

CENTRAL ENGLAND QUAKERS - FUNDING FOR FRIENDS AND ATTENDERS

FOR OVERSEERS/PASTORAL CARERERS & LM TREASURERS (Revised November 2021)

AREA MEETING GENERAL FUND:

The purpose of the General Fund is to support Quaker activities across the Area Meeting and also beyond (e.g. Britain Yearly Meeting, ecumenical links with Church organisations in the West Midlands). Current Budget statements show the range of commitments supported by the General Fund. These include allowances which are set aside for training for Friends for specific roles within the Area Meeting and for Friends attending conferences and courses.

FUNDING FOR ATTENDANCE ON CONFERENCES AND COURSES:

There is a distinction between:

- (a) Funding for Friends undertaking essential training or Friends appointed by Area Meeting to attend specific events. The work undertaken by Friends appointed to specific roles by Area Meeting contributes to the governance of the charity and we have a duty, as a charity and a Religious Society, to equip our volunteers and staff properly for their governance tasks.
- (b) Bursary support for activities which are aimed at Friends' spiritual nourishment or personal development.

FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS:

1) Area Meeting provides full funding, from the AM General Fund, for the cost of training courses (internal or external) and associated travel expenses for Friends *undertaking specific Quaker roles* such as Clerk, Elder, Overseer, Treasurer, Examiner, Trustee, Chaplain, etc.

Applications for funding for such training courses and relevant training events should be made by email to the General Fund Treasurer (see para.4 below).

2) Full funding is also provided to Friends *appointed by Area Meeting* to attend specific conferences or events which involve a fee and/or travel expenses. Please inform the General Fund Treasurer (email address below)

3) For Friends wishing to attend other conferences or courses, at their own request, e.g. Britain Yearly Meeting/Gathering, bursary support is available from Area Meeting, using the following procedure:-

- The Friend should first approach his/her Local Meeting Overseers, who would consider the request and determine what the Friend can afford and what support the Local Meeting could provide. If further support is needed, the request should be passed to the Area Meeting Bursaries Committee who would consider the request and decide on the amount of bursary support to be offered from central AM funds. Bursaries Committee would then make a recommendation to the General Fund Treasurer.
- Typically, Area Meeting would meet 25% of the cost, the Local Meeting a further 25% and the Friend concerned, the remainder. The Bursaries Committee has discretion to agree a higher proportion of the costs where Overseers consider that more help is needed or when the local Meeting is unable to give as much financial help themselves.
- Applications should be sent to the convenor of the CEQ Bursaries Committee (*currently Jane Holt; janeholt57@gmail.com*), through Local Meeting Overseers, preferably as a minute. It is helpful if this is done by e-mail as it enables the Bursaries Committee to respond more quickly.
- The following information should be included:
 - name of the Friend(s) concerned
 - title, date and other relevant details of the event which they wish to attend
 - total cost of the event
 - amount of bursary which is requested
 - amount which the local meeting will contribute
 - information regarding payment: name & bank account details (or name & address for cheque)

4) The contact (within the AM Finance team) for the authorisation of all grants, bursaries and associated travel expenses, is the General Fund Treasurer (currently Ted Raybould; e.raybould@blueyonder.co.uk) to whom written requests (preferably email) for grants or bursaries, together with any supporting Minutes from authorising Committees, should be directed.

In the case of additional bursary funding requested from Area Meeting, recommendations will normally be made by Bursaries Committee to the General Fund Treasurer, on the F/friend's behalf. The payments to individuals (or to event organisers, if appropriate) will be arranged by a member of the CEQ Administration team, acting on instructions from the General Fund Treasurer.

The sequence for seeking additional Bursary funding from Area Meeting can be summarised as follows:-

Friend (request)	to	LM Overseers (minute support)	to	AM Bursaries Committee (recommend to GF Treasurer)	to	GF Treasurer (authorises and arranges payment)
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5) Note re. Courses at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

Friends applying for courses at Woodbrooke are advised as follows:

- If the Friend applies, in person, to Woodbrooke we would ask that the Friend specifically requests Woodbrooke Study Centre to forward (by email) the relevant Invoice to the General Fund Treasurer.
- If the Friend makes the application on the Woodbrooke website, pays for the course online, hoping to receive either full or partial bursary funding from Area Meeting, they must ensure that the Invoice (or email copy of it) is sent to the General Fund Treasurer.

6) An estimate of expenditure on fees, grants and bursaries will be included in the General Fund budget for each year. Records of all grants and bursaries will be kept by the General Fund Treasurer and a commentary on expenditure over the year will be included in the annual report to Area Meeting.

OTHER FUNDS WHICH MAY BE CONSULTED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE include:

- BYM Young Adults Relief Grant (specifically targeted at Friends aged 18-35; apply: grants@quaker.org.uk)
 - McBain Trust (help for those living in conditions of hardship or distress, with essential items, e.g. stair-lift, washing machine; apply: grants@quaker.org.uk for details)
 - Hope Grants (to improve quality of life of Friends who are unemployed or unable to earn a living wage (apply: grants@quaker.org.uk for details)
 - CEQ Old Peoples' Fund Trust (parent body of Oak Tree House)
 - The Charities of Susanna Cole & Others (support for a variety of needs)
 - Friends Housing Bursary Trust (maintenance, repairs, care fees for retired and disabled Friends in need).
 - Glenthorne Quaker Centre (meets differing needs of guests; peaceful atmosphere; Quaker values and ethos).
 - Overseers' Relief Funds (can supplement financial support available to Overseers for situations of hardship and suffering; applications by Overseers via BYM Grants Programme officer)
 - Percy Bartlett Trust (grants to elderly F/friends in need of residential accommodation)
 - Pollard and Dickson Trust (prevention/relief of poverty; grants to individuals; email: pollardanddickson@gmail.com) for information
 - Soothern & Craner Educational Foundation (for girls & young women)
 - William Gunn's Charity (grants to individual Members in financial need; paying for services and/or items needed)
 - Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre (re. attendance on courses)
- NB: Quaker Schools: as CEQ Education Committee is now stood down, enquiries regarding bursaries should be made to the schools concerned.

FOR DETAILS ON THESE & OTHER TRUSTS see:

'CEQ: The Overseers' Handbook - A guide to sources of help and assistance'.

Many more trusts are listed in the *Directory of Quaker and Quaker-Related Grant-Making Trusts*, pub. by Quaker Communications (not Bookshop) at Friends House, 173 Euston Rd., London NW1 2BJ.

Friends are specifically requested not to disseminate information from the Directory outside Quaker circles.

Ted Raybould
CEQ General Fund Treasurer
November 2021