

Invitation to Apply for a Grant from the NYYM Outreach Initiatives Support Fund to Support Your Meeting's Quaker Outreach



Time Sensitive: Application deadline is April 15, 2018

Quaker outreach is alive and well in New York Yearly Meeting, as illustrated in the November 2017 issue of *Spark!* In addition to innovative, creative activities within monthly meetings, there is an Outreach Practitioners' Circle, a list of resources posted on the NYYM website, an exciting Facebook experiment, and a new, free, electronic newsletter, "Quaker Outreach" —all evidence of a growing energy for sharing the Quaker way.

To support and encourage this energy, NYYM's budget for 2018 includes an Outreach Initiatives Support Fund to which all meetings — monthly *and* quarterly — may **apply for small grants to support outreach projects. There is no limitation on the kind of activity that you may propose, provided that it supports some aspect of Quaker outreach** as described in the accompanying page.

Applying for an Outreach Grant:

To be considered for a grant, submit a proposal of *not more than two pages*, in which you describe:

- **What you want to do:** Provide some detail about the project or activity you are proposing.
- **How you plan to do it:** Who has been involved in planning and approving this project? Who will be doing the work? Are you partnering with others? What resources or meeting assets are you drawing upon? What is the timeline and budget?
- **Why you have chosen this approach or project:** How does the proposed activity fit with your meeting's needs, resources, priorities or planning? How is this project related to other outreach activities or to a larger strategy for outreach?
- **What you hope to achieve:** Is there a particular demographic group you are focusing on? How do you propose to assess the success of your project?

Grants will be awarded in the range of \$150 to \$500. Your meeting will be asked to provide at least one-third of the cost of the proposed project. (For example, if the budget for the project is \$400, you may apply for a grant of two-thirds of the project cost or \$267; your meeting would be asked to provide the remaining \$133 of the project cost.) Before submitting your grant, please obtain confirmation from your meeting that funds are available to cover at least 1/3 the cost of your project and indicate that confirmation in your proposal.

DEADLINE: Proposals must be submitted by April 15, 2018. Selection of grant recipients will be made by a committee of four people appointed by the Outreach Working Group (OWG). Proposals may be submitted electronically to OWG co-convener Arlene Johnson at arlene_johnson@verizon.net or by US mail to 31-41 Church Street, #307, South Orange New Jersey, 07079. All proposals will be acknowledged upon receipt, and an announcement of grant recipients will be made by May 1, 2018.

To expand the benefits and learning generated by these grants, meetings that receive grants will be asked to share their learnings in a short, written report and, as feasible, in other ways such as a *Spark!* article, item in InfoShare, report to the Quarter, or presentation at Summer or Fall Sessions. Grant recipients will be asked to submit a report (even if the work is still in process) by November 25, 2018.

If you have any questions about the Outreach Initiatives Support Fund, the grant application process, or the appropriateness of your project for a grant, please contact Outreach Working Group co-convener Arlene Johnson at 973-994-2314 or arlene_johnson@verizon.net

The Many Faces of Quaker Outreach

The spiritual practice of Quaker outreach is often described as consisting of **Inreach, Invitation, and Welcoming**. These categories are useful in illustrating the many kinds of projects and activities that are eligible for grants from the NYYM Outreach Initiatives Support Fund.

Inreach, as described on the FGC website, is about “Growing Our Spirits” and fostering a deeper connection with each other and to Spirit. Inreach nurtures a meeting’s vitality and connections such that a visitor would be able to envision finding a spiritual home in that meeting.

- ◆ For example, Inreach might include creating opportunities within the Meeting to share spiritual stories and journeys and/or offering a workshop or retreat where Friends practice and gain confidence in speaking about the Quaker Way. Or Inreach might consist of a visioning and strategic planning process to discern your meeting’s readiness for outreach and to define next steps in growing the vitality of your meeting.

Invitation is about “Growing our Presence” and becoming known in our communities, increasing our visibility, and inviting seekers in.

- ◆ Invitation activities might consist of a publicity campaign about your meeting and its activities; writing articles or letters to the editor on social issues; creating a strategy to reach out to particular groups; offering events that embody Quaker testimonies and to which the public is invited; inviting local groups to meet in your meetinghouse; or enhancing the meeting website and social media presence.

Welcoming is about integrating newcomers into the life of our meetings. More than just “greeting,” true welcoming helps seekers and newcomers make connections in the meeting and experience a sense of belonging.

- ◆ To improve your spirit of welcoming you might enhance spaces and materials for young children, make signage more welcoming, revise materials distributed to newcomers and assure that they are welcoming across diversities; train a group of “welcoming Friends” who nurture the involvement of new attenders, examine and revise your process for greeting newcomers; foster conversations about welcoming diverse newcomers; or offer Quakerism 101 or programs that help newcomers learn about the Quaker Way.

Many aspects of outreach are no-cost or low-cost, but, when planning a strategy for outreach, often there are some elements of the plan that require expenditure. For more suggestions about the many forms that outreach can take and for ideas about pursuing outreach in a way that is a good fit with *your* meeting, visit the Resources section of the FGC website or the Outreach Working Group page of NYYM website.

***“...outreach is bigger than advertising, publicity, and hosting public events, although these things are important and powerful.
Effective outreach is about learning to speak about the Quaker Way and our own experiences as Quakers, as well as living as ‘patterns and examples’ in our daily lives in the wider community.”***

-- From FGC outreach materials “Getting Started”