Reparations Action Working Group (RAWG)

Report for Interim Meeting

November 11, 2023

RAWG seeks to address the harms of racism with actions that can be taken right away, even as we also work for changes that might take a long time to accomplish. Through the next year, RAWG will be asking Monthly Meetings to discern how they are led to be part of this reparative work, and to offer support for their discernment and plans. A number of Meetings are already doing interesting things, and we would like to support all Meetings to take their next steps in this work.

**Proposed Fund.** RAWG continues to explore whether it would be possible to set up a fund for retrospective and restorative justice (the potential fund has not been named yet). Such a fund would provide a way for Meetings and individuals within and beyond BYM to make financial donations to support the work of those who are addressing the harms of racism. It seems that this kind of fund might not be possible within BYM as it is now envisioned, but could be anchored in another organization and remain a fund of BYM.

This proposed fund would be very different from other initiatives within BYM, and it is important for Friends to think about what it would mean for all of us to support the formation of such a fund. The fund would not belong to RAWG but to BYM. We would be both raising funds and disbursing funds, and the goal would be, for the most part, to support people and organizations beyond the Yearly Meeting and beyond the Quaker world. Very simply, we can accomplish more if we put our resources together. And more - this could be an important public faith witness about Friends testimonies of equality and peace, as well a witness to our faith to work with hope for peace and healing even when the task is huge.

**Request for a donation to the national movement of memorialize lynchings in our country.** We would like to ask that BYM make a substantial donation, of at least $2,000, to the Equal Justice Initiative (EIJ) in Montgomery, Alabama that supports the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the US’s museum to memorialize our history of lynching. The EIJ also supports the establishment of memorials in each state where lynchings occurred.

**To-do’s for Monthly Meetings.** RAWG will be asking Monthly Meetings to make donations to their state lynching memorial fund, and if their state does not have one, to an organization that focuses on truthtelling about the US’s history of racism. We will also ask Meetings to look at the donations they give to their communities and consider whether enough funds are going to organizations that address the harms of racism and also support the leadership of African Americans and Indigenous groups. We will provide a list of organizations you might want to consider giving to. All of this is meant to help all of us think about how to focus more of our resources on addressing the harms of racism.

**Other things for Monthly Meetings.** Please watch for communications from us later in November. In addition to providing a list of organizations to support financially, we will also suggest non-financial ways people can work for reparative justice. And we will provide a list of resources for Meetings who want to consider more deeply retrospective and reparative justice.

**Watch for upcoming events.** Please look for announcements at the end of November, and put them on their calendars. By learning together, we can find our way as a community to address harms of racism among Friends and in the wider world together.

**Would you like to join our meetings? Would you like to receive information from us? Do you ideas or resources to share**? If yes, please send a message to reparations@bym-rsf.org or to friendmarcy@gmail.com