

Representative Meeting

Minutes and Reports

April 6, 2019

Hosted by Ann Arbor Friends Meeting

Clerks' table: Nancy Reeves (Cleveland), clerk; Jo Posti (Pittsburgh), assistant clerk and acting recording clerk

RM2019-01 Worship

Representative Meeting opened with a period of open worship.

RM2019-02 Roll Call

Akron	1	Manitou Worship Group	0
Ann Arbor	7	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Athens	2	North Columbus	1
Birmingham	2	Oberlin	3
Broadmead	7	Pine River Worship Group	0
Cleveland	2	Pittsburgh	3
Delaware	0	Red Cedar	1
Detroit	3	Somerset Worship Group	0
Erie Worship Group	1	Tustin Worship Group	0
Grand Rapids	0	Waysmeet Worship Group	0
Granville	0	Wooster	1
Holland	0	Unaffiliated	1
Indiana Worship Group	0	Total	39
Kalamazoo	4		
Kent	0		

RM2019-03 Program Committee Report

Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh) reported (by phone) on behalf of the Program Committee. The Annual Sessions plenary speaker is Joyce Ajlouny, General Secretary of AFSC. We have nine or ten workshops. FCNL has offered two workshops, and the Committee asked, if FCNL does two workshops, does their representative get two payments? The Meeting suggested the Program Committee discern whether to have two workshops and, if so, ask the Finance Committee to discern payment.

RM2019-04 LEYM Meeting Worker and Database Manager Report

Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) gave her final report as Meeting worker/database manager. She reported that there have been over 6000 views of the LEYM website in the past nine months and shared statistics regarding what resources users are reading on the site. The website is ready to hand over to a new Meeting worker. She has spent 68 hours out of 120 possible so far this year and described how that work has been spent. She described her work as a pleasure and a blessing.

The Executive Committee has advertised both positions but does not think someone will be in place prior to Annual Sessions. They welcome volunteers to fill the role of Meeting worker until Annual Sessions. This work would include:

- a. Update website
- b. Create new or update current registration form
- c. Disseminate information to listserv.

The Executive Committee recommended paying Mathilda as database manager for up to six additional months. Finance Committee is authorized to determine the amount.

Mathilda is still collecting updates on the directory, which will complete her work as database manager.

The full Meeting worker report follows,

Report from Mathilda Navias, LEYM Worker

July, 2018 – March, 2019 (Nine Months)

LEYM Website

There have been over 6000 views of LEYM web pages in the last nine months. July always has the most, when Friends get information and register for Annual Sessions. The most viewed pages include a page of links to the *Bulletin*, information on meetings and worship groups, contact information for LEYM officers and committees, a page about Quakers, information on Annual Sessions, and a page about LEYM. Two other pages with lots of views over the lifetime of the website are information on LEYM's Spiritual Formation Program and the *Policies and Procedures* manual. Viewers have come from expected places such as search engines and FGC's website as well as 18 people from Wikipedia.

Bill Lefler, clerk of the Publications & Archives Committee, is now posting new memorial minutes to the website. The website is ready to be handed over to a new Worker.

Please check out the extensive Resources and Links pages.

Time Spent

My work during this fiscal year currently totals just over 68 hours. 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 numbers of hours are rounded off).

Listservs & Gmail	21½ hours (31.5%)
Annual updates of lists and Gmail addresses following Annual Sessions	
Updates during the year	
Posts to listservs	
LEYM Website	21 hours (31%)
Annual updates following Annual Sessions	
News posts	
Updates and maintenance	
Administration (emails, prepare reports, misc.)	14 hours (21%)
Format minutes & upload to web	9½ hours (14%)
Update online registration	½ hour (.7%)
Vet yearly meeting youth workers	½ hour (.7%)
Update online registration for Annual Sessions	½ hour (.7%)
Update Policies & Procedures	¼ hour (.4%)
Total hours:	67¾ hours

Handing over the Job

Documenting Work

There are a few annual tasks yet to do. Other than that, I will keep up with things as they arise. One of the things I do is respond to emails and phoned questions from Friends.

As I head into the final months of my job as LEYM's Worker, I will be spending time adding to the documentation on what I do and how to do it for the next Yearly Meeting Worker.

RM2019-05 Spiritual Formation Committee Report

Mathilda also gave the Spiritual Formation Committee report. The spring retreat for this year's Spiritual Formation Program will be held Saturday, May 4, here in the Ann Arbor Meetinghouse, continuing with the theme of "A Spiritual Spa." All Ann Arbor Friends are welcome, whether they have participated in the local Spiritual Formation Program or not. There is a registration form on LEYM's website.

Next year's Spiritual Formation retreats will be led by Joann Neuroth of Red Cedar Meeting. Joann is under a leading to bring the idea of corporate spiritual formation to LEYM – how a meeting as a whole can grow into a deeper place. She has suggested that it might be possible for her to visit a number of meetings in LEYM to introduce this idea and give a taste of what the retreats would be like. She especially wants to encourage clusters of Friends from the same meeting to attend together.

RM2019-06 Appreciation for Mathilda Navias

Nancy Reeves read this minute of appreciation for Mathilda:

With deep gratitude for her seven years of faithful service to LEYM, we note that Mathilda Navias is nearing the end of her formal and informal service as our Meeting worker, collective memory/historian, minder of LEYM and broader Quaker practices, facilitator of communication among committees, clerks, and the broader Quaker community, and spiritual mentor, particularly as a mainstay of the Spiritual Formation Program. Mathilda is moving, in early May, to Rochester, New York. We will miss her.

The meeting approved.

RM2019-07 Meeting Worker Payment Rate

Nancy Reeves reported that the clerks would like to work with the Finance Committee to develop a new rate of pay for the Meeting worker position. Mathilda is willing to continue as database manager on an interim basis for up to six months at her current rate as Meeting worker, but the clerks will work with Finance to discuss any retroactivity. Meeting approved.

RM2019-08 Youth & Children Program Committee Report

Greg Mott (Broadmead) reported on behalf of the Youth & Children Program Committee. The Committee is excitedly looking forward to another fun-filled year at Annual Sessions. They appreciate the support from the Meeting and the work of the Arrangements & Site Committee for providing appropriate space for our youth to gather, enjoy fellowship, and explore together. No major changes are being requested or made. They are looking at adjusting the afternoon outings so as to offer two options: one geared toward youth and one for the children. At this point, all teaching positions have been filled, yet they will plan for the inevitable occasion of a late change of circumstances. They are always in need of afternoon drivers for outings and welcome anyone willing to share a talent or gift with the group.

A strong way to support the program would be to encourage families and children from monthly meetings to consider attending. The children often form long-lasting friendships and are glad to know that they are not the only Quaker children in the world.

RM2019-09 Arrangements & Site Committee Report

Jon Sommer (Broadmead) reported on behalf of Arrangements & Site Committee and shared dates for the next three Annual Meetings at Bluffton University: July 25–28 this year, July 30 – August 2 in 2020, and July 29 – August 1 in 2021. He described road work being done in town as well as some changes on campus, although nothing should impact our program or accessibility. The Committee is addressing suggestions made regarding the talent show set-up. There are no increases in lodging costs and a \$.50/weekend increase for adult meals for the entire weekend.

RM2019-10 Nominating Committee Report

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon (Erie WG) reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Its members are looking for several committee clerks and will be replacing a number of Friends who are completing six-year terms. They are also looking for a new treasurer and ask Friends to please let the Committee know about Friends within their monthly meetings who have these skills and talents. They are focused on finding Friends to serve on Adult & Family Program, Publications & Archives, and Advancement & Outreach, specifically someone from Ohio for A&O. Friends from the Earthcare Committee shared concerns about the need for an interim clerk for that committee. If Friends who have not been appointed to a particular committee are led to bring concerns to that committee, they are encouraged to do so and to also contact Nominating Committee members with suggestions for any of the committees mentioned.

The clerk shared concerns that arose during last night's Executive Committee about the spiritual health of the Yearly Meeting and a concern that our current structure may not be sufficient. One suggestion is to encourage meeting clerks and worship group conveners to come to Annual Sessions and to offer a reduced registration fee as well as someone to facilitate a discussion about what monthly meetings need from their yearly meeting. The clerks will work with the Program, Arrangements & Site, Finance, and Advancement & Outreach Committees to discuss how this gathering within Annual Sessions can be accommodated and whether there is additional planning that can be done for intervisitation.

Publications & Archives expressed concerns about whether some of its responsibilities should be turned over to the Meeting worker and what the Committee's scope is. The Committee has seen its scope change due to the high competence of the Meeting worker.

RM2019-11 Publications & Archives Committee Report

Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported on behalf of Publications & Archives. May 15 is the next deadline for the *Bulletin*, and Friends are encouraged to send any committee information to be published prior to that date. The editors would love Friends to send a sentence describing why they attend Annual Meeting. There are now 45 memorial minutes on the LEYM website. If your monthly meeting writes one, please send it to Bill Lefler so it can be published on the website. The Committee clarified that it is comfortable with its workload, just looking for further clarification on scope of work.

RM2019-12 Ministry & Nurture Committee Report

Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens) reported on behalf of Ministry & Nurture. The Committee is discussing issues surrounding dual memberships, a travel minute, and this year's annual query.

Carla shared some of the themes that arose from our monthly meetings' consideration of the annual query: Social justice is a part of Earthcare and this is interconnected with our testimonies. There's an acknowledgement that climate change impacts poverty but that our abundance gives us hope. Taking the next right step resonated with many people. It's difficult to live in a country focused on short-term profits rather than values. Taking time out for gratitude is helpful. War is a contributor to environmental devastation. We need to discern what is sacred in our lives and let that drive our actions. People are encouraged to speak out, support people with time and treasure, and seek opportunities to listen to people who don't share our beliefs. Getting out in nature and making a commitment to environmental stewardship as spiritual practice also ground us. Do we need to reconsider the term "earthcare" in order to focus on our participation rather than oversight of our environment?

RM2019-13 Finance Committee Report

Joe Mills (Kalamazoo) reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. The Committee recommends increasing the Annual Meeting registration fee by \$10, from \$55 to \$65 for early registration for full-time adults this year and \$75 for regular registration. Discounts and scholarships will remain the same, although they suggest limiting the discount offered to young adult Friends to the age range of 19–25. Meeting preferred keeping the age range from 19–35 in order to encourage participation from this group.

The Meeting discussed the suggestion to offer monthly meeting clerks a discount in order to encourage them to be a part of a discussion regarding the spiritual health of the Yearly Meeting, and the Finance Committee's recommendation is to continue the first-time attender discount in order to encourage those clerks who have not attended Annual Meeting before. Friends shared concerns about how these changes might impact the program, suggested outreach specific to clerks, encouraging them to attend, and expressed a desire to extend a discount to all monthly meeting clerks and worship group conveners in order to make their participation less cost-prohibitive. Finance will develop discount details. Meeting approved.

RM2019-14 Treasurer's Report

Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) shared the treasurer's report. LEYM is doing well financially and has received contributions from all monthly meetings except Cleveland and Oberlin. Our expenses are under budget in most areas and we've spent only about half of our travel budget and about 2/3 of our contract worker budget. We have almost \$10K more in the checking account now than at the beginning of the year.

RM2019-15 Ad Hoc Conference Scholarship Committee Report

Greg Mott (Broadmead) reported on behalf of the Ad Hoc Conference Scholarship Committee. The presiding clerk, treasurer, and clerk of Ministry & Nurture Committee would review applications. The fund's creation was inspired by last year's White Privilege Conference, an opportunity where other sources of funding were limited. With this in mind, the Committee has created a set of criteria specifying that the fund can be used for conferences or workshops that are sponsored by Quaker groups or organizations or are closely aligned with Quaker testimonies. The Committee would like to focus availability for one-time conferences and non-traditional sources of inspiration rather than funding participation in programs such as the FGC Gathering. The idea would be to have the fund for experiences outside of regular programming that already enjoys a large number of participants from LEYM. This fund has already been funded for the fiscal year. Friends approved the new procedure in order for applications to be considered before Annual Sessions.

RM2019-16 Ad Hoc College Scholarship Committee Report

Jo Posti (Pittsburgh) reported on behalf of the Ad Hoc College Scholarship Committee, reminding Friends that a draft of the policy was published in a recent *Bulletin* [Winter 2019, p. 10] and will be discussed at Annual Sessions.

RM2019-17 Earthcare Committee Report

Mey Hasbrook (Kalamazoo) reported on behalf of the Earthcare Committee. Members met jointly with Peace & Justice and will survey monthly meetings in order to develop an action proposal to be presented at Annual Sessions. This comes from a request that arose during FWCC's recent annual plenary. The three topics addressed were sustainable practices, engagement of youth and young adults, and ministry with attention to sustainability. They welcome participation in their work, especially among young Friends.

The Earthcare Committee calls attention to recent reports on the climate crisis with a short-term window for intervening to reduce the worsening death toll across nature and global warming. They propose an action by LEYM in response to this reality as well as to deepen this year's query on Earthcare. The Committee also revisited LEYM's commitment to the 2015 Quaker statement on climate change.

They ask Yearly Meeting for Annual Sessions this year to commit as much as possible to a vegetarian food service as a response to the dire circumstances of our planet. The Committee is not asking all Friends to become vegetarian through this action. The Committee is willing to provide simple reflective materials in the food area or among Yearly Meeting participants for use at meal times. A Friend near Bluffton also is willing to consult with local arrangements to support this process. Peace & Justice Committee will inquire if any members are available to co-support.

Earthcare will write something for the *Bulletin* explaining this new standard and it will be included in this year's registration materials. The Arrangements & Site Committee will provide direction to the food service team to develop a variety of vegetarian options that are the default for Annual Meeting attendees while providing limited meat options for Friends with specific dietary needs.

Friends acknowledged the challenge this practice would have in our time together but also the possible favorable impact it may have in deepening our spiritual commitment to Earthcare.

RM2019-18 Peace & Justice Committee Report

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) read a report written by Joel Ottenbreit (Detroit), clerk of Peace & Justice Committee. The report follows.

Peace & Justice Committee Summary Report

Committee Members: Helen Fox, John Howell, Joel Ottenbreit (clerk), and Nancy Taylor

This summary report is prepared for the LEYM Representative Meeting on April 6, 2019.

The LEYM Peace & Justice Committee has met four times virtually since December, 2018. The virtual monthly meeting format, allowing members to meet from home, was well received by committee members.

The following items have been the focus of the Committee's work to prepare for the LEYM in July:

- 1) The LEYM P&J Committee continued to gain additional knowledge and insights in more fully addressing peace and justice topics from the monthly meetings.
- 2) Clarifying the purpose of the Committee has been an important topic. The language stating the Committee's purpose has not been finalized, but the general idea is that the Peace & Justice Committee is an agency that provides opportunities for monthly meetings and worship groups to send concerns or minutes so that these may be amplified by a larger body. The Committee was not established to educate monthly meetings, but to be a clearinghouse or sounding board for their concerns. The Committee will provide clarity for monthly meetings and worship groups on how to advance a P&J topic or write a minute as an additional resource for support. The Committee may develop topics or even establish workshops for Yearly Meeting.
- 3) The Committee also focused on the following services it provides to monthly meetings.
 - a. Using email as the primary method of communication to address concerns.
 - b. Sending a description of the purpose and services provided by the LEYM P&J Committee to the monthly meetings at the start of each new Committee year.
 - c. Sending a survey to monthly meetings prior to LEYM to gather information on current topics that are being discussed and acted upon, so that these can be disseminated at Yearly Meeting.

- 4) The Athens Monthly Meeting requested that the LEYM P&J Committee consider asking the monthly meetings to consider their recommendation to the FCNL's Policy Committee to:
- a. Include in the 2019 version of "The World We Seek" the need for reforming the financial system as a necessary step toward a sustainable economic system.
 - b. Establish a process within FCNL for discerning the kind of policy changes FCNL should promote to advance a transition to a sustainable economic system.
- 5) Athens MM's request was forwarded to other monthly meetings for consideration. Along with the Athens Monthly Meeting, the Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting and the Detroit Monthly Meeting have responded to the request from the Athens Monthly Meeting to make changes to the FCNL document "The World We Seek" to include financial considerations. The Ann Arbor Meeting endorsed point "a" above. However, it stated that point "b" wasn't necessary because FCNL has a good process already in place. The Detroit Monthly Meeting revised point "b" by stating a need for a "transition to a sustainable and 'transparent' economic system."
- 6) The Committee also learned that Helen Fox would be permanently moving to Florida and would no longer be a member of the Committee. Helen's insights and voice will be greatly missed on the Committee.

RM2019-19 Ad Hoc Committee on *Policies and Procedures* Report

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on *Policies and Procedures*. He shared a draft of proposed changes that he and Mathilda Navias developed and asked that Friends review the document and share feedback with them prior to June 1.

RM2019-20 Clerks' Announcement

The clerk said clerks will be in touch with Friends to inquire whether they'll serve on the Naming Committee and will share those names with the Executive Committee for approval prior to Annual Sessions.

Announcements Following Close of Meeting

Mey Hasbrook (Kalamazoo) announced an event Kalamazoo is hosting about justice, environment, and the arts in May. In June, the city will host a program about water, and grandmothers, and will offer creative activities.

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reminded Friends about registration for FGC Gathering and its special emphasis on families this year, with a special discount being offered for children and young adult Friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Reeves, Clerk

Jo Posti, Assistant Clerk and Acting Recording Clerk

