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Hosted by Cleveland Friends Meeting
Cleveland, Ohio

RM2016-01 Worship

Representative Meeting opened with a period of open worship near the appointed hour of 1:15.

Clerk Mike Holaday reported on the April 1, 2016 Executive Committee meeting, which consisted primarily of committee reports. The Clerk also suggested that Friends might want to read the March edition of FGC's publication *Vital Friends*, because it profiles Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

RM2016-02 Roll Call

Akron	2	Kent	0
Ann Arbor	4	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Athens	2	North Columbus	3
Birmingham	0	Oberlin.....	1
Broadmead.....	11	Pine River.....	0
Cleveland	5	Pittsburgh	6
Delaware	0	Red Cedar.....	0
Detroit	4	Waysmeet W. G.	1
Grand Rapids	1	Wooster	3
Granville	2		
Holland	0	Total	47
Kalamazoo	2		

RM2016-03 Meeting Worker's Report

Mathilda Navias reported on her work as Meeting Worker for the fiscal year beginning August 2015. We have budgeted her for 102 hours a year. So far this year, she has spent 73% of the time budgeted. Half of her work consists of maintaining and updating the website, including preparing and uploading the current and older minutes (back to 2001, so far), maintaining committee listservs, and creating and maintaining permanent email addresses for officers.

News items are frequently posted on our home page, and Friends who would like to receive automatic notices of news items are encouraged to sign up on the home page.

She also reported on website usage. The most frequently viewed pages include our home page, the list of meetings and worship groups, Annual Meeting information, and the LEYM bulletin. The frequency and order of page hits change from time to time reflecting current interests. As of January 2016, we receive most frequent site referrals from our old website at quaker.org, from Facebook, and from the Ann Arbor Meeting website. A full report is attached.

LEYM Worker Report

August 2015-March 2016

Just under half of my work so far this year has been maintaining and updating the yearly meeting web site. I also prepared minutes and uploaded them to the web site, both current minutes and older ones I'm

adding as they are prepared — minutes from 2001 are now on the web site. I maintained the listservs and the Gmail accounts for yearly meeting officers. The annual updates following Yearly Meeting, done in August and September, are a major portion of this. They include: updating who is on the Executive Committee listserv; updating meeting clerks and meeting representative listservs; updating the "finding a meeting" section of the website; updating contacts for LEYM committee clerks and officers; updating the Annual Meeting page; updating the chart of meeting clerks and worship group conveners; and updating the Spiritual Formation pages.

I created a new listserv this year for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting clerks.

Time Spent

The hours spent on the tasks I have performed and the percentage of the total time are detailed below (the number of hours are rounded off).

LEYM Website	26 hours (46%)
Annual updates following Yearly Meeting	
News posts and maintenance	
Format minutes & upload to web	7 hours (13%)
Listservs (Ex. Committee, MM Clerks, MM Reps, & GPQM Clerks)	12 3/4 hours (23%)
Annual updates of lists following Yearly Meeting	
Maintenance	
Administration (e-mails, prepare reports, misc.)	7 1/4 hours (13%)
Special project: Edit "Resources for LEYM Committee Clerks"	3 hours (5%)

Total hours: 56:06 hours (56.1) @ \$20 = \$1,122

(Total budgeted for year: \$2,040.00 x 3/4 of the year = \$1,530)

Percent of budget for 3/4 of the year used: 73%

The LEYM Worker position is budgeted for 102 hours of work a year, but since I took on the web site I've been averaging 80 hours of work a year, and my hours so far this year are right in line with that. I did work that many hours in 2011-12, the year I took on the web site, because of the time it took me to learn the new software. I anticipate spending 80 or fewer hours in the future unless time-consuming special projects or additional tasks are added to my job.

RM2016-04 Nominating Committee Report

Clemence Mershon, member, reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Our biggest need right now is for an assistant presiding clerk, to begin at the rise of our annual sessions. This is a four-year commitment. The Nominating Committee would appreciate hearing any suggestions Friends might have.

Discernment continues for an open position on the Advancement and Outreach Committee; please speak with Janet Dando if you can aid in this discernment.

The Nominating Committee is looking for one more teacher for the Youth and Children Committee as well as an Assistant Clerk. The clerk's position is a two year commitment, with the first year serving as Assistant Clerk, and rising to serve as Clerk in the second year.

The Nominating Committee seeks our guidance as to whether they are to continue to appoint visitors to nearby meetings. Historically we met with, and had close ties to neighboring yearly meetings, but over the years the need for joint meetings and our closeness with nearby yearly meetings has changed. Moving our meeting to late July has created some challenges for visiting other yearly meetings, because our meeting time conflicts with that of other meetings.

In light of the excitement around FWCC and interconnections with other Friends, one Friend expressed encouragement for continuing this practice, perhaps even considering moving the date of our Annual Meeting to facilitate such visits.

A full report is attached identifying other opportunities for service to the Yearly Meeting.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer has agreed to become registrar for the 2017 sessions. The Nominating Committee is seeking a friend adept in Excel to serve on the Finance Committee.

Friends are also sought as committee members for Ministry & Nurture and Peace and as representatives to American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Friends World Committee for Consultation.

The High School Teen Retreat Program is under discernment. We anticipate a report at Annual Sessions as to whether this Program will continue.

RM2016-05 Announcement: FWCC Section of the Americas Meeting in 2017

Clemence Mershon announced that LEYM will be hosting the FWCC Section of the Americas in the Gilmary Retreat Center near Pittsburgh the last week of March, 2017. Clemence Mershon and Mike Hinshaw are on the Convocation Committee. They are looking for dynamic spiritual speakers and hope to model the program after the very successful meeting in Peru. The Section's meeting is open to all Friends, not just FWCC representatives. Friends are encouraged to look at the report from the Peru meeting at http://fwccamericas.org/events/recent_events.shtml.

RM2016-06 Treasurer's Report

Mike Hinshaw, Treasurer, reported on the state of our finances. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Eighteen of the twenty monthly meetings have already made contributions for this year, totalling \$16,837.28.

The treasurer noted that, so far, we have only spent 19% of the money we have budgeted for travel on behalf of the yearly meeting. Friends serving in positions where travel is expected are encouraged to travel. When traveling on our behalf, Friends are encouraged to either request reimbursement, or to submit receipts so that we can accurately track what our work among Friends costs.

Publications Committee has spent only \$1,611 of the \$3200 budgeted for its work. Overall, we have spent approximately 61% of the amount budgeted, at approximately 73% of the way through the fiscal year. We currently have \$65,542 in assets.

More complete information is available in the attached report.

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND INCOME - 2015/2016 Fiscal Year

Meeting (Giver)	Amount	Date		
Akron Friends Meeting	220.00	1-Aug		
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	4,064.00	3-Feb		
Athens Friends Meeting	2,000.00	19-Sep		
Birmingham Friends Meeting	480.00	23-Nov		
Broadmead Friends Meeting	1,088.00	3-Feb		
Cleveland Friends Meeting				
Delaware Friends Meeting	384.00	11-Jan		
Detroit Friends Meeting	672.00	14-Oct		
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting	576.00	3-Feb		
Granville Friends Meeting	900.00	31-Aug		
Holland Friends Meeting	200.00	21-Mar		
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting	1,056.00	1-Mar		
Kent Friends Meeting	697.00	4-Jan		
Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting	182.00	2-Apr		
North Columbus Friends Meeting	800.00	16-Nov		
Oberlin Friends Meeting	784.00	16-Nov		
Pine River Friends Meeting	352.00	3-Feb		
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting				
Red Cedar Friends Meeting	1,792.00	21-Mar		
Wooster Friends Meeting	480.00	11-Jan		
Individuals	110.28	28-Dec		
Total	16,837.28			
FFC Dividends, Base Account	531.83	31-Dec		
FFC change port value, + or -, Base Account	-1926.97	31-Dec		
			Misc. Donations & In-Kind Income*	Total Cash plus In-Kind
TOTAL INCOME	15,442.14		--	15,442.14

*Includes donations at Annual Sessions

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Treasurer's Report: Individual Budget lines, 2015-2016 Budget Year

ACCOUNT	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE	BUDGET %	In-kind & Restricted Donations	TOTAL EXPENSE	TOTAL BUDGET %
Travel	4,000.00	773.90	19%		773.90	19%
Office	50.00	20.00	40%		20.00	40%
Contract worker	2,000.00	1,109.34	55%		1,109.34	55%
Finance ²	50.00	66.90	134%		66.90	134%
Publications	3,200.00	1,611.36	50%		1,611.36	50%
Advancement	100.00		0%		0.00	0%
Ministry & Nurture	100.00		0%		0.00	0%
Clerk	300.00		0%		0.00	0%
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	100%		4,500.00	100%
Michigan Friends Center	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%		1,000.00	100%
Records project	100.00		0%		0.00	0%
FWCC Travel Fund ¹	1,500.00	1,500.00	100%		1,500.00	100%
Youth Activities Fund ¹	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%		1,000.00	100%
H. S. Teen Retreat Fund ¹	1,600.00		0%		0.00	0%
Spiritual Formation Fund ¹	800.00	800.00	100%		800.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	0.00				0.00	
Olney Friends School	2,000.00	2,000.00	100%		2,000.00	100%
Consultation Fund ¹	0.00				0.00	
Scholarship Fund for Ministry ¹	500.00		0%		0.00	0%
Summer Work Project	1,200.00					
Insurance	500.00	500.00	100%		500.00	100%
Sub-total	24,500.00	14,881.50		-	14,881.50	
Misc. ³					0.00	
Totals	24,500.00	14,881.50	61%	0.00	14,881.50	61%

¹ Subsidy from General Fund to other funds

² Includes banking costs

³ FFC Dividends & portfolio value changes, formerly shown here, are now on sheet 1

Treasurer's Report: Summary of Funds 2015-2016 Fiscal Year; as of current date

Fund Name	Starting Balance	Income or Change	Subsidy from General Fund	Cash Expenses	End Balance	Fund Floors and Ceilings (000's)
General Fund ¹	24,706.13	15,442.14		14,881.50	25,266.77	na / 30
Granville Youth Fund ²	7,257.07	-449.50			6,807.57	na / na
Annual Meeting Fund ³	2,732.17	16,592.02		16,003.30	3,320.89	1 / 3
Youth Activities Fund ^{4,5}	6,407.16	-566.50	1,000.00		6,840.66	4 / 8
High School Teen retreat Fund ⁴	8,074.39				8,074.39	3 / 6
Spiritual Formation Fund ⁴	2,327.20	4,445.00	800.00	4,477.67	3,094.53	.5 / 1.5
FWCC Travel Fund ⁴	4,739.83		1,500.00	5,700.00	539.83	na / 6
Consultation Fund ⁴	3,143.68				3,143.68	.5 / 2
Ministry Scholarship Fund ⁴	1,500.00				1,500.00	na / 2
Summer Work Project Fund ⁴	1,355.00	446.55		619.66	1,181.89	na / 2
Travelling Ministries Fund	3,500.00				3,500.00	na / na
Travel Contingency Fund ⁴	2,272.13				2,272.13	2 / 4
TOTAL	68,014.76	35,909.71	3,300.00	41,682.13	65,542.34	

1 Includes line item accounting from Budget plus contributions; also reflects dividends and changes in net portfolio value, FFC base account

2 Granville Youth Fund is separate FFC account; 'Income or Change' reflects both dividend and change in portfolio value; 'Cash Expense' reflects dividends that have been paid and are then are transferred to Youth Activities Fund

3 Income includes \$862 in individual donations

4 Other funds are managed through accounting and may be subsidized by the corresponding budget lines of the General Fund.

5 Income includes dividends from FFC Granville YF account

RM2016-07 Finance Committee Report

Jeff Cooper, Clerk, reported for the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee has the task of setting fees for our Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting Fund, which had been dwindling, has now rebounded. This is thanks, in part, to donations made by Annual Meeting attendees.

For adults, the registration fee will remain the same (\$50 for early bird, \$60 for later), as will the ¹/₃ discount on all costs for first time attendees. Registration for children is free, and the existing ²/₃ discount of meals for children will continue. In addition, this year children will receive free lodging. This will bring the total cost for bringing a child to Annual Meeting to \$20-\$25 per child.

We are living within our means; for the second year in a row the Finance Committee expects to propose a smaller draft budget. Changes in the budget include decreasing several budget lines where spending is low and/or there is a substantial supporting fund and increasing our contribution to Friends General Conference to \$6,000, in view of their finance-driven reduction in programming.

The suggested contribution by monthly meetings for each member is expected to be \$28 per member, down from \$32 in the current fiscal year.

Friends Fiduciary Corporation has requested that we enter into a new custody agreement with them. The agreement is favorable to us, and the committee recommends that we adopt the following minute:

On April 2, 2016, LEYM agreed to the revised Custody and Investment Agreement with the Friends Fiduciary Corporation received on December 9, 2015, and authorized our Treasurer, Mike Hinshaw, to carry out the agreement on behalf of the Meeting.

Friends approved.

The full report of the Finance Committee is attached.

Finance Committee Report

I. 2016 Annual Meeting Fees and Scholarships

The Annual Meeting Fund, after dwindling down to \$371 three years ago, has rebounded by \$1102, \$1353, and \$589 in the last three years, to a fund balance of \$3321. In each of those years we have invited donations on the registration form, and these, averaging about \$1000 per year, have enabled the small yearly gains in the Annual Meeting Fund. If the donations continue, we can reduce other revenue a little with the hope of still breaking even. Wishing to attract more families with children, we plan to make lodging free for children this year. Free registration for children will continue, as will the 2/3 discount on meals. In other words, the total cost for bringing a child is only 1/3 of the standard cost for meals, or about \$20-\$25 for the weekend. For adults, the registration fee will remain the same (\$50 for early bird, \$60 for later) as will the 1/3 discount on all costs for first time attenders.

II. Draft Budget for 2016-17

As our treasurer has stated, we are not spending much. We have sufficient money in the General Fund and in other specific funds to cover unplanned expenses. There is no reason to ask monthly meetings for a level of contributions that increases our bank accounts.

Hence, for the second year in a row we are presenting a substantially smaller draft budget. For budget lines where spending is low and/or there is a substantial supporting fund, we are proposing smaller budgets for next year: Travel (down \$1000), Publications (down \$200), High School Teen Retreat (\$0, as there are no plans for this year and over \$8000 in the supporting fund), Spiritual Formation (down \$500), and Scholarship for Ministry (down \$400). In addition, last year's donation of \$1000 to Michigan Friends Center was a one-time gift for a special project. These proposed cuts total \$4700.

The cuts are partially offset by two proposed increases: We learned in the fall that Friends General Conference was being forced to cut back on programs for financial reasons, and wondered if we should contribute more. A little research showed that we have contributed \$4500 a year since 2003 (not counting a \$500 special contribution we made for several years) and \$4430 before that. We consulted with Sally Weaver Sommer, who is familiar with the finances of both FGC and LEYM, and decided that an increase to \$6000 is appropriate. In addition, policy dictates that we have an audit every four years (or more often, if there is a change of treasurer), which means we are due after Annual Meeting this year. We have added \$500 to the Finance line to cover this expense.

These proposed additions total \$2000, leaving a net decrease of \$2700. If implemented, this would result in a suggested contribution of \$28 per member, down from \$32 in the current year (and down from \$41 the previous year). Clearly if the Meeting wishes to take on new projects that involve expenses, we have the means to consider them.

III. New Custody Agreement with Friends Fiduciary Corporation

Mike Hinshaw reports that: "Friends Fiduciary Corporation [FFC] [with whom we have two accounts] has written a new custody agreement which they will implement. I do not believe we have much choice [about accepting it, but] it is favorable to the investors. It has these features compared with our current agreement:

- It codifies account close out procedures.
- It now recognizes the fact that investors may have assets allocated to more than one fund.
- It includes language regarding distributions reflecting the fact that some funds have distributions, some do not.

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- It removes indemnification language (eliminates a potential liability for LEYM).
- It sets a fee structure for new funds.
- Reference is given to on-line access to account information.

I recommend we adopt it."

FFC requests a Meeting minute authorizing the treasurer to sign the agreement by May 31. Finance Committee supports this, and proposes the following minute:

On April 2, 2016, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting agreed to the revised Custody and Investment Agreement with the Friends Fiduciary Corporation received on December 9, 2015, and authorized our Treasurer, Mike Hinshaw, to carry out the agreement on behalf of the Meeting.

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Draft Budget Work Sheet LEYM 2016 - 2017 Budget

General Fund Expenses (* = transfers)	FY 2013-2014		FY 2014-2015		FY 2015-2016		FY 2016-2017	
	Act 12-13 Δ	Bud 13-14	Act 14-15	Budget	Budget	Actual to date, 4-2-16	Draft Budget	Change from 15-16
Travel	3,972.64	5,000	1546.70	3,000	3000.00	774	3,000	-1,000
Office	18.00	50	18.00	50	48.00	20	50	0
Contract worker		2,040	938.12	2,040	1638.19	1,109	2,000	0
Finance		50	40.40	50	11.00	67	550	500
Publications	3,371.43	3,200	2030.71	3,000	3083.21	1,611	3,000	-200
Advancement	0.00	600	-175.77	600		0	100	0
Ministry & Nurture	0.00	300	150.00	300	-324.93	0	100	0
Clerk's Fund	27.00	300	0.00	300		0	300	0
FGC	4,500.00	4,500	4,500.00	4,500	4,500.00	4,500	6,000	1,500
MFC one-time donation				1000		1,000	0	-1,000
Records project	0.00	200	200.00	100	100.00	0	100	0
FWCC Travel*	1,000.00	1,200	1200.00	2,400	2400.00	1,500	1,500	0
Youth Activity Fund*	1,000.00	1,000	1000.00	1,000	1000.00	1,000	1,000	0
High School Retreat Fund*	4,900.00	6,000	6000.00	6,300	6300.00	0	0	-1,600
Spiritual Formation*	100.00	100	100.00	800	800.00	800	300	-500
Friends School in Detroit	4,500.00	4,500	4500.00	4,500	4,500.00	0	0	0
Olney Friends School	600.00	600	600.00	600	600.00	2,000	2,000	0
Consultation Fund*	0.00	0	0.00	0		0	0	0
Scholarship Fund for ministry*	1,500.00	1,000	1,000.00	500	500.00	0	100	-400
Summer work project				1,200	1200.00	0	1,200	0
Insurance	500.00	500	500.00	500	500.00	500	500	0
Misc.	-1,212.83	0	-2357.70	0		0	0	0
Total Expense =	24,776.24	31,140	21,790.46	31,740	29,855.47	14,881	21,800	-2,700
Contributions Income	29,543.00	29,000	29,001.00	29,725	29,502.00	16,837	20,160	-2,880
FFC Dividends Income			738.71	600	955.94	532	1,050	0
Other Income		250	4010.91	250	0	0	0	0
Total Income =	29,543.00	29,250	33,750.62	30,575	30,457.94	17,369	21,210	-2,880
Income - Expenses =	4,766.76	-1,890.00	11,960.16	-1,165	602.47	2,488	-590	-180
Total Contribs / Members		\$40.00		\$41.00		-9	28	-4
Members		725		725		-5	720	0
Suggested contribution/member		40		41		-9	28	-4

BUDGET UNDERFUNDING: Balance, if needed, comes from General Fund.

RM2016-08 Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

Paula Deming, Clerk, reported for the Ministry and Nurture Committee. LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program held a fall retreat with twenty-five Friends at the Weber Retreat Center September 11-13, 2015, led by JoAnn Seaver on Rex Ambler's "Experiment with Light." A follow-up spring retreat is scheduled for May 14, hosted by Ann Arbor Friends Meeting.

Next year Della Stanley Green will lead a program on September 9-11 at the Weber Center titled, "Help in our Spiritual Journeys with help from Quakers and fellow travelers in the past: John Woolman, Caroline Stevens, and Howard Thurman."

The Ministry and Nurture Committee shared their consolidated response to the Query. The purpose of the Annual Query is to invite friends to wrestle with a question that is both topical and universal. The committee received a record number of responses (including one from a worship group that had never previously submitted a response). The committee heard reports that even when the query did not formally generate a response, it was used by meetings as a tool for deep exploration, at times sparking the first conversation within a meeting on the topic of white privilege.

As one worship group put it, "White privilege is like the wind at our back that carries some of us forward, pushing others back. We do not need to eliminate the wind at our back, but we need to find a way to make it blow everyone forward."

A copy of the consolidated response is attached.

Consolidated Response to the 2015 LEYM Query

For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; I was naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.

Matthew 25:35-36, Jerusalem Bible

How might our Meeting support individuals and the Meeting as a whole in working to increase racial justice within our world? In what ways do we as a Meeting recognize white privilege in our own Meeting? What tools and practices do we use to foster awareness of our personal and corporate biases?

This year we received a record number of responses by the time of Representative Meeting: a total of 15! It is typical for us to receive a few more into May. Although we like having responses sent to us by [the time of] Representative Meeting, the major purpose of answering the annual query is for our meetings and worship groups to have an opportunity to participate in an annual spiritual activity. One of our worship groups met and considered the query, but did not produce a written response. This does not negate the true purpose of the activity; the query is designed to bring Friends together to wrestle with a question that is both topical and universal.

Some meetings reported that the query has sparked the first conversation in their meeting about racism and were grateful for the query. One identified this learning as a lifelong process, and in the past had not considered that white privilege may be an influence because it is so ingrained in the white culture. Erie Worship group envisioned this with the following:

"The best way I've heard white privilege described is to picture jogging at the beach. On the way out the wind is at your back and you glide along. If you ever turn around, you feel the wind now providing resistance and hindering you. White privilege is the wind at your back that helps you in a million tiny ways but you never feel it or see it unless you choose to turn around. We don't need to get rid of the wind but we need to find a way to make it blow everyone forward." For most of us admitting that that wind has not been operating to blow all members of our society forward is painfully apparent."

Many meetings wrote of the need to reach out, to learn, to listen as ways to increase their awareness of the ramifications of racism within themselves, in their meetings, in the culture at large. Several meetings

listed the possible actions they could take; many listed the deep desire to act in ways that will increase racial justice, even though they're not sure how to do it, but are seeking to act on their belief that there is that of God in every person.

Kalamazoo Meeting spoke of the action taken by the Meeting to locate the meeting house in a low income neighborhood and to make the property a Peace Park. The Meeting offers regular programs for the children in the neighborhood and has worked with residents in the neighborhood to determine how to maintain peace in the park. This included "a creative hiring of men of color from a security firm founded by local police retirees. They have been very supportive of our goals to maintain and teach peace and have become role models for neighborhood youth. We are grateful for their assistance and are currently seeking long-range plans for keeping the park peaceful. Our struggles with this have increased our awareness of the realities of white privilege and racial justice."

One thing that we noted as we pondered the query responses was how deeply Friends shared the moment that the scales fell from their eyes. In particular Nancy Warlop, from Kent Monthly Meeting, shared this poem:

The Other Side

How many times have I stopped here
To acknowledge, to point out to other people
Visiting from other places:
This was a stop on the Underground Railroad,
According to this sign by the River and the rails.
Never had I read it carefully before:
"Continued on the other side" in tiny letters.
So, I went to the other side:
There: A list of early abolitionists.
One-the name of my street.
The street I have lived on, looked on, walked on
All these years. I never knew.
Wondering how many other things in front of me
I do not see.

To sum up, Detroit Friends Meeting puts it front and center for us:

Profound spiritual and moral questions, including those of racism and white privilege, must begin with the question, "Where is it in me?" We can easily become philosophical and intellectual, but examining white privilege begins as a sometimes painful, internal search. Even those of us who have thought about questions of race and privilege for a lifetime continue to deal with this because white privilege is an invisible veil through which white people encounter reality. It often exists not through intent but through lack of awareness. We need to continually pull aside that veil.

RM2016-09 Advancement and Outreach Committee Report

Mathilda Navias, committee member, reported for the Advancement and Outreach Committee.

Pine River Monthly Meeting is considering turning itself into a worship group. Members of the committee are in consultation with them to provide guidance.

Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting reports that, in addition to Erie, Indiana and South Hills Worship groups, they have recently taken worship groups in Sherwood Oaks and Somerset under their care. They are in conversation with Meadville as well.

RM2016-10 Earthcare Committee Report

Russell Adams, Co-Clerk, reported that there are four projects they are interested in working on:

1. Golden Ruled Full Sustainability Movement: The Earthcare Committee has been exploring, in depth, a golden ruled full sustainability movement that bundles together issues of sustainability across a broad spectrum of concentrations: food and water, energy, population, economics, political, and others. The committee likens sustainability work to the abolition movement, paraphrasing George Fox, “Do you to and for all children of the future as you would have all children in the future do for you if you were in their place?”

The Earthcare Committee suggests reprinting the Golden Ruled Sustainability Movement statement in the *Bulletin*, to generate further discussion within our meetings, and among the wider Quaker community including secondary and post-secondary Quaker schools.

2. Planned Parenthood: The Durango (Colorado) Friends Meeting has adopted a minute supporting Planned Parenthood, which will be presented for further discernment at the Inter Mountain Yearly Meeting. (A copy of the minute is attached.) The Earthcare Committee members would welcome further conversation on this minute and on the underlying concern that generated this minute.

MINUTE from Durango Monthly Meeting in support of Planned Parenthood

Approved at Meeting for Worship for Business on 2/7/2016

Reproductive health is important not only because it helps individuals to be healthier, but also because it gives them control over their fertility. Family planning is the most effective way to avoid unplanned pregnancies and therefore it takes away the occasion for abortion. Although abortion is only a very small percentage of the services provided at Planned Parenthood clinics, recently this organization has come under extreme criticism from both political and religious organizations.

Reproductive health is also important from a public health standpoint. Family planning has slowed the growth rate of the human population. With fewer people on the planet there are fewer emitters, and thus fewer emissions. Therefore, family planning has slowed the rate of climate change. Indeed, the most effective and least expensive way to slow climate change is by supporting family planning. In the United States, the non- governmental organization that fosters reproductive health the most is Planned Parenthood.

Durango Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends recognizes the importance of Planned Parenthood clinics to thousands of men and women in the USA. We support the local clinic in Durango and recognize its staff for the important services they provide.

3. Playshop at LEYM: Richard Hogan hopes to present a “playshop” at LEYM this year. The concept of a “playshop” is that we are dealing with such frightening issues these days that we need to approach these issues with play, as if we were children.
4. Four QEW Asks: The Earthcare Committee recommends monthly meetings consider participating in the four QEW asks:
 - To consider planting native plants
 - To shift to renewable electric suppliers where possible
 - To encourage states to act against climate change
 - To continue divestment from fossil fuels

The Earthcare Committee is reminded that each committee is empowered to distribute materials directly to monthly meetings as it discerns is appropriate.

RM2016-11 Query: Committees bringing their work to Yearly Meeting

A question was raised about the process by which the work of our committees is taken up by the wider Yearly Meeting. We ask the Executive Committee to consider, and perhaps draft guidelines about how best to facilitate that process.

RM2016-12 Peace Committee Report

Kathleen Helbling, member, reported for Peace Committee. Peace Committee will be presenting a workshop at summer gathering titled, "Racial Justice, what can I do?" The intent is to celebrate the work we are already doing, and to motivate us to do more.

Members of the Peace Committee will be calling each monthly meeting and worship group to learn what peace issues each meeting is interested in, and to learn how the Peace Committee can better support the ongoing peace work of our monthly meetings.

RM2016-13 Children and Youth Committee Report

Kate Spry, Clerk, reported for the Children and Youth Committee. The committee greatly appreciates already having a nearly full complement of teachers! Last year the youth program benefitted from a presentation by the Earthcare Committee. The committee encourages other committees to consider making similar presentations this year. Twin Lakes, one of the traditional swimming locations for annual gathering, does not provide lifeguards. The program would like to return to Twin Lakes, but needs a lifeguard. If anyone is a certified lifeguard, please contact Kate Spry.

Conleth Crotser reported on the K-8 fall retreat. This year 7-8 children (and approximately the same number of adults) gathered from Friday through Sunday on the first weekend in October at a UCC camp and visited the Balderstons' farm. As is typical, they used discernment to make decisions and continued to build long-standing relationships with other Quaker youth.

RM2016-14 High School Teen Retreat Program Committee Report

Dave Avner, Clerk, reported for the High School Teen Retreat Program Committee. Robb Yurisko has resigned from his paid position as coordinator of the High School Teen Retreat Program, but agreed to coordinate a single retreat this past year as a volunteer. Robb contacted every monthly meeting and could not locate any teen in LEYM who was interested in participating in the Quake that Rocked the Midwest, so there was no LEYM teen retreat this year.

The committee suggests that it may be time to lay this program down. Monthly meetings are asked to consider whether there remains a need for the teen retreat program. We will revisit the question at our Annual Sessions.

RM2016-15 Program Committee Report

Dale Pratt-Harrington, Clerk, reported. The theme for our Annual Sessions program is, "What would John Woolman do? Our plenary speaker will be Baltimore Deputy Public Defender Natalie Finagar. Natalie is a member of Sandy Springs Monthly Meeting within Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Rather than a talent show this year, we will have an ice cream social and an arts and crafts show. Friends are invited to bring their work to share (with an option to sell). The tentative schedule will be made available to clerks of Monthly Meeting by end of April, and will also be published in the *Bulletin*.

RM2016-16 Publications and Archives Committee Report

Peggy Daub, Clerk, reported for the Publications and Archives Committee.

The Publications and Archives Committee has been doing internal work to generate guidelines for its work, including a guideline for when information should be included in the Bulletin and for preparation of our annual records.

Based on a survey taken recently, we will be delivering bulletins electronically to anyone who wants one. The cost savings associated with electronic delivery will permit a color print version. Deadline for copy for the Spring *Bulletin* is May 15.

A copy of the report is attached.

Publications & Archives Committee Report

The Publications & Archives Committee has performed some housekeeping tasks this year, including creating a guide to when specific information needs to be included in the *Bulletin*, and drafting a guide to compiling and producing the *Annual Records*.

As always, we are concerned not just about producing the Yearly Meeting publications, but whether they are reaching our audience. To that end, Bill Lefler of Pittsburgh Meeting will be contacting clerks of each meeting and worship group soon to ensure that our bulk mailings to meetings are correctly addressed to the appropriate person who can distribute them. We are also going to offer more electronic delivery of the *Bulletin*, based on results of a brief survey at annual sessions in 2015 which showed that about half of the respondents were interested in receiving *LEYM Bulletins* electronically, either directly from the website or via email. By this fall, we will be sending the *Bulletin* by direct email to individuals who request it. We will invite people to sign up for this delivery method via notices in issues of the *Bulletin* and a sign up at Annual Sessions, while also advertising the fact that we will mail paper copies to individuals at their home addresses upon request. We will still continue to send multiple paper copies to meetings (though possibly in smaller numbers, depending on requests to receive by email) and have electronic versions available on the website.

We anticipate that delivering copies by email will allow us to print the resulting smaller number of paper copies in color with a small difference in cost. That will make the paper copies and electronic copies identical.

Rosemary Coffey of Pittsburgh Meeting has agreed to compile and edit the *Annual Records* for 2016. Printing and distribution will be overseen by the committee.

Please note that the deadline for copy for the *Spring Bulletin* is May 15.

RM2016-17 Arrangements and Site Committee Report

Jon Sommer, Clerk, reported for the Arrangements and Site Committee. Our Annual Meeting will take place at Bluffton University from July 28 through July 31, 2016. The committee is exploring with Bluffton University a resolution for the air circulation issues in the Marbeck Center. Friends will also be encouraged to leave their fragrance scented items at home this year.

RM2016-18 Policies and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee Report

Mathilda Navias, Clerk, reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on Policies and Procedures. The committee was tasked with developing a brief description of each committee to be included in our P&P manual to aid both the Nominating Committee and individuals asked to serve on committees, in their discernment process.

Suggested text developed by the committee will be presented at Annual Sessions.

RM2016-19 Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Report

Joe Mills reported. In light of indebtedness approaching \$1 million, GPQM decided in May of 2015 to lay down the Friends School in Detroit. Thereafter, a coalition of school supporters came together and offered a plan to raise money to save the school through the sale of an artwork by James Turrell, with the hope that an infusion of money would allow the school to reopen as a Friends School under the auspices The Friends Council on Education.

Some progress has been made. The senior mortgage in foreclosure has been paid off, as has been most of the back pay owed to staff. But significant debt remains. No funds have materialized from sale of James Turrell artwork. The finances continue to be extremely difficult to audit. A considerable portion of debt that the School agreed with the Quarterly Meeting to pay has not yet been satisfied. With the school closed this fall, the building has continued to deteriorate.

The School is considering reopening in September, 2016 on a limited basis with a significantly reduced

number of classes.

A copy of the full report is attached.

Report to Representative Meeting on Friends School in Detroit

In the late spring and summer of 2015, the financial situation of Friends School Detroit had deteriorated significantly. In the face of a pending mortgage foreclosure, some \$80,000.00 in unpaid payroll obligations and a total indebtedness approaching one million dollars, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, at its May 2015, meeting, decided to lay down the School.

In response to this decision, certain School trustees and parents interested in keeping the school operating proposed alternative plans. The essence of their final plan was that a large cash infusion would come within the next nine months in the form of donated sale proceeds from artwork of sculptor-architect, James Turrell. At its September 2015 meeting, the Quarterly Meeting reached an agreement with the Friends School Board. A material term of the agreement was that by the middle of May 2016, certain portions of the School's indebtedness approaching the estimated liquidated value of its assets would be paid or properly accounted for. Upon such debt satisfaction, the Quarterly Meeting would withdraw its responsibility for the School as a member of the Friends School in Detroit Corporation and permit the School to operate independently of the Quarterly or any monthly meeting and seek accreditation directly from The Friends Council on Education as a Friends School. For lack of resources, the School did not open in September 2015 but hoped to open a year later.

Since September some progress in debt re-payment has been made. A group of local benefactors was able to raise some \$426,000 in secured financing to pay off at a significant discount the mortgage that was in foreclosure and most of the back compensation owed teachers and staff. Some progress also has been made in paying delinquent Michigan unemployment taxes. However, no funds have come in from any James Turret artwork donations and nearly \$200,000 of debt that the School agreed to pay by mid-May of this year remains unpaid.

The school's building, which has been sitting empty, has further deteriorated in its condition. The roof has been leaking all winter, causing much interior damage to carpeting and ceiling tiles. The kindergarten room recently flooded when a pipe broke.

As a result of outreach to eastern Friends, last fall, New York Quarterly Meeting agreed to finance \$150,000 worth of improvements (primarily a new roof) and take back a junior mortgage. Unfortunately, nothing has been received on this yet and the process of bringing this to fruition has been slow. Recently the school started to consider a special financing option on favorable terms to make energy efficient improvements which may include roof replacement.

To secure grants and other funding possibilities, the school requested an audit with a grant from the Kresge Foundation. The preliminary draft of the audit received in January was grossly inaccurate. The problem seems to be that the school has not had any formal bookkeeping service for two to three years and its records are in poor shape. The auditor said that all he had to go on were bank statements which would be inadequate for audit purposes. When a formal acceptable audit might be forthcoming is unknown. There is a concern that given the poor state of financial record keeping, a customary certifiable audit may be almost impossible to obtain.

The Trustees had hoped to hire a new Head of School in February, but lack of funding did not permit this. The school would like to hire one as soon as possible but any target date would be speculative. Drew Smith from Friends Council on Education attended a Board meeting about ten days ago and explained how Friends School in Detroit could be designated a Friends school under the auspices of Friends Council and shared ideas on shepherding resources to restart the school on a limited basis.

The School is considering reopening in September of 2016 as a prekindergarten or prekindergarten through second grade institution and expanding grades in subsequent years. However, time for planning on opening is running short and the Board has yet to decide whether to commit to continue the School in a limited form in September.

RM2016-20 Service Project

Clerk Mike Holaday announced that Peggy Daub, who has worked with others to coordinate the Service Project in recent years, feels unable to continue in that role this year. If we are to move forward with a Service Project this year, a new coordinator and a specific project will need to be identified by the date the notice of Annual Meeting is sent out, May 15. Anyone who feels led to carry this forward should contact Mike Holaday.

RM2016-21 Online Registrations

A desire was expressed for online registrations for our Annual Meeting. We ask the Registrar to look into whether this is possible.

RM2016-22 Minute of Appreciation

Clerk Mike Holaday offered the following minute of appreciation to our hosts, Cleveland Meeting.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting expresses its deep appreciation to the Friends of Cleveland Friends Meeting for hosting our Representative Meeting for 2016. We appreciate their hospitality all the more, knowing they're living with new floor plans they're not used to and empty rooms that have yet to be furnished, as a result of an extensive remodeling project. Under the circumstances it was especially generous of them to volunteer. We wish them much happiness and the many blessings of the Spirit in the use of their beautiful space.

Friends approved this minute.

The 2016 Representative Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by
Mike Holaday, Clerk
Nancy Reeves, Recording Clerk