

Report from the ad hoc committee created at the Fourth Month, 17, 2022 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, in response to the minute from the 10 Month, 17, 2021 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business stating in part “Friends request Ministry and Counsel to form a committee that will develop procedures for this {Witness Concerns} budget line.

The Committee was made up of Robert Baldrige, Margery Cornwell, Ed Elder, Paul van Linden Tol, and Corona Macheimer. We met on zoom on Monday, June 20th.

In our discernment process we had a strong leading to create a fund that would come close to the concept of tithing from the first fruits of our income as a Quarter. We felt that it would be easier on the Committee when it is formed to have a budget amount that is settled for the year rather than based on some percentage of a projected income. We would leave it to the Committee in future years to create their own budget request, as do all other Committees of the Quarter.

We propose a starting budget line of \$200,000.

We also looked at the handbook designation for the Witness Committee and are proposing some modifications, given the new nature of this committee.

Witness fund Committee

Composition: The Committee will be made up of 6 members, one each from each of the Monthly Meetings (Brooklyn, 15th Street, Flushing, Manhattan, Morningside, Staten Island). The members of the Committee will be nominated by their Monthly Meeting and approved by the Quarter.

Term: 3 Years, beginning in April. Maximum tenure: 2 consecutive terms.

Meeting Frequency: 4 times annually or as needed.

Purpose: To encourage committees of the Quarter and individual members of the Religious Society of Friends with significant connections to NYQM and who worship with us regularly to propose an outreach or witness project requiring funds beyond budget or available means. To make decisions regarding which of those projects to fund and distribute funds under the guidance of the Spirit.

Responsibilities:

1. To set up guidelines for proposals, including (but not limited to) the following:
 - a. The applicants must have access to tax-exempt status.
 - b. The proposal may not be for operating expenses or endowment
 - c. The Committee should provide ongoing oversight, and the entity receiving the grant should provide ongoing reporting to the committee until the project is finished.
2. To make an annual report to the Quarter in January