

Table of Contents

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

July 28 - 31, 2011

Bluffton University

Thursday Evening Session

- YM11 - 1 Opening Worship, Reading of Epistle from Great Plains Yearly Meeting
- YM11 - 2 Introduction of Clerks
- YM11 - 3 Calling of the Roll
- YM11 - 4 Welcome and introduction of visitors, guests, and newcomers
- YM11 - 5 Epistle Committee
- YM11 - 6 Memorials
- YM11 - 7 Naming Committee
- YM11 - 8 Announcements
- YM11 - 9 Worship and memorial

Friday Morning Session

- YM11 - 10 Worship and Reading of Epistle from Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns
- YM11 - 11 Additional visitors and newcomers
- YM11 - 12 Ad Hoc Committee on Advices and Queries
Ad Hoc Committee on Advices and Queries Report
- YM11 - 13 Publications & Archives
Publications & Archives Committee Report
- YM11 - 14 Ad hoc Committee on Policies & Procedures
Ad Hoc Committee on Revising *Policies and Procedures* Report

Friday Afternoon Session

- YM11 - 15 Worship and Reading of the Epistle from the 2010 Ramallah Friends Meeting Consultation
- YM11 - 16 Nominating Committee
- YM11 - 16 Friends General Conference
Friends General Conference Report
- YM11 - 17 Treasurer's Report:
- YM11 - 18 Finance Committee
Finance Committee Report

Saturday Morning Session

- YM11 - 19 Worship and Reading of the Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting
- YM11 - 20 Welcome of newcomer
- YM11 - 21 Clerk's Report
Clerk's Report
- YM11 - 22 Peace Committee
Peace Committee Report
- YM11 - 23 Earthcare Committee

- Earthcare Committee Report
- Report of Quaker Earthcare Witness Work since April Steering Cmt. Meeting
- YM11 - 24 Ad Hoc Committee on Advices and Queries
- YM11 - 25 Naming Committee
- YM11 - 26 Announcements
- YM11 - 27 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM)

Saturday Afternoon Session

- YM11 - 28 Worship and Reading of Epistle from Junior Young Friends of Intermountain Yearly Meeting
- YM11 - 29 Ministry & Nurture
 - Ministry & Nurture Committee Report
 - State of the Meeting Reports
 - Query for 2011
- YM11 - 30 Advancement & Outreach
 - Advancement & Outreach Committee Report
- YM11 - 31 Adult Young Friends
- YM11 - 32 High School Teen Retreat Program Coordinator
- Minute of Appreciation for Cari Burke
- YM11 - 33 Youth & Children Program
 - Youth & Children Program Report
- YM11 - 34 American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
- YM11 - 35 Peace Committee
- LEYM Minute Against Torture
- YM11 - 36 Olney Friends School
 - Olney Friends School Report
- YM11 - 37 American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
 - American Friends Service Committee Report
- YM11 - 38 Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)
 - Friends World Committee for Consultation Report

Sunday Morning Session

- YM11 - 39 Worship
- YM11 - 40 Welcome of visitor
- YM11 - 41 Finance Committee (final budget presentation)
- YM11 - 42 Nominating Committee
- YM11 - 43 Arrangements and Site final tally
- YM11 - 44 Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
 - Friends Committee on National Legislation Report
- YM11 - 45 Reports, epistles, and introductions from our young people
- YM11 - 46 Yearly Meeting Epistle
- YM11 - 47 Adult Young Friends Epistle
- YM11 - 48 Traveling Minute for Jerry Knutson
- YM11 - 49 Minute of Appreciation
 - Guidelines for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting 48th Annual Sessions July 28 - 31, 2011 Bluffton University

Thursday Evening Session

YM11 - 1 Opening Worship, Reading of Epistle from Great Plains Yearly Meeting

Friends gathered at the appointed time and began the 48th annual sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with worship. The assistant clerk, Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), read the epistle from Great Plains Yearly Meeting, dated 3-5, Sixth Month 2011. The epistle emphasized the diversity of the meeting, and that Friends find their way through differences in ethnicity, theology, and age to unity in the Spirit of Christ, which helps them rediscover and clarify their sense of purpose. They remind us that we are called into deepening faith and are led into action for social justice and the testimonies.

YM11 - 2 Introduction of Clerks

Friend Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) introduced the clerks' table: Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), assistant clerk; Peter Wood (Red Cedar), interim recording clerk; and herself as presiding clerk. Merry and Peter will collaborate on recording for these sessions, due to his arm injury. Peggy then drew attention to the guidelines for meeting for worship with attention to business.

YM11 - 3 Calling of the Roll

The calling of the roll of Friends from constituent meetings and groups provided the following count (corrected against registrations):

<u>Monthly Meetings</u>			
Akron	2	Holland	0
Ann Arbor	17	Kalamazoo	8
Athens	8	Kent	1
Birmingham	5	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Broadmead	22	North Columbus	9
Cleveland	17	Oberlin	2
Delaware	0	Pine River	4
Detroit	8	Pittsburgh	8
Grand Rapids	8	Red Cedar	7
Granville	2	Wooster	5

<u>Worship Groups</u>	
Erie	1

<u>Visitors</u>
5

Total in Attendance: 139

YM11 - 4 Welcome and introduction of visitors, guests, and newcomers

Our clerk welcomed visitors, guests, and newcomers, who introduced themselves: Scot Miller (Grand Rapids), Michael and Carmen Kelly (Detroit), Kathryn Sitter (Pittsburgh), Samuel Hays (Detroit). We

welcomed a visitor, Deanna Boyd, Stony Run Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, who is representing Friends Committee on National Legislation.

YM11 - 5 Epistle Committee

The clerk explained the nature of a yearly meeting epistle and asked for volunteers to help the assistant clerk write this year's epistle. The assistant clerk, Merry Stanford, suggested that the epistle emphasize the spiritual tenor of the yearly meeting. Paula Deming (North Columbus) and Scot Miller (Grand Rapids) volunteered to serve.

YM11 - 6 Memorials

The clerk invited Friends into worship, to share about and witness to the lives of Friends who have passed on in the last year.

- a. Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) read portions of the Memorial Minute for Carolyn Diem. Throughout her life, Carolyn was a socially and politically active Friend. She engaged in civil disobedience in witness to government militarism and violence. She had been seriously ill for a long period of time. Near the end of her life she felt a deep message arising in her: "The killing must stop!" The full memorial minute was made available for to read.
- b. Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) read the Memorial Minute for Wallace Cayard, who died at age 89 from the effects of Parkinson's disease. Active in service to Friends, he was dedicated to working for peace and justice. A scholar of the Old and New Testaments, he was led from an academic study of the historical Jesus to a personal relationship with Jesus, based on Jesus' message of love, compassion, and peace on earth.
- c. Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) shared that Friend Dorothy Bowers had died during the past year. Joe also spoke about Lucile Patrick, who had left instructions that she did not want to be memorialized. Kalamazoo Meeting set aside time during their Meeting for Worship for a "non-memorial meeting," in which they considered the meanings of memory and memorial in relation to departed Friends.
- d. Connie Bimber (Oberlin) shared that Jack Brown died in February 2011. He had moved to Kendal from the Philadelphia area. Although suffering from Alzheimer's, he never missed Meeting for Worship. His wife, Katy, remains active in the meeting. Connie also spoke about Bob Smith, a regular attender of the meeting, as a wonderful contributor to their community. Russ Bimber shared that Bob built the equipment of the country's first public television station, WGTE, and was a station manager. He was a valued member of Oberlin Meeting and the Kendal community.

YM11 - 7 Naming Committee

Don Nagler (Pine River) and Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh) served. Don reported that Thomas Taylor and Mathilda Navias were led to be renominated to Nominating Committee, with Thomas Taylor serving as clerk. Meeting approved these names.

YM11 - 8 Announcements

Various announcements related to this gathering were shared with Friends.

YM11 - 9 Worship and memorial

Our business concluded, the clerk invited us to continue in worship for a while longer. Ministry was offered by Michael Fuson (Granville) regarding Larry Arnold, an attender of his meeting, who died this year, and attended Annual Meeting only once. Larry ran a bike and skateboard shop, which was a ministry to a group of troubled kids. He showed them that their lives had meaning for him. At his memorial service, a woman in her 40s shared how she had walked, as a rebellious teenager, into the shop where Larry invited her to learn to be a bike mechanic. It changed her life. Larry Arnold's life was a ministry to the youth of Zanesville, Ohio. (This recording of ministry is unusual, and some Friends voiced concern, though they did not object to recording this minute, given in the spirit of the other memorial

minutes.)

Friday Morning Session

YM11 - 10 Worship and Reading of Epistle from Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns

Out of our opening worship, we heard the epistle from the 2011 mid-winter gathering of the Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns. The theme of this gathering was “Reclaiming Our Past; Proclaiming Our Future.” Friends attending considered their commitment to radical inclusion and radical love. The power of radical love had been transformative for many, drawing the community to attend to both safety and integrity, to finding language that will embody the community’s commitment to practices of radical love and inclusion.

YM11 - 11 Additional visitors and newcomers

We welcomed additional visitors and newcomers: Natalie Holbrook (Ann Arbor, American Friends Service Committee representative), George Hebben and Helen Hebben (Kalamazoo), Dixie Rosendall (Grand Rapids), Beverly Kirk Shull (Olney Friends School).

YM11 - 12 Ad Hoc Committee on Advices and Queries

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) shared the history of the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee. He then reported on changes made in the second draft in response to reactions from monthly meetings (18 out of 21 responded) and individuals. The second draft did not entail drastic changes to the first and has been available on the LEYM website since July 17. Changes were mainly in wording and pronoun use. Thomas reported that the exercise of considering these advices and queries has clearly been stimulating to many Friends.

The focus is now on Section 2, the Advices and Queries themselves, which will come before the annual sessions for consideration. An interest group will be available at these sessions to consider further input. The draft will be brought for consideration at Saturday’s business session. The full report follows:

Ad Hoc Committee on Advices and Queries Report

The committee was appointed by then YM Clerk Merry Stanford in the Autumn of 2008 and has consisted of Ellen Barnes (Birmingham), Raelyn Joyce (Kalamazoo), Josephine Posti (Pittsburgh), David Snyder (Oberlin), and Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), clerk. It began its work in February 2009, running workshops on A&Q during the last two YMs, meeting together under God’s guidance face to face and through conference calls, and producing a draft in May 2010, which meetings and individuals have had to work with and respond to during the course of a year. This process included the M&N Queries for 2010 on the topic of Queries and this draft, in particular.

We have received many helpful responses from most of the meetings and several individual Friends. So there has been plenty of chance to season the material and for the YM to come to a sense of ownership of this booklet. Since four of the meetings liked the booklet and were happy to have it left just as it was, and most of the others suggested only minor edits, we did not feel led to undertake major changes. This second draft, dated July 2011, is the result of the committee’s discernment from all the advice received. MM clerks were sent copies of the draft in mid June, and it has been available on the LEYM website: (leym.quaker.org/News/leymnews.html).

What is new in the second draft? A number of significant changes in text have been incorporated and the queries are now mostly in the first person - “we” or “I.” Many of the suggestions reinforced each other, and a few cancelled each other out. Clearly, this is not the last word in LEYM Advices and Queries: some suggestions indicated the need for an expansion in each of the subject areas. The Earthcare Committee has already done what may be a first draft of Earthcare Advices & Queries, and one meeting has suggested that the Young Friends and Children might profitably write their own advices and queries. This

is only the beginning of an on-going process.

The booklet is in four sections. We ask for approval of Section 2, the Advices & Queries. Sections 1, 3, and 4 are open for edits and suggested changes in content, but we hope that, in its discussion on Saturday, Friends will focus on the actual Advices & Queries.

The four sections are:

1. An Introduction consisting of a short history, purposes, and uses of advices and queries.
2. The Advices & Queries themselves - now reduced to only 67 in number and the topics slightly rearranged. This is the section (pp. 5-19) that the meeting is asked to approve.
3. An Afterword, covering something of the tradition of annual queries in LEYM, the process of developing this set, and some thoughts on issues raised by meetings. This includes an appendix with the response from Cleveland Meeting and the model advices and queries they proposed. The ad hoc committee seeks advice from Friends as to whether this section (or parts of it) should appear in the final booklet.
4. Resources

An Advices & Queries Interest Group has been scheduled for this afternoon at 4:15 to discuss the new draft, to ask questions, to clarify, to suggest, and to give the advice mentioned above regarding Sections 1, 3 and 4.

The actual text of the advices and queries will come before the meeting for further discussion, discernment, and approval in our business session on Saturday morning.

Thank you.

YM11 - 13 Publications & Archives

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) presented a written report. Approval is sought for a potential change in the LEYM website, which involves a change in the supportive software to allow for on-line editing by multiple users. Bill Warters would provide guidance to new users. We would need to change the domain name, and there would be small charges (less than \$50 per year) to maintain the website as ad-free. The meeting approves the change and the associated costs. In addition, the 2011 Annual Records will be put together by Rosemary, with mailing duties handled by Eric Starbuck. Friends should send any inclusions to Rosemary by the end of August. Finally, we are reminded that archived materials from monthly meetings should be sent in yearly packets to Swarthmore College Historical Library, not piecemeal. The full report follows:

Publications & Archives Committee Report

Publications & Archives Committee has several items of information, but just one requiring approval by the Meeting for Business. So we'll begin with that one, which has to do with the Yearly Meeting website. Bill Warters, who has been our webmaster for the past six years or so, is ready to pass on the responsibility to someone new, as was indicated in Minute 36 of last year's annual sessions. It happens, however, that the software he has been using to update the website is not easily transferred to someone else. He suggests that we move to a new, free server called wordpress.com, which has something called "dynamic scripting," allowing for online editing. The site provides 3 gigabytes of storage, though more can be purchased if needed. Up to 35 users - that is, all our officers and committee clerks and then some - can update information at no extra charge. Bill is willing to provide guidance for users on how to do this.

There are some additional services that do have an annual charge. One is for changing the domain name wordpress.com to something we choose ourselves, for example, leym.org, which means that LEYM-specific addresses would also be available. Having our own domain name would cost \$12-\$17 per year. Another service would make sure the site remains ad-free, at a cost of \$30/year. In sum, for less than \$50 per year we could have our own domain name and make sure there is no commercial advertising on our

site. We have checked with Finance Committee, which seems comfortable including this amount in the appropriations for Publications & Archives. Do we have the Meeting's approval?

Secondly, with regard to the 2011 Annual Records, Rosemary Coffey will be putting the booklet together this year and Friend Eric Starbuck will help with the mailing. I am reminding us all that any documents to be included in the booklet should be sent to rosemarycoffey@aol.com by the end of August - that is, 4 weeks from the close of this meeting. Rosemary will work on it during the month of September and plan to have copies in your hands within a week or two after that. She will let your Meetings know soon if she does not have your State of the Meeting reports, most of which have already been forwarded, and would also like to urge you to see that your Meetings send her obituaries or memorial minutes for members who have died, even if they were not mentioned at yesterday's meeting.

Finally, this is just a reminder about sending Meeting documents to be archived at Swarthmore College. The Historical Library there would love to have your newsletters, minutes, and other memorabilia sent to them once a year, in a nice neat little packet, rather than piecemeal, as somebody happens to think about it. Maybe it could be scheduled at a regular time, such as at the close of the Meeting's fiscal year.

YM11 - 14 Ad hoc Committee on Policies & Procedures

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported. Jeff presented the newly revised Policies & Procedures document for consideration. He outlined the history of the revision process and the goals of the Ad hoc Committee. The committee looked at recent Yearly Meeting decisions facilitating communication, at how the Yearly Meeting conducts business, and at ways of using clearer and more direct language.

Monthly meetings have had the proposed changes since April 2011, and suggestions and responses have been incorporated into a final draft. Jeff outlined a way that the Recording Clerk, in consultation with the Presiding Clerk, can keep the P&P document up-to-date. During discussion, a change on page 17 (2-B-4) was proposed and accepted re the timing of the annual meetings of Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Friends approved the revised Policies and Procedures document, with thanks to the Ad hoc Committee for its work. Friends who wish to have their own copies can print them as PDF files from the website and seek monthly meeting assistance in this where needed. The full report follows:

Ad Hoc Committee on Revising *Policies and Procedures* Report

Today we ask you to consider what we hope is the final draft of a revised Policies and Procedures manual for our Yearly Meeting. The history of this revision will be familiar to those of you who regularly attend our business sessions. The report presented at Annual Sessions a year ago summarized the formation of the ad hoc committee - Rosemary Coffey, Mathilda Navias, Joe Mills, and Jeff Cooper - in spring 2009, our discernment of what needed revising, and the work we undertook during our first year.

Before continuing that history, I want to remind Friends that the introduction to the draft lists four goals of this revision. Most important is bringing the individual policies and procedures up to date by reflecting recent decisions of the Yearly Meeting as well as current practice (though frequently we asked ourselves and others whether "current practice" represented an improvement or a straying away from some worthy but forgotten purpose.)

A second goal is facilitating access to information in various ways: moving contents under headings where we believe users are most likely to seek specific answers, placing items in a more apparent order (for example, arranging committees alpha-betically), and adding cross references and an index (which, as the revision process continued, I have consulted frequently). Related to this was a decision we made at last year's annual meeting: to organize the contents in an entirely different structure, specifically into four chapters titled Constituency, Governance, Organization, and Operations, which trace a path from who we are to how we make decisions; the roles of officers, other individuals with specific tasks, and committees;

and financial policy as well as publications and information sources.

Supporting this goal of facilitating access is a third goal, focusing on how LEYM conducts business. To accomplish this, we removed from the main text contents in the previous edition that address other topics. In particular, text on officers and committees of monthly meetings and on individual membership in the Religious Society of Friends was deleted from the text but preserved in Appendix G, with the thought that, should LEYM ever decide to create its own Faith and Practice, we would not lose sight of policy once approved by the Yearly Meeting expressing expectations of its constituent monthly meetings and explaining aspects of membership.

The fourth major goal is using clearer, more direct language and avoiding unnecessary repetition. The reader is expected to understand that our streamlined present-tense sentences describe what should happen (though we do not pretend that this ideal is always achieved).

A year ago we outlined a schedule leading up to this meeting, and we have managed to follow it fairly closely. Much of the autumn was spent determining how our content best fit into the new structure, though we continued the iterative process of rewriting, sharing, suggesting possible improvements, weighing these, and rewriting again.

In February a draft of this new edition of Policies and Procedures was circulated by email to meetings and worship groups as well as the Yearly Meeting Executive Committee and others, with an invitation to share it with interested Friends and to “explore it, test it, and think about how it might be improved.” Accompanying that draft was a seven-page list of notable changes. Our original plan was to consider Friends’ comments on this draft at Representative Meeting, but so few had been received by then that the deadline was extended to June 1; meanwhile, printed copies of this draft and the list of changes were sent home with Friends from each monthly meeting represented at Representative Meeting, and mailed to others.

Subsequently many helpful suggestions arrived, and we have incorporated most of them in the so-called final draft, which was again sent as an email document to meetings and worship groups as well as members of the Executive Committee at the beginning of this month, and eventually posted on the website. These later changes (those made since Representative Meeting) are printed in red. Among them was the addition of a new appendix (Appendix E), a document we were previously unaware of, which presents “Guidelines Regarding Honoraria and Expenses for Annual Gatherings.”

We have received no comments on this last draft, and so bring it for your consideration today with the hope that it presents the policies and procedures of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting accurately as of July 2011 - at least up to the beginning of these annual sessions. One of the policies herein specifies that the recording clerk has the responsibility to review Policies and Procedures annually and, after consulting with the presiding clerk, incorporate changes called for by actions taken at annual sessions. (Our committee would be willing to help the recording clerk in this endeavor this year, if the Yearly Meeting desires, but once the committee is laid down, the recording clerk must assume this responsibility.)

Because our policies and procedures slowly evolve, there is no plan to publish this manual as a printed document. Instead it will be posted on the website, where it can be updated easily, and the current version will be available to all.

Our committee is grateful to the many Friends who answered our questions or otherwise offered advice; to the Executive Committee for helping us in discerning the treatment of difficult issues; and to those Friends who considered the draft circulated in February and responded with suggestions for making the text clearer, more complete, and more accurate. I personally am grateful for the opportunity to work with such an outstanding committee - Friends who willingly read multiple drafts with attentiveness to presenting our policies and procedures simply, clearly, and truthfully, and did so with great spirit of cooperation.

Friday Afternoon Session

YM11 - 15 Worship and Reading of the Epistle from the 2010 Ramallah Friends Meeting Consultation

Out of our opening worship, we heard the epistle from the 2010 Ramallah Friends Meeting Consultation celebrating the 100th anniversary of the dedication of Ramallah Friends Meeting House. The consultation and worship were filled with people from local communities as well as attenders from five other countries. The painful realities of life under the occupation for both Palestinians and Israelis led members to seek ways to avoid being complicit in the oppression of people most affected, but at the same time to challenge that oppression, and, like John Woolman, to stand in solidarity with the oppressed.

YM11 - 16 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) gave a preliminary report. Remaining needs were identified for Friends to consider. Peggy Daub encouraged Friends who find themselves led to step forward to offer to fill needed positions. The Nominating Committee will make a final report during a later business session of these annual sessions.

A concern was expressed about the deep need for support of our youth and children's programs, and that perhaps a fracturing of the yearly meeting community has occurred, so that we see young people's needs as separate from adult ones. Friends are asked to discern what willingness we as adult Friends might have to serve on the Youth and Children's Program, even if part-time.

YM11 - 16 Friends General Conference

Marvin Barnes reported for Friends General Conference (FGC). Marvin wished to emphasize several points, such as that LEYM is extensively represented in FGC activities. FGC has been in transition, looking at how to change its activities to maintain financial stability. There is increased use of the internet to maintain contact with distant Friends. Other structural changes have also been made to keep organizational and financial solidity. The publications program has been under scrutiny. Bruce Birchard, who is retiring as General Secretary after 19 years, will be replaced by Barry Crossno. After long consideration and two lawsuits, the Executive Committee has laid down its opposition to Federal requirements for disclosure of employee eligibility (Form I-9). The next Gathering will be in Kingston, Rhode Island, its theme to be "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir," July 1-7, 2012. The full report follows:

Friends General Conference Report

The 2010 - 2011 year has been a very eventful one for Friends General Conference. This report will review highlights of the past year with a focus on giving the reader an understanding of where FGC is headed over the next few years.

Members of LEYM have served this past year as volunteers to FGC at all levels of the organization. LEYM has representation on Central, Executive, Development, Finance, and various other FGC committees. This representation will prove to be important with changes that are coming to FGC starting this year and ongoing for the next couple of years. As stated by Bruce Birchard, outgoing General Secretary, "FGC has had fifteen years of steady growth, enabling us to serve more Friends and meetings while increasing the number of volunteers and committee members engaged with the organization. We are serving more Friends and meetings in more ways than we have at any time in our history.

A few years ago FGC began a transition. The FGC Central Committee (our board, consisting primarily of representatives from various yearly meetings) created a committee that was tasked with visioning, listening to the spirit and helping discern a direction for the future work of FGC. Over the past several years the name and membership of that committee has changed but the work before them has stayed constant.

That said, FGC is in a strong position financially, having met our annual fund fundraising goals for the past several years. The Executive Committee is clear that making modest cuts now is the prudent thing to do, rather than allowing FGC to drift into what could become a crisis several years from now.

In April of this year, the FGC Executive Committee began reviewing a number of these changes:

- Investing 1.8% of the organization's reserves in a carefully developed plan to strengthen FGC's web presence, allowing the organization to listen, engage and better understand the needs of Friends regardless of geography.
- Leaving the position of Youth Ministries Coordinator vacant, re-assigning critical aspects of the work to existing staff and volunteers.
- Making a number of smaller changes to health insurance, staff and committee travel, and other non-personnel aspects of the budget.

The Executive Committee also considered the possibility of laying down FGC's long-standing publications program in the form it has existed for many years. This proposal was made with an expectation that our evolving web infrastructure should provide important opportunities for FGC to continue its "ministry of the written word in the future. With the benefit of extended, Spirit-centered consideration of the initial proposal and some new ideas that were lifted up, this matter was referred back to the originating committee.

The Executive Committee has been wrestling with these changes and a host of others, which include:

- Searching for and hiring a new General Secretary to replace Bruce Birchard after 19 years of faithful service
- Reorganizing program committee structure in an attempt to better serve the FGC community
- Handling changing financial requirements and situations that have an impact on the financial resources of the organization
- Laying down a longstanding position of defiance in personnel matters.

For over twenty years FGC has held that the requirement of the Federal government for all employees to complete a form known as Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, is discriminatory and unfair. After two lawsuits and extensive discernment, the Executive Committee in April of 2011 decided, after another period of discernment, to direct the General Secretary to come into compliance with the requirement. This decision was based on the advice of FGC legal counsel and the counsel and actions of the American Friends Services Committee, a participant in our defiance. The advice was based on the foreseeable consequences of administrative actions on the part of the Federal government that would result in fines that would bankrupt Friends General Conference.

- Managing investments in ongoing and newly arising programs which will help FGC in its future efforts to serve Friends and meetings in their spiritual journeys. These investments include:
- Support for the Quaker Quest initiative
- Support for the Communications Advisory Board

The Communications Advisory Board views communications as the heart of FGC vitality. They believe that, in order to reframe our work in outreach to all of our current and possible constituencies, we must build a completely different infrastructure. They outlined the details of the functionality proposed in the full vision of their communications strategy. Bringing about this vision would require a significant investment of time and resources, and there also would be a large cost if FGC does not make the investment. The major costs associated with this proposal relate less to purchasing new technology but more to using this technology to bring people together in a new way. The CAB is mindful of the burden of transformation faced by FGC and the serious constraints that exist on resources, but they believe that their proposal is a faithful and essential way forward for FGC and for the Religious Society of Friends. They recognize that there are many details not yet nailed down but invite this body to consider this a prophetic opportunity.

- Support of the Committee for Discernment, Planning and Priorities

This new administrative committee, which was formed at the 2009 Central Committee, is charged with making recommendations on medium- to long-term plans and priorities.

At this time of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Annual Meeting, FGC has just completed its most recent Gathering of Friends at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, and has welcomed the new General Secretary Barry Crossno. Barry is a member of Dallas Friends Meeting. He attended his first Quaker meeting at age 28 and began attending off and on for three years. During a sojourn in Taos, New Mexico, he started regularly attending meeting there, supported by a Friend who intentionally spent time with him exploring Quakerism more deeply. Through this experience he became clear that he was a Quaker and started down the Quaker path. Barry has been deeply involved with FGC as a member of the Quaker Quest Travel Team, the Advancement and Outreach, and the Development committees, as well as serving since 2006 on Central Committee.

By all accounts the Gathering was a huge success, with over 1050 participants from 36 Yearly Meetings. The Gathering's week of spiritual enrichment brought Friends to the "middle of a corn-field" to learn of the Quaker Initiative to end Torture, as explained by John Calvi, and the trials and tribulations of Food Justice from LaDonna Redmond.

The 2012 Gathering will be held July 1-7, 2012, in Kingston, Rhode Island, at the University of Connecticut. The 2012 theme is "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir."

A major cornerstone of the foundation that has allowed FGC to achieve its growth over the past fifteen years has been and continues to be the efforts of the Development and Finance committees of FGC. These committees have the responsibility of ensuring that FGC has the resources, primarily financial, needed to build a strong and viable organization. LEYM representation on these committees centers on the work of Merry Stanford and Sally Weaver Sommer. Their diligent efforts have made the future success of FGC an achievable goal within easy reach.

The future of FGC will build upon a strong foundation of Friends across the world. FGC will continue its mission of serving the Religious Society of Friends through the hard work of its constituents and the divine leadership of the spirit.

YM11 - 17 Treasurer's Report:

Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh) presented a written report for the last fiscal year showing income from meeting contributions totaling \$26,754.50. The Yearly Meeting spent 88% of budgeted funds, and no committee went over budget. We will send three people to Kenya for the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) 6th World Conference, to be held in Nakuru, Kenya, which represents a significant expense. A question arose as to how to handle contributions expected from monthly meetings but not yet received. There is no clearly developed answer to this question. We noted that Monongalia Friends Meeting gave more than expected this year as they leave LEYM for membership in Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The full report is on pp. 78-80.

YM11 - 18 Finance Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) presented a detailed preliminary budget for the next fiscal year. The Yearly Meeting is in a solid financial position. The committee has been looking at different fund balances. Sally reviewed the funds held by the Yearly Meeting and discussed a number of changes proposed to the budget. A final budget proposal will be brought for consideration to a later session. The Finance Committee report follows:

Finance Committee Report

The Yearly Meeting is in a good financial position. While income did not meet the budgeted amount, expenditures were below budget also, so that our General Fund increased in size from the beginning of

the year to the end of the year.

During this year's annual sessions, the Finance Committee reviewed each of our funds to determine if it is the size we want it to be. The greatest concern is with the Youth Activities Fund. It continues to grow with the annual subsidy from the General Fund being larger than yearly expenditures.

Members of the Finance Committee consulted with clerks of committees and the Presiding Clerk. With information gained from those conversations, the committee presents the attached 2011-2012 budget for the Yearly Meeting's approval. [See below, pp. 81-82, for the final budget.] Numbers for previous years are presented for comparison purposes. We have increased the travel budget by \$500, since we barely underspent the budget this past year and we expect travel to costs to rise some. We have reduced the office line by \$100 and the finance line by \$40. We decreased the contract worker line by \$275 to reflect the fact that we over-budgeted last year. This new budget amount allows for 120 hours at \$15 per hour. This should be a sufficient amount to cover the duties of web master that the contract worker will pick up.

We have doubled the amount going into the FWCC World Conference Travel Fund. This will allow the release of funds to aid those going to the conference next spring in Kenya. The Presiding Clerk will disperse these funds. Given the uncertainty of future FWCC world gatherings, we propose that we not include funds in next year's budget, but resume contributions to the fund the following year in anticipation of a future gathering. We have reduced the line for Ministry & Nurture by \$100. We propose not allocating money to the Consultation Fund because there are still sufficient funds in the account to cover the next consultation.

We propose reducing the Youth Activity Fund transfer to 0 because of the large balance in the fund. We propose increasing the High School Teen Program by \$2200 to cover some of the expenses for this year's activities. The rest of the expenses will be covered by the balance in the fund. The Yearly Meeting is committed to contributing \$4400 for the stipend to the youth worker and \$500 per year for materials for the retreats. Participants pay for transportation, food, and lodging. There is excess in the Spiritual Formation account, so we propose to decrease this year's subsidy to the fund by \$500. The total amount of the proposed budget is \$29,240.00. Given 760 members, the suggested per person contribution would be reported as \$39, \$2 more than last year's amount.

Saturday Morning Session

YM11 - 19 Worship and Reading of the Epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting

Out of our centering worship, we heard the epistle from the 2011 Annual Sessions of Australia Yearly Meeting, gathered in a spirit of respect for the land and the heritage of its indigenous peoples. A theme on the value of diversity suffused the yearly meeting gathering, the preciousness of earth's biodiversity, of generations, and of ethnic/national groups gathered at the sessions. The yearly meeting came to pray for the healing of the earth and of other broken relationships through the transforming power of the Spirit.

YM11 - 20 Welcome of newcomer

We welcomed a newcomer to the Yearly Meeting, Sara Lens (Broadmead).

YM11 - 21 Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that the next Representative Meeting will be held March 31, 2012, in Perrysburg, Ohio. She outlined our current plans for evolving the LEYM website, making it more accessible to the people who would update its content, and increasing the duties of the meeting worker. Finally, she noted that our yearly meeting membership has decreased, a trend that needs to be addressed, perhaps in a consultation of several yearly meeting committees to be planned for the fall of 2011. The full report follows:

Clerk's Report

Our next Representative Meeting will be in Perrysburg, Ohio, on Saturday, March 31, 2012. We are grateful to Janet Smith and friends in the Toledo Worship Group (of Broadmead Monthly Meeting) for extending this invitation to us.

Friends will remember that last year at this time we agreed to become part of a pilot project FGC was setting up that would assist monthly meetings and yearly meetings in creating and maintaining websites that required less technical skill. However, because FGC decided to concentrate on helping monthly meetings, and because their templates would not be available for some time, we have been led to take a different path. As you heard in the report earlier this week from the Publications & Archives Committee, our webmaster, Bill Warters, has created a shadow website using WordPress Software, a free program built by hundreds of volunteers and developed initially for blogs. In order to release Bill from his responsibilities in good order, I have asked Mathilda Navias to take on some of the next steps in the process of moving from one system to another as part of her duties as Yearly Meeting worker. It isn't yet clear what the duties of webmaster will look like once the transition is complete, so that position is remaining on the books but going unfilled this year. Please watch for an announcement sometime this fall that the website has a new address.

Mathilda Navias, in her other role as database manager, has tracked members and average attendance of our monthly meetings and found a clear downward trend. I have proposed that the Executive Committee, the Advancement & Outreach Committee, and the Ministry & Nurture Committee have a one-day joint meeting this fall to begin to consider how the Yearly Meeting can best support our monthly meetings.

YM11 - 22 Peace Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) presented a report. The number of people participating in committee activities has increased to about a dozen. The committee conducted a survey of the range of peace work being done throughout the Yearly Meeting. A listserv to be developed will make Yearly Meeting peace activities easily accessible on the internet. A minute from Ann Arbor Meeting was shared with the suggestion that Yearly Meeting members might consider joining in boycotts of products made in Israeli settlements as a way to exert pressure toward a just agreement regarding Palestinian lands. See the full report below for details.

Peace Committee Report

The Peace Committee has recently conducted an informal but comprehensive survey of the 33 meetings and worship groups in LEYM to discover the range of peace work being done in the Yearly Meeting, and it is impressive and encouraging.

It's not surprising that some of the large meetings have multiple public events and efforts, while some of the very small groups are doing well to take care of one another. Peace work has many faces!

Some of the main themes that emerged in the survey were:

- work on issues of torture
- response to FCNL's Action Alerts and visits with local legislators
- peace vigils
- educating ourselves and others about the Palestine/Israel conflict
- work on Christian Peacemaker teams and on AFSC Eyes Wide Open exhibits
- local concerns for the homeless and hungry; work with feeding programs
- empowerment of the disenfranchised

We found that Tustin Friends have a wonderful peace website; Detroit Friends generate regular emails with information about peace activities, and they take action; Circleville Friends have hosted the Eyes Wide Open exhibit four times!; Ann Arbor Friends have distributed more than half a million "map cards" that show how much land the Palestinians have lost to Israeli settlements ... and the list goes on and on. The Peace Committee has decided to form a Google Group so that we can post our peace activities on-line and communicate with one another across the broad LEYM area more easily and quickly. In this way

we hope to encourage and support all our meetings, large and small, in witnessing for peace.

Two minutes have been presented to us this year for consideration.

The first comes from Ann Arbor Friends Meeting and concerns an action to hasten peace-building in the Middle East. Though Ann Arbor Friends hoped we would endorse their minute, we've decided instead to inform you about it and ask you to take individual action if you feel moved to do so.

The second minute about the illegal use of torture by our government and criminal justice system came from Pittsburgh Meeting. We are extremely grateful for their initiative in drafting the ideas for an LEYM minute. Mike Kelly and Mary Meyers will read our proposed minute to you for your consideration.

The Peace Committee proposed a minute based on a concern expressed in Pittsburgh Meeting; we condemn the use of various torture methods tacitly supported by the US government and ask LEYM monthly meetings and individuals to consider allying with organizations such as QUIT (the Quaker Initiative to End Torture) as a way to address government-sponsored uses of torture. Discussion led to a number of suggestions for changes in the Peace Committee proposal, which will be edited and brought back to a later session.

YM11 - 23 Earthcare Committee

Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) reported on activities of the Earthcare Committee members over the past year. The Earthcare Committee has several suggestions for action regarding proposed legislation, including one that Friends endorse a bill that would eliminate tax subsidies to oil companies. The report included these three queries:

- What grieving and acceptance may be necessary for us to go on in faith and vitality?
- How can we support each other through the likelihood of increasingly difficult climate change struggles?
- How might we better increase our resilience as we face an uncertain and difficult future?

The committee requested more time to season the Advices & Queries document in light of their lengthy suggestions made recently. A report on Quaker Earthcare Witness was also mentioned. The full reports follow:

Earthcare Committee Report

The LEYM Earthcare Committee (EC) has had another very active year. Highlights:

1. We coordinated efforts again in 2011 to encourage car-pooling among those attending Yearly Meeting. We also agreed to lead another intergenerational field trip to the Bluffton University Natural Area Preserve during the first afternoon of Y.M. These activities were detailed in the Spring 2011 LEYM Bulletin (p.8).
2. Judy Greenberg, co-clerk, participated in the fall LEYM Executive Committee Meeting in Oberlin, Ohio, and both Judy and Phil Clampitt, the other co-clerk, participated in LEYM's Representative Meeting in Ann Arbor in early April, where Judy presented a written report for our committee. We were pleased to have six participants in our EC Committee meeting during Representative Meeting.
3. The large satellite map of the Lower Maumee River Watershed which had been central to our very successful 2010 EC workshop, Discovering the Story of a Home Place, was much in demand during the summer and fall of 2010, notably at an LEYM teen summer retreat at Michigan Friends Center near Chelsea, and at Olney Friends School, Barnesville, Ohio. Credit for this very creative enterprise goes to the Broadmead Friends Earthcare Interest Group, of which Judy Greenberg is a key member.
4. Members of the EC committee have kept in touch in part by e-mail, but also found it desirable and necessary to meet face-to-face on four occasions (12/4/10, 2/12/11, 3/12/11, and 4/23/11), all at Judy Greenberg's home in Toledo, to conduct much of our business. Major items included

planning in detail for our 2011 Earthcare workshop (see item #7 below), and reviewing the proposed LEYM Advices and Queries, and suggesting additions and modifications. We also considered how we can encourage Earthcare activities involving young Friends of various ages, how we can better coordinate with other Quaker groups including FCNL and Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), and other Earthcare challenges in this time of extreme weather events associated with climate change.

5. Al Connor, EC committee member and LEYM Representative to QEW, attended that group's Steering Committee meeting in Chicago, April 7-10, 2011, and wrote a detailed report, published in the LEYM Spring 2011 Bulletin (pp. 21-22).
6. Phil Clampitt found it both enjoyable and rewarding to participate in the LEYM 2011 Summer Teen Retreat on the theme of WATER, held in Traverse City, MI, July 15-18, 2011.
7. This year's LEYM Earthcare workshop, to be held on Saturday, July 30, is titled Eating Locally & Mindfully. Panelists from several perspectives will include Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Sarah Lenz, Jon Sommer, and Jane Downes. (See the LEYM Spring 2011 Bulletin, p. 5, for a few more details.)
8. Richard Hogan, a long-time member of the Earthcare Committee, recommends highly the new film, Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time. Two brief quotes from Leopold's famous essay, "The Land Ethic," give a hint of his philosophy: "Nothing so important as an ethic is ever written." "All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts." As we write these words (on 7/27/11), we hope many of you will have an opportunity to see this film as part of this year's LEYM annual sessions.
9. We regret that, because of illness and financial considerations, Helen Soderberg has found it necessary to resign from the Earthcare Committee. We appreciate Helen's presence and her many thoughtful contributions to our committee over the past several years. We wish her well.
10. While Al Connor and Richard Hogan, who have served generously and productively on the LEYM Earthcare Committee for the past six years, are officially "retiring," we hope and expect both of them to continue to be active presences on our committee. Meanwhile, we look forward to welcoming new members to the committee during the coming year.

On the legislative and corporate activity front, the EC Committee recommends:

- (1) That Friends oppose what has been aptly named the "Dirty Water Bill" (H.R. 2018), which threatens the safeguards in the (1972) Clean Water Act that protect our safe, clean water. This bad new bill passed the House earlier this month, but has not yet been marked up for consideration in the Senate.
- (2) That we tell Congress - as recommended by FCNL - that they should "End Fossil Fuel Subsidies" by endorsing an amendment being offered this week by Rep. Jim McGovern (MA) to the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill that would end all subsidies for the oil and gas industries. Sen. Robert Menendez (NJ) has introduced a bill (S. 940), similar to the McGovern amendment in the House, that would eliminate six of the worst subsidies for the five biggest oil and gas companies. We should also support a bipartisan bill in the House of Representatives (H.R. 2307) that would end the ethanol tax credit, saving \$31 billion. FCNL suggests this: "By closing tax loopholes that benefit oil and gas companies, the government would not only bring in more money - as much as \$78 billion over the next five years - but would also break down one of the roadblocks to a low-carbon future" (Marcia Cleveland, FCNL, 7/25/11).
- (3) Richard Hogan reminds us that hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") of shale - as a means of extracting natural gas to help achieve energy independence - threatens water, soil, air, food, health, and freedom! Friends should oppose it, wherever it occurs. See www.NEOGAP.org. He also recommends the movie "GasLand."

- (4) Relating to this week's Earthcare workshop is the so-called "farm bill" - journalist Michael Pollan says the term is a misnomer, that, "in trust, it is a food bill and so needs to be rewritten with the interests of eaters placed first" - which Friends in America should be following closely. Al Connor will provide a brief addendum to this report on recommendations by the QEW-FCNL Working Group concerning the "farm bill" and related legislative activity. He also will provide more information to all who are interested on several of the other bills mentioned above.

In conclusion, the EC Committee offers these words, composed when we were considering the proposed new LEYM Advices and Queries relating to Earthcare: "Quaker Earthcare Witness has asked Friends to read Bill McKibben's book *Eaarth*, which presents evidence that human activity has pushed the planet beyond recovery, and that at best we can slow its decline. We know that climate change is increasing nature's extremes. What grieving and acceptance may be necessary for us to go on in faith and vitality? How can we support each other through the likelihood of increasingly difficult climate change struggles? How might we better increase our resilience as we face an uncertain and difficult future?"

Report of Quaker Earthcare Witness Work since April Steering Cmt. Meeting

QEW/FCNL Working Group members have met with Marcia Cleveland, FCNL's Legislative Advocate for Energy. After meeting with her the group decided that lobbying on the Food and Nutrition title of the 2012 Farm Bill would be more effective than a Washington DC lobby day if QEW members, Friends, and friends met with House representatives and senators and their agriculture staff in their districts. Marcia advised us that legislators are more influenced by constituents than by professional lobbyists. So we are planning to do that. We need to develop good talking points and distribute these to people in monthly meetings who are interested in meeting with the legislators in their district and state offices.

The Working Group is particularly concerned about elimination of the WIC, MIC, and Farm to School and Institution programs and draconian cuts in SNAP, the former Food Stamp program. We are also concerned about the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), which partially funds conservation of working land on which human and livestock foods are grown.

Members of the QEW/UN program participated in the People's Energy Summit in Cancún and met with Quakers from Uruguay to help them present Uruguayan concerns to the meeting.

QEW has established a strong working relationship with FCNL. We wish to strengthen relationships with FWCC and AFSC.

YM11 - 24 Ad Hoc Committee on Advices and Queries

Thomas Taylor reported on the stimulating and productive discussion that arose in the interest group on the Advices and Queries document. Then the revised document was opened up to discussion. There was acknowledgment that much hard and productive work has gone into the Advices & Queries. Concerns about the document were voiced. Some felt that not enough attention was given to earthcare concerns, given the gravity of the state of the earth and the rethinking this is requiring in all parts of our society; some suggested that the document needs more seasoning. There was a suggestion that earthcare concerns be published in the Annual Records and that the Earthcare Committee be permitted greater input into the final Advices and Queries. Some felt that we need a spirituality more rooted in the earth and her processes. How can we balance the concerns expressed about earthcare with the other truths we try to live? The sense of the meeting was that the document needs further work and that the Clerk will re-formulate the Ad hoc Committee, ensuring that earthcare concerns are represented. Its mission will be to continue the work of developing the Advices and Queries. The full report on the interest group discussion follows:

Suggestions made by individuals:

Advices are now reduced to only the italicized quotes and in items 5, 6, 41, 52, 64. Suggest expressing

these advices in italics as well. (Considerable discussion here, but unity was not achieved.)

Include more open-ended God-directed queries, such as “Where is God in this?” (ref. Kalamazoo Meeting)

[Note: The committee included some of these suggestions, such as #13, first sentence.]

p. 13 Check Matthew 5: 37 quote. [Try Jerusalem Bible: “All you need say is ‘yes’ if you mean yes, ‘No’ if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”]

p. 13: Add quote from early Friends: “How hath Truth prospered amongst you since we last met?” (ref. Kalamazoo Meeting - see above.)

#23. Add at beginning of this one: “Let your lives speak.”

#35. Is this sufficient to query whether we are complicit in the surrounding consumer culture and how we take ourselves out of it?

#53. Do we seek to transform the world:

- a) in accordance with Gospel Order in loving spirit?
- b) with God’s loving spirit?
- c) with the spirit of love? (pick one)

Queries where the group worked at rewriting and felt a sense of unity: [Agreed wording follows:]

#42. If confronted with violence, do we respond in peace? What are we doing to build a more peaceable world within our families, our communities, and our workplaces?

#63. How do we order our lives so that we seek and become open to Divine leadings in framing our attitudes and actions? Do we really respect and help those we seek to serve? How do we maintain our integrity when we find ourselves in a position of power? How do we respond when we ourselves feel powerless?

#65. [last sentence] What do we choose to ignore or not to know?

[Note: this one gave rise to a lengthy and fascinating discussion on the differences in meaning between ignoring and not knowing. Each had its advocates, so here both are included. You may choose to speak to either or both.]

YM11 - 25 Naming Committee

The Naming Committee named Micah Sommer to the Nominating Committee to fill a vacant slot. This was approved.

YM11 - 26 Announcements

Announcements were read re opportunities at the LEYM gathering and re sign-out procedures.

YM11 - 27 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM)

Kyo Takahashi (Pine River) reported for the Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Clerk, Diane Guenin-Lelle (Red Cedar) on GPQM activities over the past year. The report speaks of Ann Arbor American Friends Service Committee activities regarding the criminal justice system. It also includes a report on the financial and structural standing of the Friends School in Detroit. The full report follows:

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Summary 2010-2011

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM) is composed of eight monthly meetings and presently four worship groups and conducts business meetings in the fall at Friends School in Detroit and in the spring at the Michigan Friends Center in Chelsea. GPQM has a Mid-Winter Gathering led by a monthly meeting and a summer gathering in Quaker Park in Battle Creek in conjunction with the Kalamazoo and Grand

Rapids Monthly Meetings.

GPQM continues some measure of oversight responsibility for two major concerns of Friends, the Friends School in Detroit and the AFSC Michigan Criminal Justice Program in Ann Arbor.

This year there is a new director of the AFSC Michigan Criminal Justice Program, Natalie Holbrook. The AFSC Criminal Justice Program works tirelessly advocating for prisoners in Michigan, making sure that their rights are upheld and they have access to basic services such as medical care. The program receives approximately 4,000 requests for help each year, all of which the office addresses, and this winter AFSC-MCJ won a lawsuit to ensure that Critical Incident Reports (officer reports of incidents within the prison) continue to be available through the Freedom of Information Act.

This year has been a year of transformation for Friends School in Detroit. At the fall meeting, both the Acting Head of School, Kevin Howley, and the Clerk of the Board, Bill Kohler, presented information on the state of the school, reporting that the school finished the 2009-2010 school year in a more secure financial situation and there have been some changes in trustees. In December, Edwin Harris was appointed Head of School and he reported at the spring meeting. He explained that elite high schools welcome Friends School in Detroit graduates because they are well rounded, both academically and socially; the class of 2007 is now preparing to enter college, and they are continuing to attend excellent institutions. While FSD is selective, the school strives to appeal to the middle class and keep tuition within reach of middle-income families. All private schools are struggling in the area, and FSD has been hit a little harder because of the urban middle class status of the families at the school. Enrolment decreased significantly over the past 3 years, but FSD has been aggressive with admissions recently and hopes to have increased enrollment in 2011-2012.

GPQM continues to work in collaboration with Michigan Friends Center and its board as well as with the Friends Lake Cooperative Community. There is also continued dialog with the recently devolved Inclusive Justice Program in Ann Arbor, which had been affiliated with AFSC.

The Mid-Winter Gathering was a very special event hosted by Red Cedar Meeting. Over 50 Friends gathered in Lansing on a snowy Saturday in January for a day of exploration of Multi-generational Worship facilitated by Brian Edmiston and Laura Sobjack (with 2-year-old Noah, who) travelled from North Columbus Meeting to serve as leaders for the day.

The Summer Quarter will meet on Sunday, August 7, at Quaker Park in Battle Creek, MI, at 11:00 a.m. for worship focusing on Prayers for PEACE in memory of Hiroshima Day. We welcome all Friends to join us for this time of sharing together.

Saturday Afternoon Session

YM11 - 28 Worship and Reading of Epistle from Junior Young Friends of Intermountain Yearly Meeting

We opened our session with gathered worship, hearing the 2011 epistle from Junior Young Friends, Intermountain Yearly Meeting. They described their learning about balance, teamwork, trust, and racism. In particular, they learned that all racism stems from fear and the need to feel superior.

Out of the worship, we held in the Light Laverne Shelton, from Friends General Conference, who was to have been a visitor with us this weekend. She was in a car accident which did not injure her, but which prevented her from being able to come to Yearly Meeting sessions.

YM11 - 29 Ministry & Nurture

Ellen Barnes (Birmingham) gave a written report, commenting on the State of the Meeting reports, the LEYM Spiritual Formation Program (SFP), and the Ministry and Nurture (M&N) scholarship. Two retreats for the SFP were held this year. Richard Lee (Red Cedar) will conduct the retreats for the upcoming year on the theme, "Healing in the Manner of Friends." The M&N scholarship was awarded to

Jerry Knutson (Pittsburgh), who is attending the Earlham School of Religion. He has facilitated several workshops in the past year, and will continue to travel in the ministry, leading workshops in the next year. Thirteen monthly meetings submitted State of the Meeting reports this year. In Ellen's words, they showed a sense of vitality. They will be reprinted in the Annual Records. The query for 2011 arises from information in graph form showing a decline in monthly meeting membership and attendance. The query will read: "Given the spiritual and physical state of our meeting, what are our reflections on these data? What does a Spirit-led meeting look like? What hinders us from following the Spirit? What is the Spirit leading us to do?" The full report follows:

Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

This report will be covering four topics: the spiritual formation program, the M&N scholarship program, State of the Meeting Reports, and the annual query for 2011.

Spiritual Formation Program

- There were two retreats this year, a full weekend retreat at Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan, in the fall and a one-day retreat at Red Cedar Monthly Meeting in Lansing. The one-day retreat format for the spring retreat draws in new participants from the hosting meeting, so this format will be continued.
- Both retreats were led by Patricia Thomas, who was accompanied by Polly Countryman. Both are from Wilmington Yearly Meeting. The theme was "Companions Along the Way."
- There were 32 participants altogether, 26 at the fall retreat and 21 at the spring one. The evaluations showed very positive results. Most spoke of a hunger for spiritual nourishment which they find at the retreats.
- The retreats this upcoming year will be led by Richard Lee of Red Cedar Meeting. The theme will be "Healing in the Manner of Friends." The fall dates will be September 9-11, and the spring date will be May 5, 2012.
- Mathilda Navias took over as clerk of the planning committee this past spring.

Ministry and Nurture Scholarship Program

- Jerry Knutson received the Ministry and Nurture Scholarship this past year in support of his studies towards a Master's of Divinity Degree at Earlham School of Religion.
- The fruits of his studies can be seen in workshops that he is facilitating:
 - This past year they included a monthly spiritual healing group, and workshops at West Richmond Friends, ESR, Orlando Monthly Meeting, and here at LEYM. He has facilitated a meditation group in Oakland, MD.
 - This upcoming year he will be facilitating workshops for Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, West Richmond Friends, South Hills Worship Group, and Sherwood Oaks Worship Group. This is part of an ESR requirement that he "travel in the ministry." If other LEYM Meetings would like him to facilitate workshops, they may contact him.
- The Ministry and Nurture Committee will continue to support Jerry with scholarship funding during the 2011-2012 academic year.

State of the Meeting Reports

- Thirteen monthly meetings submitted State of the Meeting Reports this year. Next year, the meetings that did not submit this year will be called to encourage a submission.
- The meetings that did submit had a sense of vitality within them. Many were engaged with spiritual nurture. A couple mentioned pastoral care of members coping with special needs.

Query for 2011

- The query for 2011 grew out of graphs presented at an Executive Committee meeting showing a decline in both membership and average attendance at our monthly meetings.
- The query will share these graphs with the meetings, then pose the following:

- Given the physical and spiritual state of our Meeting, what are our reflections on this information?
- What does a Spirit-led Meeting look and feel like?
- What hinders us from following the Spirit?
- What is the Spirit leading us to do?

YM11 - 30 Advancement & Outreach

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) submitted a written report and summarized the committee's work of continuing to connect with many of the 32 meeting units that comprise our Yearly Meeting, particularly small meetings and those that have oversight of worship groups. The committee wishes to be aware of and assist in the formation of new worship groups. Mike outlined some outreach materials. Planning for the fall consultation, probably October 15 at Oberlin, has begun. It will focus on Quaker Quest and how it works. Two representatives from each monthly meeting will be invited. The full report follows:

Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

1. Our members want to continue to be effective in supporting our smaller meetings. In this regard we have recently visited Akron MM and Delaware MM. We intend to continue supportive visits.
2. As a matter of record, Indiana MM (in Pennsylvania) is now re-classified as a worship group, as they have not had a clerk for a time.
3. We would like to encourage anyone in LEYM to let us know of possible new worship groups or areas of potential for new worship groups. If A & O can be of support to existing worship groups or meetings, as in the case we have just heard of in Holland, please let us know.
4. We would like to remind everyone again of resources available from the FGC website, particularly for outreach. For example, see www.fgcquaker.org/ao/inreach-outreach-review.
5. We are excited to bring forward plans for a Fall Consultation on Quaker Quest. We encourage each meeting to send two representatives to the Consultation, which is definitely planned for October 15 in Oberlin, Ohio. It is a one-day event with leadership from the FGC Quaker Quest team. We will help arrange overnight accommodation if there are those who may have this need. We have been advised by Kendal at Oberlin that it is not possible for participants to bring in outside food, so a lunch will be offered for purchase. We hope all meetings will be able to come. Planning is well underway, but if there are suggestions at this point, please let us know and we will see what we can do.

YM11 - 31 Adult Young Friends

Micah Sommer (Broadmead) gave a spontaneous report on the activities of the seven participants at LEYM this year, showing how these activities related to the theme of "Mindful Consumption." He also spoke of the activities of other Adult Young Friends known to him across the country.

YM11 - 32 High School Teen Retreat Program Coordinator

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) reported that Cari Burke (Manitou Worship Group), Coordinator of the Program, has been accepted into a doctoral program at the University of Arkansas, and is leaving this summer to begin her sojourn there. Cari has led a very successful program this year, to the enthusiasm of young Friends and parents. Peggy Daub, Cari Burke, and Merry served as the search committee, which invited and reviewed applications to be the new Coordinator of this program. Two excellent candidates were interviewed, and both generously volunteered as Friendly Adult Presences (FAPs) at the most recent retreat in Traverse City, Michigan. Robb Yurisko (North Columbus) was recommended to the Meeting as the next Coordinator of the LEYM Teen Retreat Program. This recommendation was approved.

Minute of Appreciation for Cari Burke

Friends approved with enthusiasm the following minute, in joyous gratitude for Cari's service among us:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is deeply grateful to Cari Burke (Manitou Worship Group) for her ministry to the young Friends of LEYM, and to the Yearly Meeting as a whole, in reviving the Teen Retreat Program. She has inspired a new generation of teen Friends by facilitating an enjoyable and meaningful program of retreats which reflected her leadership, enthusiasm, loving spirit, commitment to Quaker values, creativity, organizational skills, and immense energy, and which nurtured these same strengths in young Friends. We are also grateful for being reminded that our youth workers and teens need the continuing support of friendly adults in the Yearly Meeting. We entrust her to the loving care of Friends in Little Rock, Arkansas, as she begins her doctoral program there, and pray that she achieves her heart's desire in this new life venture."

We also noted that Cari had wonderfully served the High School program in previous years at FGC gatherings.

YM11 - 33 Youth & Children Program

Nancy Nagler (Pine River) reported for Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead). Twenty-one young people attended these annual sessions, arranged into four groups: pre-school, early elementary, upper elementary, and junior high/high school. Appreciation was given to the many volunteers who have helped with the swimming outings, and thanks were given to the program staff. In subsequent discussion, the importance of parents who intend to bring children to LEYM registering in a timely way was emphasized, for the sake of effective programming. The full report follows:

Youth & Children Program Report

We began the weekend with 21 youth registered, split into four groups - preschool, early elementary, upper elementary, and a junior high/high school group. Three children left early (due to mom's allergies) and two boys arrived on Friday evening as scheduled. Friday the group went swimming - after the weather cooperated - and the same is planned for Saturday, with bowling as a backup activity.

Thanks to Joe Mills, Steve Morehouse, Erica Smith, Bev Shull, and Clémence Mershon for volunteering to drive, chaperone, and share lifeguard duties at Twin Lakes, and thank you to Carla and Charlie, Conleth and Ellene, Peter and Tim, Mary and Linda, and Kate and Nancy for being the youth program staff this year.

YM11 - 34 American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Natalie Holbrook of the AFSC Michigan office reported on the Michigan Criminal Justice Program, a prisoner rights and advocacy program. She gave some historical background, and said that the program hears from thousands of prisoners, typically getting 60 calls a month, as many as 4,000 total contacts a year. Interns help. Complaints around living conditions, classification issues, and mental and physical health concerns come to the AFSC office. The AFSC program also looks at systemic issues around prison education and other services, and tries to affect legislation and budgeting. Natalie also described some prison advocacy programs around the country. Handouts were available to Yearly Meeting attendees.

YM11 - 35 Peace Committee

Michael Kelly (Detroit) reported, bringing back a revised version of the proposed minute presented earlier, condemning the use of torture, including prolonged solitary confinement within the United States or where the US has domain. The current document mentions the Quaker Initiative to End Torture as a good information site, among others. Other information sites will be available from the listserve associated with the Peace Committee, and on the Peace Committee page on the LEYM website. The minute, in addition to condemning the use of torture, asks LEYM member meetings to inform themselves on the matter of torture, including extended solitary confinement, and to discern how they are led to respond. Friends approved this minute. The full text of the minute follows:

LEYM Minute Against Torture

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends joins with Yearly Meetings around the United States of America and with the Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT) in condemning the use of torture by our government, including the practice of prolonged solitary confinement.

"Remember those in prison as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured as though you yourselves were being tortured." Hebrews 13:3 (NSRV)

These words from Scripture, and our years of Quaker commitment to witness prophetically against injustices, remind us of our responsibility to speak out against the continued use of torture in government sponsored public, private and secret prisons and detention facilities.

It is with great concern and sadness that we recognize that the use of torture has been tolerated and justified by many people in our country. We are also concerned about the expanded use of solitary confinement. Many people in prison are kept in isolation 23 hours a day, sometimes for decades. The prolonged use of solitary confinement has been proven to have a severe impact on the mental health of those in prison and to impede their eventual reintegration into society. Our care is not only for the victims of torture in any of its forms but also for the individuals and institutions carrying out these practices.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting asks its member Meetings to inform themselves on this matter and to discern how they are led to respond. Possible contacts for information: Quaker Initiative to end Torture: www.quit-torture-now.org, and National Religious Campaign Against Torture: www.nrcat.org.

YM11 - 36 Olney Friends School

The report was read by Beverly Kirk Shull (former staff of Olney Friends School) for Greg Mott (Broadmead). Fifty students come from ten states and nine countries to attend Olney. Learning, land, and friendships strengthen each other at the school. Activities of the past year were outlined. The full report follows:

Olney Friends School Report

(Adapted from a letter written by Kirsten Bohl, Olney's director of communications.)

It has been a busy and thriving year at Olney Friends School. The new t-shirts students and teachers received in time for graduation put it well. On the front of the shirt: "Dig Deeper." On the back: "[Heart] Learning, [Heart] Land, [Heart] My Olney Friends." They've become clearer than ever this year about the ways in which learning, land, and friendships at Olney reinforce and strengthen each other. And they've become more certain that "digging deeper" - into the farm fields, of course, but also into books, ideas, worship, making art, making friends, understanding and protecting the environment, is what sets Olney apart.

In 2010-2011, Olney had 50 students, both girls and boys, from 10 states and 9 countries. Its college preparatory curriculum is becoming more and more designed to explore and conserve the natural resources of Appalachia. An integrated seminar-style humanities curriculum makes use of Harkness discussion methods, immersing students in college-level reading and discussion of literature and historical texts.

Olney enjoys its working organic garden and farm that provides a substantial percentage of the food members consume. As a leader in high school environmental science education in the Ohio Valley, Olney

students are often in the field collecting data and working to conserve land and species in collaboration with local and regional organizations.

Olney's mission is to celebrate intellectual vigor, provoke questions of conscience, and nurture skills for living in community. It is an emerging voice regionally and nationally in local food production and environmental and economic sustainability. In fall of 2010, Olney hosted a summit gathering of independent school educators, entrepreneurs, and regional change-makers to examine new funding models for K-12 independent education. That gathering provides a basis for ongoing visioning for the school's long-term planning.

Some highlights of the past year included a student-initiated, community-wide discussion of revisions to the technology policy; hosting the annual Lake Erie Yearly Meeting youth retreat; sending four students to a Quaker Youth Leadership conference in Philadelphia; leading a Walk to Remember commemorating the Rwandan genocide; and, this summer, watching our own Lucy Hartsock '13 serve as co-clerk of the youth gathering for OVYM. In April 2011, Olney received an award for community service from the Barnesville-area Chamber of Commerce.

In preparing for 2011-2012, Olney has welcomed Charlie Szumilas as Head of School. Charlie comes to Olney with more than three decades of successful leadership in independent schools. He brings experience as a former head, interim head, or assistant head of six different independent K-12 schools across the country. Charlie will fit right in at Olney. He embraces Quaker values, including peace, justice, and community-building across cultures. He brings, too, a deep love for the outdoors that fits well with Olney's long-standing connection with the land and also with Olney's emerging role as a leader, both regionally and nationally, in environmental and economic sustainability.

Olney has a thriving Facebook page, where the school welcomes visitors - and, of course, campus visits, too!

YM11 - 37 American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported. The proper role and size of the corporation are still being explored, and AFSC work continues in spite of these explorations. The full report, by Joann Neuroth, follows:

American Friends Service Committee Report

AFSC's corporation met in Philadelphia in March, where it labored with the question of how to "right-size" the Board. Having previously decided to reduce its size from roughly 40, the corporation struggled with how to continue to have strong voices from the regional executive committees without holding 9 ex-officio seats for them. The corporation came to unity and amended the by-laws to set Board size at 25 members, 22 selected at-large and 3 named ex-officio (General Secretary, Presiding Clerk, and Treasurer of the Corporation). At least one of the at-large members will be a clerk of a Regional Executive Committee, and another will be the clerk of the International Program Committee.

The financial situation is sad but encouraging. Still staggering from losing half of its programs in the wake of the nationwide financial collapse, the Board and Treasurer reported substantial system adjustments that have returned AFSC to fiscal stability and are designed to ensure that we can sustain the remaining programs and even consider some new work. AFSC is proud that its longstanding West Virginia Economic Justice program was in place and respected enough to have played a major role in the Governor's independent investigation of the mine disaster there - the one that held Massey Energy responsible for gross neglect of safety and environmental procedures. We heard highlights of the programs across the country that are supporting young leaders to make their voices heard and to organize their peers (and elders). Good work continues.

YM11 - 38 Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) reported. FWCC has a new Executive Secretary, Robin Mohr. Excitement is building for next year's world conference in Kenya, for which travel assistance funds are needed. 2012

will also see the next Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. Further information on FWCC is available in the display area. The full report follows:

Friends World Committee for Consultation Report

- (1) As with FGC, Friends World Committee for Consultation has recently welcomed a new Executive Secretary, Robin Mohr of San Francisco Monthly Meeting, replacing Margaret Fraser, who held the position for the past ten years. Over the last six years, Robin has traveled widely, discovering the convergent spirit among Friends, across all our usual boundaries; she has focused on Friends everywhere who are both building on our powerful traditions and discovering new energy and new pathways for the Religious Society of Friends.
- (2) At the same time, the excitement is building for next year's World Conference of Friends in Kenya. The LEYM delegates are Jerry Knutson, Jana Norlin, and Rob Yurisko; Rosemary Coffey and Clémence Ravaçon Mershon are registered to attend as well. As we get closer to this once-in-a-generation event, all Friends will be invited to take part in the conversation around the theme of "Being Salt and Light ... in a broken world," as study materials become available. The week of October 23, for example, there will be a program in Cincinnati on the theme. Please look for "FWCC" on the web to find details and consider getting a group together from your meeting to attend. There are other programs in Kokomo, IN, on October 8, and South Bend on October 9, in case those work better for some of you. - You've already heard that Friends Meetings in the US and Canada have been asked to help support travel to the Sixth World Conference by Friends in Latin America; in addition to a hoped-for contribution from LEYM, we'd like to ask you to encourage your Monthly Meetings to make a special contribution as well.
- (3) 2012 is also when the next Quaker Youth Pilgrimage will take place. Planned for July-August, the pilgrimage will gather 28 young Quakers and four leaders together in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Now is the time to think of potential pilgrims as well as adults to lead them during the month-long pilgrimage. Encourage them to apply. This is another once-in-a-lifetime experience.
- (4) For additional information about Friends World Committee, please see the table in the display area by the computers. You might also think about whether you'd like to be personally involved, as some of us will be ending our terms next year and will need to be replaced. See the Nominating Committee if you're interested!

Sunday Morning Session

YM11 - 39 Worship

We opened this last session of worship with attention to business with a brief period of open worship.

YM11 - 40 Welcome of visitor

We welcomed Vaughan Peebles (White Rose Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting) of Indiana, a frequent visitor to these sessions.

YM11 - 41 Finance Committee (final budget presentation)

Sally Weaver Sommer reported. The issue of support for travel to the FWCC 6th World Conference of Friends was addressed. A \$1200 contribution will be sent to the FWCC Section of the Americas for appropriate disbursement to assist with travel expenses for other Friends in the Section. The total LEYM budget now comes to \$30,440, raising the per person assessment to \$40, a nice round figure. This budget was approved. Members of Finance Committee were introduced and appreciation expressed to them. The full budget is on pp. 80-81.

YM11 - 42 Nominating Committee

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) presented a final written report showing officers and committee assignments. Names of the members of the Nominating Committee were given for appreciation. Friends are asked to search their hearts to see if they may be called to service as Presiding Clerk or Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting next year. Friends approved the report with joyful hearts and gratitude. The full report appears on pp.217-221.

YM11 - 43 Arrangements and Site final tally

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reported. 139 was the final tally of Yearly Meeting attenders, approximately 20 of whom were children. We will meet July 26-29, 2012, and July 25-28 in 2013, assuming we continue to meet in Bluffton at this time of year in 2013. The report was accepted.

YM11 - 44 Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Kathleen Peabody (Ann Arbor) reported. Diane Randall is the new Executive Secretary. Kathleen mentioned two major campaigns central to FCNL activities. One relates to the federal budget, especially the bloated military budget. The other relates to pushing for a shift of funds to crisis prevention rather than military intervention. Attention is drawn to the FCNL website for further information. The full report follows:

Friends Committee on National Legislation Report

1. The new Executive Secretary of FCNL, Diane Randall of New Haven, CT, Meeting, began work in April, succeeding Joe Volk. Diane is the first woman Executive Secretary in the 68 years of FCNL; she is already working enthusiastically and effectively.
2. The Nation's Checkbook Campaign is designed to raise more awareness of how our income taxes are allocated in the federal budget. The Pentagon budget is out of control and they cannot account for billions of dollars. There is wider knowledge in the electorate now that our military budget is raising the deficit, especially in the context of Social Security and Medicare being threatened. Quakers should view the graphic coin chart on the website www.fcnl.org. Action: Continue to contact President Obama and Senators, especially Senator Stabenow of Michigan, member of the Appropriations Committee. The military bases budget has doubled in the past 10 years. This is kept separate from the wars budget. Some Republicans are open to cutting the military budget; one is Senator Coburn of Oklahoma. Find out more and write them. Military spending always loses in polls when compared with voters' desires for jobs created by green energy, infrastructure, and mass transit needs. We need to keep challenging the meaning of "security."
3. The Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict Campaign aims to shift resources away from war toward prevention, which is much less expensive. There is now \$40 million in the Dept. of State budget appropriated by Congress for prevention and response to emerging or unforeseen crises overseas for USAID to use, down from \$50 million in 2010, although President Obama requested \$75 million. Prevention efforts were successful in Kenya in 2007, where USAID funded civilian groups to start conversations about the civil crisis. Military and private contractors want this work. FCNL says "NO," because this should be the responsibility of the civilian Department of State, separate from the military. FCNL reports there are more conversations now on Capitol Hill about prevention of deadly conflict through diplomacy, but years of relying on military solutions for all conflicts have left very deep roots. FCNL asks: "Why is it that all branches of the military have office space in the Congressional Office Building?" Legislators repeatedly tell FCNL staff they don't promote prevention because they don't believe it will be effective. They do not have the same doubts and do not ask the military to prove that war will work. There is a tool kit on the website for Friends to use.
4. FCNL opposes HR 2583, the FY2012 Foreign Relations Authorization Act, as re-written in July. This bill approves funding levels for State Department diplomacy, USAID developments, and United States' contributions to international organizations such as the UN. It would

undermine peace and global stability and set a dangerous precedent for U.S. foreign policy. FCNL especially opposes drastic cuts in funding for the Complex Crises Fund and the Civilian Response Corps, draconian cuts to development assistance in many fragile countries, and additional cuts to climate change adaptation programs. HR 2385 is coming up for a vote in September. FCNL urges Friends to ask their Representatives to speak out against it on the House floor and then vote against this deeply partisan bill.

YM11 - 45 Reports, epistles, and introductions from our young people

We received reports, epistles, and introductions from our young people.

The preschool program consisted of one young person. Staff person Carla Pratt-Harrington read an epistle describing the activities of this program:

Adults: Carla Pratt-Harrington & Charlie Burnett

Student: Douglas Smith

Carla and Charlie learned little is needed to enjoy life. A Frisbee can be used as a steering wheel. With this one prop we were driven all over campus and the Bluffton community. During these drives we watched a marching band, many flowers, friends, family, and a tailless squirrel. We drove to rocks to play on and drank lemonade from the farmers' market. What a grand weekend!

Conleth Crotser introduced the five participants in the **early elementary program**. They showed a paper chain they had constructed in their consideration of the many meanings of chains and links.

Peter Crowley and Tim Damon introduced the four participants in the **upper elementary program**. They described the activities they most enjoyed at the annual meeting, and what they learned through these activities about the environment and connections to the earth.

Things we enjoyed: (1) trip to water fountain, (2) trip to lake, (3) swinging bridge, (4) trip to market, (5) trip to library, (6) trip to thrift shop, (7) trip to see band, (8) fish in lake, and (9) swimming to the raft.

Kate Spry introduced the **middle school group** of two persons, who at times joined the high school group. They read a letter describing their learning related in often delicious ways to the annual meeting theme of mindful consumption.

Dear Friends,

The middle school group had a very interesting time this year. The first day this group consisted of one child member and two adults. Thus the middle school and the high school combined. During our time together, we did many fun things, such as go to the Dollar Store and the library. We also went to a meeting where we got to listen to a wonderful speech on the true meaning of mindful consumption through spiritual practice. I learned from this how we need to start paying attention to our human footprint because we have so much and there are others in other places who have so little.

Then on Friday night our group doubled in size and the adventures began! Saturday morning we ventured to the farmers' market where we bought honey fudge and double chocolate biscotti. Then our little group continued on to explore the wondrous Etcetera Store! We got a few goodies there and were off again to Ten Thousand Villages and then the book store. Then, as the day wound down, after a delightful swimming trip, we all gathered to sing. And thus was our weekend.

Sincerely, the Middle School Group: students Noah Molina and Serenity Crowley; adults Kate Spry and Nancy Nagler

The **high school group** consisted of six young people who introduced themselves, along with the staff who worked with them. They read aloud an epistle they had prepared. It focused on the ways in which they increased awareness of the annual meeting theme of mindful consumption and ways in which they developed their fellowship.

Friday morning after breakfast our group met in our classroom and talked about the theme of LEYM 2011. We decided that it was “the little things that matter, in the bigger picture.” The Crowley kids gave a good example about making a difference in their school’s use of Styrofoam lunch trays instead of reusable plastic ones. The students rebelled, and now Oberlin High School (Amani and Brittany’s school) uses reusable plastic trays. Emma gave a good example of CSA farming and CSA products, and now the local products are tastier and use less fuel because there is much less transportation involved.

Saturday morning our group travelled downtown, along with some of the younger Friends. Our group explored the community’s recycled products, and learned about fair trade at 10,000 Villages. After that fun adventure we went to lunch, then headed to the lake for some swimming! While there, we had a good time swimming/playing with our younger friends out in the deep water and at the raft. In the evening some of our group attended the singing led by Paul. There were some tears when Paul sang “Music in My Mother’s House.” After the singing we went back to the dorm and watched a few movies, ending with most of us sleeping all over the lounge! This year ended with many new friendships and many old friends reunited.

Sincerely,

Brittany, Amani, Sam, Emma, Ben, Anna

Several staff offered passionate invitations to annual meeting attenders to spend at least some time with young people in their programs at future Yearly Meeting gatherings, emphasizing the value to both young people and adults.

YM11 - 46 Yearly Meeting Epistle

The Yearly Meeting epistle was read. After a brief recess to make editorial changes it was re-presented and approved, with thanks for the labors of the Epistle Committee. The full epistle, signed by Peggy Daub, Clerk, follows:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

May we look upon our treasures and the furniture of our houses, and the garments in which we array ourselves, and try whether the seeds of war have any nourishment in these our possessions. — John Woolman

Loving Greetings To All Friends Everywhere:

Friends from Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania gathered for the 48th annual sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting on July 28 through 31, 2011, at Bluffton University, a Mennonite university in Bluffton, Ohio. It is a special joy to welcome each year the younger and older Friends of the Yearly Meeting. Some Friends, especially those from small meetings, can feel isolated in their home place. Children and their families can feel isolated from the wider Quaker community. At annual meeting, these Friends have a

chance to build a broad, multigenerational, and spiritually-grounded community with other Friends.

And so, we hold up the great joy we experience in meeting again this year with these cherished LEYM Friends who encourage and prod us as we learn to live the Quaker way more deeply. This year, we explored the theme, "Mindful Consumption as a Spiritual Practice." We were moved by each other to new understandings: in Bible study as we considered the story of the manna in the desert and the Sermon on the Mount; in our worship sharing groups as we considered queries regarding our consumption of time, energy, and resources; in the workshops where we explored Friends' personal experiences in living mindfully; and in our buoyant recreation with our young Friends. In our meetings for worship with attention to business we embraced the blessing of Friends' diversity of experience. We labored in love with each other to the measure of our light, knowing that only in this way may we be brought into unity by the Spirit of God.

Our plenary speaker, beloved LEYM Friend Sally Weaver Sommer, happily walked us through her life commitment to mindful consumption, shaped in part by her Mennonite upbringing and by a Puerto Rican sojourn during her childhood among very poor people. Two stories from the gospels have been important on her journey: the parable of the lilies of the field in which Jesus invites us to give up worrying; and the story in which Jesus tells his disciples that it is harder for a rich person to be part of the kingdom of God than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle. The first story comes from the Sermon on the Mount, which for Sally is the most important part of the Bible. She says that Jesus was inviting us to collectively seek the kingdom of God above all else, and promising that, if we do, no one in the world will have to worry about their basic needs being met. The second story simply reminds us that it is hard to be part of the effort of bringing about the kingdom of God if you've got a lot of stuff while others don't have much at all. The implications for us are that we (1) consider the effect of our consumption decisions on ourselves and all of creation; (2) give up an attitude of entitlement; and (3) recognize when we have enough. If we are going to live lightly, carefully and gracefully, we need our loving Quaker meeting to help us resist the human impulses to worry and to desire too much, so that we can accept the invitation to be part of the kingdom of God. We will find our way to greater things by embracing the lesser things to which we are called.

We are lesser in number this year and note a general declining trend in reported membership by our monthly meetings. We want to understand this, and look forward to the exploration that will begin this fall by our committees. We also note, however, that, although we are small in number, the ministry received at these sessions in our meetings for worship and in the plenary talk has been vibrant and uplifting. Several of our monthly meetings also shared in their state of the meeting reports a spiritual sense of deepening vitality as they seek to find spiritual unity and offer pastoral care for Friends among them. Spiritual vitality was evident in the epistles from other Friends as well, which were shared in our sessions. The 2010 epistle from Great Plains Yearly Meeting gathered us into the life of God at our first session. The 2010 epistle from Ramallah Friends Meeting Consultation moved us, and encouraged us to personally consider boycott. The 2011 epistle from Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns reminded us of our call to radical love and radical inclusion, and changed Friends' hearts. We urge the whole of the Religious Society of Friends to read this epistle.

We send your meetings loving kindness as you endeavor to deepen your understanding of the Quaker way. We pray that our diverse society become ever more closely gathered into a fellowship of Friends who find their center in the Light and Love of the Spirit. And we send our Friends home with these words of the old hymn:

As we leave this friendly place,
Love give light to every face;
May the kindness which we've learned
Light our hearts till we return.

YM11 - 47 Adult Young Friends Epistle

The Adult Young Friends group consisted of seven people, who were introduced. They read aloud an epistle describing the many ways in which their activities drew their attention to the annual meeting theme of mindful consumption - visiting a farmers' market, seeing the film "Food, Inc.," visiting second-hand stores, to name a few.

Appreciation was expressed to the Adult Young Friends for preparing the activities after the plenary session.

YM11 - 48 Traveling Minute for Jerry Knutson

Peggy Daub read a prepared traveling minute. Jerry will be traveling among monthly meetings as part of his supervised ministry program at the Earlham School of Religion. The traveling minute was approved.

YM11 - 49 Minute of Appreciation

We are grateful to Bluffton University, members of the Site and Program committees, and other Friends who provided us physical space and an organizational framework in which we could meet and encounter the Divine in ourselves and others.

Peter Wood was also appreciated for his work as interim recording clerk.

Peter Wood, Interim Recording Clerk
Peggy Daub, Clerk

**Treasurer's Report, July 1, 2011
End of Fiscal Year 2010-11**

General Fund Income

Meeting (Giver)	Amount
Akron Friends Meeting	\$ 148.00
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	4,884.00
Athens Friends Meeting	2,550.00
Birmingham Friends Meeting	713.00
Broadmead Friends Meeting	900.00
Cleveland Friends Meeting	2,220.00
Delaware Friends Meeting	370.00
Detroit Friends Meeting	500.00
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting	891.50
Granville Friends Meeting	850.00
Holland Friends Meeting	--
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting	1,295.00
Kent Friends Meeting	703.00
Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting	144.00
Monongalia Friends Meeting	1,200.00
North Columbus Friends Meeting	800.00
Oberlin Friends Meeting	--
Pine River Friends Meeting	592.00
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting	5,106.00
Red Cedar Friends Meeting	2,592.00
Wooster Friends Meeting	444.00
TOTAL	\$26,902.50

Fund	Open	Income	YM Subsidy	Expense	Close
General Fund	\$ 6,816.18	\$26,961.85	--	\$25,657.00	\$8,121.03
Granvl Youth (CD)	6,010.60	212.12	--	212.12	6,010.60
Annual Meeting	5,984.54	15,813.81	--	18,769.35	3,029.00
Youth Activity*	9,563.88	559.97	2,700.00	2,996.12	9,827.73
High Schl Youth*	6,348.95	2,720.00	1,100.00	6,746.23	3,422.72
Spiritual Formtn*	3,825.14	3,145.00	600.00	4,018.62	3,551.52
FWCC Travel*	4,186.45	--	1,240.00	2,700.00	2,726.45
Consultation*	3,556.65	1,190.00	2,700.00	2,601.90	3,556.65
Ministry Schlrshp*	--	--	1,000.00	1,000.00	--
TOTALS	\$46,292.39	\$34,013.09	\$9,340.00	\$40,057.81	\$40,245.70

* These moneys are held in our checking account. We do the accounting. We also subsidize these programs.

Note: Annual Meeting Fund has \$5,000 invested in a CD at Shorebank, so the balance of \$3,029 reflects a -\$2,034.46 checking account balance and a +\$5063.46 CD balance.

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL SESSIONS 2011

CDs - Urban Partnership	Open	Income	Expense	Close
Granville Youth 686108009	\$ 6,010.60	\$212.12	\$212.12	\$ 6,010.60
Youth Activity 4003416	5,000.00	57.16		5,057.16
General Fund 4003416	2,623.26	34.43		2,657.69
Annual Meeting 4003424	5,000.00	63.46		5,063.46
General Fund 4003424	2,459.44	24.92		2,484.36
TOTALS	\$21,093.30	\$392.09	\$212.12	\$21,273.27

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL SESSIONS 2011

General Fund Expense

Account	Budget	Actual	Budget %
Travel	\$6,000.00	\$5,948.15	99%
Office	200.00	10.00	5%
Contract Worker	2,075.00	728.75	35%
Finance	100.00	60.00	60%
Publications	3,400.00	2,070.10	61%
Advancement	100.00	--	0%
Ministry & Nurture	200.00	--	0%
Clerk's Fund	500.00	--	0%
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00	1,240.00	100%
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700.00	2,700.00	100%
High School Youth Fund*	1,100.00	1,100.00	100%
Spiritual Formation*	600.00	600.00	100%
Consultation Fund*	--	--	
Ministry Scholarship Fund*	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	100%
FGC - Special Program	500.00	500.00	100%
Records project	100.00	100.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	4,500.00	4,500.00	100%
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	100%
TOTALS	\$29,415.00	\$25,657.00	87%

* subsidy from General Fund

In-Kind (Travel)	\$2,862.42	Funds Total	\$40,245.00
In-Kind (Teens)	\$ 26.01	CD Total	\$21,273.27
In-Kind (Office)	\$ 41.48	Checking Total	\$18,972.43
In-Kind (Children's Retreat)	--		
TOTAL	\$2,929.91		

LEYM Budget for July 1, 2011, to June 20, 2012**General Fund Expenses**

	Budget	Actual	Difference	Budget	Actual	Difference	Budget	Difference
(* = transfers)	2009-10	2009-10	2009-10	2010-11	2010-11		2011-12	
Travel	6,000.00	5,548.39	451.61	6,000.00	5,948.15	51.85	6,500.00	500.00
Office	300.00	37.15	262.85	200.00	10.00	190.00	100.00	(100.00)
Contract worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,075.00	824.12	1,250.88	1,800.00	(275.00)
Finance	0.00	60.00	-60.00	100.00	60.00	40.00	60.00	(40.00)
Publications	3,400.00	3,208.28	191.72	3,400.00	2,070.10	1,329.90	3,000.00	(400.00)
Advancement	880.00	0.00	880.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	
Ministry & Nurture	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	100.00	(100.00)
Clerk's Fund	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	
FGC - Special Program	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	
FWCC One-Time Donation				1,200.00	1,200.00			
Records project	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00	1,240.00	0.00	1,240.00	1,240.00	0.00	2,480.00	1,240.00
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	0.00	(2,700.00)
High School Youth Fund*	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00	3,300.00	2,200.00
Spiritual Formation*	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	100.00	(500.00)
Friends School in Detroit	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	
Consultation Fund*	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Totals	30,820.00	28,393.82	2,426.18	29,415.00	25,752.37	3,662.63	30,440.00	1,025.00
Per member assessment	\$38.91			\$36.50			\$40.05	

Guidelines for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business provides an opportunity for Friends to practice several of our testimonies as we carry out the practical work of maintaining our faith community. We seek to be Spirit-led in our work, with as much efficiency as possible, achieving a sense of what Friends call “right order,” and so ask that you use the following guidelines.

1. When you need to speak, ask the clerk to recognize you by raising your hand.
2. To affirm something someone has said, simply nod or use the phrase, “This Friend speaks my mind.” Please don’t ask to be recognized so that you may express the same thought in other words.
3. When you speak, please stand, speak to the clerks’ table, and keep your comments to the point.
4. Friends will not generally be recognized to speak on any given issue more than once, except to acknowledge a personal change of perspective during the meeting.
5. When the recording clerk is developing a minute, sit in worship, and hold him/her in the Light. Please refrain from conversation with your neighbor.
6. When a person speaks in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, receive the words as you receive vocal ministry in Meeting for Worship - with an open heart and calm mind.
7. If you feel that the gathering needs a break or a stretch, it is appropriate to ask to be recognized so that you may ask the clerk for one.