

Finance Committee Report to Representative Committee 2019

SUMMARY

Finance Committee has met once since annual session. We considered a variety of issues.

General Budget 2018-2019

No requests for augmentation on the 2018-19 general budget lines were received.

Student Conscience Fund

We looked at the student conscience fund, established to help college students whose refusal to register with the Selective Service Administration left them ineligible for PEL grants and other federal aid. It has been little used, of late. Are Quaker teens registering? Do families know of the existence of this resource? Should this fund be merged with the Fund for Concerns? Robert Levering agreed to do some more research on this issue, but meanwhile, we'd ask Ministry and Oversight to consider what Yearly Meeting should do with this fund.

Donations to PYM

Ministry and Oversight asked us to consider how to set up a way for the Yearly Meeting to solicit and receive donations. Currently most donations come from two sources: one, a donation line on the Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions registration form, and two, from officers, committee members, and meeting representatives who forego their travel reimbursements. Note: we keep track this way to know the true cost of doing business.

Our response to M&O was to recognize that donating to Pacific Yearly meeting is as easy as sending a check to the treasurer. We really don't need to do major fundraising as our financial position is stable and in the black.

Vogel Fund for Youth

This generous endowment has been administered by the Youth Programs Coordinating Committee. We have not seen a report on how the proceeds have been spent, and we think the yearly meeting should receive a periodic accounting.

Annual Session 2019 Budget

Attendance was good at Annual Session 2018 and we came in over budget on income and under budget on expenses. We expect only modest increases in costs over last year's expenses. We won't know Walker Creek costs until May.

We recommend continuing to offer travel discounts for those coming farther than 200 miles [\$25] and 400 miles [\$50] as a means of offsetting the travel differential which comes from our consistent meeting in the northern quarter. We concluded that asking people to know many weeks ahead if they are going to be carpooling complicates registration unnecessarily, so we suggest that the registrars drop that contingency. Since we do not think we should be making a "profit" on annual session registration, we are asking the registrars to make an across the board reduction of 8%. Our proposed budget for Annual Session 2019 (in a separate file) reflects this reduction.

After our committee had met, we received a request from YM Clerk Sandy Kewman to spend more than our original proposed budget line on keynote speaker for registration of two people and an honorarium. The Clerk and the Treasurer conferred and saw no reason not to go forward with the Clerk's request, so the proposed Annual Session budget reflects this adjustment as well.

Pay-As-Led

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Ministry and Oversight recommends considering Pay-As-Led funding for annual sessions. A recent *Friends Journal* article reports on Inter-Mountain Yearly Meeting's successful experiment with Pay-As-Led registration. Many monthly meetings have used the Pay-As-Led approach to their retreats and other functions. We propose that M&O and Finance Committee jointly sponsor an interest group at Annual Session before this issue comes before a business meeting.

The Finance Committee believes it is possible for Pay-As-Led registration for Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session to work. We have sufficient reserves to handle a modest shortfall. To go entirely Pay-As-Led for Annual Session is a policy decision that we feel should be made, not by Finance Committee, nor even by Representative Committee, but by all of us at Annual Session. If the Yearly Meeting approves, Finance Committee "sees its way clear" to proceed in 2020 with Pay-As-Led funding for Annual Session.

The Finance Committee consists of Sherri Sisson, Sharon Shen, Emma Castanedo, Robert Levering, Roy Allen (Treasurer, ex officio), DJ Bloom (Statistical Co-clerk, ex officio), and Sandy Farley (Clerk)