

23 February, 2026 - Meeting about Donations Process

Shelly Hastings, Ariana Langford, Dick Logan, Carol Lorah Bland, Jim Nelson, and Deb Wood gathered via Zoom.

Our task from the January 18, 2026 quarterly meeting was to come up with a process on making donations from Western Quarter.

Recent history - Western Quarter has made donations/honorarium to organizations that have given presentations at quarterly meeting.

In the last 5 or so years, Western Quarter has approved donations during meeting for business using reserves and then being incorporated into the budget, says as a two year donation to Friends Home for the construction of the new elevator.

Several decades ago, Western Quarter made contributions to Friends, Home, AFSC, FCNL and other Friends institutions. None of us were quite sure when and why that practice shifted.

Western Quarter's operating budget comes from a combination of its reserves, accounts, and covenant income. In recent years some meetings have had to contribute less while some have been able to contribute more.

At a January 10, 2018 meeting of the then Finance and Budget Committee, several recommendations were approved regarding unrestricted reserves; all called for consideration - of establishing an operating reserve, setting aside a portion for special programs of value to the entire Quarter, and establishing a capital reserve with a plan for growth to meet needs to be determined.

On March 3, 2018, London Grove Meeting, taking note of WQM's unrestricted reserves of \$133,000, approved a minute recommending an operating reserve of 50% of the current operating budget and a capital reserve "to cover expenses that may arise with respect to the repair and maintenance of the historical meetinghouses that have been given over to

its care.” This gave rise to the study of such meetinghouses and a recognition of the uncertainty respecting future possible obligations of WQM.

Deb will share this property report with Friends. The report focuses mostly on the historic (closed) properties. We have close to 20 meetinghouses, active and inactive, in Western Quarter and over 20 burial grounds with varying levels of funds to maintain them.

While the reserves seem like a large amount of money ready for distribution, we realized the funds could go quite quickly for assessments of properties, and possible legal needs regarding properties.

Faith and Practice says this of quarterly meetings:

Thoughtfully planned sessions of a quarterly meeting can provide religious fellowship, spiritual enrichment, and a forum for cooperation and exchange of information and ideas among members of the constituent monthly meetings. Those gathered may develop plans to deal regionally with broader issues and special concerns, as well as review and respond to concerns that a meeting wishes to bring before the yearly meeting. Those named as monthly meeting representatives should be faithful in reporting the proceedings of such gatherings to their meeting.

In brief, the purpose of the quarter is to assist monthly meetings in their objectives and to provide support for common concerns.

We approved setting the the following practices for budgeting and reporting on budgets and funds:

- inclusion of the 2018 operating reserve guideline**
- inclusion of the \$25,000 reserve be kept for assessment needs at historic properties**
- earmark any other committed reserves**

We will aim to anticipate any donations within a year and include them in budgeting. For example when we know of an amount to set aside as an honorarium for a quarterly meeting program.

These processes will not prevent Western Quarter in a meeting for business to approve a donation/honorium from the quarter.

We will provide an update to both Support Committee and very likely to the quarter at our next meeting for business.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Wood, coordinator