

**Celo Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**11/19/23**

**clerk: Joanna Flynn**

**recording clerk: Lucy Perry**

**present: Joanna Flynn, Anne Maren-Hogan, Charley Cloak, Annie Barrus, Gib Barrus, Jennie Boyd Bull, Joyce Johnson, Lydia Wexler, Rachel Weir, Barb Wulff, Catherine Reid, Mari Ohta, Bob McGahey**

A quote was read from "Beauty and Simplicity" about the Quaker decision making process.

This was followed by worshipful silence.

## **1. Nominating Committee Report and Approvals**

Presented by Gib Barrus.

### **1.1 Final approvals for CFM positions**

We approve Catherine Reid as CFM co-clerk.

We approve Kavita Hardy to be added to the list of potential child care volunteers.

Lydia Wexler is approved as a greeter.

Charley Cloak is approved as a member of the end-of-life committee.

### **1.2 New names for consideration**

We have 3 new names to add to the child care list. 2 are AMS students who Gib has interviewed: Gabe Becker and Ali Meyer-Bell. Also Jake Silver, a staff at AMS. This is the first time their name are being presented for consideration.

### **1.3 Nominating process**

A proposed policy was brought by the nominating committee, regarding the process for approving candidates for positions:

*"When a new nomination comes before the Meeting, Friends need a chance to reflect on that nomination and raise any concerns that might arise. In order to allow for this reflection, new nominations will be presented to a business meeting, (either a regular monthly meeting or a called meeting) recorded, and published in the minutes of that meeting before final approval of that nomination is sought at the following MFWAB."*

This policy was approved.

There is normally a 2 year cycle for positions within CFM. What happens when we are between cycles and a committee needs to bring on new members?

Some proposed new language was brought by the nominating committee for consideration. Friends noted that the policy for FDS positions needs to be different, to allow for the existing additional steps of interviews and approval. Gib will work on additional language to cover this concern, and will bring it back to MFWAB for approval.

#### **1.4 Positions still needing to be filled**

SAYMA needs for CFM to bring forward a person for SAYMA nominating committee.

A welcome committee coordinator is still needed.

### **2. Ministry and Care Committee Report and Approvals**

Presented by Bob McGahey. Bob read the minutes of M&C latest committee meeting.

#### **2.1 Query for the month**

*"How do I explore relationships with people of different class, race, age, sexual orientation, and faith traditions, and answer that of God in them?"*

#### **2.2 Charley Cloak membership in CFM**

Charley Cloak met with a clearness committee about becoming a member of CFM. Ministry and Care recommends Charley Cloak as a new member of CFM.

We approve and heartily welcome Charley Cloak as a new member of CFM.

#### **2.3 Length of announcements**

M&C discussed concerns about the length of announcements following meeting for worship, but has made no recommendations.

#### **2.4 Outdoor seating at meeting for worship**

Due to ongoing concerns about viruses, M&C brought a recommendation for the porch door to be left open for Friends who wish to worship outdoors on the porch. A Friend offered to provide up a space heater for outdoor worshippers during winter.

This proposal is approved.

## **2.5 Schedule for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**

The rising co-clerk team is proposing a new schedule for MFWAB.

The new schedule would be on a three month cycle

2 months will have MFWAB 8:45 third Sunday

1 month will MFWAB 5pm the Monday after the third Sunday

The schedule will be presented clearly and well in advance, both in the email updates, and in verbal announcements.

Some concerns were noted. This proposed schedule is approved for a 6 month trial period, starting in December.

## **2.6 Minute of Appreciation for Joanna Flynn's service as CFM co-clerk**

*"Celo Friends Meeting appreciates the immense gift Joanna has given us, individually and collectively, in the past few years, with her joyous spirit and boundless energy, first as clerk of First Day School and then as co-clerk of Celo Friends Meeting. We have all been lifted up."*

We approve this minute of appreciation for Joanna.

This minute will be read aloud at the rise of meeting, and will be published in the upcoming Saturday update.

## **2.7 Ministry and Care Committee clerkship and meeting schedule**

M&C has a rotating clerkship. Bob will be the clerk for December and January.

The meetings are scheduled for 2nd Wednesday at 3pm.

## **3. Racial Equity Committee report and approvals**

The Racial Equity Committee report was presented by Lydia Wexler. The Racial Equity Committee met on Oct 23.

### **3.1 Committee statement of purpose**

The Racial Equity Committee has drafted their new statement of purpose.

*"The Purpose of the Celo Friends Meeting Racial Equity Committee is to raise awareness of historic and current white privilege among Celo Friends and community, using tools and awareness found through our personal anti-racism work and through the SAYMA Racial*

*Conflict Transformation and other Quaker programs. We will support Celo Friends engagement with and finance of local racial justice and equity efforts in Western North Carolina.”*

We approved this committee's new statement of purpose.

### **3.2 Racial Equity Committee upcoming events**

There will be an event at 1:15 on Dec 10, in partnership with the ARE committee. It will be clerked by Lydia Wexler and Geeta McGahey.

The next meeting of the Racial Equity Committee will be on Monday Nov 27 at 4pm. All are welcome.

## **4. SAYMA Representative report**

The SAYMA Representative Report was presented by Lydia Wexler.

On Nov 4, 2023 there was a SAYMA representatives meeting on Zoom, which Lydia summarized.

CFM needs to appoint someone to the SAYMA nominating committee.

The next SAYMA reps meeting will be on March 23, 2024, as a hybrid meeting both in person and Zoom.

Places are available for a young adult friend (aged 18 to 35) to attend the South African Plenary with support from SAYMA. There is funding available for this.

## **5. Buildings and Grounds Committee report and requests for funds**

Catherine Reid presented the Buildings and Grounds Committee report.

### **5.1 Funds for for Tree work**

The Buildings and Grounds committee received a bid from Affordable Tree Care for \$2600 to remove leaning trees near Margithaus. We approve \$2600 for this tree work. It will come from Capital improvement funds.

### **5.2 Funds for gas water heater**

The gas water heater for heating in the meeting house should be replaced. David Wilson can do this for \$1985 including labor. Joann Fernald recommends that half the amount comes from capital improvement fund and that half come from the Abramson Spending Fund.

We approve the \$1985 expenditure for the replacement of the gas heater.

The trustees committee will meet to consider approval of \$1000 the heater cost from the Abramson fund. If this approval is not given, we will find the funds elsewhere.

### **5.3 Committee clerkship**

Catherine Reid will be stepping down as clerk of the Buildings and Grounds committee, so we will need a new clerk of this committee.

## **6. First Day School Committee report**

The First Day School Committee report was presented by Gib Barrus

### **6.1 Holiday Program**

We approve Dec 17 for a First Day School holiday program at the rise of worship.

### **6.2 Timing of children's return to meeting**

The FDS committee requests that 12:15 be a guideline for inviting the children back to meeting.

These minutes were approved in the face of the meeting.