

# Celo Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 11/15/2020

*Present: Gib Barrus (clerk), Lisa Rose (recording clerk), Annie Barrus, Catherine Reid, Jo Ann Fernald, Barbara Wulff, David Johnson, Debra Rice, Jennie Boyd Bull, Rachel Weir, Donna Idol, Bill Horne, Brian Yaffe, Joanna Flynn, Joyce Johnson, Gred Gross.*

## **Approval of Minutes**

-Minutes for the October MFB were read and accepted.  
-Minutes for the November 1 called Meeting on how to proceed with worship during the pandemic were read and approved with one correction: Jo Ann Fernald was present for the meeting.

## **Expanded Zoom Worship on 2nd Sundays**

In an effort to bring our community more fully back together again after many have been meeting in small groups through the summer, all were encouraged to attend the Zoom worship on the 2nd Sunday in November. Over 20 people attended, including some who were together in person while joining the call remotely. A number of messages were shared in vocal ministry, and there was agreement that this seems a worthwhile endeavor. No children were in attendance, though 3 families expressed interest. It seems there was confusion about how to join. Joanna will send clear instructions to families in advance of the next meeting.

We affirm that we'd like to continue meeting in this way. A reminder will be sent in advance of December's 2nd Sunday Meeting.

## **SAYMA Financial Priorities**

We were asked by SAYMA's finance committee to prioritize areas for spending but lack the suggested categories today to discern our answer. Catherine Peck will reach out to Geeta to clarify what we need to do. We will take it up when we have the information before us in December.

A Friend believes there should be revamping of SAYMA priorities, particularly during the pandemic, to focus on youth and young families. Currently 35% of the budget goes toward youth programs, and this Friend would like to see them allocate 70% instead, particularly during isolation, to encourage interest in Quaker values. Finance should be meeting in the next week or 2. Others expressed a desire for a full conversation around this before any communication with SAYMA.

## **Nominating Committee Report, Gib Barrus**

On December 6th at 1:30 PM a special called Meeting for Business will be held to fill open positions in the Meeting using the Strawberry Creek Process for discernment. Open positions include: Co-Clerk, Recording Clerk, and two M&C members. We want to encourage a lot of people to participate. Gib will send an email announcement including a description of the process.

## **End of Life Committee Report, Donna Idol**

Much has happened in the last few months. The committee would like to express appreciation to the following folks:

- Randy Raskin for surveying the cemetery and producing a scaled map of the site. It's organized into sections, and the existing burial spots are numbered, making it easier to see who is where and discuss future burials with loved ones. There is plenty of room for burials to continue.
- Joyce Johnson for doing a lot behind the scenes to help us know who is buried in the cemetery.
- Becky Gray for her care of the cemetery & carrying on Dot's legacy so that we know exactly where the graves are.
- The Coyle-Evans family for apprenticing with Becky and taking a bigger role to support her.
- Barb Wulff for her role in Theresa Anderson's death and burial process. It was a rich learning process due to Barb and Theresa's close relationship in life.

Death and Grief Liaison. This role will expand the scope of our committee to work closely with family and friends at the end of life, especially when someone hasn't made their wishes known clearly in advance. This was affirmed as a wonderful step for the Meeting, giving us a person to refer people to and reducing confusion for family members. Anne Maren Hogan was invited to fill this position and has stepped very deeply into the role. It was suggested that new people nominated for the End of Life Committee consider serving as a family liaison as well. We approved the creation of a new role for this committee. M&C and Nominating will continue the process of creating the job description.

Day of the Dead workday. At the workday the gravestone for Gerald and Eda Smith was put in place, as was a memorial stone for Charlotte Schrieber, and one for Peter & Carol Schwintzer and their daughter Sylvia.

Meeting with Mark Grindstaff from Yancey Funeral Home. Members of the EOL committee, Joyce Johnson, Catherine Peck from M&C, and Barb Wulff attended this meeting as a result of Theresa Anderson's process. Members received an unexpected training on how to prepare a body and Mark brought a full kit for attending to a person at the end of life. He has a wonderful attitude toward the Celo Community.

Katherine Savage will be sending a document to Gib detailing the end of life services that she provides.

### **Ministry and Care Report, *Debra Rice***

Query for the Month of December: How can my practice of deep listening to the Spirit help me listen to my neighbors?

The committee has spent much time celebrating and going over the work of the End of Life Committee. Catherine Peck will be the liaison to this committee from M&C.

The committee has also worked on the description of Associate Membership so that it's now in line with SAYMA's description. SAYMA doesn't have Familial Membership, and we are likewise not ready to move in that direction.

### **Proposed Celo Friends Meeting Website, *Gib Barrus***

It has been suggested that the Meeting would benefit from having a website in order to facilitate communication & easy access to records, as well as to welcome visitors, provide an overview of Quakerism with links to reading and other resources, share the newsletter and photos, and keep a calendar of events. Lisa Rose has expressed willingness to work on this, and has been in conversation with Bill Horne, who set up our listserv. Bill recently registered the domain name celofriends.org. Jim Erlandson is very knowledgeable about web sites, and it was suggested that he be invited to help as well. Currently, the Meeting's records are held on Google Drive with an account that was set up by Jo Ann Fernald. Friends must request access from Jo Ann in order to view these files.

Discernment is needed by Nominating and M&C around the roles of Website Coordinator and the proposed Record Keeper position. The Record Keeper as currently envisioned is responsible for recording births, deaths, marriages, etc., essentially tending the census for the Meeting and reporting to SAYMA. As currently envisioned, the Website Coordinator will interface with every committee that generates minutes, uploading to and maintaining information and records on the website and keeping that calendar up to date.

The creation of a Meeting website was approved. In order to move forward, an Ad Hoc Committee was established, to be composed of Lisa Rose (convener), Bill Horne and Catherine Reid. The committee is tasked with bringing a proposal for the website to MFB. Notes: Bill currently has ownership of the new domain and will transfer it to the Treasurer and/or the website coordinator. As a church, CFM is tax-exempt, which may give us access which may give us access to reduced rates with service providers.

### **Race Matters Group, Catherine Peck**

The group continues to meet and is preparing to make recommendations to the Meeting-hopefully within the next month or so. The last newsletter has information about our process so far.

### **SAYMA Representative Meeting Report, Catherine Peck**

Bob McGahey clerked the Rep Meeting last weekend, and Brian Yaffe and Catherine Peck were in attendance. It was a great meeting, in which lots of inspiration was shared about what people are doing, how SAYMA is holding together now, and what the future holds. Highlights:

- Lots of time was spent talking about a SAYMA website revamp to make it more useful. Catherine will receive that committee's recommendations for us to season.
- Work included reports from committees on unfinished business from the last rep meeting.
- Bob did a fabulous and inspired job of clerking. He had to navigate difficult matters around the URJ committee at the beginning, and did so with sensitivity, clarity, preparation and firmness so that the issue didn't overwhelm the rest of the meeting.
- There will be a threshing session Jan 16 to work on where we are on racial justice issues within SAYMA and how we can best go forward, including mediation in order to try to heal some of the rifts between SAYMA Friends and the URJ committee. All are invited to attend.
  - Many Monthly Meetings are discussing racism locally-this has happened organically and has led to what will be a big proposal on Jan 16-that SAYMA have a rest on this issue and continue working instead at the Meeting and individual levels.
  - Some Meetings are on fire to make sure SAYMA does its diligence. Spirit is moving!

### **Adult Religious Education Committee, Jennie Boyd Bull**

Next Sunday at 1:30 a panel will present some of the history of race relations in Yancey County and the Celo Community. There has been hard work by many members to prepare for this. An email with details and the Zoom link will be sent this upcoming week