

Legacy Gift Committee 2021 Annual Report

The Spirit continues to move among NEYM Friends, opening the way for both newly emerging ministries and creative adaptations for existing leadings among Legacy grantees, despite the changes and challenges brought by the COVID 19 pandemic.

*“To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come round right.”--Simple Gifts*

Although we faced changing methodologies, distanced meeting styles, and new committee co-clerks, way continued to open as we faithfully sought to listen to the movement of the Spirit through our applicants, meetings, Yearly Meeting, and wider world. With an August 30, 2021 Witness & Ministry application round outstanding, Legacy awarded a total of \$66,959 to 10 applicants so far this year, and designated \$5,000 available for Time-Sensitive Applications.

The spiritual impact is wide, having touched about 40 of 62 meetings in NEYM with grants to individuals or meetings to date. Approximately 25 related groups have also received grants, including Friends Camp, Beacon Hill Friends House, Friends Schools, and Woolman Hill. Legacy funding for a meeting's leading to provide sanctuary, interviews with Black Quakers, needed roof replacement for a small meeting, ministries of connection and witness related to climate and right relations with indigenous peoples, and more bring to Life our shared spiritual leadings.

Legacy funds reached a major milestone in 2020, as the Futures Fund was entirely spent. This faithfully fulfilled the original goal of making grants until all Future Funds were put to use. In the final FF cycle, Friends and meetings that had not yet received a grant were given priority over repeat requests. Over the life of the Fund the value of what remained after each grant cycle increased, making funds available for years longer than originally anticipated - significantly supporting projects and leadings of many more Friends and meetings. The Fund has made a critical difference for meetinghouses with sustainable energy and other improvements. NEYM might consider replenishing the Future Fund as such requests continue. Final grants of \$49,209 in December, brought the total Future Funds amount awarded to over \$550,000.

Time Sensitive smaller grants, started in 2018 for activities falling outside regular deadlines, drew from Future Funds until 2020 and are now funded using Witness & Ministry funds.

We continued to make grants from Witness & Ministry Funds, which refill annually, with two grant cycles offered in 2020. The next application deadline is August 30, 2021.

Due to COVID, our Workshop on *Supporting Ministry in Our Meetings* shifted to February on Zoom. A panel of Friends shared wisdom from their experience of providing or receiving faithful oversight of ministry. Meaningful reflection in breakout groups followed, involving 73 participants, representing over 39 meetings. Such strengthening of our Quaker oversight processes has been an unanticipated benefit of the Legacy funding program.

A working group is being formed to plan the anticipated 2024 review of Legacy Gift Funds. We feel blessed to engage with the movement of the Spirit as we learn of and support vital leadings, ministry and witness among us.