

## **NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT**

### **Summer Sessions – July, 2015**

Last year at this time we approved the Statement of Leadings and Priorities. Even before they were approved the Trustees were taking them to heart in our work, trying to more transparent and open to the Yearly Meeting members.

The Trustees of New York Yearly are not “them”, but members of the Yearly Meeting entrusted by the body to oversee the Funds given to us over many years by Friends to use for the Yearly Meeting’s benefit.

In the past year the Trustees have met several times and have communicated by e-mail in between.

Last fall we approved a total of \$36,000.00 from the funds under our care to be added to the 2015 Operating Budget, for operating funds, audit, insurance and the Young Adult Field Secretary.

In getting ready for the combined Audit the Trustees had homework to do. We needed to develop financial guidelines, which were approved in April, determine the values of the properties owned by the Yearly Meeting, appoint a liaison to the Audit Committee and amend our Handbook page to allow a Trustee to be appointed to the Audit Committee. This had not been possible in the past. We will continue to work with the new Auditors and the Audit Committee to supply the information they may require.

At our Spring meeting we approved a grant to the Conflict Resolution Committee for the distribution of its film Conflict in the Monthly Meeting : Crisis or Opportunity.

At our June Meeting we approved support for the ARCH Program: \$5,000.00 for 2015 and \$5,000.00 for 2016.

We also approved the Draft By-Laws of New York Yearly Meeting, which have been presented at these sessions and to be brought to another session for approval.

The Trustees received a request for funding the new position of Child and Youth Field Secretary, from the Personnel Committee, for a total of \$20,000.00 over the next five years. We approved seeking the consent of the body at 2015 Summer Sessions for the redesignation of the Martin Leach Fund (estimated annual distribution of \$2,890.00) and the Florence Stevens Fund (estimated annual distribution of \$5,794.00) for the use of the operation budget in the expectation that those new monies in the total estimated amount of \$8,864.00, will be available for this purpose.

We continue to work on Grantee Accountability. Recipient of funds under the Trustees care should complete the Grantee Accountability Report and submit them to the Trustees for review. The Trustees have agreed that recipients will be informed that subsequent distributions may be delayed or withheld until reports are submitted.

The Trustees have a fiduciary responsibility to the Yearly Meeting to ensure that the funds in our care are disbursed pursuant to the wishes of our donors.

We approved at one of our meetings to investigate having the funds under our care “rationalized, modernized and released of restrictions via a court proceeding pursuant to legal requirements.

Linda S. Houser, Clerk  
New York Yearly Meeting Trustees