

Minute on Benevolence Recommendations
Submitted by the Peace and Justice Committee
May 16, 2021

As affirmed by the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in March of 2020, the Peace and Justice committee has oversight of 21% of the Meeting's benevolence funds. (79% of benevolence funds go to our "Legacy" organizations: IFC, AFSC, FCNL, CFS, and Quaker House, and are managed by the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.) It is the practice of the Meeting that a Benevolence Subcommittee is created to undertake this task, and make recommendations to the Peace and Justice committee. When unity is reached, that recommendation is then brought to the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for approval.

As outlined in the Mission and Process document of the Peace and Justice committee, the Benevolence Subcommittee is made up of two members of the Peace and Justice committee, and two members appointed by the Meeting. The Peace and Justice committee is immensely grateful for the service of Catherine Alguire and Lloyd Kramer in developing the recommendations this year. Their task, as outlined in this mission and process document, is to discern the alignment of benevolences with the corporate values of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Additionally, this subcommittee develops specific recommendations for donations to be made, and in what amounts.

We celebrate the reality that our Meeting gives a large percentage of its income to organizations that we trust to carry forward meaningful work in the world. However, as has been true for many years, the processes and decisions around our Meeting's gifts has been complex. The commitment and passion that many in our Meeting have for the work of specific organizations is a happy result of the intense engagement that exists in our community. But our non-legacy funds are quite limited - less than \$4,000 this year- and thus a simplified, and focused process would allow us to move away from the often competitive, and divisive process of distributing small amounts of money to many organizations. It is our hope that individuals in our community will continue to listen to the needs of these many groups in forum and other arenas, and provide financial and other support as they are led.

With considerable threshing, the following recommendations were agreed upon by both the Benevolence Subcommittee and the Peace and Justice committee. We bring these recommendations, in unity, to this Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for approval. It was the discernment of this year's Benevolence Subcommittee that, in order to more closely align our giving with the desires and sensibilities of the greatest number of our Meeting's members and attenders, a narrowing of the previously agreed upon criteria for benevolences would be helpful. The current criteria for organizations to be eligible for non-legacy gifts from

our Meeting is that the organization must be either **(a) Quaker affiliated, or (b) local organizations that reflect our Meeting's values and with which members of the Meeting are closely involved.**

The recommended revision to the criteria going forward for which we are seeking approval today would be: **Meeting benevolences will be limited to organizations within which there is deep, ongoing involvement by a significant number of members and attenders of our Meeting, and that also offer opportunities for continuing involvement by others in our community over time. These organizations may be either Quaker, Quaker-affiliated, or other organizations that reflect the values and testimonies of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting.**

It is the further recommendation of the committee that the organizations selected in a given year receive equal donations. This will align the 21% donations with the donations of the legacy organizations, in that the percentages are set for the Legacy donations, so that the competitive nature of this processed is minimized, and we adhere as much as possible with our testimony of simplicity in this undertaking.

We recognize that this criteria will necessarily reflect our living faith, and that, in adhering to the criteria, the recipients of Meeting donations might well change over the coming years, as members and attenders choose to invest their time and energies in different places.

There are three organizations that currently fit this criteria. The P&J committee and the Benevolence Subcommittee therefore recommend equal gifts to the following groups based on our \$4200 (21%) benevolence budget this year:

Alamance Orange Prison Ministry	\$1,400
Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL)	\$1,400
NC WARN	\$1,400

Submitted by:

The Peace and Justice committee: Hank Elkins, Joe Groves, Wendy Michener, Tom Munk (clerk), Ellen O'Brien, Joyce Sandy, and Faye Stanley

The Benevolence Subcommittee: Catherine Alguire, Lloyd Kramer, Tom Munk, and Faye Stanley (clerk)