

NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

4811 Hilltop Road
Greensboro, NC 27407

Phone: 336-292-6957

800-371-8896

FAX: 336-292-1905

E-mail: jcranford@ncym-fum.org

November 12, 2012

TO: Pastors, Monthly Meeting Treasurers, and Monthly Meeting Clerks

FROM: Jimmy Spaulding, Stewardship/Finance Chair

The following are enclosed in this mailing:

1. 2013 Approved Budget
2. 2013 Askings
3. 2012 Treasurer's Report

The 2013 budget was approved (reluctantly I believe) by Representative Body on November 3, 2012 at Pilot View Friends Meeting. You will notice that the budget decreased \$195,127 from last year; Askings will remain at \$115.00 per member for 2013. I believe there is unity across the Yearly Meeting as everyone dislikes this budget. There are a number of painful cuts, some of which I would describe as unsustainable. I hope this budget is a step in the right direction towards being realistic about the available funds we have to work with. I also believe we have more work to do in order to make our finances more sustainable. Please pray that the long term financial committee that Randy has assembled will be fruitful in 2013 and identify ways to make our finances more sustainable.

I want to highlight a few significant changes in our 2013 budget vs. our 2012 budget.

- Medical insurance contribution increases from \$300 to \$350 per month (for pastors under 65)
- Ministers' medical insurance deductible reimbursement will be discontinued
- Ministers' Medicare Part B reimbursement will be discontinued
- Quaker Lake operating expenses decreased \$20,800
- Staff salaries – reduced \$30,000
- FUM general operating budget decreased \$25,000
- FUM designated funds – removed from budget (to be supported by quarters)
- MOWA Choctaw – removed from budget (continued support outside of budget)
- Ministers' retirement – decrease of \$18,377 (\$46,019 less than minimum actuary recommendation)
- Other decreases in a number of areas

I want to emphasize a couple of points. The 2nd and 3rd bullet points above represent income decreases for ministers. I want to encourage each meeting to evaluate this decrease in their pastor's compensation. I believe the scriptures teach us to treat our ministers' with honor (1 Timothy 5:17) and these decreases should be evaluated by each individual meeting's compensation committee.

Also, the ministers' retirement funding is below the recommended contribution per the actuary. The actuary is recommending a minimum contribution of \$135,000 but our 2013 budget only funds \$88,891. This shortfall is not sustainable and will need to be addressed soon. There were some suggestions during Rep Body to further evaluate our insurance plan to see what is available to maximize savings while providing quality health insurance. The savings would be contributed to fully fund the ministers retirement plan. The benefits and insurance committee and stewardship finance committee will report an update on this situation at Mid-Year Gathering.

The 2012 Treasurer Report is current as of November 12, 2012. Thank you for your diligence during these financially trying times. Full and timely payments from each monthly meeting enable the Yearly Meeting to maintain its budget and meet monthly obligations. As we near the end of 2012, please review the payments

MISSION STATEMENT: North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends seeks through the power of the Holy Spirit to equip and energize our meetings in their witness to the love, message and power of the living Christ encouraging Friends to translate our faith into practice.

that have been made and contact Judith Cranford, Financial Manager, if there is a discrepancy with your records.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me or the yearly meeting a call. My number is (704) 491-2649.