

Legacy Gift Committee/Gifts Committee

Annual Report 2025-26

The Committee continues to transition from its original focus to a broader scope. Our Purpose, Procedures and Composition was revised and approved by Permanent Board. The name of the committee is now Gifts Committee, emphasizing our role in nurturing the gifts of applicants. Permanent Board also approved a memorandum of understanding to continue our administration of Salem Quarter Fund. The Committee continues to shepherd the Witness & Ministry Fund, the Bodine-Rustin Fund, the Salem Quarter Fund, and the Peacemaker Fund.

In the fall of 2025 and spring of 2026 the Witness and Ministry Fund provided the following grants:

- a time sensitive grant to *Peter Blood* for travel in Britain Yearly Meeting
- *Belfast Meeting Friends*, to offer cooked meals and supervision for the new Family Harbor House (offering transitional housing for homeless families)
- *Wade Boswell*, Putney Monthly Meeting, to release his ministry to nurture and support trans spiritual leadership and community
- *Puente de Amigos Committee*, to assist Cuban Friends to repair or replace their decrepit 2004 van and 1994 car used to transport Friends among the 12 rural churches in eastern Cuba and Havana
- *Jacqueline Stillwell*, Monadnock Quaker Meeting, to release Jackie to partner with Mayan Guatemalan students who are learning English so they can further their professional education and improve their communities
- *Worcester Friends Meeting*, to support a talk by Cristina Rathbone, author of *The Asylum Seekers*, about her experiences with the immigration system at the U.S./Mexico border
- A time-sensitive grant to *Suzanna Schell*, Beacon Hill Meeting, to travel as an elder with Gordon Bugbee and Mary Zwirner, to visit among the thirteen Indigenous Tribes and Nations most directly affected by NEYM's involvement in the Indigenous Boarding Schools of the late 19th century
- *Mt Toby Meeting*, to assist in replacing the roof on the Meetinghouse with a new metal one
- *Disability Theology Project*, to release Greg Woods to convene listening sessions and conversations with Friends exploring the intersection of disability and Quaker

faith and practice and begin to develop resources to help meetings engage disability justice.

- *Friends Forum*, to release Erica H. Adams to produce a Zoom speaker series with up to four, hour-long programs a year on topical issues that inform, inspire activism, and connect communities of Quakers and the public in dialogue. Beacon Hill Friends House will provide tech support
- *Family Violence*: Sarah Allen, Friends Meeting at Cambridge, to connect with Friends in ministry related to Quaker family violence, healing from trauma, and conflict transformation.

Two grantees have funds remaining from previous funding cycles and will use them to continue their ministries.

Over the summer the Committee will address funding through the Bodine-Rustin fund.

We will also publicize the Peacemaker Fund to release individuals led to witness to our peace testimony.

Permanent Board has asked Indigenous Relations Resource Group to offer a proposal for reparations to tribes and nations affected by past and present harms. A Retrospective Justice Working Group is being proposed to deeply engage with our complicity in past practices of chattel slavery, and past and current oppression of African Americans. Gifts Committee will be available to help develop proposals on how the resources of the Committee can foster the work of both these groups.

The next full funding cycle deadline is October 18, 2026, 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.