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Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Representative Meeting March 7, 2009 Hosted by Cleveland Friends Meeting

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.

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE MEETING 3/7/09

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	<u>6,010.60</u>	<u>172.41</u>	<u>172.41</u>	<u>6,010.60</u>
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	<u>\$36,786.18</u>	<u>15,081.00</u>	<u>28,378.72</u>	<u>\$23,488.46</u>
Totals	\$47,457.42	\$15,365.14	\$28,551.13	\$34,271.43

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE MEETING 3/7/09

General Fund - Income

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
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

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE MEETING 3/7/09

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*	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>100%</u>
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

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE MEETING 3/7/09

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

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE MEETING 3/7/09

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
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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:
 - o 16 people participated. Connie Lezenby and Mickey Edgeton of Gwynedd Meeting (PYM) led the retreat.
 - o The theme was "Grounding our Spirituality in Nature: Strengthening our Connections with the Source of Nourishment and Refreshment."
 - o 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