We wish to recognize that through this year's annual sessions climate-crisis action -- observing a vegetarian meal service as much as possible -- we are observing a way to honor our food with respect and reciprocity. As one drop in a deep well of potential change for the health of the planet, the meal service draws upon last year's efforts by the Arrangements and Site Committee to increase vegetarian food options. Since animal agriculture is known to be a large contributor to climate breakdown, we are encouraged by this direction for annual sessions' food service and are mindful that it is direction worthy of discernment toward an ongoing practice for LEYM.

In carrying out preparations for the commitment made in April by YM to this food service, we published an article for LEYM’s Bulletin and provided materials on the Earthcare Resources page of LEYM’s web site. We worked with Arrangements and Site to facilitate a menu mindful of the input from the April Representatives Meeting. Out of this year’s 133 registrants, most stayed with the new default of vegetarian meals with 60 selecting meat. Special thanks to MMs that provided displays for meal tables toward Friends engaging attention this year's action: Athens, Broadmead, Detroit, and Kalamazoo. Contributions from young Friends included co-creating one of the meal-table displays, directing the compost station at meals, and creating a 3D display located near the compost station.

The Earthcare Committee cooperated with the Peace and Justice Committee for a survey of MMs about Friends’ social concerns and actions along with MMs’ suggestions for YM. We are weighing these results in discerning the committee's focus for the coming year. We note that one of the top concern was "climate breakdown". In discerning an update toward the committee’s description and responsibilities, these results are informing our process. Additionally, we are further tending a growing relationship with the Peace and Justice Committee after a rich time jointly shared during these sessions.

In closing our report, we acknowledge our collective grief for the great loss of life across the planet called the 6th mass extinction, an increasing death toll of animal life and plant life due to ongoing harmful actions by humans. We acknowledge that this grief includes climate breakdown’s deadly and damaging impact to human beings. Amid the grief, we uplift the call to Love our neighbors as ourselves as a call to Love all of Earth in which we are part.