

Peace and Social Justice Fund Lancaster Monthly Meeting

*“Where there is no peace, there is no justice.
Where there is no justice, there is no peace.” (AFSC)*

Since its inception, Lancaster Monthly Meeting has been a significant catalyst and agent for change and service in Lancaster as well as in the wider world community. We wish to enable and encourage the members and attenders of Lancaster Monthly Meeting* to continue these efforts in the future. For these reasons, we should like to establish the “Peace and Concerns Fund”. The income from this fund is to be used to assist the Meeting and its members and attenders in continuing the types of activities that have energized the Meeting and its members in the past.

The goal is to raise an initial fund of between \$30,000 and \$50,000. Additional contributions can be made to this fund at any time after it is established. The Meeting’s Finance Committee will invest the fund’s assets in a socially responsible manner. All income not disbursed will be re-invested.

Robert and Virginia Neuhauser, 1998



The Peace and Social Concerns Committee has responsibility for disbursing this fund. It is responsible for reviewing all applications to the fund and making decisions about those applications. It is also responsible for making Meeting members aware of the fund’s existence and its provisions.

At the end of each calendar year, the Finance Committee will decide on a prudent amount to be withdrawn from the Fund for the coming year. Those funds shall then be held in trust by the Meeting treasurer for a period of one full fiscal year and will be disbursed at the direction of the Peace and Concerns Committee.

This is a matching fund. The assets available for distribution may only be used as matching funds on a dollar for dollar basis – they cannot be used to fully fund any project. In addition, the available assets may not be used to fund organizations outside of Lancaster Monthly Meeting unless members of the Meeting play a major role in that organization’s activities, and then only to the extent that any money from this fund is matched by contributions from or through the Meeting.

While no programs may be initiated by this fund, it is available to supplement endeavors generated and approved by the Meeting or that arise from within the Meeting and its committees. The fund is also intended to help support Friends “released” for a period of time to follow their calling and to support individual Meeting members or attenders when they participate work camps or other projects related to social concerns or peace work.

If at the end of the calendar year, the funds available that year have not been disbursed, the treasurer will donate the remaining money in equal parts to the American Friends Service Committee and to another Quaker agency sponsoring youth activity, preferably work camp experience. The Peace Committee will direct the Treasurer in this matter.

After 25 years of the fund's existence (in 2023), the Meeting may restructure it in any manner that it deems appropriate.

In essence, the Peace and Concerns Fund is:

- A means for individuals to continue to do effective work.
- An on-going fund that has the potential of growing.
- An incentive for Meeting to initiate and support peace and social action activities.
- A use-it-or-lose-it incentive program.
- A means to support released Friends.
- A support for young Friends in peace or social action.
- A vehicle by which Friends may contribute appreciated assets or property to Lancaster Monthly Meeting in support of this work.

* In the event that the Lancaster Meeting generates a second Meeting or a preparatory meeting, these other Friends Meetings in the Lancaster Area may participate in the use of these funds by applying to the Lancaster Meeting's committee designated to administer this fund.

This fund was established in 1998

Reviewed by Finance Committee, May 2008

Reviewed by Finance Committee, July 2018