

Legacy Gift Committee Annual Report 2025

Submitted by Mary Link, Clerk

Legacy Gift Committee, grateful for last year's approval to continue our ministry, has spent much of the past year faithfully improving our ability to support witness and ministry among us. Our 11th year was a transition year, taking time to implement the changes approved during Sessions 2024. As the Committee was down to just 4 members (of 9), we paused our usual grant cycle during the fall of 2024. This spaciousness allowed us to update forms and online documents for the newly combined Witness & Ministry Fund guidelines that now includes supporting meetinghouse projects, revise our purpose and procedures to match approved changes, shift (due to necessity) from co-clerks to a single clerk, and to welcome and orient two new committee members. We enjoyed our first in-person meeting since the pandemic this spring, hosted by West Falmouth Friends. New support from NEYM Staff member Sara Hubner, is blessedly reducing the administrative load to a sustainable level.

The spring funding season supported the ministry of Virginia Swain's Quaker Reconciliation Leadership Program. Through a Time Sensitive grant we helped Gordon Bugbee and Mary Zwirner travel to Oklahoma to further lay the foundations of connection and communication between New England Yearly Meeting and the thirteen Indigenous Tribes and Nations most directly affected by the Yearly Meeting's involvement in the Indigenous Boarding Schools of the late nineteenth century. We received several moving reports from prior grantees about ministry that was enabled by Legacy Gift Funds.

Is there a Spirit-led witness or ministry calling you? The next full funding cycle deadline is October 19, 2025 for applications up to \$10,000. Time Sensitive applications for up to \$1,000 are available on a rolling basis. See our NEYM webpage for details and forms.

This was our third year of discerning the disbursement of **Bodine-Rustin funds** in support of programs that support LGBTQIA+ people. NEYM budgetary reduction of funds going to FUM meant that a smaller amount was redirected to the Bodine-Rustin Fund this year. As there was significantly less money to distribute (only \$201.41 was available, compared to the approximately \$4,000 - \$5,000 during the initial 2 years), we did not request suggestions for recipients. Instead Legacy Gift recommended and Permanent Board approved giving all of the funds to just one recipient, an African Friend selected from the list of prior recipients, to receive the total funds available.

Legacy Gift Committee had agreed to shepherd **Salem Quarter grant funds** for two years through June 2024. As Salem Quarter has not yet resumed, Permanent Board has appointed a small group to explore Legacy Gift shepherding the funds again.

As noted in Sessions minute #2024-47: One of the strengths of the Legacy Gift Committee's structure has been their ability to support ministries not only financially, but also more holistically and over a longer term, with prayer, accountability, support committees and accompaniment. These ministries have a direct impact on beneficiaries, but also a broader, indirect effect on enlivening the Life of Spirit among us all.

It is inspiring to witness the Divine moving amongst us and be able to help release Friends to faithfulness to their callings. Two seasoned committee members, including the clerk, will be stepping down in August and we'd welcome more members for this joyful work. Might you be led to join us?