

## Proposal for a “Quaker Bus” from Katy Cullinan

### Guidelines for “\$400,000 Bequest” Proposals

Please research and answer as many of the following questions as are relevant for your proposal. If your proposal involves the concerns of specific committees within FMC or of organizations beyond our walls, we recommend reaching out to them so you can provide specific numbers and other information. Only fully formed proposals with specifics regarding costs, time commitments, and needed personnel will come to the larger community for discernment.

Please describe your proposed project or use of the money in detail in a few paragraphs. Then answer the questions below that apply to your proposal.



When I was an FWCC Quaker Volunteer in Belfast, Northern Ireland, from 1972- 1974, I drove the Ulster Quaker Service Committee’s minibus. We used it mostly for various non-Quaker community groups as a contribution to seeking peace across divides during the Troubles and I guess I imprinted on the idea. Now I propose we buy a van to transport our own members and attenders to meeting for worship, medical appointments, retreats, protests, or any number of places. We should put “Friends Meeting at Cambridge” on it plus our phone number, address, and web site address. A catchy nickname in larger letters might be good but I don’t know what. Maybe just simply “Quaker Bus”? (I thought of “Merrilee We Roll

Along” but then I saw Marilee spelled her name with an a, not an e, and only one r.)

However, like Belfast, I also propose we use it not just for our own members and attenders but to lend to other faith communities in the Boston area to forge or deepen connections with them. As the van passes through neighborhoods to get to them, it would be good advertising and outreach.

### I. Overview

- Why this project now, and will it engage with or benefit the FMC community? If

so, how?

I've suggested buying a bus occasionally over many years. It's now simply because the opportunity and the \$400K are now.

It would benefit those within our community who need transport and relieve the burden on those others who have been providing such transport up to now. It would benefit FMC to be more widely known by other congregations and possibly work together with them.

- How will this project deepen the spiritual life of FMC and reflect its testimonies?

We have an aging community that is less and less able to drive at night, for example, and many need transport to meeting and medical and other appointments. Volunteers currently drive fellow FMC members often, but I fear they will burn out.

Obviously having Friends at meeting for worship who would not be able to be there otherwise is going to deepen the spiritual life of the meeting.

Providing transport will be a huge embodiment of our equality testimony. Many have cars, or spouses or friends to drive them, but many do not.

If we hire a formerly incarcerated person as driver, our prison ministry will be that much more robust.

Providing transport to Raytheon once a month would support our peace testimony. Similarly, we could have used a van to transport Friends to welcome the Golden Rule when she docked in Boston this summer. We could lend the van to MAAP if Friends have large donations to deliver, or if MAAP wants to weed out some of its shelves and take goods elsewhere.

We could drive a large contingent to Yearly Meeting Sessions. Currently, FMC is somewhat self-sufficient. It might be good to expand our Quaker horizons.

We could lend it to Quaker Voluntary Service to pick up arriving Fellows or take them to retreats, linking to a national Quaker program and supporting QVS's social justice mission as well as fostering future Quaker leadership.

If we buy an electric vehicle, that would support our earthcare ministry. (It would also complicate long-distance trips such as Sessions but re-charging during a lunch stop could be worked out.)

How much is being requested, and what do you hope these funds will accomplish?

\$275,910 total (\$94,035 for the van; \$1,600 for an additional seat, \$150K for three years of a driver's salary; \$11,475 for three years FICA, \$4,500 for three years of insurance, possibly \$11,700 for three years of a part-time coordinator, and \$2,600 for the installation of a Level 2 electric charging station behind the meetinghouse)

(A hybrid van costs less. Leasing options are also available, but I am proposing that we buy an electric van.

I expect the funds used for a van to increase attendance at FMC and deepen connections among our own community and with other faith communities.

Will you personally oversee execution or will it involve another organization or non-FMC persons?

No, I will not oversee it. I expect it to involve the Meeting Administrator, the Office Manager, and the Facilities Manager. Lending it to other faith communities might require an additional part-time coordinator. It does not require a commercial driver's license (CDL) so it could be driven by FMC volunteers, but I suggest a full-time (35 hours a week) driver.

Over how many years will the funding be used?

\$275,910 would cover the initial bus purchase and three years of a driver's salary and insurance, etc. (A part-time coordinator might cost 11,700 for 3 years.) After that, we could decide to continue the program or sell the bus. If we bought an electric bus, even after we sell it, we would still have the charger out back for people to use and support the environment.

- Is this a local proposal, elsewhere in the U.S., or international? Or for FMC itself?

This is a local proposal, but not just for FMC itself. I hope we would lend the bus and driver to other churches, synagogues, mosques, and other spiritual communities and increase interfaith links in our area. Who will carry out this project, both short-term and long-term if applicable? What are the roles, who will be doing them, and will there be adequate support?

We would need a supervisor for the driver, perhaps the Meeting Administrator. We would need a scheduler for booking the bus, perhaps the Office Manager or perhaps a new part-time coordinator. We would need a driver, who would take it to appropriate mechanics for maintenance. The bus would need to park behind the meetinghouse.

## II. Use of Funds

- Does this proposal advise keeping some or all of the bequest for FMC's capital or budget use?

This proposal would use not quite  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the bequest, leaving a little over \$100K for other uses.

- Is this the only funding for this project or is it part of a larger effort?

It would be the only funding for three years. After that, the meeting budget would need to absorb running costs.

- Is it ongoing after these funds are depleted?

That would be decided after three years. If it has been successful, then I hope it would be ongoing.

- Is this funding for a start-up, a program already up and running, or is this for an expansion?

### Start-up

- If being given to an existing program, what portion of that budget will this represent

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- If an existing project, are members and/or attenders at FMC already engaged with this project, and if so, how? Are community members welcome to become involved and how?

Although not an existing project, community members are already engaged using their own cars to drive Friends. And once the project does start up, yes, community members could be volunteer drivers plus other faith communities in other neighborhoods could use our bus and driver.

## III. Budget – up to 3 years is recommended

Costs need to be quantified whether or not a grant is to be carried out by you or given to another organization to carry out.

- Personnel cost including taxes and benefits if applicable, and/or “in-kind” volunteers

Driver at \$50K a year or 3-year total of \$150K

FICA for the driver at \$3,825 a year or \$11,475 for three years

Part-time coordinator, if necessary, perhaps 5 hours a week at \$15/hour or \$3,900 a year or \$11,700 for 3 years

- Capital costs

Electric van \$94,035

- Cost of supplies, equipment

Charging station installation \$760 or more likely \$2,600

Additional passenger seat \$1,600

- Travel needsAdditional?

Insurance at \$1,500 a year or \$4,500 for three years

Please contact the Bequest Discernment Group with any questions at [bequest@fmcquaker.org](mailto:bequest@fmcquaker.org).

Attachments:

Vendor's proposal of \$94,035

# IMAGES & FLOORPLAN

