

## **URJ Finance Requests:**

### **For Zoom rep's Meeting on July 20th, 2020**

**SAYMA-Uplifting Racial Justice (URJ)** is a SAYMA approved YM committee with a specific mission: To help SAYMA become a welcoming place for Friends of color. The committee will do this by providing space for Friends of color to bring issues and concerns regarding racism within their monthly meetings and SAYMA, to find support and advocacy. The Committee will also work to raise awareness about White Supremacy aka racism within SAYMA, by compiling and disseminating educational resources.

A. URJ Requests \$10,000 of set-aside funds for fiscal year 2020, and another \$10,000 for fiscal 2021, for a total of \$20,000.

B. In addition, URJ is requesting a line item in SAYMA's annual budget of \$10,000 each year, or unless URJ requests a different amount.

C. As per recommendations from the FGC Institutional Assessment of Systemic Racism, **to create an endowment to provide funding for People of color engaged in social change, anti-racism and/or counter-colonial work**, URJ is soliciting donor restricted funds from individual Friends and Monthly Meetings for its Uplifting Racial Justice Fund. The Racial Justice Fund will enable URJ to provide support for Friends of Color to participate in SAYMA and FGC sponsored events, including sponsoring their own events and projects in support of people of color who are engaged in anti-racism work and/or most impacted by systemic white supremacy and settler colonialism.

D. White supremacy is maintained by controlling the NARRATIVE, the PROCESSES and all RESOURCES. Therefore, SAYMA can only become an anti-racist faith community by giving Friends of color the freedom to control their own resources.

This was the original reason for items 10 and 11 of SAYMA-URJ's Goals. URJ has not given up on these goals and will continue to push for them. URJ goals 10 and 11 read as follows:

10. URJ needs financial autonomy, its own bank accounts, to prevent well-meaning unconsciously racist white Friends on the Finance Committee from delaying or withhold URJ's funds over differences of opinion as to how URJ's

funds can or should be used. URJ will have unlimited access to its own set-aside and donor restricted funds which only URJ will decide how to spend

11. URJ will create a Racial Justice Fund with enough cash to dispense “grass roots reparations,”\* as needed. Such as: occasional rent/mortgage money, auto repair and maintenance, travel expenses, and any other purpose Friends of color request financial assistance for. Also to cover the cost of Friends of color retreats and skilled facilitation for Friends of color. In short, any legal use for which money can be used to address issues of economic injustice which disproportionately impact People of color.

E. During the time of the Covid pandemic, we know that BIPOC are disproportionately impacted both economically and medically. Therefore, URJ also requests that Friends donate the money they might have spent to attend the Yearly Meeting, Pendle Hill retreats and/or FGC Gathering to the Uplifting Racial Justice Fund.

URJ requested this before, with little success, therefore URJ asks the clerks and representatives to assist URJ with fundraising by encouraging SAYMA Friends to donate their unused travel funds to the Uplifting Racial Justice Fund.

*\* Grass Roots reparations: Giving generously, according to your capacity without waiting for a corporate decision or an act of Congress.*

To which Finance responded:

Assuming no other budget amendments, allocating \$10,000 for the URJ set-aside in the current fiscal year **would increase the deficit** to \$20,000 assuming that our income to date is representative of the rest of the year and **reduce the undesignated equity (?) to about \$10,000.**

For FY21 and beyond, adding \$10,000 to the budget each year **would require either reductions in other expense categories or an increase in assessments from monthly meetings**, assuming that assessment income would actually change. Getting approval takes time, it generally takes at least a year to show up in actual payments, and several meetings use a different means of determining their assessments. Another option is again doing fund-raising to individuals to get more income.