

Celo Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
February 2024

Present: Anne Maren-Hogan, Annie Barrus, Barb Wulff, Jennie Boyd Bull, Charley Cloak, Catherine Reid, Joni Mize, James Mize, Donna Idol, Gib Barrus, Eric Gilmore, Lucy Perry, Joanna Flynn, Lydia Wexler, Rachel Weir

Clerking: Anne Maren-Hogan

Minutes: Lucy Perry

The meeting started with a few minutes of silence.

The clerk then read a passage from the book *Invitation to Quaker Eldering*.

1. Ministry and Care Report

Query for this month

The query for this month is:

“How have I embraced the light, and in doing so how have I been changed?”

Potluck

The Ministry and Care Committee has recommended that the Nominating Committee draft a job description and formalize the volunteers for a Potluck Committee.

For this coming Sunday Jennie Boyd Bull can come for the set-up and Danny Blose can come at 12:30 to support the cleanup after potluck.

Once the nomination process is complete, the Saturday update will announce the name of the person managing that week's potluck.

2. Nominating Committee Report

Presented by Gib Barrus

Lydia Wexler and Geeta McGahey have been approved as co-clerks of the Racial Equity Committee.

There are some Open Positions that need to be filled:

Help with Potluck, Clerk of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Coordinator for the Welcome Committee. Representative to the SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee, and Representative to the SAYMA nominating Committee.

3. Climate Statement from SAYMA

Presented by Catherine Reid

SAYMA has drafted a minute about Climate Change, that they hope to get approved sometime before the next COP meeting. The minute from SAYMA was reviewed in this business meeting.

Climate Statement

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA)

The Religious Society of Friends witnesses to the truth of our times. In this moment, we recognize that we are facing an existential crisis that requires a response greater than individual actions. The systemic structures as well as the daily choices of peoples, governments and faith communities across the globe must act in radical concert to address the climate catastrophe we have created.

World leaders will come together for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP29). SAYMA calls on them to acknowledge that the burning of fossil fuels is the primary cause of the climate crisis, and to recognize that many of the nations that are hardest hit by a warming climate have been the least responsible for the crisis and are least able to cope with the consequences. We call on COP29 to clearly state that the existential crisis of climate change requires more than merely an orderly transition. We must end our use of fossil fuels by 2030. We call on COP29 negotiators to commit to fully finance the Loss and Damage Fund to compensate developing countries, and the Green Climate Fund to implement renewable solutions in developing countries.

The continued burning of fossil fuels is destabilizing the climate, acidifying oceans, and destroying the natural systems that humans and all living creatures depend on. Friends in the Southern Appalachian region are guided by our query for Care of the Earth that asks “How do I hold in the Light the impact of climate change on the ‘least of these,’ the vulnerable members of the human, animal, and plant communities?”

Every Friend, household, and meeting in our community is asked to be responsive to this query and we all ask our neighbors around the world to take immediate and practical steps to reverse our dependence on fossil fuels and demonstrate a communal reverence for interdependent life.

This statement has been brought forward by SAYMA’s Earth Justice Committee, which plays the essential role of helping SAYMA be accountable to our commitment. We acknowledge the work of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and PYM’s Climate Witness Stewards, from which we have drawn much of the language in this statement.

Concerns were expressed about the sentence “We must end our use of fossil fuels by 2030.”

This sentence could be replaced with something like “We must strive to wean ourselves and our economies from dependence on fossil fuels as soon as possible.”

Another suggestion: “We recognize the need to end our use of fossil fuels. We also recognize their ubiquity in our lives. We strive to take the difficult steps to end their use.”

Some friends requested more time to reflect on this minute.

The co-clerks will bring suggested revisions to the next meeting for business.

4. Records of CFM Business Meeting Minutes

Presented by Catherine Reid on behalf of Joyce Johnson

Joyce reminded us that hard copies of minutes from our business meetings are kept in a folder in Margithaus, and once a year a complete set of the minutes is sent to the Guilford Archives on acid-free paper. At this point, we're missing the minutes from April 2019 onward.

The minutes are on the website, thanks to a lot of work by Lisa Rose and JoAnn Fernald.

The acid-free copies (or any hard copies) can be printed from those electronic documents.

Catherine Reid volunteers to catch up on printing the paper copies.

Donna Idol and Barb Wulf will confirm that the website has a complete collection of minutes.

Lucy will start printing the meeting minutes going forward from now, with some guidance from the co-clerks.

September has historically been the time when archival minutes are sent to Guilford College.

5. Children returning to the meeting after worship

From First Day School Committee

Presented by Gib Barrus

One friend has observed that at other churches there is a way that children are welcomed back into the group at the end of worship. Is this something for Celo Friends Meeting to consider?

Some friends liked the idea of a song for welcoming children back into the room.

Another idea was to have kids verbally share something when they return.

There were concerns about time management.

Perhaps something could happen just once a month, not every week. Or the adults could go to the children?

Gib will take these thoughts back to the First Day School Committee for consideration.

6. Animal Blessing

Presented by Joanna Flynn

Joanna proposed that on April 28 Celo Friends Meeting holds a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Animals (MFWAA). This would be held outside and would happen at the normal MFW time of 11am. Children would be invited to participate, although First Day School could decide how best to handle that. Joanna will be clerking this event and will send out some guidelines ahead of time. Outdoor singing will start at 10:45 with worship beginning at 11.

Friends who would like to attend the traditional silent worship can meet at 9:45 on that Sunday.

This proposal is approved.

Ministry and Care will season this proposal and may bring back further details to the next MFWAB.

7. Funds for Richard Martin's Cuba trip

Presented by Geeta McGahey

Richard Martin will be traveling soon to Cuba.

We approve \$100 expenditure from the Peace and Social Concerns Fund to reimburse Richard for purchases he has made of supplies requested by Havana Friends Meeting

Money could be granted from CFM travel funds to cover baggage fees to carry supplies for Havana Friends Meeting, but this can be approved separately by the Finance Committee.

The CFM Treasurer has said that there is additional funding available which can be requested for further donations to Havana Friends Meeting.

8. MFWAB meeting time

We are trying this new schedule of meeting two months on a Sunday morning and one month on a Monday evening, for six months. That will take us through May.

One friend pointed out a scheduling conflict which affects several CFM members on the 3rd Monday evening of the month. This friend hopes that when scheduling is next addressed in June, we can find an evening time that avoids this conflict.

9. Announcements

The Ministry and Care committee is currently drafting the state of the meeting report and it will be brought to CFM Business Meeting in March.

Catherine Reid has worked with Lisa Rose to make the job descriptions easier to find on the website.

Catherine Reid plans to start a book discussion group around the book *An Invitation to Quaker Eldering*. Interested persons can coordinate with Catherine.

The next Racial Equity Committee meeting is Feb 26 at 4:30. It will include members of the historically black Lincoln Park community.

These minutes were approved in the face of the meeting.