

Table of Contents

To go directly to a topic, click on it. If that does not work, try Ctrl+click.
Otherwise, page down.

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

- RM04-3-1 Welcome
- RM04-3-2 Committee reports vs. information
- RM04-3-3 Break of meeting
- RM04-3-4 Worship & Epistle from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
- RM04-3-5 Roll Call
- RM04-3-6 Death of Ralph Liske
- RM04-3-7 Executive Committee Report
- RM04-3-8 Plans for Yearly Meeting
- RM04-3-9 No report from Youth & Children Committee
- RM04-3-10 Arrangements & Site Committee report
- RM04-3-11 Advancement & Outreach Committee Report
- RM04-3-12 Report on FWCC Triennial in New Zealand
- RM04-3-13 Earthcare Committee of Concern Report
- RM04-3-15 Finance Committee Report
- RM04-3-16 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report
- RM04-3-17 Peace Committee Report
- RM04-3-18 African Great Lakes Initiative
- RM04-3-19 National Campaign for Peace Tax Fund
- RM04-3-20 Nominating Committee matters
- RM04-3-21 Publications & Archives Committee Report
- RM04-3-22 New description of LEYM for FWCC
- RM04-3-23 Fall Gatherings
- RM04-3-24 YoungQuakes
- RM04-3-25 FGC Religious Educators Institute
- RM04-3-26 Closing worship

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 community, 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	Kalamazoo	3
Ann Arbor	8	Kent	3
Athens	4	Mid-Ohio Val.	0
Birmingham	3	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	14	N. Columbus	4
Cleveland	1	Oberlin	3
Delaware	0	Pine River	4
Detroit	0	Pittsburgh	6
Grand Rapids	0	Red Cedar	0
Granville	2	Wooster	3

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

Albion	0	Manitou	0
Erie	1	Rio Grande	0
Fremont	0	Rock Road	0
Holland	0	Sidney	0
Indiana	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 prohibit 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 appreciates 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 <<http://leym.quaker.org>>, 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.