

FWCC Young Adult Friends Development Fund Case Statement

(Approved by the CEC April 2018; Evolving from the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage)

This paper summarises the deliberations on this topic during the FWCC Central Executive Committee held at Lake Kivu, Rwanda, from 2nd to 7th April 2017.

Future pilgrimages will differ substantially from those organised in the past in two key respects:

1. The target age group will be Young Adult Friends – 18 years + (up to 21, 25, 30 or 35 depending on programme and circumstances).
2. Programmes will not be limited to the Europe & Middle East Section and Section of the Americas, but could involve any of the four FWCC Sections, individually or in partnerships of two, three or all four.

The principal aim of pilgrimages will be to strengthen Quaker identity by offering opportunities to explore Quaker roots, history and heritage in many contexts, and to enable Young Adult Friends to experience deep spiritual fellowship at international level, across different branches of the Quaker family, or across different variations of the same branch.

The objectives of the programmes are:

1. Deepening the religious experience of participants by challenging them to engage outside their known Quaker environments and appreciating different Quaker cultures.
2. Training in Quaker processes and practice of taking on Quaker leadership roles – pastoral care, eldership, clerkship, etc.
3. Sustaining and building community, fostering authentic friendships among participants. Encouraging Young Adult Friends to organise events that give them time to bond.
4. Exploring theological differences that make up Quaker diversity. Encouraging engagement in formulating and articulating the evolving expression of Quaker faith for a new generation of Friends.
5. Encouraging participation in the leadership of the home meeting/church and strengthening the impact of Young Adult Friends' voices in their communities.

The Central Executive Committee believes that it is not possible to design one programme that will meet the very diverse needs of Young Adult Friends in each Section. It is therefore inviting Sections, Young Adult Friends networks and other Quaker bodies to bring forward proposals for events, projects or programmes that will fit the criteria and meet the objectives set out above. CEC wants to encourage flexibility and experimentation, and it is hoped that, in time, regular programmes may emerge that will become as well-established and memorable as traditional Quaker Youth Pilgrimages were in the past.

We'll expect that attention will be given in any proposal to language interpretation and other cross-cultural needs. Financial support can be made available from legacy funds

currently held by Europe & Middle East Section and Section of the Americas (once their respective Executive Committees have agreed to open the use of the funds for all Friends across the world), to a maximum of £7,000 per proposal. There will be an expectation, however, that a substantial proportion of the costs (at least 50%) of any proposal will be met by participants with the support of their yearly meetings/churches, and any longer term programmes will be self-funding after an initial set up phase.

Where a programme is designed to serve a small number of Young Adult Friends, perhaps for the purposes of intense leadership training, information will need to be provided about recruitment and selection criteria.

Help, support and encouragement will be given to the development of proposals. There will be an expectation that evaluations and reflections on the outcome of any event supported by FWCC will be made available **after** an event, project or programme has been completed.