

FY 2023 BOULDER FRIENDS MEETING BUDGET NARRATIVES

Introduction

The annual operating budget of Boulder Friends Meeting is assembled by the Finance Committee using the planned expenditures submitted by individual committees that have budgets. The budget is a plan for the Meeting’s expenditures for the coming fiscal year. The plan begins with the list of requested expenditures. Income to cover those expenditures comes principally from general contributions,¹ and the “budget” for contributions is simply the exact amount needed to cover expenditures. If contributions lag behind the plan, the Meeting may have to reduce expenditures.

The Meeting fiscal year is October 1 to September 30. A final budget will be approved at the September Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business (“Business Meeting”). Budgeted expenses are paid as bills are received. Budgeted contributions to outside organizations are paced so that expenditures will not outrun donations. Contributions to outside organizations listed on this budget are made in the name of the Boulder Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends and must be approved by Business Meeting; unless excepted during Business Meeting, this approval occurs with approval of the budget.

So that Members and Attenders may have sufficient time and information to thoughtfully consider the budget prior to the September Business Meeting, Finance Committee asks Conveners to prepare a brief explanation of their budget requests. These are collected here, and presented in the order in which the budgets appear in the chart of accounts.

Budget Narratives

| | |
|---|----|
| Building and Grounds..... | 2 |
| Fellowship Committee..... | 2 |
| Finance Committee..... | 2 |
| Grief and Bereavement Committee..... | 3 |
| Library Committee..... | 3 |
| Ministry and Worship Committee..... | 3 |
| Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee..... | 4 |
| Oversight and Membership Committee..... | 6 |
| Peace and Social Justice Committee..... | 6 |
| PSJ Focus Areas..... | 7 |
| Program Committee..... | 8 |
| Quaker Activities Assistance Committee..... | 8 |
| Religious Education Committee..... | 9 |
| Service Committee..... | 9 |
| Web Committee..... | 10 |

¹ The meeting receives a small stream of steady income from other organizations who use the building; the “rent” they pay is based on the cost of their use of the building, and is in the nature of a reimbursement—as a tax-free religious entity we are not permitted to make a profit on leasing out portions of the building.

Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds (B&G) Committee is responsible for maintaining the Meetinghouse and grounds and for the management of the B&G operating and capital budget. The committee maintains electronic files on each of the building and grounds systems and contact information for contractors and neighbors.

The committee is responsible for building safety systems and response to emergency situations. The committee interacts and maintains relationships with contractors, neighbors, utility providers and building users. The committee also maintains and manages schedules and projects for planned and unplanned maintenance.

The “new” parts of the Meetinghouse were built In 1999 and systems in the older parts of the building were substantially rebuilt at that time. As the building ages, Meetinghouse maintenance requirements grow. Maintenance of landscaping, including our aging trees, is also a growing workload. The committee budget was significantly increased in FY 2018. The FY 2023 budget request is slightly higher than 2022.

The committee sponsors five work days per year, two in the spring, one in the summer, and two in the fall. Participation of Friends and attenders is needed to keep up with the workload and the shared responsibility for the care of our home.

Capital projects are budgeted and approved by the Meeting for funding from the Building Reserve Fund. Projects are prioritized considering safety, property protection and aesthetics.

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee plans and coordinates all social and fellowship events of the Meeting, such as fellowship after meeting and potlucks for special occasions. The committee provides coffees, tea, and snacks for both Meetings for Worship from their budgeted funds, as well as cleaning supplies for the kitchen. Once a month Fellowship provides a lunch or hosts a potluck. Fellowship Committee also helps with receptions for weddings and memorial services.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee advises the Meeting on financial issues, including the prudent investment of funds not immediately needed, the amount of reserves Meeting should keep, and possible uses of surplus funds. Members are charged with providing a fiscally responsible perspective and a reality check on what the Meeting can do financially. The committee advises the Treasurer on policy and bookkeeping issues and questions that may come up as the Treasurer seeks to fulfill his/her duties and assists the Treasurer and Associate Treasurer, as needed, in budget preparation, compilation of statistics, acknowledgment of contributions, decisions about bookkeeping procedures and software, etc. The Meeting contracts with a Bookkeeper who enters all transactions into the accounting system—typically about 1,000 transactions a year—for review by the Treasurer and/or Associate Treasurer. This is part of a system of checks and balances that safeguards the Meeting’s assets.

The Finance Committee budget includes as its largest line item the dues Boulder Meeting pays to our Yearly Meeting. Dues to the regional meeting and the costs of copying, printing, and mailing newsletters, directories, etc. are also charged to the Finance Committee budget.

Grief and Bereavement Committee

The Grief and Bereavement Committee makes sure that support and assistance is offered to any Meeting member or attender who is suffering from the loss of a loved one. This support does not have to be provided solely by committee members. Committee members may call on those in the community who are close to the bereaved person or qualified in other ways. The committee's budget consists of a small allowance for expenses that may be incidental to its work.

Library Committee

The Library Committee works to provide an inviting, organized, easily accessible space for browsing, reading, and selecting materials. The committee orders books, periodicals, videos, and audiocassettes and adds them to our collection. The committee also archives and maintains the Meeting's records of Member/Attender Spiritual Journeys.

In addition to budget for the cost of materials acquisition, the Library requests budget for donations to Friends Journal (an independent magazine on "Quaker Thought and Life Today" serving the Religious Society of Friends) and Western Friend (the official publication of Quakers in Pacific, North Pacific, and Intermountain Yearly Meetings). Donations to these journals help keep subscriptions affordable for individuals and smaller meetings.

Ministry and Worship Committee

The Ministry and Worship Committee watches over the spiritual life of the Meeting by nurturing the Meetings for Worship, including First Day, Business, Marriage or Memorial Meetings. The committee endeavors to strengthen the spiritual life of the Meeting and deepen the spiritual life of individuals within the Meeting community. The committee's budget consists of a small allowance for expenses that may be incidental to its work.

The Meeting's contributions to Friends General Conference and Friends World Committee for Consultation are also included in the Ministry and Worship Committee budget. Friends General Conference provides services and resources for individual Friends, meetings, and people interested in the Quaker way. FGC is an association of regional Quaker communities in the U.S. and Canada working together to nurture a vital Quaker faith. FGC hosts an annual gathering of Friends from across the U.S. and Canada to meet, work, and worship together. Friends World Committee for Consultation encourages fellowship among all branches of the Religious Society of Friends world-wide, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs, and styles of worship. Every four years, FWCC organizes a plenary gathering of Friends from around the world. It also sponsors the Quaker United Nations offices in New York and Geneva. These contributions honor our ties to the greater community of Quakers in North America and the world.

Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee

The Indigenous Peoples' Concerns Committee seeks to increase our understanding and appreciation of Indigenous peoples, to learn from them and their cultures, and to support them in exercising their rights and achieving their goals, as way opens.

How does IPC select Native American organizations to support?

IPC believes it is important to support organizations created and managed by Native people to serve their needs. IPC members recommend support for Native American-run organizations that are doing important work and with whom IPC or BFM has a connection. IPC likes to continue funding organizations over several years in order to develop and maintain relationships. IPC favors organizations that:

- serve a variety of needs of Indigenous peoples (education, youth, language, truth and reconciliation, healing, legal representation, traditional cultures, arts and crafts, economic development, health, environmental protection, etc.)
- serve Indigenous populations within Intermountain Yearly Meeting or nearest to Boulder
- address issues of importance to Indigenous peoples worldwide
- offer IPC committee members and other Friends opportunities to participate or be involved
- have a track record of responsible accounting practices and good communication with IPC

IPC's 2023 Budget Request includes donations to the following organizations:

- **National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition**

This coalition of Native American organizations promotes research on the historical and ongoing impacts of the Indian boarding schools on Native children and their families. Board members Elicia Goodsoldier (Dakota/Navajo) and Jerilyn DeCoteau (Ojibwe/Cree) have given Program Hours on the boarding schools, historical trauma, and traditional Native American approaches to healing. The coalition invites all the denominations (including Quakers) that collaborated with the federal government's policy of forced assimilation by means of the boarding schools to participate in truth and reconciliation processes. IPC and the Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples ministry are engaged in these processes on behalf of Quakers.

- **Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative, Boulder CO**

Historically, Native American communities had methods for dealing with disputes. The Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative (IPI) supports Native peoples in restoring sustainable peacemaking practices by implementing peacemaking practices for tribes, families and youth; policy advocacy to support traditional dispute resolution; conferences, trainings and technical assistance; and providing peacemaking models, examples, information, and guides. IPI is staffed by the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and it operates out of the National Indian Law Library, both in Boulder. FCNL, AFSC and Boulder Meeting all have decades-long relationships with NARF.

- **Tiospaye Sakowin, Pine Ridge SD**

Tiospaye Sakowin is a grassroots organization based in Porcupine, SD, that runs four camps for Native American youth who have tribal ties to the Dakota, Lakota and Nakota Sioux. The camps include a Youth Healing Camp for youths ages 12-17 who have experienced trauma, loss and/or grief and who are at heightened risk for suicide; a children's camp; and separate camps to support young women's and young men's transitions into Womanhood and Manhood. Each camp incorporates traditional teachings, games and ceremonies to promote emotional, physical and spiritual health, to build community, and to strengthen cultural identities. IPC coordinates our support for the camps with Boulder County resident Elicia Goodsoldier (Diné and Spirit Lake Dakota), who is a member of the camps' leadership team.

- **[Right Relationship Boulder](#)**

This local group grew out of the work of the meeting's Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples project. It is a group of Native and non-Native people who are working with local governments and organizations to help all Boulder Valley residents learn about the Native peoples who lived here historically and those who live here today. IPC members all participate in this organization and its current project, "Welcome the Arapaho People Home."

- **[Cheyenne and Arapaho Language Program](#)**

Through Right Relationship Boulder, IPC has formed a relationship with Southern Arapaho language teachers in Oklahoma. Their tribal language program faces many challenges since there are no more native Arapaho speakers in Oklahoma. The Southern Arapaho teachers and students rely on internet conferences with Northern Arapaho native speakers in Wyoming. Our support is helping them revive a language that is in danger of being lost in Oklahoma.

- **[Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples \(TRR\)](#)**

Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples has been part of the BFM since 2013. IPC has provided a small level of support for TRR as a significant component of our Education and Outreach budget. In 2019 TRR moved from operating under the sponsorship of Boulder Friends Meeting to become a part of the [Friends Peace Teams](#). With the change in relationship between BFM and TRR, TRR is now considered an outside organization. IPC continues to support and participate in TRR's educational programs.

- **Mestaa'èhehe Coalition**

Mestaa'èhehe Coalition is a collaborative effort among Tribal Representatives from the Tsétsêhéstâhese (Cheyenne) and Hinono'eiteen (Arapaho) tribes, Indigenous leaders, non-profits and allies who support educational efforts and the renaming of offensive Colorado place names, such as Squaw Mountain and Mount Evans.

IPC's 2023 budget request also includes line items for the committee's Education and Outreach work, and Discretionary funds to meet urgent needs that arise during the year, for example, support for the Standing Rock Sioux Water Protectors.

Oversight and Membership Committee

The Oversight and Membership Committee oversees care of the membership and the corporate life of the Meeting. Its concern is primarily with the wellbeing of the Meeting's individual

members and their connection with the Meeting. It also helps members and attenders feel welcome at Boulder Friends Meeting by extending open arms and support for spiritual life and community to individuals and families. The committee's budget consists of a small allowance for expenses that may be incidental to its work.

Peace and Social Justice Committee

The Peace and Social Justice Committee (PSJ) of Boulder Friends Meeting examined its program priorities, identified Issue Focus Areas, and developed program strategies and plans for the coming budget year, FY 2022. These Focus Areas are, obviously, not an exhaustive list of correctives to the injustices of this world, but rather a reflection of the leadings of our Committee's members. We will, as a committee, continue to act as focal point for and a disseminator of information to the Meeting on all peace and justice issues. Our efforts will be concentrated in the following three focus areas for FY 2023:

1. Immigration and Racial Justice
2. Environmental Justice and Stewardship
3. Peace Building and Prevention of Violence

Descriptions of the planned programs for each of the above Focus Action projects are provided later in this overview.

Our Committee strives to:

- Encourage more active involvement of Meeting members in these areas
- Engage in outreach in our local communities, specifically by working in collaboration with other local and regional groups whose interests and concerns are aligned with those of PSJ in regard to these areas.

The requested funding for FY 2023, \$14,100, is 23% higher than FY 2022. PSJ wishes to support with donations the same organizations that were supported in FY 2022. These include Quaker organizations (American Friends Service Committee, AFSC, national and local Denver; Friends Committee for National Legislation, FCNL; Quaker Earthcare Witness, QEW; Quaker United Nations Organization, QUNO; Friends Peace Teams; the Monteverde Friends School; as well as Boulder Friends Projects, notably the Toward Right Relationship Project (TRR).

Other organizations PSJ will continue to support are CU's Peace and Conflict Studies Department via endowment donation to the Center on Conscience and War (CCW) and Alternatives to Violence Project Colorado (formerly New Foundations). Other outside organizations proposed for support via collaboration and, in some cases, donations are included within the Focus Action project areas and described in the relevant section.

PSJ is continuing to expand its connections to our local community and rebuild better connections with the progressive interfaith community of our area. To this end, we propose that Boulder Friends Meeting continue its support of Together Colorado.

PSJ committee is requesting \$1250 in discretionary funds for Education and Outreach accounts for activities that cross all focus areas and for emergency purposes.

In 2023 the Accessibility subcommittee decided that one of its functions should be to try demonstration projects on accessibility issues. A couple of our members attended an IMYM interest group on accessibility and universal design, where the interest group emphasized that accessibility issues are social justice issues. A distinction from B&G is that where B&G might focus on a problem that affects many people (e.g., sound in the fellowship room), our subcommittee will focus on issues that affect only a few (like sound in the worship room, that prevents Arden Buck, and others, from attending worship in person). To fund these demonstration projects, we (and PSJ) requested that we have a budget of \$1000, this year.

PSJ Focus Areas

Immigration and Racial Justice Focus Area

Racial Justice: PSJ will work in conjunction with NAACP Boulder County and Black Lives Matter 5280. The Meeting's Working Group on Racial Justice studies and discusses personal racial biases, and local and national issues of racism. We will arrange workshops, videos, discussions, and program hours as needed.

Immigration: PSJ will work with Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC), Boulder County Sanctuary Coalition/No Mas Chuecos, and Casa de Paz. Meeting members will continue to serve by attending organizational meetings, volunteering for sanctuary, donating funds for supplies and groceries, and advocating at state and national levels.

Environmental Justice and Stewardship Focus Area

The environmental focus group is emphasizing the climate emergency and environmental chemicals. The climate emergency is accelerating and affects every issue with which Quakers have engaged over the years (if we cannot maintain a livable planet, then peace, social justice, and economic-environmental justice are lost causes). The Peace and Social Justice (PSJ) Committee seeks to link our environment-related actions to Quaker testimonies, and to provide channels for Meeting and the broader community to engage with this issue. As to our second emphasis, indiscriminate use of chemicals cause many environmental problems, including hypersensitivity in humans.

PSJ will continue its collaboration with Green Faith Circle.

PSJ will participate directly with the Ad hoc Committee on Accessibility to pursue solutions to chemical contamination of the Meeting House, poor voice intelligibility, and other accessibility problems. PSJ remains open to address other issues that may arise, that relate to environmental stewardship.

Peace Building – Prevention of Violence Focus Area

Middle East Peace: PSJ will join with AFSC in working for a peaceful transition to human rights and freedom for both the Palestinians and Israelis who live in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza.

We will support the “No Way to Treat a Child” co-campaign of AFSC and Defense for Children International-Palestine (DCIP), seeking to end the ill-treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military’s detention system, in violation of International Law.

We will further support movement toward peace among nations in the Middle East, including an end to the war in Yemen.

Violence Prevention: The Peace and Social Justice Committee will focus on Gun Violence Prevention and Domestic Violence Prevention in FY 2022. Approximately 40,000 people die from guns in the United States every year; 70% of gun deaths in Colorado are suicides. Boulder Friends Meeting will continue to be an active member of Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence (CFCU) and support their efforts to decrease gun deaths and injuries in Colorado. We will also continue support for AVPColorado (Alternatives to Violence Project, formerly New Foundations), an organization that brings Alternatives to Violence Workshops to Colorado prisons.

Program Committee

The Program Committee coordinates presentations that share with our community the relevant activities and concerns of our members and attenders. Presentations include spiritual journeys, religious education or insights, and issues concerning social justice, conflict resolution, environmental protection, and other topics of interest or enjoyment. The committee requests a small reserve to cover possible expenses for out-of-town speakers or supplies for programs

Quaker Activities Assistance Committee

Quaker Activity Assistance has provided funds for participants attending Quaker events who otherwise may not be able to attend for financial reasons. The bulk of the Quaker Activity Assistance funds have traditionally gone to Intermountain Yearly Meeting (IMYM). Other requests come in for the following organizations: Friends General Conference, Colorado Regional, Mt. Friends camp (for teens), Colorado Quaker Women’s Retreat and Pendle Hill. As our outreach expands, we may have requests for Quaker Palliative Care Annual Conference, Quaker Women’s Theology Conference held each year in Portland, and Quaker Women in Public Ministry (for unprogrammed meetings) held in New York.

The only exception to the Quaker sponsored organization has been when youth from the meeting go to the Nobel Peace Prize annual conference for teens with award-winning recipients held in Denver.

Religious Education Committee

The Religious Education Committee facilitates the education of the children in Quaker faith and involves families in the life of Boulder Meeting. It oversees First Day School and other programs for school-aged children, including childcare during program hours and other Meeting events. In 2017 the Meeting adopted *Best Practices for the Protection and Safety of Children and Youth*, which requires background checks for all childcare workers at Meeting expense; this expense is included in the committee budget.

We provide funding under a separate line item for group activities for Junior and Senior Young Friends. Two or three times a year (once a semester and in the summer), this will allow JYFs and SYFs to plan special events such as paddle-boarding at the local reservoir, archery as a group at a local range with a teacher, a movie night, or a camping trip.

Service Committee

The Service Committee helps the Meeting identify and respond to service needs both within the Meeting and in the Boulder community at large. Service may include arranging rides for Friends, recruiting volunteers to help with social safety net organizations, and funding for organizations serving clients who are hungry and need shelter. The committee continues its focus on homelessness and food and housing for the poor. All of requested funds are expended within Boulder County.

- **Boulder Shelter for the Homeless** provides safe overnight shelter, food and support, with an avenue to self-sufficiency. Boulder Meeting volunteers cook one meal per month.
- **Bridge House** continues to serve the survival needs of homeless and working poor individuals by providing case management, meals, a Ready-to-Work housing and employment transition program. At their new facility they are offering 24/7 access and three meals under their new program, Path to Home.
- **Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA)** has a focus upon families who need food, shelter, and other basic necessities. They provide case management, social services, food, and housing. We see increasing need to help children and families in need. We also collect non-perishable food for them.
- **Harvest of Hope** is a food pantry that evolved from a service (St. Tom's) formerly supported by Boulder Meeting with volunteers and funding. They provide healthy supplemental food to Boulder families and individuals in need of food assistance within a safe, welcoming and non-judgmental environment. We have done occasional food collection for them, and now wish to include them in our annual funding.
- **Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN)** is the emergency shelter and services for survivors of domestic crisis. It is popularly known as the domestic violence center for all genders. Meeting had supported this organization about 10 years ago and now has a Service Committee member who is a regular volunteer there. We resumed funding for them in FY 2018.

Web Committee

The Web Committee advises and assists the Webmaster and the Web Developer in the design and maintenance of the Meeting website, www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org. The BFM Zoom license and potential Facebook advertising fees are also fiscal responsibilities of this committee.

The Web Committee is also responsible for domain name registration and web hosting fees, which Judi Dressler currently donates.

We would like to try using social media to let potential attenders know about our meeting. We want to start with Facebook since we already have a Facebook page. We can do this in several ways: by posting more on our page, by asking Friends who use Facebook to “like” and repost our posts, and through targeted advertising. Through advertising, we could get our message to spiritual folks, perhaps millenials with kids who want to connect with a religious community. We would like to try this out in the fall to see whether it increases attendance. It would cost \$6 – \$11/day, which is \$360 at the lower rate for a 2-month trial. We will also once again pay \$163/year for our Zoom account. Together those round up to an even \$550.