

# , The Green Street

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 In-Person

10:30 AM Via Zoom/83195217639

## December 2021

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

**Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM  
12:30 PM

Via Zoom/83195217639  
Monthly Meeting for Business

**Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

## ***Minutes of Green Street Monthly Meeting for Business Held Eleventh Month 21, 2021***

Via Zoom, Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Eleventh Month 21, 2021.

Business Meeting convened at 1:35 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?

### **21-11-01 Care and Counsel**

Lola Georg, Clerk, reporting.

After letting it lay over for one month, Lola brought forward the recommendation for the membership of Eppchez Yes for a second reading. Friends enthusiastically approved. Cheryl McFadden, Gabe Ehri, and Tracey Smith agreed to serve on their welcoming committee.

### **21-11-02 Worship & Ministry Committee**

Sharon Mullally, reporting

Sharon introduced Viv Hawkins, whose Life Calls Ministry has been held under the care of the Meeting, through the work of W&M, since she transferred her membership to Green Street from Central Philadelphia.

Worship and Ministry recently met with Viv to consider the on-going vitality of her ministry and to offer continued support. Viv and the committee shared a deep and mutually rich time together and all present affirmed the life which continues to flow from her work.

Viv's written annual report was included in the advance documents.

Viv reported briefly on the movement of the Spirit over the life of the ministry, which originally started in support of Friends in India and their exploration of economic justice and has more recently focused on the work by US Friends to address racism.

Viv expressed gratitude for her on-going Mutual Accountability Group (consisting of Lola Georg and Linda Black, member of CPMM) and the additional support in remaining faithful that she receives from members of the EMIR Support Group and the Green Street Reparations Committee.

The Meeting joined the Worship & Ministry Committee in endorsing Viv's leading

and thanked her for the many gifts that she provides us and others.

### **21-11-03 Budget Committee**

Contributions to Others, Traci Hjelt Sullivan, reporting.

Traci brought forward the Budget Committee's recommendations for allocating the \$4,500 in the Contributions to Others line item. These funds will be dispersed to Quaker and other local community groups recommended by members of the Green Street Meeting community. A table with the list of groups and the contribution amounts were included in the advance materials. Some groups were scheduled for a slightly larger contribution than the others based on Traci's informal assessment of how many members of the Meeting were actively involved in the work of those organizations.

This list did not include other institutions (like the Yearly Meeting, the Quarterly Meeting, the EMIR Healing Center, or Global ARCH) which are included separately in the budget, each receiving a more significant contribution from the Meeting.

Clerk, Gabe Ehri, asked if anyone had any concerns about the list or the allocation levels. No one responded. Friends approved making the gifts to the organizations at the levels noted on the Budget Committee report. The gifts will go out before the end of the calendar year.

Traci noted that the Meeting practice is to work from the same list for two years. As a result, next year the Budget Committee will not solicit new recommendations from the membership. Instead, it will bring this same list forward to the Meeting for its consideration. At that time, the Meeting will be able to recommend any desired changes.

Explanation of the Timing for Budget Approval, Russ Endo, Clerk, reporting.

Russ explained that the Budget Committee has been implementing a number of accounting and reporting changes over the past months and the 2022 Budget proposal is not ready to be shared with the Meeting this month, which would have been its usual practice. The committee is very confident that the budget will be ready for consideration at the December business meeting.

Clerk, Gabe Ehri, thanked the Budget Committee for its hard work under difficult circumstances, and asked, if possible, that the proposed budget be complete and circulated at least a week before the December business meeting, so that he, and others in the Meeting, could be well prepared when we actually meet.

Friends united with Gabe's request and expressed gratitude to the hard-working Budget Committee.

### **21-11-04 Nominating Committee**

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Clerk, reporting.

Walter shared on Zoom the Nominating Committee report, which had been distributed on the Meeting list-serve earlier in the day and is also posted in the committee's public Google Folder.

First, Walter reported that Mary Noland had asked to resign from the Budget Committee a number of months ago, but he was only just now reporting that request to the Meeting.

In addition, Nominating is bringing for a first reading, the name of Jerry Williams to fill a slot on the Greene Street Friends School Board vacated by the resignation of Anthony DiGiovanni earlier this year. Earlier this month, the GSFM Governance Committee contacted Nominating Committee to ask if they would consider bringing Jerry's nomination forward now rather than waiting for the other new nominations to the Board, which will be brought forward in March or April, 2022. The Nominating Committee carefully considered this request and agreed to do so. In preparing this recommendation, Walter also consulted with the Governance Committee clerk and decided to extend the length of Jerry's first term to three and a half years, instead of the standard three years. This will allow his renomination for a second term to come up with all the other new and renewing Board members in March or April 2025.

Friends expressed no concerns about considering the nomination at this time and the proposed term extension. Jerry's nomination will come up for a second reading in December.

In addition, Walter brought forward for final approval the following names which had received a first reading in October:

Charity Marshall and Rebecca Grant for Care and Counsel,  
Neal Fordham for Educational Assistance, and  
Afroza Hossain for QVS Support Committee

All terms were for three years through 6/30/2024 and each person will be serving on their committee for the first time. Friends approved all these nominations.

Walter also brought forward for final approval the name of Kathy Angell as Clerk of Worship and Ministry. He reported that Kathy wanted Friends to know the true nature of her commitment to the Meeting. While she is taking on many of the tasks of being Clerk, other responsibilities (like making reports to business meeting) are being carried by others on the committee. In addition, she has not made a commitment to serve as Clerk for any particular period of time. Friends approved Kathy's nomination with these understandings.

Walter reported that the Nominating Committee has been working hard to expand the membership of the Care and Counsel Committee, asking a large number of people

over the past weeks to consider serving. C&C is the committee that cares for the people in the Meeting and does very important, confidential work on the Meeting's behalf. Nominating would very much like to further expand their membership, but has been mostly unsuccessful recently.

### **21-11-05 GSFM/GSFS Care Relationship**

Tracey Smith, GSFS Board member, reporting.

Tracey reported on the status of the special called meeting between the members of Green Street Meeting and representatives of Greene Street Friends School, which had been postponed last month. The called meeting was to be facilitated by the Rev. Donna Jones, Donna Jones, leader of the Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia's (MCCP) Restorative Cities Initiative. In consultation with Rev. Donna and following some one-on-one outreach to individuals in the Meeting, Tracey and other members of the GSFS Board are recommending that we take a pause with the purpose. The purpose of the pause is for members of the Green Street community to have an opportunity to listen to each other, become more acquainted with the range of opinion within the Meeting about the School, and to experience (or re-experience) some of the restorative practice circle skills taught by Rev. Donna among ourselves before engaging in them with the School.

The specific proposal is that the Meeting engage in a Restorative Practice process over a relatively non-controversial topic, then participate in a Green Street only circle exploring issues about the School, followed by a circle process between the School and the Meeting. The proposed less-controversial topic was finalizing a process for completing the new signage for the Meeting.

The exact timing for next steps is being negotiated with Rev. Donna, but could include a session each in December, January, and February. Many friends expressed support for moving forward with completing the signage process, building conflict resolution skills through restorative practice, and doing some internal work among ourselves before moving forward with representatives of the School. A number of current School Board members spoke very positively about the work that Rev. Donna had already done with the Board membership to work through some recent conflicts.

Friends expressed concern that Rev. Donna and the MCCP be appropriately compensated for her time. As a first step, the Meeting asked the Budget Committee to add MCCP to the Contributions to Others list for the current year. Traci Hjelt Sullivan agreed to add MCCP and revise the allocations to all of the organizations accordingly.

Friends expressed deep gratitude to Tracey Smith, Valerie Anderson, Linda Singleton, JoAnn Seaver and others who brought forward this proposal. Members and attenders of the Meeting were encouraged to participate in this process as they are able.

### **21-11-06 Worship Discernment Group**

Gabe Ehri, convener, reporting.

Gabe reported that the discernment group met following the conversation about Meeting COVID protocols and the coming of colder weather that happened in business meeting last month.

The group brings forward the following proposals:

That the Meeting discontinue the practice of asking greeters to screen those attending Meeting about their health status. Instead, the Meeting will develop posters and handbills about our COVID protocols to be distributed widely for all attenders, new and returning, to see.

That first-day school be allowed to meet inside as necessary, with student participation at the discretion of each family.

That hospitality be continued outside when possible, but moved indoors when necessary at the discretion of the hosts. When it is held indoors, participants join at their own discretion and are asked to remain masked except when actually eating or drinking.

One friend asked whether there was a clear policy about keeping the doors to the meeting room open or closed. Gabe responded that there is not hard or fast protocol about keeping the doors open during worship.

### **21-11-07 The Minutes**

Friends approved the action items associated with these minutes.

### **Closing**

With gratitude for our work together, at 2:50pm, Meeting ended in worship with the intention of meeting again at the appointed time on Twelfth Month 19, 2021

Gabe Ehri, Clerk

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Recording Clerk

Attending:

Valerie Anderson, Russ Endo, Lola Georg, Archana Gour, Viv Hawkins, Cheryl McFadden, Chris Mohr, Robin Mohr, Sharon Mullally, JoAnn Seaver, Linda Singleton, Ellen Sleeter, Tracey Smith, Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Ashlynn Sylvain, Jerry Williams

## **News & Announcements**

Please remember to complete information for the new directory. All information can be found on listserv. Email the secretary should you have any questions or concerns.

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

**Meeting for worship is held at 10:30.**

**We host both in person and virtual Worship.**

**(Face mask are required for in-person Worship)**

**All are Welcome.**