

*The Green Street Messenger*  
Green Street Monthly Meeting of Friends  
45 West School House Lane  
Philadelphia, PA 19144  
267-285-0553  
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West Philadelphia Preparative Friends Meeting  
4718 Windsor Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19143



Meeting for Worship

10:30 AM Via Zoom/83195217639  
Password: 921554

## December 2020

<b>Sunday, 6th</b>	10:30 AM	Via Zoom/83195217639
<b>Sunday, 13th</b>	10:30 AM	Via Zoom/83195217639
<b>Sunday, 20th</b>	10:30 AM 12:30 PM	Via Zoom/83195217639 Monthly Meeting for Business
<b>Sunday, 27th</b>	10:30 AM	Via Zoom/83195217639

## ***Minutes of Green Street Monthly Meeting for Business Held Eleventh Month 15, 2020***

Via Zoom, Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Eleventh Month 15, 2020.

Business Meeting convened at 12:40 pm in prayerful silence.

Clerk Gabe Ehri welcomed friends and asked for the reading of our shared query:

How does our time together today support Green Street Meeting in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?

### **20-11-01 Report from Greene Street Friends School**

The meeting was joined by four members of the Greene Street Friends School (GSFS) community: Head of School Ed Marshall, 3rd Grade Teacher Arelis Hamilton, 6th Grade Teacher Becky McWilliams, and Associate Head of School Ryan Kimmet. They presented an overview of racial literacy and diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at the School, which have been a major focus at Greene Street for the past five years. This emphasis has served the School well, particularly in light of the highly publicized killing of many black people across the nation – like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Philando Castille, among many others – and the recent killing of Walter Wallace by police in West Philly.

Housed within the existing Life Skills curriculum, the programs contain age-appropriate strategies to explore race and anti-racism for pre-K, elementary, and middle school students. The presenters also described structured programs for parents, caregivers, faculty and staff to build skills and commit to action in these areas. All acknowledged that this is on-going work of central importance to the School.

Friends expressed gratitude and strong support for School efforts. A helpful conversation followed about our common interests and a willingness to share resources. Ed promised to provide a link to the School's resource page to be posted on the Meeting listserve. Ed also noted that having the

Meeting's strong support allows the school to move forward boldly into areas that might be considered controversial at other schools.

### **20-11-02 Virtual Thanksgiving**

Mary Noland, clerk of Hospitality, reported.

The Meeting will hold a virtual Thanksgiving gathering on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, from 5 to 7:30pm, using the same Zoom link as our regular Meeting for Worship and business. All are welcome and are welcome to invite friends and family members. The gathering will start with a virtual tour of the recent renovations and repairs at the Meetinghouse followed by eating and sharing our gratitudes and possibly descriptions of our favorite holiday foods. The event will end with the opportunity to move into breakout groups for more intimate conversation, including one space for those who would like to explore the issued of right relationship with indigenous peoples, including local Lenni Lenape communities.

### **20-11-03 Property Committee**

Anthony DiGiovanni, Clerk, reported.

#### Update on the renovations.

The accessible ramp into the dining room and the adjacent drainage issues are now complete. Friends expressed deep gratitude to Dan McDevitt for his work coordinating this project.

The new HVAC system is up and running, and appears to be working well. There still exists a small punch list of follow up tasks which should be completed by the end of the week.

#### Next Steps

Anthony recommended a process for getting the Meetinghouse ready for reuse after the construction projects:

- 1) Move all the furniture, wall decorations, and other Meeting belongings out of both the main and second floor spaces.
- 2) Hire a company to deep clean all spaces on both floors.

3) Hire another company to complete minor necessary repairs, patch the walls where needed, paint as needed, and build a simple fence to hide and protect the exterior components of the new HVAC system in back of the Meetinghouse.

The estimated cost of these three steps is \$14,000.

Anthony also recommended that the Meeting appoint a committee empowered to choose paint colors and to selectively decide which of our Meeting furnishings would return to the main and second floors, with the expectation that much of them would be disposed of.

Friends agreed to form this ad-hoc committee, empowered them to seek input from the Meeting community, and to make any necessary decisions, which would not be brought back to business meeting for approval. JoAnn Seaver, Frank Perch, and David LaFontaine agreed to serve on the committee. They are empowered to recruit any other members they might need.

The Meeting will explore the question of purchasing new furniture, wall decorations, etc. at a later date.

### **20-11-04 Report from the Worship Discernment Group**

Anthony DiGiovanni reporting.

The Worship Discernment Group was asked last month to reflect on indoor face-to-face Worship and the specific conditions for that when the time is right. The group did meet and discussed these issues in light of the severe spike in current cases of COVID-19, the oncoming colder weather, and the spiritual needs of a number in our community that are not being met by virtual worship on Zoom.

The Group struggled with the ability to continue meeting outdoors in light of the weather and with the appropriateness of moving indoors in light of the current pandemic conditions. Taking all factors into consideration, the group brought forward a recommendation that the Meeting start indoor face-to-face worship under the following very restricted conditions. Until further notice the indoor worship continue to be held at 9am, while Zoom worship is offered at 10:30. No more than 10 individuals would gather inside at any one time. They remain masked throughout. The HVAC

system would be on, but all the doors and possibly the windows would remain open for ventilation, and that people exit the building in a staggered fashion immediately upon the rise of Meeting, holding any fellowship outdoors.

Many friends had a strong negative response to this proposal however carefully thought out and in an attempt to meet the deep needs of some people in our community. The Meeting declined to start indoor worship at this time and asked Worship and Ministry committee to think creatively about how to support the spiritual lives of our members and attenders at this time. Outdoor-only worship will continue at 9am Sundays until further notice.

### **20-11-05 Germantown Mutual Aid Hub**

Eppchez Yo-Si Yes, Hub member, reporting.

Eppchez provided a report on the work of the Germantown Mutual Aid Hub and its use of the Meetinghouse to store perishable and non-perishable items. The Hub, supported by community volunteers gathers contributions of fresh food, canned goods, personal hygiene materials, and baby supplies, stores them in the Meetinghouse, and sets up a distribution site near Uncle Bobbie's bookstore in Germantown's central square every Saturday from noon to 4pm. Community members are encouraged to donate what they can and take what they need for free. The Hub often serves around 60 people each week, many of whom further distribute items to neighbors.

The weather is changing. The construction in the Meetinghouse is coming to an end. At some point the Meeting will resume indoor worship and the School will return to in-person classes. Some of the space that the Hub currently use in the Meetinghouse are those which would be used by the Meeting and the School.

Eppchez asked if the Meeting would support the continued use of the Meetinghouse by the Hub. If so, what spaces should they use during and after the deep cleaning and repair of the space and in preparation for the renewed use of the building by the Meeting and the School? In addition, Eppchez asked if the Meeting would allow the Hub to move their distribution site to the front porch of the Meetinghouse once the temperatures drop, relieving their volunteers of laboring in the cold and providing them with immediate access to warming spaces during the

distribution time.

Friends expressed extreme gratitude for the work of the Hub and strong support for its continued use of the Meetinghouse. Property Committee was empowered to work with Eppchez and the Hub leadership to figure out where to store various items. Friends asked that those decisions be coordinated with the logistics of the upcoming deep cleaning and painting projects. Friends also approved the use of the front porch as the new distribution site.

Eppchez agreed to write a brief update about the Hub for the Meeting newsletter, including information about how members of the Meeting community can contribute to the project.

### **20-11-06 The Budget**

Russ Endo, Budget Committee Clerk, and other members of the Committee reported

Traci Hjelt Sullivan reported that the Committee recommends that Meeting contributions to other Quaker and community organizations in fiscal year 2021 be exactly the same as those we have used in fiscal year 2020. The exact list had been included in the advanced reports for this meeting. Friends approved.

Traci also walked friends through a document explaining sources of funding for the many expensive capital improvements undertaken over the past year and the current financial condition of the Meeting. Jerry Williams, treasurer, walked friends through the proposed 2021 budget. Given the lateness of the hour, friends were encouraged to review these materials and send questions and comments to the Budget committee.

Friends expressed gratitude for the clarity of the materials and the hard work of managing our Meeting finances in these times of expected and unexpected expenditures. Friends will review the budget again at our December business meeting in anticipation of final approval.

### **Closing**

In light of the time, Susan Christian offered to defer her report on the

Germantown Mutual Aid Fund. The report from our Meeting secretary, Ashanta Washington, will also be rescheduled for December.

With gratitude for our work together, at 3:10pm, Meeting ended in worship with the intention of meeting again at the appointed time on Twelfth Month 20, 2020.

Gabe Ehri, Clerk

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Recording Clerk

Attending:

Jocelyn Banks, Susan Christian, Sam Connell, Anthony DiGiovanni, Rachel Ellis, Russ Endo, Lola Georg, Mike Kelley, David LaFontaine, Chris Mohr, Mary Noland, Ruth Reber, JoAnn Seaver, Lori Sinitzky, Ellen Sleeter, Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Bill Van Stone, Amy Verstappen, Ashanta Washington, Jerry Williams, Eppchez Yo-Si Yes.

Guests: Arelis Hamilton, Ryan Kimmet, Ed Marshall, and Becky McWilliams.

## News & Announcements

***Parents of Kids in a Friends school or college? That time again.***

***Assistance for the September 2021-22 school year  
Deadline January 29, 2021***

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) offers applications for Tuition Aid for Friends Children in Friends Schools. Families usually begin the application process in November. Please complete the PYM application form, ensure that our meeting's Educational Assistance Committee receives it by our January 29, 2021 deadline, and ensure that the forms signed by our Committee clerk arrive at your school before the school's deadline. Application forms and instructions are online at [www.FriendsEducationFund.org](http://www.FriendsEducationFund.org). Families and meetings with questions may contact Zachary Dutton, Associate Secretary for Program & Religious Life at 215-241-7008 or [zdutton@pym.org](mailto:zdutton@pym.org). Please send the forms for signature to Bill Van Stone, the clerk of Green Street Meeting's Educational Assistance Committee at [wvsc@aol.com](mailto:wvsc@aol.com) or 625 Burnham Road, Philadelphia, PA 19119, before Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Green Street Monthly Meeting also offers assistance to all members who need additional financial aid from the Meeting in order to send their child to a Friends school, a college, or a school for special education. Families interested should send a letter or email addressed to our Educational Assistance Committee with their request, the name of parent(s) and child, grade of the child in [2021-2022] and name of the school to the clerk of our Educational Assistance Committee. The deadline is January 29, 2021.

College students are expected to submit their requests for tuition aid and contact information themselves. If you have questions call Bill Van Stone at 215 438 6106 or email him at [wvsc@aol.com](mailto:wvsc@aol.com).

NOTE: due to the unusual and unpredictable 2020-21 school year, college students may want to discuss their options for next year with Bill.