

Proposal for creation of a permanent Witness Fund Committee for NYQM

Introduction: One of the charges of the Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee was to consider “the creation of a Witness Fund Committee as a standing committee of the NYQM to address ongoing fundraising needs of NYQM. This committee would be responsible for fundraising to provide additional monies (in addition to the operating and capital expenditures of the NYQM) in service of Quaker value[s]” [Report to NYQM, April 19, 2009].

The impetus for the creation of a standing Witness Fund Committee grew out of discussion (from January through April) of the 2009 budget. During these extensive discussions, it became obvious that there was a desire within the Quarter to support Quaker leadings financially, such as the Great Lakes Region (Africa) Education Committee. A subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee has met, considered a number of models, and designed the following committee structure that will enable fundraising for Quaker witness in the future. If the Quarter were able to reach unity on adoption of this committee in October, then Nominating Committee could find the members willing to serve by January, and the committee could be up and running by April of 2010, when the current Ad Hoc Committee’s authority expires.

Witness Fund Committee

Composition: 6 members

Term: 3 years, beginning in April (except in the first start-up year). 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 work with the witness committee to raise those funds, and to communicate with members of the Quarter about the project.

Responsibilities:

1. To set up guidelines for proposals, including the following:
 - a. The applicants must have access to tax-exempt status.
 - b. The proposal should be under five pages and include a budget for less than \$35,000.
 - c. The fundraising campaign must be completed in one year, with three years to spend the money.
 - d. The proposal may not be for operating expenses or for endowment.
 - e. An applicant that has received funding must wait 3 years to submit a subsequent proposal.
 - f. The entity receiving the grant should report annually to the committee until the project is finished.
2. To accept applications and choose one project per year.

Interim Report of the Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee, October 25, 2009

3. To work with the applicant to raise the requested money within one year.
4. To make an annual report to the Quarter in January.

We propose approval of the following minute: **Friends approve the creation of a standing Witness Fund Committee and ask the Nominating Committee to nominate six members at the January 2010 meeting of the Quarter so that the committee may begin work immediately thereafter. The above description of the committee should be added to the Handbook of the Quarter.**