

## The Lyman Fund

**Application Information:** Contact: Tracy Booth  
[tdbooth@earthlink.net](mailto:tdbooth@earthlink.net)  
Cell: 202 262 2563

**Mail Completed application to:** Stephen Cobb  
179 Avenue A 2nd Floor  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
[heilenartist@gmail.com](mailto:heilenartist@gmail.com)  
Phone: 413 863 9026

### Application for Fall 2023

*Please read and respond carefully.*

**The Lyman Fund** is a small fund set up to offer a limited number of grants to individuals seeking to pursue their spiritual journeys. Members of the Religious Society of Friends are given preference, but applications may be made by any person, with financial need who seeks to follow his or her deepest spiritual leadings. Grants are made for future projects, not for works past.

Lyman Fund does not grant to persons dwelling outside the USA.

**Grants:** Grants range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. A recipient may receive a lifetime total of \$6,000 for one purpose with a second grant. Grant applications are considered in April and October and are to be received by the 15th day of the month preceding.

### To Apply:

**Contact** Tracy Booth for preliminary discussion of your proposal and to receive the latest application and budget forms.

**Clearness Committee:**\* Meet together with a few members of your meeting, church or other spiritual home to help you discern the appropriateness of the nature and timing of this proposal in the context of your life. A reference letter is required from one member of the committee, reporting for the committee, stating the number of participants and the central topics covered during the meeting. Family members or those involved in the project are not appropriate persons for the Clearness process.

**Application:** your application, typed, no more than two standard sized pages, plus finances/budget. The application should be emailed to Stephen Cobb. (See above)

### Please include:

Summary:

1. Name, address, phone and email address brief summary of proposal and amount of grant money requested.

2. Statement of your Spiritual Journey, showing how this project or educational pursuit is an integral next step in that journey.
3. Proposal for project or program you wish to undertake.
4. Occupation, educational background, family responsibilities, brief work history.
5. Spiritual Home: Monthly Meeting, Church, other, and your level of affiliation
6. How did you hear about the Lyman Fund
7. Letter of recommendation from Clearness Committee person; emailed to Stephen Cobb.
8. A color photo head shot which we use to form a collage of recipients so we can pray for you during your grant year. If this is a concern, please contact us.
9. Second letter of recommendation from a person who knows you well, not a family member or person involved in your Leading. This is to be sent from this person to Stephen Cobb by email.
10. Completed budget form. See itemization below.
11. If you are applying for a writing, music or artistic project please include a sample or web link for our consideration.

**Second Grants for the same Leading/Project:** A second grant for the same Leading/ Project may be applied for to bring the combined total Lyman Fund grants to \$6000.

The application should include: 1) a summary as above, 2) an abbreviated statement as above, 3) a progress report of your project thus far and how the new grant would be spent, with expected expenses; 4) one letter from your Clearness Committee (hopefully the same persons as first time) who will meet again and report in support of your project. Email to Stephen Cobb.

Lyman Fund Board discernment will decide the awarding of a second grant; it is not guaranteed.

**Deadlines:** *Complete applications and letters of reference must be received by **September 15** for fall cycle and **March 15th** for spring cycle.*

**\*Clearness Process:** This time-honored Quaker process may be used by anyone seeking divine guidance and discernment about the way forward. Two or three hours is needed.

1. The applicant invites 2 or 3 persons from their spiritual group to sit in worship to focus upon the applicant's project or educational program for which the grant is sought. Persons connected with programs/project who would represent conflict of interest should not be members of the Clearness Committee.
2. Applicant sends a written background paper to each participant in advance of the meeting.
3. a clerk to conduct the meeting and a recorder to take notes are selected.
4. The meeting opens with 5 to 20 minutes of silence in which everyone can settle and inwardly place the meeting in divine care. Prayers may be offered.
5. Applicant presents the history and context of the proposal for which the grant will be sought.
6. Participants neither advise nor judge, but ask deep questions which may help the applicant to become clear about the proposed project or program and its spiritual basis. Is this the time in one's life to pursue this Leading?
7. Waiting silence surrounds each question and answer for deep listening.

8. When and if the clerk senses that clearness has been discerned that the applicant is responding to a spiritual leading or calling and this is the next step on the applicant's spiritual journey, it is stated aloud and affirmed by others.
9. One of the participants writes a letter of reference from the clearness committee and emailed directly to Stephen Cobb. Participants names and content of process is included.

**Report:** Recipients are asked to send a written email report of one or two pages describing the experience of following the leading for which the grant was given. This is requested 6 to 9 months after receiving the grant and may be a work in progress or the expected course of progress.

Submit reports to Stephen Cobb at the above address.

Grantees are invited to a **Gathering** on a weekend in September in southern Maine. Recipients are given time to share their journey and learnings of following their leading. The witness and fellowship between board members and recipients is grounding for the journey ahead. Lyman Fund will pay travel expenses and all Gathering costs.

**Budget Information 2023– 2024**

Please be thorough and descriptive in providing this information. Our interest is to know how this project affects your life fiscally. This information will help the Lyman Fund Board make informed grant decisions. Fiscal need is one consideration. We are looking for support from other sources such as your spiritual community, other grants, income from you or family. We hold this confidentially. Please feel free to provide additional explanation on another sheet.

**Household Finances**

Number contributing to household budget: \_\_\_\_

**Projected income for 2023**

Applicant: Work \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other income resources \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gross Income \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Partner:  
 Work \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gross income \_\_\_\_\_

**Total anticipated household expenses 2023**

include housing, food, taxes, utilities, tuition, insurances, transportation, medical, social, and debt, etc. Please itemize.

**Total Project Finances:**

Include travel, materials, tuition, food, housing, technology, insurance, books, etc. Income from other sources. Please itemize.

Do you have outstanding debts or family considerations upon which this project would place a burden?