

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

First Month 2023

Meeting for Worship: 10:45a Sundays

First Day School: 10:30a Sundays



1837 Forest Ave Portland, ME 04103
portlandfriendsmeeting.org 207-200-6544

Connections

Co-Clerks

Rob Levin

Peter Woodrow

coclerks@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

Recording Clerks

PFM.recordingclerk@gmail.com

Treasurer, Contributions

Jane Mullen, 215-421-5257

jmmaine@aol.com

Treasurer, Operating Account

Kathy Beach, 207-233-2065

katherinegbeach@gmail.com

Treasurer, Special Funds

Special Needs Funds

Elizabeth Szatkowski 207-274-3564

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Muriel Allen, 207-420-1021

murielpfm@gmail.com

Childcare Coordinator

Susan Grannell 401-413-5951

pfm-nursery-coordinator@gmail.com

Religious Education

Adult: On Hiatus

Youth: Bart Czyz btczyz@gmail.com

Youth Religious Education Coordinator:

Emily Troll etroll@wesleyan.edu

Use of the Meetinghouse

meetinghouse@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

e-group membership

pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com

Newsletter submissions

Heather Denkmire

pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

Address/directory changes

directory@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

Calendar

- January 15** 12:30p Called Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business (hybrid*)
- January 22** 12:15-1:15p Sally Farneth will share her work with the Friendly Book Collaborative. Snacks provided. All are welcome.
- January 29** Worship with families from Friends School of Portland at Portland Friends Meetinghouse followed by meet and greet at the Rise of Meeting in the parlor. (tentative)
- February 1** 6p Contemplative Writing with Theresa Oleksiw at the Meetinghouse, Adult Learning, fmi contact Thersa at toleksiw@gmail.com
- February 5** 9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business (hybrid*)
- February 11** 6-7:30p Small-group study: "Members One of Another: The Dynamics of Membership in Quaker Meeting," Part 1 of 3, Adult Learning, Meetinghouse Parlor (Details inside)
- February 18** 6-7:30p Members One of Another, Part 2 of 3, Adult Learning, Meetinghouse Parlor
- February 25** 6-7:30p Members One of Another, Part 3 of 3, Adult Learning, Meetinghouse Parlor
- March 19** 9:15-10:30a "The Light: In Words and in Experience," Adult Learning, Meetinghouse Meetingroom

Every Month

- Every Sunday:** 10:30a First Day School/All Ages Youth Programming at the Meetinghouse
10:45a Meeting for Worship* at the Meetinghouse and on Zoom;
- Every Wednesday:** 7p Young Adult Friends Mid-Week Worship
email yaf@portlandfriendsmeeting.org for location
- Every Weekday:** 10:30-11a Meeting for Worship on Zoom*

*contact Clerks for online Meeting for Worship links

Daily Weekday Silent Worship:

This is an opportunity for silent worship. The group meets for thirty minutes each Monday through Friday at 10:30 AM. All are welcome.

The zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88630165246?pwd=QXhMYWozZnRteWFsWmdJTUZqamIUUT09>

Portland Friends Meeting
Draft Minutes of Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

January 8, 2023

Peter Woodrow, Co-Clerk

Theresa Oleksiw, Co-Recording Clerk

Friends of the Portland Friends Meeting began in silent worship at 9:00 am. Some 29 Friends gathered in person at the Meetinghouse and 20 remotely via Zoom.

Peter read from Nadine Hoover's *Walking in the World as a Friend: Essential Quaker Practices*, Chapter on Being a Witness (excerpts):

As witnesses, we tend to our public lives. Witness for Quakers takes several forms:

- We let our lives speak through the fruits of faithful living. We become examples of God manifest in human form that witness to the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, strength, compassion, beauty, truth, equality, and liberty.
- We testify in our meeting community to the insight and directions of our spiritual experiment.
- We testify in the larger community and society to the Spirit in human affairs, to what is loving, true, and just that is essential for a religious society. Quaker practice is not an individual practice of individual enlightenment, but of forming a beloved community and society.
- We seek a beloved society in which we order every relationship with others and the natural world in accord with the Spirit.
- Quaker practice carries obligations and opportunities to witness to the Spirit in our communities and larger society.

Following a period of silent worship, Peter expressed thanks to Chris Fitze for his assistance with the hybrid meeting technology, to Mags Fehr holding the Meeting in the Light, and to Theresa Oleksiw for stepping up as Recording Clerk for the very first time.

Peter reminded all of additional upcoming meetings regarding our financial discernment process: a Q&A forum on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 7pm of the Discernment Steering Committee's proposals, and a Called Meeting for Business on January 15 at 12:30pm, the rise of Meeting, to consider the proposals. Questions about the proposals can be sent to Steering Committee members if people cannot attend Tuesday's meeting. Steering Committee members were recognized: Peter Woodrow, Rob Levin, Emily Troll, Becky Steele, Heather Denkmire, Dorothy Grannell, and Julia Fitzgerald.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Meeting then approved the Minutes of the Meetings of December 4 and December 18, with the following corrections:

December 4, page 5, Friends Fiduciary Corporation funds are all in one account not four accounts.,

December 18: Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition has not reduced its religious organizations membership as a matter of fact such membership has increased. And, the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition finances have not changed. The reduction mentioned was in the capacity of ministers to take in families.

With these proposed corrections, both Minutes were approved.

2. MINUTE ON WABANAKI SOVEREIGNTY

Wayne Cobb read the following:

1. PFM approved a minute last year in favor of the State of Maine recognizing the inherent right to Wabanaki Tribal Sovereignty (LD 1626); we submitted written testimony in accordance with that minute.
2. Wabanaki Alliance is seeking the support of Maine organizations in support of a new sovereignty bill soon to be drafted. Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy has asked that each of the quarterly meetings in Maine approve minutes in support.
3. Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting approved a minute favoring a new sovereignty bill last fall. I worked with Shirley Hager to make a few slight updates and revisions for our purposes, and the Right Relationship working group of Portland friends has approved this minute.

(Minutes continued from p.2)

4. Today I am requesting that Portland Friends Meeting approve our support for tribal sovereignty and approve sending the following proposed minute to the co-clerks of Falmouth quarterly meeting, asking for its approval at their January 28th meeting.

Falmouth Quarterly Meeting Minute on the Inherent Right of Tribal Sovereignty of the Wabanaki

Minute on the Inherent Right of Tribal Sovereignty of the Wabanaki People and the Support for Bills before the Maine State Legislature that would Recognize and Implement Tribal Sovereignty

Members of Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) unite in urging full support by the Maine State Legislature for bills that encompass the consensus recommendations reached in 2020 by a Task Force composed of Maine legislators, State officials and Wabanaki leaders, i.e., bills that acknowledge and support the sovereignty of the Wabanaki Tribes and Nations within Maine.

The terms in the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) and the Maine Implementing Act (MIA) have proven disastrous for the Tribes. These bills are designed to address those wrongs. For example, they would correct a fundamental denial embodied in the 1980 federal Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) that has prevented Wabanaki Tribes in Maine from benefiting from over 150 federal laws passed during the last 40 years, laws that were designed to assist and support Tribal health, safety, well-being, and self-determination. As a result, Indigenous peoples in Maine suffer from disadvantages not found in any other state.

Unlike the 570 federally recognized Tribal communities on lands outside of Maine, Wabanaki Tribes and Nations contend with restrictions and complicated regulations imposed by the Maine Implementing Act (MIA). Tribal communities outside Maine are subject to Federal Indian Law. Current bills before the legislature would make Federal Indian Law applicable to Tribes and Nations within Maine. It should be noted that Federal Indian Law, while supporting greater Tribal self-determination, enables states to enter into productive relationships with Tribal nations that not only benefit the Tribes, but also the surrounding non-Native communities and the State. It has been shown time and again, throughout the country, that when Tribes are prosperous the surrounding rural communities prosper as well. This Bill is our opportunity to create this reality for Wabanaki communities and for Maine as a whole.

The current situation imposed by the State on Wabanaki peoples is morally and ethically wrong. Wabanaki communities only want what Tribes in other states enjoy—greater freedom to control their own destiny and to thrive. The bills addressing the shortfalls of the MICSA and the MIA provide the means to make this possible. This Minute reflects the Quaker testimony of the sacredness of all individuals and our witness to support the inherent rights and dignity of Indigenous communities.

The Meeting approved this Minute to be forwarded to the Falmouth Quarter for action.

3. MEETING MEMBERS' INPUT TO STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT

Beth Bussiere-Nichols from Ministry and Counsel reported that the State of Society report will focus on broad themes this year rather than smaller events. Beth asked the gathered meeting several questions, encouraging responses in a worship sharing style—which will be used as input in development of a draft document to be considered during the February meeting for business.

Where do you see Spirit at work?

* Discernment on Financial Resources, *exercising trust with the Friends School, *rejuvenated youth program, *grappling with technology, *seeing discernment as a doorway, * underlying questions about who we are and why we are here, *the relationship between structures and being responsive to Spirit, between discernment and worship, *cultural whiteness, privilege, class and how is this confused with spirit, *what norms are essential and getting in the way of our work, *Hard, scary year - we may fall apart or lose trust; this has helped our trust not be fake but rather resilient, *religious education supporting our youth has been on a rich journey, *connecting with different meetings to explore how they do their work, *using the Meeting's finances in valuable ways to enrich religious education, *hours of devoted time especially the Financial Stewardship Committee and Discernment Steering Committee, *Family Promise relationships, housing safety net in Portland and Portland Meeting taking care of people.

(Minutes continued from p. 3)

Are there places where Friends are aware of Spirit blocked or hobbled?

* A Friend expressed that she can't name what is coming to her but she will get back to Ministry and Counsel. *Fear can hobble us at times. Fear will always be with us, but we can also talk back to that fear, and we have been. * Money as a "sin" mentioned during discernment of our finances. This has been a lightning rod for many, but also an opportunity to explore these issues more deeply.

How has the experience of the pandemic changed us as a community?

* people feel maxed out by the commitment and energy spent, new stuff needs space to Bubble Up, * pandemic opened up creativity, Lightness and humor have freed us, opening our inner gates of compassion.* We gained courage to change our minds and start something new.

Friends are welcome to email Beth or Sally if there are more thoughts. A draft State of Society Report will be presented at the February Monthly Meeting for more input. At the March meeting, the final draft will be presented for approval.

4. MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER FOR DAVID HINGSTON AND MAGGIE FEHR

Chris Beach, M&C Co-Clerk, introduced David and Maggie, formerly members of Princeton (New Jersey) Monthly Meeting. Maggie was the Clerk of Worship and Ministry at Princeton and a member for 27 years. David was recording clerk at Princeton for 10 to 15 years. Chris announced that Ministry and Council highly recommends their transfer of membership, after an enthusiastic clearness committee that included dancing.

The Meeting enthusiastically accepted this transfer of membership and welcomed David and Maggie.

5. PROPOSED 2023 OPERATING BUDGET

Jo Linder, Clerk of Financial Stewardship Committee, distributed the proposed operating budget for 2023. She explained the roles played by the committee, saying that this operating budget helps guide our Meeting's decisions throughout the year. Kathy Beach, Treasurer for the past 10 years, noted that 2022 was the first year during her tenure that we have not raised enough funds to cover our expenses.

The proposed operating budget does not allocate specific donations to other Quaker organizations, except for organizations where we have made a specific commitment, such as the City of Portland, Family Promise, and the Ramallah Friends School. Jo noted that the Meeting needs to discern how to distribute the rest of the funds.

Several questions were asked:

- It is not clear why the Leadings Grants are now shown in the operating budget, whereas in past years they were not. ANSWER: Leadings Grants are now being shown in the annual budget to increase the transparency around these grants.
- Fritz Weiss noted that the request from the Velasco Sister Committee to set aside \$4,000 annually to fund delegations to visit Cuba is not reflected in this budget. ANSWER: Peter mentioned that the Meeting needs to discern how we work with the Sister Committee and how to go forward in the long-term. This needs its own discussion in the future. Rob and Peter suggest waiting for the February delegation to return and share about their experience, and then we will be in a better position to consider how we might want to support this effort in a regular way. Ann Dodd-Collins mentioned that she is holding the funds in a separate account under her name and that this is not good practice for the future. This is among the issues that need discussion. Fritz noted that preliminary discussions of the next delegation have already begun with the Cuba Sister Meeting and Durham Monthly Meeting.
- Fritz asked, as Portland Monthly Meeting is a member of the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition, do we give an annual contribution to this coalition? ANSWER: Jo, Co- Clerk of Finance responded in the affirmative. This organization has been donated money, but this is not reflected in the 2023 operating budget, as our recent contribution was allocated from invested funds.
- Jo mentioned the policy that the Monthly Meeting had agreed to harvest 4% of its funds. She asked the Meeting to reflect if it wanted to harvest more than 4% in the future. There is a difference between the operating budget and the investment fund. Expenditures beyond the operating budget should be considered by the Meeting as a whole, not the Financial Stewardship Committee.

(Minutes continued from p. 4)

- Sam Solish proposed all things Quaker be in the budget and otherwise put everything else in discussion. Let's commit to the Quaker items first. Peter, Co-Clerk, suggested we take this up when exploring funds at future meetings.
- Sydney suggested a separate fund for Cuba. Ann is managing and handling all the Cuba funds, and this is not appropriate. Can this be incorporated into the 2023 budget? ANSWER: Jo responded that there is a mixed sense of what this Meeting has committed to concerning Cuba. The Durham Friends Treasurer used to handle the Cuba Sister relationships. Portland Meeting needs to discern the Cuba issue more. We need to consider how we are sharing this with the Durham Monthly Meeting. For instance, ought there to be a separate special treasurer just for the Cuba Sister Meeting funds? Peter, Co-Clerk, suggested that our continued lack of a shared understanding regarding support for the Sister Meeting relationship could be considered a block to Spirit, and that this needs further discernment.
- Lise Wagner asked, is the clerk asking for approval of its operating budget? She is concerned that there are lines blank for donations. She was especially concerned for Friends School budget and the Friends Camp funds. These are not delineated as they typically have been in the past. ANSWER: Peter noted that there is \$6,200 total committed in the budget all of these items. Jo proposed the Meeting conduct a session to review the list of Friends organizations and determine if we wish to continue these organizations and amounts. Some people have suggested using the same amounts from the 2022 budget which commits the \$6,200 total but doesn't earmark the funds to each organization. One Friend noted that of course Portland Meeting was going to support the Friends School of Portland. Jane Mullen, Treasurer for Contributions, noted that for donations to the Meeting, for the first time ever, there is less coming in than going out. The budget discussion concentrates on outgoing funds. \$64,000 was proposed for the 2022 budget but only \$52,000 was realized. Members need to ask yourself; can I maintain past contributions? Could I donate more?

Friends approved the 2023 operating budget as presented.

6. DISCERNMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

Emily Troll, Clerk of the Discernment Steering Committee, presented a first reading of the Proposals for Use of PFM Financial Resources. The Committee is offering proposals in a spirit of celebration and is in unity on what is being presented. Emily asked Meeting members and attenders to please digest the Proposals before Tuesday's information session and next Sunday's Called Meeting for Business. She explained that the Proposals have two key parts: First, sustain and support the Meeting House and programs, and second, support more Spirit-led action in the world. We are a corporate body; we share a community witness that supports all Quaker testimonies. Sometimes we release funds to the outer world and sometimes we release funds to meeting members. We continue to turn more towards the Spirit. The Committee welcomes your feedback either through the info session, the Called Meeting for Business, and by email or phone calls to Committee members.

CLOSING WORSHIP

The Meeting settled into closing worship, ten minutes ahead of anticipated closing. The Meeting rose at 10:40 am, proposing to meet again for the Conduct of Business on January 15, 2023 at 12:30 pm.

Operating Budget Additional Information

PFM's 2023 Operating Budget was approved at the January 8 Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business. Thank you to those who provided written and verbal input to the budget process during the past several weeks. Documents (PDF) are available here in Drive https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GfnieUrJw3O6T9Q_thWpgQqj5etu_7Ss. Additionally, please see the following:

- Expanded notes at the end of the 2023 Operating Budget final document
- List of past financial gift recipients with website hyperlinks for more information.
- A session will be offered in February or March for PFM community members to discern and help determine financial gifts beyond our meeting.

with gratitude,

Jo Linder, she/her/hers, Clerk, Financial Stewardship Committee, email: jolinder98@gmail.com

January 2023 Budget FAQ

Here are some questions that might come up when looking at the revised draft budget for your approval:

Q. What's the purpose of this annual operating budget? Why doesn't it include things we've approved, like a HVAC consultant or contributions to the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition, or things that will come up soon, like a new boiler?

A. This budget covers annual expenses and income. All expenses in the annual budget have to be covered by income, whether it's your generous gifts to the Meeting, or from sustainably harvesting income from our invested funds.

Big-ticket items that can't be covered by income all in one year -- like paving the parking lot (past), responding to emergency housing needs (present), or buying a new boiler (near future), we usually address outside the operating budget. For example, the Meeting just approved supporting MIRC and increased support of Family Promise, with those increased funds to come from our invested funds. For things like the parking lot, our Meeting's practice has been usually to "borrow" money from our invested funds and pay the funds back over time (as we're doing from now until 2025 to cover past expenses).

Our Meeting may decide to do things differently in the future, but for now the Financial Stewardship Committee didn't feel it was right for us to make big departures from our past practice without approval from the full Meeting.

Q: Does this budget reflect the commitment our Meeting made in December to support Family Promise and the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition?

A: Yes and no. In light of increased use of our building to host Family Promise families, this budget drops rental income slightly and increases utilities a bit. This budget retains the \$2000 support for Family Promise we'd already committed to. The contribution to MIRC and increased support for Family Promise (beyond the \$2000) will be drawn from invested funds and aren't in this annual operating budget.

Q. What else is different between the first draft of the budget and this one?

A. In light of feedback that some of the categories for budget lines seemed confusing, this budget reorganizes them in a way that we hope will be clearer.

Other changes: Budgeted income from gifts to our Meeting went down slightly. \$69,000 still seems like a "stretch," but one that the committee senses our Meeting community is being moved to meet. As discussed above, income and expenses were adjusted slightly in light of our commitment to resume being a Family Promise host. On the

expense side, the Discernment Steering Committee dropped its request from \$2,700 to \$900, experiencing hope that our Meeting may come to unity without needing many outside facilitators. Also, compensation adjusted a bit to reflect COLA adjustments and other input from the Youth Religious Education Committee.

We also heard interest in continuing our support for Quaker and Quaker-related organizations as in the past. The committee feels this is a question for the Meeting as a whole. To help in this discernment, this budget lists the contributions our Meeting has already committed to as part of our annual budget (\$3,500). It also shows an expense line of \$6,200 representing the total of other contributions our Meeting has typically given in the past. So, if the Meeting wishes to continue this past support, the total budget for contributions beyond our Meeting would be \$9,200.

Q: Do we have to approve a budget now? Why are we looking at approving a budget when our Meeting is still discerning the best use of our resources?

A. The Meeting does need to approve some form of a budget so that the treasurers can continue to pay our bills once the new year begins. The treasurers can't write checks on their own authority if the Meeting hasn't approved the spending.

Q. Can this budget be changed if, after approving it, we feel led to use our funds differently in the upcoming year (or even earlier)?

A. Yes.

Q. Why doesn't this budget include big expenses we might be facing like a new boiler or lowering our carbon footprint, or Cuba travel, a Sufferings Fund, or reparations?

A. This draft budget deals with the income and expenses our Meeting typically incurs during the year. Large capital expenses (like HVAC, roofs, etc.), haven't usually been included in the annual operating budget. We could change that, of course, but in the meanwhile, this budget can keep the doors open while that discernment is ongoing. Similarly, other large requests that would exceed budgeted income for the year, such as a meaningful Sufferings Fund or \$4000 a year for Cuba travel, are for the Meeting as a whole to decide, ideally as part of the bigger picture developing from our overall discernment about the right use of Meeting resources.

2023 OPERATING BUDGET

	2023	2022	NOTES
	Budget	Budget	
INCOME (* See note 1 below)			Increase (Decrease) over 2022
Donations to PFM	65,080	63,800	with gratitude to those who give to PFM
Transfer from Invested Funds	30,000	18,000	Sustainable harvest from invested funds: 4% as of 9.30.22
Rent	835	1,000	Pay as led rent
Other	0	0	
TOTAL INCOME (1)	\$ 95,915	\$ 82,800	\$ 13,115
EXPENSES			
1. Meetinghouse & Grounds			
Total Utilities			anticipate increase w Family Promise use of the building
Fuel	3,400	3,300	2023 number based on CCF actual data for 2022
Electricity	1,550	1,320	2023 number based on CMP increases for 2023
Water, Sewage, and Stormwater	1,950	1,760	anticipated building use increase in 2023
Phone, WiFi	1,750	1,680	
Total Utilities	8,650	8,060	
Insurance	2,500	2,500	
Custodial Care & Snow Removal	3,300	3,300	
Internal Building Loan Repayment	4,500	4,500	continues through 2025
Buildings & Grounds Comm.	5,000	6,250	
Cemetery Comm.	4,000	4,000	
1. Total Meeting House & Grounds	\$ 27,950	\$ 28,610	\$ (660)
2. Youth of the Meeting			
Human Resources Compensation			
Religious Ed Coordinator	11,440	10000	salary increase request from YREC
Nursery Coordinator	4630	4410	5% COLA increase
Childcare (hourly)	600	635	
Workers' Comp, SSTaxes	2,620	1,100	
Payroll Service	300		
Total Compensation	19,590	16,145	Personnel Compensation total costs
First Day Program	1,800	600	1st Day Program supplies
Camperships & Youth Scholarships	3,000	3,000	
All-Meeting Youth Rel Events	600	0	Easter Bkfst, Spring picnic, Advent Gdn, Fall event
2. Total Youth of the Meeting	\$ 24,990	\$ 19,745	\$ 5,245
3. Care of the PFM Community			
Committees			
Adult Learning Comm.	350	0	For books and/or speakers' honoraria
Communications Comm.	1,500	600	newsletter and other costs
Events Comm.	350	350	
Financial Stewardship Comm.	600	600	
Library & Records Comm.	1,600	1,500	Archive project and book purchases
Ministry & Counsel Comm.	350	350	
Pastoral Care Comm.	100	100	
Velasco Friends Mtg Sister Comm.	500	500	contingency; travel \$4000/yr requested; \$1500 expensed in 2022
Welcoming Comm.	275	0	new committee
Committees Subtotal	5,625	4,000	1,625
Special Funds			
Adult Scholarships for Friends' Activitie	1,500	1,500	This includes funds for Pride Month activities
Clerks' Enrichment Fund	500	500	
Leadings Grants	6000		
Special Needs Fund	2,000	2,000	
Special Funds Subtotal	10,000	4,000	6,000
3. Total Care of PFM Community	\$ 15,625	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,625
4. Other Areas of Focus			
Discernment Steering Comm	900	0	revised per Discernment Steering Committee
New England Yearly Meeting Support	16,000	16,000	
Miscellaneous	750	750	
4. Total Other Areas of Focus	\$17,650	\$16,750	\$900
Total Costs of Running Our Meeting	\$86,215	\$73,105	\$13,110
Available funds for use beyond our Meeting	\$9,700		

2023 OPERATING BUDGET

5. Financial Contributions Beyond Our Meeting		To be discerned by Meeting (+See note 2 below)	
Already Committed Past Recipients			
City of Portland (in lieu of taxes)	1000	1,000	Directed gift for Asylum Seekers
Family Promise Portland	2000	2,000	Already committed - donation/family support.
Ramallah Friends School	500	500	PFM commitment w Vassalboro Meeting
subtotal already committed	3500		
Past Recipients			
	6200		Total if PFM wishes to continue same support as prior year
Friends School of Portland		2,000	
Friends Camp		350	
American Friends Service Committee		450	
Friends Committee on National Legislation		450	
Falmouth Quarterly Meeting		100	
Quaker Ridge Meetinghouse		100	
FLGBTQIA+		150	
Friends World Committee for Consultation		150	
Friends Publishing		400	
Friends of Kenya Rising		1,500	hs student graduated 2022
Puente de Amigos (Bridge of Friends) NEYM		200	
Woolman Hill Retreat Center		150	
Maine Council of Churches		200	
Subtotal past recipients	6200	6,200	
5. Total Contributions Beyond Our Meeting	\$ 9,700		
Total All Expenses	\$ 95,915	\$ 82,800	\$ 13,115
Net Income less Expenses	\$ -		

IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND the difference between this budget, which is an annual operating budget, and what might be thought of as a “special expenses” plan. **This annual budget needs to have income meeting expenses** – whether that income comes from generosity in our midst or from our invested funds. Spirit has led, and may continue to lead, our Meeting to approve spending beyond our annual budget (for example, to MIRC and Family Promise). Expenditures beyond our year-to-year expenses and “ordinary” giving, (ranging from responding to emergency housing needs, or reparations, or travel to Cuba, or even mundane things like a new boiler or a new roof) should be considered by the Meeting as a whole and are outside the scope of this annual-expense budget.

*(1) The total revenue in this budget was determined by using our best estimate of annual giving, supplemented by a sustainable harvest from our invested funds. The \$69,000 figure for donation income is a stretch compared to 2022’s level of support from the Meeting community, but the Financial Stewardship Committee has a sense that Spirit is moving among us all and is hopeful the Meeting community can rise to the budgeted level of giving.

The income from our invested funds was determined by taking 4% of the average ending balance for the 12 preceding quarters. The committee recognizes that our Meeting is in the midst of discerning expanded harvesting from invested funds, and wants to be respectful of that discernment without stepping in its toes, so this is a sort of "status quo" figure, recognizing it may change as the Meeting feels led.

+(2) On the expense side, this budget spells out what’s needed to keep the Meeting going. As for contributions beyond our Meeting operating expenses, the Committee asks the Meeting as a whole to discern what to do. This budget specifies a few contributions that our Meeting has already committed to. The budget also includes a “let’s keep doing that” total reflecting feedback we’ve heard, expressing that we should continue to give to Friends’ and Friends’-related organizations as in the past. We understand our Meeting has approved spending money from our invested funds to address the current housing emergency. That, and other calls for expenditures beyond budgeted income, need to be addressed as Spirit leads the Meeting.

RECIPIENTS OF PORTLAND FRIENDS MEETING EXPENSES/CONTRIBUTIONS 2022

[City of Portland](#) exempts religious organizations from property taxes; PFM chooses to give a donation to the city in lieu of such taxes.

[Friends School of Portland \(Maine\)](#) is an independent preschool through 8th grade arising from Quaker faith and practice with which many members/attenders of PFM are involved

[Friends Camp](#) of China, Maine is a co-ed overnight summer camp that offers youth campers creative activities, experience in living our Quaker testimonies, and lots of fun

[American Friends Service Committee](#) is a Quaker organization committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service based on Quaker principles

[Friends Committee on National Legislation](#) fields a team of lobbyists to connect Quaker testimonies with peace and social justice issues which need to be addressed

[Falmouth Quarterly Meeting](#) supports Quaker Meetings in southern and western Maine

[Maine Council of Churches](#) an ecumenical community of nine denominations, is a voice and resource in support of the vision of a sustainable, just, and compassionate world

[Quaker Ridge Building Fund](#) helps with the general upkeep of the small, historic Quaker Meeting House in Casco, Maine that is open certain times of the year

[FLGBTQC](#) is a Quaker faith community focusing on the concerns of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer and offering them inclusion and love

[Ramallah Friends School](#) is a West Bank oasis of peace-making and quality education for both men and women. Founded in 1870 as a direct outreach of Maine Quakers, today its graduates attend the finest colleges here and throughout the world.

[Friends World Committee for Consultation](#) purpose is to encourage fellowship among all branches of the Religious Society of Friends.

[Greater Portland Family Promise](#) Provides “homeless families in the Greater Portland, Maine area with basic human needs—shelter, safety, and sustenance—with a spirit of warmth and hospitality. In the Family Promise model, each host congregation furnishes clean, safe, overnight lodging and nutritious meals for one week, typically on a quarterly basis.”

[Friends Journal - Friends Publishing Corporation](#) a Friend and former Board member requests an annual contribution in addition to the library subscription.

[Friends of Kenya Rising](#) (previously Friends of Kakamega) [Kakamega Orphans Care Center](#) Portland Friends Meeting youth have supported Bradley, a student there, for several years. Financial Oversight Committee recommends supplementing the youth fundraising effort for a limited number of years until Bradley completes high school.

[Puente de Amigos](#) Portland Friends Meeting is joining Durham Friends Meeting in a sister relationship with Velasco Friends Church (Iglesia de Los Amigos Cuaqueros) in Velasco, Cuba as a part of the Puente de Amigos (Bridge of Friends) between New England Yearly Meeting and Cuba Yearly Meeting.

[Woolman Hill Quaker Retreat Center](#) vision to provide a welcoming sanctuary where people come to be restored and inspired and leave with the strength to act out of love, sowing seeds of peace that lead to a world transformed.

[Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition](#) to improve the legal, social and economic conditions experienced by Maine's immigrants – enhancing their lives while strengthening Maine – through advocacy, information sharing and collaboration both through and among our member organizations. [support from invested funds approved 12.18.22]

Web hyperlinks accessed 12.2.22

Annual Giving to Portland Friends Meeting

WHY GIVE?

Financial contributions to our meeting are vital to sustaining us as a community that supports our spiritual journeys, offers a safe and welcoming environment, provides a range of programming and outreach, and joins together in living witness to our Quaker testimonies. As we explore ways in which we can do more and be more as a community, the financial support provided by our members and attenders is more important than ever.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE

If you already provide financial support for our meeting on an ongoing basis, thank you very much. If you are not currently supporting Portland Friends Meeting in this way, please consider what is possible for you. Gifts of all amounts are meaningful and appreciated, and there are many ways to give. Please read on to learn more, and feel free to contact me with any contribution-related questions.

GIVE CASH by using the donation box at the meetinghouse.

GIVE ONLINE by debit card or credit card. Make one-time or recurring gifts using our new online donation option. (https://www.portlandfriendsmeeting.org/?page_id=873)

GIVE BY "DIRECT PAYMENT" Please contact me for details on how to transfer your one-time or recurring gift directly from your bank account to the meeting's bank account.

GIVE BY CHECK Make your check payable to Portland Friends Meeting and mail it to: Portland Friends Meeting / Attn: Treasurer for Contributions / 1837 Forest Ave. / Portland, ME 04103.

GIVE FROM YOUR IRA A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. Giving a QCD excludes the donated amount from taxable income. To make a QCD to Portland Friends Meeting please contact your IRA Custodian.

GIVE THROUGH A DONOR ADVISED FUND If you have established a Donor Advised Fund please contact the fund administrator to recommend a grant to Portland Friends Meeting.

GIVE STOCK Donating appreciated securities directly to a charitable organization may increase the amount that you are able to give by avoiding taxes on capital gains. To give publicly-traded securities please contact Tim McElroy at Friends Fiduciary Corporation by email or by phone (tmcelroy@friendsfiduciary.org; 215-241-7272).

With appreciation,

Jane Mullen, Treasurer for Contributions, for the Financial Stewardship Committee
immmaine@aol.com, 215-421-5257

Portland Friends Meeting Email Lists

Our Meeting has two email lists, also sometimes referred to as "e-groups" or "Google groups:"

- 1) **Life of the Meeting:** Announcements about Meeting for Worship, committee work, Quaker business or events, and gatherings for the Portland Friends Meeting community. To send an announcement to this list, email: pfm-life-of-the-meeting@googlegroups.com.
- 2) **PFM Wider Community:** Everything else!
To send an announcement to this list, email: pfm-wider-community@googlegroups.com.

For any questions related to the lists, including requests to add yourself to one or both: pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com.

In Search of Housing

My name is Robin Booty; I am in search of a new home. I am looking for a small 1 bedroom apartment for rent or a room in a house beginning January 21. I have one sweet cat and I want to keep my housing budget around \$1000 a month. I love working at the Friends School in the kindergarten and am looking to be within a 30-mile commute to FSP.

If you have any leads please reach out. My phone number is 603-986-8312 and my email is robin@friendsschoolportland.org.

PFM Adult Learning Schedule, Winter 2023

Please join us for these Adult Learning opportunities this winter - depth, breadth, and fun!

Date	Time & Place	Event
Sunday, 1/22	12:15 - 1:15 pm Meeting room	Sally Farneth will share her work with the Friendly Book Collaborative. Snacks provided. All are welcome.
Sunday, 1/29 <i>Tentative</i>	Rise of meeting Meeting room and parlor	Worship with families from Friends School of Portland - informal meet and greet at the rise of meeting.
Wednesday, 2/1	6:00 pm Meetinghouse	Theresa Oleksiw will offer Contemplative Writing. Contact Theresa at toleksiw@gmail.com
Saturday, 2/11	6-7:30 pm Meetinghouse Parlor	Genna Ulrich will lead a 3-part small group study of the Quaker pamphlet, "Members One of Another: The Dynamics of Membership in Quaker Meeting" by Thomas Gates. Genna will order copies for the group or you may get your own copy if you wish. Limited to 12. Three sign-up slots available to bring a crockpot soup and rice/bread/crackers. Bring your own bowl and spoon. RSVPs and a commitment to all three sessions preferred. Sign up with Genna at dgennajulrich@gmail.com .
Saturday, 2/18	6-7:30 pm	Members One of Another, Session 2
Saturday, 2/25	6-7:30 pm	Members One of Another, Session 3
Wednesday, 3/1	6:00 pm Meetinghouse	Theresa Oleksiw will offer Contemplative Writing. Contact Theresa at toleksiw@gmail.com
Sunday, 3/12	12:15-1:30 pm Meeting room	Mary Tracy will offer Connecting the Dots. This is a chance to briefly share in small groups how our spiritual lives connect with other things we do. Learn about each other and be ready to sing, clap, be a little silly, etc. Kids welcome. Details to come.
Sunday, 3/19	9:15-10:30 am	Genna Ulrich and Fritz Weiss will lead a discussion of the term <i>the Light</i>.
Wednesday, 4/5	6:00 pm Meetinghouse	Theresa Oleksiw will offer Contemplative Writing. Contact Theresa at toleksiw@gmail.com
April	TBD	COMING ATTRACTION: Jennifer Frick will lead a study series using the book, <i>The Church of the Wild</i>. Stay tuned.

If you have an offering for Adult Learning, please contact the coordinators: Mary Tracy mrytracy126@gmail.com and/or Genna Ulrich dgennajulrich@gmail.com.

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline
[PLEASE NOTE NEW DAY!]:
Wednesday, January 8, 11:58pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

