

**Report to Permanent Board
From the Finance Committee
September 19, 2020**

Budget Commentary: FY21 Draft Budget

The draft budget being presented to Permanent Board in September 2020 was approved by the Finance Committee in April 2020 during the period when the COVID-19 pandemic was just beginning to take hold. The budget was presented to Permanent Board for comment in early July, and reviewed again by the Finance Committee in late August following an open Budget Listening Session earlier that day.

As we are still in a period where even short-term projections are uncertain, Friends should consider this budget as a “spending plan” that will likely need adjustment as we get into the fiscal year and the Yearly Meeting makes decisions on how its work will unfold.

The Finance Committee will be especially interested in hearing any further guidance on how the budget can reallocate funds to remove barriers to participation in the activities of the Yearly Meeting.

This draft FY2021 budget includes some modest increases from last year’s budget to respond to the funding priorities Permanent Board approved in November 2019.

Specifically:

1. For the priority of supporting inclusive leadership, we have added \$1000 to line 6167 Religious Education and Outreach.
2. For the priority of supporting peer support and consultation we have added \$1000 to line 6105 Honoraria to allow more honoraria to be used for 2021 Sessions.
3. For the priority of supporting spiritual formation we have added \$1000 to line 6167 Religious Education and Outreach.
4. For the priority of supporting global relationships, we have set aside \$1700 (~\$5000/3) for FWCC travel, to be transferred to the 3630 World Conference Travel Board Designated Fund for use in a future year.

In addition:

- The proposed budget supports ongoing efforts to see that NEYM provides equitable salary levels and benefits for our employees.
- The amount designated for staff travel was reduced from the FY20 budget to bring it into line with actual expenses in prior years.
- The amount in the Accounting Services and Legal Services lines has decreased because the funds set aside for these purposes have reached an adequate level.
- We realize that the level of Monthly Meeting Contributions may be a challenge for some meetings. We are hoping that other meetings will consider raising their contribution to help the Yearly Meeting fulfill its purpose during this difficult period.

- An increased number of online meetings may require greater use of the Childcare and Software line items. We can shift budget lines to accommodate this, as needed.

Signature: Robert Murray, NEYM Treasurer; former clerk, Finance Committee