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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 Columbus 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 Wartens, 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 Temple 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	<u>00.00</u>	<u>3,100.00</u>	<u>3,081.45</u>	<u>18.55</u>
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	<u>\$30,587.78</u>	<u>26,066.81</u>	<u>35,603.87</u>	<u>\$21,050.72</u>
Totals	\$40,574.41	\$26,875.83	\$35,775.93	\$31,674.31

Treasurer's Report
February 24, 2008

General Fund - Income

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
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	<u>\$136.96</u>
Totals	\$20,985.96

Treasurer's Report February 24, 2008

General Fund - Expenses

(* = transfers)	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Percent</u>
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*	<u> </u>	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u> </u>
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		<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Income		\$6,516.87
Expenses - Grants		\$0.00
Expense - Youth Retreat		<u>\$325.00</u>
Total Expenses		\$325.00
Balance	Feb. 24, 2008	\$6,191.87

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
 REPRESENTATIVE MEETING 3/1/08

High School Youth Program

<u>Income</u>	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		<u>\$2,505.00</u>
Total Income		\$6,898.02
Expenses		<u>\$2,089.02</u>
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