

Celo Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MFWAB)
Nov 17, 2024

Present: James Roeder, Catherine Peck, Jennie Boyd-Bull, Annie Barus, Gib Barus, Donna Idol, Charley Cloak, Catherine Reid, Lucy Perry, Lydia Wexler, Joyce Johnson, Bob McGahey, Geeta McGahey, Rachel Weir

Opening

The meeting opened with a few moments of silence.

1. Ministry and Care Report

Charley Cloak presented the report from Ministry and Care.

The query for this month is: "What does it mean to be a Quaker? How has it shaped my spiritual journey?"

Ministry and Care had some discussion about vocal ministry in their committee meeting. They suggested that vocal ministry might be a good topic for the Adult Religious Education committee to take up.

Tasha Shannon has been joining Mari, Becky, and Mailyn in First Day School.

Julia Hudson has been nominated to take over from Mari as the SAYF liaison to Celo Friends Meeting. She has already been approved previously as a Friendly Adult Nurturer. We approved Julia for this new role.

2. Nominating Committee Report

Donna Idol presented the report from the Nominating Committee.

Last Sunday there was a called meeting for a Strawberry Creek Process to move toward filling various roles in Celo Friends Meeting. After that process, the following Friends have been approved in these roles:

Barb Wulff as a Trustee to replace Joyce Johnson

Catherine Peck and Geeta McGahey to join the Adult Religious Education Committee.

Richard Martin as Buildings and Grounds Clerk
David Senseney has volunteered to be a workday coordinator working with Richard.

Some conversations are still in process for filling other roles.

3. First Day School Report

Gib Barrus presented the report about First Day School.

The children are learning international Christmas songs in First Day School. They would like to present these songs at the rise of meeting on Dec 15. This children's program will happen at noon and will replace the afterthoughts and announcements for that day.

On Dec 22, children might go around the neighborhood singing these international Christmas songs.

We gave hearty final approval for Cosmo Evans and Juniper Chappellear to do childcare, making an exception for them being age 13 instead of the usual age 14 requirement.

Anna Early will be taking a group of 4 youth from our meeting to a SAYF retreat. Celo is planning to host a SAYF retreat in March.

First Day School Teacher/Coordinator

Tashsa Shannon has been working on a volunteer basis, with Marilyn, Mari, and Becky, helping to teach the elementary aged children. Last month we agreed to approach Tasha about a paid role working with the elementary aged kids for the first five months of 2025. and we agreed to seek a volunteer childcare coordinator from within the meeting.

Gib presented a revised job description for the First Day School Teacher/Coordinator. (This job description is appended at the end of these minutes.) Gib also shared some information about Tasha and her background. She grew up in Celo and has extensive experience in Quaker education. She has worked for several years at Carolina Friends School and other Quaker schools.

One friend encouraged us to think deeply about how this is a significant change for Celo Friends Meeting, to hire a person to teach our kids, who is not a member or a regular attender in our meeting. There were many reflections from Friends agreeing that this is a big change to be approached mindfully.

Another friend suggested that more information about our financial position might help inform this decision about budgeting for a paid First Day School coordinator.

Some friends advocated for bringing in Tasha in this paid role, as it would support families in participating in our meeting and might support newcomers with kids joining our meeting.

Another friend noted that we will still need volunteers to teach First Day School and to do childcare.

There were some reflections about changes within Celo Friends Meeting, that we are needing to pay for services that used to be filled by volunteers. At the same time we are receiving less in monetary donations. How do we meet these changes and challenges?

Today we gave our approval to hire Tasha for a paid position teaching First Day School for the first five months of 2025, to be reassessed for fall of 2025.

Childcare Coordinator Job Description

Gib read the proposed job description for the role of First Day Childcare Coordinator. (This document is appended at the end of these minutes.)

We approved this job description.

4. Report from the Helene Relief Fund Committee

Gib Barrus presented an update from this committee.

The committee received 51 applications and allocated \$107,500 in relief disbursements. There was a contribution from Camp Celo to make up for the gap between the original \$100,000 grant and the total disbursement amount.

The committee is continuing to receive requests. There have been a few additional contributions of a few hundred dollars each. The committee is glad to receive further contributions of funds.

There were several requests for road repair that we were not able to fund. There was also a request from the Halls Chapel Baptist Church, which sustained extensive damage. When they are ready to rebuild, Friends would like to help them.

Celo Friends Meeting continues to receive offers of financial support from other Quaker meetings.

There is separate accounting in place to track the original \$100,000 grant, to differentiate it from subsequent donations for hurricane relief.

This relief fund has helped Celo Friends Meeting build new and stronger connections with local community members.

The clerks prepared a card to thank the donor, and Gib sent him a statement of our gratitude.

We acknowledge with gratitude the gift from Camp Celo for the balance of \$7500.

5. Offers of Support from other Quaker Meetings, and other Hurricane Relief Business

Catherine Reid read aloud some of the emails sent by Friends in other meetings. We heard letters from the Charlotte Friends Meeting, from Orange County Friends Meeting in CA and from the Peace and Social Concerns Board of Western Yearly Meeting in Plainfield, IN.

We agreed to respond to the offer from Mooresville Friends church in Plainfield Indiana, suggesting that they can donate to Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting, which lost their meeting house in the flood.

SAYMA has received a number of offers of assistance for flood-affected meetings.

There were several offers of labor help. There has already been some effective matching between Quaker labor volunteers and local people who need help. Some volunteers are coming this Thursday Nov 21 to Monday Nov 25 to help Ryan Wiebe's family with rebuilding. On this Friday evening Nov 22 there will be a potluck in Margithaus at 6pm to welcome them.

The Saturday Update will continue to include information on how people can send monetary donations to Celo Friends Meeting for Hurricane Relief.

The Helene Relief Committee is willing to take up the task of coordinating Quakers who are offering to come do volunteer work in our area.

We agreed to post an announcement on our website explaining the work of the CFM Helene Relief Committee, and its recent disbursements. Catherine Peck will draft this text. We also agreed to send this news to SAYMA.

Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting is our closest Quaker Meeting geographically. We agreed to send them a \$500 donation. We agreed that this donation should come from our own funds, not from any funds we receive for local hurricane relief.

6. Christmas Eve Singing

We agreed that there will be singing in the meeting house on Christmas Eve, to be clerked by Gib.

7. CFM workday

We agreed to schedule a workday on Saturday December 7, from 9am to noon.

Closing

The meeting ended with a few moments of silence.

These minutes were approved in the face of the Meeting.
Lucy Perry, Recording Clerk

Appendix:

1. Job description for First Day School Teacher/Coordinator
2. Job description for First Day Childcare Coordinator

Job Description of the First Day School Teacher/Coordinator

Organizes, oversees and adapts FDS curricula and programming based on the needs of the children and youth in the Meeting, ensuring that Quaker process, queries, testimonies and history are taught.

Works with the FDS clerk to recruit and organize teacher volunteers

Provides support, guidance and training to teachers regarding curricula, activities, problem situations, and general concerns.

Creates and shares a monthly FDS schedule of teachers and lesson plans.

Ensures that the CFM Child Protection Policy is followed.

Reports to and gets support from the FDS clerk.

Coordinates with the FDS clerk to make a monthly report to Meeting for Worship with attention to Business.

Job Description of the First Day Childcare Coordinator

Through announcements and direct conversations, create a list of volunteers and paid teenage helpers to provide childcare for preschoolers during meeting for worship.

Interview prospects for teenage helpers and orient them to the job responsibilities.

Take names of new childcare providers (adults and teens) to MFWAB for approval.

Make sure all childcare providers are familiar with the CFM Child Protection Policy.

Maintain a calendar of coverage that provides for a minimum of two adults or one adult and one teen for each First Day.

Be available to coordinate substitute coverage if a provider can't cover their regular shift.

Notify the clerks each week of who will be providing childcare so it can be included in the Saturday update.

