

**HOMEWOOD FRIENDS MEETING
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023**

1. What are some of the main ways you spent your time during the past (calendar) year?

- ❖ Newer members of the committee spent time and effort familiarizing themselves with what the Trustees do.
- ❖ Narrative budget development: After the Meeting approved Trustees' proposal in May 2023, we spent considerable time developing an inclusive process for the Meeting, and several groups of members and attenders provided input via gatherings to discuss what Homewood Friends Meeting is and what it aspires to be.
- ❖ Inspired by auditor recommendations, we identified policies the Meeting has and should have with respect to our financial oversight and stewardship. We began to review samples and suggested drafts.
- ❖ We received the final report from the auditors which led to changes to our financial reports to comply more fully with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles).
- ❖ As usual, the annual budget was a huge project.
- ❖ We recognized that the building is a somewhat "unfunded liability" and we want to be more proactive with anticipating major capital needs and expenditures. This led to our decision to obtain a professional capital needs assessment, so that the Meeting can better predict the capital expenditures required to maintain our property's physical and functional integrity over the next 5-10-20 years.
- ❖ We kept an eye on our investments and how they align with environmental, peace, and social justice practices and concerns.

2. How would you describe the spiritual state of your committee?

- ❖ We start and end our meetings by tuning into Spirit.
- ❖ It's been a good year with episodes of gratitude.
- ❖ We are a strong-minded group of folks, each of whom feels safe to speak their mind, and listen to one another.
- ❖ Tasks and responsibilities are distributed; we all contribute.
- ❖ There is a great deal of trust between us.
- ❖ We say what we think, listen to each other, and have constructive dialogue without lasting discord.
- ❖ We depend a lot on our clerk who beautifully models all of the above.

3. What are some of the major challenges you have faced/major strengths that helped you?

- ❖ The volume of work is a challenge and some is under deadline, e.g., the budget.
- ❖ We are helped by Polly's love of budgets and numbers.

- ❖ We have a strong and organized clerk.
- ❖ Working with an experienced Treasurer is a tremendous strength; it is a blow that she is retiring.
- ❖ The expertise and life experience each of us bring is a strength and sometimes a challenge since we can't wave things away without being called out.
- ❖ We are a small group, with the challenges that entails, including a sense that the future health of the Meeting depends on more people knowing about the financial workings of the building. We are conscious that we need to be intentional about succession planning and training others about our responsibilities.

4. What are your hopes for the future (of the committee)?

- ❖ We are doing the groundwork so it is a less difficult transition for future versions of the committee. This groundwork includes developing and updating existing financial policies and procedures, and obtaining a capital needs assessment. The latter will help us develop a multi-year plan for large expenditures on the building infrastructure.
- ❖ We hope that creating a narrative budget helps the Meeting become more clear about how our use of financial resources aligns with our Quaker values.
- ❖ We want to describe more fully how we invest the Meeting's endowment and translate our knowledge of socially responsible, environmental, and peace investment opportunities to make them more generally known to those in the Homewood community.
- ❖ Insurance costs went up significantly this year and we want to investigate options more thoroughly next year.
- ❖ We hope that others will join the committee and take responsibility for the financial well-being of the Meeting.

Committee members

- ❖ through June 2023: Debbie Kennison
- ❖ since July 2023: David Blalock, Heather Ravlin (also Assistant Treasurer)
- ❖ all year: Barbara Bezdek, Polly Heninger (clerk), Megan Shook (Treasurer, Trustee *ex officio*)