

## Stewardship Committee Annual Report 2018

Stewardship committee was spun off of Finance Committee in 2013 to relieve Finance of responsibility for raising money. Since that time Stewardship Committee has taken responsibility for raising contributions from members and attenders to help us meet our annual budget (much of our fundraising budget is met with regular contributions sent on a monthly basis to our meeting through the Yearly Meeting and some comes from contributions made which are not linked to our annual appeals). We have encouraged contributions by writing and circulating two appeals during the fiscal year. The first appeal is circulated around Thanksgiving in order to encourage calendar year end contributions, and the second is circulated around the last week in May to encourage contributions at the end of our fiscal year (June 30th). We also want to do more to encourage members and attenders to consider bequests to the meeting. In addition Stewardship may be asked to raise money for specific meeting wide projects, such as the solar panels, for which we completed raising money in 2017.

This fiscal year we have followed our normal procedure of writing producing and circulating a fund appeal to our membership and attenders around Thanksgiving, with the plan to circulate another appeal around the last week in May. Last fiscal year was a difficult time for us since we approached the end of the fiscal year still needing \$57,000 to meet our budget. We raised the money thanks to the enthusiastic response of the meeting, but our concern is that we are unlikely to be able to raise our budget year after year if we have to claim desperation at the end of each fiscal year.

This year we seem to be doing better, but not much better, so we will once again have to bring a great deal of income in as we move into the Summer of 2018. Last year in order to meet the budget, in addition to our appeal letter, we had to email members and attenders who had not given that fiscal year. This year while we hope to avoid having to do so, we may need to email and perhaps even telephone those who have not given as the fiscal year draws to a close.

We remain open to taking on an additional special project such as the solar panels should the meeting ask us to do so, but we would caution that we need to be confident that we can raise the meeting budget, before we take on additional fundraising projects.

Jon Landau