

May 16, 2021

Dear Bob McGahey,

At a called Meeting for Business on May 16, 2021, Charleston Friends Meeting adopted the following minute.

Charleston Friends Meeting asks the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) to adopt necessary financial policies forthwith, addressing: (1) Financial conflicts of interest; (2) Financial operations continuity; and (3) Grants.

The need for clear policies has become evident during the past two years.

1. Financial conflict of interest. SAYMA has no written financial conflict of interest policy, but avoidance of conflict of interest is baked into many of its written and unwritten policies and procedures. Additionally, the Finance Committee received advice from both a tax consultant and a CPA consultant on private, non profit financing that it should have such a policy.
2. Financial operations continuity. Such a policy would handle situations such as the present lack of a treasurer, and provide for overriding treasurer actions in the event of incapacity or suspected malfeasance. Three of the last six treasurers have died or become incapacitated while in office. This has disrupted SAYMA's continuity of operations (payment of employees, filing and paying taxes). There is no clear authority for the assistant treasurer to assume the role of treasurer when the treasurer is incapacitated. There is no authority for the clerk or anyone else to appoint an acting treasurer when both offices become vacant. There is no mechanism for removing authority from a treasurer for malfeasance or in the event of serious errors in judgment.
3. Grants. Recent payments of grants to individuals have created disputes and resulted in spending of approximately \$10,000 for uses that are still not clear. This violated the SAYMA financial goals of transparency and accountability. Open-ended grants to individuals should not be allowed.

Our meeting asks that these policy concerns be brought forward at the upcoming yearly meeting. We will provide sample policies under separate cover for distribution and request they be seasoned by SAYMA monthly meetings.

Diana Masso

Abbey Pratt-Harrington

Co-Clerks