

A note from NPYM Finance and Legal Committee
June 2019

As we worked on preparing the YM budget for fiscal year 2020 (Oct 1, 2019 – Sept 30, 2020) we realized that there may be some confusion about the Yearly Meeting assessments. Like most yearly meetings the assessments paid by monthly meetings is the major part of our YM annual income. This figure is based on \$60 per member and is paid by the monthly meetings to support the work of the Yearly Meeting. NPYM has not changed the amount of this assessment fee for several years and we do not anticipate an increase in the near future.

Membership in the Society of Friends is held by the monthly meetings and therefore we ask meetings to provide a count on an annual basis through the use of the statistical report that generated every spring. This count is a static amount for May 1 of every year. This report is used both for our budget purposes and to create an official count reflecting the size and vibrancy of NPYM compared to other Yearly meetings. Knowing that meetings differ on how they track attendance, and membership figures we ask for several pieces of information on the statistical report:

- Official memberships (includes members in the monthly meeting and any worship groups or preparatory meetings under the care of that monthly meeting)
- average attendance numbers of adults and children who participate in the life of the meeting -this helps describe the vibrancy and activity level of our YM compared to other YMs in the world.
- **Assessment figure** that the meeting is going to pay to NPYM – this number is the same as the membership number for many meetings but may vary based on a variety of factors including if worship groups/preparatory meetings will also be making assessment payments, or whether meetings make a distinction between active and inactive members.

Please note that the assessment figure is a self evaluation and is the basis for the YM budget (and presumably the monthly meeting budget) and therefore is the amount requested by the YM from each monthly meeting. Since meetings provide this number to NPYM it should not be a surprise and the amount of payment should be honored unless there are unusual circumstances. To make cash flow easier for meetings the YM treasurer requests half of the amount twice a year. If it is easier for a meeting to make an annual payment that is fine or if some other payment arrangement is needed please work with the YM treasurer to arrange that.

As of June 1 2019 new assessment figures are not available as many meetings have not yet provided the information to the NPYM secretary. Therefore the NPYM budget will reflect the May 2018 figures until new information is available. Hopefully by the time the fiscal year starts (Oct 1, 2019) the treasurer will have the updated numbers to put on the assessment bills.

Please share this information with monthly meeting clerks and treasurers and if you have questions please contact the NPYM finance and Legal Committee.

Reference: NPYM Faith & Practice (2018), chapter 8, page 179 – Yearly Meeting finances