

19309 Greenfield Rd.  
Detroit MI 48235

[detroitfriendsmeeting.org](http://detroitfriendsmeeting.org)

Third Month 2026

# Detroit Friends Meeting Newsletter



## Calendar

### March

1 <sup>st</sup>	10:30 am	Meeting for Worship
	11:45 am	Worship sharing session on LEYM queries
8 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Meeting for Worship
	11:45 am	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
10 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Worship sharing session on LEYM queries (Zoom only)
14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Workday at the Meetinghouse
15 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Meeting for Worship
	11:45 am	Potluck
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:30 am	Meeting for Worship
24 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Spiritual Book Club meeting on Zoom
29 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Meeting for Worship

### April

5 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Meeting for Worship
11 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Workday at the Meetinghouse
12 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Meeting for Worship
	11:45 am	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
19 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Meeting for Worship
19 <sup>th</sup>	11:45 am	Potluck
26 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Meeting for Worship

# Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

## Third Month

The hybrid meeting in person and using the Zoom platform opened in waiting worship at 12:00 pm with 18 adults in attendance. The first and second queries on Meeting Community (18 and 19) in the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's (LEYM) "Advices & Queries" (2012) were read and considered. They read: "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?" and "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?". The various activities, such as meetinghouse workdays, worship with attention to business, committee meetings and potlucks allow us to build community within our meeting.

### **Membership Clearness Committee Report**

Cristin Graham reported.

A clearness committee was formed under the care of DFM to consider the request for membership of Joel Gugnitz and met on First Month 28<sup>th</sup>. The committee met in a spirit of worship and careful listening. We found Joe 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 asks the meeting to approve Joel Gugnitz into membership. The request was enthusiastically approved.

### **Development Committee Report**

Sharon Ottenbreit submitted a report.

The Development Committee members are looking forward to working with the new Technology Committee members to create social media opportunities to share Detroit Friends Meeting's story and news with the wider community as well as the potential for additional fundraising possibilities.

A second updated letter was mailed to hundreds of initial donors and monthly meetings hoping to receive another contribution, since they were generous in helping support us in the beginning of this fundraising process years ago. We are already beginning to see benefits from this work.

Last month, our meeting received \$385 from members and attenders, \$390 from outside individuals and monthly meetings, \$500 from rent income, for a total of \$1,275. The total for Second Month's donations was \$1,275. The total fundraising amount raised is

now \$790,477 with a target goal of \$1,003,360. The money raised now is going towards paying back the first individual loan owed to a member of our meeting.

### **Meetinghouse Committee Report**

Dave Goeddeke reported for the committee.

The committee has resolved all the post-contract issues reported last month with repairs to the plumbing after the pipe freeze, settlement with our roofing contractor and removal of the lien on our meeting house. Heat tracing on the pipes in the attic to prevent freezing has been installed and minor drywall repairs in two restrooms will be performed during upcoming workdays by members of the meeting.

Our solar energy system is fully functional and with our interconnection agreement with DTE Energy we return electricity to the grid for credit against our utility costs. Additional programming of the inverters is ongoing to optimize battery usage during high power consumption and low solar generation.

We are currently restoring power to the vacant area that was damaged during construction and removing abandoned wiring and piping and improving access in the attic areas in preparation for installing additional ceiling insulation. This work will likely require several workdays to complete.

A workday is scheduled for next Saturday and on the second Saturday of each month for the foreseeable future to complete several projects, including ceiling insulation, drywall repairs, painting, cleaning, exterior improvements and security fencing.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Sharon Ottenbreit submitted a report.

The committee members met online on several occasions, contacted individual members and attenders, and compiled a list of nominations for positions and committees within the meeting for 2026-2027. Part of our work involved descriptions of committees and positions that needed to be updated since they were created when we were without a meetinghouse. We are seeking approval for the following proposals:

- 1) Elimination of the Religious Education Committee as a committee and creation of a stand-alone First Day School Committee. Responsibilities for adult religious education are already in the description of the Ministry and Counsel Committee, which includes “arranges discussion topics and fellowship opportunities or other activities for spiritual enrichment.”
- 2) Elimination of the Nurturance and Service subcommittee. The Ministry and Counsel Committee will appoint those members, as needed.
- 3) Recommendation that the Outreach Committee revise and update responsibilities for that committee’s work. The committee may want to focus on involvement within the neighborhood and community rather than just the technical aspects of outreach. This will probably need to be coordinated with the Technology

Committee, due to the overlapping responsibilities of these two committees. The description of their work can be presented at a future Meeting for Business for approval.

- 4) Changing the Technology Working Group to a committee with new responsibilities, including presenting monthly reports at Meeting for Business. The Technology Committee will need to decide on their specific responsibilities in coordination with the Outreach Committee. The description of their work can be presented at a future Meeting for Business for approval.
- 5) Changing the name of the New Meetinghouse Committee to Property Committee, to reflect their responsibilities with respect to the meetinghouse as well as the outdoor areas.
- 6) Elimination of the Universal/Inclusive Design Working Group, whose responsibilities were completed during the renovation period of our Greenfield meetinghouse. If a related concern about an inclusion aspect is voiced, it would be directed to the Property Committee.
- 7) Including the responsibilities of the Honoring Indigenous People Working Group within those of the Antiracism Committee.
- 8) Changing the Antiracism Working Group to a committee.
- 9) Listing the Spiritual Book Club as a convener position and not as a committee to volunteer for.
- 10) Renaming the Peace and Social Concerns Committee as the Peace and Social Action Committee.
- 11) Eliminating the Auditor position. Only one grant we applied for required an auditor's report and that organization accepted the annual financial report approved by members at meetings for business. Non-profit organizations with a limited budget under \$100,000/\$250,000 do not need to have an official auditor, especially when the financial information is viewed for approval every month by the members. If approved, this may need to be removed from the Meeting's bylaws.
- 12) Eliminating the Attendance Recorder position. This data will be collected informally by various individuals throughout the year.
- 13) Eliminating the GPQM representative as the Meeting is being laid down this year.
- 14) Changing the role of the Newsletter Editor to only publishing minutes from Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business, monthly queries, calendar, meeting announcements, opportunities to serve as recommended by the Peace and Social Action Committee, and information from the co-clerks.

All proposals were approved.

The Committee also presented the slate of nominees for committee membership and all other roles. The slate was approved.

## **Co-clerks' Report**

Cristin Graham reported.

Recently Donna Latus, former member Hali Giessler's daughter, has offered to lead us in song at the meetinghouse. This would be after worship in May or August, on the 5<sup>th</sup> First Day. She can bring her own keyboard and wonders if we have copies of worship songs or older hymnals for Friends, or songs relevant to our times. She would like to receive song titles DFM Friends would like. She looks forward to receiving ideas and suggestions. The clerks will send out a questionnaire to see how many Friends are interested and what songs are requested. Peter Dale can help find the hymnals in the library for reference.

The first meeting for reflections on the State of the Meeting was held last First day, March 1<sup>st</sup>, with many attending. There will be a Zoom reflection meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, for those who would still like to participate. A Zoom link will be sent out soon.

## **Finance Committee Report**

Jason Tylenda submitted a report.

## Maintenance

The maintenance budget was increased by \$4,200 to account for costs related to water damage and a lien assessed by Sterling Construction. The lien totaled \$2,050, consisting of a \$550 base cost and a \$1,500 disputed amount. No further unexpected or extraordinary maintenance expenses have occurred to date.

## Banking

The Treasurer approached First Independence Bank about potentially moving accounts but received no response. The committee will keep its accounts at Comerica, which is expected to transition to Fifth Third Bank this year. Peter plans to explore purchasing short-term CDs for idle funds no earning interest.

## Technology Committee

The Technology Committee is reconsidering adoption of Google for Nonprofits. Friends General Conference expressed concerns about high administrative overhead and long-term support requirements. Google offers training options, automation tools, and advertising credits, though fundraising benefits may be limited. Some churches using the program have increased their visibility and membership. A major concern is who will manage the program long-term, especially if a trained individual leaves. Microsoft Nonprofit was previously attempted but proved complicated. DFM currently pays about \$100/year for Microsoft Office, primarily for Defender antivirus and unused cloud storage.

The committee discussed whether switching to Google is worth the potential savings of about \$90–\$100/year.

The 2026 budget was approved.

### **Treasurers' Report**

Peter Dale reported.

Treasurer Peter Dale reported on the meeting's income and expenses for Second Month. He first presented the Comerica Bank statement for the month, then the balance sheet generated by Aplos showing the meeting's financial state at the end of the month. The meeting's books are balanced, though they do show the meeting has loan obligations. He then followed with a detailed report of the Year-To-Date General Fund.

### **Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report**

Mike Kelly reported for the committee.

Detroit Friends were active in supporting immigrant social justice issues in several distinct dimensions of engagement. There was a very hearty response to appeals for assistance to persons who were imprisoned in the North Lake Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Baldwin, Michigan, a few days after hearing of the fact that individuals have often been released into a Michigan winter environment, on occasions in the evening and night without arrangements for their next steps. In addition to needing transport to any place where they might find shelter and space to resume their interrupted lives, they left with only the clothing and personal possessions they had when detained, often many months before. Several faith communities in the Baldwin area have been collaborating with local faith based justice groups. One of the initiatives has been to arrange for a supply of warm clothing to be available outside of the perimeters of the detention facility. In addition, it was noted that some of the persons being discharged were from as far away as Connecticut. They have no way to carry any belongings and so an appeal went out to have backpacks also be available if needed. For individuals still in detention there is a need for funds so there can be a degree of regular communication with loved ones. Visits are not regularly available and phone calls are very expensive and may only be made through a system run by detention authorities (a for-profit enterprise). Funds may be also used to purchase "better" food from vending machines. This system requires that detainees have to use a "commissary" account which is funded through credit cards or cash. Any funds in a commissary account are not refunded upon a detainee's release.

Families of detainees are frequently without a bread winner and of course may have significant legal, childcare and medical expenses. There is a very energetic number of groups which provide food and childcare necessities. When these needs were made known in some detail to Detroit Friends there was what could only be called a deeply moving and inspiring response. There was also a heartening response to the appeal by local faith communities to provide used paperback Bibles and copies of the Quran. (Hard

covers are forbidden on security grounds. Presumably this is related to security of the detainees). We have received a good amount and are told that the supply of religious texts is sufficient for now. A large local mosque has promised to fill anymore needs for Qurans and/or prayer rugs. Likewise we have been asked to postpone donations of backpacks because there seems to be a sufficient supply for the present since, in some cases, these will be used in travel to distant destinations. We prefer not to consider just how distant these final destinations may be. Food donations have been lively as well. Perishables such as fresh vegetables and fruits are being generously supplied, at present, from within the Detroit communities. We continue to be able to find good homes for nonperishable food and baby care products. At present we don't have any alternative we feel is secure to add funds to commissary accounts aside from cash being forwarded to the chaplains at North Lake. This is because the system requires one's credit card numbers be provided by donors and there is a notable risk of that information being misused. If any individual wants to do so anyway we can provide information on how this may be done.

This "liturgy" of letting our acts proclaim our faith has been a blessing for recipients, we are told. But we have personally experienced it this as an existential encounter with the Risen Christ who, as for the Apostles we are told was often difficult to recognize and sometimes occasioned tears as well as peace. Often, too, we Friends of this our own time and place can find it challenging to hear and heed the Light Within. But we seek experience of that Presence in meeting. We had that experience on several occasions of meeting for worship with Birmingham Friends.

Joel Gugnitz announced that DFM will host the LEYM Spiritual Formation Committee session on Fifth Month 2<sup>nd</sup>. The group will worship with us May 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed by potluck. Participants will need transportation assistance and/or local accommodations.

# Committees and Positions Volunteers 2026-2027

## Co-Clerks

Mari Madison, Cristin Graham, and Joel Gugnitz

## Recording Clerk – Maria Milletti

## Finance Committee

Jason Tylenda (convener), Peter Dale, Kevin Howley, Bernie Miller, and Joel Ottenbreit

## Ministry and Counsel

Ellen Barnes (convener), Mike Kelly, Peter Dale, Chuck Thompson, Cristin Graham, Mari Madison, Erika Smith, and Joel Gugnitz

## Outreach Committee

Mari Madison, Dave Goeddeke, Drew Johnson, Erika Smith, and Cheryl McGuire (convener to be determined)

## Antiracism Committee

Chuck Thompson (convener), Peter Dale, Alison Kuipers, Dave Goeddeke, Jim Stanley, Fernon Douglas, Jacques Aharonian, and Helen Grundman

## Property Committee

Dave Goeddeke (convener), Peter Dale, Cathy Clifford, Bernie Miller, Eleanor Carey

## Technology Committee

Joel Ottenbreit (convener), Chuck Thompson, Michelle Williamson, Drew Johnson, Mari Madison, and Michael Thompson

## First Day School Committee

Anna McGuire (convener) Ellen Barnes, Cristin Graham, Cathy Clifford, Carmen Kelly, and Sharon Ottenbreit



Treasurer

Peter Dale, Co-treasurer – Kevin Howley

Development Committee

Sharon Ottenbreit (convener), Joel Ottenbreit, Peter Dale, and Kevin Howley

Archivist/Recorder

Maria Milletti

Newsletter

Maria Milletti

Nominating Committee

Sharon Ottenbreit (convener), Chuck Thompson, and Mark Michener

Spiritual Enrichment Book Club Position Ellen Barnes

Representative to LEYM – Erika Smith

Representative to FGC – Chuck Thompson and Marvin Barnes

Representative to FWCC – Mike Kelly and Carmen Kelly

## Fourth 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

**20.** “Are love and unity maintained among us? Do we foster knowing one another in “that which is eternal”? How do we come to clearness in dealing with troublesome differences between us, living our faith and acting in love? Do we listen to the Spirit which can draw us together in humility and mutual trust?”

**21.** “Do we uphold Friends in their efforts to develop stable and loving relationships? In what ways does the Meeting assist couples and families to communicate, grow together, and rear children in a loving and spiritually nurturing environment?”