistan staff and their families to relocate, given the danger they faced in their home country.*
- A pilot Reparative Justice grant program completed its first year, extending $5,000 grants to *each of six community groups in the US focused on support for indigenous and African-American people, in*

local areas where AFSC works.

- Completion of negotiations with the five US staff unions representing AFSC staff *and signing the final collective bargaining agreements in February.*
- AFSC aligned with an international campaign targeting Vanguard's environmental *practices being led by Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), with a public endorsement released on Earth Day. Details at https://eqat.org/campaign/*
- Migration Justice staff in the US are offering Know Your Rights training for immigrants. As *enforcement actions become increasingly severe, these sessions have helped thousands of educators and students, employers and workers, faith congregations, social service providers, health care workers and others to prepare for interactions with ICE or Border Patrol agents – and to share their training in the community. From January through March 2025, Just Migration Programs at the US Mexico Border, Colorado, Oregon and Florida conducted 75 Know Your Rights presentations, reaching over 2,250 people.*
- This April, Joyce Ajlouny connected with the Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI) in Palestine and *Jordan, visiting local women activists and supporters alongside Nobel Peace laureates Jody Williams, Dr. Shirin Ebadi, and Tawakkol Karman.*
- Along with other members of the Washington Interfaith Staff Community, AFSC is *sponsoring a series of Faithful Witness Wednesdays with Christian, Jewish and secular organizations gathering on Capitol Hill to call on Congress to show the moral courage to resist and reverse autocratic repression.*
- AFSC also joined the steering committee of the upcoming 10% for All campaign, *launching May 23rd which calls for global reductions in military budgets and reinvestment in peacebuilding. https://10percen orall.org*
- Youth programming at an international level has been revitalized. A key milestone was the *co-created relaunch of the AFSC Youth Network with 120+ youth members from 13 countries, and 26 country focal points engaged. Internally, AFSC conducted five foundational youth work training workshops, involving nearly all youth-engaged staff.*
    - Quaker Engagement team produced yard signs in support of immigrant justice work, which *AFSC is inviting Quaker Meetings to display in front of their Meetinghouses; so far more than 100 free signs have been shipped in response to requests.*
    - Lifelines: Aid workers in Gaza is a new short film that provides a window into the lives and *work of aid workers in Gaza in late 2024. The film follows Firas and Serena – two staff members from the American Friends Service Committee – as they provide humanitarian relief to Palestinians in Gaza who have been displaced due to relentless attacks from the Israeli military. Despite being displaced themselves and losing dozens of family members and loved ones, AFSC staff in Gaza have provided lifesaving aid to over 1.5 million internally displaced people. See it online here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGxVZrnOU2I* ***Five Recommended Ways to Engage with AFSC***

1. JOIN AFSC's MEETING FOR WORSHIP.

Every week, AFSC hosts a virtual Meeting for Worship for Friends from across the globe. Embracing the practice of Quaker unprogrammed worship, we gather to bring our attention to witnessing injustice in our world and bolstering our solidarity with people facing oppression. Come join AFSC to explore and experience the spiritual dimensions of activism and social justice. Join AFSC staff and Friends for worship: afsc.org/meeting-worship 2. ENGAGE IN PUBLIC WITNESS FOR MIGRATION JUSTICE.

Everyone deserves a chance to build a good life, regardless of where they were born or when and how they migrate. But right now, migrants are often subjected to harm and suffering. In the spirit of public witness, AFSC has yard signs with the message "QUAKERS WELCOME MIGRANTS WITH DIGNITY". Support migrant communities by requesting a sign for your Meeting to display: afsc.org/migration-signs

3. HOST AN AFSC SPEAKER IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Around the world, AFSC staff are respected for their knowledge and commitment to addressing root causes of war and injustice. Whether you want to hear about an issue you're already passionate about or learn more about the work of AFSC, staff are excited to share their experiences and analysis with

Friends. Learn more about AFSC's work by hosting an event: afsc.org/host-event 4. BECOME AN APARTHEID-FREE COMMUNITY.

For decades, the Palestinian people have faced Israeli occupation and systematic human rights abuses that constitute apartheid. AFSC is working with Quaker Meetings, other faith groups, and communities of conscience to cut all ties with Israeli apartheid and build an apartheid-free world. Join our movement by writing a minute to identify your Meeting or church as an Apartheid-Free Community: apartheid-free.org

5. BECOME AN AFSC LIAISON AND ENGAGE IN SPIRIT-LED ACTIVISM.

Friends liaisons help organize Quaker communities to advocate for peace and justice at the grassroots level. Become a liaison and receive regular updates from AFSC to share with Friends in your community -- and mobilize them to action. Sign up to build peace with justice in your community: afsc.org/liaison

FCNL report to LEYM, 2025

John Howell

Micah McCall of FCNL expected to be with us this weekend but was unable to do so. As LEYM representative to FCNL, I offer this brief report.

The 2024 Annual Meeting of FCNL took place 11 days following the 2024 election. A question on people's minds was "What would the election results mean for FCNL's work?" Just as our Quaker testimonies remain, FCNL's priorities remain unchanged, but FCNL would find itself shifting tactically toward minimizing losses on issues relating to social support systems, environmental protection, and equal rights for all. FCNL continues to nurture respectful relations with Congressional offices to maintain communication channels across political divides. FCNL remains a steadfast and effective voice for Friends on Capitol Hill, continuing to mobilize the voices of Friends through its advocacy teams - made up of 1500 Quakers in 48 states around the country.

Regarding the current budget bill, FCNL asks all of us to contact our Senators to reject the slashing of Medicaid, of food assistance, of critical clean energy investments, the restriction of access to Child Tax Credit, and the extension of trillions of dollars of tax reductions to the wealthy. FCNL continues to provide dynamic learning and leadership opportunities for young people. During the Spring Lobby Weekend in March of this year 300 of them lobbied Congress about the budget bill. The current Clerk of the General Committee is Michael Fuson, a member of our LEYM family from the Granville Meeting. The former Clerk, Bridget Moix, is now serving as Executive Secretary. Strong and effective leadership continues at FCNL. Even as new activism tactics may be called for at this critical time, the patient and persistent presence that FCNL brings to Capitol Hill, with the messages of "War is not the Answer" and "Love They Neighbors – No Exceptions," needs our continued support.

Friends General Conference Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Marvin Barnes

Friends General Conference (FGC) is an association of 16 affiliated Yearly Meetings and 12 Monthly Meetings that chose to affiliate to FGC directly. Representatives from each Yearly and Monthly Meeting form the board of FGC, which is called "Central Committee". Lake Erie Yearly Meeting currently has four representatives serving on this Committee. The vision statement of Friends General Conference is: We envision a vital and growing Religious Society of Friends — a faith that deepens spiritually, welcomes newcomers, builds supportive and inclusive community, and provides loving service and witness in the world. Through Friends General Conference, we see Quakers led by the Spirit joining together in ministry to offer services that help Friends, Meetings, and seekers explore, deepen, connect, serve and witness within the context of our living faith. Representatives serving on Central Committee provide service by populating the administrative and program committees which continue the works of FGC. Friends General Conference programs help Friends to nurture the spiritual life of Meeting communities; transform relationships within Meetings; enrich worship; learn together; welcome newcomers; and improve practice of Quaker processes. Programs include Young Adult & Youth Ministries; Ministry on Racism; The Gathering; Spiritual Deepening Program (including Spiritual Deepening eRetreats); QuakerPress Publishing; Quaker Communications; and Christian and Interfaith Relations This year, Friends took another step beyond the pandemic to Gathering in-person. The Gathering in 2024 drew over 1,000 Friends to Haverford College.

Haverford College is a liberal arts college in Haverford, Pennsylvania, founded in 1833 by members of the Religious Society of Friends. FGC successfully completed its 2025 Online Gathering "A Spring Whose Waters Never Fail." The 2026 FGC in- person Gathering will be held July 7-12, 2026, at the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT.

FGC is launching a new Outreach & Visibility Committee to support FGC's staff-led invitational outreach initiatives and communications efforts. Invitational outreach is a direct and public invitation to non-Quakers to experience Quaker spiritual practice in community with Quakers.

Invitational outreach events always include transparent pathways to learn more about Quaker Spiritual practices, to attend worship in the future, and to further experience Quakers and Quaker Spirituality.

In changing times, FGC led a Quaker response to pressing concerns regarding U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This work is on-going.

Detroit Friends Meeting hosted FGC's Spring Executive Committee the last weekend in April, 2025 at their new Meetinghouse. All participants enjoyed themselves and were uplifted by gracious hospitality.

Friends General Conference, FGC, Young Adult & Youth Ministries (YAY) Gathering taking place July 2-6, 2025, in Clarkston, Michigan. This intergenerational event centers children, youth, and young adults (ages 0-35) and registration is open. This gathering focuses on play, connection, spiritual practice, and learning with family members and volunteers of all ages. The Ministry on Racism continues hosting weekly virtual Meeting for Worship for white Friends confronting racism and white supremacy, as well as worship spaces for Friends of Color. FGC continues developing anti-racist practices through resources like "Anti-Racist Clerking Advices" and the Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism programs. Friends General Conference is actively balancing tradition with transformation, maintaining core Quaker values while addressing contemporary social justice issues. The organization provides opportunities for

o Specialized programming for Youth, Young Adult friends and Friends of all ages.

o Expanding anti-racism initiatives as core spiritual work.

o Providing virtual and in-person community options.

o Publishing diverse voices within the Quaker tradition.

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) Representatives 2025 report to LEYM *Cassie Cammann*

This has been an active year for our peace workers in active combat countries in Myanmar-Burma, Israel-Palestine, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ukraine, serving refugees from Sudan, and in repressive regimes in other countries or who have suffered from war, conflict, and internal violence.

Val Live Oak says: "I think the most engaging part of the current work of Friends Peace Teams is the effort to operate in a decolonized manner. I believe that we need to develop strong, long-term, ongoing, and trusting relationships with partners around the world to see where our privilege is being expressed so that we can seek ways of letting it go. "It is, I think, an outgrowth of both the Quaker testimony of equality and the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). The inequalities of concentrating power and wealth in the North, and consistent exploitation of resources and people in the Global South, call out for changes that our current technological wonders of communication can facilitate. At the same time, our relationships still need to be made more clear and honest to foster true equality." As FPT is working to De-Colonize itself. We are developing a North American Team doing FPT style Peace Work. We are still 99% volunteers and we offer anyone, ESPECIALLY QUAKERS, an opportunity to join us in working to support Justice and Peace wherever it is needed. We are currently developing: PEACE LIBRARIES, AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) WORKSHOPS, TRAUMA RESILIENCE WORKSHOPS, EFFORTS TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC JUSTICE, and many workshops through "Toward Right Relationships with Native People." PLEASE Tell your Meeting about the work of Friends Peace Teams. Everyone is invited to join in this work. We thank you if you are already supporting FPT, and invite all Meetings to add us to your donations list. Don Buckingham and Cassie Cammann thank you for the Yearly Meeting's continued financial support of Friends Peace Teams. We ask you to engage with us and read our FPT April 2025 Epistle (https://friendspeaceteams.org/peaceways/)

Peace is possible!

FWCC World Plenary 2024 Report

Ellerie Brownfain, LEYM FWCC Representative

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Plenary Meeting convened in Vanderbijlpark near Johannesburg, South Africa. From August 5th through 12th, bringing together over 250 Friends from 53 countries, with an equal number participating virtually through "Hub" groups. The plenary's theme "Ubuntu," meaning "I am, because we are," guided all aspects of the gathering. Through the daily schedule the spirit of Ubuntu winded its path through workshops, worship, (programmed and unprogrammed) free time and meals. All were seamlessly knitted together. When led by the spirit we danced in the aisles, sang songs, held hands, cried and prayed together. Language translation was not needed for these experiences! This was the first ever hybrid, in person and virtual, World Plenary Meeting. It was hosted by Southern Africa Yearly Meeting.

Theme and Focus

The central theme was "Living the spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God's call to cherish creation and one another." Ubuntu, a Zulu word, speaks to the power and ceaseless work of the Holy Spirit between us, enabling us to go beyond our individual selves and grasp that "I am because we are."

The meeting was structured around three interconnected thematic streams:

1. Ubuntu and Community: Exploring interconnectedness and mutual responsibility. 2. Care for Creation: Addressing environmental concerns and sustainability. 3. Healing and Repairing Relationships: Confronting historic injustices and continuing *injustice.*

Testimony and Transformation

Duduzile Mtshazo, a South African Friend, shared her journey to Quakerism during apartheid. At a White Friends Meeting, she experienced unprecedented equality through sharing tea from the same cups as whites — a defiance of segregation norms. "I walked from the spiritual drought of a busy and hurried life into the sea of silence." The Friends Meeting treated her with a respect and love that she deserved, and she found her spiritual home. Her words had a profound effect on me; I felt I was experiencing Dudu's journey, walking and sharing the divine love of Christ. Her story led me to many questions about how we greet our guests and returning visitors to Meeting.

Global Witness and Ministry

Friends worldwide shared powerful testimonies: Ukrainian Friends continuing peace work amid conflict, Kenyan Friends supporting youth affected by domestic violence, and the havoc that climate changes are radically impacting Friends. Individual Fiends shared numerous ministries demonstrating Quaker principles in action. These Important issues were discussed in the three thematic streams/strands: Ubuntu, Climate, Historical Injustices. For me, the most heartfelt way I can express my experience Is the Tapestry document. I encourage all friends to read this piece.

Looking Forward

The gathering affirmed global Quakerism's vitality while raising questions about welcome, inclusion, climate, equity, and addressing both historical and contemporary injustices. Opportunities for meaningful service remain abundant across cultural and international boundaries.

Key Takeaways and Outcomes

1. Unity in Diversity: Despite their multitude of differences, participants celebrated that they *share not only their Quaker founders but also deep Friendship, an openness to new Biblical interpretations, their structures and processes, their deep commitment to peace, justice, love of the Earth, and their love of God.*

2. Young Adult Friends: Met together at a pre-gathering before the conference. They shared their *learnings, wonderings and gifts with the wider community during the plenary. FWCC has a commitment to help develop and strengthen the Young Adult worldwide Friends Community.*

3. Strategic Directions: Strategic Directions for FWCC's future were established. 4. Confession and

Commitment on Environmental Action: Regarding creation care, Friends *acknowledged: "We confess that we have fallen short of our commitments in the Kabarak and Pisac calls, at the triennials, held at those locations, for ecojustice." And are called to reflect on what action is needed for true sustainability.*

5. Call to Transformative Action: The epistle emphasized being "seized with the urgent need to *do transformative work in the world" While also being "called by that still small voice to pause, to listen deeply to one another and to creation."*

6. Inclusivity and Technology Integration: The hybrid format proved successful in creating the *most inclusive event ever held by the FWCC. Demonstrating how technology can help bridge geographical and cultural divides within the global Quaker community.*

7. Commitment to "Recognize, Repent, Redeem and Restore": The gathering emphasized the *collective ability to "recognize, repent, redeem and restore" and to work together in beautiful and transformative ways, particularly in addressing historical injustices.*

8. Documentation of Outcomes: The meeting produced several key documents:

- An official epistle shared worldwide.
- A Weaving document and a Prayer document.
- A "tapestry" document capturing emerging concerns.

The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of global Quaker unity and a call for both local community focus and collective global action, emphasizing that through God's grace and the spirit of Ubuntu, the Quaker community remains committed to being agents of positive transformation in the world. These questions have led me into discussions about what I, our Monthly and Yearly Meetings can actively do to create a better future for our world and strengthen the ties within the Society of Friends.

FWCC SECTION MEETING REPORT (-HELD MARCH 20-23, 2025): LATIN AMERICAN FRIENDS' PARTICIPATION

Jana Norlin LEYM FWCC Representative

This year more Quakers from Latin America attended the FWCC/CMCA Conference in person than ever before. Two of FWCC's Section of the Americas goals are to be continually more diversely inclusive and foster balanced participation in representation and program development throughout the Section. Latin American Friends traveled from Bolivia, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Peru, and from where they are living in the United States to focus on the theme "Building the Future as Way Opens". Their intention was to grow in their knowledge of Quakerism and make strong connections for future collaborations with other Friends.

Some of them arrived in Phoenix early and gathered before the main conference began because they had key responsibilities in leadership positions and/or important committee responsibilities. It was exciting that others came early to participate in the first ever FWCC Young Adult Pre-Conference Gathering, which was coordinated by Myron Guachalla of Bolivia. While some attendees had previously attended FWCC events, it was wonderful to have many first-time attenders from Latin America, especially more young adults. Many returning and first time Latin American Friends also attended by Zoom. Simultaneous or consecutive interpretation was always offered for full participation when Spanish and English-speaking participants were present at the same time. Latin American Quakers from different countries used Spanish as their unifying language although that is a second language for some. At times, Spanish was used exclusively during Latin American Friends closed COAL sessions, which helped to facilitate important communications within limited time restrictions.

Friends from the represented Latin American countries participated more fully in all aspects of this Section Meeting than ever before. They led whole group worship sessions, co-coordinated sessions of business meetings, presented committee reports, offered workshops, served on the Pastoral Care team and generally participated in all capacities of the initial planning through the realization of the events of the entire conference. Ana Gabriela of Mexico was one of two plenary speakers who shared about how scripture personally touches her life. It was a blessing to have many contributions from Latin American Friends in different locations attending by Zoom as well. The knowledge, gifts and talents contributed by the different representations of languages, cultures and spiritual practices of

Latin American Quakers enriched Friends' experiences through unique blessings that sometimes-offered new insights never considered before. Throughout the days spent together, concerns and exciting strategies for building their faith communities were shared that generated deep discussions. The convenience of Latin American Friends using WhatsApp will facilitate more virtual visitation, consultation and collaboration for "building the future as Way opens" throughout the Section.

*As with many of the previous Section Meetings I have attended, I used my Spanish skills to support interpretation informally in small group sessions, at meals and facilitating communication between individuals throughout the conference. At each of the whole group sessions, I sat with the Interpretation Team holding bilingual Friends in God's Light for the challenging task of interpreting with a spiritual sense of the message of the speaker. Before the conference, as part of the interpretation group, I attended an international workshop session to improve the 31-year-old Spanish/English Quaker bilingual glossary. A beta version of the new Spanish/English digital glossary of terms was premiered at the Meeting. A YouTube video named "Digital Glossary and Interpretation Project from Section Meeting 2025" * was posted on June 3, 2025, announcing that the interactive digital glossary will be available soon.** As a follow up to closer relationships strengthened by the Section Meeting, on May 31 and June st*

1, 2025, El Salvador Friends hosted an in-person Representatives retreat for COAL Consultation – Central America, Cuba and Mexico entitled "Understanding Anxiety and Depression in Christian Life". They explored real life challenges within Quaker perspectives and enjoyed getting to know each other better through fun fellowship activities.

I have participated in weekly connections online with Latin American Friends throughout the last five years since the pandemic brought us closer together by Zoom. I am more encouraged since attending the 2025 Section Meeting that God has great plans for uniting our Section as a spiritually thriving family with a future of mutually nurturing each other.

***YouTube: Digital Glossary and Interpretation Project from Section Meeting 2025 Jun 3, 2025 Quakers speak over 70 languages in 85 countries worldwide. The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas has been dedicated to conducting its business in a bilingual Spanish-English fashion for over forty years. This long-standing tradition has fostered meaningful exchanges among various branches of Quakerism throughout the entire Section. As a result, there is an increasing need for improved communication across languages. To address this need, we are developing an interactive digital and printable Glossary of Quaker Terms in all spoken languages. This glossary will be widely available and easily accessible from any electronic communication device, assisting interpreters who serve Friends and Friends traveling to meet Friends in different countries. Another vital component of this project is the ongoing training for our interpreters. This training ensures that our interpreters are well-equipped to facilitate effective communication across different languages in our Section supporting and strengthening the diverse Quaker community.*

Olney Friends School Report academic year 2024 – 2025

Ellerie Brownfain, LEYM Representative

Olney Friends School just celebrated their 187th commencement with seven students graduating. Student's this year came from Ecuador, China, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe as well as United States. The school had 27 students which made for a close-knit community. In the fall the school renewed its accreditation with the Independent School Association of the Central States, ISACS. This rigorous accreditation lasts for seven years. It affirms the school's long history and dedication to education and a vibrant Quaker community.

Some highlights of this year:

- The Olney kitchen partnered with the cook and teacher Elizabeth's business, Canning Zen, to *host a poultry canning class. They also baked large quantities of pumpkin bread for the Barnesville pumpkin festival.*
- In October at our public birding event, 26 bird species were spotted including the Eastern *Screech Owl and Towhee. Ninth graders hosted a Thanksgiving dinner with foods from their homelands. Some students earned community service hours by volunteering at the Underground Railroad Museum located near the school.*

- In February the junior class visited Washington DC for their humanities in life after Olney *classes. They visited museums, cultural sites and universities.*
- In March, the ninth grade class visited Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in *Moundsville, West Virginia. They've learned about the Natives who were forcibly removed and saw artifacts of what was left behind. With the arrival of spring came Meeting for Worship with poetry and later the annual poetry slam.*

The staff at Olney looks ahead to take a break and then ready themselves for a fantastic fall semester. Approximately 27 students are expected to enroll in the fall term. Please let your friends and family know about this wonderful institution. And if you can give any monetary aid the school is quite grateful.

Representative Meeting
March 28, 2026
Red Cedar Friends Meeting, Lansing, Michigan, and via Zoom

Clerks Table: Jack Smith (Red Cedar), Clerk; Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Recording Clerk

Clerk Jack Smith (Red Cedar) welcomed the Friends gathered in person at Red Cedar Friends Meeting in Lansing, Michigan, and via Zoom for the business meeting portion of the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting 2026 Representative Meeting. He shared a description of what a yearly meeting is and how the Representative Meeting is used to prepare for our Annual Meeting in June. Our larger purpose is to support and nurture the spiritual life and development of all our constituent monthly meetings and worship groups.

RM2026-01 Opening Representative Meeting

Friends settled into waiting worship at 2:00 pm. Jack Smith, Presiding Clerk, reviewed the proposed agenda for this meeting for business.

RM2026-02 Roll Call (based on observations and registration)

Ann Arbor: 3Grand Rapids: 3

Athens: 1Kalamazoo: 4

Birmingham: 2North Columbus: 2

Broadmead: 5Oberlin: 1

Cleveland: 1Red Cedar: 14

Detroit 2Erie WG: 1

TOTAL: 39

No Friends were present from the following monthly meetings: Akron, Delaware, Granville, Holland, Kent, Mid-Ohio Valley, Pittsburgh, and Wooster.

RM2026-03 Adult & Family Program Committee

Bill Warters (Birmingham) reported. The Committee meets regularly and has prepared an exciting program for this year's Annual Meeting at Ashland University in June. Eleven workshops will be offered. Late night movies will again be featured but will consist of two shorter films each evening. There will be a "simple meal" one evening to help us experience eating like most of the rest of the world. Joe Volk, a member of Ann Arbor Meeting and former Executive Director of Friends Committee on National Legislation, will be the plenary speaker. Doug Gwyn will again lead Bible Study. Jack Smith added that he found the line up of workshops to be extraordinary and believes we will have to make difficult choices in choosing which to attend.

RM2026-04 Youth and Children's Program Committee

Diane Mott (Broadmead) reported. Most of the work of this Committee happens after they see who has registered to attend Annual Meeting. Wink Covintree designed a logo this year that is being used to advertise the Annual Meeting and on tee shirts to be worn by both youth and adult helpers. Tee shirts will also be available for purchase by other attendees. The Committee will soon send messages to monthly meetings inviting their youth to attend both Annual Meeting (including a good description of what happens there) and the Fall youth Retreat (which will again be held at Kirkmont Retreat Center, October 2-4, 2026).

RM2026-05 Arrangements & Site Committee

Carolyn Lejuste (Red Cedar) reported. Kem Hall, the un-air-conditioned residence hall close to the Convocation Center at Ashland University that we have used before, will not be available during our

Annual Meeting this year. Instead, non-AC accommodations will be available in Clark Hall, which is near our air-conditioned dorm, Clayton Hall. They are both about a five-minute walk from the Center. Some small groups may meet in the Student Center and there may be other events in Redwood Hall, near Clayton and Clark. Discernment of locations for the youth program is ongoing. Many good details about the Annual Meeting are available in the LEYM Spring Bulletin. There will be an increase of $5 in the registration fee for those who can register early, with the increase being $10 after May 8. Early registration is urged, especially for children. Jayson Smith (Detroit) will be serving as Registrar for the Annual Meeting. He is working with Sally Weaver Sommer and Bill Warters and coming up to speed quickly. The Committee shared a brief movie they created that serves as an invitation to the Annual Meeting. It will be available online at leym.org/annual and a link to it will be shared with our monthly meetings through the email list for monthly meeting clerks. A Friend raised a concern about the distance between buildings for those who have mobility issues. Carolyn said there are parking lots with ample space close to the buildings and Friends are invited to drive between them as needed. A Friend asked if the University has a paratransit transportation system that LEYM might also use. Carolyn will check on this. She also invited those who might need special consideration to contact her to see what adjustments or arrangements can be made.

RM2026-06 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) reported. Susan asked if anyone has knowledge of the whereabouts of a large map showing locations of monthly meetings and worship groups that had been previously displayed at Annual Meeting. The Committee hopes to use it again.

> The Committee reminded Friends that monthly meetings have been requested to submit short videos (2 minutes or so) about their meetings. These will be shown on a loop during the Annual Meeting. The videos need not be polished, and meetings may want to invite their youth to create one or to use a slide show of photos. The committee can provide information on how best to convey them and hopes to receive them by May 25. Additional questions, especially about technical issues and tools to use, can be addressed to the Committee. The Committee has asked Peace and Justice Committees at monthly meetings whether they are interested in meeting together but have received little response.

RM2026-07 Laying down of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported.

Peggy Daub reported as Convenor of an Ad Hoc Committee formed in September 2025 and charged with beginning the process of laying down Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting. Final donations to the three organizations supported by GPQM (Michigan AFSC Office, Michigan Friends Center, and the Michigan Alternatives to Violence Project) will be made soon. Monthly meetings are being asked to consider how they can help close this gap in support to the three organizations in lieu of their annual contributions to GPQM. The GPQM By-Laws require that assets of the quarter be directed to LEYM upon its dissolution, but there is likely to be no or few assets because of intentional spending down from GPQM's modest bank account. At their meeting in January, LEYM Executive Committee supported the process as described. LEYM's Policies and Procedures will have to be revised to remove any references to GPQM. These proposed changes will be brought to Annual Sessions for consideration. (The full report is attached.)

RM2026-08 Developments around the Yearly Meeting

Jack invited brief updates from groups who are building or reconfiguring the spaces in which they worship.

• North Columbus Meeting

Tom Kangas reported. They sold their previous Meetinghouse in 2024 and at the end of 2025 purchased a lot in North Columbus that had been used as overflow parking for a large church. It is on a busy East-West artery but has a buffer of a hill and trees protecting the site from excess noise. They expect to have room for both a building and parking space on the site. A building and design committee is being formed.

• Cleveland Meeting

Christopher Farrand reported. They have purchased a building and are working with an architect to plan

renovations to meet their needs. A Friend asked if additional support for renovations was needed. Christopher replied that their financial position is solid, though the question is appreciated.

• Detroit Meeting

Ellen Barnes and Erika Smith reported. With their renovations completed, an official certificate of occupancy was received. There is a recent video that has more information and an invitation to help them repay the loans that made the renovations possible. Sally Weaver Sommer added that the spring retreat for the Spiritual Formation Program will be held at Detroit Meeting.

• New Worship Group: Wheelersburg, Ohio

Jack Smith heard directly from a Friend formerly resident in the Philadelphia area who has moved to Wheelersburg, Ohio, on the Ohio River, and wishes to begin a worship group affiliated with our yearly meeting. Jack suggested contact with the Athens Meeting, which is the closest LEYM meeting. A Friend from Athens reported that Friends from Wheelersburg recently attended potluck with the Athens Meeting, so initial contact has been made. We do not yet know what name will be given to this worship group. Jack will invite those in the worship group to attend our annual meeting (pointing out the first-time attenders discount). A Friend suggested as a future topic to ask monthly meetings if they are in contact with worship groups under their care. Susan Hartman said that caring for worship groups is a concern of the Advancement & Outreach Committee and they will follow up on this suggestion. A Friend noted that Grand Rapids maintains contact with the Tustin Worship Group, which continues on with a small group of attendees.

RM2026-09 Nominating Committee

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group) and Mary Igoe Meyers (Broadmead) reported.

The Committee is grateful to be at full strength again. They cannot know particular talents of individuals in monthly meetings and would be grateful for information from Friends. The Committee is trying to discern how best to find someone to serve as LEYM Assistant Clerk with the expectation that they would move on to serve as Presiding Clerk. They have discussed various terms of service and decided that either a two-year term (Assistant Clerk – Clerk) or four-year term (Assistant Clerk – Clerk for two years – Assistant Clerk) can serve our needs. They are also examining the possibility of having co-clerks instead of Clerk and Assistant Clerk. Jack Smith added that Executive Committee concurred that two-year or four-year terms seem suitable.

> In discussion, a Friend asked if the Committee was bringing a proposal to change the terms of service. The Committee wondered if they are in good order to propose a term different than has been previously used. Friends supported the Nominating Committee having flexibility to bring a slate to Annual Meeting that may incorporate some differences in how terms are served.

RM2026-10 Treasurer's Report

Tom Kangas (North Columbus) reported. Contributions from monthly meetings are at 94% of the expected total with additions from two meetings expected. These contributions are appreciated. Payments to our contract workers are lower than budgeted, but additional billing is expected. Expenses for publications are nearly complete for the year, as are donations to Quaker organizations. There was money set aside as potential support for North Columbus Meeting toward acquisition of a new meetinghouse but it will not be needed this year. There has been no over-expenditure on any line. Tom noted that the Annual Meeting Fund is negative at the moment because we have made payments to Ashland University but do not yet have any revenue from registration. The facility cost for Ashland University rose by $1500 this year. In response the Finance Committee decided to raise registration fees by an amount expected to cover about a quarter of that increase, letting the remainder of the increase be covered by the annual subsidy in the budget for the Annual Meeting. The full subsidy has not been needed for the past two years. As approved at Annual Meeting, the Consultation Fund has been laid down, with remaining funds in it transferred to the General Fund. Funds not immediately needed by the yearly meeting are invested in Friends Fiduciary Corporation's Quaker Growth & Income Fund. (The full report is attached.)

> In discussion, a Friend asked if there was a way to help families who could not afford the cost of meals for their children. Finance Committee will work with the Children & Youth Program to consider this. Sally Weaver Sommer reminded us that anyone can ask for additional help from the LEYM Registrar if they are unable to pay the cost of attending Annual Meeting. A Friend added

that Friends are encouraged to turn to their monthly meeting for support as well.

RM2026-11 Finance Committee

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported. Joann presented a first look at a draft budget proposal for 2026-2027 that will be seasoned and brought back at the Annual Meeting. Rates of pay for our contract workers are proposed to rise 2-3%. Expected hours for the Database Manager have been reduced according to a recommendation from Susan Loucks, who is currently serving in that position. Small increases in our contributions to Quaker organizations are proposed. There are recommendations to raise the budgeted amount for supporting new and renovated meetinghouses from $1000 to $2000 and to raise the subsidy for our Annual Meeting from $5000 to $6000. The latter reflects our desire to make it possible for Friends to come together in community at Annual Meeting at an affordable cost. The proposed budget has a larger deficit between expected expenses and income compared to the current year, but the Committee feels confident that our pattern of underspending our budget and the generous amount in the General Fund allows this. The Committee will consider the question of whether LEYM will make contributions to organizations previously supported by GPQM. A Friend noted that the actions of some monthly meetings to pick up this responsibility should be part of that discussion. (The full Financial Report and Draft Budget are attached.)

RM2026-12 Publications & Archives Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported. Jeff asked Friends to consider volunteering to help write summaries of workshops at the Annual Meeting. Those interested can be in touch with him.

Committee members Abbey Pratt-Harrington and Emilia Marcyk-Taylor will take on the tasks of compiling and formatting the Annual Records for 2026. A copy editor is still needed and suggestions for someone to do this work are welcome. Last June the Committee was charged with considering "whether we need to maintain records for all members of our constituent meetings in the LEYM database and how, if at all, their contact information should be accessible." They brought a proposal that was considered and supported by the LEYM Executive Committee at its meeting on January 9, 2026, as follows:

Annually, the database manager will ask Monthly Meetings for their directories in digital format and, unless otherwise requested, forward any that are received to the Friends Historical Collection at Swarthmore College and to Friends General Conference but not compile this data into a Yearly Meeting directory or add it to the database. … In keeping with LEYM's Privacy Policy, Meetings will be asked either to identify or redact name and email addresses for people under 18, so these will not be forwarded to Swarthmore or FGC.

This proposal will be brought to the Annual Meeting in June. In discussion, a Friend asked if the Committee had considered if it is possible for LEYM to maintain a list of members of a monthly meeting if the monthly meeting requests them to do so, as had been suggested at last year's Annual Meeting. The Committee has not done so. A Friend noted that the most recent LEYM Bulletin gives two different due dates for submitting statistical reports. The date in the Annual Records is June 1, and Christopher Farrand volunteered to circulate this information to monthly meeting clerks, copied to Susan Loucks.

RM2026-13 Ministry & Nurture Committee

Flo Friender (Kalamazoo) reported. In their work this year, the Committee discerned the annual query and distributed it to meetings. Fifteen monthly meetings responded. The query asked how members and attenders received a foundation in Quaker practice and history, and whether the meeting has an ongoing religious education program. (A compilation of replies to the Query appears in the LEYM Spring Bulletin.) The Committee sponsored four "clerks chats" for clerks of monthly meetings and three for clerks of ministry and worship committees. A request for financial help to attend School of the Spirit is being considered. They are sponsoring a workshop on conflict and a panel on clerking for the Annual Meeting. State of the Meeting reports are due May 15.

RM2026-14 Request for Assistance

Tom Kangas (North Columbus). Tom serves on his monthly meeting's Harassment Response and Safeguarding Committee, which is seeking advice on revising their current policy. He asks others in LEYM meetings who have experience or expertise in this area to contact him.

RM2026-15 Considering a location for 2027 Representative Meeting

Jack Smith, Clerk. With last year's Representative Meeting being held in Pittsburgh and this year's in Lansing, Jack suggested that a location for Representative Meeting in northern Ohio in 2027 is desirable. If a monthly meeting is called to host Representative Meeting next year, please be in touch with Jack. All suggestions from Friends are welcome.

Announcements:

Carolyn Lejuste reported that Barbara Lesage (North Columbus) was unable to attend this meeting because she lost her home a week ago in a fire in which there were fatalities. We are not sure yet how best to support Barbara but will pass information along as her needs become clearer.

Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) reported that this year's FGC Gathering will be in Burlington, Vermont, July 7-12, 2026. Registration opens April 1.

The Meeting ended at 4:40 pm after a period of closing worship.

ATTACHMENTS

Report on Laying Down Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Treasurer's Report

Financial Status Report

Draft Budget for 2026-27

Report on Laying Down Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

- At their meeting in September 2025, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting found unity in beginning the process of laying down the quarter. An ad hoc committee to oversee the process was appointed, including Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor, convener), Geoff Brieger (Birmingham), Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor), Terri Grant (Red Cedar), Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor), Joe Mills (Kalamazoo), and John Williams (Ann Arbor).
- Final donations to the three organizations supported by GPQM (Michigan AFSC Office, Michigan Friends Center, and the Michigan Alternatives to Violence Project) will be made soon. The GPQM By-Laws require that assets of the quarter be directed to LEYM upon its dissolution, but there is likely to be no or few assets because of intentional spending down from GPQM's modest bank account. Monthly meetings are being asked to consider how they can help close this gap in support to the three organizations in lieu of their annual contributions to GPQM.
- Other ways of continuing ties within the LEYM monthly meetings and worship groups in Michigan are being encouraged. Dennis mentioned various ways in which "unofficial" quarterly meetings are sometimes contained within yearly meetings through informal gatherings with no business to conduct. A question arose of whether or not LEYM should consider taking on GPQM's traditional winter gathering or the organizational support that had been GPQM's.
- LEYM's Policies and Procedures will need to be revised in response to this change. In January LEYM Exec Committee recommended that references to quarterly meetings be kept in Policies & Procedures in case new ones are added in the future.
- The Executive Committee supported the process for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting laying itself down and asking monthly meetings to help bridge the financial support the GPQM had been responsible for. They also asked for reports on proposed changes to LEYM's Policies and Procedures resulting from this change.
- The following procedure is proposed for changing our Policies and Procedures to reflect the laying down of GPQM:
- In the section describing "Quarterly Meetings" remove all text and insert a statement such as "Lake Erie Yearly Meeting does not currently have any quarterly meetings." Keep other references to quarterly meetings as examples of how they would function within the yearly meeting if any should be created.

Treasurer's Report to LEYM Representative Meeting—March 28, 2026 1. Revenue

a. Our budget estimate was to receive $27K from monthly meeting contributions b. I expect the remaining two MM contributions will bring us from 94% to 100% c. We're grateful for the contributions we've received from individuals and MMs 2. Expenses

a. Contract Workers. Payments to date are low compared to being three-quarters of the way through the fiscal year, this is due, in part, to the timing of billing i. Database Manager has billed for services through August 2025 ii. Digital Communications Facilitator has billed for services through December 2025 b. Publications Committee. With the printing and mailing of the Spring Bulletin this week, further expense is not expected in this category

c. Organizations

i. Donations to FGC, Olney, and Swarthmore have been completed ii. The “meetinghouse contribution” line was budgeted as potential support for North Columbus Friends Meeting toward purchase of a new meetinghouse; NCFM bought land last Fall and has yet to commit to building on the site, so LEYM is holding off expending this line item

d. There are no unfavorable variances when comparing budgeted to actual expense 3. Funds

a. General Fund

i. The income and expenses discussed previously are included in the $9,461 subtotal activity for the year

ii. The General Fund is healthy

b. Annual Meeting Fund

i. At this point in the year this fund is negative because payments have been made to Ashland University, and registration has not yet begun ii. Registrants pay two main things

1. Room and board, depending on their selections

2. Registration fee this year has been set at $83, or $5 more than last year 3. Registration fees go toward covering certain fixed costs of the event (e.g., Ashland University facility rental cost) and other costs (e.g., room and board for plenary speaker and other discounted registrations)

iii. Ashland raised the facility cost by $1500 over the prior year iv. The $5 increase in registration fee is expected to cover one-quarter of that increase v. The Yearly Meeting has approved a $5000 subsidy of the Annual Meeting for three years (including the year we’re in right now)

1. For the past two years not all of the subsidy has been needed 2. Fin Comm expects that most of the $5000 subsidy will be needed this year 3. Proposed this modest registration fee increase to maintain affordability c. Consultation Fund.

i. This fund was laid down, as approved by the yearly meeting ii. The remaining funds therein were transferred to the General Fund 4. Balance Sheet

a. We continue to use Citizens National Bank of Bluffton, OH for routine banking b. We continue to invest funds that we don’t need to be liquid right now i. They are invested in Friends Fiduciary Corporation’s Quaker Growth & Income Fund ii. Upon request, the presentation of FFC funds here has been revised to separate Cost Basis from Unrealized Gains and Losses

c. Prepaid Expenses are deposits that will be used for retreats set to take place next fiscal year 5. Overall. Overall LEYM is in good shape, financially

LEYM General Fund Income **As of 3/26/2026**

For the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2026)

Contribution From	Amount	Deposit Date
Akron Monthly Meeting	250	3/23/2026
Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting	5,124	2/6/2026
Athens Monthly Meeting	2,000	12/12/2025
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	560	10/14/2025
Broadmead Monthly Meeting	1,500	2/7/2026
Cleveland Monthly Meeting		
Delaware Monthly Meeting	75	11/15/2025
Detroit Monthly Meeting	924	1/9/2026
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting	420	1/11/2026
Granville Monthly Meeting	1,000	3/14/2026
Holland Monthly Meeting	400	1/9/2026
Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting	1,134	3/11/2026
Kent Monthly Meeting	774	11/29/2025
Mid-Ohio Valley Monthly Meeting		
North Columbus Monthly Meeting	1,260	10/16/2025
Oberlin Monthly Meeting	1,100	2/17/2026
Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting	5,040	2/28/2026
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting	3,318	12/5/2025
Wooster Monthly Meeting	420	3/25/2026
Subtotal - contributing MM or WG	**25,299**	
Individuals - via check	-	
Individuals - via FFC online	550	
Individuals - via RegFox		
Interest income from Savings Acct	10	
Total Cash Contribution Income	**25,859**	
FFC Dividend Income (Base Acct only)	1,075	
Total Income	**26,934**	(cash income, excluding in-kind)

Expected, per budget	*Actual as a % of Budget*	*Variance, favorable (unfavorable)*
26,838	94%	(1,539)

In-kind	Total contribution income
+ -	25,859

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LEYM General Fund Expenses - with comparison to Budget

For the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2026)

Account	Actual Expense through 3/26/2026	Budget (annual)	Actual expense as a % of Budget	Variance, budget-to-actual, favorable (unfavorable)	Non-cash, in-kind donations through 3/26/2026	Total Expense, including in-kind, through 3/26/2026
Operations						
Contract Worker: Database Manager	734.50	2,260	33%	1,526	-	735
Contract Worker: Digital Comm Facil'r	1,518.74	5,906	26%	4,388	-	1,519
Insurance	613.00	675	91%	62	-	613
Office/administration	365.58	1,000	37%	634	-	366
Committees						
Advancement & Outreach	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Ministry & Nurture	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Publications	3,426.62	3,750	91%	323	-	3,427
Members						
Attend conference w/ Quaker values	-	500	0%	500	-	-
Organizations						
Friends General Conference	6,350.00	6,350	100%	-	-	6,350
Olney Friends School	3,175.00	3,175	100%	-	-	3,175
Swarthmore records project	150.00	150	100%	-	-	150
Potential meetinghouse contribution	-	1,000	0%	1,000	-	-
Subtotal cash expenditures	16,333	24,966	65%	8,633	-	16,333.44
Transfers from General Fund to other Funds						
Annual Meeting Fund	5,000.00	5,000	100%	-		
Travel Fund	1,500.00	1,500	100%	-		
FWCC Travel Fund & Donation	900.00	900	100%	-		
Transfers to General Fund from other Funds						
Consultation Fund	(3,143.68)	(3,144)	100%	-		
Subtotal Transfers	4,256.32	4,256		-		
Totals - General Fund Expenses	**20,589.76**	**29,223**	70%	8,633		

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LEYM Summary of Funds for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2025	Friends Fiduciary account activity[1]	Transfers between funds	Cash Income	Cash Expense	Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 3/26/2026	Floor/ Suggested floor/ceiling amounts for each fund	/Ceiling	Last activity prior to FY25-26
Funds held in (i) Base account with Friends Fiduciary Corp and (ii) Citizens National Bank										
General Fund[2]	42,214.86	4,191.43	(4,256.32)	25,858.92	(16,333.44)	**9,460.59**	**51,675.45**	na	35,000	
Annual Meeting Fund	3,000.00		5,000.00	993.17	(14,169.17)	**(8,176.00)**	**(5,176.00)**	1,000	3,000	
Travel Fund	2,686.59		1,500.00	1,400.00	(2,230.16)	**669.84**	**3,356.43**	2,000	4,000	
Youth Activities Fund[4]	6,509.45		176.91	470.00	(450.00)	**196.91**	**6,706.36**	4,000	8,000	
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	4,000.00		-	-	-	**-**	**4,000.00**	2,000	4,000	FY22-23
HS Teen Retreat Fund	4,000.00		-	-	-	**-**	**4,000.00**	3,000	4,000	FY17-18
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649.00				(500.00)	**(500.00)**	**1,149.00**	na	2,000	FY19-20
Spiritual Formation Fund	1,327.99		-	8,348.60	(8,022.09)	**326.51**	**1,654.50**	500	2,000	
Consultation Fund	3,143.68		(3,143.68)	-	-	**(3,143.68)**	**-**	500	2,000	FY11-12
Traveling Ministries Fund	3,363.12		-	-	-	**-**	**3,363.12**	na	na	FY24-25[5]
Work Projects Fund	2,182.39					**-**	**2,182.39**	na	2,000	FY17-18
FWCC Travel Fund	5,385.83		-	-	-	**-**	**5,385.83**	na	9,000	FY24-25
FWCC Travel Donation	900.00		900.00		-	**900.00**	**1,800.00**	na	9,000	
Funds held in separate account with Friends Fiduciary Corp										
Granville Youth Fund[3]	9,959.87	688.64	(176.91)			**511.73**	**10,471.60**	na	na	
TOTAL	90,322.78	4,880.07	-	37,070.69	(41,704.86)	**245.90**	**90,568.68**			

NOTES> Funds other than the General Fund are managed through accounting and may be subsidized from the General Fund.
[1] Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC) activity includes dividends and net change portfolio value due to market conditions. See Balance Sheet for detail.
[2] FFC General (Base) Account activity is included here in LEYM's General Fund.
[3] Granville Friends Youth Fund is a separate FFC account. FFC activity shown on this line reflects only that fund's change in portfolio value.
[4] FFC dollars transferred to this line represent dividends paid to the Granville Friends Youth Fund during current fiscal year and credited to YAF.
[5] Established in FY13-14 by a donation toward LEYM's Traveling Ministry Program, this fund had its first-ever activity in FY2024-2025.

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Lake Erie Yearly Meeting – Financial Position

For the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2026)

	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2025	Change during the fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 3/26/2026
The Citizens National Bank of Bluffton. OH			
Checking Account	9,779.42	1,382.82	11,162.24
Savings Account	9,757.45	(5,990.08)	3,767.37
Subtotal of both CNB accounts	19,536.87	(4,607.26)	14,929.61
Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Philadelphia, PA (a)			
Cost Basis			
General (Base) Account	55,620.65	1,074.67	56,695.32
Granville Youth Fund Account	9,157.59	(b)	9,157.59
Subtotal	64,778.24	1,074.67	65,852.91
Unrealized gain or <loss>			
General (Base) Account	4,955.39	3,116.76	8,072.15
Granville Youth Fund Account	802.28	511.73	1,314.01
Subtotal	5,757.67	3,628.49	9,386.16
Total market value of FFC investments	70,535.91	4,703.16	75,239.07
Prepaid Expenses			
Kirkmont Ctr deposit for Youth & Family retreat, Oct 2026	100.00	-	100.00
Weber Ctr deposit for Spir Form retreats, Sep 2026 & 2027	150.00	150.00	300.00
	250.00	150.00	400.00
Total (monetary assets and unrealized gain<loss>)	**90,322.78**	**245.90**	**90,568.68**

(a) *All of the funds with Friends Fiduciary Corporation are invested in FFC's Quaker Growth & Income Fund (QGIF). The Quaker Growth & Income Fund is a diversified, co-mingled fund with allocations to equities, fixed income and real estate investment trusts (REITs). Its primary objective is to provide stable current income and long-term growth consistent with protecting principal investments against inflation over time. The fund adheres to Friends Fiduciary's Quaker-values investment guidelines and participates in our shareholder advocacy work. It is intended for investors with an investment horizon of five years or longer. The Fund has a standard income distribution policy based on the fund's total return. The following is per friendsfiduciary.org as of 6/30/2025*

HOLDINGS BY ASSET CLASS	*Equity*	*Fixed Income*	*REITS*
Global and International Equity	*25.8%*		
Small and Mid Cap Equity	*17.2%*		
Large Cap Equity	*28.2%*		
Fixed Income (Domestic, Global, Short-Term, plus Cash)		*24.2%*	*4.7%*

(b) *Granville Youth dividends aren't reinvested. They're transferred to CNB Checking and credited to LEYM's Youth Activities Fund.*

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LEYM Budgets	*Budget approved 06/15/2025			***Prelim budget, not approved	
	**Actual as of 3/26/2026	FY 2025-26		FY 2026-27	
General Fund Expenses		*Budget	**Actual	***Budget	Change
General	Contractor: Database Manager	2,260	735	1,450	(810)
	Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	5,906	1,519	6,081	175
	Insurance	675	613	675	-
	Administration	1,000	366	1,000	-
Committees	Advancement & Outreach	100	-	100	-
	Ministry & Nurture	100	-	100	-
	Publications	3,750	3,427	3,750	-
Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	500	-	500	-
Organizations	Friends General Conference	6,350	6,350	6,500	150
	Olney Friends School	3,175	3,175	3,500	325
	Swarthmore Records Project	150	150	200	50
	Potential meetinghouse contrib'ns	1,000	-	2,000	1,000
Tranfers:	Annual Meeting subsidy	5,000	5,000	6,000	1,000
from General	Travel Fund	1,500	1,500	700	(800)
Fund to...	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship Fund	-	-	-	-
or (to General	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	900	900	900	-
Fund from)...	Consultation Fund	(3,144)	(3,144)		3,144
	High School Teen Retreat Fund				
	Total Expenses and Transfers =	29,223	20,590	33,456	4,234
General Fund Income					
	Contributions Income	26,838	25,859	26,838	-
	FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	2,000	1,075	2,100	100
	Total Income =	28,838	26,934	28,938	100
	Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(385)	6,344	(4,518)	(4,134)
	Base FFC account unrealized gain<loss>		3,117		
	Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =		3,117		
	Total Change in General Fund =		9,461		
	# members used to produce above estimate =	639		639	
	Suggested contribution per member =	$42	0%	$42	0%
	Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =	$ 0.21		$ -	

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History						LEYM Budgets	*Budget approved 06/15/2025			***Prelim budget, not approved	
FY 2022-23		FY 2023-24		FY 2024-25			**Actual as of 3/26/2026	FY 2025-26		FY 2026-27	
Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	General Fund Expenses		*Budget	**Actual	***Budget	Change
3,900	2,828	4,320	1,838	3,575	967	General	Contractor: Database Manager	2,260	735	1,450	(810)
6,200	4,996	6,500	4,756	5,775	5,181		Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	5,906	1,519	6,081	175
650	597	650	597	650	613		Insurance	675	613	675	-
1,500	1,035	1,200	557	1,100	369		Administration	1,000	366	1,000	-
500	-	100	-	100	-	Committees	Advancement & Outreach	100	-	100	-
100	-	100	-	100	-		Ministry & Nurture	100	-	100	-
3,500	2,876	3,500	2,722	3,500	3,240		Publications	3,750	3,427	3,750	-
600	-	600	-	500	-	Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	500	-	500	-
6,500	6,500	6,000	6,000	6,200	6,200	Organizations	Friends General Conference	6,350	6,350	6,500	150
3,500	3,500	3,000	3,000	3,100	3,100		Olney Friends School	3,175	3,175	3,500	325
150	150	150	150	150	150		Swarthmore Records Project	150	150	200	50
-							Potential meetinghouse contrib'ns	1,000		2,000	1,000
10,000	6,100	5,000	3,200	5,000	3,715	Tranfers:	Annual Meeting subsidy	5,000	5,000	6,000	1,000
-	-	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	from General	Travel Fund	1,500	1,500	700	(800)
1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	Fund to...	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship Fund	-	-	-	-
1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	or (to General	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	900	900	900	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	Fund from)...	Consultation Fund	(3,144)	(3,144)		
-	-	-	(2,893)	-			High School Teen Retreat Fund	-		-	-
39,900	31,382	33,920	22,728	33,050	26,833		Total Expenses and Transfers =	29,223	20,590	33,456	1,090
						General Fund Income					
26,005	25,390	27,510	26,863	26,250	26,946		Contributions Income	26,838	25,859	26,838	-
1,500	1,916	1,500	2,038	2,000	2,108		FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	2,000	1,075	2,100	100
27,505	27,306	29,010	28,901	28,250	29,054		Total Income =	28,838	26,934	28,938	100
(12,395)	(4,076)	(4,910)	6,173	(4,800)	2,221		Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(385)	6,344	(4,518)	(990)
	2,815		3,679		3,591		Base FFC account unrealized gain<loss>		3,117		
	2,815		3,679		3,591		Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =		3,117		
	(1,261)		9,852		5,812		Total Change in General Fund =		9,461		
743		655		625			# members used to produce above estimate =	639		639	
$35		$42		$42			Suggested contribution per member =	$42	0%	$42	0%
$ 0.22		$ 0.22		$ 0.21			Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =	$ 0.21		$ -	

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LEYM Annual Meeting
June 18 – 21, 2026
Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio

Sessions were held in a blended (hybrid) format with many participants in person at Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio, and a few online.

Clerks' table: Jack Smith (Red Cedar), Clerk; Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), Recording Clerk

SESSION 1: Thursday, June 18, 2026, 7:30pm – 9:00pm

YM2026-01 Opening and Reading of Epistle

Clerk Jack Smith (Red Cedar) welcomed the group of Friends gathered at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio for the 64th Annual Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2026. Friends settled into worship at 7:30 pm.

> Clémence Ravaçon Mershon read an epistle from France Yearly Meeting in October 2025. They considered the theme "Welcoming: Expecting the Unexpected" and found that welcoming can have many meanings. Hospitality can be a spiritual practice. It can mean not letting anyone feel excluded, offering a place where people, especially the most vulnerable, feel safe. It is a choice to be welcoming, to choose to listen with curiosity and respond with love. They asked, "Could we and Should we welcome everyone?" The path is a winding road that brings us back to ourselves. [See text for all epistles read or excerpted at: https://fwcc.world/resources_cpt/epistles/]

YM2026-02 Roll Call

The Clerk introduced the Roll Call by recognizing that many Friends attending our sessions are not able to be in this first session. Friends stood when their meetings were named. Official numbers from each meeting are listed below based on registration figures. Attenders not part of an LEYM monthly meeting and visitors are listed below as "Other."

Akron 2 Holland 0

Ann Arbor 11 Kalamazoo 3

Athens 6 Kent 0

Birmingham 6Mid-Ohio Valley 0

Broadmead 11 North Columbus 12

Cleveland 8 Oberlin 2

Delaware 0 Pittsburgh 9

Detroit 7 Red Cedar 14

Erie Worship Group 1 Wooster 2

Grand Rapids 2 Other 14

Granville 1

YM2026-03 Welcome to First-Time Attenders and Visitors

The Clerk welcomed first-time attenders. We also welcomed visitors to Yearly Meeting in attendance, including Jackson Napier (Fairfield Friends Meeting, Western Yearly Meeting), Doug Gwyn (Whitewater Monthly Meeting, New Association of Friends), Justin Hurdle (FCNL), Johanna Jackson (Friends General Conference), Traci Hjelt Sullivan (Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting, Right Sharing of World Resources), and Zoe Jannuzi (AFSC).

YM2026-04 Remembering Friends who are not able to attend this year

Jack asked us to remember Friends who are not able to be in attendance. Friends named included Flo Friender (Kalamazoo), Joe and Wanda Guthrie (Pittsburgh), Joyce Balderston (Wooster), Helen and George Hebben (Kalamazoo), and June Grabemeyer (Red Cedar).

YM2026-05 Arrangements & Site Committee

Carolyn Lejuste (Red Cedar) reported. Carolyn shared a brief overview of who is attending this Annual Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. There were 114 people registered, although 5 have had to cancel after registering. The largest group of Friends are in the category of 60 and above, but ages are well distributed. Carolyn invited everyone to fill out an evaluation sheet; they are available at the registration table. Newcomers are identified by a star on their nametag – please welcome them. This year there is a "passport" to encourage all to talk with people from a wide variety of meetings. There will be a prize awarded at the end of sessions. She also cautioned that there is a fee of $50 if a key to a dorm room is lost.

YM2026-06 Adult & Family Program Committee

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group) reported.

Clémence thanked the nine people who have worked very hard since last fall to plan the program of this Annual Meeting with the theme "Finding Hope, Joy and Courage in Community." Their inspiration came from the dandelion and a book entitled The Dandelion Insurrection (by Rivera Sun). The dandelion grows almost anywhere, is hardy and resilient, and represents the joy of spring. Its soft seeds can be used to line birds' nests. Bill Warters (Birmingham) announced that there are resources available for some workshops on the LEYM website by going to the Resources tab from the Annual Meeting page.

YM2026-07 Youth & Children Program Committee

Diane Mott (Broadmead) reported. The Committee asks for help with the following: 1) three volunteers are needed on Friday morning at 10:15am to assist with a workshop for middle-school aged Friends; 2) sitters are needed to help care for a toddler during afternoon hours; 3) on Saturday, an additional driver is needed to transport young Friends and their adult helpers to go bowling in Wooster. Friends who can help with any of these needs should talk to Diane.

YM2026-08 Epistle Committee

The Clerk asked Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) to anchor the Committee to write the epistle reflecting our time together this weekend. The Meeting approved the following Friends to serve on the Epistle Committee: Joann Neuroth, Alexa Kay (Pittsburgh), and Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham).

YM2026-09 Sending Greetings to Susan Loucks

The Clerk announced that there will be a space in the Alumni Room during Annual Meeting where Friends can write personal messages and greetings to Susan Loucks, who served Lake Erie Yearly Meeting as Clerk and Database Manager but has now moved and will be part of a different yearly meeting.

YM2026-10 Memorial Minute

Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) read a Memorial Minute for Don and Nancy Nagler, who helped to establish Pine River Friends Meeting in Mount Pleasant, Michigan (now Pine River Worship Group). The full text of the minute will be included in the LEYM Annual Records and on the LEYM website.

YM2026-11 Harassment Discernment Committee

The Yearly Meeting approved the following Friends to serve on the Harassment Discernment Committee: Bill Warters (Birmingham) and Carolyn Lejuste (Red Cedar). An additional Friend may be added to the Committee. [Aran Reinhart (Broadmead) agreed to serve later.]

YM2026-12 Announcements

Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo) described two issues regarding this year's book table. Quaker Books of FGC will no longer provide books for displays like ours after this year. The books Valerie ordered from Quaker Books have not yet arrived despite a promised delivery date of today from the warehouse fulfillment service. A Friend suggested that in future years Friends might donate books to be sold to

benefit LEYM. The Yearly Meeting thanked Valerie for her many years of providing this service to us.

Dorothy Stratton (Wooster) reminded Friends that the Ashland Center for Nonviolence will have an open house Friday morning 8-10:30 am. The Director of the Center enjoys visits from Friends. A Friend reminded us that the Center arose from the concern and actions of the late John Stratton of Wooster Meeting.

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) asked for volunteers to assist the work of the Publications & Archives Committee by attending the workshop on Godly Play and writing a brief summary of it for the LEYM Annual Records. Chelsea Middlemiss (Red Cedar) volunteered to do this.

Dreama VanCise (Pittsburgh) reminded Friends that tomorrow marks Juneteenth and asked us to hold in the Light that commemoration.

SESSION 2: Friday, June 19, 2026, 10:30am – 12:00pm

YM2026-13 Friends entered into worship

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon read an epistle from Monteverde Monthly Meeting (Costa Rica) written in 2025. Friends there considered the idea that disturbance, by its nature, invites change. When a tree falls in the forest, the gap it leaves allows light and space to help new trees grow. Disturbance also brings challenges that can open us to creative solutions. They are struggling to make decisions regarding the future of Monteverde Friends School and are grateful for the memoirs published recently by an elder Friend. They wonder what can grow in a space of light.

YM2026-14 Clerk's Announcements

Clerk Jack Smith announced that Mary Igoe Meyers has volunteered to hold our business sessions in Light. Others are welcome to join her. He encouraged those in the body of Friends who wish to speak to wait until a microphone is delivered to them so all may hear.

YM2026-15 Youth & Children's Program Committee

Diane Mott (Broadmead) reported. Diane described the activities children and youth enjoyed at last year's annual meeting, including a pseudo-escape room for older youth and the Buckeye Imagination Station. Various ages of youth really enjoyed spending time with each other and that will continue this year. Last fall there was a youth retreat at a new location near Zanesfield, Ohio, which was enjoyed by all. This year's retreat will be there again the weekend of October 2-4. There are thirteen children at annual sessions this year, including some new families. (The full report is attached.)

YM2026-16 Naming Committee

The Clerk explained that a Naming Committee, which identifies Friends to serve on our Nominating Committee, is being formed. The Meeting approved Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) and Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh) to serve on the Naming Committee.

YM2026-17 Laying Down Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor) reported.

Friends who have served on a "laying down" committee for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting include Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor), convener, Geoff Brieger (Birmingham), Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor), Terry Grant (Red Cedar), Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor), Joe Mills (Kalamazoo), and John Williams (Ann Arbor). Susan described the founding and history of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM), which began as an informal organization for fellowship in the 1930s. GPQM was responsible for Friends School in Detroit from its founding in 1965 until it closed in 2015. In recent years, interest and attendance at quarterly meeting have dwindled and Friends could not be found to serve in essential roles. GPQM came to unity at its meeting in September 2025 to begin laying itself down and has taken steps to do so since then, including informing the yearly meeting, the constituent monthly meetings, and the three groups it supported through annual donations (Michigan Friends Center, the Michigan AFSC Office, and the Michigan Alternatives to Violence Project). The LEYM Executive Committee, at its meeting in January 2026, found the laying down process in good order, as did the LEYM Representative Meeting in March 2026. Any financial residue from GPQM will come to Lake Erie Yearly

Meeting, per GPQM's bylaws. LEYM's Policies & Procedures will need changes to reflect the changed status of GPQM. The Committee now asks the yearly meeting to recognize Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting as being laid down. (The full report is attached.)

> In discussion, a Friend asked if GPQM maintained a link with Friends General Conference and whether they need to be informed. It is Friends' understanding that when GPQM was formed there was no local yearly meeting, but after Lake Erie Yearly Meeting was formed GPQM became associated with it and did not maintain direct ties to FGC. The Committee was thanked for its complete and interesting report. It was clarified that what is asked now is for LEYM to recognize that GPQM has laid itself down and that changes to Policies & Procedures are needed. A Friend asked Yearly Meeting to encourage and guide monthly meetings in how they might support the three organizations previously supported by Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting. A Friend reminded us that Quaker Finder should be updated when meetings are laid down.

The Yearly Meeting accepted the report of the Laying Down Committee of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, recognized that the Quarterly Meeting is now laid down, and approved making changes to Policies and Procedures that will state the Yearly Meeting has no quarterly meetings at present but acknowledge the previous existence of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting.

YM2026-18 Advancement & Outreach Committee

Barbara LeSage (North Columbus) reported.

Barbara acknowledged the members of the Committee: Cassie Camman (Ann Arbor), Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar), Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo), Susan Hartman, Co-Clerk (Ann Arbor), and Barbara LeSage, Co-Clerk (North Columbus). Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh) was a valued and energetic member of the Committee until she resigned in February when she moved. A full report of their activities for the past year is on the LEYM website and will appear in the LEYM Annual Records. This report focused on their activities related to the Annual Meeting. The Committee thanked the meetings that submitted videos for display. They can be viewed at a table in the Alumni Room and are a delightful way to be introduced to other meetings. There is also a new video introduction to LEYM itself at that table and on the LEYM YouTube channel. Friends are encouraged to share this video with their monthly meeting. The Committee has created "passports" to help and encourage Friends to reach out and learn about other Friends and other monthly meetings. Friends who wish to enter the drawing for a prize on Saturday night should bring a filled-in passport to Stephanie Charlot to have their names recorded. (The full report is attached.)

YM2026-19 Ministry & Nurture Committee

Dennis Gregg (Ann Arbor) reported. Serving on the Ministry & Nurture Committee this year were Dennis Gregg (Ann Arbor) and Flo Friender (Kalamazoo), Co-Clerks; Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), Christopher Farrand (Cleveland), Linda Szilagye (Broadmead), and Tom Blackwell (Ann Arbor). Monthly meetings are invited to send representatives to this Committee. Its purpose is to support the spiritual life of our Yearly Meeting through our monthly meetings. They provided a query for monthly meetings this year asking how they provide a foundation in religious education and whether the Yearly Meeting could help with this. They received thirteen responses. State of the Meeting reports have been received from seventeen monthly meetings and worship groups. They are available for Friends' review at a table in the Alumni Room. The Committee's work has included facilitating four Clerks' Chats for monthly meeting clerks and an additional four chats for clerks of local Ministry and Worship committees. At this year's Annual Meeting the Committee is presenting two sessions that arose from those chats: a workshop on conflict and a sharing session for those who are curious about clerking. A suggestion for offering a time to talk about grief was taken up by the Program Committee. Intervisitation among meetings is a concern for both this Committee and for the Advancement & Outreach Committee. They continue to be in liaison with the Spiritual Formation Group Planning Committee and educated themselves on the various kinds of financial assistance the yearly meeting offers for spiritual education. (The full Committee report is attached, along with their summary of responses to the annual query a summary of state of the meeting reports, and a report from the Spiritual Formation Group Planning Committee.)

YM2026-20 Nominating Committee

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie) reported. Clémence outlined the positions the Committee is working

to fill and the appointments it will be bringing for approval later in this meeting.

YM2026-21 Memorial Minutes

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group) read a Memorial Minute for Stephen Dando of Akron Meeting. Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) read a Memorial Minute for Phil Hoffer of Ann Arbor Meeting. The full text of both minutes will be included in the LEYM Annual Records and on the LEYM website.

SESSION 3: Friday, June 19, 2026, 1:15pm – 3:15pm

YM2026-22 Friends entered into worship

Our Clerk expressed joy for the sound of children's voices in the adjoining room during our worship and asked us to remember on this Juneteenth how we are called to be witnesses to that of God in all people. Clémence Ravaçon Mershon read a passage from an Epistle from the Spring 2026 gathering of European and Middle Eastern Young Friends. They considered the theme "Witnessing Borders" and saw that borders can be dangerous obstacles causing death, with the refugee crisis on European borders much on their hearts. But they also recognized that many people are trying to bring light into this darkness. They were grateful they had been able to cross borders safely to attend this gathering, and were mindful of those who do not have this privilege. They thought about ways of identifying and overcoming borders in and by Quaker faith and practice. They left feeling nourished by the space they had created in their gathering.

YM2026-23 Clerk's Report

Jack Smith, our presiding Clerk, reminded Friends that the LEYM Executive Committee served the functions of his Assistant Clerk this past year while that position was vacant. He thanked those Friends for helping him in his first year as Presiding Clerk. 1. Representative Meeting at Red Cedar Meeting in Lansing was attended by 33 Friends and included time in which Friends could choose to participate in a "No Kings March" at the state capital.

2. Next year's Representative Meeting will be hosted by Broadmead Meeting on Saturday, March 27, 2027, at the Victory Center in Toledo.

3. The Clerk asked Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie) to find appropriate epistles to read at our sessions this year. He also asked Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) to anchor the committee writing an Epistle that reflects our 2026 Annual Meeting. Both are carrying out these charges this week. 4. The Clerk has hired Alexa Kay (Pittsburgh) to become the LEYM Database Manager to replace Friend Susan Loucks, who has moved away from the LEYM area. 5. Friends who can see how they might serve LEYM are invited to contact anyone on the Nominating Committee to discern with them.

6. The Clerk was contacted by a Friend who recently moved to Wheelersburg, Ohio, who is led to form a new Meeting and wishes to explore contacts within Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Talks and contacts are proceeding, with Athens Monthly Meeting possibly serving as sponsor to a Preparatory Meeting formed in Wheelersburg.

7. The Clerk will try to make space at this meeting for brief oral reports from monthly meetings who have been or are involved in building/renovation meeting projects, notably Detroit, Cleveland, and North Columbus.

YM2026-24 Publications & Archives Committee

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported. Jeff thanked Christopher Farrand (Cleveland) for his faithful production of informative and attractive issues of the LEYM Bulletin. Jeff thanked Elise Yoder (Pittsburgh) for editing LEYM Annual Records for the last five years. Members of the Committee have volunteered to collect and format materials for the Annual Records, but a copyeditor is still needed. The Committee, along with outgoing Database Manager, Susan Loucks, proposed a new method of collecting data. It has been seasoned by the Committee, and supported by the LEYM Executive Committee at its meeting on January 9, 2026, as follows:

> *Annually, the database manager will ask Monthly Meetings for their directories in digital format and, unless otherwise requested, forward any that are received to the Friends Historical Collection at Swarthmore College and to Friends General Conference but not compile this data into a Yearly*

Meeting directory or add it to the database. … In keeping with LEYM's Privacy Policy, Meetings will be asked either to identify or redact names and email addresses for people under 18, so these will not be forwarded to Swarthmore or FGC.

With this change, monthly meetings would not supply contact information for all their members and regular attenders. Instead, they would be asked to provide a digital copy of their directory, from which data for the meeting's officers, committee clerks, representatives, employees, and other position holders named in Annual Records can be extracted. This would be easier for both the Database Manager and local meetings, with any desired fuller historical data being available at the Friends Historical Collection at Swarthmore. (The full report is attached.) The Clerk asked for clarification of exactly what change is being requested. Jeff explained that currently Meetings are asked to provide lists of changes for all members and attenders, including contact information. This level of detail would no longer be gathered. The Yearly Meeting approved the Proposal as made by the Publications & Archives Committee.

YM2026-25 Treasurer's Report

Tom Kangas (North Columbus) reported. Our Treasurer, Tom Kangas, explained that his present report focuses on the history of our finances over the past year, while the Finance Committee's report will focus on our financial future. All but one of our monthly meetings have made their annual contributions, with the final one in process. Expenses for our contract workers are as expected, although more hours than needed were budgeted for the Database Manager.

Following a suggestion made at last year's Annual Meeting, our investments in Friends Fiduciary are reported somewhat differently this year, so that unrealized funds are treated differently than monies invested or received as dividends. The ending balance of our general fund is healthy and includes gains from investments and from the transfer of money into it from the laid down Consultation Fund. Information for the Annual Meeting Fund is not complete because final income and expenses from the Annual Meeting are not yet known. A financial report specifically on the Annual Meeting will be published in the Fall LEYM Bulletin, as is our usual practice.

In summary, our Yearly Meeting's finances are healthy and holding steady.

A Friend asked if our investments represent divestment from funds that support military efforts affecting Palestinians. The current answer to how Friends Fiduciary Funds is handling pertinent funds is not known, but the Treasurer and Finance Committee will pursue it. A Friend reminded us that some years ago a request to Friends Fiduciary Funds spearheaded by Anne Remley from Ann Arbor had good success when they asked FFF to divest from several companies that supported destruction of Palestinian areas and homes.

YM2026-26 Finance Committee, Draft Budget

Ellen Barnes (Detroit) reported. Ellen introduced the members of the Committee as herself (Co-Clerk), Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar, Co-Clerk), Mary Igoe Meyers (Broadmead), Aran Reinhart (Broadmead), and ex officio Tom Kangas (North Columbus), Treasurer. She introduced a draft budget for our consideration with an increase of about 2.7% in the hourly rate of pay for both the Digital Communications Facilitator and the Database Manager and a reduction in hours for the Database Manager based on expected needs.

Reflecting recent inflation, the budget includes proposed increases to Friends organizations including Friends General Conference, Olney Friends School, and Swarthmore (for archival support). The total proposed expenses reflect the actual income we received this past year. The result is a deficit budget, but our general fund is currently higher than what is considered its ceiling. The Committee's proposal is based on a philosophy of putting money to work rather than having it build up unused.

In discussion, a Friend asked us to consider a small donation to Friends Peace Teams.

The usual process for such requests is that the Finance Committee considers them first and discerns whether to bring them to annual sessions. We will follow that process for this request. Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor), who has been serving as Treasurer of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, reported that a sum of roughly $400 is expected to be transferred from their bank account to LEYM later this year.

Ellen further reported that John Howell (Athens) performed an audit on our financial records for

fiscal year 2024-25. He found that our records were adequate and he had no recommendations for modifying the current system.

YM2026-27 Peace & Justice Committee

Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh) reported. The Peace & Justice Committee has encountered various obstacles in moving forward in recent years. Last year, they thought their focus would be to help the efforts of local peace committees. Claire is led now to propose a different focus for the committee, which would be a clearinghouse for minutes that relate to peace and social justice concerns. This would be a way to share minutes adopted by local monthly meetings and encourage others to take action. She invites other Friends to let her know if they feel led to join her in this effort. Johanna Jackson, representing Friends General Conference, shared her own enthusiasm for Claire's proposal. In the last year the number of visitors to the FGC webpage on minutes of conscience has skyrocketed. Others are looking for models for these kinds of action. A Friend suggested a section of our LEYM webpage could be devoted to publishing such minutes.

YM2026-28 Digital Communications Facilitator

Bill Warters (Birmingham) reported. Bill Warters, as our Digital Communications Facilitator, maintains an online presence for LEYM in various ways, including our website, email lists, and both webinar and zoom meetings. Many programs organized by LEYM Friends, including both committees and individual monthly meetings, are presented online with support from Bill. The traffic to LEYM.org now stands at 9,000 visitors a month. Bill has taken the initiative to make several additions to our website, ranging from a video of LEYM Meetings, to our LEYM Advices and Queries, a list of resources pertaining to conflict in Meeting, and games and puzzles. He has begun succession planning for a (hopefully far-off) day when someone else will take on his duties. He is also exploring options for shared digital tools across LEYM, possibly via a Quaker Meeting Network platform. (The full report is attached.)

YM2026-29 Friends Peace Teams

Cassie Cammann (Ann Arbor) reported. Cassie was joined by Melanie Siaw and Jackson Napier to report on the work of Friends Peace Teams. She described the history of their work, arising from the practices of the Alternative to Violence Project (AVP). It now does work across five regions of the World, including North America. She introduced Melanie, who was recently appointed North American Regional Coordinator of Friends Peace Teams. Melanie told us that the Peace Teams are us, and success in achieving peace depends on us believing and visualizing it. In the next year her office will be working to help Americans adapt to the enactment of a new law pertaining to the draft. Jackson shared his experience visiting Ukraine last year for a Friends Peace Teams retreat. He experienced the threats of war at first hand and asked us to support the work of the Peace Teams in Ukraine so the people there realize they are not forgotten. Cassie suggested that Friends pick up and share bookmarks in the Alumni Room describing Friends Peace Teams, including a QR code for additional information. (The full report is attached.)

YM2026-30 Memorial Minute

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) read a Memorial Minute for John Templin of Broadmead Meeting. The full text of the minute will be included in the LEYM Annual Records and on the LEYM website.

SESSION 4: Saturday, June 20, 2026, 1:15pm – 3:15pm

YM2026-31 Friends entered into worship

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon read an Epistle from the April 2026 gathering of the Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa/New Zealand. They gathered with an awareness of turbulence around the world while a cyclone threatened their country and were reminded of a prayer asking for love and the courage to hold both pain and possibility in their hearts. They spoke of their actions and the Light that points to the Light and guides how they give support. They asked if making simplifications to their Yearly Meeting structure might free up time for the spiritual lives of individuals and meetings. They recognized the value of person-to-person relationships and the braided nature of their interactions. In their annual Quaker Lecture the speaker spoke of the interconnectedness of everything and that the Maori recognize the personhood of the natural world. We can observe and value the relationships among everything in creation as we value human relationships. They raised up these queries: "When we work together, do we remember to value one another?" and "Do we leave enough time to recognize the divine spirit of love and peace in everything we

do?"

YM2026-32 Friends General Conference (FGC)

Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) reported (read by Brad Shaw, Red Cedar).

FGC has now completed a significant restructuring, with the Executive Committee replaced by a Governance Board and the Central Committee replaced by a smaller Representatives Council with just two members from each yearly meeting. Marvin Barnes from this yearly meeting has served as Presiding Clerk and will be stepping down this fall after six years of service. Two long-time staff of FGC, Vanessa Julye and Liz Dykes, have both retired; gifts to honor them are invited. Although the 2025 Young Adults and Youth Gathering did not have the attendance or financial results hoped for, future gatherings of this kind are being considered. The 2026 Gathering will be July 7-12 at the University of Vermont. FGC is part of an interfaith coalition challenging an executive order that removed protections from ICE enforcement for houses of worship. The case is ongoing. A fundraising campaign concluded in 2026 and met its goal of raising $2.4 million. (The full report is attached.)

> Johanna Jackson, visiting FGC staff member, added that the Newsletter she puts together for FGC (Vitality) is happy to help advertise events planned by local meetings. She is looking for someone from a meeting that has experienced recent growth to help with an upcoming workshop. There will be a joint meeting between FGC and Quaker Voluntary Service that will focus on racism and helping our meetings become more welcoming.

YM2026-33 Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham) reported (read by Clémence Ravaçon Mershon, Erie Worship Group). FWCC's Section of the Americas observed World Quaker Day last October with a time for global online worship. A recently formed Young Adult Friends group gathered online twice during the past year. The 2026 Section of the Americas Meeting in March was also held online, with more than 300 Friends attending. The Section continues to work on useful digital tools such as adding to their Quaker glossary and forming an interactive map. They are providing training for interpreters to help them develop a group of compensated interpreters who can assist at their meetings. Coming up next year will be a 2027 Section of the Americas Meeting in Indiana and World Quaker Day on October 4 with the theme "Let Peace Be Among You." A global online FWCC conference is being planned for 2027 on the theme "Sowing Seeds of Justice." Feel free to reach out to LEYM's representatives to FWCC with any questions. Gifts to FWCC/Section of the Americas are always welcome. Our representatives are Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie Worship Group), Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids), and Mike Hinshaw (Wooster). (The full report is attached.) Jana Norlin added that all of the LEYM representatives were able to attend the Section of the Americas Meeting in March. There are many other opportunities to gather with FWCC Friends, and she often does so, serving as a Spanish translator. The Section of the Americas covers North and South America, Central America, and the Caribbean.

YM2026-34 Memorial Minute

Wink Covintree (Birmingham) read a Memorial Minute for Phil Clampitt of the Birmingham Meeting. The full text of the minute will be included in the LEYM Annual Records and on the LEYM website.

YM2026-35 Friends Committee on National Legislation

Wink Covintree (Birmingham) and Michael Fuson (Granville) reported.

Wink remembered back to an event before the first Iraq war when Joe Volk, then General Secretary of FCNL, said there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. He was right and since then Wink has trusted FCNL. She found herself hesitant to visit congresspeople on her own but learned about FCNL advocacy teams and was trained in how to advocate with like-minded Friends. She is now part of both local and state-wide FCNL advocacy teams. It is a hard and heartbreaking time in our country. The support from FCNL is welcoming, including monthly calls featuring good speakers. She finished by reading a poem by Mary Oliver: "Don't Hesitate"

> If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty
>
> of lives and whole towns destroyed or about

to be. We are not wise, and not very often

kind. And much can never be redeemed.

Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this

is its way of fighting back, that sometimes

something happens better than all the riches

or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant

when love begins. Anyway, that's often the

case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid

of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.

Michael Fuson (Granville), LEYM's other representative to FCNL, pointed out that the organization has had only five general secretaries in its more than a century of existence and two of them (Joe Volk and Bridget Moix) have been from southwestern Ohio. He noted that appointments from yearly meetings to the FCNL General Committee are the lifeblood of the organization, and many of its meetings are virtual so service is now easier. LEYM is not appointing as many representatives as we are allowed, and he invited Friends to consider if they are led to serve. He echoed Wink in sharing how working with advocacy teams provides important support for Friends who wish to share views with lawmakers and urge them toward better legislation. In recent years, FCNL has done important work on many issues Friends feel deeply about, including war and militarism and immigration issues.

YM2026-36 American Friends Service Committee

Chelsea Middlemiss (Red Cedar) reported.

Chelsea Middlemiss is the only representative to AFSC from LEYM at present, and invited others to consider joining her in service. AFSC is on the ground doing work in many different locations and helps Quaker beliefs stay well-grounded in service. A celebration of their receiving the Nobel Peace Prize 80 years ago will be coming up. At the national level, AFSC has invited groups to become Anti-Apartheid Communities.

Their "Love as Action" movement urges people to show that there is a strong current that disagrees with many harmful government policies. There is an AFSC office in Ypsilanti, Michigan, focusing on criminal justice, especially issues affecting imprisoned women in Michigan.

> Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh), who is a delegate-at-large to AFSC Corporation, reminded us that AFSC takes on a wide array of work including divestment, security issues, and immigration.
>
> Bill Warters (Birmingham), who recently served as one of our representatives to AFSC, organizes regular local gatherings around AFSC's "Love as Action" initiative. There will be a th

special program on the 4of July, when people will be asked to sign a declaration of resistance.

YM2026-37 Reports on Meetings Undertaking Building Work

Joel Gugnitz (Detroit) explained that the Detroit Meeting's former Meetinghouse was seized through eminent domain, and they subsequently acquired a new property. Through the work of several years, they have improved the sustainability and other aspects of the new building to meet their needs. Their challenges have included higher expenses than expected, but those have been met with many generous donations as well as personal loans from within the meeting community. Some debt remains, but they have accomplished much. They are now able to host meetings of Friends and other Quaker organizations. Steve Finger (Cleveland) reported that their old building was too large for their needs after a school using part of the space left. They sold it and rented space in a church but found there were some inconveniences. Through a series of what felt very much like Spirit-filled steps, a suitable location was found, they were urged to make an offer, the offer was accepted, and a recent attender of their meeting who is an architect became involved. They are gratefully moving forward in their new space at 17702 Nottingham, Cleveland, Ohio. Tom Kangas (North Columbus) reported that their meeting purchased a Meetinghouse in 1953 and reached a decision several years ago to sell it as it no longer met the Meeting's needs. After renting space in a church for a few years, in 2025 they purchased a lot and are now

discerning their way forward.

Wayne Norlin (Grand Rapids) reported that a year ago their Meeting lost the space at Aquinas College they had used for about 30 years. They are now renting space at the large, activist Fountain Street Church in downtown Grand Rapids. Visitors are welcome, in person or online. One of their neighbors is the Institute for Global Education, which grew out of a former AFSC office in Grand Rapids.

YM2026-38 Memorial Minute

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) read a Memorial Minute for Phil Volk of the Ann Arbor Meeting. The full text of the minute will be included in the LEYM Annual Records and on the LEYM website.

YM2026-39 Spiritual Formation Program

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported. Sally announced that Steve Davison (Princeton Meeting) will lead this fall's retreat for the LEYM Spiritual Formation Program, September 11-13, 2026, at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan. Informational flyers are available. All are invited, but there is a limit of 40 participants. (The Annual Report of the Spiritual Formation Program is attached.)

SESSION 5: Sunday, June 21, 2026, 8:45am – 9:30am

YM2026-40 Friends gathered in worship

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon read a paragraph from an epistle from Wilmington Yearly Meeting, gathered in July 2025. As they considered looking ahead, they noted energy and possibilities. They enjoyed a lively service organized by their young Friends. In discussion they considered future interaction and collaboration with the New Association of Friends and Western Yearly Meeting, both in Indiana.

YM2026-41 Memorial Minute

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) read a Memorial Minute for Joan Sampieri of the Ann Arbor Meeting. The full text of the minute will be included in the LEYM Annual Records and on the LEYM website.

YM2026-42 Epistle Committee

Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar) reported. The Epistle Committee, consisting of Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar), Alexa Kay (Pittsburgh), and Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), presented the Epistle for the 2026 Annual Meeting of LEYM. Friends appreciated the beauty of the Epistle and were moved by it. The inclusion of descriptions of interactions of children and adults was especially welcome. A Friend suggested including the observation that the moments described by Joe Volk carried the common thread of turning enemies into friends. Friends agreed to leave this possible change to the discernment of the Epistle Committee. The Epistle was approved by the Yearly Meeting.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Epistle Sixth Month 18-21, 2026 To Beloved Friends everywhere:

Grace to you and peace from God. One hundred ten Friends from Meetings and Worship Groups in Michigan, Ohio, and western Pennsylvania gathered on the campus of Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio, for our sixty-fourth Annual Meeting. As we have three times before on this campus, in-person attendees settled quickly into our daily routine, as our location again provided great support for our business, workshops, worship, and evening activities. We welcomed remote participants to the evening plenary and Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business. A visitor commented that our Meetings for Business were notable among Yearly Meetings in her traveling experience for their tender mix of decisions and information with fellowship and relationship.

We hold these truths in tension: joy and loss. The year's theme, "Hope, Joy and Courage in Community," invited us to reunion, re-connection and joy. Noticeably, however, profound losses accompanied our joyful moments. Among them were the losses of dear Friends who have moved away or died (sometimes unexpectedly), and the loss of our newly laid down constituent Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting. We suspect your meetings are also burdened by the losses in our world. Humanity has fallen short of God's charges of peace, love and justice. Creation itself is being burdened by omnipresent injustice, cruelty, and greed.

What, then, are we to do under this burden? We find inspiration in Lamentations. In his grief, the author

affirms:

> *The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope), to give one's cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults. For the Lord will not reject forever.*
>
> *Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone. (Lam. 3:25–33)*

Only after we lift up our problems to Spirit, for they are not ours alone, can we nurture joy and hope. Wielding that joy and hope, we gain the courage to be God's hands on Earth.

Something quiet and holy that happened during our time together showed us what it means to be God's hands on Earth. A huge asset of our Ashland University site is that the Children and Youth program happens in and among adult programming spaces. A session we call "Birds of a Feather" allows intergenerational activity groups to rise spontaneously. Children and elders played and spoke and wondered together with no wall between them. Conversations moved both ways with warmth and respect. The elders delighted in the children. The children honored the elders. Both spoke frankly, collaborated on joint projects or competed vigorously.

The intergenerational group was embodying the wisdom being discussed elsewhere as parents of young and older children pondered how we raise our children in the way of Friends in today's world. What emerged was more sustaining than simple answers: people listened, people shared. Those who had walked further down the path offered their learnings and those who were just beginning found themselves less alone. This itself is a testimony. We do not raise Quaker children in isolation. We raise them together, held in the life of the meeting, learning from one another across the years. Young Friends, for instance, had this to teach us this year: asked from where hope, joy, and courage spring, the youth identified two sources – friends and family. Children name what they see in the world and do not flinch from it. They remind us that Spirit does not wait for us to grow up before it moves; it is already at work in the youngest among us.

Our plenary speaker offered other examples of how courage leads us to become God's hands on Earth. Friend Joe Volk traced the long unfolding of a life given to peace, from his decision as a conscientious objector to his years of service with the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends Committee on National Legislation. With humor and humble surprise, he spoke of large and small moments of conviction that could have seemed insignificant at the time or else certain to lead to disaster, but which instead opened the Way for unpredictable movement of Spirit. Joe explained that he had no way of knowing where a courageous choice for integrity might lead; but he was sure that none of the ensuing openings could have happened without the moment of taking the risk. Joe honored a mentor who taught him that the question during a moment calling for courage is not whether we will suffer; there will always be suffering. The question is to what purpose we dedicate our suffering.

Doug Gwynn's Bible Study offered still another insight on how to be God's hands in the world. He explored alternative groups of Seekers in the 1600s, some of whom recommended recovering practice from the past and others of whom sought progress toward a new future age and a clearer version of truth. But he drew us back to George Fox's letter to his parents in 1652, in which he admonished them that "Ye have no time but this present time, therefore prize your time for your soul's sake." reminding us that it is only in the present moment we can hear and respond to our Inner Teacher.

Our hope for you, Friends far and near, is that you will ask for which and whose purposes you suffer. Hold truth as your anchor and source of authority. Prize your present moment. Do righteousness inasmuch as you are guided. And know, Friends, that you do not walk alone.

Written for the sake of that Spirit who has moved through us this weekend, Epistle Committee: Joann Neuroth, Ellerie Brownfain, Alexa Kay Signed, Jack Smith, Clerk, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

YM2026-43 Finance Committee

Ellen Barnes (Detroit) reported. The proposed LEYM budget for 2026-27 was brought back for further consideration. The Committee considered the request that a donation to Friends Peace Teams be included in this year's budget and felt that the question needs further and deeper discernment before taking action.

In the meantime, individuals and monthly meetings are urged to consider donations to Friends Peace Teams. The budget for 2026-27 was unchanged and approved by the Yearly Meeting as presented. (The approved budget is attached.)

YM2026-44 Nominating Committee

Cleménce Ravaçon Mershon (Erie) reported. The Committee brought a proposed slate of officers, representatives, and committee members for 2026–27. The slate reflects the unpredictability of life, and so some spots are filled by people who may be able to serve only one year. Small corrections of years of service and spelling of names will be made before the slate is published in the LEYM Annual Records. The Yearly Meeting approved the Nominating slate for 2026-27. (The full report is attached.)

YM2026-45 Youth & Children Program

The youth and children, with their teachers and helpers, joined us to report. With joy we accepted their three-part Epistle: 1) collages made by the children for World Refugee Day, 2) a poster displaying photographs from their time together this weekend, and 3) the following Epistle describing their activities:

June 21, 2026

Dear Young Friends everywhere, We are the youth program of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. At LEYM we

- Played at the Children's Museum, air hockey, chess, the laser room, served ice cream, dressed up
- Went bowling
- Went hiking, played with balloons, played with a toddler, badminton, baseball, chalk
- Made flags about finding joy in community
- Made collages for World Refugee Day
- Had great conversations in the lounge
- Danced and sang, played games
- Helped people

In Friendship, the teachers and youth at LEYM

YM2026-46 Naming Committee

Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh) reported. The Naming Committee, consisting of Claire Cohen and Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor), brought the name of Michael Hinshaw to begin a new three-year term of service on the Nominating Committee. Friends approved this appointment.

YM2026-47 Announcements

Clerk Jack Smith asked Friends to note that the 2027 Representative Meeting will be on Saturday, March 27, 2027, at the Victory Center in Toledo. Carolyn LeJuste reported for the Arrangements & Site Committee that it is their intention to return to Ashland University for next Annual Meeting of LEYM on June 17-20, 2027. Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) announced that Kalamazoo Meeting will host outdoor worship followed by a picnic in Quaker Park, Battle Creek, Michigan, on Sunday, August 2, 2026. A Friend rose in appreciation for those among us who extend care for children on this Father's Day.

The 2026 sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting closed in waiting worship.

FINANCE & NOMINATING REPORTS ATTACHED:

Financial Statement for LEYM as of Mid-June 2026

LEYM Budget for 2026-27, as approved

Nominating Slate, as approved

LEYM General Fund Income

As of 6/17/2026

For the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2026)

Contribution From	Amount	Deposit Date
Akron Monthly Meeting	250	3/23/2026
Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting	5,124	2/6/2026
Athens Monthly Meeting	2,000	12/12/2025
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	560	10/14/2025
Broadmead Monthly Meeting	1,500	2/7/2026
Cleveland Monthly Meeting	1,806	4/24/2026
Delaware Monthly Meeting	155	11/15/25 & 4/17/26
Detroit Monthly Meeting	924	1/9/2026
Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting	420	1/11/2026
Granville Monthly Meeting	1,000	3/14/2026
Holland Monthly Meeting	400	1/9/2026
Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting	1,134	3/11/2026
Kent Monthly Meeting	774	11/29/2025
Mid-Ohio Valley Monthly Meeting		
North Columbus Monthly Meeting	1,260	10/16/2025
Oberlin Monthly Meeting	1,100	2/17/2026
Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting	5,040	2/28/2026
Red Cedar Monthly Meeting	3,318	12/5/2025
Wooster Monthly Meeting	504	3/25 & 4/21/26
Subtotal - contributing MM or WG	**27,269**	
Individuals - via check	-	
Individuals - via FFC online	602	
Individuals - via RegFox		
Interest income from Savings Acct	11	
Total Cash Contribution Income	**27,882**	
FFC Dividend Income (Base Acct only)	1,075	
Total Income	**28,956**	(cash income, excluding in-kind)

Expected, per budget	*Actual as a % of Budget*	*Variance, favorable (unfavorable)*
26,838	102%	431

	In-kind		Total contribution income
+		-	27,882

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LEYM General Fund Expenses - with comparison to Budget

For the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2026)

Account	Actual Expense through 6/17/2026	Budget (annual)	Actual expense as a % of Budget	Variance, budget-to-actual, favorable (unfavorable)	Non-cash, in-kind donations through 6/17/2026	Total Expense, including in-kind, through 6/17/2026
Operations						
Contract Worker: Database Manager	1,334.50	2,260	59%	926	-	1,335
Contract Worker: Digital Comm Facil'r	3,743.99	5,906	63%	2,162	-	3,744
Insurance	613.00	675	91%	62	-	613
Office/administration	490.58	1,000	49%	509	-	491
Committees						
Advancement & Outreach	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Ministry & Nurture	-	100	0%	100	-	-
Publications	3,426.62	3,750	91%	323	-	3,427
Members						
Attend conference w/ Quaker values	-	500	0%	500	-	-
Organizations						
Friends General Conference	6,350.00	6,350	100%	-	-	6,350
Olney Friends School	3,175.00	3,175	100%	-	-	3,175
Swarthmore records project	150.00	150	100%	-	-	150
Potential meetinghouse contribution	-	1,000	0%	1,000	-	-
Subtotal cash expenditures	19,284	24,966	77%	5,683	-	19,283.69
Transfers from General Fund to other Funds						
Annual Meeting Fund	5,000.00	5,000	100%	-		
Travel Fund	1,500.00	1,500	100%	-		
FWCC Travel Fund & Donation	900.00	900	100%	-		
Transfers to General Fund from other Funds						
Consultation Fund	(3,143.68)	(3,144)	100%	-		
Subtotal Transfers	4,256.32	4,256		-		
Totals - General Fund Expenses	**23,540.01**	**29,223**	81%	5,683		

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Lake Erie Yearly Meeting – Financial Position

For the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year (12 months ending June 30, 2026)

	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2025	Change during the fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/17/2026
The Citizens National Bank of Bluffton. OH			
Checking Account	9,779.42	8,135.36	17,914.78
Savings Account	9,757.45	(5,989.14)	3,768.31
Subtotal of both CNB accounts	19,536.87	2,146.22	21,683.09
Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Philadelphia, PA (a)			
Cost Basis			
General (Base) Account	55,620.65	1,074.67	56,695.32
Granville Youth Fund Account	9,157.59	(b)	9,157.59
Subtotal	64,778.24	1,074.67	65,852.91
Unrealized gain or <loss>			
General (Base) Account	4,955.39	982.56	5,937.95
Granville Youth Fund Account	802.28	166.68	968.96
Subtotal	5,757.67	1,149.24	6,906.91
Total market value of FFC investments	70,535.91	2,223.91	72,759.82
Prepaid Expenses			
Kirkmont Ctr deposit for Youth & Family retreat, Oct 2026	100.00	-	100.00
Weber Ctr deposit for Spir Form retreats, Sep 2026 & 2027	150.00	150.00	300.00
	250.00	150.00	400.00
Total (monetary assets and unrealized gain<loss>)	**90,322.78**	**4,520.13**	**94,842.91**

(a) *All of the funds with Friends Fiduciary Corporation are invested in FFC's Quaker Growth & Income Fund (QGIF). The Quaker Growth & Income Fund is a diversified, co-mingled fund with allocations to equities, fixed income and real estate investment trusts (REITs). Its primary objective is to provide stable current income and long-term growth consistent with protecting principal investments against inflation over time. The fund adheres to Friends Fiduciary's Quaker-values investment guidelines and participates in our shareholder advocacy work. It is intended for investors with an investment horizon of five years or longer. The Fund has a standard income distribution policy based on the fund's total return. The following is per friendsfiduciary.org as of 6/30/2025*

HOLDINGS BY ASSET CLASS	*Equity*	*Fixed Income*	*REITS*
Global and International Equity	*25.8%*		
Small and Mid Cap Equity	*17.2%*		
Large Cap Equity	*28.2%*		
Fixed Income (Domestic, Global, Short-Term, plus Cash)		*24.2%*	*4.7%*

(b) *Granville Youth dividends aren't reinvested. They're transferred to CNB Checking and credited to LEYM's Youth Activities Fund.*

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LEYM Summary of Funds for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Fund Name	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2025	Friends Fiduciary account activity[1]	Transfers between funds	Cash Income	Cash Expense	Subtotal: activity for current fiscal year	Ending Balance as of 6/17/2026	Floor/ Suggested floor/ceiling amounts for each fund	/Ceiling	Last activity prior to FY25-26
Funds held in (i) Base account with Friends Fiduciary Corp and (ii) Citizens National Bank										
General Fund[2]	42,214.86	2,057.23	(4,256.32)	27,881.63	(19,283.69)	**6,398.85**	**48,613.71**	na	35,000	
Annual Meeting Fund	3,000.00		5,000.00	21,493.19	(26,188.17)	**305.02**	**3,305.02**	1,000	3,000	
Travel Fund	2,686.59		1,500.00	1,400.00	(2,230.16)	**669.84**	**3,356.43**	2,000	4,000	
Youth Activities Fund[4]	6,509.45		176.91	470.00	(450.00)	**196.91**	**6,706.36**	4,000	8,000	
Quaker Coll/Svc Schol Fund	4,000.00		-	-	-	**-**	**4,000.00**	2,000	4,000	FY22-23
HS Teen Retreat Fund	4,000.00		-	-	-	**-**	**4,000.00**	3,000	4,000	FY17-18
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,649.00				(1,300.00)	**(1,300.00)**	**349.00**	na	2,000	FY19-20
Spiritual Formation Fund	1,327.99		-	8,348.60	(8,022.09)	**326.51**	**1,654.50**	500	2,000	
Consultation Fund	3,143.68		(3,143.68)	-	-	**(3,143.68)**	**-**	500	2,000	FY11-12
Traveling Ministries Fund	3,363.12		-	-	-	**-**	**3,363.12**	na	na	FY24-25[5]
Work Projects Fund	2,182.39					**-**	**2,182.39**	na	2,000	FY17-18
FWCC Travel Fund	5,385.83		-	-	-	**-**	**5,385.83**	na	9,000	FY24-25
FWCC Travel Donation	900.00		900.00		-	**900.00**	**1,800.00**	na	9,000	
Funds held in separate account with Friends Fiduciary Corp										
Granville Youth Fund[3]	9,959.87	343.59	(176.91)			**166.68**	**10,126.55**	na	na	
TOTAL	90,322.78	2,400.82	-	59,593.42	(57,474.11)	**4,520.13**	**94,842.91**			

NOTES> Funds other than the General Fund are managed through accounting and may be subsidized from the General Fund.
[1] Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC) activity includes dividends and net change portfolio value due to market conditions. See Balance Sheet for detail.
[2] FFC General (Base) Account activity is included here in LEYM's General Fund.
[3] Granville Friends Youth Fund is a separate FFC account. FFC activity shown on this line reflects only that fund's change in portfolio value.
[4] FFC dollars transferred to this line represent dividends paid to the Granville Friends Youth Fund during current fiscal year and credited to YAF.
[5] Established in FY13-14 by a donation toward LEYM's Traveling Ministry Program, this fund had its first-ever activity in FY2024-2025.

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LEYM Budgets	*Budget approved 06/15/2025 **Actual as of 6/18/2026	FY 2025-26		***Prelim budget, not approved FY 2026-27	
General Fund Expenses		***Budget**	****Actual**	*****Budget**	**Change**
General	Contractor: Database Manager	2,260	1,335	1,450	(810)
	Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	5,906	3,744	6,081	175
	Insurance	675	613	675	-
	Administration	1,000	491	1,000	-
Committees	Advancement & Outreach	100	-	100	-
	Ministry & Nurture	100	-	100	-
	Publications	3,750	3,427	3,750	-
Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	500	-	500	-
Organizations	Friends General Conference	6,350	6,350	7,000	650
	Olney Friends School	3,175	3,175	3,500	325
	Swarthmore Records Project	150	150	200	50
	Potential meetinghse contrib'ns	1,000	-	2,000	1,000
Tranfers:	Annual Meeting subsidy	5,000	5,000	6,000	1,000
from General	Travel Fund	1,500	1,500	700	(800)
Fund to...	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship Fund	-	-	-	-
or (to General	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	900	900	900	-
Fund from)...	Consultation Fund	(3,144)	(3,144)		3,144
	High School Teen Retreat Fund				
	Total Expenses and Transfers =	29,223	23,540	33,956	4,734
General Fund Income					
	Contributions Income	26,838	27,882	25,960	(878)
	FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	2,000	1,075	2,100	100
	Total Income =	28,838	28,956	28,060	(778)
	Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(385)	5,416	(5,896)	(5,512)
	Base FFC account unrealized gain<loss>		983		
	Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =		983		
	Total Change in General Fund =		6,399		
	# members used to produce above estimate =	639		649	
	Suggested contribution per member =	$42	0%	$40	-5%
	Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =	$ 0.21		$ 0.205	

History						LEYM Budgets	*Budget approved 06/15/2025			***Prelim budget, not approved	
FY 2022-23		FY 2023-24		FY 2024-25			**Actual as of 6/17/2026	FY 2025-26		FY 2026-27	
Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	General Fund Expenses		*Budget	**Actual	***Budget	Change
3,900	2,828	4,320	1,838	3,575	967	General	Contractor: Database Manager	2,260	1,335	1,450	(810)
6,200	4,996	6,500	4,756	5,775	5,181		Contractor: Digital Comm Facil'r	5,906	3,744	6,081	175
650	597	650	597	650	613		Insurance	675	613	675	-
1,500	1,035	1,200	557	1,100	369		Administration	1,000	491	1,000	-
500	-	100	-	100	-	Committees	Advancement & Outreach	100	-	100	-
100	-	100	-	100	-		Ministry & Nurture	100	-	100	-
3,500	2,876	3,500	2,722	3,500	3,240		Publications	3,750	3,427	3,750	-
600	-	600	-	500	-	Members	Attend conf w/ Quaker values	500	-	500	-
6,500	6,500	6,000	6,000	6,200	6,200	Organizations	Friends General Conference	6,350	6,350	7,000	650
3,500	3,500	3,000	3,000	3,100	3,100		Olney Friends School	3,175	3,175	3,500	325
150	150	150	150	150	150		Swarthmore Records Project	150	150	200	50
-							Potential meetinghse contrib'ns	1,000	-	2,000	1,000
10,000	6,100	5,000	3,200	5,000	3,715	Tranfers:	Annual Meeting subsidy	5,000	5,000	6,000	1,000
-	-	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	from General	Travel Fund	1,500	1,500	700	(800)
1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	Fund to...	Quaker Coll/Svc Sch'ship Fund	-	-	-	-
1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	or (to General	FWCC Travel Fund (& Donation)	900	900	900	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	Fund from)...	Consultation Fund	(3,144)	(3,144)		3,144
-	-	-	(2,893)	-			High School Teen Retreat Fund				
39,900	31,382	33,920	22,728	33,050	26,833		Total Expenses and Transfers =	29,223	23,540	33,956	4,734
						General Fund Income					
26,005	25,390	27,510	26,863	26,250	26,946		Contributions Income	26,838	27,882	25,960	(878)
1,500	1,916	1,500	2,038	2,000	2,108		FFC Div Inc (Base Acct only)	2,000	1,075	2,100	100
27,505	27,306	29,010	28,901	28,250	29,054		Total Income =	28,838	28,956	28,060	(778)
(12,395)	(4,076)	(4,910)	6,173	(4,800)	2,221		Income - (Expenses and Transfers) =	(385)	5,416	(5,896)	(5,512)
	2,815		3,679		3,591		Base FFC account unrealized gain<loss>		983		
	2,815		3,679		3,591		Subtotal Other Changes in General Fund =		983		
	(1,261)		9,852		5,812		Total Change in General Fund =		6,399		
743		655		625			# members used to produce above estimate =	639		649	
$35		$42		$42			Suggested contribution per member =	$42	0%	$40	-5%
$ 0.22		$ 0.22		$ 0.21			Travel reimbursement, with limits, rate per mile =	$ 0.21		$ 0.205	

LEYM Acctng 2025-2026.xlsx || 1_Budget 6/17/2026 11:29 PM

NOMINATING SLATE 2026-2027 Name Meeting rs of SerEnd Year Officers Presiding Clerk Jack Smith Red Cedar 3 2028

Officers Assistant Clerk

Officers Recording Clerk Susan Hartman Ann Arbor 1 2027 North

Officers Treasurer Tom Kangas 7 2027

Columbus

Communications Bulletin Editor Christopher Farrand Cleveland 3 2027

Communications Annual Records Editor

Communications Database Manager Alexa Kay Pittsburgh 1 2027

Digital Comms

Communications Bill Warters Birmingham 8 2027

Facilitator

Communications Bookstore Valerie Groszmann Kalamazoo 23 2027

Advancement & Outreach Co-Clerk Cassie Cammann Ann Arbor 2 2028

Advancement & Outreach Co-Clerk Stephanie Charlot Red Cedar 3 2028

Advancement & Outreach Member Valerie Groszmann Kalamazoo 3 2027

Advancement & Outreach Member Shelley Kotz Broadmead 1 2029

Advancement & Outreach Member Peggy Daub Ann Arbor 1 2027

Advancement & Outreach Member

Finance Co-clerk Joann Neuroth Red Cedar 9 2027

Finance Co-Clerk Ellen Barnes Birmingham 6 2027

Finance Member Aran Reinhart Broadmead 5 2028

Finance Member Mary Igoe Meyers Broadmead 2 2028

Finance Treasurer (ex officio)

Ministry & Nurture Co-Clerk Flo Friender Kalamazoo 5 2028 Ministry & Nurture Co-Clerk Dennis Gregg Ann Arbor 3 2028 Ministry & Nurture Member Ellerie Brownfain Birmingham 4 2028 Ministry & Nurture Member Christopher Farrand Cleveland 3 2027 Ministry & Nurture Member Linda Yoder Szilagye Broadmead 2 2028 Ministry & Nurture Member 1

Clémence Ravaçon-

Nominating Co-Clerk Erie WG 3 2027

Mershon

Nominating Co-Clerk Mary Igoe Meyers Broadmead 3 2027 Nominating Member Mike Hinshaw Wooster 3 2029

Nominating Member Joe Mills Kalamazoo 2 2028

Nominating Member Bernard Miller Detroit 2 2028

Nominating Member Charles Thompson Detroit 2 2028

Peace & Justice Clerk Claire Cohen Pittsburgh 3 2027

North

Peace & Justice Member Jessica Clinger 1 2029

Columbus

North

Peace & Justice Member James Kerr 1 2029

Columbus

Peace & Justice Member Chelsea Middlemiss Red Cedar 1 2029 Publications & Archives Co-Clerk Abbey Pratt-Harrington Athens 2 2028 North

Publications & Archives Co-Clerk Bob Roehm 9 2027

Columbus

Publications & Archives Member Elise Yoder Pittsburgh 2 2028 Publications & Archives Member Emilia Marcyk-Taylor Red Cedar 2 2028 Publications & Archives Member Erica Smith Detroit 1 2029 Clémence Ravaçon-

Adult & Family Program Clerk Erie WG 5 2028

Mershon

Adult & Family Program Member Greg Mott Broadmead 5 2028 Adult & Family Program Member Valerie Groszmann Kalamazoo 4 2029 Adult & Family Program Member Ellerie Brownfain Birmingham 3 2026 Adult & Family Program Member Wink Covintree Birmingham 3 2027 Adult & Family Program Member Nancy Taylor Ann Arbor 2 2028 Arrangements & Site Clerk Carolyn Lejuste Red Cedar 4 2029 Arrangements & Site Member Bill Warters Birmingham 8 2028 Arrangements & Site Member Mike Hinshaw Wooster 5 2028 Arrangements & Site Member Sally Weaver Sommer Broadmead 11 2028 Arrangements & Site Member Janet Dando Akron 4 2029

Arrangements & Site Member

Youth & Children Program Clerk Cristin Graham Detroit 1 2027

Youth & Children Program Asst. Clerk

Youth & Children Program Member Ellerie Brownfain Birmingham

Youth & Children Program Member Jonah Brownfain Birmingham

Youth & Children Program Member Olwen Pritchard Broadmead

Youth & Children Program Member Carla Pratt-Harrington Athens

Youth & Children Program Member

AFSC Corporation Representative Chelsea Middlemiss Red Cedar 3 2027 AFSC Corporation Representative Cheryl VanDeKerkhove Red Cedar 1 2029 AFSC Corporation Representative Gerard Wenson Birmingham 1 2029

FCNL General Committee Representative Wink Covintree Birmingham 4 2029

FCNL General Committee Representative Michael Fuson Granville 4 2029

FGC Representative

Representative Ellerie Brownfain Birmingham 5 2029

Council

FGC Representative

Representative Matt Butler Ann Arbor 1 2029

Council

FWCC Representative Ellerie Brownfain Birmingham 6 2027 Clémence Ravaçon-

FWCC Representative Erie WG 5 2027

Mershon

FWCC Representative Jana Norlin Grand Rapids 3 2027

FWCC Representative Mike Hinshaw Wooster 2 2027

FLGBTQC Representative No nomination made

Olney Friends School Representative Greg Mott Broadmead 2 2028

Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative Richard Tucker Ann Arbor 5 2028

Friends Peace Teams Representative Cassie Cammann Ann Arbor 2 2028 **Reports from Internal Committees and Employees Presented During Annual Sessions:**

YM 2026-15 Annual Report from Youth and Children's Program Committee YM 2026-17 Laying Down Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM) Report YM 2026-18 Annual Report from the Advancement and Outreach Committee YM 2026-19 Annual Report, Ministry and Nurture Committee Summary of Responses to Annual Query

Summary of State of the Meeting Reports

Annual Report from Spiritual Formation Program

YM 2026-24 Publications & Archives Committee Report

YM 2026-25 Treasurer's Report

YM 2026-28 Digital Communications Facilitator 2025-26 Report

Annual Report from Youth and Children's Program Committee Submitted by Diane Mott, Clerk

The Annual Fall Youth Retreat (grades K-12) was held October 3-5, 2025, at the Kirkmont Center in Zanesfield, Ohio. Five youth and seven adults attended from Athens, Birmingham, Broadmead, Detroit, North Columbus, and Red Cedar. The new location was a wonderful fit for our gathering. Zanesfield is more centralized, making attendance easier for many folks. Perfect fall weather allowed us to explore our new retreat location and to fully enjoy the outdoors in our new setting. We took walks, flew paper airplanes, and played tag, kickball and gaga ball. Indoor activities included puzzles, games, drawing, reading, and listening to music. We cooked meals together in our lodge. On Sunday, we had a Prayer Walk where youth paired with adults to walk in silence or quiet conversation. Afterwards, we gathered to share our experiences through pictures and writing, reflecting on the feelings and thoughts that arose during the walk, followed by Meeting for Worship. The weekend left everyone looking forward to next year's Fall Youth Retreat.

This spring, we have been preparing for the Youth and Children's Program for Annual Sessions. The teachers of each age group have met virtually to plan for the mornings, and the clerks have met virtually to plan the afternoon activities. There are thirteen children and teenagers registered from seven meetings.

The Fall Youth Retreat will be at Kirkmont Center, October 2 – 4, 2026.

Laying Down Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM) Report Submitted by Susan Hartman and Jeff Cooper

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting began as an informal gathering in November 1936 when Friends from several meetings in Michigan gathered at Patterson Lake, near Jackson. For the next 20 years, Friends continued this social gathering, with families and individuals spending a weekend camping in various places in Michigan. In 1957, an organization formed, calling itself Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, after the name of a camp where the gathering was often held. In 1960, GPQM was formally approved as a member of FGC, and GPQM began to appoint Friends to serve on FGC Committees.

About the same time, the AFSC Office in Ann Arbor opened, and GPQM was an early and continuing supporter. GPQM continued to hold weekend retreats, often held at Friends Lake Community, which were an important source of community among both adults and children of the monthly meetings.

In 1962, GPQM was first approached by Wade and Dores McCree and other concerned parents and community members who wanted a private school in Detroit that would accept children of all races provide an education that reflected the city's cultural diversity and operate based on the values of supporting students' self-respect and respect for others, emphasizing nonviolent resolution of conflict, and helping students develop integrity and responsibility. This discussion eventually led Green Pastures to start Friends School in Detroit under its care, providing that a majority of board members must be

members of the Religious Society of Friends. From 1965 until the school closed in 2015, many Friends from GPQM were deeply involved with the School. Its closure was a disappointing and painful experience for many of us.

By about the mid-1980s, the weekend retreats were replaced by one-day sessions. GPQM met for business twice a year, in the spring (often at Friends Lake) and the fall (at Friends School), met in the winter for a social or educational program hosted by a monthly meeting, and more recently held worship and potluck each summer around Hiroshima Day. Although the Meeting held a cherished place in the hearts of many, in recent years, particularly since the pandemic, attendance has decreased, and volunteers for service as officers and committee members have become difficult or impossible to find.

•At their meeting in September 2025, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting found unity in beginning the process of laying down the quarter. An ad hoc committee to oversee the process was appointed, including Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor, convener), Geoff Brieger (Birmingham), Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor), Terri Grant (Red Cedar), Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor), Joe Mills (Kalamazoo), and John Williams (Ann Arbor).

•Final donations to the three organizations supported by GPQM (Michigan AFSC Office, Michigan Friends Center, and the Michigan Alternatives to Violence Project) have been made. The GPQM By-Laws require that assets of the quarter be directed to LEYM upon its dissolution, but there are likely to be no or few assets because of intentional spending down from GPQM's modest bank account. Monthly meetings are being asked to consider how they can help close this gap in support to the three organizations in lieu of their annual contributions to GPQM.

•Other ways of continuing ties within the LEYM monthly meetings and worship groups in Michigan are being encouraged. For example, Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting is organizing the annual worship and potluck in Peace Park in Battle Creek on August 2 this year.

•LEYM's Policies and Procedures will need to be revised in response to this change. In January LEYM Exec Committee recommended that references to quarterly meetings be kept in Policies & Procedures in case new ones are added in the future. •The Executive Committee at its January meeting supported the process for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting laying itself down and asking monthly meetings to help bridge the financial support the GPQM had been responsible for. They also asked for reports on proposed changes to LEYM's Policies and Procedures resulting from this change. The Advancement and Outreach Committee was informed of the decision to lay down the meeting and determined that no action was needed from their committee unless GPQM requested assistance.

> •The following procedure is proposed for changing our Policies and Procedures to reflect the laying down of GPQM:
>
> > In the section describing "Quarterly Meetings" remove all text and insert a statement such as "Lake Erie Yearly Meeting does not currently have any quarterly meetings." Keep other references to quarterly meetings as examples of how they would function within the yearly meeting if any should be created.
>
> •GPQM requests that LEYM recognize its laying down at this time.

Annual Report from the Advancement and Outreach Committee

The Advancement and Outreach Committee has had a full year, with all members actively involved in the committee and its activities. Susan Loucks left the committee in February. She was an active and creative member of the Committee, and we miss her energy and insights, while wishing her well in her new home. Highlights of our year included:

Events and programs to share resources and information among monthly meetings We presented five programs online, covering several aspects of Quaker faith and practice, with a goal of introducing newer Friends to these topics and providing more seasoned Friends (both attenders and presenters) with an opportunity to explore more deeply. Again, this year, we experimented with different formats, in an attempt to design programs that were replicable or adaptable by monthly meetings for their own future use. All programs included opportunities for interaction or discussion with participants. Attendance numbers varied from about 8 to about 25 in the various events.

The first program, Praying Like Quakers–What does it mean to connect to the Divine?, presented three short videos from QuakerSpeak, each addressing one aspect of the topic, followed by a moderated discussion among participants. QuakerSpeak has a topic index, which we encouraged monthly meetings to explore if they wished to provide similar programming.

Two programs each consisted of a panel of three Friends, offering their perspectives on a topic. The first, Living Peace – Three Quakers Share, offered shared their experience of living and interpreting the peace testimony in quite different settings. The second, Spiritual Deepening and Vital Community: A Two-Way Street, featured testimonies about each panelist's experience of the interaction between spirituality and community as they experienced it in their own monthly meeting. This session, along with the two in the presentation format, were recorded and are available on the LEYM website and YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/@lakeerieyearlymeeting/videos.

Two programs featured a presenter or presenters. The first, Gifts and Leadings among Friends: An Exploration, used a discussion format, and provided materials that monthly meetings can use to conduct a similar program (materials are available at https://leym.org/gifts-leadings-session/. The last event, Exploring Spiritual Companioning, provided an introduction to Spiritual Companioning, along with a follow-up session to give participants additional practice time. More information is available at https://leym.org/spiritual-companioning/.

The committee expects to continue to explore educational programming within LEYM. We welcome ideas from others about what formats and topics best meet the needs of Friends and Monthly Meetings in the coming year.

Intervisitation and connection -- meetings and worship groups and the yearly meeting Again, this year, after consultation with the Ministry and Nurture Committee, we read all the State of the Meeting Reports from monthly meetings. We continue to find these a deep and meaningful source of connection and understanding. For example, we used these reports as one tool to identify meetings who might provide panelists for the spirituality and community discussion. We followed up on a few meetings for whom no report was included in the Annual Records and were able to identify a few that missed the printed version but were able to be added to the online version.

Our discussion of the reports led to this year's activities planned for the Annual Meeting. We asked Monthly Meetings to create a brief video showing something special about their meeting, and several meetings have responded. We anticipate inviting those meetings that have not yet submitted a video to consider making one for later display. These videos will be on display at the annual meeting. In addition, we have created "passports" to help and encourage Friends to reach out and learn about other Monthly Meetings and their members.

Our physical visits to Monthly Meetings were limited this year. Although we revised and updated the video introducing and describing LEYM, we did not personally take it to other meetings as we did last year. It is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwEdFapltmQ for Monthly Meetings or individual Friends to view. In the course of preparing this video, we reviewed the privacy policy of LEYM and will be bringing a proposal for a slight modification to the Meeting. Only one formal intervisitation was made this year, which was a positive experience for both the meeting and the visitors.

We were asked by Executive Committee to explore whether Monthly Meeting Peace and Justice Committees (by any name) desired to meet together to share resources, activities, or other ideas. We reached out to the Monthly Meetings, but got only one response, and hence did not attempt to facilitate such a meeting.

We made some updates to the Advancement and Outreach materials on the website but have not yet completed a full review.

We have been in preliminary discussion with a group that is considering discussing an application to become part of LEYM and will follow up as this discussion continues.

Submitted by the Advancement and Outreach Committee

Cassie Camman (Ann Arbor), Stephanie Charlot (Red Cedar), Valerie Groszman (Kalamazoo), Susan Hartman, Co-Clerk (Ann Arbor), Barbara LeSage, Co-Clerk (North Columbus)

Annual Report, Ministry and Nurture Committee

Summary of Responses to Annual Query

Summary of State of the Meeting Reports

Annual Report from Spiritual Formation Program

Ministry and Nurture members: Dennis Gregg, Ann Arbor and Flo Friender, Kalamazoo, Co-Convenors; Ellerie Brownfain, Broadmead, Christopher Farrand, Cleveland, Linda Szilagye, and Tom Blackwell, Recorder.

Ministry and Nurture has had a busy year. We have faithfully met by Zoom monthly, with all members present most of the time. We work well together with thoughtful, energetic enthusiasm

We discerned a Query for Meetings: “How does your Meeting assure that members and attenders receive a solid and well-rounded foundation in the religious thought, experience, and history of Friends? Does your Meeting have an ongoing religious education program? How can the Yearly Meeting assist in this?" We collected Query Responses from 13 (out of 24 total) meetings and worship groups and submitted a summary at Representatives' Meeting.

We received 17 State of the Meeting Reports and include a comprehensive summary with this report. (See below)

We have encouraged intervisitation between meetings and members have participated in seven zoom meetings other than our own. We are aware of other non-committee member intervisitations.

We have scheduled and facilitated four Clerks' Chats on Zoom for meeting clerks and an additional four zoom meetings for clerks of meeting Ministry and Worship/Counsel committees. These have been welcome points of contact for those clerks who attend and have informed the work of our committee. Discussions have ranged widely.

Our committee is involved in presenting a workshop on conflict at Annual Sessions as well as a Sharing Session on Clerking for current and potential clerks of committees and meetings on Saturday evening between 6:00 and 7:30 pm (The only time available).

We met with a member of LEYM's Financial Committee to better understand the three forms of financial help available to yearly members for further educational opportunities for spiritual growth. We awarded help to one request.

We are in communication with Advancement and Outreach Committee to further intervisitation between meetings.

We met with a Friend with an idea for a workshop at Annual Sessions about grief; Program Committee took this on.

Several of our committee members are involved with the Spiritual Formation Program and one person is on the planning committee. We are receiving an annual report from that program.

We sent out a Welcome Message from the Abington Meeting to monthly meetings to share with their members. This met with a variety of responses.

As I stated, a busy but very fruitful year. We are grateful for this opportunity to labor together.

Summary of Responses to Annual Query

Meetings responding: Ann Arbor, Athens, Birmingham, Broadmead, Cleveland, Detroit, Granville, Holland, Kalamazoo, Kent, Oberlin, Red Cedar, Wooster **A. "How does your Meeting assure that members and attenders receive a solid and well-rounded foundation in the (a) religious thought, (b) experience, the (c) practice of discernment, and the (d) history of Friends?**

Religious education in the Monthly Meetings is largely conducted primarily through:

• small group book readings;

• discussions on various topics held either before or after Meeting for Worship;

• Bible study groups;

- brochures for visitors and new attenders;
- information and links on the Monthly Meeting website;
- periodic worship sharing;
- occasional forums;
- occasional retreats.

B. Does your Meeting have an ongoing religious education program?

The description of what constitutes an ongoing religious education program varies by Meeting. In most cases, what is indicated is some form of activity described in Section A. A few Meetings indicated that they had an ongoing religious education program. The most structured of these indicated holding a six-part "newcomer session," attended on average by 10-14 newcomers, which covers Quaker history, the history of the Meeting, the testimonies, an introduction to the Meeting library, Quaker terminology, and Quaker process.

A number of Meetings indicated that they have held "Quakerism 101" classes, in the past, for new attenders, but that these have lapsed. Several Meetings are considering reinitiating these.

Most Meetings indicated that they had no adult religious education committee or committee responsible for religious education.

Religious education, in most Meetings, often appears to be at the initiative of individuals. One Meeting described their Meetings as "not hav[ing] a great sense of Quaker history" and "we tend to pour whatever we want into the Quaker 'vessel'". Smaller Meetings find it difficult to organize religious education due to their size and the limited number of new people coming in. One Meeting felt "a foundation in Quakerism is best communicated rather than taught, by exposure to the experience of respect, thoughtfulness, joy and seeking."

A number of Meetings mentioned that as a result of their considering the Annual Query a sense arose that more attention should be paid to Quaker practice, theology, history, and the varieties of Quakerism. One Meeting expressed that this Annual Query has been much on their hearts and are planning a retreat on ongoing religious education for adults. A number of Meetings, independent of considering the Query, have also come to the sense that more is needed to be done within their Meeting to cultivate a deeper understanding among Friends and attenders of the foundations of the Quaker way. One Meeting holds a bi-monthly discussion led by two Friends on "What it means to be a Quaker." One Meeting provides regular attenders with a copy of Faith and Practice (which one is not specified). Another Meeting recently purchased 30 copies of North Pacific YM's Faith & Practice. Several Meetings mentioned having a well-provided library. Most responses addressed adult education. A number also referred to their First Day School. A number of other Meetings indicated that they had no children.

C. How can the Yearly Meeting assist in this?"

A number of Meetings suggested that LEYM could offer a regular Quaker 101 online for new attenders or provide a curriculum on Quaker history and Quakerism that Monthly Meetings could use. One Meeting referred to having to reinvent educational materials and would like to have access to educational materials, both for First Day School and adult education that have been tested and refined. LEYM should publicize online presentations, discussions, or study groups open to Friends from different Monthly Meetings.

Summary of State of the Meeting Reports

The following Review is based on the reports received from the following Meetings: Akron, Ann Arbor, Athens, Birmingham, Broadmead, Cleveland, Delaware, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Kent, Mid-Ohio Valley, North Columbus, Oberlin, Red Cedar, Tustin WG, and Wooster.

General Health of Monthly Meetings

Meetings report a general uptick in attendance and interest, with several Meetings reporting growth in membership (Ann Arbor, Athens, Red Cedar, North Columbus), especially among younger adults and/or families. This has also been reflected in more participation in Meeting committees and an easier task for Nominating committees. Other Meetings report that while there is a growth in the number of visitors to meeting for worship, this does not always translate into new regular attenders or members. No Meetings

have indicated that they are struggling, although several are quite small and greying.

Several Meetings report budget surpluses.

Broadmead and Wooster hold quarterly business meetings. Oberlin meets every other month. North Columbus holds its business meetings entirely online.

Spiritual Life

Generally, Meetings report that their spiritual life is rich and healthy.

A number of Meetings have modified their worship Schedule. Ann Arbor and Red Cedar hold two meetings for worship on First Days – one of which is in person only and the other hybrid. In Ann Arbor's case, the in-person meeting for worship is the larger, at Red Cedar the reverse is true. Athens holds Sunday afternoon worship twice a month. Most other Meetings hold hybrid meetings for worship. Several smaller Meetings (Broadmead, Wooster) hold in-person worship and Zoom worship on alternating weeks. Some Meetings are still working on how to best incorporate Zoom into worship.

Most Meetings do not indicate any concern with the quality of vocal ministry, although several are actively reflecting on how to educate newer attenders on what constitutes vocal ministry. A number of Meetings begin meeting for worship with a reading. Cleveland, on a trial basis, reads from the statement on vocal ministry by Abington Friends, circulated by LEYM M&N, at the start of the first meeting for worship each month. At Grand Rapids, the clerk reads a query half-way through worship, a practice it began during Covid. Kent and Broadmead also use a reading at the start of worship to help center worship. Cleveland has also initiated inter-generational worship on the first First Day of the month with the children sitting in the center of the Meeting Room. Birmingham has a five-minute "Quaker History Moment" at the rise of Meeting.

A number of Meetings are exploring alternative settings for worship. Ann Arbor holds Meeting for Walking. Detroit is also exploring walking. North Columbus has been holding monthly meetings in the park.

A number of Meetings have spiritual formation groups and activities such as retreats (Broadmead, Kent, North Columbus, Red Cedar), spiritual companions (Ann Arbor), spiritual formation reading groups (Birmingham, Cleveland), sharing about individual spiritual journeys (Athens), and other forms of worship sharing (Akron, Athens, Cleveland, Kent). A significant number of Red Cedar Friends attended School of the Spirit retreats as did a number of North Columbus Friends.

A number of Meetings, often as a result of deaths of members, have initiated discussions about end-of-life concerns (Birmingham, Ann Arbor, Broadmead)

Meeting Life

A number of Meetings have been exploring different committee structures. At Ann Arbor, Peace & Social Action committee now operates as an umbrella for various interest groups. A number of other, usually smaller, Meetings have no committees but undertake activities as a meeting of the whole. Kalamazoo has a "helping hands" category for Friends who do not have the time to commit as a fulltime member of a committee, but who contribute when needed.

Many meetings hold regular potlucks, usually once a month, which are a welcome way to bring Friends together. A number of Meetings also hold annual picnics or periodic gatherings in Friends' houses. A number of Meetings have singing, either before or after worship, once a month or so. A Friend at Birmingham Meeting has created a game called "Spicy Talk" to engage members in the testimonies. North Columbus has been holding a quarterly breakfast, with over a dozen normally attending. Kalamazoo holds a Men's Breakfast. A number of Meetings have organized activities for young Adults (Ann Arbor, North Columbus).

Educational Activities

There are a wide range of educational activities across Meetings. Many Meetings hold pre-meeting or after meeting for worship discussions on various topics of interest to members of the Meeting. These often deal with current events, individual concerns, or topics of concern to the Meeting. Some Meetings hold regular educational activities such as Bible Study (Ann Arbor, Cleveland), Quaker history forums

(Athens), Quaker Studies (Cleveland), Quaker practice addressed to newcomers (Red Cedar).

Work in the World

Here too, Meetings or Meeting members are involved in a wide range of activities.

Red Cedar has a concern with the unhoused. A number of unhoused live around the Meeting House. The Meeting has allowed them to access water and outdoor outlets for cell phones. But there is a concern with tents being pitched around the Meeting House. The Meeting is working to provide resources for the unhoused. It has also served food. A reading group is reading about and discussing homelessness. Ann Arbor hosted a local Overnight Shelter and a Daytime Warming Centre last winter for two weeks each. Cleveland adopted a "Minute on Service to People Experiencing Poverty" and asked each committee and member to examine how they are addressing poverty. Meeting members also recently participated in the Homeless Standdown, which provided a range of services for over 500 homeless persons. Many Meetings also help prepare food for people in the community or maintain a small food pantry or donate to a larger food bank.

Many Meetings have been involved with support work for immigrants either as a Meeting or through individual Meeting members or in cooperation with other organizations (Akron, Ann Arbor, Cleveland, North Columbus, Oberlin).

A number of Meetings have participated with AFSC or FCNL activities (Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Mid-Ohio Valley, Oberlin). Oberlin Meeting raised $4,000 to send Oberlin College students to the FCNL Change Makers Weekend. Individual Friends in various Meetings are involved activities with AFSC and FCNL. Mid-Ohio Valley participated in the West Virginia Fall Gathering of Quakers.

Kalamazoo reported reviving its Peace & Social Action committee to work in conjunction with other organizations around peace. A number of Meetings have Friends involved in prison work.

Monthly Meetings have also made financial contributions to various organizations and causes such as the Ramallah Quaker school in Palestine, Negro College Fund, Education Assistance, and support for immigrant advocacy organizations. Ann Arbor has an ad hoc committee on Reparative Justice and has been involved in supporting the 339 Manumissions and Beyond Project, which researches the histories of the descendants of Black Americans who were enslaved and freed by members of Philadelphia YM as well as with Anishinaabe Nokomis Cultural Centre in Okemos, Michigan.

Several Meetings reported being involved in interfaith organizations (Broadmead, Kent).

Meeting Outreach

A few Meetings report outreach activities. Mid-Ohio Valley held an outdoor vigil "Love as Action" in Marietta, which attracted 25 participants. It also gave an Introduction to Quakerism at a Unitarian Universalist church in Marietta, which has attracted some new attenders. Akron held a Peace Day lecture at a public library. Several Meetings have improved their signage around their meeting place (Delaware, Kalamazoo). A number of Meetings have improved messages addressed to seekers on social media and on the Meeting website.

Children

Few Meetings reported having an active First Day School or on activities for children. A number of Meetings expressed their desire to be able to attract young families with children and how much children contribute to the health of a Meeting. Attracting more families and children is an active concern for many Meetings. North Columbus noted an increase in the number of children attending. Ann Arbor also has an active and growing First Day School program.

Meeting Places

Cleveland has bought a new Meeting House and is in the process of developing a remodeling plan. Grand Rapids has moved into a new space. While no rent is charged, it is making a freewill offering to the host church. North Columbus is still renting space in a local church but has found a location for a Meeting House. A design plan has been proposed.

Red Cedar rents space in its Meeting House for outside groups. Athens rents its Meeting House for the village board. Detroit is using its new building to build community relations.

Milestones

th

Cleveland Meeting held a 100Anniversary observance in September 2025, with former Meeting members and other Friends attending to share memories. Birmingham Meeting is th

observing its 60Anniversary this year (2026).

Annual Report from Spiritual Formation Program

The LEYM spiritual formation program has been thriving in spiritual depth and growing in number of participants in our retreats and in local groups. We are aware of local groups in eight of our monthly meetings. These groups are using a variety of structures to provide spiritual support for each other.

The spiritual formation year begins with a retreat in the fall and ends with a retreat in the spring.

In between the two retreats, local groups meet regularly to support each other in their spiritual life, often focusing on spiritual practices. In addition, we hold a three-hour January online session providing an opportunity for a mid-year check-in.

The theme of the fall 2025 retreat was “Where Next on my Spiritual Journey.” Michael Wajda was the facilitator with Marian Beane as his companion. Thirty-nine Friends from eight LEYM monthly meetings joined Michael and Marian for the retreat held at Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan. In preparation for the retreat, participants read the pamphlet, Shaping the Light, that contained the 2001 Southeastern Yearly Meeting’s plenary presentation given by Michael and his wife, Allison.

Michael held the following goals for the retreats:

- Help participants understand their spiritual lives more fully (faith).
- Empower their practice.
- Place their spiritual lives in the Quaker tradition.
- Equip them to work more deeply with their meetings regarding their spiritual support.
- Provide them with resources and prepare them for the work of the coming year.

Using stories and drawings, we learned more about our own spiritual journeys and those in our small groups. Deep sharing took place in our small groups and carried over into the large group sessions.

Each retreat participant received through email a booklet containing information on spiritual disciplines, group guidelines, spiritual friendships and companions, and suggested readings. Saturday evening descriptions of three different Quaker programs for spiritual growth groups were presented, including this program. The local groups then met to plan for the coming year, using the book table provided to make choices. Twenty-nine of the participants who came to the retreat were already members of the six spiritual formation groups and several spiritual companion groups throughout the yearly meeting.

On January 24, twenty-two Friends from seven LEYM monthly meeting joined Michael and Marian on Zoom for a three-hour retreat in which we briefly shared how Spirit has moved in our lives over the last few months, how our journeys were progressing, and how our groups were nurturing and supporting us.

We ended the year when eighteen Friends joined together on May 2 for the spring retreat hosted by Detroit Friends. During the retreat we considered where next we would travel on our spiritual journey, building on what we shared with each other in the fall. In small groups and in large groups, we explored the following questions: What has life, and/or the Spirit brought your way this year? What have been some spiritual growing points? What has been challenging? What kind of spiritual practice or experience is calling out to you now? All participants were invited to stay for Sunday morning worship with Detroit Friends, followed by a potluck hosted by the meeting. Sunday afternoon we were joined by Detroit and other LEYM Friends in a workshop on exploring the “secret power” among us. The workshop picked up on what Robert Barclay, 17th century Quaker publicist, named the secret power among us, exploring this power individually and together. How does it show up in our individual and corporate experiences?

What difference does it make in our lives? How might we broaden and deepen our experiences and commitment to this Inward Teacher?

Planning for the next year always begins before the current year ends. We are delighted to report that our

facilitator for the 2026-2027 year will be Steven Davidson. The theme for the year's retreat will be "Finding Our Way." The fall retreat will be held September 11-12 at the Weber Center. Brochures giving details of the retreat can be found at our table in the display area. We hope that copies of the brochure make their way to all LEYM monthly meetings. Members of the spiritual formation committee are Ellerie Brownfain, Valerie Groszmann, Barbara LeSage, Olwen Pritchard, Joel Gugnitz, Donna Rodriguez and Sally Weaver Sommer. If you are interested in serving on the planning committee, please contact one of our current members.

Publications & Archives Committee Report

Submitted by Jeff Cooper, Clerk

1. We are once again grateful to Christopher Farrand for producing informative, well-written, and visually appealing Bulletins. Thank you, Christopher.

2. Every year we strive to provide summaries of the workshops, which ultimately appear in Annual Records. This year, we have 11 workshops, only 9 of which can be covered by our committee. Last year, we asked for volunteers to cover a few workshops, and this worked out well. If you would like to write a 200 – 400-word summary of a workshop, please speak with me as soon as possible.

3. We have not fully determined how the Annual Records will be completed. This will need to be decided by the Committee continuing after Annual Meeting ends. One of our continuing members is Elise Yoder, who edited the last five Annual Records and says that is plenty. Amen and thank you, Elise! Among other continuing members, Abbey Pratt-Harrington has agreed to collect the materials for Annual Records, and Emilia Marcyk-Taylor to format the contents. This leaves the middle step of copyediting, and we're still unsure who will tackle this. One needn't be a member of the Committee, so volunteers are welcome. It appears that Peggy and I will not be moving away as soon as we initially thought, so I could probably do the copyediting one more year, but I'd be happy to turn this over to someone else. Please speak with me if you are interested.

4. With the database manager, we are proposing a new method of collecting data from monthly meetings and worship groups. This was suggested by the outgoing database manager, Susan Loucks, has been supported by the Executive Committee, and was reported at Representative Meeting. Quoting from the minutes of Representative Meeting:

Last June the Committee was charged with considering "whether we need to maintain records for all members of our constituent meetings in the LEYM database and how, if at all, their contact information should be accessible." They brought a proposal that was considered and supported by the LEYM Executive Committee at its meeting on January 9, 2026, as follows:

> *Annually, the database manager will ask Monthly Meetings for their directories in digital format and, unless otherwise requested, forward any that are received to the Friends Historical Collection at Swarthmore College and to Friends General Conference but not compile this data into a Yearly Meeting directory or add it to the database. … In keeping with LEYM's Privacy Policy, Meetings will be asked either to identify or redact names and email addresses for people under 18, so these will not be forwarded to Swarthmore or FGC.*

Please note: Rather than asking Friends at each monthly meeting to supply contact information for all of their members and regular attenders, they will be asked to provide a digital copy of their directory, from which data for the meeting's officers, committee clerks, representatives, employees, and other position holders named in Annual Records can be extracted. We believe that, by not collecting and maintaining data on all members and attenders, there will be less work for the database manager, and far less work for Friends at Monthly Meetings. Meanwhile, Friends interested in genealogy can presumably see the digital directories of specific monthly meetings at the Friends Historical Collection at Swarthmore.

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Tom Kangas, Treasurer

Presenting preliminary financial results for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 General Fund

– Revenue

a. All monthly meetings have paid their annual contribution, save for one that is in process

b. We'll get another $1K of dividend income from Friends Fiduciary investments later this month (i.e., in June)

c. Revenue for the year is where we expected it would be d. We are very grateful for all of the contributions to LEYM from MMs and from individual Friends

– Expenses

a. Contract Workers

i.Database Manager amount shown here as actual is really an estimate through end of the year

ii.Digital Communications Facilitator has billed for actual work performed through May 2026

b. Transfers between funds

i.shown here as being done for the year

ii.one potential change: if the Annual Meeting Fund doesn't end up needing this much, then this $5K subsidy in the Actual column could be decreased c. Variances—comparing actual to budget

i.There are no unfavorable variances

ii.In total, actual expenses stand today at 81% of total amount budgeted Balance Sheet

– Shows where our money is kept and related details – About 1/4 is held by a bank and 3/4 invested in a fund managed by Friends Fiduciary Corp

– Friends Fiduciary

a. Cost Basis reflects dollars invested by LEYM plus dividends earned b.Unrealized amounts reflect changes in market value of amounts invested c. The middle column, Change during the fiscal year, reflects only activity through Dec 31st

– Note ending balance of $95K; we'll look now at that $95K from a different angle Funds Summary page

Note that the total of all LEYM funds is $95K

General Fund

– The General Fund is the core fund of LEYM's finances and, as always, this body will be considering a budget to govern the use of the General Fund during these Annual Sessions – Each of the components of activity for the current year have been discussed already (e.g., income, expenditures, FFC, transfers)

– The Consultation Fund was laid down by LEYM this year and that fund's balance was transferred to the G/F

– The General Fund will likely end the year higher than its beginning balance and higher than its suggested ceiling

Annual Meeting Fund

– We see the $5K subsidy from the General Fund here

– Expense includes advance payments of 90% of total amount owed Ashland University – Income and expense data are incomplete

– The final net cost of Annual Meeting will be reported in the Fall Bulletin Travel Fund—There were expenditures related to

a. representatives attending FGC Central Comm meeting, and b. a representative attendance at a meeting of FWCC Section of the Americas Youth Activities Fund—Activity shown here pertains to the youth and families retreat in Sept 2025

Spiritual Formation Fund—Activity shown here pertains to retreat activities in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026

Ministry Scholarship Fund—Scholarship granted to assist a Friend to attend School of the Spirit

Treasurer's Summary—LEYM's finances are in good shape.

Digital Communications Facilitator 2025-26 Report

Submitted by Bill Warters

The Digital Communications Facilitator (DCF) for LEYM serves to maintain our online presence and help Friends across LEYM connect with each other via the website (leym.org), email listservs, webinars and Zoom meetings. The DCF also plays a central role in preparing for, coordinating and helping to host our Annual Meeting in Ashland, including hosting the Zoom portions of the program and managing the online registration system. This year we also provided Zoom support for the Representative Meeting hosted by Red Cedar Friends Meeting in March. While not a central focus, we also periodically post to the revived LEYM Facebook page. Look at the top right of our homepage for links to our Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/LEYMQuakers/) and to our YouTube account (https://www.youtube.com/@lakeerieyearlymeeting) where you can find archived recordings of many past events.

Here's a list of some of the specific offerings the DCF supported this year: Spiritual Companioning Coaching Sessions (March 19, May 7) Spiritual Deepening and Vital Community webinar (Feb 26) Gifts and Leadings among Friends: An Exploration webinar developed and presented by the DCF (Jan 6)

Trans Day of Remembrance Online Vigil (Nov 18)

Living Peace: Three Quakers Share webinar (Nov 5)

Praying Like Quakers webinar (Oct 9)

LEYM Spiritual Formation Mystics Group Discussion (July 17, Oct 16, Jan 15) What Does It Mean to be Quaker? - promoted wider access to AAFM's regular Zoom offering for Friends exploring Quakerism

Hosted 3-part Peace and Justice Book Discussion entitled Kind, Connected & Unafraid exploring The Dandelion Insurrection: Love and Revolution by Rivera Sun. Developed and facilitated by the DCF. (July 29, Aug 5, Aug 12)

Website Traffic

Our website continues to attract a growing amount of traffic, currently at around 9000 unique visitors per month, although it is increasingly hard to tell which traffic is human and which is driven by search engine and ai bots. [See below for Website Traffic]

The website requires regular attention, and this past year we stepped up our security features, moving to a two-factor authentication model and a new firewall to help strengthen protection against malicious actors. We also implemented a new "staging site" where significant design changes could be tested before being pushed to the public site. This may be important in the coming year, as the website theme and underlying structure of our site, while still fully functional, is no longer being supported by the original developer, leading to problems over time. Thus, we may need to consider some renovations that could break some things without careful testing.

Distribution of Billed Activity Hours

We use a time-tracking app set to record 10-minute intervals, designed to track quick website updates and other small tasks that accumulate over time. Most committee meetings that the DCF attended in a dual (volunteer and attending in my role as DCF) capacity were not included for billing. We changed time-tracking tools in January when the prior tool was no longer supported, so some changes make combining the category totals tricky. But as an estimate, the time billed to LEYM from June 1, 2025 – June 1, 2025, was between 160-170 hours, similar to last year, distributed as follows:

- Annual Sessions Work 46%
- Website Updates 30%
- Zoom-related 12%
- Email 6%
- Research Reporting 4%

- Social Media 1%
- Phone 1%

Special Creative Projects

This past year, Bill was on a roll creating a number of unique online resources specific to Quakers that are now hosted on the LEYM website. Aside from the video browser requested by the Advancement & Outreach Committee, these projects were all developed on his own time.

Specific offerings, not yet well advertised, include: Get to Know LEYM Meetings video browser for LEYM Annual 2026 LEYM Advices and Queries Browser drawing on our 2012 LEYM Advices and Queries booklet (https://tools.leym.org/leymqueries/)

Interactive Quaker Peace Testimony History Timeline (https://leym.org/peace-testimony-history/) Gifts and Leadings Discernment Helper (https://tools.leym.org/gifts/) Quaker Spicy Talk pass-and-play mobile game for hosting discussions on the Quaker Testimonies (https://tools.leym.org/spicytalk/)

On Friendly Terms Quaker Wordsearch game (https://leym.org/on-friendly-terms-wordsearch-puzzle/)

Navigating Conflict in Quaker Meetings online learning resource (under review before public release)

Looking Forward

A number of issues are being explored for the coming year, including thinking about practical ways to ensure a smooth transition of the website and digital resources if the current DCF is incapacitated or moves on to another position. Based on some inquiries from committee clerks, we are also exploring the possibility of creating a set of shared digital tools for all LEYM committees, making the transition from one set of clerks to another more seamless, while

LEYM.ORG Website Traffic



maintaining committee documents and offering integrated email listservs for each working group. One very practical possibility would be to subscribe to a Quaker Meetings Network meeting support site with each committee having their own subsite, which would also enable us to consolidate our email listserv (now hosted by electricembers) under one service. Further discernment will be required.

Reports from Representatives to Quaker Organizations Presented During Annual Sessions:

YM 2026-29 Friends Peace Teams Report

YM 2026-32 Friends General Conference Report for 2025-26 YM 2026-33 FWCC Report for 2025-2026

Friends Peace Teams Report

Submitted by Cassie Cammann

Friends Peace Teams is a Spirit Led Organization of a network of Quaker volunteers, working and supporting Justice and Peace work around the world. In 1999, Quaker volunteers took the practices of AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) out of prisons and into the communities of Aceh, Burundi and Rwanda. They developed an AVP advanced topics series for justice and peace in the community. They

called the work they were doing Friends Peace Teams.

In the past three years we have worked to transform Friends Peace Teams from a group of Quakers in the United States offering support to the global majority regions of the world into a "Decolonized Organization" of five equal regions in the world (Asia West Pacific, African Great Lakes, Peacebuilding en las Américas including Central and South America, Europe and Middle East, and North America). The leadership is now shared amongst all five regions! This is a significant and exciting transformation!

Today, we have the newly appointed Regional Coordinator of the North American Region of Friends Peace Teams here to tell us a bit more about the work of Friends Peace Teams. Melanie Siaw grew up in Malaysia and is currently living in Pittsburgh. She has been an attender at Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting and is attending our LEYM for the first time. This afternoon she will be co-leading a workshop about revitalizing the anti-war movement in the local community with the clerk of our Justice and Peace Committee, Claire Cohen, and the clerk of Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, Michael James. Melanie will speak for one or two minutes about the work of FPT, and will also introduce Jackson Napier, who spent time with FPT in Ukraine last October. I now have a few asks of you:

1-Please realize that Friends Peace Teams is "all of us" who wish to build justice and peace! If you wish to get involved with peace work in the world, you are welcome! Please get to know us:

A) Read and share our news online: at friendspeaceteams.org. If you are so moved, you are invited to copy any article and reprint it into your meeting's Monthly Newsletter. B) Attend a Monthly Regional Meeting on Zoom! This is how I got involved; I attended Asia West Pacific for a year before I did anything but listen.

C) Volunteer at the organizational level. We need Clerks, AVP trainers, peace workers (bring your own peace work and work with us.) We need people to personally support one Peace Worker by helping them write up their news, (many of them are not native English speakers). We need help with Power of Goodness (mini AVP workshops using stories and AVP techniques to introduce people to AVP).

D) Volunteer as the representative to FPT. From LEYM! Don Buckingham had to step down from this role, due to illness and his commitment to AVP work. I have stepped in for the time being, but we need an official LEYM representative to Friends Peace Teams! Might it be you? 2-Donate to support this work. I am asking LEYM to consider making an annual pledge of support at the Yearly Meeting level. The act of support is key. Any amount will be very much appreciated. Ongoing support is essential for the funding of our new regional Coordinators. This year we have established Regional Coordinators in both North America, and Europe Middle East. This is another act of equality within the organization.

If you want to know more about the work of Friends Peace Teams, please ask any of the three of us, and/or sit with us on Saturday Lunch at our FPT table! Check out our display in the Alumnae Room, and If you are able, and take a packet of bookmarks back to share with your Monthly Meeting.

Remember, peace is possible!!

Friends General Conference Report for 2025-26

Submitted by Ellerie Brownfain

This has been a year for big changes at Friends General Conference. For this verbal report I am highlighting a few.

Changes in Governance

FGC adopted a new governance structure in October 2025 after nearly two years of discernment. A Governing Board replaces the Executive Committee, and a Representatives Council replaces Central Committee. Each yearly meeting now names two representatives regardless of size, making participation simpler and more equitable. Friends may also serve on program committees without holding a representative role. Marvin Barnes of LEYM has served as Presiding Clerk for six years. Melissa Rycroft of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has been named Rising Presiding Clerk and will assume the role later in 2026.

Staff Transitions and Restructuring

Two beloved long-serving staff members retired. Vanessa Julye concluded 30 years of service and was

the architect of the Ministry on Racism. In her honor, over 80 Friends raised $20,000 for the new Vanessa Julye Fund within months of its launch. Liz Dykes, the heart of Gathering planning and coordination, also retired. These retirements coincided with a planned staff reduction as campaign-funded positions concluded.

The 2026 Gathering

The in-person Gathering is themed “A Window and a Door: A Prayer” and will be held July 7 through 12 2026 at the University of Vermont in Burlington. The theme is drawn from a poem by LVM Shelton who passed away in early 2025 and was a beloved Gathering workshop facilitator deeply connected to the Friends of Color community. Keynote speakers include Bryan Stevenson and Kazu Haga. Workshops this year run for four days rather than five reflecting a commitment to a simpler and more sustainable format.

Other Programs

The Spiritual Deepening Program offers online eRetreats throughout the year. Each runs four weeks and is led by a seasoned facilitator. Topics include Silence and Light, Living into Wholeness, and Understanding and Healing White Supremacy. The suggested fee is $35 to $45 per participant on a pay as led basis open to Friends of all means. As a participant in these eRetreats I can say from experience that they have greatly enriched my spiritual life. The Ministry on Racism continues its regular programming. It hosts weekly virtual worship and online retreats specifically for Friends of Color as well as separate worship spaces for white Friends confronting racism and white supremacy. In November 2025 it hosted its Fall Online Retreat for Friends of Color. A 2026 community read of Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship was launched in honor of Vanessa Julye’s retirement and is supported by the Vanessa Julye Fund. I am participating and encourage others to explore this opportunity.

QuakerPress publishes books for seekers, scholars, and everyday Friends alike. QuakerBooks is available online and in person at the Gathering. A new Outreach and Visibility Committee was newly formed with the hope of sharing the Quaker faith more widely. We hope our communications will be clear, welcoming, and true to our values.

Litigation

Friends General Conference joined an interfaith coalition challenging a federal executive order that removed protections for houses of worship from ICE enforcement. The case is ongoing and General Secretary Barry Crossno traveled to Washington in February 2026 for the appeal hearing. The legal team is taking the case for free. For more information, please contact Friends General Conference at fgcquaker.org.

Public Witness

In our ongoing commitment to public witness we stood with transgender, intersex, and nonbinary Friends on Transgender Day of Remembrance. In April 2026 we offered listening sessions to gather community input on a potential Lily Grant application. If received this grant would help us serve a broader and more diverse community of Friends.

A Note on Stewardship

This organization depends on the generosity of meetings and individuals to sustain all of this work. Donations support our programs and the Annual Fund is the single largest source of contributions. A young person may find their spiritual home at the Gathering. A Friend may deepen their practice through an eRetreat. A meeting may learn to become more welcoming. These programs touch our lives.

If the work on anti-racism has touched your life or your meeting’s life, please consider a gift to the Vanessa Julye Fund. If the Gathering has ever meant something to you, please consider giving in honor of Liz Dykes who devoted her career to making it a home in so many Friends’ hearts. Donations may go to specific funds or the general operating budget. We encourage all Friends to read about giving at fgcquaker.org.

FWCC Report 2025-2026

Submitted by Ellerie Brownfain

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.