

Celo Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business
4th Month 19th Day 2020

Minutes from online Zoom Meeting

Opening Silence

Present: David Johnson, Jennie Boyd Bull, Joyce Johnson, Jo Ann Fernald, Debra Rice, Rachel Weir, Catherine Peck, Donna Idol, Joanna Flynn, Peggy Tibbets, Brian Yaffe, Bob McGahey, Geeta McGahey, Catherine Reid, Gib Barrus, (Co-Clerk), Denny Fernald (Recording Co-Clerk).

Minutes

Minutes from 02/16/2020 were approved with following corrections:

1. Susan Horn “has joined” the Feed-a-Child Program
2. The fund referred to in the budget is called “Special Concerns,” not” Social Concerns”

Minutes for Called Meeting on SAYMA concerning Uplifting Racial Justice were **approved**. (See attached).

Minutes for the Special Called Meeting on FCNL priorities 3/1/2020 were **approved**. (See attached).

State of Meeting Report, which has been sent to SAYMA, was approved with additional notations. Friends will attempt to have these amendments passed onto SAYMA.

=The Celo Friend, traveling for unity among all Friends and carrying a specific concern for climate change, is a Special Ministry sponsored by Friends World Committee for Consultation.

=There are many new children in the Celo Meeting. Many participated in the baby blessing.

Ministry and Care Report -- Catherine Peck

Query for this Month – How can struggle and uncertainty reveal what is essential for my life in God’s Light?

Joanna Flynn’s membership to Celo Friends Meeting and the Religious Society of Friends was joyfully **approved**.

Parents are alerted that discussion of children as Associate Members will begin soon during an upcoming Meeting for Business.

A new position of “Record Keeper” was **approved** and was referred to Nominating Committee to define and recruit.

Nominating Committee Report

Job Description for Feed-a-Child was **approved** (See attached)

Finance Committee - Jo Ann Fernald**Special Concerns Fund**

Procedures are proposed for an ad hoc committee to decide to whom and how much money will be distributed from the Special Concerns Fund (see attached). These can be discussed at the next business meeting.

Revisions in the budget for 2019-2020 are proposed to cover anticipated shortages. (See attached)

Adult Education Committee - Jennie Boyd Bull

Three new groups of Friendly 8s have been formed to meet live online with Zoom.

There will be a called Meeting for Business 04/ 26/2020, to meet live online with Zoom, 9:30 to 10:30 am.

Closing Silence

Gib Barrus, Clerk

Denny Fernald, Co-Recording Clerk

Attachments

Minutes for Called Meeting on SAYMA – URJ
Minutes for Special Called Meeting on FCNL priorities
State of Meeting Report
Job Description - Feed a Child
Finance Committee April 202
Finance Committee Special Concerns Process
2019-2020 Budget Second Quarter
Financial Position 04 15 2020

Celo Friends Meeting Minute on the Uplifting Racial Justice Committee Approved 2.23.2020

Let us be enraged about injustice but let us not be destroyed by it. –Bayard Rustin

Celo Friends acknowledge that regardless of our good intentions, white Americans will never fully understand the suffering - past and present - of African Americans. We seek unity of purpose among all SAYMA Friends in the pursuit of racial justice.

Celo Friends embrace the principles of nonviolence. We cherish the statement from SAYMA's *Faith and Practice* that reads, "We recognize that violence can manifest itself in words as well as deeds. As Friends, we endeavor to bring all aspects of our lives into harmony with this testimony." And so, we have been dismayed to learn that Friends of color have experienced some meetings as unsafe places because of the words and deeds of some white Friends, and we champion the vision of the Uplifting Racial Justice (URJ) committee, which reads as follows:

SAYMA-URJ envisions a Yearly Meeting community where every Friend of color feels welcome. We see a SAYMA community where the divine Light within every Friend of color is affirmed, their unique history, spiritual journey and lived Truth is honored, where our messages and concerns are heard and respected with due consideration. We see a SAYMA community where Friends of color are empowered to build close spiritual Friendships, appreciation, love, and support for the weighty responsibilities we carry as people of color, embodying Quaker Testimonies, within and outside of the Religious Society of Friends.

After three years it does not appear that progress has been made toward the fulfillment of this vision. In fact, it has been well documented that new, rancorous divisions have opened up among white Friends, among Friends of color, and between white and African American Friends. The vision statement explicitly looks forward to empowering Friends of color within the SAYMA community. And yet we observe that SAYMA Friends of color are not participating in the URJ committee. We are particularly concerned by unloving speech and existing posts in social media containing personal attacks against Friends that are antithetical to Quaker testimonies and at odds with what SAYMA Friends envisioned when the URJ committee was formed.

We do not feel that it is useful to assign blame for these results. After reviewing the SAYMA documents addressing the formation of the URJ committee, we must all humbly acknowledge that in several aspects Friends made mistakes while forming the committee, and we believe that the only way forward is to suspend future funding for the URJ committee until there is assurance of the following:

- That the six original approved goals for the committee be revisited and, if necessary, new goals be approved by SAYMA during a meeting for worship with attention for business.
- That most of the members and attendees of the URJ committee are participants in SAYMA monthly meetings and/or worship groups and are thus guided by SAYMA's *Faith and Practice*.
- That as part of restoring a culture of respect to SAYMA, there is an end to personal attacks—both in person and online—which are antithetical to Quaker testimonies. We further ask that all such past attacks be removed from the SAYMA website.

Neither Friends of color nor white Friends have been served by releasing our collective selves from following Quaker process. Having been forged by generations of Friends, the process of waiting on God's will to direct our steps identifies us as Friends and holds us to that identity. While we may disagree with one another on many things, it is fundamental to Quaker belief that when we seek God's will, all together in worshipful silence, we will find unity of spirit.

Called Meeting for Business on FCNL Priorities, 3/1/2020

Present: Gib Barrus (clerk), Jim Stockwell, Pete Henderson, Jennie Boyd Bull, Joyce Johnson, Geeta McGahey, Catherine Reid (recorder)

1. Gib read a letter of condolence to the meeting from Diane Randall, Executive Secretary of FCNL, remembering Jenifer Morgan's work with the committee and holding us in the Light after her passing.

2. We agree to send the following priorities to FCNL as they begin organizing for the next legislative session:

- Economic and social justice issues, including health care for all; racial justice, restorative justice, and an end to mass incarceration; passage of the ERA; and advocacy of Native American concerns
- Immediate and sustainable solutions to climate change, with attention to climate justice and environmental concerns
- An immigration system that respects the rights of all refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers
- An end to nuclear weapons proliferation, while advocating for diplomacy rather than war
- Voting rights reform, campaign finance reform, truth in political advertising, and an end to gerrymandering

3. We close with silence.

We write with love for all Friends and for the world. We are living during a time when we see daily that the fruits of rancorous speech and divisive deeds are poisonous indeed. Let us be examples. Let us use the tools that we know from our own experience and from our history will help us best to discern the will of God as we struggle to correct our course and find God's way forward in our quest for racial justice.

2019 State of the Meeting Report for Celo Friends Meeting—approved, March 2020

Worshipping together in community at Celo Friends Meeting helps us to find home, faith, understanding, and energy to meet the world's challenges with love and Light. This year the Meeting has been blessed with many new attenders and young families who bring vigor and new perspectives. The following offers a few highlights from a year of spiritual and physical growth. Our First Day School Program is overflowing (in a good way) with children of all ages. We were overjoyed when a new attender with a great deal of childcare experience and experience with Friends volunteered to take on the role of coordinating all aspects of the FDS program to the great advantage of all. The First Day School Christmas play was a brilliant and hilarious rendition of "A Charlie Brown Christmas." The children reached consensus on how to spend the money raised by the performance, agreeing to send more than a thousand dollars to a fund for needy families who lost their homes on Ocracoke Island during Hurricane Dorian.

Our Nominating Committee continued to work tirelessly to help us define committee roles for our growing meeting so that we can more effectively do the work to support operations as well as the

spiritual life of the community. With guests visiting the meeting almost every Sunday, we have added a Welcoming Committee, which has compiled packets of information on Quakerism to give to interested visitors. We are never without a greeter now, which has made entering the meetinghouse even more of a joy each First Day. One Friend has taken on the production of the first CFM newsletter to be distributed in many years. A newly reorganized End-of-Life Committee has become very active in encouraging Friends to make their last wishes formally known and continues to keep us informed of the many alternatives available while taking the lead on interacting with families and organizing burials and memorial services following a death.

Last winter the Adult Religious Education Committee led a series of programs based on the Quaker Testimonies. As a basis for learning, the committee distributed copies of *Living the Quaker Way* by Philip Gulley, which, combined with thoughtful presentations by Friends and attenders, provided deep insights into the testimonies as lived. In late fall, the ARE began this winter's program based on the questions, "How Does the Truth Prosper among You?" and "What does God require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?"

Friends continue to support peace and social concerns. For the second year in a row, CFM and individual Friends have contributed substantially to bringing the World Peace Games to the South Toe Elementary School, and this year the entire Yancey County School system trained 4th and 5th grade teachers to lead their classes in the WPG yearly. WPG is a life-changing week-long process whereby school children think globally in order to solve complex world problems with the goal of world peace. Friends are also active in the greater Quaker community and in local endeavors that help unify the wider community toward peace and justice. Friends "let their lives speak" through Feed-a-Child and by supporting community organizations that help immigrants find security.

Our meeting welcomed three new members during the year. We lost our beloved Jenifer Morgan to death. A memorial service was attended by many, many members of the wider community whose lives have been touched, inspired, and enriched by Jenifer's tireless outreach. As always, our members and attenders cherish the Meeting for Worship, cherish the silence, and cherish the movement of the spirit. We are, as always, grateful to be part of a vibrant and active Meeting where we are all growing and learning together in the Light.

Feed A Child Job Description

Maintain communication with the Feed A Child program to keep up to date with the number of children served, packing schedule and additional programmatic concerns as they arise.

Purchase snacks, usually in form of fresh fruit, from a local supermarket and deliver them to the Feed-A-Child storage and packing location. This may include contacting the produce department one week in advance to place an order and negotiate a lower price.

Periodically report progress to the Friends Meeting and remind members that donations are needed to support the Meeting's purchases.

Finance Committee Report April 2020

The Finance Committee met in April to discuss several urgent issues. As a result of Corvid 19 there may be a great need for use of the Special Concerns Fund.

Special Concerns Fund- At the May 2017 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the Finance Committee recommended, and Meeting approved the development of a Special Concerns Fund to begin with a \$500 transfer from the Abrahamson Spending Account. At the time that the fund was established, no clear process was identified for how decisions would be made regarding the funds.

The purpose of the Special Concerns Fund is to help friends, attenders or community members that need financial help due to extenuating circumstances. Some of these extenuating circumstances may be of a private nature, while others may be very urgent. Since 2017 the fund, which is outside of the annual budget, has not been used and has increased through the generosity of friends. There is currently \$2,015 in the account with \$500 earmarked at the February 2020 Business Meeting to be used to help a local family seeking asylum.

Although the fund can be used to help local families or individuals, it cannot act as a “pass through” to avoid taxes. In other words, Meeting cannot decide to raise funds in the Special Concerns Fund to be given to a specific individual or family. Friends can donate to the fund but cannot earmark the money. Currently, Friends bring to Meeting for Business a request to provide support for an individual or local family. The Business Meeting is then challenged to make a decision without being able to get answers to questions that may arise. In addition, if there is a privacy issue, the friend in need may feel uncomfortable with their personal problems being discussed in an open meeting. Presently, there is no early discernment process to season the need; there is no privacy afforded the needy individual; and the process requires waiting until a Business Meeting is held. In order to ensure that Celo Friends Meeting is able to respond quickly, consistently and appropriately to a request for help, the Finance Committee recommends the following process, which has been amended from the Charlotte Friends Sufferings Fund. (see attached)

Budget- In addition to providing the second quarter CFM Budget Report that is attached, Finance Committee is also concerned with a reduction in the amount of donations and the loss of rental income. We are currently at the half year point in our budget process. The fiscal year begins October 1 and ends Sept. 31. Our budget is based on the estimated amount of income for the coming year. The rental income will be diminished for the remainder of this fiscal year and possibly for 2020-21. Finance Committee recommends considering reducing many of the budget lines for the remainder of this fiscal year and considering setting aside a portion of that income, if received, for the Special Concerns Fund.

Celo Friends Meeting Proposal for Special Concerns Fund Process (04 20200)

Background

At the May 2017 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the Finance Committee recommended, and Meeting approved the development of a Special Concerns Fund to begin with a \$500 transfer from the Abrahamson Spending Account. At the time that the fund was established, no clear process was identified for how decisions would be made regarding the funds.

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Process

Finance Committee recommends to Meeting that an Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of three Friends be used to funnel, season, and decide whether and how much support is appropriate. Two Friends should be a static part of the Ad Hoc Committee, one designated friend from Ministry and Care, and one from Finance. Requests for support should come to the designated person on Ministry and Care. That individual immediately contacts the designated person on Finance and together they identify the third member of the committee that will be most helpful. The third member of the Ad Hoc Committee would vary to match the particular need of the family or individual requesting help.

Administration

The process should protect the dignity of the individual in need. Sometimes this will involve complete confidentiality. Other times, the Friend in need, with his or her consent, will benefit from other Friends' being aware of the need for financial, emotional, and spiritual support.

The committee should have full background about the individual and family circumstance rather than a single focus on the current request. The committee will use Friendly processes such as are used with Clearness committees, to listen to the individual and discern the need in a loving, spirit-guided process, including the use of silence and prayer.

When a decision is reached, the Ad Hoc Committee Finance Committee member would ask the treasurer to cut a check for the appropriate amount and party. The information would be provided to Ministry and Care by the Ad Hoc Committee member and the information recorded into the M&C minutes which may be reported, with or without the individual's name at the next Meeting for Business.

Some Considerations

When assessing the family's need, the Ad Hoc Committee should keep in mind:

- ◆ Are there alternative resources available to the individual in the community?
- ◆ Does the individual have limited financial resources?
- ◆ The money should be paid directly to the need, i.e., landlord, electric company, etc.
- ◆ How closely is the person connected to Celo Friends Meeting?
- ◆ Are these emergency and time-limited needs? Will there be ongoing needs?
- ◆ Does the need arise from conscience-rooted leadings linked to the Quaker Testimonies?
- ◆ Does the request involve essential survival, medical, or therapeutic needs?
- ◆ Does the request represent a frugal approach with good stewardship of resources?
- ◆ Will there be desirable wide-reaching impacts and ripple effects?

Celo Friends Meeting
Budget vs. Actuals: FY 2019-20 - FY20 P&L
October 2019 - April 15, 2020 (Second Quarter +)

	Recom Amend	Total			
		Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
Revenue					
Income				0.00	
Donations				0.00	
Unrestricted -Operating	\$15,000.00	14,281.13	15,700.00	-1,418.87	90.96%
Total Donations	\$15,000.00	\$14,281.13	\$15,700.00	-\$1,418.87	90.96%
Interest	\$700.00	324.06	700.00	-375.94	46.29%
Rental & Misc Income	\$1,148.00	1,148.00	1,400.00	-252.00	82.00%
Total Income	\$16,848.00	\$15,753.19	\$17,800.00	-\$2,046.81	88.50%
Total Revenue	\$16,848.00	\$15,753.19	\$17,800.00	-\$2,046.81	88.50%
Expenditures					
Annual Donations-Community	\$1,675.00	1,400.00	1,675.00	-275.00	83.58%
Annual Donations- Quaker	\$1,460.00	690.00	1,460.00	-770.00	47.26%
Expenses		0.00		0.00	
Adult Religious Education	\$0.00		300.00	-300.00	0.00%
Advertisement/Outreach	\$75.00		75.00	-75.00	0.00%
CCI Lease and Taxes	\$225.00		225.00	-225.00	0.00%
Child Care	\$550.00	351.00	750.00	-399.00	46.80%
First Day School/Youth	\$150.00	112.60	300.00	-187.40	37.53%
Hospitality/Refreshments	\$100.00	75.78	150.00	-74.22	50.52%
House and Grounds	\$1,500.00	1,310.75	1,700.00	-389.25	77.10%
Insurance Expense	\$1,650.00		1,650.00	-1,650.00	0.00%
Library	\$120.00	68.00	120.00	-52.00	56.67%
Ministry and Care	\$150.00	110.00	150.00	-40.00	73.33%
Office Supplies	\$250.00	210.00	250.00	-40.00	84.00%
Peace and Social Concerns	\$100.00		100.00	-100.00	0.00%
SAYMA Givings	\$2,500.00	1,750.00	3,500.00	-1,750.00	50.00%
Travel and Scholarship	\$500.00		1,250.00	-1,250.00	0.00%
Welcome Committee	\$0.00		150.00	-150.00	0.00%
Utilities	\$3,300.00		3,300.00	-3,300.00	0.00%
FBEMC		419.62		419.62	
Frontier		377.96		377.96	
Propane/Kerosene		1,269.63		1,269.63	
Total Utilities	\$3,300.00	\$2,067.21	\$3,300.00	-\$1,232.79	62.64%
Total Meeting Expenses	\$11,170.00	\$6,055.34	\$13,820.00	-\$7,764.66	43.82%
Uncategorized Expenditure		154.00		154.00	
Total CFM Expenditures	\$14,305.00	\$8,299.34	\$17,105.00	-\$8,805.66	48.52%
Net Operating Revenue		-\$8,299.34	-\$17,105.00	\$8,805.66	48.52%
Net Revenue		-\$8,299.34	-\$17,105.00	\$8,805.66	48.52%

Celo Friends Meeting

Statement of Financial Position

As of April 15, 2020

	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Abrahamson Fund Principal	
Latino Credit Union 3 yr CD	12,000.00
Latino Credit Union 5 yr CD	13,000.00
Latino Credit Union- Shares	275.99
Total Abrahamson Fund Principal	\$25,275.99
CFM Reserves Self-Help CU	27.11
Reserve Fund- Money Market	
Undesignated	5,168.71
Total Self-Help Money Market	\$5,195.82
Self- Help Cert. of Deposit	170.81
Reserve Fund	5,007.61
Total Self- Help Cert. of Deposit	\$5,178.42
Total CFM Reserves	\$10,374.24
WF CFM Checking	
Abrahamson Spending Account	3,284.60
Special Concerns Fund	2,015.00
WFargo Operating Account	16,663.44
FDS Christmas Fundraiser	0.00
FDS Fundraiser	8.64
Total CFM WFargo Operating Account	\$21,971.68
SEARCH Grant	2,700.00
Special Projects WPG	1,710.30
Total WF Checking	\$26,381.98
WF CFM Special Accounts	
Capital Improvement Fund	3,184.39
Educational Enrichment Fund	4,987.29
Feed A Child	875.47
Total WF Special Accounts	\$9,047.15
Total Bank Accounts	\$71,079.36
Total Current CFM Assets	\$65,793.59
TOTAL ASSETS	\$65,793.59