

## **Legacy Gift Committee – June 2023 report to NEYM for Advance Reports**

### **From Mary Link and Sue Rockwood, co-clerks**

The Legacy Gift Fund continues to support the movement of the Spirit among us. Through offering two funding cycles, in spring and fall, each year, we are nurturing and enabling Friends faithfulness to God's calls to witness and ministry.

In the past year **Witness & Ministry** funds have supported leadings such as developing right relationship with the land and the Indigenous people, research and a workshop on our historic relationship with Quaker Indigenous Boarding Schools, demystifying economic structures so that Quaker activists and others can use that knowledge in the fight against systemic oppression of people and the earth, and recording interviews with Friends carrying important ministries related to Quaker responses to climate change and care of the Earth resulting in short videos.

**Requests and Renewed life for Futures Fund:** We were asked by Salem Quarter if we would administer their funds while they are on Sabbatical. Having lost the Futures Fund in 2020 when it was expended (as planned), Salem Quarter's funds are reinfusing the Future Fund on a temporary basis – resulting in immediate requests. Already these funds are helping educate the Cambridge Friends School community and parents about Quaker values, and helping a Maine meeting rebuild their handicapped accessible ramp and rotting porches.

Funding for **Time Sensitive requests** continues. In the last year we have helped Hal Weaver travel to London and Geneva to present about the Black Quaker Project and retrospective justice to the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and QUNO, helped a YAF coordinator attend Beyond Diversity 101 at Pendle Hill, helped a NEYM friend living abroad to bring a disabled Friend and assist at Sessions, and enabled a Junior Member of Fresh Pond Meeting (the only youth from New England) to travel to the FUM Triennial this summer in Nakuru, Kenya.

**The new Bodine-Rustin Fund:** We were asked by NEYM to apply our expertise in grant oversight to taking on the administration of this newly created fund. As this was the initial year, it took time to get started - figuring out the whole process, creating suggestion forms, and doing outreach to all NEYM meetings to get the suggestions of groups to support in this first year. A subcommittee, including a NEYM FUM rep, then reviewed the seven suggested organizations, researching each group, teasing out the needs and where limited funds might be most effective, and recommending funding amounts - first to Legacy Gift then forwarded to Permanent Board for final approval and distribution. The funds (\$5,047.40 this year) have gone to a variety of groups. Of the seven groups proposed for funding, two are involved in Africa - FUST gets Ugandans threatened with prison or death because of who they are to safer places, while GALCK is a national organization in Kenya working on systemic levels including education about rights, advocacy & litigation. Three groups based in New England are providing asylum. Two groups support local teens and Pride events in CT and rural northern VT where there is a high suicide rate for gay youth and this support is life saving – perhaps differently than for those seeking asylum, but life saving none the less. Being present with the oppression, trauma and needs of these LGBTQIA+ groups was painful, and also inspiring - and joyful in being able to support their work without their having had to ask.

**Dates for Fall cycle & Workshop:** We encourage individuals carrying ministry or leadings, and Meetings with carbon reducing or other facility improvement needs to apply. Our next Deadline

is October 21, 2023. Stay tuned for our workshop Tuesday evening Sept 26, 2023 on financially supporting ministry.

All of these funds spring from holy abundance. This year, the Futures Fund, which we were feeling the loss of since it was expended, was blessed with renewed life. We have learned through all these years about watering the seeds of holy abundance and creating agency, employing minds and hearts to both invite and notice where the Light is moving and support it in shining ever more brightly.

## **2024 Legacy Gift Review Committee: June 2023 report to NEYM for Advance Reports**

Nearly ten years ago, in 2014, New England Yearly Meeting created the Legacy Gift fund from the money realized by the sale of the New England Friends Home and started giving grants to support the witness and ministry of Friends in New England. At the time, some of the money was designated to be fully spent, and that has happened. The other portion of the money was restricted for ten years, with grants made only from earnings. In 2024, the Yearly Meeting will discern where the life is for the future use of these funds. The 2024 Review Committee has been set up to collect and compile data and reflections on the experience of these first ten years and make recommendations for the future to Sessions next year.

The 2024 Review Committee is composed of Mary Link (Legacy Co-Clerk and convenor of 2024 Committee), Bob Murray (NEYM Treasurer), Suzanna Schell (Prior Clerk Legacy Gift), and Fritz Weiss (Prior NEYM Clerk). We have been meeting every couple months for the past year, planning and beginning this review process. We have announced the review in NEYM News, pulled together a list and a map showing all individual grantees and meetings touched by Legacy Funds to date and are in process of updating the slide show depicting the witness, ministry and building improvements that have been supported. To date, 40 of our 62 monthly meetings and 25 other related Friends' groups have been involved in a LGC grant, over half of them in more than one grant application.

As we want this review to include reflections from as many people as possible, we are about to send letters with questionnaires to all grantees, Monthly Meetings and other NEYM contacts. We look forward to getting your responses!

Here are some of the queries we are seeking responses to:

- What have we learned about supporting ministry among Friends over the past ten years ?
- What has changed since 2014? How are we being called today?
- What advice do you offer for the Legacy Gift Funds for the next decade? How could these funds continue to help us answer God's call now?

We'd love to get your responses. Please contact us at [Legacy2024review@neym.org](mailto:Legacy2024review@neym.org).

