

NYYM Trustees: Redesignations of Income from Trust Funds

Report to the Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions, July 2016

Supporting Documents

- Trustees Treasurer's Report – as of June 30, 2016 available on the NYYM website
- NYYM Trust Funds Descriptions available on the NYYM website
- NYYM Trust Funds Designations Chart – as of May 27, 2016 (pdf)

Overall Purpose of These Changes

1. Fully align the use of trust-fund income with donor designations
2. Contribute to transparent decision-making around use of resources and to enhanced accountability to our community
3. Provide greater flexibility and opportunity to align use of financial resources more closely with NYYM's evolving priorities
4. Reduce complexity in management of NYYM trust funds, and streamline tracking and reporting by Trustees and recipients of trust-fund income
5. Significantly reduce NYYM Trustees' role in vetting requests for grants and otherwise making resource-allocation decisions that would more appropriately be made by the Yearly Meeting body

Summary of Changes

- The Sharing Fund will receive additional income from the trust funds. While World Ministries Committee will see a decrease of about \$3500, Black Concerns Committee, Indian Affairs Committee, Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development, and Prisons Committee will together see an increase of about \$10,900.
- The Operating Fund will see an increase of about \$25,000 in regularly distributed income from the trust funds from the previous \$15,000 to a new contribution level of about \$40,000 per year. The Operating Fund will receive income from all trust funds that are unrestricted or for which the donor did not designate a specific purpose, and all funds designated for ministers.
- Oakwood Friends School will see a decrease of about \$10,400 from the current annual trust fund contribution of about \$65,000. This is due to the redesignation of all unrestricted funds to the Operating Fund and to the redesignation of some donor designated funds to the Sharing Fund committees. While Oakwood is not in the operating budget (as of 2014), Oakwood has other sources of income from NYYM including the Lindley Murray Fund and the Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development.
- Powell House will see a decrease of about \$7,200 from the current annual trust fund contribution of about \$10,800. This is due to the redesignation of all unrestricted funds to the Operating Fund. The 2016 operating budget allocates \$66,000 to Powell House. Powell House also receives NYYM income from the Lindley Murray Fund, from the events at Summer Sessions, and from appeals to Monthly Meetings.
- The Advancement Fund will no longer receive trust fund income of about \$4,000 per year. The fund balance is currently about \$14,000. The fund may also continue to

receive income of about \$5,000 per year from New York Quarter's Lafayette Meeting fund. Trustees have assumed responsibility for requests for repairs to Meeting Houses which had previously been handled by the Advancement Committee.

Action Already Taken

Trustees have already taken several actions over the past two years:

1. Some funds that are not restricted, including resources from Meetings that were laid down, have been directed to the Yearly Meeting Operating Fund.
2. At Summer Sessions in July 2015, the Yearly Meeting approved changing the designation of two funds as follows:
 - Martin Leach – from Advancement to the Operating Fund
 - Florence Stevens – from Trustees to the Operating Fund
3. Previously, the income from two funds whose purpose is paying for support of ministers, including travel, was designated to the Trustees. Starting in 2016, this income will be redirected to the Operating Budget as follows:
 - Jesse P. Haines – from Trustees to Operating Fund
 - Nathaniel Smith – from Trustees to Operating Fund

Action to Fix Alignment Problems

1. The **Agnes Lawrence Fund** has four separate and distinct donor designations, and currently all income goes to World Ministries. The Trustees plan to align the income from this fund with the fund's designations, as follows:
 - Board of Missions, Richmond, Indiana – a separate FUM Missions fund has been established. World Ministries will designate the specific mission(s) that will receive the funds
 - Colored People and American Indians – will go 50% to Black Concerns, 50% to Indian Affairs
 - Personal use by needy ministers and missionaries – will stay with World Ministries
 - Missions – will stay with World Ministries
2. The **Ellen L. Congdon Fund** is designated to missions for the benefit of American Indians and Colored People in the United States. The fund was directed in 1898 to the High Point School in North Carolina, which served the black population until it closed in 1926. The income previously went to World Ministries. Trustees are redesignating it to the Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development, which provides scholarships to students of color.
3. The **High Point Fund** derived from the liquidation of the assets of the High Point School in 1926. Currently the income goes to Oakwood Friends School for support of African American students. Starting in 2017, the Trustees are redesignating it to the Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development.

4. The **Women's Fund** is designated for people of any gender traveling in the ministry and was previously directed to the Advancement Fund. The Women's Fund is so named as it was started in 1799 by the Women's Yearly Meeting at the time of separate Yearly Meetings for women and men. Starting in 2016, Trustees are designating the income to the Operating Fund, with rationale similar to that for the redesignations of the Jesse P. Haines and Nathaniel Smith (see above).
5. The **Edward B. Underhill Fund** is designated for tracts against tobacco and alcohol, and the income currently goes to Oakwood Friends School. Starting in 2017, the Trustees are redesignating it to the H.H. Mosher Fund, whose purpose is distribution of literature.
6. The **Ellen Collins Fund** is designated to temperance work and currently the income goes to Oakwood Friends School. Starting in 2017, the Trustees are redesignating the income to the Prisons Committee, given that it is the arm of the Yearly Meeting that does the most work related to substance abuse.
7. The **Brinkerhoff Fund** is designated to the repair of meetinghouses and properties and the income currently goes to Advancement Committee. Starting in 2016, the income goes to the Trustees, who will receive and respond to requests for financial support to build and repair meetinghouses and properties.

Action to Simplify and Consolidate

1. Starting in 2017, the income from the following **unrestricted funds** that are now designated to committees or organizations will be directed to the Operating Fund and used according to Yearly Meeting priorities as determined in the budget setting process:
 - Ella L. Burdge – currently designated to Powell House
 - Emma Cheeseman Bruns – currently designated to Powell House
 - Loder Chapel – currently designated to World Ministries
 - Skaneateles – currently designated to Oakwood Friends School
 - Sutton-Haviland – currently designated to World Ministries

Trustees have met with Powell House and Oakwood Friends School to explain the nature of, timing of, and rationale for the changes. Emails were sent to each Sharing Fund committee clerk affected by the changes with copies to the clerk of Witness Coordinating Committee, and changes affecting them were discussed with most of the committees.

2. Starting in 2016, the income from the following unrestricted fund will be directed to the Operating Fund and used according to Yearly Meeting priorities:
 - Lockport – The Advancement Committee previously named the recipients and the fund had been used for Meeting House repairs.

Trustees will receive and respond to requests for financial support to build and repair Meeting Houses.