

Report to ILYM annual sessions from Development Committee

Ours is a new committee, approved toward the end of last annual sessions. We started work (without a clerk) under the weight of the concerns minuted by Finance Committee (pp. 10, 30 and 107 of the 2012 MinuteBook) that “development work on behalf of the Yearly Meeting is becoming increasingly urgent.” Whereas Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups have budgeted for ILYM, and whereas Friends have come forward in the past to meet unexpected crises and opportunities for the YM, yet we have not developed a culture of individual giving sufficient to meet the needs implied in our commitments and visions.

We're aware also of declining contributions from some Meetings. This may be in part because our formula is pegged to active adult resident members, and fewer of our active participants are being moved to become official members. Can the yearly meeting consider how our unofficial members can help pay a fair share to ILYM?

We are eager to do our part to help in the fundraising process, and in fact have started that work with some results. We reported our need for specific tools to Spring Continuing Committee, and therein gained specific approval on one request and agreement in principle on several others. Authority was granted to the Treasurer to share with us, in strict confidence, the records of contributions in recent years so that we can start to discern patterns and capacities on the basis of which we can make appropriate solicitations. We also have begun compiling what records we can find about pledges, and also about intended bequests and planned giving arrangements.

Additional tools, for which we are asking budgetary allocation, will be for (a) affordable software, geared toward non-profit groups, for our record-keeping and strategizing, and (b) short-term consultative help in framing our interpretation of visions and needs, increasing our skills in sharing a coherent narrative.

A matter of policy on which we are acting, as reported to Continuing Committee, is that we will seek and accept donations only for those needs already approved by the yearly meeting. If a Friend wishes to earmark a proposed donation for something outside those limits, we will encourage their patience as we seek the wisdom of the whole body, using appropriate structures and processes. Within this understanding there are three areas for which we will seek

contributions:

(A.) The General Fund, representing the annual needs of the yearly meeting as budgeted. This includes the unrestricted “Special Gifts” category.

(B.) Capital Improvements identified in the Capital Assets Management Plan (“CAMP”). It is our understanding that these are monitored and administered by our Maintenance & Planning Committee.

(C.) The Property Improvement Fund. This is restricted for projects identified by Site Envisioning Committee and approved by the yearly meeting.

We welcome that latter committee’s work in prioritizing projects identified by the yearly meeting. They brought preliminary recommendations to the Spring Continuing Committee and it is expected they’ll bring seasoned proposals to annual sessions. We note that Minute #33 from last year’s annual sessions anticipated a “collaborative effort” to move this forward, hopefully for action this year.

When those items on the overall site plan have been approved, it will make it easier for us to point to specific ways in which donors can help us bring elements of our overall vision to fruition. A prioritized “road map” will benefit not only our fundraising efforts, but we believe also a sense of purpose for the whole of ILYM.

An item that had not been considered at the 2012 session but was mentioned in Site Envisioning Committee’s springtime report was an offer of the donation of “The Wilson House” by Betty and Jan Wolf. In appreciation of their generosity of spirit, setting an example of looking toward our future needs, we ask that this matter be placed on the upcoming business agenda, for discernment of the best process for approaching the questions raised by this offer. We need a decision on whether or not to accept this building. We ask that a decision be made no later than our Fall Continuing Committee.

Our committee has begun some visits to potential donors, and has been well-received. Visits within one Meeting resulted in 4 pledges, all unrestricted, which are intended to be on an ongoing, annual, basis. Payments have already started coming in. Visits within another Meeting succeeded in better interpreting the overall work and needs of ILYM, and may bear fruit later. We have begun further work in planning visits, usually working in teams of two, and we hope to add the participation of some of our Adult Young Friends. Please be ready to receive us when we ask for an Opportunity with you.

Some have asked for a reliable figure on what are the baseline costs for us to

run a yearly meeting, and we unite with that request. It is possible that we will send a written appeal to all individuals within ILYM, demonstrating our needs and the ways that a vibrant yearly meeting benefits local worshiping groups and the Friends within them. It will be exciting to watch ILYM increase its capacity to be of service and inspiration, as we broaden the base of regular giving, and also increase the number of Friends who will provide for us after they are no longer physically present.

Please feel free to share your ideas with us, as well as opening yourselves to approaches we hope to make to you, in mutual service.

Respectfully, David Finke, Maurine Pyle, Bob Bartles