

**Celo Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MFWAB)**  
**August 17, 2025**

**Present:** James Roeder, Jennie Boyd-Bull, Chip Poston, Donna Idol, Barb Wulff, Marilyn Cade, Gib Barrus, Annie Barrus, Rachel Weir, Joyce Johnson, Joni Thibault, Catherine Reid

**Clerking:** Catherine Reid

**Minutes:** Lucy Perry

**Opening**

The meeting opened with a few minutes of silence.

**1. Ministry & Care Report**

Jennie Boyd-Bull presented the Ministry and Care report.

At the rise of meeting today, we will welcome Tim Evans as a new member of Celo Friends Meeting.

This month's query is: "How has Helene/grief/trauma tested your faith? How has your faith helped you through this time?"

There was a clearness committee held for Danny's monthly song circles, which we already approved to take place in the Meeting House under the care of the Meeting. There is ongoing discussion about a possible anchor committee for Danny, along with what it means for events to be held "under the care of the meeting".

**2. Finance Committee Report**

James Roeder presented the Financial Reports for the second quarter of this year. (These reports are appended at the end of these minutes.) The good news is that there was not much to report. We are basically on track with our revenue and expenses. We will have the funds to pay the First Day School coordinator for the remainder of this year.

The Finance Committee will be meeting in September to plan next year's budget. James will bring the draft budget to our Business Meeting in October.

Gib Barus (as clerk of the Helene Relief Fund Committee) added that there are some Helene-related funds that came in that have not yet been disbursed. The Helene Relief Fund Committee will meet soon to follow up on that. These funds are separate from our operating expenses.

### **3. Child Care Volunteers**

At last month's business meeting, David Zietlow and Joni Thibault were proposed as childcare volunteers. Today we have given our final approval for this.

We noted that being approved does not imply obligation, only that someone is eligible for this role and on our roster to call.

This month Natalie Monaghan is proposed in a first naming as a childcare volunteer. She will be up for final approval next month.

Some people who have been regulars as childcare volunteers are now requesting a break, so we need more people on our roster, and more people willing to make a regular monthly commitment (which is flexible).

### **4. Nominating Committee**

Donna Idol presented the Nominating Committee report.

#### **Childcare Coordinator**

We are looking for someone to take on the role of Childcare Coordinator. The Nominating Committee has a job description for this role. This person will create a regular system and calendar so that childcare is covered each Sunday. They will also communicate with the Meeting Clerks so that childcare information can go in the Saturday update. This should be a job that someone has a passion for, and it's a very important job within our Meeting.

There was clarification about some of the background details surrounding this. Our meeting has never had a paid position for Childcare Coordinator. We are looking for a volunteer for this. The position includes interviewing the teenagers interested in being paid childcare assistants, making sure all volunteers understand the guidelines, etc.

We had a moment of silence to see what names arose for this role. Gib has agreed to make an announcement today at the rise of meeting as we search for additional candidates.

## **Librarian**

We are seeking a new librarian, to steward the collection of printed matter in Margithaus and in the meetinghouse foyer. We currently do not have an official job description for this role.

We had a moment of silence to see what names arose as potential candidates for the librarian role. The Nominating Committee will be reaching out to these people.

### **5. Request from Asheville Friends Meeting to support Cherokee Remembrance Day**

The clerk read out some updates about the planned Cherokee Remembrance Day. Asheville Friends are welcoming monetary contributions to support this event, to take place on Sept 30. Asheville Friends Meeting has worked hard with the Eastern Band of Cherokee on this project, as part of making amends for the Quaker Boarding Schools which caused trauma to Native American children and families.

Friends agree to join with Asheville and Swannanoa Valley Friends Meetings in support of Cherokee Remembrance Day. We agree to contribute \$150 toward the costs of the lunch, which means CFM's name will appear with the other Quaker groups on a placard inside the food tent.

### **6. Minute of Accountability from Asheville Friends Meeting for Quaker involvement in the Cherokee Boarding School**

The clerk shared a one-page written minute of accountability, (appended at the end of these minutes) sent to us from Asheville Friends Meeting. We are invited to consider how we want to connect with this project, whether we want to endorse this minute or take other actions.

We noted that this minute documents the Asheville Friends Meeting commitment to sending funds annually to the Center for Native Health.

Swannanoa Friends Meeting is in the process of drafting their own minute of acknowledgment and accountability on this topic.

Several Friends shared ideas of potential actions, including perhaps a kind of brief statement that gets incorporated regularly into our culture. The End of Life Committee is looking for a way to honor the Cherokee inhabitants, as well as the African American inhabitants of the land. Perhaps the kids in First Day School would like to learn a few words of Cherokee Language.

We agreed that as a meeting, we would like to make amends. We like the idea of sending funds. Perhaps we would send funds to the Center for Native Health, or perhaps we would like to be in connection with the Cherokee school and send funds there. Or perhaps we would send funds to the Eastern Band and let them direct the funds as they see best.

Here is what we agreed to send as an official minute of response to Asheville:

*"We are grateful for the work that Asheville Friends Meeting has done in creating this minute of Accountability for Quaker Involvement in the Cherokee Boarding School. We support the spirit of this minute. We look forward to doing our own work in order to educate ourselves and find ways of making reparations."*

We decided to create an ad-hoc committee for Accountability for Quaker Involvement in the Cherokee Boarding School. Joni Thibault and Marylin would like to be on this committee. One friend suggested Bob McGahey as a possible convener of this committee. The clerk will approach him about this.

## **7. Ad hoc committee to find a new caretaker**

Margithaus Committee will be meeting this month to work on the ad hoc committee to find a new caretaker.

## **Closing**

The meeting closed with a few minutes of silence.

These minutes were approved in the face of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Lucy Perry

Appendix:

1. Financial Reports Q2 2025
2. Minute of Acknowledgement and Accountability for Cherokee Boarding School – From Asheville Friends Meeting

## Celo Friends Meeting Budget vs. Actuals Q2 2025

January-June, 2025

Distribution account	Total			Percent of budget
	Actual	Budget	Over budget by	
<b>Revenue</b>				
49000 Income				
49010 Donations				
49011 Unrestricted -Operating	8,613.09	8,899.98	(286.89)	96.78%
<b>Total 49010 Donations</b>	<b>8,613.09</b>	<b>8,899.98</b>	<b>(286.89)</b>	<b>96.78%</b>
49012 Restricted Donations	9,473.00	0.00	9,473.00	
49020 Rental & Misc Income	0.00	175.02	(175.02)	0.00%
49030 Interest	668.25	300.00	368.25	222.75%
<b>Total 49000 Income</b>	<b>18,754.34</b>	<b>9,375.00</b>	<b>9,379.34</b>	<b>200.05%</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>18,754.34</b>	<b>9,375.00</b>	<b>9,379.34</b>	<b>200.05%</b>
<b>Excl Restricted</b>	<b>9,281.34</b>	<b>9,375.00</b>	<b>(93.66)</b>	<b>99.00%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
61000 Budgeted Expenses				
61002 Adult Religious Education	0.00	49.98	(49.98)	0.00%
61005 Advertisement/Outreach	0.00	100.02	(100.02)	0.00%
61010 CCI Lease and Taxes	0.00	112.50	(112.50)	0.00%
61015 FDS Child Care	420.00	250.02	169.98	167.99%
61020 First Day School/Youth	57.19	49.98	7.21	114.43%
61030 Hospitality/Refreshments	0.00	25.02	(25.02)	0.00%
61040 House and Grounds	62.80	600.00	(537.20)	10.47%
61050 Insurance Expense	0.00	1,050.00	(1,050.00)	0.00%
61060 Library	0.00	37.50	(37.50)	0.00%
61070 Ministry and Care	90.03	150.00	(59.97)	60.02%
61080 Office Supplies	115.92	124.98	(9.06)	92.75%
61090 Peace and Social Concerns	0.00	25.02	(25.02)	0.00%
61100 SAYMA Givings	550.00	1,099.98	(549.98)	50.00%
61110 Travel and Scholarship	445.00	300.00	145.00	148.33%
61150 Utilities				
627010 FBEMC	425.53	0.00	425.53	
627050 Propane/Kerosene	689.83	0.00	689.83	
US Mobile Telephone	119.88	0.00	119.88	
Zito Internet	346.98	0.00	346.98	
<b>Total 61150 Utilities</b>	<b>1,582.22</b>	<b>1,750.02</b>	<b>(167.80)</b>	<b>90.41%</b>
Caretaker Pension Fund	0.00	600.00	(600.00)	0.00%
Contract Labor	1,750.00	1,549.98	200.02	112.90%
End of Life Committee	0.00	25.02	(25.02)	0.00%
FDS General Needs	250.00	1,000.02	(750.02)	25.00%
Margithaus Committee	0.00	25.02	(25.02)	0.00%
Racial Equity Committee	0.00	49.98	(49.98)	0.00%
The Welcome Committee	49.18	25.02	24.16	196.56%
<b>Total 61000 Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>5,372.34</b>	<b>9,000.06</b>	<b>(3,627.72)</b>	<b>59.69%</b>

## Celo Friends Meeting Budget vs. Actuals Q2 2025

January-June, 2025

Distribution account	Total			Percent of budget
	Actual	Budget	Over budget by	
61700 Annual Donations- Community	1,718.00	858.00	858.00	200.00%
61751 Annual Donations- Quaker	699.00	767.52	(68.52)	91.07%
HH- fuel	1,797.00	0.00	1,797.00	
HH- help for all	22,500.00	0.00	22,500.00	
Other Miscellaneous Service Cost	42.80	0.00	42.80	
SA- Small Fundraisers	1,463.00	0.00	1,463.00	
Unplanned Donation	134.00	0.00	134.00	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>33,723.94</b>	<b>10,625.58</b>	<b>23,098.36</b>	<b>317.38%</b>
Excl HH	9,426.94	10,625.58	(1,198.64)	88.72%
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>(14,969.60)</b>	<b>(1,250.58)</b>	<b>(13,719.02)</b>	<b>1197.01%</b>
Other Expenditures				
Reconciliation Discrepancies	40.84	0.00	40.84	
<b>Total Other Expenditures</b>	<b>40.84</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>40.84</b>	
<b>Net Other Revenue</b>	<b>(40.84)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(40.84)</b>	
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>(15,010.44)</b>	<b>(1,250.58)</b>	<b>(13,759.86)</b>	<b>1200.28%</b>
Excl Restricted/HH	(145.60)	(1,250.58)	1,104.98	11.64%

Sunday, Aug 17, 2025 08:50:14 AM GMT-4 - Accrual Basis

To: The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

From: Asheville Meeting, Religious Society of Friends

Subject: Accountability for Quaker Involvement in the Cherokee Boarding School

In 2015, a member of our Quaker faith community went to a presentation by Mark Charles (Diné) followed by a workshop learning about indigenous peoples. She shared this information with the rest of the community. We were shocked and horrified to learn that Quakers were involved with the Indian boarding schools, including the Cherokee Boarding School.

Both Quaker communities and individuals were involved with starting, supporting, and running Indian boarding schools. This followed federal government efforts to do away with indigenous culture and eliminate all parts of indigenous identity. Quakers, along with people from other European religions, believed that the people who lived here were uncivilized and didn't know God. Quakers believed it was their God-given duty to civilize them by helping erase their traditional language, culture, and religion. In 1882, Quakers opened a Cherokee boarding school for 20 girls, and a separate school for boys the following year. Most of the students were Cherokee, but other children were brought in from all over the southeastern US.

We know that the school children were punished for holding onto their native identities. Students regularly had their mouths washed out with soap for speaking Cherokee. If a student who didn't understand English asked the student next to him what the teacher was saying, both students would be punished for speaking Cherokee. We learned about the "crying tree." Students would hug the tree and cry when bad things happened, like getting sick at dinner or being hit with rulers. Or they would hug the tree when they were feeling homesick. We heard about three sisters who went to a window together at 6 o'clock every evening so they could wave at their father as he drove by with his cart full of hay. We know that when students ran away, officers would search for them and bring them back.

## **THEREFORE**

Asheville Friends Meeting acknowledges that Quakers actively promoted – and participated in – the Indian Boarding School system causing intergenerational trauma. We are deeply sorry for the loss of bonding between mothers and children, of ceremony, of self-worth, and of pride in your culture. We regret that Quakers didn't respect your ways of living and forced a Western way of life upon you. We reject these attitudes and actions but acknowledge that we carry oppressive and harmful attitudes to this day. We are painfully aware that the direct harms caused by our failures remain personal, cumulative, and ongoing.

We are doing more than simply acknowledge these harms. We are taking the following actions:

- Teaching ourselves, children, grandchildren & others about the deep trauma for boarding school students caused by our ancestors.
- Asking ourselves what wrongs we may still be perpetrating in ignorance or bigotry.
- Striving to move forward with respect and gratitude for your responsible stewardship, culture and spirituality.
- Collaboratively investigating, identifying, and commemorating the children who died at the Cherokee Boarding School, including the three girls who drowned in the Oconaluftee River.



- Funding an Indigenous People's Fund with a portion of our deeded property's value along with contributions from various Friends. We are sending this land rental fee annually to The Center for Native Health to allow them to determine its use.

We will walk with you as we work together for healing and transformation, providing further needed actions and reforms including scholarship funding and other recommended projects.