

**UPDATE on the CONTRIBUTIONS CRITERIA WORKING GROUP  
To the PERMANENT BOARD, September 28, 2024**

To accomplish our task of recommending criteria to be utilized by NEYM in making contributions to outside organizations when funds are available, the Contributions Criteria Working Group has developed a process for obtaining input from Friends around New England.

- Our first initiative was to hold a Listening Session at NEYM Sessions in Castleton in August 2024. The recommendations we received during the Listening Session are summarized below.
  
- During the Fall of 2024 we will be attending and/or contacting Quarterly Meetings to present our initiative and request recommendations for NEYM contributions criteria. In some cases, individual meetings in the Quarter will be contacted. The Quarters we plan to attend and/or present our request for recommendations include:
  - Connecticut Valley
  - Dover
  - Falmouth –
  - Northwest
  - Salem
  - Sandwich
  - Southeast

**Recommendations for NEYM Contributions Criteria  
Listening Session at 2024 Sessions**

**Potential Criteria:**

In General, Fund:

- Quaker organizations in which NEYM is a member
- State Ecumenical organizations – e.g. Councils of Churches
- Organizations for which NEYM appoints representatives

### Other Considerations for Establishing NEYM Funding:

- Assess the budgets of potential organizations to which NEYM might contribute in relation to the potential impact of an NEYM contribution on the organization's budget relative to NEYM's resources
- Compile Fact Sheets on organizations for which NEYM is considering funding to assess the fit with NEYM values and the potential impact of NEYM funding on the organization's overall budget
- Evaluate the correlation between the organization's values and those of NEYM: do the organization's values correspond to NEYM's Faith and Practice?
  - By participating in and/or contributing to an organization, can NEYM have an impact on making changes in an organization whose values do not fully correspond to NEYM values
  - Can membership in an organization be a way to build bridges for bringing about some organizational change; by contrast, does withdrawing NEYM funds diminish NEYM's voice for promoting organizational change
- Include consideration of funding organizations in which NEYM members are significantly involved but not as NEYM representatives
- Make decisions about NEYM contributions to outside organizations based on the availability of NEYM's funding beyond the funding needed to support its organizational requirements:
  - Based on the level of funding available for outside organizations, fully fund organizations in which NEYM is a member and establish a discretionary fund for other organizations.
- In funding deliberations, account to NEYM members the funding provided to pay for travel of NEYM members to attend the meetings/gatherings of outside organizations – this should not be considered a financial contribution to the organization but is important information for considering NEYM funding of outside organizations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Wooton and Liesa Stamm