

A Renewed Purpose

The first decade of the 21st century was entirely different for Ohio Yearly Meeting compared to the 1990s. Most years, the temperature during YM week was temperate, compared to the higher temperatures of the 1990s. Also, with the yearly meeting turning ever more to outreach and ministry, the divisiveness of earlier years abated. Ironically, YM Clerk Susan Smith, who drafted many foundational minutes of the turbulent 1990s that helped set the course for the new century, stepped down as Clerk in 2001 and was only able to enjoy the new unity in Ohio YM as a retired Clerk.


The Friends Center organized many workshops in the 21st century to assist in the leavening of members' gifts. One of the more popular weekend events has been the ministry workshops led by Brian Drayton. The recorded ministers of Ohio YM have been able to mostly attend and contribute to the growth of those in attendance. Susan Smith has assisted with workshops on eldership.

Ohio Friends continued their other forms of ministry. Under the management of Nirmal Kaul, the Walton Home was greatly improved and expanded. Nirmal's wife Diana played a major role in the Christian Education Camp, an annual event that provides a week of spiritual nurture and activities. The Committee on Renewal and Encouragement paired up the meetings for visitation purposes and organized gatherings on topics of spiritual concerns. General Gatherings continued to be held every other year, providing a weekend of extended worship and fellowship and inviting meetings outside of Ohio YM to host in the "off-years." Jack Smith and Conrad Lindes have coordinated electronic evangelism for a decade. The Book Committee continued its work of giving Bibles to 8-year old members.


Three new MMs were established in Ohio YM. The first was Keystone Fellowship, a successor of the earlier Caln meeting. The meeting thrived in the first decade of the century, twice hosting a gathering. The second new MM was Crossroads, in Flint, Michigan. It emerged as a concern of Phil Helms, a former member of Lake Erie YM who needed a stronger Christian foundation than that YM offered. After visiting Ohio YM several times, he began a meeting in his house in Flint, although it has met in some other locations in southern Michigan. When Phil move to another address, his old house became the Crossroads Meeting House. The third meeting was located in Georgia. Named Chattahoochee for the river flowing through northern Georgia, the meeting was given a historic schoolhouse to use. Chattahoochee was granted a MM in 2011.

Stillwater QM was becoming increasingly unwieldy as the century progressed. It approved a rotation after the creation of Crossroads that would take it to each MM once every two years. When Chattahoochee MM was granted, Stillwater QM had eight MMs compared with just three in Salem QM. The QM considered how to handle its immense size, particularly since local meetings liked the ability to host QMs. In the spring of 2012, it reached unity to recommend a partition of the QM. Crossroads MM agreed to be transferred to Salem QM, which was geographically closer to them. The four older meetings in Ohio would continue as Stillwater QM (Stillwater, Short Creek, Chestnut Ridge, and Chesterfield). It was approved for the three MMs east of the mountains (Rockingham, Keystone Fellowship, and Chattahoochee) to be set off as a new QM, possibly to be named Rockingham QM. Discernment remained in progress at the time of this publication.

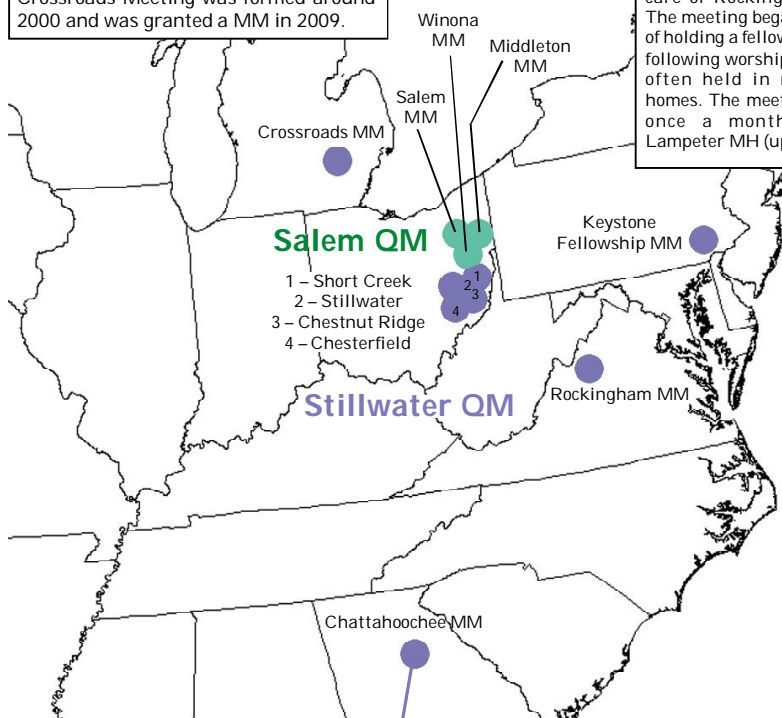
2000 to 2013



Crossroads Meeting was formed around 2000 and was granted a MM in 2009.



Keystone Fellowship was granted MM status by Stillwater QM in 2006, the first of three new MMs in Ohio YM. The meeting was first held in 1999 in the Caln MH and was known as Caln Allowed Meeting, under the care of Rockingham MM. The meeting began a policy of holding a fellowship meal following worship, which is often held in members' homes. The meeting meets once a month in the Lampeter MH (upper left).



Chattahoochee Meeting was formed as a leading by Scott King. The original group, organized around 2000, met for about six years and divided in 2006 when people who did not want a specifically Christian meeting left. The remaining group took the name "Chattahoochee" and joined Rockingham MM. They came into possession of a historic schoolhouse (pictured right) near Spaghetti Junction where they have been meeting since 2009. Stillwater QM granted a MM here in 2011.

