

The Stewardship & Finance Committee is reporting today on the status of the 2025 budget of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Our goal every year is to bring forward a balanced budget. Several committees, including the Camping Program Committee, the Camp Property Committee, the Development Committee and Stewardship and Finance Committee along with the staff and the Yearly Meeting Clerks have labored to try to bring forth a balanced budget.

As of right now we are presenting the 2025 budget with about a \$50,000 deficit.

The Development Committee was asked to consider an increase in the 2025 fundraising goal to cover this deficit. However, after careful consideration, based on examination of 2024 fundraising results and other relevant factors, they feel that it would not be responsible or realistic to increase the fundraising goal.

Though some cuts to the Camp Property Budget have recently been made, the Stewardship & Finance Committee agrees with staff and the Camping Committees that further cuts to the Camping Program at this time would be difficult. We have also heard from the Camping Program Committee that not enough information is available at this time to make further cuts to the camping program.

To help us overcome the 2025 deficit, the committee is making several recommendations for the Yearly Meeting to work together:

- a. We are asking committees to consider reducing their budgets by half for 2025, if possible. We note that the \$10,000 reparations payment to the Pawnee Nation for 2025 that was approved at Annual Sessions last August, will be made in full.
- b. We ask meetings to consider making a special contribution to BYM above their apportionment.
- c. We will temporarily suspend all contributions to outside organizations, to be revisited later in the year.
- d. Between now and April, depending on camp enrollment (number of campers per sliding scale tier) and the results of other efforts to reduce the deficit, camp staff will be asked to evaluate ways to reduce expenses, including staff cuts.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee and the General Secretary also recognize that BYM needs to take a serious look at the long-term financial sustainability of the camping program. It is time to re-evaluate the structure and governance of the camps (e.g., number of camps, staffing levels, programming) for the long-term. We know that this will not be easy, given how much we value our camping program, its 100+ years of service, and the power of the camping experience to transform the lives of young people.