

## **Summary of Survey Responses**

The Bequest Process Discernment Group carefully read the 96 responses — including all comments — to the survey and noted the comments of those who have spoken or emailed us directly. It seems to us that Friends who responded to the survey understood that the survey was not a ballot, and that the gathered Meeting community will make the decisions about the use of the Bequest under the guidance of the Spirit. Many Friends noted that this might not be a simple process.

The Bequest Process Discernment group saw the following patterns within the responses. We share them with the community because we believe they might be useful for all to be aware of and that might guide us in our next steps toward moving the process forward.

The survey responses, in terms of scoring and comments, clearly expressed more support for some proposals than others, which we would categorize as STRONG, MODERATE and WEAK support.

**Six proposals** received STRONG support:

Two reparations proposals

*Urban Farming Institute \$40k (or 10% of total distributed*

*Native Land Conservancy \$40k (or 10% of total distributed*

Two Youth proposals:

*Fund Youth activities at FDS \$10k over two years*

*Fund Young Adult Friends activities \$10k over two years*

MAAP

*Material Aid And Advocacy \$70k over two years*

*Coffee House at FMC \$2.5k one-time*

**Two proposals** received MODERATE support – but with some ambiguity owing to the language of their respective requests which, based on comments we received, could have increased their support if altered:

*Retain all of bequest money to strengthen FMC finances \$400k*

*Cambridge Friends School Capital campaign support \$200k*

Comments Regarding the two proposals that received MODERATE support:

Several Friends mentioned strong support for withholding some of the bequest money to support the FMC budget but only moderate support for withholding all. Also, whether or not we allocated the full amount of the CFS request of \$200k, some Friends feel that we bear a legal, moral and spiritual obligation to support CFS as best we can.

**The remaining six proposals,** listed below, received WEAK support:

*Sun Moon Farm donation \$60k over three years*

*Nonviolence International Ukraine \$18k*

*Outreach Personnel for First Day School/Young Adult Friends \$41.3k for one year*

*Masters Djembe Workshop Series \$44k over two years*

*Fund free public concerts, cello and more \$4.5k to fund 10 concerts in one year*

*Volunteer Coordinator for FMC \$130k over two years*

*Quaker Bus \$275,910 over three years*

**QUERIES we would put to the community to reflect on at this stage:**

Survey results showed very limited support for hiring additional staff. Numerous written comments elaborated on concerns about use of funds in this way.

- Given this input and feedback, might the community want to consider removing those proposals from consideration in a Meeting for Business?

*Volunteer Coordinator for FMC \$130k over two years*

*Outreach Personnel for First Day School/Young Adult Friends \$41.3k for one year*

- Regarding the language of the proposal to hold back “all” of the funds for FMC, which left little choice to the survey respondents, we wondered whether the community would support this proposal at a reduced amount?
- Likewise, regarding the proposal to allocate half of the funds to Cambridge Friends School, does the community feel led to support this proposal at a reduced amount?

Some comments indicated that seeing proposed distributions for the Bequest would be a useful starting point for corporate discernment.

- Would the Meeting find it helpful for the Bequest Process Discernment Group to formulate one or more sample proposals for use of the funds, based on our sense of the Meeting, as a starting point for discussion and discernment in further gatherings and eventually Meetings for Business?