

Minute 53-18-01 from SAYMA Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions (June 2024)

Friends approved, with one Friend standing aside, the updating of SAYMA's assessment guidance for monthly meetings through the recommendation of the following, with meetings encouraged to select whichever generates the higher amount:

- 1) An amount of 12.5% of the MM previous year contributions income.
- 2) Or paying \$85/member-attender in 2025 using the "current counting method".

This rate would rise to \$93/person in 2026, then to \$100/person in 2027, followed by an annual increase based on a measurement such as CPI.

Yearly Meeting Assessments - the "current counting method"

(June 2018, updated with 2025 rate)

SAYMA's member monthly meetings provide financial support for SAYMA through an annual assessment. These assessments cover ongoing operations of the yearly meeting, including salaries of staff. Assessments pay for operating the SAYMA office, much of the SAYF program, the newsletter, contributions to wider Quaker organizations, set-aside funds for purposes such as spiritual development, and committee expenses.

SAYMA recommends that monthly meetings pay the assessment based on the number of active adult members and active adult attenders reported in the SAYMA census for the prior year. As of 2025, the assessment rate is \$85 per person. (refer to Minute 53-18-01 above for the current rate and 12.5% of contributions option.)

The following definitions apply:

- An **adult** is 18 years or older.
- A **member** of a monthly meeting is a person who has applied by letter or transfer and had his or her membership recorded in the meeting minutes.
- An **active member** is a member who attends meeting for worship frequently, or supports the meeting financially, or is otherwise active in meeting life.
- An **inactive member** is a member who is not an active member. In general, monthly meetings consider members who have been out of communication for two years to be inactive.
- An **active attender** is a person who, over the past year, has attended meeting for worship about half the time or more and who contributes to the life of the monthly meeting in other ways (for example, attends discussions, participates in other meeting events, or contributes financially) but is not a member.

If a monthly meeting is led to pay on a different basis, at the time the census is due the monthly meeting informs the SAYMA treasurer of how its basis differs from the recommended basis, and of the amount it expects to pay for the coming year. The expected payment helps provide a sound footing for the preparation of the annual SAYMA budget. Clarity about differences supports mutual accountability and may be helpful to further discernment at the monthly and yearly meeting levels about assessment policy.

SAYMA encourages monthly meetings to pay assessments quarterly. This practice fosters a regular cash flow for SAYMA and minimizes the effect of different fiscal years between monthly meetings and SAYMA.

updated 5/3/25 by treasurer Daryl Bergquist and finance committee clerk Karen Morris