

Pay as Led Process Report to 2017 NYYM Fall Sessions

Dear friends:

At our 2017 NYYM Summer Sessions, the yearly meeting approved the following minute,

2017-07-49. Friends approved working toward becoming one body, in part through the spiritual exercise of Pay as Led.

We will leave to the subcommittee the details of implementation (technical, procedural, additional volunteer or paid assistance, eligibility).

We understand that if we cannot have a detailed plan by Fall Sessions, we are unlikely to be able to implement by 2018 and encourage the subcommittee to continue its work.

We now stand before you to say that we cannot in good conscience push forward a Pay as Led process for our 2018 Summer Sessions. There are two “stops” that require more research and discernment than we have time for between now and what would need to be the start of the 2018 Summer Sessions registration.

First, we discussed the Pay as Led concept with Silver Bay Association, because we have a contract with them for 2018, and they were very clear that this change would require that we become a “master bill” entity. Currently, to state the process simply, we register with NYYM to attend Summer Sessions, and NYYM then transfers our registrations to SBA, which collects our room deposit and subsequent payment for our stay. Individuals are therefore responsible for their own bill. As we know, many receive assistance from JYM, the Equalization Fund, Sessions Committee (plenary speaker, etc.) or another committee, and or their Monthly Meeting. However, with a Pay as Led process, the Yearly Meeting is taking the responsibility of ensuring that bills are paid. Individuals may still receive assistance from the options listed above, may pay 100% of their stay and may pay more than 100% of their stay, but the bottom line is – New York Yearly Meeting will make sure Silver Bay Association is paid in full, not individuals. This basic shift in responsibility changes our status with SBA from individual registrations that they collect to a “master bill” – meaning WE are required to receive, process, and ultimately pay for all the registrations, once the dust settles on the various options of payment levels included in a Pay as Led process.

Given this first complication, we started looking into registration software and found that implementing the software for such a complex upgrade to our registration flow also necessitates a complex upgrade to our entire NYYM electronic system. Sessions Committee did not realize that the two would have to be integrated smoothly – Pay as Led cannot simply be an add-on or side process to our main database functions. Having discovered this interconnectedness, the YM staff and the NYYM Communications Committee are now understandably very interested in our intentions. It is therefore prudent to step back a little, widen the Pay as Led Ad Hoc Subcommittee membership and resource persons, and take the proper amount of time needed to ensure we do this right and don't break anything on the way!

While implementing Pay as Led is more complex than we expected, we anticipate solutions and resolutions will be found in time to put Pay as Led in place for our 2019 Summer Sessions.

We regret this delay very much, but for 2018, we encourage friends to keep the Equalization Fund firmly in mind, since it is already in place helping members of our community attend our sessions. Friends can make donations to the EQ at any time – there is no need to wait until you register to attend a YM session! Just go online and click on “Donate” and note that your donation is for the Equalization Fund. Also, for 2018, Sessions Committee is revising the policies for the Equalization Fund making it more “user friendly” – look for an announcement on those changes in our January Spark.

Finally, we thank the folks who offered to be part of the Pay as Led Focus Group – and as soon as we figure out something to focus on, we will contact you!

Doug Way, clerk, Pay as Led Ad Hoc Subcommittee
Melanie-Claire Mallison, clerk, Sessions Committee
Steve Mohlke, NYYM General Secretary

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