

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Committee on Ministry and Nurture

Suggested Guidelines for State of the Meeting Reports

Purpose: The State of the Meeting Report assesses the Monthly Meeting's spiritual condition and needs.

Process: The State of the Meeting Report is best developed during a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business, or other specially called meeting. A worship sharing format is recommended, with offerings arising out of the silence, and which are recorded as they are given. The draft report is then developed from these offerings by the Presiding Clerk, the Ministry and Nurture (or otherwise named) Committee, or another appropriate person or committee identified by the Monthly Meeting. The Monthly Meeting then thoughtfully considers this draft and gives it final approval at the next Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business.

Content: The report may be prepared in reference to the annual queries provided by the Yearly Meeting, and may cover such matters as:

1. The spiritual condition of the Meeting, both strengths and challenges.
2. The nature of meetings for worship during the year, including the quality of the silence; and the content and quality of the vocal ministry.
3. The meetings for business during the year, including the range of concerns considered, attendance of members, and implementation of Meeting's decisions.
4. The contributions of committees such as Peace and Social Justice, Religious Education, Ministry and Nurture, Youth, and others.
5. That which is most needed to deepen the spiritual life of the Meeting and to strengthen its witness of Friends' testimonies to the world.
6. Key events during the year which helped build the Meeting in the Life.

Due Date: The State of the Meeting Report is to be sent to the Clerk of LEYM's Ministry and Nurture Committee and to the Editor of the LEYM Annual Records by Fifth Month, 31st Day (May 31) of each year.