

REPORT TO LEYM REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

7 MARCH 2009, CLEVELAND, OHIO
FROM ADVANCEMENT & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The highlights of our work since Annual Meeting in Bluffton, OH, June 2008, are as follows:

1. Traveling Ministry of Mary Ann Downey to Michigan Meetings, October 2008

Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki of Kalamazoo Friends Meeting helped organize the tour of Mary Ann and her husband Bill Holland and then wrote a report based on feedback from the Meetings visited. FGC considered the report so helpful that they asked Carol if excerpts from it could be featured on the Traveling Ministry web page; Carol agreed. The Committee wishes to express appreciation to Carol for her good and thorough work.

2. Checking Contact Information for LEYM Meetings and Worship Groups

At our November meeting we divided up the pages of contact information for our constituent groups as listed in the *Annual Records*. We agreed to look for any discrepancies between our listing and those on the Yearly Meeting website and on www.quakerfinder.org. We contacted all the Meetings to let them know if the information cited in the three sources was the same or different; if the latter, we encouraged them to make the changes themselves, allow our webmaster to make them, or instruct us to make them. Most of these changes have been made.

3. Plans to Visit Meetings Whose Members Seldom Attend Annual Meeting

Again in November, committee members agreed to try to visit Delaware Meeting (Janet Smith), Holland Meeting (Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki), Mid-Ohio Valley (Mike Hinshaw), and Monogalia (Rosemary Coffey). We have not yet visited these Meetings but we have contacted them and hope to visit later in March or in April.

4. New Allowed Meeting

We are happy to report that Sandusky Allowed Meeting has been taken under the care of Cleveland Meeting. Friends who visit in the area are encouraged to attend on First Days at 11 a.m. Contact Bill Kohler or Chuck Kelly, 410 W. Shoreline Drive, Unit 151, Sandusky OH 44870, or e-mail Cekelly3@aol.com.

5. Changes to *LEYM Policies and Procedures* regarding A & O

We have made some changes and will see that Jeff Cooper has them in writing.

6. Quaker Quest Visitors to Annual Meeting

In consultation with the Program Committee, we have decided to ask the two Friends scheduled to be with us in June 2009 if they would be willing to postpone their time with us until

2010, when we would look to have outreach as part of our theme and possibly invite one of them to be our plenary speaker. If it is not convenient for them to postpone the visit, then we will offer them one of the workshop slots and encourage them to meet with other attenders over meals.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Coffey, Clerk
Advancement & Outreach Committee

**REPORT FROM THE LEYM EARTHCARE COMMITTEE
TO LEYM REPRESENTATIVE MEETING**

Presented by Phil Clampitt, Co-clerk of the Committee

March 7, 2009

The Earthcare Committee has been active since Yearly Meeting last year, particularly since about mid-January. (Attached to this report you will see **three proposals**, and supporting documents, which are among the fruits of our recent efforts.) After two successive snowy January week-ends which forced postponement of a planned meeting, we had a very good meeting of the committee on January 24th at the home of Judy Greenberg in Toledo. In addition to Judy, Al Connor, Dick Hogan, Margaret Kanost and I attended. (Although co-clerk Jim Crowfoot was unable to attend, he sent thoughtful comments and suggestions in advance which we utilized fully during our discussion.) At lunch we enjoyed a delicious veggie lasagna prepared by Judy, chocolate chip cookies prepared by Margaret, and apple cider brought from Ann Arbor by Al. It was wonderful again to be able to meet together in Judy's beautiful home. Here are some highlights of this meeting and its aftermath:

1. We agreed there should again be an Earthcare Workshop at Y.M., and a bunch of ideas came forward. We reached consensus that we want this year to hold a panel discussion in which several (three or four) panelists from as many meetings will each describe what their local meeting is doing relating to Earthcare. A title might be: "What's Up With Earthcare in Our Meetings? – A Panel, Sharing and Brainstorming Workshop." We think Red Cedar Meeting's plans for a new, green meetinghouse could be included, and we talked about Ann Arbor and Athens as two other possibilities, among many. The Ann Arbor Meeting has since agreed to participate, with Jim Crowfoot as a panelist. (Programs for urban gardening, in Detroit and elsewhere, were also brought up.) Dick, Al and I (Phil) agreed to work together to organize this workshop. Plans for the workshop are still being finalized, and we are soliciting input today. Please see Al Connor or me if you are interested. We hope at least one meeting in Ohio, and one in Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh, maybe?) will participate in the panel.
2. We all thought it would be good if some interest group tables could be announced at mealtimes during Y.M. where members of meetings or worship groups not represented on the above panel could talk about Earthcare efforts in their groups. (This is an informal way in which we can answer the question or query, "How can we get more feedback from local Friends meetings and worship groups within LEYM on EC activities in which they are engaged?")
3. We endorsed the idea of late evening sessions at Y.M. in which films relating to Earthcare can again be shown. Films suggested include "The World According to Monsanto," "Eating Food Is an Act of Faith" (or very similar title), and "Renewal" (so favorably received last year that we felt it should be shown again).
4. We were enthusiastic in recommending that LEYM endorse the Earth Charter. Margaret hopes to be able to order enough copies of the Charter so that everyone who attends Y.M. can be given a copy. Judy has since written a blurb, giving the gist of what the Charter is, which we hope will be included the LEYM Spring Bulletin. She has also drafted a minute for LEYM to consider. (See our **third proposal** attached to this report.)

5. Should LEYM endorse the Great Lakes Compact? We understand that the Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces have now all endorsed it, but that it contains loopholes that should be closed. It was suggested that LEYM commend the states of Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania for what they have already done legislatively, but ask that the Compact be strengthened, and give some specifics. (We have not yet been able to follow up actively on this suggestion.)
6. We agreed that the EC committee should again endorse car-pooling to and from Y.M., and help arrange transportation for those unable to arrange it through their local meetings. Al Connor volunteered to be the contact person this year. We will prepare an item, similar to last year's, to appear in this year's LEYM Spring Bulletin.
7. We agreed that an important part of the EC committee's report to LEYM each year from now on will be Al Connor's report from Quaker Earthcare Witness.
8. We agreed that the Earthcare committee should ask LEYM to include in its budget an annual contribution to Quaker Earthcare Witness. (Copies of **two proposals** relating to this request, plus supporting documents, are attached.)
9. We agreed that we want again, in the spirit of Earthcare, to schedule a field trip to the Bluffton University natural area preserve on Thursday afternoon, June 11th (the first day of Y.M.), for all who are interested and available.
10. We responded to the request by the QEW Outreach Committee, which is attempting to establish a conference call system with two participants from each Y.M. I (Phil) agreed to join Al in this so that there will be two participants from LEYM. I participated in a conference call just this past Wednesday evening with John Payton (Northern Yearly Meeting) and Stuart Russell (Canadian Yearly Meeting) which I found both interesting and informative.
11. Al Connor, Margaret Kanost and I expressed interest in attending the LEYM Executive committee and Representative meetings in Cleveland this week-end, and here we are!

[Proposals follow]

TWO PROPOSALS FROM THE LEYM EARTHCARE COMMITTEE
(WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS)
TO LEYM REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

March 7, 2009

Dear Merry (and Shirley and Sally),

After further consultation with members of the Earthcare Committee, in particular with Jim Crowfoot and Al Connor, I belatedly offer here two proposals for your consideration at Representative Meeting and, we hope, at Yearly Meeting:

- 1) That one sentence of the LEYM Policies and Procedures [Section III-A (2) (b)] be amended. Currently it reads: "As Yearly Meeting policy, LEYM limits contributions to Friends' national organizations to Friends General Conference." We understand the reasons why this policy is in place, but we believe it is too restrictive. We propose amending it as follows: "As Yearly Meeting policy, LEYM limits contributions to Friends' national organizations to Friends General Conference, and to such other Friends' organizations as are approved by the Yearly Meeting." Our hope is that Quaker Earthcare Witness would be one of those additional carefully selected organizations receiving annual financial support from LEYM.
- 2) That LEYM include in its budget, beginning this year, an annual financial contribution to Quaker Earthcare Witness. Pasted below, and also included as an attachment to this e-mail, are two documents detailing this proposal. The first is under the subject heading, "Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Needs More Support!" The second is Al Connor's "Report from Quaker Earthcare Witness to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Spring 2008."

We understand that, in these times of economic distress, it may be difficult to gain approval for either of these proposals. We nevertheless offer them, in a spirit of love and prayer and an attempt at Friendly persuasion. We earnestly hope that ways may be found to increase the support given to Quaker Earthcare Witness by individual Friends, by local meetings and worship groups, and by LEYM as a body.

Love and peace on a restored and sustainable Earth,

Phil Clampitt
Co-clerk, LEYM Earthcare Committee

To: LEYM Representative Meeting
From: LEYM Earthcare Committee (as written by Al Connor and Jim Crowfoot, with input from Phil Clampitt), Feb. 25, 2009
Subject: Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Needs More Support!

QEW is a well-established and highly regarded national Quaker organization that focuses on Earthcare both spiritually and materially. LEYM has had a formal representative to QEW for some years. This representative is currently Al Connor, a member of the LEYM Earthcare Committee and a member of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting. His 2008 report on QEW is attached.

Most importantly QEW is an invaluable source of the expertise of highly informed Quakers on a wide variety of topics in relation to Earthcare and sustainability as well as valuable books, pamphlets, reports and videos. All of these resources are highly important in providing programs and policy-relevant information and analyses to the Yearly Meeting as well as to its monthly and quarterly meetings and its worship groups. These resources include the excellent and high quality newsletter, *Befriending Creation*. It provides reports of what yearly and monthly meetings are doing about unsustainability, along with excellent reviews of and access to new information and resources that our meetings urgently need to understand the unprecedented problems and opportunities that we are increasingly experiencing and that unfortunately are highly likely to become more serious and severe.

The U.S. and other countries internationally and their localities (including ones where Quakers live, work and worship) are increasingly experiencing the crises of unsustainability environmentally, socially and economically. Like other religious groups in the U.S., Quakers including LEYM have been slow to recognize these crises with their ever greater threats and dire implications for Nature including humans as integrally and deeply interconnected with natural systems including atmosphere, land and water both materially and spiritually.

It is now urgent that LEYM and its monthly meetings, quarterly meetings and worship groups engage in extensive remedial worship and spiritual discernment as well as education and action within the meetings themselves as well as the communities and regions on which they are interdependent and to which they owe loving service. This remedial devotion and work must focus on mitigating environmental destruction, reversing the increasing destruction of human life and potentials through rapidly increasing economic inequities within and between the countries of the world, and the contributions of this destruction to ever higher levels of violence and potential for more widespread violence.

For understanding and responding to the challenges and opportunities of unsustainability, QEW is the most important and relevant spiritual, educational, social service/action and policy change resource available to LEYM and its meetings and their members and attendees. Therefore it makes excellent sense morally and pragmatically for LEYM to begin to provide annually budgeted and allocated financial support to QEW along with becoming more active participants in this Quaker organization, including using its leadings, testimonies, programs and materials.

QEW is facing the challenge of the rapidly approaching retirement of its leaders Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox and the necessity of increasing its funding and budgeting to recruit and hire the best possible replacements who can fully dedicate themselves to continuing to develop and provide the leadership and services in Earthcare to Quakers throughout the U.S.

**A THIRD PROPOSAL FROM THE LEYM EARTHCARE COMMITTEE
TO LEYM REPRESENTATIVE MEETING**

March 7, 2009

The Earthcare Committee proposes that Lake Erie Yearly Meeting endorse the Earth Charter through adoption of the following minute at our 2009 annual sessions:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends endorses the Earth Charter. The Charter was developed by an international consultation process in response to a call from the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 for a new charter that would set forth fundamental principles for sustainable ways of living. The Earth Charter emphasizes environmental challenges, but also reflects the fact that these are bound inseparably with human rights, equitable human development and peace.

Recognizing that the drafting of the Charter has involved the most open and participatory consultation process ever conducted in connection with an international document, conducted over a decade with thousands of people representing all regions of the world participating, LEYM is spiritually moved to endorse the Earth Charter. LEYM also supports the Earth Charter Initiative, whose goals are to promote the Earth Charter, encourage its use educationally, and to seek its endorsement by the United Nations.

(Please see www.earthcharter.org for more information, including the complete text of the Earth Charter.)

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Clampitt, Co-clerk, LEYM Earthcare Committee

Finance Committee Report to Representative Meeting

March 7, 2009

Contributions from monthly meetings: Eight meetings have not yet sent in contributions for this fiscal year. The clerk of finance committee will send an email to the treasurers of these meetings to remind them to send a check to Eric Starbuck.

Considerations of next year's budget: We ask that committees submit their requests for changes in the budget to the clerk of finance committee before the annual session in June. The finance committee is aware of the following potential changes:

1. High school fund: This year we transferred \$1100 to this fund. The current balance in the fund is \$10,400. How much should we budget for this fund for next year?
2. Clerks' consultation: \$2400 was transferred to this fund this year for the consultation to be held in November 2009. We will not need to transfer more into this fund in 2009-10.
3. Nurturing Quakerism Campaign: We have made our last payment to this FGC for this campaign. FGC has launched a new campaign: Stoking the Fires of Quakerism. Do we want to commit to the new campaign?

Available funds: The youth activity fund has money available for youth programming. Youth should be encouraged to request funds. The scholarship fund for ministry has not yet been used. People interested in attending retreats, workshops or classes should be encouraged to send proposals to the ministry and nurture committee.

Scholarship program for first time attenders: We proposed a scholarship program for first time attenders to our annual gathering. The yearly meeting would commit to granting a scholarship for one-third of the registration, room and lodging fees. Attenders would be encouraged to ask their meetings for a scholarship to cover another one-third of the costs. The funds for the scholarships would come out of the \$5,000 balance in the annual meeting fund.

Registration fees for the annual meeting: The finance committee proposes that the registration fees for the 2009 meeting remain the same as the fees for the 2008 meeting: \$37 per adult on or before May 23 and \$47 after May 23. The registration fee for children and youth under the age of 18 is \$0.

The High School Youth Program Committee is preparing to solicit applications for the position of High School Youth Program Coordinator. The Coordinator plans, coordinates, and evaluates four weekend retreats, with the support of the Committee.

Qualities desired in a High School Youth Program Coordinator include:

Experience with and enthusiasm for working with high school aged youth;

Commitment to Quaker values

Ability to provide leadership and motivation

Organizational and money management skills

Ability to communicate with high school aged youth, parents, and the broader YM community

Ability to work collaboratively with the High School Youth Program Committee

In addition to advertising among LEYM, the Committee plans to publicize this position in other nearby Yearly Meetings and Quaker schools and colleges. Pending decisions about the composition of the Committee, we hope to receive applications prior to Annual Meeting and possibly commence on evaluating those applications.

Michael Fuson

for the High School Youth Program Committee

3/7/09

PEACE COMMITTEE REPORT

REPRESENTATIVE MEETING, LEYM

CLEVELAND, OH 3/7/09

ATTENDING: Committee members Betty Ford, Kurt Liske, David Lore (chm), and Jim Satterwhite. Guest attenders Adele Looney and Serina Hanna.

Because events since last November's election are moving at such a fast pace, it was agreed to develop two committee minutes for timely distribution to monthly meetings and members of the Yearly Meeting executive board. These are:

- An alert to area Friends about a statement last month by the executive committee of the World Council of Churches on the need for religious groups to respond to the Gaza crisis. This alert will also note LEYM's 2008 open letters to Barack Obama and John McCain urging a reality-based assessment of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/bossey-february-2009/20-02-09-statement-on-the-gaza-war.html>

<http://leym.quaker.org/peacecommittee.html>

- An advisory to monthly meetings to support political action to achieve U.S. Senate ratification of the international ban on the use of cluster bombs. Peace Committee is concerned that if the Obama administration intends to keep U.S. forces in Iraq through 2011, priority must be placed on cleaning up such lethal abandoned munitions over the next two years.

<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/take-action/>

It was agreed to continue to monitor these issues as Obama administration policies develop, and revisit them as necessary at Yearly Meeting in June.

In addition, the committee agreed to prepare a document – in the form of an open letter, or possibly queries – urging monthly meetings and individual Friends to clearly define the “end game” when speaking out and/or writing about policy issues. When discussing the “problem” of nuclear weapons development in Iraq, Korea or Pakistan, for example, should Friends focus on who is allowed to have nukes or on the need for eventual abolition of nuclear weapons by all nations? We have gone straight to the core issue with “War is Not the Answer” and total opposition to torture. Similar “end game” perspectives are needed in other areas as well.

Without taking action, the committee used its time together to discuss possible Quaker responses to the current economic recession. Quakers, it was noted, have long focused on issues of economic justice and the size of the U.S. military budget.

We shared Bekah Sommer's report to us from the recent ecumenical conference, "Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace" in Pennsylvania. Sommer's positive experience encourages us to investigate participation in this initiative in the future.

In addition, Kurt Liske brought to our attention the wonderful work of the International Institute of Akron in resettling refugees from abroad. The Kent Meeting has been an active participant in the institute's program.

Program Committee Report

As announced in the Winter Bulletin 2009, Max Carter of Guilford College will be the plenary speaker at Lake Erie Yearly Meeting sessions in June. His plenary will address: AOn meeting with the other: Peace making lessons from Quaker work in the Midwest and the Middle East. His workshop will deal primarily with the Israeli Palestinian conflict and looking for a just peace. There will be five other workshops both annually featured ones as well as new ones.

Also renewed this year, Saturday evening=s program will be a talent-sharing night. We look forward to youth as well as adult participation. Friends will have an opportunity to sign up prior to yearly meeting (instructions in the Spring Bulletin) or at Yearly Meeting sessions.

As usual, Friends will gather for worship with attention to business. This year in particular, we will address a career for the ongoing youth program.

We welcome friends to participate in yearly meeting June 11-14, 2009 at Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio. More details and registration forms will be available in the Spring Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Bulletin and on the Yearly Meeting website.

Publications & Archives Committee Report

Representative Meeting, March 7, 2009

Jeff Cooper reported.

A. Jeff Cooper will edit *Annual Records 2009*.

B. The co-editors of the *2009 LEYM Directory*, Dan Bell and Mathilda Navias, have still not received updated directory information from five meetings and one worship group (Athens, Birmingham, Cleveland, Grand Rapids, Granville, and Manitou). Once this information is received, completion should take roughly a month. We hope to have the published *Directory* to distribute at the beginning of Annual Meeting (June 11).

C. We intend to remind meetings and worship groups that they can/should submit archival materials (e.g., minutes, financial reports, notices of marriages and deaths) to Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College. (See *Policies and Procedures*, IV. E. 6. b. (1).)

D. In response to the request for each committee to update its section(s) of *Policies and Procedures*, we note that our current practice has drifted a long way. We have begun to explore substantial questions such as “How broad is (should be) the role of the Bulletin Editor?” “How is the Annual Records Editor chosen?” and “How many people are needed on the committee?” These are questions on which we need to work cooperatively with Nominating Committee and LEYM officers. We hope to prepare a draft proposal soon.

E. We request approval to change the publication timeline for the *Annual Records* as follows:
Policies and Procedures, I. B. 4:

- c. All LEYM documents to be included in the *Annual Records* should be submitted to its Editor no later than four weeks after rise of Annual Meeting.
- d. The *Annual Records* shall be published no later than ten weeks after rise of Annual Meeting.

F. We have proposed amendments to the LEYM privacy policy concerning the version of the *Bulletin* that appears on our Website, and circulated them among meetings and worship groups:

- 1) The full names of adult Friends (those 18 and over) may appear in the version of the *Bulletin* posted on the Web. The names of children and youth (under age 18) may *not* appear there.
- 2) Photos of Friends of all ages may appear in the version of the *Bulletin* posted on the Web, with one exception: photos depicting *one* child or youth (under age 18) *alone* may *not* appear there.

These amendments follow current practice. If this practice is acceptable, Bulletin Editors should have clarity that they are supported. If the practice is unacceptable, we need to adjust it.

We have heard from six meetings and worship groups. Most support the proposal, but one feels that the second amendment is “too restrictive.” An alternative would be to allow photos of individual children with permission of both the child and the parent.

We invite commentary from meeting representatives and others.

[Based on commentary received at Representative Meeting, we intend to revise these proposed amendments before the 2009 Annual Meeting.]