

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas Assistance for Travel in the Ministry

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas offers financial assistance for Friends to follow leadings to travel in the ministry in ways that bridge yearly meeting boundaries, theological differences, varieties of worship style, and differences in language and culture.

Who may apply?

Applications are invited from members of meetings of the Religious Society of Friends in the Section of the Americas.

What do the funds cover?

Funds pay the actual costs of travel only.

What is the source of the financial assistance?

There are currently two sources of financial assistance:

- A bequest from Canadian Friend Susan Bax to assist women to travel in the ministry.

- A grant from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Chase Granting Group during FWCC's 2005-2008 fundraising campaign.

How do I test whether my leading fits into the financial assistance guidelines?

Travel in the ministry includes both divine direction to travel for the sake of ministry and the actual spiritual ministry for which God has called a person. Historically, two things have been crucial in the determining approval to grant a traveling minute for ministry by Monthly Meetings or larger bodies of Friends. These are

- the overpowering leading of the Light and

- the nature and purpose of the specific occasion of travel.

A minute to travel in the Ministry recommends the bearer's *ministry* even more than the individual. A minute for traveling ministry also suggests that a careful and thorough process has been followed by the meeting to discern the clarity of the divine call, the person's history of hearing and obeying inner promptings from God, the witness the person would probably make, not only by their words but also by their silence when so led and by their actions and moral conduct. The proposed ministry, rather than the travel, is central in this. FWCC will not fund applications the primary focus of which is to attend an event.

It is usually expected that the travel in the ministry will encompass, among other activities, intentional traveling and worshiping with Friends Meetings or Churches during the trip. This can take place before, during, or after the primary activity under consideration.

Prior to application

The applicant should follow the historic process of seeking clearness from and approval of her or his local monthly meeting or church before applying to the FWCC Section of the Americas office.

How do I apply?

Care will be given to ensure funds are available each year for requests. Applications should reach the Section Office by March 31, June 30, September 30, or December 31, each year. The amount of the grant will be determined by the selection committee in light of other funds available and the ministry being undertaken. In general, an applicant is expected to find additional sources of funding, and will be limited to one grant per year.

Applications should include:

- 1) Full name and address of the applicant who is requesting support.
- 2) A brief personal history including the name of the Friends meeting or church in which membership is held.
- 3) A time line giving details about the trip including dates, locations, activities, and Friends Meetings and Churches to be visited.
- 4) A statement describing the applicant's spiritual leading and the discernment process undertaken before applying for support.
- 5) Letters of support and references from the Friend's monthly meeting/church, including confirmation that a clearness committee has affirmed the applicant's leading as travel in the ministry.
- 6) The reason for the request; an explanation of how the proposed travel is consistent with the concerns of FWCC, including bridging yearly meeting boundaries, theological differences, varieties of worship style, and differences in language and culture; and a statement of how the proposed travel is promoting these concerns.
- 7) The amount of the request and a budget for the travel to be undertaken as well as an indication of personal funds that will be used and the response to requests for financial support from the Friend's monthly meeting/church and yearly meeting/national church that will be applied to the ministry to be undertaken.
- 8) The expected date at which reports on the traveling ministry will be delivered to the FWCC Section office.

After the travel

After the travel is completed, two reports will be expected in a timely manner (if possible within two months.)

- A report by the applicant describing the ministry undertaken.
- A report by the applicant's local support committee. This report should include an assessment of the interaction between the applicant and the committee members, a description of the interaction with the local meeting upon returning, and a statement of the impact on the spiritual life of the applicant and of the meeting.

Applications should be sent to FWCC at Friends Center, 1506 Race Street, Philadelphia PA 19102 or submitted by email to Americas@fwccamericas.org with documents as attachments.

(Revised November 2010)