

Minutes of Executive Committee July 26, 2012

Committee clerks and officers of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gathered at the appointed time with the following persons in attendance:

Mathilda Navias (Yearly Meeting Worker), Thomas Taylor (Nominating, Ad Hoc Committee on Advices & Queries), Jeff Cooper (Finance), Vanessa Fuson (Arrangements & Site, for Jon Sommer), Rosemary Coffey (Publications & Archives), Phil Clampitt (Earthcare), Peggy Daub (Clerk), Peter Dale (Recording Clerk), Becky Morehouse (Assistant Clerk), Don Nagler (Ministry & Nurture), Nancy Taylor (Peace), Sally Weaver Sommer (Finance), Mike Hinshaw (Advancement & Outreach), Clemence Ravaçon Mershon (Adult Program), Olwen Pritchard (Youth Program)

Prayers for the annual sessions of LEYM were shared.

The Clerk announced that a site is needed for Representative Meeting, which is scheduled for April 6, 2013. Since it has a nice new meetinghouse, Red Cedar was suggested. Action items to be brought forward during the annual sessions were noted. The following item was noted for future action: possible changes to the Policies & Procedures Handbook resulting from a more formal rendering of financial procedures.

The Clerk noted that in order to ensure time for reports from the recent FWCC World Meeting of Friends in Kenya, she planned to ask for remembrances, but not reading of memorial minutes. Full memorials and obituaries will be printed in the Annual Records.

A suggestion was made that cards could be available addressed to people who regularly attend, but are not present this year, with Friends invited to sign and send greetings. It was agreed to do this.

Mathilda Navias gave a Meeting Worker Report including how her time was spent and how the LEYM Website is being used. She described FGC Web Services that are being developed for use by Monthly Meetings.

The Clerk reported that recently she asked Monthly Meetings to describe how they count their members and whether they were under financial pressure to pay the LEYM suggested per member assessment. There were many responses, and although Meetings do not all use the same method to count, those who responded showed that they record members carefully and faithfully and do not find the yearly meeting's assessment a financial hardship.

We picked up the three threads identified as our high priorities last fall and considered each of them in turn:

- The Clerk reported that a Task force on Children and Youth consisting of Becky Morehouse (Clerk), Diane Mott, and Carla Pratt-Harrington has been established with a mission of building a sense of community among LEYM First Day School teachers and other youth volunteers, and to establish concrete means to support and encourage them in communicating with and supporting the work of each other.
- Nancy Taylor reported some first steps in discerning how to offer opportunities for service projects to LEYM. The most promising avenue appears to be working with Tyler Hampton of Detroit Meeting, who is experienced in organizing such projects in Detroit. We agreed to bring the idea of a service project to the annual sessions to gauge the depth of interest. The project could take place as early as next summer. If the Yearly Meeting is led to move forward, the following members have agreed to volunteer as an ad hoc planning group: Nancy Taylor, Mike Hinshaw, Peter Dale, and Sally Weaver Sommer.
- Our efforts to improve communication in the yearly meeting were assisted this past year by the initiatives taken by Les Walden as Bulletin Editor, who brought a number of more personal stories to

that publication. We expressed appreciation for his efforts and regret that he has found it necessary to resign that position due to health issues. The Nominating Committee is searching for a new editor.

Other means to improve communication were discussed, including intervisitation among meetings, making people feel welcome at yearly meeting and at monthly meetings, helping attenders find others with like interests, and encouraging intergenerational activities. We hope that the Adult Program Committee and the Advancement & Outreach Committee might work together to find ways to build various lines of communication between the yearly meeting and monthly meetings and between individuals. The Spiritual Formation Program and the teen and youth retreats were cited as examples of communication between monthly meetings outside our annual sessions.

The group then devoted some time to thinking about how we might celebrate the 50th anniversary of LEYM in 2013. Suggestions included:

- A concert presentation of the cantata “The Fire and the Hammer” (by Tony Biggin and Alec Davison), which has texts from George Fox and other early Quakers; performance of parts of it could be done at next year’s annual sessions;
- Group participation in scrapbooking and sharing of memorabilia;
- A publication such as a brief history of the YM;
- Invite Friends who have been long-term participants in LEYM to speak on what has nurtured them over the years. Get oral and written histories. Get young people to capture the histories.

The Clerk noted that we still have an unanswered concern for how we can evaluate the changed schedule of our meetings to late July. The Clerk will talk with the Program Committee about this.

The Executive Committee will meet again at the end of the Annual Sessions on Sunday. Then we will consider a date for Executive Committee meeting in the Fall.

Minutes of Executive Committee July 29, 2012

The Executive Committee reconvened on First Day, Seventh Month 29 2012, with its changed membership as of the rise of annual sessions earlier that day. In attendance were:

Thomas Taylor (Nominating), Nancy Taylor (Peace), Mike Hinshaw (Treasurer), Jeff Cooper (Finance), Sally Weaver Sommer (Assistant Clerk), Jon Sommer (Arrangements & Site), Dolores Avner (Advancement & Outreach), Mathilda Navias (Yearly Meeting worker), Clemence Ravaçon Mershon (Adult Program), Rosemary Coffey (Publications & Archives), Peter Dale (Recording Clerk), Judy Greenberg (Earthcare), Carla Pratt-Harrington (Youth Program), Peggy Daub (Clerk), and Tom Burnett (Bulletin Editor).

Paula Deming (Ministry & Nurture), Merry Stanford (Teen Retreat), and Becky Morehouse (Ad Hoc Committee on Youth) were not with us.

It was agreed that the fall meeting of the Executive Committee will be Saturday, October 27, from 10:00 till 4:00, in Oberlin, if arrangements can be made.

The Deadline for the Fall Bulletin will be set by the Bulletin Editor and the Publications & Archives Clerk. We would probably want to have the Bulletin published by the middle of September, with announcements to the Editor by August 20th. The deadline for submissions to the Winter Bulletin is January 1, with publication date around January 21. The deadline for submissions for the Spring Bulletin is May 1st, with publication date around May 21.

Submission of material for the Annual Records is needed by the end of August. Submissions go to Joe Mills.

The Program Committee and others spent time at these sessions thinking about how to celebrate our 50th

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anniversary next year, and especially during Annual Sessions. Mathilda Navias will explore arranging for a musical production (the Cantata “The Fire and the Hammer”). Clemence said that the program committee was working with a theme of how we mature as individuals and as a group. Workshops are being threshed out, and also under consideration are a memorabilia display, an alternative potluck, and oral histories with elders (perhaps captured on video and conducted by youth). Capturing oral histories is an activity that could begin now and continue throughout the year, in time for the Anniversary Celebration. Ann Arbor just celebrated its 75th anniversary and Grand Rapids its 50th, so their approaches could be considered for use with the yearly meeting. Both Marty Grundy (Cleveland) and Helen Horn (Athens) were suggested as resource people.

As we thought about the annual sessions just ended, three questions arose:

- Would it be possible to have registration for workshops so that planners have a sense of how many will attend? Program Committee will consider.
- There were two extra adult leaders with the Teen group because of it meeting during the Annual Meeting sessions, which was appreciated. However, there needs to be clarity on expectations for the Teens, particularly since there was a wider than expected age range in the participants.
- With the yearly meeting’s agreement that we should explore a service project, the Ad Hoc Committee for that purpose is formed. Nancy Taylor volunteered to help start the work of the group by organizing meetings. They will choose a clerk, as needed.

Peggy Daub, Presiding Clerk
Peter Dale, Recording Clerk