

SEYM Covid-19 Relief Fund

SEYM Yearly Meeting Sessions 2020

Second Reading Plenary 3, May 30

“The Quaker meeting is meant to be a blessed community - a living testimony to a social order that embodies God’s peace, justice, love, compassion, and joy, and is an example and invitation to a better way of life. Like our other testimonies, community can be a prophetic call to the rest of society.”

SEYM Faith and Practice, page 76

The Covid-19 pandemic has had many impacts on our Faith Community. Our meetings have become virtual and our Meetinghouses vacant. Some Friends have lost employment and others have found their income and financial resources reduced. Many of us are among the most vulnerable to the potentially deadly impacts of Covid-19. As we convened this annual gathering, a concern was raised by a number of Friends as to how Yearly Meeting can be of service to our constituent Meetings, Worship Groups, and the Friends that they serve. At Executive Committee, SEYM Trustees presented a concept for a relief fund dedicated to this purpose. An Ad-Hoc Committee of the clerk, and a member of the trustees, Worship and Ministry Committee and Peace and Social Concerns Committee met and have found unity on a proposed SEYM Covid-19 Relief Fund.

SEYM Covid-19 Relief Fund

Purpose:

The purpose of the SEYM Covid-19 relief fund is to provide financial relief to Constituent Meetings and Worship Groups to support their basic operations and support their efforts to provide relief to Friends who may be members or attenders, to meet their needs for additional funds arising from the economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Establishment:

The SEYM Covid-19 relief fund shall be established by an initial contribution of \$15,000.00 from funds under the care of SEYM Trustees. The fund may accept earmarked donations from individuals, Monthly Meetings, and Worship Groups who may have resources and a leading to contribute to this effort. SEYM Trustees may supplement this initial contribution upon approval of SEYM Executive Committee, should need, available funds, and leading arise.

Process for disbursement of funds:

Funds shall be disbursed to constituent Monthly Meetings for the Monthly Meeting or Worship Groups under their care. A Monthly Meeting or Worship Group may submit a written request for funding with a description of the quantity of funds needed and purpose for which the funds will be used.

To be as responsive as possible to immediate needs, an Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Relief Fund Committee will be created. This committee shall consist of the YM clerk, the Assistant clerk, YM Treasurer, a member of the Worship and Ministry Committee, and a member of the Peace and Social Concerns

Committee. This Ad-Hoc committee will work with requesting Meetings and Worship Groups to seek clarity on any request for these funds. The Youth and Young Adult Coordinator may work with this committee, the Meetings, and Worship Groups to help connect young adults and families with youth in need of this support to this process. This committee may approve the disbursement of funds up to \$500.00 for immediate needs. For the case where a request for funds is greater than the \$500.00 that can be approved by the Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Relief Fund Committee the committee may issue the initial \$500.00. The requested funding above this limit may then be approved through discernment by a called meeting of the SEYM Executive Committee.

Reporting:

The Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Relief Fund Committee shall provide a written report to Fall Interim Business Meeting, Winter Interim Business Meeting, and Yearly Meeting 2021 in regard to disbursement of funds, contributions received, and the remaining fund balance. The report shall include the amounts disbursed to the various Meetings and Worship Groups and general purpose of the funding. To preserve the confidentiality normally afforded to Friends seeking assistance from their Meeting's Care and Counsel Committee, individuals receiving assistance will not be identified in these reports.

Closure:

The Covid-19 Relief Fund shall close with the sense of Yearly Meeting that this emergency has passed and that no further funding will be needed to meet needs arising from this emergency. Residual funds, should such exist shall be returned to the care of SEYM Trustees. The Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Relief Fund Committee will dissolve upon closure of the fund as described above.