

Minute on an Updated Benevolences Process

From the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Benevolences and the Peace and Justice Committee, 2/9/20

For Approval by the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, 2/16/20

Background

We are deeply grateful that our Meeting shares so much of its income with others, often 35 to 40% of the total. We celebrate this ongoing commitment. Our benevolences reflect our faith and values and are an important way we express these to the larger community and the world.

Oversight of the Meeting's benevolences is shared among three committees: Library, Ministry and Worship, and Peace and Justice. The focus here is on the benevolences currently overseen by the Peace and Justice Committee (P&J).

Continuing support of five organizations

We are grateful for the Meeting's historic support of five organizations: American Friends Service Committee, Carolina Friends School, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Interfaith Council for Social Services, and Quaker House. We celebrate the fact that Chapel Hill Friends Meeting was instrumental in the founding of Carolina Friends School and Quaker House. In addition, Meeting members helped found the InterFaith Council for Social Services. The Meeting has provided substantial support for each of these organizations for more than thirty-five years. **We recommend that substantial support of the five organizations continue.**

Over the last ten years, these five received an average of 84% of the total benevolences currently overseen by P&J. We believe a slight reduction is appropriate in order to encourage new insights into the use of the Meeting's benevolence dollars. **We recommend that the five legacy organizations receive 79% of the Meeting's total benevolences currently overseen by P&J.** Additionally, we have made adjustments to restore Quaker House to its 2018-19 level of funding.

Benevolence	Percentage	2019-20 Amount
AFSC	5.0%	\$1,231
CFS - Tuition Aid	17.5%	\$4,300
FCNL	7.4%	\$1,823
IFC	22.3%	\$5,500
Quaker House	26.8%	\$6,600
Totals	79.0%	\$19,454

We recommend this level of support for the five legacy organizations in 2019-2020 and beyond.

Oversight of the legacy organizations

We recommend that oversight of the five legacy organizations be placed directly under the care of the MWAB. This will be accomplished by asking the five organizations to present annual reports to MWAB as follows:

- AFSC & FCNL: a Meeting Friend active in or knowledgeable about the organization named by the Meeting Clerk
- CFS & IFC & Quaker House: a Meeting appointee to the Board or committee selected by the appointees

Oversight and Re-evaluation

As part of our Stewardship and Fiscal Responsibility, we ask each of the five protected organizations in their annual report to the meeting to provide the following information (for the past two fiscal years):

- General Fund Contributions
- Capital Contributions
- Endowment Contributions
- Operating Expenses
- Amount of endowment and reserves
- Number of Full-time equivalent employees

(for the current year and the past year)

We recommend that every five years, to coincide with the spiritual state of the Meeting retreat report to MWAB, a business item be placed on the MWAB agenda to test if the hearts and minds of the Meeting are still in unity with the percentages guiding the benevolence decisions. If, and only if, necessary MWAB will co-ordinate an ad-hoc committee to look at these percentages when the time comes.

It is the understanding of the Meeting that MWAB can change the percentages outside of the five year cycle should there be an extraordinary change in the program or finances of one of the organizations.

The role of the Peace and Justice Committee

We recommend that 21% of benevolences be placed under the oversight of the P&J Committee. P&J will unite each year on the recipients of 21% of the Meeting's annual P&J benevolence total and recommend recipients and amounts to the MWAB for approval. P&J will continue to meet the following guidelines for their benevolence decisions as stated in previous P&J reports: "Meeting benevolences MUST be either (a) Quaker-affiliated organizations, or (b) local organizations that reflect our Meeting's values and with which members of the Meeting are closely involved."

Looking at the above recommendations in the context of the 2019-2020 budget, the results are:

\$26,175 benevolence total in the Meeting's 2019-2020 budget

- \$1,400 benevolences overseen by Ministry & Worship

- \$150 benevolences overseen by the Library Comm

\$24,625 benevolence dollars available to legacy organizations and to P&J

- \$19,454 79% of benevolences to five legacy organizations

\$5, 171 21% of benevolences to be overseen by P&J

