

Report to Permanent Board  
February 6, 2020

Dear Friends,

I wanted to give you an update on the Sessions Site Search process thus far. The search committee consists of Adam Kohrman, Jonathan McCandless, Christopher Haines, Kristin Wilson, and Elizabeth Hacala.

On November 7, a subset of the Sessions Site Search Committee met by Zoom. Following introductions, we built an initial list of requirements, needs, and wants. Between meetings, Friends on the search committee ranked those criteria. We reviewed the list at our meeting on December 5 and were pleased to see we were largely in agreement about what was most critical to the success of Sessions in terms of space needs, the environment we would be in, and the culture of the school/site.

As part of the December meeting, Jonathan McCandless gave us an update of the colleges he had researched in the New Hampshire and discussed the pros and cons of each. The committee agreed to three potential sites and I am in the process of contacting each site for more detailed investigation and exploration. We considered whether or not there were sites outside of colleges and universities that might work for Sessions, but were unable to identify any other venues we thought would have the right infrastructure for Sessions.

During our January 30 meeting, we reviewed the list of sites Jonathan had identified in Maine. I am taking the shortlist from that meeting and contacting those schools as well. The committee briefly discussed Massachusetts schools and identified a few possibilities to explore further at our next meeting.

Christopher Haines and Kristin Wilson will be working with me to build a specification/request for proposal we can send to sites to give them a detailed understanding of the needs of Sessions and the Yearly Meeting. We will be modeling it off the one currently used for the Living Faith site search.

As for Sessions over the next two years, the contract extension with Castleton for 2021 and 2022 has been completed and signed. The terms of the new contract are consistent with the one we have had for the past several years.

The planning team will be meeting again at the end of February and late March. I look forward to updating you in future about our continued progress.

Respectfully Submitted  
Elizabeth Hacala  
Events Coordinator