

Dear FMC Community,

All of us have been asked to discern the best use of the large bequest that was given to FMC in 2021. For some of us there is clarity that a substantial portion of the bequest should go to the beloved Material Aid and Advocacy Program (MAAP): a program whereby food, clothing and resources are distributed to the unhoused and whereby interchanges with law-makers and social agencies affect change and provide some relief. There are a number of principles underlying our clarity:

First, our sense that the dispersal should be local. Nothing is more local to us than MAAP.

Second, we feel the impact should be both short and long term; immediate and long-lasting. MAAP's work to supply material aid happens in the moment. MAAP's advocacy work has the potential to affect the future.

Third, the distribution should be both intensely personal and structural. At MAAP, the compassion and tenderness shown to community members are matched by the strong and clear advocacy work to redress the structural injustices of inequality, poverty, and homelessness.

Fourth, the bequest should be used in a clear relationship to our testimonies: Simplicity; Peace; Integrity; Community; and Equality. MAAP is clearly "Faith and Practice" in living color.

Fifth, calls and leadings should be supported. The Executive Director, staff, and volunteers at MAAP work with a dedication well beyond their job descriptions. Theirs is a ministry, not just a job.

Sixth, making reparations must be a priority for those of us with wealth and privilege. We have heard many calls for reparations for Indigenous and BIPOC folks, and we agree. We believe it is appropriate to suggest that unhoused folks of any background are also due reparations for the unequal distribution of wealth and resources that has resulted in suffering for them.

Lastly, however the money is used, it should reinforce our Beneficial Cycle: Deepening Worship; Strengthening our Community; and Increasing Witness in the World. It is clear how our support of MAAP is a witness to the world. When we bring our most vulnerable neighbors into our thoughts and prayers, we may also deepen our worship and enlarge who we think of as "our community." Certainly those of us who have come together to serve MAAP have found powerful communion.

Thank you for your consideration. Attached, please find our complete proposal. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us.

Thank you,

John Bach, [johnmbach@yahoo.com](mailto:johnmbach@yahoo.com)  
Jennifer Hogue, [jenhogue14@gmail.com](mailto:jenhogue14@gmail.com)  
Sara Sue Pennell [aspennel@rcn.com](mailto:aspennel@rcn.com)