

# The Margaret Fell Fund

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This document provides an overview of the Margaret Fell Fund and describes how to apply for funding.

The objective of the Margaret Fell Fund is to provide grants to monthly meetings in need of financial support for releasing their members to travel in the gospel ministry among Friends for two weeks or longer.

## **Background:**

Assisting Friends who travel is a well-established tradition among Quakers practiced by individuals and by monthly and yearly meetings.

Historically Quakers provided the prayerful and practical support that individuals needed to leave their homes and families, farms and businesses, for periods of weeks, months, and years to travel in the gospel ministry. To this end, early Friend, Margaret Fell, used her own financial resources to establish and administer the Kendal Fund to meet the needs of those who traveled in the British Isles in the mid1600s.

Friends continue to be led to travel in gospel ministry for extended periods of time. FGC established the Margaret Fell Fund to give these individuals assistance in addition to what monthly or yearly meetings can offer. The Margaret Fell Fund aims to release Friends from on-going financial responsibilities during the time that they travel in the ministry.

## **Preparation for applying to the Margaret Fell Fund:**

- A Friend for whom a grant is being sought should be a member in good standing of the Religious Society of Friends and active in the meeting seeking financial assistance on his or her behalf.
- The Friend must have gone through a clearness process and have been found clear to travel by the monthly meeting.
- An anchor or support committee must have been established by the monthly meeting.
- The meeting will forward an approved minute of travel to the quarterly and the yearly meeting with the request that they be endorsed by those bodies of Friends. This step should be completed before submitting an application to the Margaret Fell Fund.

- The Friend, in consultation and discernment with the anchor committee of the monthly meeting, should prepare a budget detailing his or her specific needs for financial assistance for the period of the time of travel.
- The monthly meeting should provide FGC with a plan stating the specifics of its financial, practical, and spiritual support for the Friend with a leading to travel, as well as any other ways in which that Friend will be or has been supported (within the yearly meeting; other scholarships, funds, and grants, etc.) and specifics as to how FGC might assist the meeting support that Friend (financially and spiritually).

### **How to apply for a grant:**

- Upon approval by the monthly meeting of the financial request on behalf of the Friend, the clerk of the Friend's anchor committee will contact the Committee for Nurturing ministries letting the committee know of that Friend's proposed travel and the need for assistance as well as the anchor committee's discernment on the travel plan. This should be done several months prior to the intended time of travel.
- A small group appointed by the clerk of CNM, the Friend with the leading to travel, and a member of his or her anchor committee will enter into joint discernment about the leading to travel and how FGC may be of assistance.
- After this discernment, and assuming agreement is reached to continue the plans, the clerk of the anchor committee will submit the application and formal request for a grant, which will include the amount requested from the FGC Margaret Fell. The completed application will be reviewed by the Margaret Fell Fund Working Group for determination of the grant.

### **Administration of the grant:**

If the application is approved by the Margaret Fell Fund Working Group, grants will be distributed by the FGC office with authorization from the clerk of the Committee for Nurturing Ministries (CNM) or the clerk's designee.

### **Care and follow-up with Friends who are traveling:**

- A member of the working group will be assigned to maintain regular contact with the Friend traveling in the ministry as well as with the clerk of the anchor committee for that Friend.

- On completion of the period of travel, the Friend who traveled will provide a written report of the travel for his/her anchor committee. Subsequently, a report of the travel will be submitted to the Committee for Nurturing Ministries by the anchor committee.
- Within a mutually agreed upon period of time and after receiving the report, the working group member who has served as contact for the traveling Friend, the clerk of the anchor committee and the Friend traveling in the ministry will confer together for the purpose of review and assessment of the travel experience.

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