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Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Representative Meeting

April 14, 2018

Athens Friends Meeting

Clerks' table: Nancy Reeves, clerk; Mike Holaday, assistant clerk; Peter Wood, recording clerk

RM2018-01 Worship

Representative Meeting opened with a period of open worship.

RM2018-02 Roll Call

Akron	1	Kalamazoo	1
Ann Arbor	2	Kent	0
Athens	6	Manitou Worship Group	0
Birmingham	1	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Broadmead	7	North Columbus	3
Circleville Worship Group	0	Oberlin	0
Cleveland	1	Pine River Worship Group	0
Delaware	0	Pittsburgh	2
Detroit	2	Red Cedar	2
Erie Worship Group	0	Somerset Worship Group	0
Grand Rapids	1	Tustin Worship Group	0
Granville	0	Waysmeet Worship Group	0
Holland	0	Wooster	1
Indiana Worship Group	0		

Total 30

RM2018-03 Friends School in Detroit Report

Jeff Cooper, board member, reported on the sale of Friends School in Detroit and how the process by which the 1 million dollars remaining after expenses is to be disbursed. The report follows.

Friends School in Detroit

I am reporting as one of the nine Board members of Friends School in Detroit. The building and property on which the School stood were sold on March 7, 2018, for over \$2 million to a trio of builders and real estate developers who intend to build residential housing there. The proceeds will cover all known debts, the realtor's commission, and legal fees, with roughly \$1 million left over. Our treasurer has paid off most of the debts already; any debts still unpaid are because we are trying to determine the precise amount owed. The Board has formed a subcommittee to consider how the remaining money might be distributed in accordance with the articles of incorporation, which state that they must go to "corporations ... organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes." The subcommittee does not intend to propose a list of recipients until December 2018 at the earliest.

RM2018-04 Olney Friends School Report

Greg Mott, LEYM Representative to Olney, reported. Greg described a February 10 letter from Olney outlining the financial risks and desperate financial straits the school faces. Olney has since raised 140% of the funds needed to continue for at least another year. The School has engaged a consulting firm to analyze the School's financial situation and to make recommendations. LEYM members can help in these ways: visit the School, contribute, spread word-of-mouth to attract students, pray, and assist as you feel

led. The student body has hovered around 50 in the past 10 years, but the school foresees a shortage 2 years down the road because this year's graduating class will number 22. The report follows.

Update: Olney Friends School

On February 10, 2018, Olney Friends School sent a mass email to its alumni and friends that began with the statement "Olney Friends School is at risk." A variety of financial concerns have led to a time of desperation: Raise \$250,000 by March 30, or close the School in fall. This gave the Olney community a little more than 1½ months to raise this money.

The sources of the financial crisis are many: the recession negatively impacted the last major funding campaign, financial aid is over-distributed, and refusing to sell mineral rights to fracking companies is a missed source of income, but preserves the integrity of Olney's commitment to creating a healthy world.

Despite the ongoing concerns and challenges, I am pleased to report that Olney has already raised \$360,000, and has announced it will remain open in 2017–2018, its 181st year.

The School has engaged the services of EMD Consulting, who specialize in working with nonprofits to improve their development and business models. They will be presenting a major report at the upcoming board meeting (April 20–22). We are eagerly awaiting their analysis of our situation.

How LEYM can help:

- Come visit.
- Sponsor a workshop or a class.
- Contribute to the Annual Fund.
- Word of mouth is still the most effective recruitment for Olney. Help spread the word.
- Please keep Olney Friends School in your prayers, and offer assistance as you feel led.

RM2018-05 Nominating Committee Report

Janet Dando, Committee clerk, reported. Needed immediately: an assistant clerk for Youth & Children's program. In July, we will need: an assistant clerk of the Meeting, a clerk and two to three members for Advancement & Outreach, a committee member for Finance, two members for Adult Program, one for Peace & Justice, two for Ministry & Nurture, and three representatives to Friends General Conference.

Joe Mills was nominated for clerk of the Finance Committee. The Meeting approved Joe Mills for this position.

RM2018-06 Advancement & Outreach Committee Report

Mathilda Navias, Committee clerk, reported. Fremont Worship Group has been laid down. Mathilda also reported on displays at the Annual Meeting and on an e-newsletter focusing on outreach, to be produced by New England Yearly Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting jointly. The report follows.

LEYM Advancement & Outreach Committee Report to Representative Meeting, April 14, 2018

Fremont Worship Group has been laid down.

We plan to have handouts and a display on welcoming and including all newcomers at Annual Sessions.

There is a brand-new outreach e-newsletter from New England and New York Yearly Meetings, who are working together on it. They plan to produce it quarterly. It will share strategies, resources, and questions about building the Quaker movement, as well as religious education and "inreach." They are inviting other yearly meetings to participate in submitting articles and disseminating it. We will be contacting meetings to ask who at each meeting or worship group should receive copies.

RM2018-07 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

Carla Pratt-Harrington reported on this morning's group meeting. The Spiritual Formation program will host the final retreat for this year's program at Red Cedar Friends Meeting on May 5. Carla also read aloud some of the 11 responses from Meetings on this year's query. M&N's report follows.

Ministry & Nurture Report

Ministry & Nurture Committee received a request for support (financial and hospitality arrangements) for traveling ministry. After communication with the individual's monthly meeting it was decided to hold the request until the monthly meeting processed the request for a traveling minute. The monthly meeting was uncertain that a traveling minute is appropriate. The request for financial support was subsequently withdrawn by the individual with hopes that the travel (and support) might occur at a later date.

Flo Friender and Carla Pratt-Harrington, Co-Clerks

RM2018-08 Peace & Justice Committee Report

Shelley Kotz, Peace & Justice co-clerk, reported. The Committee has not met yet in person. The Bulletin incorrectly listed the clerks of this committee, and this will be corrected. It's a six-person committee, and is down one person at this time. Shelley requested that anyone who wishes to bring a minute related to peace and justice for consideration at Annual Sessions be in touch with her beforehand. The report follows.

Peace & Justice Committee Report

The Peace & Justice Committee has met twice by internet/phone conference. We created a survey about peace and justice concerns; a link to the survey has been sent to meeting clerks and leaders. If you have not yet completed the survey, we hope that you will. We are also requesting that meetings will send us photos or other information about their peace and justice activities, which will be used to create a display celebrating our joint activities to be shown at Yearly Meeting.

We have received an update regarding the screening of investments made by Friends Fiduciary Corporation, which was the subject of a minute at the 2017 Annual Sessions. The Friends Fiduciary Board has now adopted new guidelines that include a concern for human rights and will address the suffering of people who live under occupation and in areas of conflict, including not only Palestinians in the West Bank, but also occupied populations in Crimea, East Ukraine, South Sudan, and other areas of conflict.

RM2018-09 Meeting Worker's Report

Mathilda Navias reported on her last 9 months' work. There were 13,000 views of the LEYM website. She listed the more popular pages. She put in 50 hours of work, most of which was devoted to updating the website. The clerk will be leading the search for a new worker, as Mathilda will be moving in the summer of 2019. Her report follows.

Report from Mathilda Navias, LEYM Worker July 2017 – March 2018 (Nine Months)

LEYM Website

There have been over 13,000 views of LEYM web pages so far this year. July always has the most, when Friends get information and register for Annual Sessions. Popular pages include information on meetings and worship groups, downloading Bulletins, contact information for LEYM officers and committees, information on Spiritual Formation retreats, LEYM's calendar, and two information pages, "About LEYM" and "About Quakers." A news post about a split and subsequent new yearly meeting in the Northwest U.S., several resource pages, and the Links page also got 50-100 views each.

My work this year so far has been doing the annual updates to the website, posting news items, and making minor tweaks here and there.

Meetings and worship groups that are having difficulty maintaining a website are encouraged to ask me for a one-page site hosted by LEYM, which is provided free of charge. Friends are also encouraged to

check out the extensive Resources and Links pages.

Email Lists

The new paid email service, Electric Embers, is working well. We can create an unlimited number of lists with plenty of room for the folks we need to put on them. The cost is \$15 a month, which is \$180 a year.

Policies and Procedures

I need to add the changes that were approved at last year's Annual Sessions on LEYM's Policy on Preventing Child and Sexual Abuse to the Policies and Procedures manual.

Time Spent

My work during this fiscal year currently totals just over 50 hours, about half of my hours at this time last year, when I went over budget. There are still some annual tasks that need doing.

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

LEYM Website	23½ hours (43%)
Annual updates following Annual Sessions	
News posts	
Updates and maintenance	
Format 2017 minutes & upload to web	3½ hours (6%)
Listservs & Gmail	17 hours (31%)
Annual updates of lists and Gmail addresses following Annual Sessions	
Updates during the year	
Administration (emails, prepare reports, misc.)	8½ hours (15%)
Special Project (July)	3 hours (5%)
Update online registration for Annual Sessions	
Total hours: 55½ hours	

RM2018-10 Treasurer's Report

Mike Hinshaw reported. He outlined contributions made to LEYM by monthly meetings, totaling \$12,241 so far this fiscal year. Several meetings have yet to contribute. The value of LEYM investments has risen 7%. Mike outlined the expenses paid so far this year, coming to \$16,854 out of a total budget of \$26,275 (about 64%). He listed the dedicated funds that we fund with revenues from contributions. Some of these funds have not been used, for example the Traveling Ministries fund. Finally, he described where LEYM monies are located. LEYM's total assets come to \$71,415.

RM2018-11 Finance Committee Report

Mike Hinshaw and Bob Orr reported. Bob described each year's budget as an adjustment of the previous year's budget. He outlined preliminary ideas for adjustments in FY 2018–2019: reduce the travel line to \$2000; remove Pittsburgh remodeling funds (a one-time need); remove the FGC Gathering and White Privilege Conference scholarships, which were created in recognition of the fact that both events occur in LEYM's "territory" this year; increase the contribution to Olney Friends School.

Publications & Archives will ask for more money.

The total effect of these changes would amount to a \$4500 reduction. Bob thought that LEYM would maintain the \$30-per-member suggested contribution.

There was discussion of whether to continue to fund the scholarship to White Privilege conferences and similar anti-racist events. The Finance Committee would like seasoned input on this scholarship. We ask Peace & Justice to do this seasoning work, and to communicate with Finance in a timely manner.

Bob reported on the FGC Gathering and White Privilege conference scholarships; a total of 11 requests for funds were made. He also reported that maximum and minimum values for some LEYM funds have been established, and we need to consider how much is too much, when we have exceeded a maximum, and how to use excess funds. Three funds are currently above the maximum level, though one of those should spend down its funds by summer. We need to discern whether some of the purposes budgeted for are no longer consonant with leadings in LEYM and what our leadings are now.

There was a \$1000 shortfall for funding last year's Annual Meeting. But there is enough money to cover, so the same registration fee as last year for LEYM Annual Sessions is recommended for 2018. The Annual Meeting has been self-funding; perhaps this is the time to institute a budget line item for the Annual Meeting.

Finance would like an appropriate committee to consider the amount of LEYM's donation to Friends General Conference. Executive Committee will do this work.

A written report from Joe Mills, Finance Committee clerk, follows.
Report of Finance Committee
to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Representative Meeting
4/11/2018

Joseph Mills (Kalamazoo) will serve as clerk of the Committee.

As of this date, Mike Hinshaw, Joe Mills, and Nancy Reeves arranged for the granting of financial assistance to Friends in the Yearly Meeting to attend the Friends General Conference 2018 Gathering being held this summer in Toledo, Ohio. This was in accordance with a Yearly Meeting minute adopted at the last Annual Sessions. A total of \$1819 for eight individuals was awarded. \$350 of the total was for teens, and the rest for adults.

RM2018-12 Arrangements & Site Committee Report

Jon Sommer, clerk, reported. The Annual Meeting will take place July 26-29 at Bluffton, Ohio. There will be a very slight fee increase because of rising meal prices. There are discounts for young adults, children, and first-time attenders; these discounts will be the same as last year.

RM2018-13 Children & Youth Program Committee Report

Greg Mott, clerk, reported. During the Annual Meeting, there will be a short period of worship for children and youth each morning, a visit to a museum in Findlay, and a mapping project on monthly meetings and worship groups. The Meeting approved a policy that drivers of children be 21 or older. A meeting for parents will be organized.

The fall youth retreat will be held on September 28–30 at Temple Hills Camp in central Ohio.

A connection with youth leaders in Northern Yearly Meeting has been established. This may be fruitful for creating future programs for LEYM youth.

A report follows.

Youth & Children Committee Report In looking ahead to Annual Meeting

Old business

We look to continue the new practice of a 15-minute meeting for worship at the beginning of each day. We began this practice in 2017, and it was well received.

I have met with the directors of the Mazza Museum (children's books' illustrations) about the possibility of bringing the LEYM youth group there for an afternoon outing, in lieu of one day of swimming. They were open to the idea, which may be done for approximately \$100-\$150, depending on size of the group.

We are also considering a mapping project involving pictures of LEYM places of worship on a map of LEYM meeting locations. Theme: Building the Beloved Community: Who is My Neighbor?

New Business

Child Safety Video training for children group leaders. How do we record this? Who collects these records? May leaders watch it at home ahead of time?

Who is a contact for the Young Friends? We need to communicate regarding Annual Meeting interactions between Young Friends and the Youth Program, particularly regarding attendance at swimming and giving rides.

Update/clarification on setting driver age limit to 21.

Can the registration form add a line for individuals to check Young Friends?

Possibly adding a brief "orientation" for parents?

Fall youth retreat has been set for a date yet to be determined, at Temple Hills camp in central Ohio. With the approval given by executive Committee on 4/13/2018, it will be offered to children ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade.

As a resource of youth programming ideas, we have been referred to Dave Minden, of Northern Yearly Meeting. They have a variety of youth initiatives, including their own Quaker campground, and could be a strong partner to troubleshooting or gaining new ideas.

RM2018-14 Adult & Family Program Committee Report

Jo Posti reported. The theme of this year's Annual Meeting is "Building the Beloved Community: Who Is My Neighbor?" Nine workshops have been decided on; Jo described each briefly. The format for the Annual Meeting is the same as last year. Yvette Shipman will deliver the plenary, called "Being a Good Neighbor Takes Practice."

RM2018-15 Publications & Archives Committee Report

Bill Lefler, P&A clerk, reported. Bulletins will continue to be bulk-shipped. The Committee wants permission to notify LEYM members via email three times a year when a new Bulletin appears on the website. The Meeting approved.

Plenary addresses from the last five years will be available on the website. After consultation with monthly meetings, Publications will bring a recommendation to Annual Sessions regarding the publishing of memorial minutes of deceased LEYM members on the website.

The full report follows.

Publications & Archives Report, 4/14/2018

Publications & Archives will continue to bulk-mail Bulletins to monthly meetings and those individuals who have requested paper copies. Bulletins are emailed to all persons who have requested electronic copies either at the Annual Sessions or via the website. Notification of Bulletin availability is emailed to monthly meeting clerks and representatives.

Action item – Publications & Archives is requesting permission to email a Bulletin availability notification, three times per year, to all individuals on the Yearly Meeting email list.

As reported at the November Executive Committee meeting, plenary addresses from the last five years are ready to be published on the LEYM website.

The Committee proposes a new section of the website, "Memorial Minutes," which will include as many memorial minutes as are currently available in our Annual Records (35 are currently available just from the last five years). We have contacted several other yearly meetings and they publish their memorial minutes online as part of their yearly meeting minutes. Due to privacy concerns we will be sending an inquiry to all monthly meetings inviting comment on the proposal and will bring a recommendation to the Annual Sessions.

The deadline for the Spring Bulletin, which will include registration material for the Annual Meeting, is May 15. We are asking that any material for inclusion in that Bulletin be sent in as early as possible.

Due to the increase in printing and mailing rates over the last year, we are asking that our 2018-19 budget

be increased from \$2800 to \$3200.

RM2018-16 Appreciation

We deeply appreciate the hospitality of Athens Friends Meeting. Spirit is clearly present in the preparers of food!

RM2018-16 Worship

Representative Meeting closed with a brief period of open worship.

Nancy Reeves, Clerk
Peter Wood, Recording Clerk