

SESSIONS COMMITTEE
NYYM Spring Sessions at Oakwood Friends School
Sunday, April 7, 2019

PRESENT: Jeffrey Aaron, Cheshire Frager, Elaine Learnard, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Steve Mohlke, Susan Stillman, Doug Way, Deb Wood

PHONE: Martha Gurvich, Ann Nunes, Dawn Pozzi

REGRETS: Robin Mullaney, Miriam McGiver, Helen Garay Toppins

1. The meeting opened with thoughts and prayers for technology. Friends introduced themselves and told why they were glad that Spring Sessions was over.
2. **MASTER BILLING/PAY AS LED (PaL):** Steve reported that registration for Summer Sessions began in January, and 250 people have registered so far. Room assignments need to be made, primarily by Bronwyn Mohlke, Helen Garay Toppins, and Walter Naegle. When payments are made, a history of what has already been paid, what is for room and board, and what is for contributions to PaL, needs to be available. About 25% of those who have registered have already paid. 27 young adults have registered so far. Steve characterized the process with “cautious early optimism.” Doug added that the data coming in is being organized in useful ways. Cheshire stated that the dates for registration were confusing, and that needs to be corrected for next year. In the first email she received after registering, the total payment amount that she had agreed to was not stated. Steve said that would come in the next email, with information about how to make changes if necessary. Dawn agreed to send the JYM breakdown of grades to Steve and Doug.
3. **CLERK REPORTS:**
 - a. the current assistant clerk of Sessions, Cheshire Frager, has requested release from service as assistant clerk but not from membership on the committee. Friends received the request.
 - b. Martha Gurvich has agreed to serve as assistant clerk from now until Summer Sessions 2019. Friends approved. Cheshire raised a concern about succession planning for a new clerk of Sessions. Melanie-Claire said she had spoken with the Internal Nominating Committee about finding at least one at-large member who could step in as assistant clerk with the assumption of becoming clerk when Melanie-Claire’s term is up at the end of July 2020.
 - c. Melanie-Claire offered to answer the Accountability Queries with Martha, send the draft to the committee for comments, and then forward them to GSCC. Friends approved this plan.
 - d. The committee approved having Melanie-Claire and JYM members create a draft of the Advance Report by the end of April, and distribute it to the committee for changes before submission to NYYM.
 - e. Melanie-Claire reminded Friends that Jillian Smith had created Whisper Buddies several years ago, and is now ready to give up coordinating that responsibility.

Regina Haag has agreed to coordinate the program this summer, and is looking for a young adult to work with her. The Committee approved adding this program to the list of coordinators for Summer Sessions. For Spring and Fall Sessions, the host committee would be responsible for Whisper Buddies as part of the youth program. f. MC reported that she had sent out the WAAG for 2019 Summer Sessions. The WAAG was the same as last year with a few additions. She added an orientation session for new attenders at 2:30p on Sunday afternoon. During Wednesday evening dinner, Coordinating Committees would have a joint meeting either in the Boardroom or Gullen Lounge. Friends approved the WAAG for 2019 Summer Sessions. Melanie-Claire and the new assistant clerk will need to decide about additional lunch meetings for Sessions Committee because of no Sessions Meeting Sunday afternoon.

4. BUDGET REQUEST 2020: Melanie-Claire said that Sessions 2020 budget request will depend upon the experience with PaL. This discussion will be held during Summer Sessions.
5. CIRCLE OF CARE AND CONCERN (CCC): MC reminded Friends that the Circle of Care and Concern had been established in 2015, and that Sessions is charged with appointing two members. Other members need to be appointed, but what body would do this is not included in the regulating document. Friends approved adding to [section/page] that GSCC would name the members of Abuse Investigation Team (AIT) by a certain date. In addition, in the current statement of CART (Community Agreement Response Team), their purpose is not clear and precise, specifically whether the Committee on Conflict Transformation or CART handles which concerns. Melanie-Claire and Cheshire Frager agreed to develop appropriate wording for Summer Sessions 2019.
6. WRITTEN POLICY FOR SCHEDULING DURING NYYM SUMMER SESSIONS: Melanie-Claire reminded us that back in October she was copied in on a request from an individual who wanted to hold a workshop during committee or coordinating committee time at Summer Sessions. This was the impetus for codifying the policies for what Sessions Committee will or will not officially schedule during YM sessions. Not just Sessions Committee though. We must codify what anyone may or may not arrange during YM sessions. (Note that the Rest & Relaxation policy, below, was approved previously July 2018). MC distributed copies of a color-coded 2019 WAAG and we talked our way through all the events.

Business meetings, plenary speaker(s) presentation, worship (Opening Worship, Worship Sharing, Community Worship, and Closing Worship), and Café Night are all considered NYYM-wide events. Other than Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM), nothing will be officially or unofficially scheduled during those times. In addition, nothing other than JYM will be officially or unofficially scheduled during the primary sections of Meeting for Discernment (M4D). Sessions Committee does schedule Interest Groups during the evening M4D Reflection, but this is with the approval of the M4D Steering Committee. During committee and coordinating committee meeting times, Sessions

Committee will not officially schedule anything in conflict. Sessions does not currently schedule anything else during Bible Study. Finally, Sessions Committee has a long-held agreement with Junior Yearly Meeting to not officially or unofficially schedule anything at the same time as Café Night, hence its inclusion with the list of NYYM-wide events.

The previous paragraph constitutes the scheduling policies for Sessions Committee. Friends approved.

The only question is Bible Study -- Melanie-Claire will consult with MCC to see if that policy needs to continue.

PLEASE NOTE: Keeping in mind that Friends will often do whatever they want whenever they want, Friends could work with office staff and/or the Summer Sessions Liaison to find space for unscheduled activities during any time other than NYYM-wide events – again, defined as business, plenary, worship, and Café Night. Such unscheduled activities will not be listed in the Program, but can be advertised via the Quaker Update, the Message Board, or putting up signs. Such activities cannot include mandatory attendance, nor include JYM-supported child care.

7. The minutes were approved. The meeting closed with silent reflection.

Melanie-Claire Mallison
Clerk

Deb Wood
Recording Clerk

Sessions Committee's Policy for Scheduling during Rest & Renewal Approved July 2018

Sessions Committee schedules a period of Rest and Renewal (R&R) each day while we are at Summer Sessions, so that f/Friends can decompress, take a break from committee commitments, enjoy their surroundings and enjoy family, friends and the blessed faith community around them.

To protect the concept of rest and renewal, Sessions Committee will NOT schedule during R&R any event that implies mandatory attendance (such as committee meetings) or requires childcare. Casual events CAN be scheduled and even assigned a space via the Summer Sessions Liaison or the NYYM Office at Silver Bay, but will not be listed in the Program. These events are made known through word-of-mouth, announcements either at Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business and or in the daily Quaker Update, and signs around campus. Some examples of acceptable events during R&R are: opening the Healing Center, intergenerational games or discussions, Young Adult Friends events (such as soccer games with the EMPs), Afternoon Worship Sharing, etc. Any questions as to the

appropriateness of activities to be scheduled should be addressed to the Clerk of Sessions, the Summer Sessions Liaison and/or the NYYM Associate Secretary.

On occasion, a Called Meeting of the YM has been required. Called Meetings will be scheduled at whatever time the Clerk of NYYM so chooses.

We hope that f/Friends will take this Rest & Renewal time to heart, listen to their bodies and their minds, and take care not to over-schedule themselves. The Blessed Community is best created when we put down our work and look up into the eyes of those around us.

Sessions Committee's Policy for Scheduling during NYYM Sessions Approved April 2019

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