

19309 Greenfield Rd.
Detroit MI 48235

detroitfriendsmeeting.org

Second Month 2026

Detroit Friends Meeting Newsletter



Calendar

February

14 th	10:00 am	<i>Workday at the Meetinghouse</i>
15 th	10:30 am	<i>Meeting for Worship</i>
	11:45 am	<i>Potluck</i>
21 st	11:00 am	<i>Silent public worship with Birmingham Friends</i>
		<i>Meeting at Royal Oak Farmers Market</i>
22 nd	10:30 am	<i>Meeting for Worship</i>

March

1 st	10:30 am	<i>Meeting for Worship</i>
	11:45 am	<i>Worship sharing session on LEYM queries</i>
8 th	10:30 am	<i>Meeting for Worship</i>
	11:45 am	<i>Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business</i>
14 th	10:00 am	<i>Workday at the Meetinghouse</i>
15 th	10:30 am	<i>Meeting for Worship</i>
	11:45 am	<i>Potluck</i>
22 nd	10:30 am	<i>Meeting for Worship</i>
29 th	10:30 am	<i>Meeting for Worship</i>

Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Second Month

The hybrid meeting in person and using the Zoom platform opened in waiting worship at 11:50 am with 19 adults in attendance. The third and fourth queries on Participation in Meeting (16 and 17) in the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's (LEYM) "Advices & Queries" (2012) were read and considered. They read: "When faced with personal or corporate decisions, do we join with others in seeking clearness, in asking for God's guidance, and in offering appropriate counsel to one another?" and "How do we celebrate the presence of children and young people in the Meeting, nurturing and learning from the gifts they bring? Are we involved in the support, care, and religious education of our Meeting's children? How do we learn from them and accept our responsibilities toward them?" Our meeting has a great tradition of First Day School and nurturing young people in the past. However, since our recent series of moves we seem to have lost the families with young children. We hope more will join us soon and we always have ready a team to welcome young people and teach them.

Membership Clearness Committee Report

Cristin Graham reported.

A clearness committee was formed under the care of Detroit Friends Meeting to consider Joel Gugnitz's request for membership. The committee met on First Month 28th and consisted of Dave Goeddeke, Chuck Thompson, Cristin Graham, Bernard Miller, and Michael Kelly. The committee met in a spirit of worship and careful listening. We found Joel grounded in the spirit, familiar with and committed to Quaker practice, and ready to take on the responsibilities of membership. The committee unites in joy and gratitude for our time spent with Joel and enthusiastically recommends that the meeting welcome him into membership. The request for membership will be considered at the 3rd Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Development Committee Report

Sharon Ottenbreit submitted a report.

The donations for First Month were \$8,835 from members and regular attenders, \$500 from rental income, and \$750 from outside the meeting. The Birmingham Monthly Meeting needs to be acknowledged and thanked for their continuous support.

The Development Committee continues to explore additional ways to fundraise so the meeting can pay off its loans to two members within the meeting. The committee is looking to attract new members to its committee for creative fundraising ideas and new perspectives. The total raised to date is \$789,202.

Meetinghouse Committee Report

Dave Goeddeke reported for the committee.

We have received the certificate of occupancy after resolving some issues related to an

unpaid plumbing permit and have made final payment on the contract with United Consulting Services, but there are few issues of concern remaining.

During the deep freeze in January, several plumbing pipes above the new restrooms froze and then flooded the restrooms and rear of the building including the First Day classroom. The pipes have been repaired, and heat tracing is being installed on the pipes in the unheated attic above the restrooms. Drywall repairs and removal of wet insulation may also be required, but the restrooms are useable at this time. The total cost for these emergency repairs will be about \$2,000 and the committee is requesting targeted donations from members at this time to recover these costs.

Another unfortunate situation is that our roofing contractor placed a lien on our property in December over a dispute about unjustified extra charges for roof repairs performed in October and November. As project manager of our renovation, I refused to pay the additional charges of \$1,783 in December and Sterling Construction immediately placed the lien on the property. I will attempt to negotiate a reduced settlement in the coming weeks, but a generous Friend has donated money to cover all the costs to have the lien removed.

Although our meeting house is fully functional, there is still much to do. We still must install insulation above the ceiling in three fourths of the building and the wall on the west side of the property needs to have a fence topper to raise it to 6 feet high as agreed to with our neighbors. We hope to have materials for both projects donated by some of the home improvement stores in the area as arranged by the Development Committee and then installed by members of the meeting in the coming months. Demolition in the vacant area on the South side of the building in preparation for a potential tenant will also require volunteer participation this year. A workday is scheduled for next Saturday and on the second Saturday of each month for the foreseeable future to complete the aforementioned projects.

Ministry and Counsel Committee Report

Ellen Barnes reported for the committee.

State of the Meeting Report

There will be two worship sharing sessions to respond to the queries recommended by LEYM

- i. The first will be after worship on Sunday March 1st
- ii. The second will be a mid-week evening Zoom session, to be scheduled closer to the date.

LEYM's recommended queries will be sent out to the Meeting so we can consider our responses ahead of time.

Close of Meeting

In consideration of our remote attenders, announcements need to come before we stand up and shake hands. The transition at the end of meeting will be: 1. joys, sorrows, and

concerns, followed by 2. announcements, 3. the Native American land acknowledgement, 4. introductions, then 5. shaking hands.

Hymn singing

Donna Latus (Hali's daughter) has volunteered to lead hymn singing after worship. The Committee proposes the following:

- a. Start with a trial of about once a quarter
- b. After a 10-15 minute break, have singing for 20-30 minutes
- c. If possible, have a list of the hymns or songs head of time so those that wish to can practice or review the words
- d. Ask if she can include a few protest songs as well.
- e. The committee needs the meeting's approval before responding to Donna. The meeting is in favor of this proposal.

Assistance request

Regina Renee is in need of transportation to and from twice weekly medical appointments. We need a team of volunteers to help accomplish this.

- a. Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.
- b. Ride from Davison to Flint for 12:30 pm appointment
- c. Ride back from Flint to Davison after appointment (around 2:30 pm)

Regina can be contacted at regina.renee@gmail.com

There was a request that the committee contact past members and attenders who have not been in touch in recent months.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

Mike Kelly reported for the committee.

Detroit Friends are invited to worship with Birmingham Friends in a faith based public resistance. On Saturday, February 21 at 11:00 am Friends of the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting will gather at the corner in front of the Royal Oak Farmers Market (corner of Troy and East 11 Mile, 316 E 11 Mile Rd, Royal Oak, MI) for one hour of silent public worship for peace and nonviolence. Detroit Friends are reminded that we have declared ourselves years ago in a similar time of authoritarian xenophobic persecution to be a Sanctuary Meeting.

Love as Action: Quaker Witness in Royal Oak, Bearing Witness, Building Hope:

Quaker public witness has stood in opposition to cruel and authoritarian actions in our country before. It is time for us to show this love in action again. Please join Friends from Birmingham Friends Meeting and the American Friends Service Committee to bear witness and show resistance to authoritarian actions in our country. Our hope is that our presence will give hope to all who see us – to show that we can choose resistance - and remind everyone of our moral obligations to one another. To find out more about Love as Action nationally and get more resources visit afsc.org/love-action. To learn more about Birmingham Friends Meeting (Michigan), visit our [website](#). See details and sign up at the event listing [here](#)

Several years ago Detroit Friends were collecting nonperishable foods and basic self- and baby-care products to support our neighbors who were afraid to leave home to shop or work due to a surge in xenophobic oppression. The opportunity for offering this support, and personal witness, has returned. Detroit Friends are asked to bring such items to Meeting for distribution. Please note that staples such as rice, beans, pasta, grains and baby food are easily stored and very welcome.

As many Detroit Friends are aware, a major ICE detention facility in Baldwin Michigan has been reopened. The Northlawn Detention Facility is reimbursed on the basis of a daily occupancy. Perhaps this is why we hear reports of detainees being released at night. The center detains individuals from all over the country. We hear that a woman from Connecticut was recently released at night with no plan for travel beyond the parking lot. Fortunately, there is a faith based support group in Baldwin who can sometimes offer help in the short run. When released, detainees are given garbage bags to carry their personal belongings. Since some will have been detained in the summer they are in desperate need of clothing for our winter. Support circles in Detroit are seeking backpacks and winter gear for such cases. They are also seeking and distributing copies of the Bible and the Quran to distribute. Spanish translations are especially sought. If Detroit Friends are able to help in this regard, please contact Mike or Carmen Kelly (crmnkelly@yahoo.com).

An organized way to provide transportation from Baldwin to the areas closer to home or desired destinations is being developed. Anyone who would like to get more information on this matter should let Mike or Carmen Kelly know and they will pass on what they learn. Note that many detainees are from northern Michigan. The backpack, winter clothing and religious text program for Baldwin is in operation now and supplies can be brought to the meeting house.

Any Detroit Friends who would like to become more involved in supporting persons dealing with ICE are most welcome to talk to Mike or Carmen Kelly. Individuals are needed to provide transportation, to take people to ICE “check-in” and/or court hearings. Sometimes there is a need to help with home repairs. If anyone would like to be made aware of such needs let the Kellys know and they will explore ways to help. For information on how Quakers are supporting immigrant justice see <https://afsc.org/issue/migration-immigrant-rights>

Mike and Carmen Kelly are active locally with Strangers No Longer. This is a faith based advocacy and family support group with a very diverse interfaith membership including Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities. One initiative is to meet with local police chiefs to encourage them to not allow ICE to operate unlawfully in local communities. Friends are invited to visit their website <https://strangersnolonger.org>.

Finance Committee Report

Jason Tylenda submitted a report.

The committee reviewed the 2026 operating budget using the 2025 budget as a baseline. It was agreed that a full inflationary increase would not be applied, and that only specific line items would be adjusted based on known changes and expenses.

Utilities

Discussion focused on significantly higher-than-expected winter electric costs, including a January electric bill of approximately \$1,300 compared to a typical \$200–\$300 per month. Contributing factors included delayed DTE billing, winter heating demands, incomplete solar and battery integration, attic drying operations, and pipe heat tape usage. The committee agreed to conservatively adjust the utilities budget and increase it by \$1,100 for 2026.

Maintenance

The committee discussed unexpected maintenance costs incurred early in the year, including plumbing repairs due to burst pipes, electrical work, and anticipated fence repairs. Approximately \$2,350 in unplanned expenses had already been incurred. Additional obligations related to a lien were also discussed. The committee decided to set the 2026 maintenance budget at \$6,200 to account for known expenses and anticipated needs.

Outreach and Software

Software subscription costs, including Microsoft licensing, were reviewed. A modest increase was anticipated due to pricing changes. The committee decided to increase the outreach/software budget by \$100.

Insurance

Insurance costs were reviewed. The committee discussed whether the current \$10,000 deductible remained appropriate now that the building is complete. The committee decided to maintain the insurance budget at \$3,000 and explore options for lowering the deductible.

New Meeting House Fund Status

The committee confirmed that the approved meetinghouse construction budget is fully expended, with approximately \$56 remaining. No further expenses are to be charged to this fund. All future donations designated for the meetinghouse will be applied toward repayment of outstanding loans. Any new improvement requests will require future budget approval or dedicated funding.

Banking and Cash Management

An update was provided on efforts to explore alternative banking relationships. Due to lack of responsiveness, no immediate changes will be made. The committee decided to place approximately \$5,000 of general fund reserves into a short-term certificate of deposit to earn interest.

2026 Budget Changes Summary

Budget Line Item	2025 Budget	2026 Adjustment	2026 Proposed Budget
<i>Utilities (Gas & Electric)</i>	\$2,000	+\$1,100	\$3,100
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$2,000	+\$4,200	\$6,200
<i>Outreach / Software</i>	\$1,200	+\$100	\$1,300
<i>Insurance</i>	\$3,000	+\$0	\$3,000

Action Items

- The Treasurer will provide detailed budget documentation and consult with insurance provider regarding deductible options.
- The Convener will consolidate approved budget changes and present the 2026 budget at Meeting for Business.
- The Treasurer will proceed with establishing a short-term certificate of deposit for excess general fund cash.
- The Finance Committee will coordinate clear messaging regarding increased 2026 expenses and giving expectations.

Treasurers' Report

Kevin Howley reported.

We are currently behind budget; however, the Finance Committee is working on a revised budget for 2026. We have almost fully spent the New Meetinghouse Fund. All donations that are received will go to repay the outstanding loans. We currently have \$10,000 for loan repayment, which will occur once a quarter.

Second Month Queries

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Queries

Meeting Community

“Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.”

Isaac Pennington, 1667, **Letters**, ed. John Barclay

18. “How do we weave our Meeting into a community? Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting and to live as Friends? Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our faith community?”

19. “As we enter with tender sympathy into the joys and sorrows of each other’s lives, are we ready to both give and receive help? How does our Meeting keep in contact with all of its members and attenders?”