

August 2023

Dear Friends,

As the clerk of the SAYMA Finance committee, I am sharing important finance news from June's Yearly Meeting sessions. Please share widely within monthly Meetings, worship groups, and committees.

First, a huge thank you to the body for approving the fiscal year 2024 budget, the "minimal budget, which begins in October 1, 2023, and runs through September 30, 2024.

Thanks also to the many participants in the "open" Finance meeting who shared their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions for ways to help SAYMA address the expected revenue deficit in Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024.

We heard comments about

- ★ the importance of the racial justice training modules and the affinity groups;
- ★ the value and importance of supporting and growing our Monthly Meetings;
- ★ noticing the more active participation of YAF's in Yearly Meeting and how YAF participation is growing more vibrant Meetings; and,
- ★ nominating YAF's for committees and positions of responsibility in SAYMA.

We heard many suggestions for increasing SAYMA's income:

- ★ Asking Meetings and individuals to contribute generously to particular set-aside funds: Released Friend, Racial Conflict Transformation, Southern Appalachian Young Friends, Uplifting Racial Justice, Spiritual Development, FWCC 3rd World Delegate, FWCC Conference, and the General Fund;
- ★ Encouraging donations from participants in the SAYMA affinity groups that were offered for free in the first year of the racial justice transformation program;
- ★ Raising the assessment rates for members/attenders in monthly Meetings, and/or asking larger and growing monthly Meetings to increase their contribution levels;
- ★ Considering a suggested scale for Meeting assessments so that Meetings may discern the appropriate rate for their contributions;

- ★ Continuing growing the Young Adult Friends program through the Kenworthy Trust;
- ★ Continuing the work of applying for grants for racial justice training; and,
- ★ Reaching out to older Yearly Meetings, such as Philadelphia, New England, and Baltimore, to support SAYMA with funds for racial justice transformation and anti-racist training.

For your information, **there are donor-restricted funds for each set-aside fund in the Yearly Meeting to which individual Friends and Meetings may specifically contribute by indicating the name of the fund on the contribution form.** For example, a specific contribution can be made to the Donor Restricted Racial Justice Transformation fund, for participating in the SAYMA Affinity groups. The Contribution Form is on the SAYMA website. The form is also attached to this letter.

**General donations for all of SAYMA's work may be earmarked for the General Fund.**

The Ministry and Nurture committee also has separate donor- restricted funds for Released Friend and Spiritual Development. During this Fiscal Year (2023), two Friends were approved as released Friends by Ministry and Nurture, and the funds in those accounts need more donations to reach the level of funding promised.

The Racial Justice Transformation set-aside fund needs \$4,000 more for 2024, to completely fund the 3 Racial Justice training modules for the second year.

Donations can be made through the SAYMA website, either by check or credit card with Square. To pay with Zelle, contact the SAYMA treasurer ([saymatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:saymatreasurer@gmail.com)) for instructions.

We encourage MM's and worship groups to consider these suggestions in Spirit-led worship and business.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Morris  
Clerk of Finance