

Alternate Sites Report from Sessions Committee for 2016 NYYM Summer Sessions
Summary by Melanie-Claire Mallison (MCM), Sessions Committee Clerk

Dear friends:

Sessions Committee has been actively researching new Summer Sessions sites for over six years now (over twenty years, depending on who you talk to...). Below is a list of the venues most recently contacted and the results of the contact. Our philosophy has been to contact venues that are centrally located in the NYYM area, since many feel that Silver Bay is too far afield, and of course, to find a venue that will be significantly cheaper than Silver Bay Association (there is no sense in relocating if the savings per person is less than \$50), but most critically — any new venue must have room for as many participants as we normally have, plus some, since we assume that a less expensive and more centrally located venue will attract more participation, and there is certainly no sense pursuing a new venue that cannot accommodate the number of current participants! If you know of a venue we should look into, we encourage you to leave a note for Melanie-Claire Mallison on the YM Message Board.

Thank you!

CONTACTED:

Binghamton University; Too busy in the summer for another conference in July.

Castleton University (Castleton, VT 05735); Currently used by New England Yearly Meeting for their summer sessions. Received a proposal for ~ \$560.00 per person, double occupancy dorm rooms, all shared bathrooms and about half of those rooms are NOT accessible. Not enough savings to relocate to a venue even further away than Silver Bay for the vast majority of NYYM Friends.

Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center (Moravia, New York 13118); “Sorry, we cannot accommodate 600 at one site, one of our camps could provide more than 150 beds without some bunk-style lodging.”

Hamilton College (Clinton, NY 13323); Contacted. No response yet...

Hofstra University (Hempstead, NY 11549-1000); Sent a proposal that is generally interesting for housing and meals (~\$420 for the week), but meeting rooms are \$450-\$1,650 per day, which adds up fast considering the number of meeting rooms we require. (See “NYYM Summer Sessions Needs” request below.)

Ithaca College; Never returned MCM’s email, and she hasn’t had time to follow up.

Keuka College (Keuka Park, New York 14478); Can only house 300 guests.

Le Moyne College (Syracuse, NY 13214); Suggested dates for 2019 and was told “We do not book out external clients that far in advance, a year at the most, and unfortunately, we do not have accommodations for a group that size, since our dormitories are mainly reserved in the summer for sports camps.”

Niagara University (near Niagara Falls, NY 14109); Not at all centrally located, but by far the most viable alternate site — has the spaces needed, the time on their summer calendar, and reasonable pricing. **Sessions Committee encourages f/Friends to attend the 2017 FGC Gathering at Niagara University and keep NYYM Summer Sessions in mind as they participate and use the campus.**

Onondaga Community College (Syracuse, NY); Largest auditorium only seats 150 people. Dining hall only seats 200. Larger spaces (gymnasiums) are on campus, but already in use all summer by OCC Summer Programs.

SUNY Cortland; Too busy in the summer for another conference in July.

SUNY New Paltz; Contacted. No response yet....

SUNY Oneonta; Never returned MCM's email, and she hasn't had time to follow up.

Syracuse University; Only supports conferences that are hosted by a university department or office.

Utica College; Too busy in the summer for another conference in July.

Vassar College; Too busy in the summer for another conference in July.

Visit Syracuse; Recommended the Syracuse Convention Center. Cost for the center itself (meeting spaces and meals) would be ~ \$215 per person, but [a] this is the most basic of services they provide and we haven't checked on vegan and vegetarian options, [b] this does not include overnight accommodations, so everyone would have to arrange a place to stay for the week, with help from Sessions, of course, and [c] the Center is in the middle of downtown Syracuse, so there is no green space anywhere close by — JYM for instance would have to be bussed to parks, and NYYM would have to provide a great deal more oversight (we can't just let all the youth loose on Syracuse at noon like we currently do at Silver Bay).

Wagner College (Staten Island, NY 10301); NYYM Summer Sessions is too large to fit; "We are a small residential college located on a 105 acre wooded campus in Staten Island, New York." (MCM Notes: So I inquired about Spring/Fall Sessions.)

SUGGESTED, BUT NOT YET CONTACTED:

Adelphi University (Garden City, NY 11530-0701)

CW Post Campus/Long Island University (Brookville, New York 11548)

Nyack College (Nyack, NY 10960)

Purchase College (Purchase, NY 10577)

St. John's University (Queens, New York 11439)

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie-Claire Mallison
Clerk, Sessions Committee