



Friends of Ramallah Friends Meeting (Quakers)

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RAMALLAH FRIENDS MEETING

June 9, 2020

Dear Friends,

The world-wide pandemic brings into sharp relief our interconnectedness as world citizens and the reality that everywhere in our world, those who are economically and socially marginalized including much of Palestine, are bearing the greatest consequences. In this time Ramallah Friends Meeting (RFM) and Friends of Ramallah Friends Meeting (Quakers) (FRFMQ) have also had the ministries of the meeting as we have known them over the past 15 to 20 years come into sharper focus. We have to ask, “*What is and is not possible in the continuing reality of the occupation of Palestine?*”

We have celebrated the core ministries—those that have demonstrated their vitality and sustainability over time. These ministries have been described well by Maia Carter Hallward, Friend, and Professor of Middle East Politics in the School of Conflict Management, Peacebuilding and Development at Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

Although a very small meeting, the Ramallah Friends Meeting has continued to play a critical role in supporting those working for peace and justice in the region, expanding the conception of peace and justice work to one that includes a ministry of presence and a space for nurturing and connecting visitors engaged in short—or long-term peace and justice activities. Through its ministry of hospitality for Quakers and fellow travelers working in the region, as well as through providing meeting space for groups working for a better future, the meeting has secondary and tertiary impacts beyond the individuals who physically walk through its doors.¹

Over the past two decades, there has been commitment and work to expand the core ministries of the Meeting including having a full time Program Coordinator from 2006 to 2012, investing considerable time and resources into what became a failed effort to welcome the Amari Play Center back home and under the care of the Meeting, and most recently, the wonderful work of Mai Zaru in bringing her gift and ministry of teaching to special needs children and adults in Ramallah and the surrounding villages. Mai’s ministry was featured in our fall 2019 Appeal Letter and can be found at www.rfmq.org. Mai will be returning to the U.S. this summer to take up Ph.D. studies in special education; while sad to see this ministry in Ramallah come to an end, we wish Mai the very best in this next step.

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¹ Quaker Religious Thought, Vol. 127, art. 3, “*The Ramallah Friends Meeting: Examining 100 Years of Peace and Justice Work*”, by Maia Carter Hallward, taken from a longer article in Quaker Studies, Vol. 18. See also <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/qrt/vol127/iss1/3/>.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Saleem Zaru

Middle East Yearly Meeting
Clerk, Ramallah Friends Meeting

Arlene Kelly

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Clerk, Steering Committee

Leila Barclay

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Treasurer of Steering Committee

Sa’ed Atshan

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Derek Brett

Switzerland Yearly Meeting

Jan Caspers

German Yearly Meeting

Deborah First

New York Yearly Meeting

Jean Zaru

Middle East Yearly Meeting

Each of these efforts to expand beyond the core ministries has had success in its own way. Nevertheless, we have come to the awareness that the totality of the current Palestinian reality precludes, for us, the possibility of such expansion in any sustainable way.

This awareness has led to decisions regarding our fund raising efforts going forward. We are suspending fundraising until the way is clear that we can make fruitful use of funds we receive. We share the attached financial report which leads us to the conclusion that FRFMQ and RFM have sufficient resources on hand to both sustain the meeting and its core ministries, as well as having reserves for extraordinary needs on the part of RFM and/or the way opening for new initiatives.

What is it to which we are committed going forward? RFM and FRFMQ remain committed to our working partnership, ensuring that the Meeting and its core ministries receive the support needed. While we are presently not seeking to develop ministries beyond those named as 'core', we remain open to opportunities that may arise. Such opportunities would be funded first from current reserves and then, as needed, renewed fund raising.

Gifts from those wishing to contribute to the basic upkeep and maintenance of the Meeting will be gratefully received. We will maintain and keep current, to whatever degree is possible, the RFM website while continuing to provide updates via letters to you. As we look, wait and work for way to open, we encourage all friends of Ramallah Friends Meeting to hold Palestine in heart and mind as Palestinians wait as well for the way to open for a just and lasting peace.

In Peace,



Saleem F. Zaru
Clerk, Ramallah Friends Meeting



Arlene Kelly, Clerk
Friends of Ramallah Friends Meeting (Quakers)

FRIENDS OF RAMALLAH FRIENDS MEETING (Quakers) FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 19 (1/1/19 – 12/31/19)

<u>I. INCOME</u>	<u>U.S. 2019 ACTUAL</u>	<u>RAMALLAH 2019 ACTUAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1. U.S. Meetings	\$6,230		\$6,230
2. U.S Individuals	\$14,121	200	\$14,321
3. European Meetings		\$525	\$525
4. European Individuals		\$800	\$800
5. Other		\$502	\$502
6. Grant Income (Radley Trust and EMES)	\$2,045		\$2,045
6. Friends Fiduciary Corp Distribution	<u>\$5,226</u>		<u>\$5,226</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$27,622</u>	<u>\$2,027</u>	<u>\$29,649</u>

<u>II. EXPENSES</u>		<u>RAMALLAH 2019 ACTUAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
A. <u>Mtg. House Maintenance</u>			
1. Support & Maintenance Personnel		\$1,856	\$1,856
2. Upkeep & Utilities		\$1,822	<u>\$1,822</u>
			Subtotal: \$3,678

<u>B. Ministry Related Expenses</u>	<u>U.S. 2019 ACTUAL</u>	<u>RAMALLAH 2019 ACTUAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Administrative Assistants	\$2,300	\$9,249	\$11,549
Coordinator of Communications & Outreach		\$1,120	\$1,120
Ministry of Hospitality		\$3,000	\$3,000
Outreach & Program Coordinator		\$9,085	\$9,085
Program Supplies		\$166	\$166
Administrative Expenses	\$2,522	\$907	<u>\$3,429</u>
			Subtotal: \$28,349

<u>III. SUMMARY</u>		
FY 2019 Total Income	\$29,649	
FY 2019 Total Expenses	<u>\$32,027</u>	
Balance	(\$2,378)	

**FRIENDS OF RAMALLAH FRIENDS MEETING (Quakers) – BALANCE SHEET
May 31, 2020**

I.	<u>Checking/Savings</u>	
	Ramallah Cash	\$7,885
	Wells Fargo Checking	\$4,362
	Wells Fargo Savings	<u>\$9,593</u>
	Total:	\$21,840
II.	<u>Friends Fiduciary Corporation</u>	<u>Market Value 5/31/20</u>
	Quaker Growth and Income Fund	\$143,869.36
	Short Term Fund	<u>\$32,692.66</u>
	Total:	\$176,562.02
	 Total Funds	 \$198,402.02
III.	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	
	Radley Trust	- 0 -
IV.	<u>Designated Funds</u>	
	Major Meetinghouse Repair (Capital Fund)	\$80,000
	Total Restricted/Designated Funds	\$80,000
V.	<u>Funds Available for Operating Expenses and Program Development</u>	
	 Total Assets	 \$198,402.02
	Total Restricted/Designated Funds	<u>-\$80,000.00</u>
		\$118,402.02