

The Green Street Messenger
Green Street Monthly Meeting of Friends
45 West School House Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19144
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secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org

West Philadelphia Preparative Friends Meeting
4718 Windsor Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143



Meeting for Worship

10:30 AM Via Zoom/83195217639

April 2022

Sunday, 3rd

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 10th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 17th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 24th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

12:30 PM

Monthly Meeting for Business (Via Zoom)

Minutes of Green Street Monthly Meeting for Business Held Third Month 20, 2022

Present: Mary Noland, Gabriel Ehri (clerk, recording), JoAnn Seaver, Chris Mohr, Sharon Mullally, Ellen Sleeter, Mike Kelley, Jerry Williams, Ashanta Washington. Guests: Ed Marshall, Darien Headen, Tricia Ebarvia

2022.03.01 Clerk Gabe Ehri called the meeting to order with a period of silent worship and read our grounding query: how does this decision help Green Street Friends Meeting in our goal of transforming into an actively anti-racist faith community?

2022.03.02 Gabe welcomed guests from Greene Street Friends School. Ed Marshall, head of school, read the GSFS mission statement. He described the school's hopefulness in relaxing Covid mitigations after over two full years of difficult management of education in the midst of the pandemic. The school is looking forward to the renovation of the Armat Street Building this summer. Citizens Bank has left the bank building at School House Lane and Germantown Avenue, which is owned by the School. The building has potential as part of the School's Master Plan, but it has been left in poor repair by Citizens Bank, and the parties are in litigation over this matter. Darien Headen, associate head of school, introduced himself and talked about the school's community building work as well as trying to strengthen relationships with the school's many constituencies. A Friend asked about the Horizons program, and Darien explained that a search committee is reviewing around 30 applicants in the hiring pool and developing a process for finalist selection. He expressed appreciation for departing Executive Director of Horizons Malia Neal. Another search committee is underway for a 7th/8th grade social studies teacher to replace retiring Marty Foley. A Friend asked how the curriculum and teacher professional development have changed as a result of the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement over the past few years. Darien replied that this has been a difficult school year due to Covid. Teachers have been innovative and resilient. One of the things that will help with the social impact of Covid will be being able to have events, to be able to have cross-grade "buddies," to have assemblies, talent shows, plays. These will help students bond with each other and work with each other. The Life Skills curriculum is being tailored to help with social-emotional needs. The staff is working with the Philadelphia Writing Project and refreshing their writing-competency teaching practice. The goal is to help students develop strong creative and analytical writing capability to help them at Green Street and Beyond. Tricia Ebarvia, director of diversity, equity, and inclusion introduced herself. She is the first person to hold this position. She's a Philadelphia native and has been an educator for 20 years. She believes education is about serving students but also a vehicle for social justice through our impact on students. She teaches a 7th/8th grade elective called "Leading for Justice." As our kids' lives get bigger and bigger, they will come across more differences in lived experiences and values, and we want to help kids reach out and form authentic connections. This elective is about building skills to dialogue across difference and deepen their understanding about how their identities show up around different conversations. They will learn how to be good leaders. She enjoys the closeness to the classroom. She's also working with the Pre-K students, to help build building blocks for social justice and treating each other well. DEI work is everywhere and in every part of the school, which is challenging. She is trying to be a "connector of the dots." If Friends ever want to feel hopeful about the world, Tricia suggests watching the students' Black History Month presentations, which are available online. She

helps guide teachers in working through tricky conflicts and conversations in a way that advances DEI goals. The teachers all want to elevate their skills. She has formed a working group on conquering conflicts of hate and bias. It will help to draft formalized protocols to deal with these conflicts as they occur. All community members will help to review draft protocols by imagining situations that have or could occur, and looking at how they might be handled. They are also thinking about how to create a gender-affirming curriculum with the assistance of a social worker from Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia. Tricia believes Green Street Friends is a model for social justice work in Friends Schools and is trying to "share out" what they're doing so that it can benefit other educators, and also to learn what other school leaders are doing. The Germantown Community Fridge is going strong, and a "Radical Free Library" will be added to it soon, specifically including books celebrating black and brown experiences. A Friend asked Tricia if there was a path to reach out to public school educators to share GSFS's experience in DEI. Tricia responded that they are connected with community school partners at Wister School. They also want to host community events at GSFS and participate in appropriate community events. The Friend suggested looking to Lingelbach and Emlen Schools for potential partnerships. Roosevelt Middle School was noted as a school that is struggling and could use help. A Friend asked about the school-meeting book club, and Tricia thought it went well and they are planning more. Friends thanked Ed, Darien, and Tricia for the update. Ed, on behalf of the School leadership team, thanked the meeting for their support and partnership.

2022.03.03 Friends approved the Spiritual State of the Meeting report, and it will be submitted to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

2022.03.04 A Friend asked about hearing that the Meeting was working through check fraud problems. Mike Kelley, treasurer, responded that at least three checks on GSMM's account had been forged and paid. Mike and Ashanta Washington, meeting secretary, are working with the bank to determine what has happened. The account is in lockdown status, and the bank is cooperating with us in trying to resolve the matter and prevent further fraud. The Treasurer will provide an update at next business meeting.

2022.03.05 The meeting will be having our third restorative practice circle next Sunday. The question for this coming week is: "Who are our neighbors?" The session following that one will look at "How do we connect with our neighbors?"

2022.03.06 The next business meeting will be one week later due to Easter. It will be held via Zoom on 4/24/2022.

2022.03.07 The Reparations Committee will be having an in-person event on 4/16/2022.

2022.03.08 A Friend suggested Green Street Friends participate in a community cleanup day 4/2/2022 at Martin Luther King High School.

2022.03.09 The Meeting adjourned with a period of silent worship at 2:06pm.

News & Announcements

Eric Corson has Published a New Book: Reaching Beyond Prison Walls: Stories of Volunteer Visitors and the Prisoners They See. You can purchase this book at: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/reachingbeyonnd-prison-walls-eric-corson/1140544447>

Join Earth Quaker Action Team for Vanguard's Big Climate Problem Walk, Monday, April 18 to Friday, April 22 (Earth Day)!

One of the biggest asset managers in the world, Vanguard's business strategy makes it a major driver of climate destruction and environmental injustice. It is one of the largest global investors in coal, oil, and gas, as well as companies violating Indigenous rights. Vanguard could vote for climate-friendly shareholder resolutions in the short run, and over time, move their investments out of fossil fuel and forest-destroying companies, if those firms don't come up with a plan to transition out of climate destruction. With \$8.5 trillion under management, Vanguard could be a leader instead of a laggard.

That is wNhy Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) is organizing a five-day walk to Vanguard's southeastern Pennsylvania headquarters! Starting in Chester at the industrial banks of the Delaware River, our route includes sites of environmental injustice and climate destruction, as well as opportunities to challenge the money behind these travesties. We will conclude with a powerful action at Vanguard's global headquarters in Malvern, PA on Earth Day, April 22.

Learn more about the route [here](#), as well as evening programs if you are not able to join during the day. To sign up for any or all of the walk, please fill out [this form here](#) so we can keep you up to date on emerging details. And if you just want to come to the big finale, please register [here](#). Thank you!

Nancy Sleator

Lansdowne Friends Meeting

610-220-9587

Please submit all news and announcements to the secretary by the 28th of each month.

Meeting for worship is at 10:30. All are welcome.