

**SESSIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Saturday, October 21, 2017**  
**Purchase Meetinghouse**

**PRESENT:** Jeffrey Aaron, Lucinda Antrim, Cheshire Frager, Martha Gurvich, Linda Houser, Sunfire Kazmayer, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Steve Mohlke, Doug Way, Deb Wood

**VISTORS:** Laura Cisar, John Cooley

201710-01. The meeting opened with a period of worship. Clerk Melanie-Claire Mallison read these inspiring quotations from Spring Sessions 2016.

Union with the Holy  
Creates unity with the community  
Which creates openings  
For finding Union  
With the Holy  
*Anita Paul*

God, what do you ask of us?  
Neighbor, what do you need of us?  
*Cheshire Frager*

Friends then checked in with name, meeting and how they were feeling.

201710-02. Regrets were received from Sylke Jackson, Dawn Pozzi and Helen Garay Toppins.

201710-03. Clerk reported that our 2018 budget request of \$20,000 had been approved at Budget Saturday. The last year of our contract with Silver Bay for Summer Sessions is 2018, so we will need to find a venue for Summer Sessions after that. She reviewed the locations for Spring and Fall Sessions for the next two years. Friends approved a donation of \$500 to Friends Academy scholarship funds as a *thank you* for using their facilities for Spring Sessions 2017.

201710-04. Over email, Melanie-Claire had distributed the Equalization Fund Process Minutes, draft 2017 October. She reminded Sessions that we are responsible for proper use of the Equalization Fund. Laura said that a form needs to be created for those who wish to request funding so there is a record of those requests. John reported that the amount contributed to the Equalization Fund for Fall and Spring Sessions has been more than ample to cover the requests. For Summer Sessions, the amount donated is supported by the ten complimentary stays in the Inn from Silver Bay, so that fund has also had a surplus. John also asked that as part of the official record for each NYYM Session, Sessions Committee minute the number of people assisted, the range of grants, and the start and end balance of the Equalization Fund.

We then discussed the current practice of requiring folks to approach their Meeting for funds before or concurrent with asking for EQ funds. There are several complications to this requirement, most especially the oft-stated humiliation of having to ask for money from a Meeting that someone may not actually attend due to time, distance, family responsibilities, etc. Friends approved having Helen Garay Toppins, Associate Secretary, and Melanie-Claire bring a proposal to our meeting at Fall Sessions revising our monthly meeting involvement in Equalization Fund requests.

Friends approved asking the Sessions Finance Subcommittee to consider these and other changes to the Equalization Fund Process Minutes, and bring the updates to the Sessions meeting at Fall Sessions.

201710-05. On behalf of the Summer Sessions Subcommittee, Melanie-Claire reported that we had received 64 responses to the Summer Sessions 2017 evaluation. Friends generally seemed to have enjoyed Summer Sessions. Most had heard about the Pay as Led (PAL) proposal, and 18 Friends had agreed to serve on a focus group to evaluate PAL. Those who indicated they would pay more for PAL and those who would pay less were about equal.

Melanie-Claire noted that for our 2017 Summer Sessions “thank you” to Silver Bay staff, she donated the following books to the Silver Bay library from the Mosher Book Table: “The Amazing Fact of Quaker Worship” by George Humphrey Gorman; “Miracle Motors: A Pert Near True Story Paperback” by Peggy Senger Morrison; “Friend” (the biography of either George Fox or John Woolman, it isn’t noted); the total cost of all three books was just over \$45.

201710-06. Friends approved the October 19, 2017 draft of the 2018 WAAG with the change of splitting the two-hour Interest Groups in each of the evening time slots into two one-hour slots, increasing the option to hold a one-hour interest group OR a two-hour. The revised WAAG is attached.

201710-07. Melanie-Claire recommended that the 2018 Summer Sessions theme be on Right Sharing of World Resources to compliment the Pay as Led process. Friends approved this general theme, and asked Summer Program Subcommittee to propose wording for that theme for sharing with the Yearly Meeting at Fall Sessions.

201710-08. Friends approved inviting Jacqueline Stillwell, General Secretary of RSWR, as our plenary speaker. NYYM RSWR has generously offered to pay Jackie’s expenses to attend. In light of that generosity, Friends further approved inviting Rachel Madenyika to share plenary responsibilities with Jackie. Sessions Committee will cover Rachel’s room and board (and possibly some travel reimbursement). The Summer Sessions Subcommittee will work with Mary Eagleson, NYYM RSWR representative, on these invitations and subsequent planning.

201710-09. The Clerk said that the job of editor of Quaker Update at Summer Sessions needs a job description and a place to “live” so that the editor is in place for each Summer Sessions. Friends approved giving Steve Mohlke time to work with NYYM Personnel

Committee to see if our YM Communications staff person could and or should do this job, at least at Summer Sessions 2018.

201710-10. Doug summarized the Pay as Led Process recommendations previously distributed to the committee. Discussion followed. One concern expressed was that the proposed manual system for registrations and Pay as Led calculations could easily break down at several points.

As we explored the complexity of options, Friends approved bringing to Fall Sessions a request to hold off on implementing PAL until our 2019 Summer Sessions. The Pay as Led Ad Hoc Group will draft a report ASAP to be included in the Advance Documents for Fall Sessions, attached.

201710-11. Friends approved having Spring & Fall Sessions registration fees be designated as a **contribution** to cover expenses rather than a set fee, so that registrants can contribute what they are able to or led to towards the cost of the session. The Spring Fall Coordinator will bring a working proposal to the meeting at Fall Sessions.

201710-12. The minutes were approved with an understanding that some would need refinement. The meeting closed with silent reflection.

Melanie-Claire Mallison  
Clerk

Deb Wood  
Recording Clerk