

## Table of Contents

All written reports referenced are appended to these minutes.

### **Minutes of LEYM Representative Meeting March 6, 2010**

#### *Morning Session*

- RM10 - 1 Opening Worship, Reading of Epistle from Southeastern Yearly Meeting
- RM10 - 2 Welcome & Athens Hosts

#### *Afternoon Session*

- RM10 – 3 Reading from Epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
- RM10 – 4 Roll Call
- RM10 - 5 Guidelines for Conduct in Business Meeting
- RM10 - 6 Executive Committee Report
- RM10 - 7 Clerk's Report
- RM10 - 8 Friends General Conference Gathering
- RM10 - 9 Publications & Archives Committee
- RM10 - 10 Treasurer's Report
- RM10 - 11 Finance Committee
- RM10 - 12 Advancement & Outreach Committee
- RM10 - 13 Adult Program Sub-committee
- RM10 - 14 Arrangement & Site Sub-committee
- RM10 - 15 Youth & Children Program Sub-committee
- RM10 - 16 The High School Youth Program Committee
- RM10 - 17 Ad Hoc Committee on Young Friends
- RM10 - 18 Ad Hoc Committee on *Policies and Procedures*
- RM10 - 19 Ministry and Nurture
- RM10 - 20 Nominating Committee
- RM10 - 21 Peace Committee
- RM10 - 22 Friends Committee on National Legislation
- RM10 - 23 Ad Hoc Committee on Queries
- RM10 - 24 Earthcare
- RM10 - 25 Naming Committee
- RM10 - 26 Minute of Appreciation for Athens Monthly Meeting

### **Committee Reports**

- Finance Committee
- Committee on Ministry & Nurture
  - Consolidated Response to Annual LEYM Query

## Minutes of LEYM 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	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,997.11</b>	<b>\$26,459.76</b>	<b>\$9,340.00</b>	<b>\$34,547.19</b>	<b>\$44,249.68</b>

\*These moneys are held in our checking. We do the accounting. We also subsidize them.

#### General Fund Income

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$20,908.34</b>

#### General Fund - Expenses

(* subsidy from General Fund)	Budget	Actual	Budget %
Travel	\$6,500.00	\$4,595.59	71%
Office	\$300.00	\$37.15	12%

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES  
REPRESENTATIVE MEETING 3/6/10

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	<u>\$600.00</u>	<u>\$600.00</u>	100%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$31,320.00</b>	<b>\$27,274.39</b>	<b>87%</b>

In-Kind (Travel)	\$374.95
In-Kind (Office)	\$32.06
In-Kind (Children's Retreat)	<u>\$180.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$587.01</b>

	<b>Checking</b>	<b>CD</b>	<b>Total</b>		
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

<b>CDs - Shorebank</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Close</b>	
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	<u>\$2,373.95</u>	<u>\$35.73</u>		<u>\$2,409.68</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,855.19</b>	<b>\$10,225.71</b>	<b>\$106.06</b>	<b>\$20,974.84</b>	

<b>Funds Total:</b>	<b>\$44,249.68</b>
<b>CD Total:</b>	<b>\$20,974.84</b>
<b>Checking Total:</b>	<b>\$23,274.84</b>

**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.



LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES  
REPRESENTATIVE MEETING 3/6/10

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.