

History and Description of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

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Quakers Around the World — FWCC Handbook of the Religious Society of Friends

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (FGC)

Established: Association of Friends Meetings, 1939; Association and Yearly Meeting, 1963; Yearly Meeting with Associate Members, 1969

Membership: 900+

Meetings: 20 Monthly, 2 preparative, 6 worship groups

Central Address: Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, 1420 Hill Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Publications: *LEYM Bulletin* — 3 times a year; *Annual Records* — annual; *LEYM Directory* — biennial; extensive website: www.quaker.org/leym

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting began in 1939 as an association of Friends Meetings in Ohio, Michigan, Western Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. It became a yearly meeting within the Association in 1963, and changed to a yearly meeting with associate meetings in 1969. All associated meetings are now part of the Yearly Meeting. The annual meetings, normally held in June, are for inspiration and fellowship, with business meetings for consideration of basic policies; committee reports and responses to concerns brought by committees; and the naming of officers, representatives to Friends' organizations, and the standing committees. A Representative Meeting is held in early March for committee meetings and to prepare the work of the annual meeting.

At present, the following standing committees are active: Advancement & Outreach, Arrangements & Site, Executive, Finance & Budget, High School Youth Program, Ministry & Nurture, Nominating, Peace, Program, Publications & Archives, and Youth & Children. These committees meet and consult throughout the year to carry on the work of the Yearly Meeting. Committees of concern are set up as the occasion arises, made up of those persons under the weight of that concern, and are laid down when their work is complete. Committees and representatives to Friends organizations report to Annual Meeting and through the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records*. Electronic distribution of the *Bulletin* is in the experimental stage. *The Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Policies and Procedures* (39 pages) is revised from time to time. Since 1985, all member meetings have been invited to participate in an annual process of responding to a set of queries developed by the committee on Ministry & Nurture on concerns arising from the membership. Summaries of the responses are published in the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records*.

All member meetings and worship groups are encouraged to make contributions directly to Friends' organizations so the Yearly Meeting budget reflects a minimum of expenses, comprising only the *Bulletin* expense, stipend for a part time Youth Secretary, an allowance for travel for clerks and representatives to Friends' organizations, and scholarships for youth to attend Quaker youth activities. The Yearly Meeting budget also includes support of the Friends School in Detroit and Olney, the Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio. This Yearly Meeting values and interacts with the work of the local meetings as well as national and world wide Quaker organizations; accordingly, it has not developed an administrative structure requiring a paid staff.

The one quarterly meeting within LEYM, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, consisting of the eight monthly meetings and four worship groups in lower Michigan, shares some program activity with Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. GPQM has chief administrative responsibility for and ownership of Friends School in Detroit; oversight of the Michigan

Friends Center in Chelsea, Michigan; and financial and interactive relationships with the Michigan Area office of the American Friends Service Committee in Ann Arbor.

Committee which rewrote this entry: Thomas Taylor, Michael Fuson, Clémence Mershon, and David Bassett, 2004.