

# People Care Committee's Proposal to Support Visiting Among Friends May 19, 2021

As Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends continues to consider our purpose and calling, communication and relationship-building are more important than ever in discerning how Christ is leading us to be and what we are called to do. The purpose of this proposal is to develop a program through the People Care Committee to encourage and support those in SCYMF who are led by the Spirit to build connections through travel to other churches, particularly other SCYMF member churches or former NWYM meetings which are now independent.

Early Friends called this “traveling in the ministry.”

Those who travel deepen their spiritual gifts by sharing them and learn from those they visit. Those who are visited are strengthened by the presence and encouragement they receive. We know that it is the Spirit who issues the call to those willing to respond.

## **Overall purpose of this program:**

- Encourage community-building among SCYMF meetings
- Enable Friends to follow leadings (readings on leadings will be attached)
- Facilitate visitation to isolated Friends

## **People Care's role will be to:**

- Help Friends discern the specifics of their calling to traveling ministry
- Remove – to the extent possible – financial and logistical obstacles to responding to this calling
- Undergird those called to this ministry with prayer while they travel and post-visit reflection after they return

The People Care Committee is strongly committed to Quaker discernment. The application, required of all applicants, will help lead the applicant through the discernment process. Concerns to be explored may include who they will visit or spiritual gifts they are led to exercise. Other aspects are whether the person is traveling as a representative of SCYMF and whether a traveling minute is appropriate.

Applicants will be asked to submit a report when they return, with the intention of sharing their experience with the yearly meeting and to encourage others to consider whether they are being led to travel in the ministry. Reports may be in the form of a video, a blog post, a workshop or other creative options.

Friends who are called to the traveling ministry offer resources such as time, gifts of encouragement, and prophecy, but they may have limited financial resources. If funds are requested, the applicant must submit detailed information about how much financial help they need; other sources of help they have sought; how the funds will be spent. Reimbursement of these expenses will be handled by the Finance Committee according to established procedures.

In general, travel should be to minister to Friends meetings. Visits to individuals, if uniquely warranted, will be considered on a case by case basis by People Care.

### ***Application Review and Approval***

The People Care Committee, on behalf of SCYMF, will serve as the reviewing group for all applications. If members of the committee are unavailable to review applications in a timely manner, the committee will be responsible for delegating parts of the review process to others. People Care will ensure that anyone called upon to help review applications is familiar with the application process and requirements.

A link to the application will be available on the SCYMF website. Applicants will be able to complete the application online and submit it automatically to the reviewing group, together with attachments (such as clearness committee recommendations, proposed expenses, Traveling Minutes, etc.).

### ***Other types of travel by Friends***

This proposal does not include support for travel to nonprofit organizations or their gatherings, workshops, events, etc.

However, we know that Friends often follow leadings to connect with other Friends when traveling for personal reasons or to attend gatherings such as FCNL, FWCC, etc.

Friends who are traveling for these reasons might be led to include visits to individuals and meetings as part of their travel. Wonderful connections and support result from such visits.

People Care is eager to support these Friends in several ways:

- We want to know about upcoming visits so we can pray for them.
- We invite them to share their stories with us and SCYMF.
- We want to know who they visited, so we can help those connections grow through other visits.
- We will offer them a traveling minute, when appropriate, if they request it.