

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Eleventh Month 2023

Meeting for Worship: 10:45 am Sundays (childcare available)



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To end war and violence means having a better world, but that is impossible unless the people in it grow better. No relationship is finer than the people who compose it. Those who are endeavoring to abolish war, therefore, must themselves strive hard to become better people by living better lives.

~ Richard Gregg, 1885-1974

Calendar

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Saturday, Nov. 11, 9 to 3 | Windham Friends Church Holiday Fair, 374 Gray Road, Windham |
| Sunday, Nov. 12, 12:30 pm | Love Our Meetinghouse Day (<i>to be confirmed</i>) |
| Wednesday, Nov. 15, 8:00 pm | Quaker Call "Connect To Action" Zoom session with Represent.us (https://quakercall.net) |
| November 15-19 | FCNL 2023 Quaker Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting (<i>Information below</i>) |
| Saturday, Dec. 2, 4:30 pm | Advent Garden, PFM Meetinghouse |
| Sunday, Dec. 3, 12:30 pm | Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business |
| June 30-July 6, 2024 | Friends General Conference, Haverford PA (https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/) |

Every Month

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Every Sunday, 10:45 am | Meeting for Worship* at the Meetinghouse and separately on Zoom; |
| Every Wednesday, 7:00 pm | Young Adult Friends Mid-Week Worship email yaf@portlandfriendsmeeting.org for location |
| Every Weekday, 10:30 am | Meeting for Worship on Zoom* |
| First and Third Thursdays: | Meeting for Healing on Zoom* |

*contact Clerk for online Meeting for Worship links



Advent Garden
Saturday,
December 2nd
4:15 pm at the
Meetinghouse

Portland Friends Meeting
Minutes of Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
November 5, 2023

Peter Woodrow, Clerk
Rob Levin, Recording

Members and attenders of Portland Friends Meeting gathered in worship at 12:45 pm. Some 32 Friends gathered, in person at the Meetinghouse and remotely via Zoom. Clerk Peter Woodrow opened by offering queries from New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice:

Ask yourself: Am I down in the flaming center of God? Have I come into the deeps, where the soul meets with God and knows His Love and power? Have I discovered God as a living Immediacy, a sweet Presence, and a stirring, life-renovating Power within me? Do I walk by His guidance, ...knowing every day and every act to be a sacrament? (Thomas Kelly 1966)

Do you recognize divinely inspired insight? Can you distinguish between divine leadings and your own needs or desires?

Is every aspect of your life open to the transforming power of God? What stands in the way?

Following a period of silent worship, Peter welcomed all and thanked Rob Levin for serving as Recording Clerk, Chris Beach for holding the Meeting in the Light, and to Luke Hankins and Heather Denkmire for technical support.

1. MINISTRY AND COUNSEL

Mags Fehr announced that Chris Beach will be stepping down as Co-Clerk of Ministry and Council and they will miss him dearly. But M&C is also excited that Maggie Fiori will be the new Co-Clerk, teaming up for a Mags and Maggie duo.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Meeting **approved** the minutes of Meeting of October 8, 2023, without modification.

3. WELCOMING (AND FELLOWSHIP?) COMMITTEE

Dorothy Grannell presented for the reconstituted Welcoming Committee (Dorothy, Lyn Ballou, and Sandi Jensen). The committee seeks one or two more people to help with activities.

Dorothy reviewed the committee's scope, which includes:

- Follow up with visitors.
- Check in with greeters.
- Keep the posted announcements up to date in the hallways.
- Promote Meeting members and attenders.
- Get to know each other better and more deeply.

The committee has recently been conducting a poll of potential welcoming and fellowship activities that can bring the community together across the generations and different spiritual perspectives. They will tally the results in the coming week, and then seek out organizers to put events together. Let committee members know if you're willing to help or how you can help.

Peter suggested the committee might wish to rename itself Welcoming and Fellowship, because it is supporting both aspects of our community.

4. REPORT FROM QUARTERLY MEETING

Fritz Weiss presented for Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, which last met in October.

Durham Meeting forwarded a request to record the gifts of ministry that Leslie Manning has been able to share over the years. This request might be an opportunity to learn about the traditional Quaker process of recording a minister, which came up during the Nurturing Ministries discussion.

The Quarter named two representatives to Beacon Hill Friends House, Doug Bennett and Dennis Redfield.

The Quarter had some leftover funds from the All Maine Gathering, and chose to give \$100 to the Community Foundation Fund for Lewiston and \$50 for an Indigenous language reclamation project. If anyone has suggestions for such a project, please see Fritz.

Windham Meeting is holding its annual holiday sale next Saturday, November 11, from 9 to 3. Don't miss the stellar maple walnut fudge!

5. MIRC REQUEST TO SUPPORT TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR PEOPLE FROM DR CONGO

Ann Dodd-Collins led a conversation about the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition's effort to urge faith-based organizations across the country in a sign-on letter calling on Secretary Mayorkas and the Biden Administration to grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to people from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The campaign for TPS is being led by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network. TPS status confers immunity from deportation, and has been granted to a number of immigrants from other countries. Many immigrants to Maine come from the DRC, and granting TPS would be one way of supporting them.

The Meeting approved signing on to the letter.

6. SISTER MEETING RELATIONSHIP WITH VELASCO FRIENDS CHURCH

Opening Queries: In what ways are we called, as a Meeting community, to continue our relationship with Velasco Friends in Cuba, as a spiritual connection that nourishes both groups? What have we learned from this relationship during the past several years, and how does that inform our discernment going forward?

Hannah Colbert shared how her visit to Cuba in February helped her understand and deepen our Meeting's sister relationship with Velasco Friends. The sisterhood program is known as Puente d'Amor, Bridge of Love, and has served as a spiritual

connection between Cuban meetings and various New England meetings for the past 30 years. Hannah offered that one way to consider the relationship is to ask whether we wish to stand on other side of that bridge. We don't really know how this relationship will change in the coming years, due to the uncertainties of political and social life in Cuba. Each side is giving what they are able to give. Those in the visiting delegation brought many tangible and intangible gifts to Velasco Friends. In turn, we received incredible hospitality and spiritual connection from people who didn't have a lot of material goods.

Messages from other Friends echoed Hannah's remarks, emphasizing how our Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting as a whole has been spiritually enriched by the relationship. Those who have participated in visiting delegations have found their experience to be transformative, as they have been a witness to a powerful and loving community. For those who have not travelled, hearing stories from the delegation has broadened our vision of who Quakers are, which opens new possibilities for how we can be together.

One Friend suggested more regular communication between PFM and Velasco Friends. The Sister Committee has made strides in this direction, posting updates in our newsletter, and translating our most recent State of Society report into Spanish to share with Velasco. Could newsletter updates become a regular monthly practice? How else might we expand our ways of communicating?

A Friend noted that we as a Meeting do have a finite number of people and resources, and there are all kinds of local matters that appeal to our hearts. Where does the sister relationship sit in this context? Another Friend shared that it's not an either/or choice, and we can and should reach out at the local, state, and global level when we feel called to do so.

After this rich discussion, Friends approved and reaffirmed our sister relationship with Velasco Friends in partnership with Durham Friends.

Jo Linder expressed appreciation for the process that led to the joint proposal from the Sister Committee and the Financial Stewardship Committee. See Attachment. This proposal recommends supporting the travel and offer Sister Committee programs for \$4,000 per year in 2024 and 2025, with a re-consideration after that time. But it does not make a recommendation as to whether these funds should come from the Operating Budget, the Shared Witness Fund, special fundraising appeals, or some other source. The draft 2024 Operating Budget provisionally shows this \$4,000 expense so Friends can consider the figure in the context of the overall budget.

7. CONSIDERATION OF 2024 OPERATING BUDGET

Jo Linder, clerk of the Financial Stewardship Committee, walked us through the proposed 2024 Operating Budget. See Attachments.

Some changes from recent years:

- As a result of the discernment process, our invested funds have been split into separate funds, i.e., the Shared Witness Fund, Youth Fund, Cemetery

Fund, Capital Fund, and the Meeting Fund. Contributions to the Operating Budget come from the Meeting Fund and from the Cemetery Fund, at 4% each (up from our traditional harvest of 2%). But because these two funds are only a portion of the total invested funds, we are drawing from a smaller pool. Thus, only \$20,000 of the income for the 2024 Budget comes from the invested funds: \$16,000 from the Meeting Fund and \$4,000 from the Cemetery Fund. In 2023 this figure was \$30,000.

- Another difference from past years' budgets is that the committee did some ground truthing of the donations line item. The committee averaged our donations over the past five years and 2023 and arrived at a figure of \$57,000. This number is lower than in previous budgets, but perhaps more realistic of what we can expect to raise in 2024. By using this lower figure, the budget is not balanced, and shows a predicted deficit of approximately \$13,000. However, it was also pointed out that in most years our expenses come in well below the budgeted amount, and we have not incurred any deficits in recent years. So it would be helpful if committee clerks would revisit their requests, if they believe the budgeted amounts are not a true reflection of anticipated expenses. At least one committee clerk announced that he would lower the requested amount for that committee.
- The line items for the youth religious education coordinator and the nursery coordinator are lower than for 2023, based on recommendations from the Youth Religious Education Committee, recent experience, and transitions in those positions.

A committee member shared that the committee took some criticism to heart this year. It is not FSC's role to determine whether we as a Meeting can or cannot afford something. That is for the entire Meeting to decide.

We don't have a good way right now of dealing with a deficit budget, as there is only a small cushion in our checking account. Any shortfall would have to come from our invested funds.

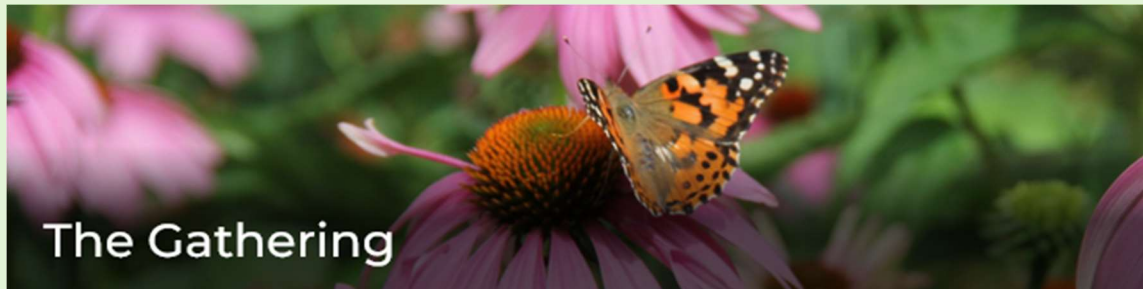
One Friend inquired how we might become more enthusiastic about our budget, so that our giving expands in accordance with this energy. Do we feel passionate about donating to the Meeting, to make sure we don't wind up in deficit territory?

Friends expressed appreciation and gratitude to FSC for its listening process, and for bringing a budget that is clean and easy to understand.

FSC will accept any input over the next few weeks and bring back a revised version at the December Meeting for Business.

8. CLOSING WORSHIP

Following a period of silence, the Meeting then rose at about 2:30 pm, to meet again for the Conduct of Business on December 3, 2023, according to Divine will.



PLAN AHEAD: Friends General Conference Gathering

When: June 30-July 6th, 2024.

Where: Haverford College, Haverford PA

Why: A week-long Quaker Community with ONLY 1300 spaces to house us.

This is the first Gathering in 50 years in the Philadelphia area, so planning ahead is a good idea.

Friends General Conference, with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers. The Gathering is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. Friends come together from across the US and Canada (and sometimes further) to deepen our connection to one another and the Spirit. The Gathering is typically held on a college campus in late June/early July, and location changes from year to year.

Gathering attenders range from newborns to elders in their 90s, and include both long-time Friends (mostly from the unprogrammed, liberal tradition), and those newer to Quakerism. In structure, it's part conference and part family camp. In content, it provides an abundance of opportunities to learn about Quakerism and to foster your spiritual life – and to have fun together.

MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Youth Religious Education Committee (YREC) seeks a new YRE Coordinator to begin with the new year.

The coordinator is the face of the Portland Friends community for families and collaborates closely with the YREC team to provide a rich variety of connections and learning opportunities for the youth of the Meeting and their families. The position requires, on average, 8 hours per week of commitment and includes compensation. The position has some flexibility to match the needs or leadings of the person in the role. Further details can be found in the following job description.



Cover letters, resumes, and questions are requested by December 1st, 2023 and can be directed to Bart Czyz (YREC clerk) at btczyz@gmail.com.

Job Description: Youth Religious Education Coordinator

The Youth Religious Education (YRE) Coordinator is the face of the Portland Friends community for families and the foundation of the Youth Religious Education Committee's (YREC's) work building and maintaining strong relationships between families and Portland Friends Meeting. The YRE Coordinator collaborates closely with the YRE volunteer team to provide a rich variety of connections and learning opportunities for the youth of the Meeting and their families. A substantial (but not exclusive) responsibility of the Coordinator is the support of the First Day Youth Program.

The work of the coordinator may vary with the time of year, but the position requires, on average, 8 hours per week of commitment. In recognition of the significant investment and commitment required by the position, the Meeting provides the Coordinator with a compensation of \$22 per hour for 8 hours per week. All work of the Coordinator is under the guidance and grateful support of the Youth Religious Education Committee (YREC).

A typical week for the Coordinator often involves:

- Communicating with last week's volunteers and this week's volunteers.
- Writing to families about upcoming events.
- Preparing and delivering materials for Sunday's program.
- Recruiting volunteers for future Sundays.
- Collaborating with meeting members and clerks around supporting families.
- Updating the attendance and budget as needed.
- Some reflection and reporting about the program
- Research into the activities of other meetings and regional offerings

While not a requirement, previous coordinators have found that attending Meeting for Worship at least twice per month supports them by helping to build and maintain important connections. Finally, both the committee and the coordinator recognize that the lasting effects of the COVID 19 pandemic continue to require a spirit of exploration and adaptation in this work.

Responsibilities:

1. Greet new families with children.
2. Build relationships with families and connect them to the meeting community. Inform families about nursery care, youth program, annual events, fall clean-up, and regional Quaker programming.
3. Support the Youth Program and Nursery
 - a. Coordinate volunteers and support the Nursery Coordinator, providing plans, materials, snacks, substitutes and problem-solving.
 - b. Maintain attendance records and contact info for families
 - c. Keep a record of the general activities of the youth program
 - d. Maintain spaces used by children, and tend to safety and tidiness
 - e. Ensure organization of the youth program materials
 - f. Ensure that background checks are conducted for all volunteers
4. Attend monthly YREC meetings
5. Coordinate with the clerk to provide a report about YRE activities Meeting for Business (MFB) several times per year
6. Coordinate PFM scholarship applications for youth programming like Friends Camp, Friends School camp, Youth Retreats with families and the committee.

To provide understanding of how the Coordinator's role fits into the YRE team, the following descriptions are also provided:

Teacher and Youth Program Volunteer responsibilities:

- Welcome and work with children and youth during First Day youth programs.
- Use tools provided by YRE Coordinator, and add on as inspired.
 - Tools include: games, songs, crafts, and books to support spiritual experience and an understanding of Quaker life.
- Communicate with YRE coordinator about issues of concern.
- Report to the Coordinator about attendance.

Committee member responsibilities:

- In collaboration with the YRE team and Meeting: offer a general structure of First Day School and coordination between the age groups
- Attend Meeting for Business (clerk and coordinator)
- In coordination with YRE team, support the creation of materials, curricula, and lesson plans
- Provide coverage for teacher and coordinator responsibilities during absences as needed
- Recruit teachers and coordinators
- Oversee the needs of the nursery
- Provide relevant information to the PFM newsletter (clerk)
- Ensure safe, clean environments that meet child safety guidelines
- Keep committee documents organized and accessible (clerk)
- Plan and carry out our yearly all-meeting events focused on youth
- Support the Meeting to incorporate youth into the meeting's other work and events

2024 Operating Budget Update:

Thank you to those who gave input November 5 at Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business and other communications. Portland Friends Meeting Financial Stewardship Committee considered the information and offers the revised 2024 Operating Budget that will establish the Meeting's budget for day-to-day operating income and expenses. The annual operating budget does not include 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 traditionally address these issues outside the annual budget process. The draft and final versions of the annual operating budget are being shared widely through the PFM Life of the Meeting e-list and published in the Newsletter. This proposed budget will be presented for approval at MfWfCB in December.

A few specific updates/changes:

- Income: Donations from PFM community reflects average contributions. Specific amounts 2018-2022 are shown at the bottom of detailed worksheet. The simplest way to balance the budget is to raise the amount in the donations line, which is what we have traditionally done for the past several years. In light of recent market fluctuations, significantly down the past month, FSC believes it is prudent to follow current policy for income from invested funds this year.
- Bookkeeper: FSC is considering adding a new line to pay for bookkeeping services when Kathy Beach steps back from her volunteer service as Treasurer. Workers Compensation/SS Taxes will change depending upon personnel compensation (primarily FICA for Bookkeeper, Custodial Care, & Youth Program Coordinators).
- Committees: Welcoming & Fellowship anticipates several events based on recent survey.
- Query: What does our PFM community want to do to balance our operating expenses? Raise more or spend less?

With gratitude,
Jo Linder
Clerk, Financial Stewardship Committee

| PORTLAND FRIENDS MEETING PROPOSED 2024 OPERATING BUDGET--DETAIL | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|---|
| | Proposed 2024 Budget | 2023 Budget | YTD as of 10/31 | % | NOTES: |
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Donations to PFM | 57,000 | 65,080 | 38,113 | 59% | giving based on analysis of prior 5 years + current YTD |
| Transfer from Invested Funds | 16,000 | 30,000 | 21,400 | 71% | PFM policy 4% (now from Meeting + Youth Funds) |
| Rent | 5,000 | 835 | 5,780 | 692% | |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | 78,000 | 95,915 | 65,293 | 68% | |
| EXPENSES | | | | | |
| Meetinghouse & Grounds | | | | | |
| Utilities | | | | | |
| Fuel | 3,500 | 3,400 | 2,703 | 80% | |
| Electricity | 2,400 | 1,550 | 1,918 | 124% | |
| Water, Sewage, and Stormwater | 2,000 | 1,950 | 1,885 | 97% | |
| Phone, WiFi | 1,800 | 1,750 | 1,343 | 77% | |
| TOTAL UTILITIES | 9,700 | 8,650 | 7,849 | 91% | |
| Insurance | 2,800 | 2,500 | 2,566 | 103% | |
| Custodial Care & Snow Removal | 3,750 | 3,300 | 3,514 | 106% | |
| Bookkeeper | | | | | |
| Workers' Compensation, SStaxes | 2,230 | 2,620 | 2,090 | 80% | |
| Payroll Service | 300 | 300 | 281 | 94% | |
| Internal Building Loan Repayment | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 100% | annual loan payment through 2025 (2 more years) |
| Buildings & Grounds Committee | 6,000 | 5,000 | 4,628 | 93% | |
| Cemetery Committee | 0 | 4,000 | 3,315 | 83% | Cemetery Comm will use invested fund income (4%) |
| TOTAL MEETINGHOUSE & GROUNDS | 19,580 | 22,220 | 28,743 | 129% | |
| Youth of the Meeting | | | | | |
| Youth Human Resources Compensation | | | | | WC, FICA, Payroll costs included above |
| Religious Ed Coordinator | 9,200 | 11,440 | 9,539 | 83% | |
| Nursery Coordinator | 2,300 | 4,630 | 3,469 | 75% | |
| Childcare (Hourly) | 250 | 600 | 51 | 9% | |
| Total Compensation | 11,750 | 16,670 | 13,059 | 78% | |
| First Day Program | 1,500 | 1,800 | 260 | 14% | |
| Camperships & Youth Scholarships | 3,000 | 3,000 | 0 | | |
| All-Meeting Youth Religious Events | 600 | 600 | 0 | | |
| Total Youth of the Meeting | 16,850 | 22,070 | 13,319 | 60% | |
| Care of the PFM Community | | | | | |
| Committees | | | | | |
| Adult Learning Committee | 350 | 350 | 0 | | |
| Communications Committee | 1,000 | 1,500 | 328 | 22% | |
| Events Committee | 200 | 350 | 0 | | |
| Financial Stewardship Committee | 500 | 600 | 50 | 8% | |
| Library & Records Committee | 500 | 1,600 | 1,127 | 70% | |
| Ministry & Counsel Committee | 200 | 350 | 100 | 29% | |
| Nominating Committee | 100 | | 0 | | |
| Pastoral Care Committee | 100 | 100 | 0 | | |
| Velasco Friends Meeting Sister Committee | 4,000 | 500 | 0 | | |
| Welcoming Committee | 1000 | 275 | 17 | 6% | |
| Committee Subtotal | 7,950 | 5,625 | 1,622 | 29% | |
| Special Funds | | | | | |
| Adult Scholarships for Friends Activities | 1,500 | 1,500 | 200 | 13% | |
| Clerks' Enrichment Fund | 500 | 500 | 0 | | |
| Leadings Grants | 6,000 | 6,000 | 0 | | |
| Special Needs Fund | 2,000 | 2,000 | 1,200 | 60% | |
| Special Funds Subtotal | 10,000 | 10,000 | 1,400 | 14% | |
| Total Care of PFM Community | 17,950 | 15,625 | 3,022 | 19% | |
| Other Areas of Focus | | | | | |
| Discernment Steering Committee | 0 | 900 | 0 | | |
| Falmouth Quarterly Meeting Support | 200 | | | | moved here from contributions |
| New England Yearly Meeting Support | 16,000 | 16,000 | 12,000 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 500 | 750 | 0 | | |
| Total Other Areas of Focus | 16,700 | 17,650 | 12,000 | 68% | |
| TOTAL COST OF RUNNING OUR MEETING | 80,780 | 86,215 | 57,084 | 66% | |

| Financial Contributions Beyond Our Meeting | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|--|
| City of Portland (in lieu of taxes) | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 100% | direct donation to asylum seekers programs |
| Family Promise of Portland | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 100% | |
| Ramallah Friends School | 600 | 550 | 550 | 100% | |
| Friends School of Portland | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 100% | |
| Friends Camp | 400 | 400 | 400 | 100% | |
| American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) | 200 | 450 | 450 | 100% | |
| Friends Committee on National Legislation (F) | 200 | 450 | 450 | 100% | |
| Falmouth Quarterly Meeting | | 100 | 100 | 100% | move to Other Areas of Focus |
| Maine Council of Churches | 350 | 300 | 300 | 100% | |
| Quaker Ridge Meetinghouse | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100% | |
| Friends World Committee for Consultation (F) | 350 | 300 | 300 | 100% | |
| Friends Publishing | 500 | 400 | 400 | 100% | |
| Friends of Kenya Rising | 500 | 800 | 800 | 100% | |
| Puente de Amigos (Bridge of Friends) | 200 | 200 | 200 | 100% | |
| Woolman Hill Retreat Center | 250 | 150 | 150 | 100% | |
| Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition (MIRC) | 500 | 500 | | | |
| Subtotal Contributions Beyond Our Meeti | 9,150 | 9,700 | 9,200 | 95% | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 89,930 | 95,915 | 66,284 | 69% | |
| NET: INCOME LESS EXPENSES | \$ (11,930) | \$ - | \$ (991) | | What does our PFM community want to do? Raise more or spend less? |

PFM annual giving 2018-2022:

2018 \$ 49,400
2019 \$ 62,400
2020 \$ 65,300
2021 \$ 56,800
2022 \$ 51,300

Why Do You Contribute to PFM?

Earlier this fall your Financial Stewardship Committee posed these queries to each of us:

- Why do you support PFM financially?
- What motivates and/or influences your giving?
- Will you please share your perspectives with the Meeting community?

Thank you to those who responded to these queries. May your sharing help contribute to our understanding of one another, especially with respect to money and our meeting.

With thanks, Jane

Jane Mullen, Treasurer for Contributions
For the Financial Stewardship Committee

Responses Received

We feel it's important to contribute to our monthly meeting to keep us financially sound.

—Maggie Fehr & David Hingston

Portland Friends Meeting community feeds my soul and cares for me physically thus I am obligated to share of my resources to preserve the community and to strengthen our life together. My donations support our gifts to Quaker organizations, community organizations, our committees, adult and youth religious education. It pays the electric bill, the gas bill, the water bill. Just as I pay my own bills in my own home I feel that it's important that I help to pay the bills that keep our meeting running. We can't do outreach to Friends around the world or in this country unless we supply support for our annual budget. I look to our invested funds to pay long-term bills and to provide a witness in the community. By sharing our resources together we build our community and we build the spirit of the whole community. If we value the work of our corporate hands in our community and in the community of friends then I believe that we need to contribute to the costs that keep us going.

—Dorothy Grannell

I have cut my contributions by more than 2/3s because the Mtg has been gifted \$160,000.

—Anonymous

Here are my top reasons for giving to PFM: PFM is an important community in my life, and therefore I feel a need to support it financially. I want to be part of the vitality of the Meeting, and therefore I give to help the Meeting remain alive and well. I am given many gifts by being a part of PFM, and therefore I want to give back.

—Kathy Beach

Our Meeting feeds my heart and soul. I cannot imagine my life without our Quaker Meeting. I have received so much care from the Meeting that words cannot describe.

—Anonymous

We contribute to Portland Friends Meeting to support our spiritual community. This includes youth programs, committee expenditures, and maintenance of the meeting house and grounds where we gather with "spirit in the midst". In regards to meeting financial donations, giving to Quaker led organizations which are functioning as a result of much hard work by dedicated individuals gives witness to our belief in these various programs. Also, in this way we join with other Quakers to support causes which have been seasoned by Friends and therefore can be of acceptance to all. In

addition, a donation by Portland Friends Meeting to a cause other than one sponsored by Quakers is appropriate if approved by our meeting.

—Anonymous

I give because it seems right. This community is my faith home, at least in this season of my life, and chipping in for the expenses seems fair, right, and good. It's part of participating in the life of the community. Of "having skin in the game" – I'm part of this, metaphorically AND literally invested. And it's practical too – I know from my professional life that it takes time and effort, but ALSO money to make good things happen. Gandhi literally had to raise money before he went on the Salt March. I want to be one of those people who shows up and chips in when I can, when something matters. And this community matters. To me. To the folks who attend regularly and the folks like myself who make it infrequently (When people ask what church I go to, I joke, "Well, Portland Friends Meeting is the church I *don't* attend most Sundays, if you know what I mean!"). And it matters to the community at large – what folks who receive nourishment from their connection to PFM are doing all around Greater Portland to honor and amplify justice, beauty, and goodness in the world.

—Valerie

I have given for years, since I became a member, because PFM is my primary community, by clear choice. I currently donate a small amount monthly through automatic bank payments. If something were to cause an upsurge in enthusiasm for giving among members and attenders I could be inspired to raise the amount of my monthly donation. However, just raising my amount while others' contributions remain the same doesn't tend to inspire me to act.

—Anonymous

I use the building regularly and benefit from the lights and heat being on, the building being cleaned and maintained, the cemetery and parking lot being maintained. Meeting for Worship offers me respite and refreshment from the daily news and busyness, and reminds me to slow down and experience awe. It supports my belonging to and learning from a group of thoughtful and inspired individuals. Because I am a part of the Meeting, I try to do my part to support the Meeting, whether or not I agree with every decision. I care about the children in our community and want to support programs for them. When I was growing up, my parents had us do jobs in the house and yard because we were part of the family, and a family works together. It's the same thing. I am part of the family of Portland Friends Meeting and a family works together.

—Anonymous

My #1 priority is keeping the Meeting House going. It has such deep meaning for me and it is a way to express some of our goals, for example, simplicity. I am not particularly interested in other Quaker groups like NEYM or Monthly Meetings but I know others are so I am happy to support those as well. I am happy that we now have Shared Witness with its separate allowance for spending. As much as I would like to see the Meeting House filled with children I am surprised by such a large amount of our money going in that direction without question.

—Muriel Allen

PFM Cemetery Committee Update
November 7, 2023
Andy Grannell

- (1) Projected Expenses for FY Jan 2023 – Dec 2023 - \$4,000 (Based on 4% draw on Cemetery's \$100,000 designated fund)

Expenses for FY 2023 - January - November

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| – Two Loads of Benson Farm Organic Topsoil on 6/29..... | \$1,121.50 |
| – Labor of Valerio loaming Cremains Row (9/29) | 500.00 |
| – <u>Ten Bi-weekly Lawn Cuts by Valerio (May to Nov 4)</u> | <u>2,000.00</u> |
| Total (11/7)..... | \$3,621.50 |

- (2) Five members of the Committee, i.e., Bob Massengale, Doug McCown, Anne Payson, Luke Hankins, and Andy Grannell are now enjoying working with the exact same set of documents. These documents are housed in a set of five portable and expandable file holders. These working tools for each member provide:
- Capsule Summary of Business (1990 - 2022)
 - Checklist for Green Burials
 - Detailed Maps of all Current & Prospective Contracted Plots
 - Cemetery Plot Certificates for Fourteen Current Plot Contracts
- (3) A 100' x 6' section of the cemetery located along the eastern fence is being developed as a site for future cremains plots. The site has been elevated by overtopping with 8" of organic loam. The site will receive a first seeding and strawing this fall. We are working to make this site available by spring of 2024.

Holiday Fair
Saturday 9 to 3, November 11th
Windham Friends Church
Gray Rd, Windham, ME

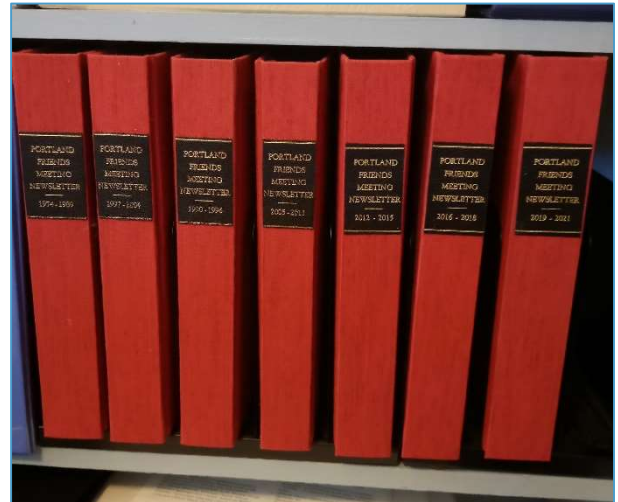
This is Windham Friends' only fundraising event for their Meeting. All of Falmouth Quarter can help our local Sister Meeting by attending the fair! Baked goods, handcrafts, decorations and FUDGE—Yum!!!!



PFM's 1974 - 2021 Newsletters Now Searchable & Available at Three Repositories - What's Next ?

The Archive and Library Committee has concluded a fifteen month digitizing and bookbinding project. During this time frame, we have gathered, digitized (made searchable), and had bound all of PFM's Newsletters from 2012 - 2021. Working with Carlson & Turner Bookbindery (Congress Street) we divided the ten year period of 2012-2021 into the following: 2012-2015, 2016-2018, and 2019-2021.

On Wednesday, October 25th, Andy Grannell received from the bookbindery a total of nine volumes (three volumes per set covering the three time frames).



These three sets are now under the care and oversight of three repositories.

- The first set of three volumes joined four volumes on the specially designated PFM Archive Collection Bookcase in the Classroom. (see photo)
- The second set of three was delivered to Maine Historical Society's Brown Library where it joins 197 bound volumes of Maine Quaker Records.
- The third set of three was shipped to University of Massachusetts 'Special Collections & University Archives' where it joins New England Yearly Meeting of Friends Records, 1633-2018

The immediate usefulness of this project has been the ability to search the entire set of seven volumes (1974-2021) on an as-needed basis. Some of these searches have focused on facts and others provided a broader frame of reference. For example, we have been able to provide 'capsule' histories for Building & Grounds (2000-2021) and for the Cemetery Committee's Endowed Fund (1980-2022).

How to Get a Good Return on this Investment:

- (1) We encourage reviewing your committee's binder which is available in the Archive Collection at the back of the classroom. Each PFM Committee has a notebook containing selected documents relating to decisions reached and actions taken. Each of these three ring binders has its own table of contents. The process of updating these volumes is nearly complete.
- (2) As questions and needs arise, we encourage Friends to contact Andy Grannell to utilize the search capabilities - the search is remarkably easy and fast. This flow of information in a timely manner has proven helpful in moving decisions along.
- (3) We also encourage one or two volunteers to get trained in how to utilize this search capability.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Urges Action on Palestine-Israel

The U.S. Must Act to De-Escalate the Violence in Israel and Palestine

We are heartbroken by the recent violence in Israel and Gaza. As Quakers, we deeply mourn the loss of all lives and pray for those who have lost loved ones due to this latest escalation. We unequivocally condemn Hamas' attacks and inhumane treatment of civilians and call for the immediate release of all hostages. We also condemn the indiscriminate and violent Israeli response that has already claimed hundreds of civilian lives.

More war and weapons won't bring peace. In the face of growing violence, lawmakers must:

- Work to de-escalate this situation by calling for restraint, ceasefire, de-escalation, and respect for international law.
- Protect lives—those of the Israeli hostages and the roughly 1 million children who live in Gaza.
- Address the root causes underlying this explosion of violence, including decades of institutionalized oppression and collective punishment of Palestinians through brutal military occupation and a 16-year Gaza blockade.

Urge Congress to call for an immediate ceasefire, de-escalation, and restraint to prevent further civilian harm in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Congressional staff tell us personalized letters are most impactful. Customize your message to reflect your experience. Email Lobby@fcnl.org for tips.



Dear David,

We are excited for FCNL's upcoming 2023 Quaker Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting on Nov. 15-19!

If you have not yet registered, [it's not too late](#) to join us! Use code **LASTCALL** to save **50% off your online registration**.

[Register](#)

From the comfort of your own home, you will be able to:

- **Take action for a world free of violence** by advocating to support funding to build peace and prevent violence and atrocities worldwide. We'll also act together to call for a ceasefire in Gaza and Israel.
- **Hear from [inspiring speakers](#)** who have on-the-ground peacebuilding experience, insight into the legislative process, and a commitment to bringing people together to work for peace and justice.
- **Be part of organizational decision-making** as FCNL's General Committee discerns important priorities, including FCNL's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan, new capital campaign, and changes to FCNL's governance structure and policies.
- **Share in beloved community** through worship and worship sharing, workshops, fellowship, affinity groups, and more.
- [See the full event schedule](#)

[Register to attend online here](#) and save 50% off your registration with the code **LASTCALL**.



If you have any questions, please be in touch! You can reach me at escarborough@fcnl.org or 202-903-2526.

Sincerely,
Ernest Scarborough
Meeting Planner

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, November 8, 11:58pm

submissions: dhingston@comcast.net

