

Celo Friends Meeting
Minutes from Meeting for Business
January 16, 2022

Present: Joyce Johnson, Catherine Peck (recording clerk), Joanna Flynn (clerk), Peggy Tibbits, Jennie Boyd Bull, Pana Columbus, Brian Yaffe, Barbara Wulff, Rachel Weir, Charley Cloak, Donna Idol, Bob McGahey, Geeta McGahey, David Johnson, Jo Ann Fernald, Debra Rice, Lisa Rose, Mari Ohta, Judy Scheckel, Jim Stockwell.

Friends met online via Zoom.

1. The meeting opened with a period of silence.
2. Minutes from December 19, 2021 were read. There were questions raised for later discussion but no corrections to the minutes.
3. Finance Committee:
 - JoAnn offered the following highlights and reminders from the **end-of-year report**, which was sent to Friends in December:
 - The fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 each year.
 - Some high-yield CDs have expired meaning that we are not getting as much interest.
 - Covid mitigation is not in the restricted line for last fiscal year.
 - Spending from the Abrahamson Fund (\$4,395) was for Capital improvement.
 - The year ended with more than \$73,000 in the bank, an increase of almost \$4000 from the end of the last fiscal year. \$25,000 of that is the Abrahamson fund principal, which we do not touch.
 - The unrestricted funds were \$18,000-plus.
 - Rental income was below normal levels, as expected.
 - Revenue was \$24,000.
 - Expenditures were all within range or below.
 - As we agreed, half of the \$2,900 that came in for the Feed-a-Child program was distributed to the program and the other half held for use by our meeting members who planned to buy food and distribute it. Jo Ann has a proposal for the other half of the fund, which she will present later.
 - Expend for the Save Guilford fund.
 - JoAnn offered the following highlights and reminders from the current fiscal year's **first quarter report (attached)**:
 - MfB earlier approved spending on Covid mitigation, but there was no line in the budget for it. Finance moved the approved Covid mitigation funds from the operating budget to the restricted fund so that we can more easily track expenses. When the time comes, if there is money left, we can move it back into the operating fund.
 - There is now \$520 in the Covid mitigation fund because we have spent \$2,400-plus on HEPA filters, zoom accounts for the clerks, and computer peripherals.
 - Abrahamson spending account was used for work done in cemetery.
 - The capital improvement fund was used for work done on the meetinghouse, including dry wall for ceilings, purchases, and painting.
 - There is still \$1,101 in the feed a child account because those who previously volunteered to purchase and deliver food were not able to continue because of Covid concerns.
 - Finance will begin distributing our annual donations in the coming months.

- The Clerk expressed thanks to Jo Ann.
- A discussion followed concerning the amount of money in the bank and the potential for giving more money away. This would require a revision to the budget, and Friends agree that we need to continue to consider more donations as we go forward.
- A Friend has proposed that the special concerns fund make a donation to the SECU fund that has been established for Amanda and Caitlyn Watson of Burnsville. Finance recommended a \$500 donation to the fund.

Friends approve making a donation of \$500 to the fund established at SECU for Amanda Watson and her family.

- Finance proposes that the remainder of the Feed-a-Child account (\$1,100) be immediately donated to the program since as a meeting we are not currently able to buy and distribute food. Jo Ann will need to communicate with the program leaders to let them know why they are receiving this lump sum.

Friends approve distributing the remaining \$1,100 dollars in the Feed-a-Child account to the local program.

- The clerk of the Long Term Planning committee expressed appreciation to finance for the repairs to the property and buildings. She notes in the near future the committee will be looking at a tree near Margithaus that needs to be removed. The committee also expressed appreciation to Donna Idol for her term as clerk of the Buildings and Grounds committee.

4. Adult Religious Education Committee:

- Jennie Boyd Bull reported that there are three worship sharing groups meeting monthly and about 30 Friends are involved. The groups continue to discuss Brent Bill's book.
- Announcement: Sunday Feb. 13 Brent Bill will speak with Celo Friends from 2-3:30 via Zoom. ARE is collecting questions and queries for him, and Jennie would like to receive ideas for these questions before February 6.

5. Nominating Committee:

- Nominating seeks approval of last month's proposal to add Danny Blose to the ARE committee.

Friends approve adding Danny Blose to the ARE committee.

- Nominating introduces the following proposals to fill four positions. These proposals will be up for approval in February:
 - For the Welcoming committee: Jerry Cade, Pana Columbus, and Ann Maren Hogan.
 - For the clerk of Buildings and Grounds: Pana Columbus.

6. Ministry and Care Committee:

- Query: How do I prepare myself for divine revelation—for the possibility of being surprised?
 - The State of the Meeting report is due at the end of March. M&C would like to offer an opportunity to someone in the meeting who might feel led to compile the report. We want to consider that the report could take a different form from past reports. We could have a called meeting and consider queries that would inform the report.
 - CCI has put meeting in person on hold
 - M&C's recommendation for MfW in person is that we continue with three options: the in-person meeting, the hybrid zoom meeting, and an outdoor meeting as weather permits. The guidelines for outdoor and indoor meetings will remain the same as previously approved. .
 - M&C recommends the ad hoc committee on safe meeting practices continue to meet and plan to meet ongoing. We have relied too heavily on one friend to make recommendations, and it will be more fair to him if the committee re-convenes regularly.
 - M&C was asked to consider adding a screen in the meetinghouse so that Friends meeting in person can see who is participating via Zoom. It is agreed that this is a decision for the entire meeting community.
 - M&C will meet again on Wednesday, February 9.
7. The clerk called for discernment around the State of the Meeting report. A discussion arose with a Friend noting that we need to consider how to reply to the queries from SAYMA, who will compile our State of the Meeting report, and what format that person will use.
- Geeta McGahey volunteered to write a draft of the SoM report. She proposed that the queries be sent out to all CFM Friends who will be asked to respond to her before she drafts the report. She also proposed that we have a called meeting to discuss her draft, including how Friends responded to the queries.
 - A Friend suggested that we hold the called meeting via Zoom so that we can screen share and make changes immediately. Friends noted that a hybrid meeting will be difficult for this purpose because in-person Friends can't see Zoom Friends and because the quality of sound is inconsistent in the hybrid meeting.
 - Catherine Peck volunteered to be the typist if the meeting approves a called Zoom meeting.

Friends agreed on holding a called meeting for the purpose of using Geeta's draft to finalize the SoM report and that the meeting will best be conducted via Zoom. The meeting will be held on Sunday, February 27 at 4:00 p.m. The queries will be sent in advance with Friends encouraged to send responses to Geeta. It is noted that Friends attending the called meeting for worship with attention to business may finalize the report without the need for further approval.

8. The clerk called for discernment around the ad hoc committee for in-person meeting resuming on a regular basis to advise the meeting as the circumstances of Covid change.
- Following discussion Geeta agreed to form a committee and asks that, month-to-month, anyone who believes we need to change the standing recommendations can convene the committee. She will ask the physicians in the meeting if they would like to help with this.

Friends approved keeping the guidelines as they are while Geeta forms the committee. The committee will report its recommendations to M&C each month, and M&C will convey the recommendations to the meeting for business.

9. Lisa Rose read the proposed minute from the ad hoc committee on CFM's relationship with SAYMA. (The minute is attached.)
- The clerk expressed appreciation for the work of the ad hoc committee. There was general appreciation for the minute's clarity and excellence.

- During a discussion the question of SAYF and JYM arose and a committee member explained that details have not been worked out but that we will continue to support SAYF and JYM. SAYF has its own bank account. These details can be worked out.

Friends approved the minute outlining CFM's intentions for continuing racial equity work, where we stand in relation to the Atlanta minute (attached), and our recommendation for SAYMA to take a pause for two years to focus on spiritual concerns.

Following approval, a further discussion yielded the following:

- We will send our minute as a response to Atlanta. Jennie Boyd Bull will communicate both with Atlanta and SAYMA, sharing our minute.
- The approval of this minute is taken as a formal request for the Racial Equity Committee to guide Celo Friends Meeting in the work described in the first part of the minute. Judy: With the addition of indigenous people in this country.
- We agreed that the narrative comment should include that we are concerned with indigenous people and all people of color.
- We ask Friends to hold Bob, Geeta, and Jennie in the Light as they interact with SAYMA and to hold the ad hoc committee in the light.
- Jennie Boyd Bull submitted her report on December's SAYMA representative meeting. It is attached.

10. SAYF:

- Mari Ohta reports that SAYF is meeting in person and they have been focusing on health issues. In March, they want to meet in Celo during spring break at the Arthur Morgan School so that they can use their facilities again. AMS has approved.
- If approved, Mari will let us know what we can do to provide hospitality as we usually do.

Friends approved welcoming SAYF to Celo using whatever meetinghouse Covid protocols are in place at the time of the meeting (March 25-27).

11. Announcements:

- Lisa Rose is working to keep the calendar on the Web site updated and asks that people send planned meetings and events to her.
- For the time being we will not hold a third Sunday meeting via Zoom for the entire meeting.

12. The meeting closed with a period of silence.

Minute
Celo Monthly Meeting
1/16/2022

Celo Friends Meeting is grateful to Atlanta Friends for giving us a clear way forward to engage with our longing to corporately address racial justice issues. We unite with Atlanta Friends Meeting's Minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation. We support the presentation of the minute at SAYMA's 2022 annual sessions, and urge all monthly meetings to commit to the work of reparative justice and reconciliation.

In response to this call, Celo Friends Meeting commits to exploring ways our Meeting can acknowledge and apologize for our racist heritage, to support equity, reparative justice and ongoing dialogue about our history, and to continuing and expanding the deep personal work begun by members of our Racial Equity Committee.

In light of the ongoing conflict at SAYMA that has made business difficult, if not impossible, to conduct, we recommend the yearly meeting suspend business sessions for at least a year. We suggest that this pause begin at the end of our annual sessions in June.

During this pause, we encourage Monthly Meetings to form small regional gatherings to join in spiritual fellowship and engage in areas of mutual concern, with the SAYF and JYM programs continuing to function as usual to support fellowship among our youth.

We see this pause as an opportunity for members of SAYMA to allow the searching and healing power of Divine Light to lead and transform us.

11082021 Atlanta Letter for Minute on Reparative Justice *(copy-this text was formatted for easier reading by LR and JBB)*

Cover letter for AFM Minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation (see page 2)

To: SAYMA Clerk Robert McGahey, SAYMA Assistant Clerk, Barbara Esther, Clerks and Representatives of SAYMA Monthly Meetings (MM) and Worship Groups (WG)

From Lissa Place, Clerk, Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM)

Date: November 8, 2021

Greeting SAYMA Friends,

Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM) is pleased to share with you a Minute crafted by the Ministry and Worship committee, with input from other committees, Quakers for Racial Equality, Friends of Color, and the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting. The [Minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation](#), and printed below, was approved August 15, 2021.

We urge you to consider this in your meetings for business and reply with your comments and questions to AFM Ministry and Worship Clerk Bill Hooson (bhooson@aol.com) to SAYMA Clerk Robert McGahey, clerk@sayma.org, and Administrative Assistant, Susan Phelan, saymaoffice@gmail.com, before January 30, 2022, if possible, although later submissions will also be appreciated.

Atlanta Friends ask the SAYMA Ministry and Nurture committee to consider all responses to this Minute with the hope that M&N may come to unity on a Minute to be presented before the 2022 Sessions of YM.

Thank you in advance for your care and consideration.

Lissa Place, Clerk Atlanta Friends Meeting AFMclerk1@gmail.com

[Sent by Karen Morris (karenth1415@gmail.com)] as requested by Clerk Lissa Place

Copies to: Robert McGahey, Clerk SAYMA, Barbara Esther, Assistant clerk SAYMA, Susan Phelan, Administrative Assistant SAYMA (saymaoffice@gmail.com), Lissa Place, AFM Clerk; Georgia Lord, AFM assistant clerk, Bill Hooson, clerk, AFM Ministry and Worship

Minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation approved by the Atlanta Friends Meeting (Quakers) 8-15-21 (Minute 8-15-21:03)

We believe there is the light of God in each person, and we are connected to God and to each other by this light. We separate ourselves from God and each other by our prejudices, which are the root of destructive conflict.

We acknowledge our need for forgiveness and grace. We are called to be involved in the work of reconciliation and reparations to the descendants of formerly enslaved Africans. Reparative justice refers to compensation, which may include a national apology; educational, housing and health care programs; and financial redress from the U.S. government to African Americans to eliminate, to the extent possible, the badges, incidents, and relics of slavery and involuntary servitude

which only perpetuate and deepen past injustices and effect society. More specifically, reparations are a system of redress for injustices since 1619.

Reconciliation requires acknowledging and atoning for the wrong done — asking those harmed for forgiveness while resolving never to repeat the wrongs and working to ensure their rights as fellow citizens. This focus on restorative justice and reconciliation for African Americans in the 21st century calls for us to confront racist aspects of Quaker history as well as continue the work against racial injustice by the Religious Society of Friends.

Throughout its existence, the Religious Society of Friends has worked to transform its relationship with African American people as it receives guidance from the Inner Light to work to correct historic wrongs committed by Friends of European descent. With gratitude to the work of Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye¹ and others, we note the following:

1. Until 1781 Friends in America struggled with the issue of enslavement.
2. During the 1600s and early 1700s some Friends in the Americas were slaveholders. In Britain, Quakers were involved in the slave trade as ship owners, ship's captains, as investors and as iron-masters made chains and shackles for use in the slave trade.
3. But Quakers ultimately became the first organization to end slavery among its members. In 1790, Quakers petitioned the U.S. Congress for the abolition of slavery. Quakers of African and European descent were pivotal in the Abolitionist Movement and the Underground Railroad network. During that time, Quakers of European descent did not customarily consider African Americans to be their equal, as reflected in segregated seating in meetings and the reluctance to accept African Americans into membership or to socialize with African Americans.
4. Even as late as the 1950s, some Quaker schools and colleges were hesitant to accept African American students.
5. However, during the 20th century, Quakers worked as allies of African Americans in the civil rights movement through the American Friends Service Committee, Quaker monthly meetings, and the action of many individuals. Bayard Rustin's Quaker/Gandhian principles led him to become both a close adviser of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and one of the two organizers of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963. At this march, Dr King, in his speech, "I Have a Dream" stated:

"We have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. ... It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds'. But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt."

A recent article by the Brookings Institution on reparations noted this statement by Dr King and concluded,

"Given the lingering legacy of slavery on the racial wealth gap, the monetary value we know that was placed on enslaved Blacks, the fact that other groups have received reparations and the fact that Blacks were originally awarded reparations only to have them rescinded provide overwhelming evidence that it is time to pay reparations to the descendants of enslaved Blacks."

The Atlanta Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is called to work for reparative justice to redress the evils of centuries-long oppression and to bring about equity and reconciliation. Atlanta Friends Meeting will engage in reconciliation and healing within our Meeting, communities, and country. Friends of European descent acknowledge and atone for wrongs committed in the past and present against people of African descent. Friends of European descent acknowledge that we are the beneficiaries of slavery and that the enslavement of Africans contributed to the accumulated wealth we have today. Friends of European descent apologize for not acknowledging these truths sooner, and we atone for past and present oppression in the hope of healing justice. The Atlanta Friends Meeting as a whole celebrates our racial diversity and will actively engage with organizations at the local, state, and national level to generate and implement policies for reparative justice.

[1https://www.fgcquaker.org/sites/default/files/attachments/Ministry%20on%20Racism%20conversation%20with%20Vanessa%20and%20Donna_0.pdf](https://www.fgcquaker.org/sites/default/files/attachments/Ministry%20on%20Racism%20conversation%20with%20Vanessa%20and%20Donna_0.pdf)

[2https://www.pbs.org/thisfarbyfaith/journey_1/p_8.html](https://www.pbs.org/thisfarbyfaith/journey_1/p_8.html)

[3https://www.quakersintheworld.org/quakers-in-action/58/Eliminating-Slavery-amongst-Quakers](https://www.quakersintheworld.org/quakers-in-action/58/Eliminating-Slavery-amongst-Quakers)

**Celo Friends Meeting
Year End 20-2021 Financial Position Comparison
As of September 30, 2021**

	Total
	As of Sep 30, 2021
	As of Sep 30, 2020 (PP)
ASSETS- Bank Accounts	
Abrahamson Fund Principal- Latino CU	
Latino Credit Union 3 yr CD	12,000.00
	12,000.00
Latino Credit Union 5 yr CD	13,000.00
	13,000.00
Latino Credit Union- Shares	100.00
	100.00
Total Abrahamson Fund Principal	\$ 25,100.00
	\$ 25,100.00
Reserve Funds- Self-Help CU	
Self- Help CD	0.00
	5,240.84
Self-Help Reserve Fund MM *1	13,012.72
	5,215.27
Total Reserve Funds at Self-Help	13,012.72
	10,456.11
CFM Operating Account- UCB/WF	14,115.01
	15,316.27
Restricted Funds- Special Account	
Abrahamson Spending	4,395.21
	3,579.23
Capital Improvement Fund *2	7,433.25
	4,184.39
Educational Enrichment	5,087.29
	4,987.29
Special Concerns	

	3,947.20
	4,047.61
Feed A Child	
	601.27
	1,178.27
Total Special Fund Accounts	
	\$ 21,464.22
	\$ 17,976.79
Accounts Payable	
	222.37
	137.77
Total Bank Assets	
	\$ 73,469.58
	\$ 68,711.40

*1- added \$2,500 7/2021 toward goal of increasing CFM reserve to \$15,000.

*2- added \$4,700 7/2021 toward anticipated projects in Meetinghouse and Margithaus exterior Tuesday, Dec 14, 2021 10:32:37 AM GMT-8 - Accrual Basis

To: Celo Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MFWAB)

From: Jennie Boyd Bull, CFM SAYMA Representative, December 13, 2021

Re: Report on SAYMA Rep Meeting, December 4, 2021

A called SAYMA rep meeting was held on Saturday, December 4, 2021, from 9 am to 1:10 pm, with Bob McGahey clerk. 35 people participated by Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to review and accept the narrative minutes from sessions 4 and 5 of SAYMA yearly meeting in June 2021, unfinished business from the Fall Oct. 21, 2021, SAYMA rep meeting.

Session 4 minutes (50.39) were accepted, after extensive discussion about a POC Friend who spoke against the Uplifting Racial Justice (URJ) clerk, Star Smith. The discussion was heated, with several interruptions by the URJ clerk, who stated that she was "teaching as a Soponi elder" and used abusive language. Angela Hopkins, clerk of Friends Council for Racial Justice (FCRJ), spoke at the end, saying she would no longer attend SAYMA meetings unaccompanied but would still connect with SAYMA.

Session 5 minutes (50.45) discussion did not reach unity, as stated in the accepted minutes, which will soon be posted on the SAYMA website. Extensive, heated discussion focused on whether the two-year term of the URJ clerk ended at Yearly Meeting in June, as reported by Wood Bouldin for the Nominating Committee. SAYMA Faith and Practice, the SAYMA Handbook, and URJ process differ, with the URJ clerk insisting that the committee's membership and clerk should be self-selecting, which became a heated shouting exchange between the URJ and Nominating clerks. There was also discussion of reactivating the Naming Committee, which needs one more member,

and the Clerk committed to that task. The Nominating Committee is also at the end of its term. Are both URJ and Nominating acting committees at this time, until Yearly Meeting?

Conclusion : The clerk reported that several monthly meeting are in process of creating minutes with fresh ideas for the Spring SAYMA rep meeting. He is consulting with a “nuclear clerk’s committee” in expanded form, including receiving any new minutes received. The clerk confirmed that both the URJ and Nominating committees remain as acting committees, with no change until a Naming Committee is constituted. Their status remains on hold until the Spring SAYMA rep meeting.

Observations: The clerk was even-handed and supportive of order and listening throughout. A helpful query: “How does this decision support the goal of transforming into an anti-racist faith organization?” The URJ clerk interrupted 15 times during the meeting, sometimes abusively. Old white men “pontificating” on process also obstructed the way forward. Intersectional gender, race, class, and age differences add to the conflict.