

COMMITTEE ON SUFFERINGS (2000)

History

Minute 74 of the 1971 Yearly Meeting sessions marked the initiation of the Fund for Sufferings under the Peace and Social Action Program. The Fund, raised through voluntary contributions, is meant to provide assistance to those who are suffering hardship because of fidelity to Friends' testimonies. In the sessions of 1975, a Committee on Sufferings was established to administer the Fund, and a budget appropriation was placed in the goals of the Sharing Fund to continue until the Fund reached \$10,000.

Functions & Activities

1. To administer the Fund for Sufferings to provide aid and assistance to those who are suffering hardship because of fidelity to Friends' testimonies.
2. ~~To determine that the witness to which the suffering is attributed speaks to Friends generally relative to a common heritage and tradition.~~
3. To consider applications for assistance from a Yearly Meeting member wherever that person resides and from any who are faithful participants in worship and action in local meetings. Normally, an application will be forwarded by a local meeting with the anticipation that the Fund will supplement the meeting's financial resources in the matter. In lieu of this, a Yearly Meeting committee may endorse and forward the application.
4. ~~The rendering of assistance rests on evidence that the applicant and any dependents have been diligent in self-help and in the search for alternate resources, particularly local meetings. Such assistance should be a decent level of support, especially when extended to the dependents of applicants.~~
5. ~~Where religious witness involves challenges to authority, legal support must be limited to modest defensive moves and should not include the payment of fines or other financial penalties.~~

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POINT PERSON FOR FUND FOR SUFFERINGS (2018)

History

Minute 74 of the 1971 Yearly Meeting sessions marked the initiation of the Fund for Sufferings under the Peace and Social Action Program. The Fund, raised through voluntary contributions, is meant to provide assistance to those who are suffering financially because of fidelity to Friends' testimonies. In the sessions of 1975, a Committee on Sufferings was established to administer the Fund, and a budget appropriation was placed in the goals of the Sharing Fund to continue until the Fund reached \$10,000. In the Fall sessions of 2018, a Point Person on Sufferings replaced the committee and the possible uses of the fund were broadened.

Functions & Activities

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Organization & Method of Appointment

The Point Person on Sufferings serves a term of three years. The Yearly Meeting appoints the person upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee. The Point Person receives and processes applications for assistance and forwards recommended action on each application to the Ministry Coordinating Committee Clerk for their approval. Ministry CC receives occasional reports on the status of the Fund for Sufferings.

Finances

The fund is held by the Yearly Meeting as a Designated Use Fund. The Yearly Meeting Treasurer monitors compliance with the fund's designation.