

CMM Jan 17, 21

Present: Bob and Geeta McGahey, Debra Rice, Lisa Rose, Jo Ann and Denny Fernald, Jennie Boyd Bull, Brian Yaffe, Rachel Weir, Barb Wulff, Joyce Johnson, Annie Barrus, David Johnson, Matt Riley, Donna Idol, Catherine Peck, Catherine Reid, Joanna Flynn, Bill Horne, Mari Ohta-Weir, Sam Maren, Jane Goldthwait, Gib Barrus, clerk

First Month Query: *How do I hear the voice of the divine in the noise of the world?*

Minutes read and approved, with correction 1) Special Concerns is not just for Covid-related support.

2) The following minute was sent to the Guilford College Board of Directors, and *approved* by the Meeting today. The recorder apologizes for acting too hastily, having understood sending the minute to be an immediate charge at our Twelfth Month meeting:

Celo Monthly Meeting minutes their deep thankfulness to the Guilford College Board for their action pausing the draconian cuts in faculty and programs at the college at their meeting earlier this month. We will consider ongoing financial support for the college at our next meeting for business, January 17, 2021. May you be guided by the Light as you go forward with your difficult and weighty task of preserving a liberal arts education within a Friends context.

Robert McGahey, recorder; Catherine Reid, co-clerk

Celo Monthly Meeting (FGC, SAYMA), Burnsville NC. December 20, 2020

3) For ongoing funding support, the ad hoc committee to support Guilford College will meet first, then take recommendations to Finance. With clarification of the Guilford minute, Twelfth Month minutes approved as corrected.

Positions of Responsibility: We approve the slate of jobs for 2021-23. This includes accepting Catherine Peck as our SAYMA Representative, from being interim representative.

Margithaus Committee: Children's Garden pre-school wants to use a firepit for warmth during the winter, with appropriate oversight, and size of fire suited to the weather. The Margithaus Committee recommends approval. Meeting held an extensive discussion of the risk of open fires with small children, despite the presence of two adults, and Mari's supervision. Meeting could not reach unity on the proposal. An enhanced Margithaus Committee will continue to discern how to deal with the issue. Whatever we eventually decide, we appreciate Mari and trust her decision-making. She is a gifted childcare provider and educator.

Ministry and Care: the following minute of appreciation was read for Gib Barrus' many years, almost two decades of service as our clerk and co-clerk:

This minute of appreciation can barely touch all the ways that Gib Barrus has shaped the meeting during his nearly two decades as clerk or co-clerk. Whether at weddings or memorials, inter-faith gatherings or Christmas Eve sings, called meetings after national tragedies, or meetings for worship via Zoom, Gib's very presence helps open a space for God to enter. While he has likened the role of clerk to that of midwife to a process, he has also revealed the qualities that make such midwifery possible. He has a profound understanding of ways to mind the Light, to deepen the stillness, and to discern those messages that arise from corporate worship. He listens deeply and without judgment, shows remarkable patience for the less ruly, and senses when what's needed is song or a Camp Celo story. Over the years, he has shepherded complicated agendas in meetings for business, helped find creative solutions when things seemed at an impasse, and kept the need for Divine guidance at the heart of the process. He has modeled so well how to be faithful to a community and a calling that one Friend once said, "We should

approve Gib as 'clerk for life.'" For his faithfulness and dedication, his voice and his heart, we express our gratitude. We have all benefited from Gib Barrus's role as clerk of our meeting.

Upcoming: End-of-life Committee will host a series of conversations on successive Saturdays this spring. Presenters will include Katherine Savage and Mark Grindstaff (Holcombe's) plus End-of-life Committee members.

Adult Religious Ed: Next First Day, the Race Matters Committee panel will present by Zoom at 1:15.

Race Matters Proposal: Attached. Part One of the minute, amended to "African-American and other people of color," was approved. We will continue to address the other parts of the minute, relating to protocol, next MFB.

Meeting ended with a period of silence.

Bob McGahey, recording clerk

Gib Barrus, presiding clerk