

Legacy Gift Committee Annual Report 2024  
Submitted by Sue Rockwood and Mary Link, co-clerks

The joy of supporting ministry across our Yearly Meeting has continued during this 10th year of the Legacy Gift program, as Friends' ministries and their meetinghouses were held with care and support by Legacy Gift. Two grant cycles led to a dozen awards; additionally, we responded to three time-sensitive requests and a special appeal for the NEYM office. In our second year shepherding Salem Quarter's funds (through Future Fund guidelines), we joyfully granted funds for meetinghouse projects, helping replace a combustion-based heating system with a non-carbon- emission system in one meetinghouse, and helping replace the roof on an 1820 meetinghouse. Witness & Ministry Fund awards supported two prison ministry projects, participation in "Making Queer Quaker History" programs, creation of literacy curricula promoting peace skills, travel in ministry to Ukraine, ministry skills training, research in Texas and Oklahoma into our Yearly Meetings role in schools and policies that forced assimilation of native children, and other ministries.

We worked with the 2024 Legacy Review Committee (see their report) helping research the initial 10 years of the Legacy Gift program and offering seasoning of the report and recommendations. We were moved by the overwhelmingly positive responses by former grantees and other Friends to the 2024 review team's surveys testifying to Legacy Gift Committee's support of ministry and Spirit-led witness over the last 10 years. We fully support the 2024 Legacy Review Committee recommendations. There is much to celebrate!

Some particulars this year:

This is the second year of shepherding Salem Quarter's grants using Legacy Gift's Futures Fund guidelines. Receiving requests for meetinghouse projects during both grant cycles this year shows that there continues to be a need for such funding. We are grateful to Salem Quarter for trusting us with discernment for the allocations of their funds while they are on sabbath.

This was also our second year of administering and discerning the disbursement of Bodine-Rustin funds in support of programs and projects that support LGBTQIA+ people. While it was easier this year, having set up the systems last year, we discovered that shepherding these funds adds complexity to our work, as the guidelines and time frame are different from our other funding cycles. The total available this fiscal year was \$4,214.46. We received six recommendations from meetings and individuals to support the organizations listed below, half of them for the second time. The subcommittee researched potential recipient organizations in order to verify that all were legitimate entities, get contact information, and learn the scope and focus of their work. This research helped us gauge the degree of need and potential impact our funding might have. Legacy Gift recommended the following individuals and organizations to Permanent Board to receive Bodine-Rustin funds this year:

- Friends Uganda Safe Transport (FUST): \$114.46 to assist with winding things down, as it is too dangerous to continue their work.
- South Coast LGBTQ Network (southeastern MA & RI): \$500.00
- Individual Ugandan Friend: \$2,250.00
- Trans Asylum Seekers Support Network (western MA): \$650.00
- Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP) (Putney): \$500.00
- J-FLAG, a human rights and social justice organization which advocates for the rights, livelihood, and well-being of LGBT people in Jamaica: \$200.00

Legacy Gift Committee provided emergency funds of \$7,000 (the total requested by Permanent Board) from the Witness & Ministry Fund to respond to the unanticipated need for additional staff hours to help cover the extended compassionate bereavement leave for our Yearly Meeting Secretary following his brother's violent death. Our clarity was to make an exception to our usual practices and guidelines by providing the funding simply as a transfer of funds on this extraordinary basis. We encourage the Yearly Meeting to create a sustainable development plan to build adequate reserves to cover future emergencies.

If Sessions approves extending the Legacy Committee's charge, we joyfully look forward to continuing the ministry Legacy Gift Funds provide. Our committee is currently understaffed, and will lose some experienced people at the end of Sessions. Without new volunteers joining us, we will be down to four members (our original charge was for at least nine members). The work is both greatly rewarding and too much for so few people to carry out. We will be exploring changes to lessen the administrative workload in an effort toward sustainability.

More members will give Legacy Gift Committee more spaciousness to focus on continuing to support the ministry of New England Friends: listening to the hopes of applicants, asking about ongoing support for ministry within monthly meetings, and providing resources, such as workshops and connections, to further that support. We welcome new committee members. (Please let Nominating know if you are interested!)