

Celo Friends Meeting, Meeting for Business
Fourth Month, third First Day, 2025 (Roman Catholic Easter)

Present: David Jones, Jame Roeder, Chip Poston, Jim Stockwell, Joni Thibault, Rachel Weir, Lydia Wexler, Gib Barrus, Donna Idol, Charlie Cloak, Joyce Johnson, Jennie Boyd-Bull, Jo Ann Fernald, Geeta McGahey, Catherine Reid, clerk, Bob McGahey, acting recording clerk

Ministry and Care Report:

- M and C met April 14 and chose the following query for the month:
How do I help nurture a spiritual life in the children around me?
- Pulse of the Meeting and First Day School: Gratitude was expressed to Gib for his leading to ask Tasha to lead First Day School. The children bring many gifts to our meeting. The query from last month brought a lot of wonderful messages. Gib notes some new parents are coming to MFW, as well as their children.
- Request for midweek Meeting for Worship: M&C proposes a midweek early evening MFW to be held the third Thursday of each month, as a summer trial beginning May 15. Time of day is pending, checking with those most interested. **Approved**
- New Ministry and Care Clerk: Bob McGahey has agreed to be the clerk of Ministry and Care.

Nominating Committee Report:

New names for the Margithaus Committee include Barb Wulff, clerk; Jo Ann Fernald, James Roeder, and Judy Scheckel. **Approved.**

Colin Sugioka visitation:

As all Quakers are considered ministers, we acknowledged that Bob and Geeta can claim that role in order to visit Colin Sugioka at Mission Hospital after his serious cycling accident.

Margithaus Committee: Requests a new washing machine after two used ones have failed in the last couple of years. \$500-600 estimate. **Approved.**

Treasurer's Report. James Roeder, treasurer, reports total assets of \$78,000+ compared with \$69,000+ last year. Comparative expenses varied because of Hurricane Helene relief. Also, some monies received in 2024 were disbursed in 2025 for that relief. We accept the report, noting the need for clearer formatting. Kavita Hardy is now the meeting bookkeeper. We express our thanks to Jo Ann Fernald for her many years of service, both as bookkeeper and treasurer/bookkeeper. We also thank her for shepherding the transition to a new system with split responsibilities.

Conscientious Objection Committee has been revived. There will be an initial meeting soon with a follow-up in the summer with Curt Torrell from Chapel Hill Meeting, an experienced

facilitator. This information will be shared with other churches. The committee will take up how to get this information out more widely, including in both Yancey and Mitchell counties. The age range for the target group is 14-27. Thanks to Joyce Johnson for shepherding the taking up of this concern again.

We approve the following job description:

The Committee for Conscientious Objection will provide information for young adults, all genders, about conscientious objection to war and participation in the military. A preliminary meeting will pose the question "Am I A Conscientious Objector?" They will be given a pamphlet prepared by CCCO (Central Committee on Conscientious Objection) and NIBSCO (National Inter-religious Board for Conscientious Objection). In 2000 these organizations combined and it is now CCW (Center on Conscience and War). A second meeting will be held for those interested in developing their claim to be a CO. Instruction and information will be presented about how to document their claim to be a conscientious objector to war. Further support will be provided by the committee for those who decide to be a conscientious objector.

End of Life Committee: Cemetery projects workday on Memorial Day, Monday May 26. The focus will be improving the main path and placing markers for cemetery quadrants. Stay tuned.

SAYMA Representative Report: SAYMA met virtually March 15-16. The yearly meeting still needs an assistant clerk. The Faith and Practice Revision Committee needs restructuring, with some members replaced. Current assessment income is 40% of budget at 60% of the fiscal year. Twelve monthly meetings and two worship groups were represented. Yearly Meeting gathering is at Berea College June 20-23: "Nurturing Community in Our Broken World." Friends may attend workshops virtually.

CFM Relationship to SAYMA: Following our recent vigorous threshing session, our clerk posed the question for Business Meeting. We had a lively exchange of deep thoughts about the relationship, with no decision. Continuing support for SAYF was expressed, financial and otherwise. Friends were encouraged to attend both the SAYMA Gathering in Berea and Piedmont Friends Fellowship as we further explore yearly meeting options.

Chip Poston read a letter (attached): "Why I am Withholding a Portion of My Federal Taxes". We **approved** this statement: *Celo Friends Meeting, in affirmation of our historical Peace testimony and recognizing the genocide being perpetrated by the state of Israel against the people of Gaza, fully support our longstanding member, Chip Poston's, withholding of the portion of his federal taxes used for military aid to Israel. He is embodying our peace testimony through his action.*

Pridefest Request: Organizers request \$25 to support their Holler Back Stronger on June 14 (Juneteenth) at Penland School of Crafts. This would also mean staffing a table, coordinated by Chip, assisted by Jennie. We **approved** the request.

Fundraiser for Alta Plano Bolivians: Gib brought a request for a fundraiser for Alta Plano Bolivians who have suffered drought, resulting in losing their seed potatoes. This concern has been brought by Emma Condori, who spent two days visiting among us. We did not have time to schedule the fundraiser. Stay tuned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob McGahey, acting recorder; Catherine Reid, clerk