

# *The Green Street Messenger*



First Day Meeting for Worship

10:30 AM

## **July 2020**

Sunday, 5th	10:30AM	Via Zoom:	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/7244737251">https://zoom.us/j/7244737251</a>
Sunday, 12th	10:30 AM 12:30 PM	Via Zoom:	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/7244737251">https://zoom.us/j/7244737251</a> Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Sunday, 19th	10:30AM	Via Zoom:	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/7244737251">https://zoom.us/j/7244737251</a>
Sunday, 26th	10:30 AM	Via Zoom:	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/7244737251">https://zoom.us/j/7244737251</a>

**Green Street Friends Meeting Minutes of Meeting for Business  
6/21/20 12:30pm via Zoom**

Present: JoAnn Seaver (clerk), Viv Hawkins (recording clerk), Lola Georg, Amy Verstappen, Chris Mohr, Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Don Weighman, Shani Taylor, Jocelyn Banks, Frank Perch, Sharon Mullally, Lori Sinitzky, Margaret Wood, David La Fontaine, Ashanta Washington, Robyn Moore, Susan Christian

**2020-06-1 Report from EMIR Support Group Shani Taylor**

The report to Green Street Friends Meeting (below) was presented and current members of the support group were named: Anne Bayless, Chris Mohr, Lola Georg, Mary Noland, Mychelle James, Shani Taylor, and Viv Hawkins. The Support Committee may be reaching out for meeting support at a future time.

**Report to Green Street Friends Meeting  
June 20th, 2020**

This report is from the EMIR Support Group of Green Street Friends Meeting, and contains four parts: 1) information about the support group, 2) past activities, and updates on them, 3) planned future activities, and 4) requests from the support committee of Green Street Friends Meeting members.

1. Information about the EMIR Support Group

The support committee was launched in January 2018 and has met monthly over the last 26 months. We have a covenant (see below), which guides how we work together and how we support EMIR Healing Center. We utilize the Quaker Social Change Ministry model developed by American Friends Service Committee in our work (see the link to that information below). Some of the core tenants of this model are: a) to follow the lead of the organization with which we partner (EMIR), b) to strengthen the relationships within the support committee through spiritual practices, storytelling, and worship, and c) to hold ourselves accountable to supporting EMIR Healing Center, and their mission to heal families impacted by homicide in Philadelphia.

2. Past Activities & Update

The support committee put together and distributed 110 bBackpacks last year to meet increased need. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala raised about \$12,000, and over 150 people attended. The Board decided to hold them every five years, to mark 5- year anniversaries for EMIR.

For now, the CommonwealthState of Pennsylvania, which substantially funds EMIR, has approved staff to continue to work from home. The sState continues to award EMIR grants, but is slow to release funds. Chantay Love notes that the sState continues to further strain their staff by treating them, and other Black-led nonprofits, with distrust and suspicion in their interactions. Thanks to GSMM and their generous and timely grant of \$50,000, to provide infrastructure that the sState has not.

Homicides in Philadelphia for 2020 stand at 187 deaths, as of this report. On this date in 2019, that number was 153 homicides. That is an increase of 22%. To continue supporting its families, EMIR has moved much of its programming online, to Facebook Live & Zoom platforms. They are offering classes such as Mommy & Me Yoga, Grief Counseling, Movement for DeStressing, Meditation, and more. EMIR is also offering resources for food, housing, legal, handling medical restrictions for vulnerable households, and more for their families.

Finally, the GSMM Lunchtime collection for EMIR Staff Self-Care Raised \$776.00 in 2019. Thank you Green St for coming through for EMIR!

### 3. Planned Future Activities

The support group is re-convening to figure out future school supplies, and a staff care fund that continues even during the pandemic. White Richardson fund offered \$1,500 toward backpacks, and the support committee is considering with EMIR how best to use those funds. Please watch for the Patreon page especially for monthly donors;- that is coming at the end of June 2020. The support committee will be reaching out to GSMM about all of this.

### 4. Requests of Green Street Friends Meeting Members

Our requests are as follows:

- 1) Continue to support EMIR Healing Center, its families, and the support group's work through prayer.
- 2) Consider joining the support committee. We welcome new members. Please contact Chris Mohr or Lola Georg if you are interested: [mohrandmohr@gmail.com](mailto:mohrandmohr@gmail.com) or [lolageorg@gmail.com](mailto:lolageorg@gmail.com).
- 3) Consider supporting EMIR as Patreon monthly donor at the end of June;- we'll announce that on the listserv and EMIR's website and Facebook page for GSMM to share with others.
- 4) Consider donating to the staff self-care & school supplies fund, when the support committee communicates to GSMM on the best way to do that.

The support group committee is ever grateful to Victoria Greene and her work, as Founder and Executive Director of EMIR Healing Center. We are also grateful to everyone who has contributed

to the work of the support committee, either through active participation and/or supporting our



activities. Thank you, Green Street Friends!

### **Covenant of the EMIR Healing Center Support Group**

We exist to provide energy, love and support to the EMIR Healing Center in its mission to support family members and friends who have been affected by homicide through concrete, practical and compassionate steps towards healing.

In this pursuit, we covenant to....

#### **[Why we work: Our vision]**

- Lift the burdens on EMIR staff and clients, not add to them - We are sensitive to - and protective of - the demands on EMIR's time and energy.
- Provide direct service to EMIR Healing Center so that it can foster the systemic change that we wish to see in our community.
- Advocate for EMIR through our actions, communications and relationships as we walk through our lives.

#### **[How we work: Our approach]**

- Follow the lead and direction of the EMIR Healing Center - We shall not impose changes or revisions to how EMIR works in pursuit of its mission, but offer solutions.
- Adopt a strengths-based approach that seeks to accentuate EMIR's strengths, rather than to fix its deficits - We are a body of support.
- Welcome all who come to us, being inclusive of the diverse opinions, backgrounds, beliefs and missions of people and partners who can help us advance EMIR's mission.

- Observe deep confidentiality amongbetween ourselves, and between us and EMIR Healing Center.
- Nurture and deepen the relationships amongbetween us through the journey of supporting EMIR Healing Center.

**Who we are: Our identity**

- Be fully present, attentive and responsive to each other in manner derived from mutual love, care and respect.
- Sustain a posture of action: Bringing topics of discussion and points of debate to a conclusion that can be executed today, tomorrow and in the short-term.
- Maintain a commitment to supporting EMIR Healing Center staff and clients -- particularly its founders -- emotionally, physically, spiritually, and professionally.

**What we achieve: Our internal strategies**

- Be responsible and respectful for each other's' feelings, thoughts and experiences. We practice patience and compassion when listening; we practice reflection and care when speaking.
- Conduct inquiry in a supportive manner, cultivating a sense of wonder through questions that elevate our understanding of a topic.
- Evaluate the results of our efforts, but never dwell on shortfalls, "could have dones" or "might have beens" - We focus on the future and analyze our process and outcomes solely to inform subsequent efforts.

Online references:

AFSC's Quaker Social Change Ministry Model: <https://www.afsc.org/quakersocialchange>

Homicide stats for 2020, Philadelphia: <https://www.phillypolice.com/crime-maps-stats/>

**2020-06-2 Nominating Committee Report - Walter Sullivan**

Nominating Committee presented the following report. Friends approved the names presented for a second reading. We will seek approval at our next meeting for business of Friends who were proposed for the first readings.

A Google folder has been set up for Green Street Friends Meeting Nominating and is available at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ubpGLaYak0npdj7qILGV7ycvDxgbsz8V>

Green Street Meeting Nominating Report

06/21/2020

**Stepping down or terming out in a current position:**

Budget Committee

Shani Taylor

Worship and Ministry

Michelle Schmitt

**Lost to us too soon:**

Archivist and Website Working Group

Geniver Montalvo

**For a second reading in a new position for a three year term:**

Clerk

Gabe Ehri for a three year term through 6/30/2023

### Librarians

Sam Connell for a three year term through 6/30/2023

Mike Kelley for a three year term through 6/30/2023

### Education Assistance

Karen Campbell for a three year term through 6/30/2023

Margaret Wood for a three year term through 6/30/2023

### Website Working Group

Sam Connell for a three year term through 6/30/2023

Margaret Wood for a three year term through 6/30/2023

### QVS Support Committee

Karen Campbell for a three year term through 6/30/2023

## **For a second reading in a continuing position, for three years term:**

### Care and Counsel

Shelly James for a three year term through 6/30/2023

### Educational Assistance

Victoria Greene for a three year term through 6/30/2023

### Worship and Ministry

Sharon Mullally for a three year term through 6/30/2023

### Children & Youth Religious Education

JoAnn Seaver for a three year term through 6/30/2023

Andy Jickling, Clerk for a three year term through 6/30/2023

## **For a second reading in a continuing position, for one year term:**

### Recording Team Member

Walter Hjelt Sullivan for a one year term through 6/30/2021

Anthony DiGiovanni for a one year term through 6/30/2021

### Archivist

Jerry Williams for a one year term through 6/30/2021

### Trustees

Russell Endo, Clerk, for a one year term through 6/30/2021

David La Fontaine, Assistant Clerk, for a one year term through 6/30/2021

Sharon Mullally, Secretary, for a one year term through 6/30/2021

Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Treasurer, for a one year term through 6/30/2021

Dan McDevitt for a one year term through 6/30/2021

Sandra Rodriguez for a one year term through 6/30/2021

## **For a second reading for the Greene Street Friends School Board:**

### New Member:

Gabe Ehri, ex-officio, for a three year term through 6/30/2023

### Continuing Member, for a third three-year term

Chip Linehan, for a three year term through 6/30/2023

## **For a first reading in a new position for a three year term:**

### Rep to Quarterly Meeting

L Lanza, for a three year term through 6/30/2023

### Budget Committee

Mary Noland, for a three year term through 6/30/2023

### Care and Counsel

Cheryl McFadden, for a three year term through 6/30/2023

Property Committee

Mike Kelley, for a three year term through 6/30/2023

**For a first reading in a continuing position, for a three year term:**

Recorder

Frank Perch, for a three year term through 6/30/2023

WPM Joint Care Committee

Kathy Angell, for a three year term through 6/30/2023

**For a first reading in a continuing position, for a one year term:**

Trustees

Gabbreell James, for a one year term through 6/30/2021

QVS Support

Chihiro Williams, for a one year term through 6/30/2021

**2020-06-3 Taking Amy Verstappen's ministry under the care of the meeting (follow up to May Meeting discussion) - Chris Mohr**

A clearness committee of Chris Mohr, JoAnn Seaver, and Kathy Angell met with Amy Verstappen twice to test clearness for the ministry. Chris offered a summary of the ministry, which involves Global ARCH. The committee has a clear sense that this is a spiritual calling for Amy. The clearness committee addressed spiritual support via a mutual accountability group, support of Amy's travel in the ministry, and possible future financial support for Global ARCH. The cClearness committee did not hear from Friends who had concerns.

A Friend raised two concerns: 1) about "white saviorism" and 2) this ministry is not particular to the local community. Amy spoke to her care related to "white saviorism" and sharing funds to empower the group on the ground. Another Friend expressed concern for this being discussed here at the meeting for business when we have appointed a committee to test clearness, asked people with concerns to bring them to the committee, and that process is not being followed in this case. Amy spoke about her joy in the ministry, care she takes in checking her own white privilege in the ministry, and the time and focus that the clearness committee employed in service to the ministry.

*The meeting approved taking this ministry under its care.*

**2020-06-4 Summer Worship - Lori Sinitsky**

A report from Worship and Ministry (below) was presented. The report includes two questions asking, "Whose work is this?"

1. What is the process and procedure for reopening the Mmeeting house?

We need to understand which committees need to act to be ready to meet for worship in-person, when COVID-19 circumstances allow. The Worship Discernment Group has not met in its entirety regularly, nor is it clear what it needs to have in place for reopening the Mmeetinghouse.

Nominating Committee will work to appoint a new clerk for this group. Committee clerks are authorized to name a representative from their committee, rather than being required to serve themselves.

Worship and Ministry recommends meeting for worship only via Zoom through the end of August.

2. How do we proceed with joint worship with Germantown Meeting?

The meeting asked Worship and Ministry and Care and Counsel to work together to explore our relationship with Germantown Meeting for summer worship.

Worship and Ministry suggested working on a joint meeting with Germantown Meeting Worship and Ministry and are exploring the possibility of a joint Zoom meeting at the end of the summer. (see report).

Some Friends wish to know more about the issues related to meeting with Germantown Meeting.

6/21/2020

### **Worship and Ministry report to the Clerk at Meeting for Business on summer worship**

Prepared by Lori Sinitzky

Over the last month there were several meetings on the topic of summer worship; a joint committee meeting of Green Street Monthly Meeting and Germantown Meeting, a meeting of GSMM's Wworship Ddiscernment Wworking Ggroup, and GSMM's Wworship and Mministry Ccommittee.

There is a sense across the Wworship Ddiscernment Wworking Ggroup and Wworship and Mministry Ccommittee that the safest way to move forward is to continue worshipping by Zoom through the summer months. It was recommended that Care and Counsel reach out to Friends not in attendance at Zoom meeting for worship to find out if they would like a worship buddy, someone who can worship with them, socially-distanced, in their home and perhaps provide assistance joining GSMM's meeting for worship.

The work of planning the re-opening the Mmeetinghouse for worship, business, and fellowship needs to be a well-researched, well-informed, careful process that should begin soon. Whose work should this be?

Both the Wworship Ddiscernment Wworking Ggroup and the Wworship and Mministry Ccommittee spent time in discernment about our usual practice of worshipping with Germantown meeting over the summer. It was decided that this decision is in the purview of the Wworship and Mministry Ccommittee, as the Wworship Ddiscernment Wworking Ggroup has a limited scope of work focused on Covid-19 and safe gathering for worship.

In both committee meetings, Friends brought a concern for safe community for Friends of Color in Worship. In particular, a concern for ensuring a safe space in worship with Germantown Meeting was expressed by several apparently white Friends. Worship and ministry recognizes the importance of safe community spaces during this time of pain and change and wishes to continue to provide this space throughout the summer months for all those attending GSMM meeting for worship. For this reason, a decision was made to continue worshipping with the GSMM community and engage in fellowship with the Germantown Meeting community in a different way. GFM and GSMM will collaborate on a joint anti-racist project, and an effort has been initiated. Worship and Ministry recommends a joint Germantown Meeting/ Green Street Meeting meeting for worship by Zoom near the end of this summer as a supplement to regularly scheduled meeting for worship.

The issue of fellowship and continuing development of anti-racist communities within and between Green Street Meeting and Germantown Meeting must be addressed. Whose work is this?

### **2020-06-5 Climate change - Don Weightman**

This agenda item was to address two items:

1. Where we are as a meeting with regard to the climate crisis?  
The clerk suggested that 14 people remaining at this time were insufficient to address this



larger question. One Friend expressed concern about the attention to climate change by GSFM. Several Friends recommended carrying this topic forward to a future meeting for business.

2. Two minutes on climate change from Central Philadelphia Meeting and Earth Justice Collaborative (below) were considered.

*The meeting approved sending the Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting and Eco-Justice minute on to Philadelphia Quarter with the recommendation that a minute similar to this one be forwarded to the yearly meeting. We acknowledge that GSFM has undone work to do and intend to dedicate time to addressing these issues, in a number of ways, knowing that writing a minute is insufficient of itself.*

At Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting's meeting for business on February 9, 2020, the following minute was approved. The meeting united in sending this minute on to Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting for consideration, with the hope that it can be approved and then sent on to Philadelphia Yearly meeting.

### **Minute to Address the Climate Crisis as a Corporate Witness of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting**

As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported to the United Nations in October, 2018, humanity is facing an unprecedented existential climate crisis. We must cut carbon emissions in half in the next ten years, and we must get to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Otherwise, the world will face a global climate catastrophe of incalculable severity before the end of the century.

While all people will suffer the impacts of the climate crisis, it is the most vulnerable populations who will suffer disproportionately. Conflicts caused or exacerbated by droughts, water shortages, rising sea levels, food insecurity, and mass migration of climate refugees are increasing; escalating violence and wars seem inevitable. If we as Friends are called to be true to our historic testimonies for peace, justice and stewardship of our earth, we must make work for climate justice a high priority at all levels of our yearly meeting.

To avoid the worst consequences of global warming and protect the earth for future generations, we must all work to make climate justice a clear corporate witness and a major priority of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We call on all parts of the yearly meeting to discern how best to contribute to the economic, political and societal transformations that will be required in order to address this crisis.

We call on Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to take immediate and resolute action. Specifically, we ask PYM to consider changes it can make and actions it can take to address the climate emergency, and to encourage each quarterly meeting and monthly meeting to do the same. We ask that the clerks of the yearly meeting, quarterly meetings and monthly meetings report back each year to the body about what has been done.

### **BACKGROUND: Timeline of Yearly Meeting Action Minutes on Climate Change**

1972: The Yearly Meeting adopted its first query on concern for the sanctity of life on Earth and reverence for all creation: "Query #10—*Are you concerned that our increased power over nature should not be used irresponsibly but with reverence for life and with a sense of the splendor of God's continuing creation?*"

1989 and 1993: The Environmental Working Group urged the Yearly Meeting to heed its own query on the environment, to recognize care for the earth as a religious concern and an extension of our testimonies on peace, justice and simplicity.

1998-2015: PYM approved seven minutes recognizing our commitment to caring for the earth as an expression of our faith. Excerpts from these minutes include:

- *The world is God's creation. How we treat the earth and all its creatures is basic to our relationship with God, and of fundamental religious concern to the Society of Friends*
- *We unite in urging individual Friends, monthly meetings, and other Friends' organizations to seek Divine Guidance in understanding how to reduce our own use of energy and material resources, to support strong international agreements for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to participate in a transition to less damaging technologies in our industries, agriculture, buildings and transportation.*
- *We call upon the Yearly Meeting, in all its manifestations, to seek ways to hold our members lovingly accountable to live in God's world in a more environmentally sustainable fashion and to join other like-minded groups and organizations in supporting this concern.*
- *We charge ourselves to examine all of our facilities and programs so as to continually ask, as a religious community, how we can live in God's world in a more environmentally sustainable fashion. . . . [Wwe] charge all Standing Committees and the working groups under their care to explore the implications of climate change and energy concerns for their work.*
- *PYM encourages its Clerk, and empowers the General Secretary and Councils as they are led to pursue opportunities and communicate publicly on behalf of PYM in support of strategic and effective efforts to abate climate change, as appropriate to their positions of leadership.*

**MINUTE to ADDRESS the CLIMATE CRISIS  
AS ONE OF PYM's TOP CORPORATE WITNESSES**

In 2018, climate scientists told the United Nations that the effects of climate change were occurring much sooner than expected. They warned that, unless carbon emissions are cut by 50% in about ten years, i.e., by 2030, and then to net-zero by 2050, humanity will probably experience a global climate catastrophe of incalculable severity before the end of this century.

We know that while all will suffer, the most vulnerable populations will face certain calamity. Institutional racism has already harmed communities of color, as manifested in part in environmental injustice. Continued exploitation of the Earth's resources has already caused mass extinctions and put life as we know it at risk. Conflicts due to rising sea levels, food insecurity, water scarcity, and mass migrations are already causing horrific injustice and threatening world peace.

For these reasons, our historic testimonies for peace, justice, integrity, and stewardship call us to make climate justice a clear and urgent concern for corporate witness, and for all manifestations of our Yearly Meeting to take *immediate and resolute action*.

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BACKGROUND: Timeline of Yearly Meeting action minutes on climate change:

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- *We charge ourselves to examine all of our facilities and programs so as to continually ask, as a religious community, how we can live in God’s world in a more environmentally sustainable fashion. . . [we] charge all Standing Committees and the working groups under their care to explore the implications of climate change and energy concerns for their work.*
- *PYM encourages its Clerk and empowers the General Secretary and Councils as they are led to pursue opportunities and communicate publicly on behalf of PYM in support of strategic and effective efforts to abate climate change, as appropriate to their positions of leadership.*

For many years, individual Friends and Meetings have taken action in response to these minutes and their own leadings, and Friends organizations, including AFSC, FCNL, FWCC, QUNO and QEW, have spoken out about the threat of climate disruption to world peace, to civil society, and to our most vulnerable populations. Although our Yearly Meeting has supported specific actions to address this crisis, we have not made protecting the future of life on earth an on-going corporate witness.

Today we witness violence and the injustice of family separation at our southern border, raging fires in the west, and destruction by hurricanes and tornadoes, including Hurricane Maria that has so decimated Puerto Rico. Yet terrible as these have been, they are nothing compared to the suffering of future generations if our society fails to address the global climate crisis in the next decade.

The Yearly Meeting’s Strategic Direction on corporate witness and social action states: “*As seekers of Truth, we expect to be called to action. Together as a PYM community we will witness to the Light, contributing to transformational work in the world. We will encourage and support one another in taking risks together as we make an impact on our society. We will enhance our effectiveness by focusing our corporate action, on fewer, clearer corporate goals.*”

**Green Street Meeting is mourning two of our beloved members, Elizabeth Cunningham and Geniver Montalvo.**

Elizabeth passed away this month at Wesley at Stapeley. Elizabeth served as clerk for many years and on many committees. At her Memorial Service on Zoom on June 28, it was clear that she was known for her delight in young people, her varied interests and voracious reading, her dedication to the meeting, her plain spoken ways, and her modeling of authenticity and integrity. We especially hold in our hearts her daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Michael Van Hoy, and acknowledge the loving care they gave Elizabeth in the last stages of her life.

Geniver Montalvo passed away suddenly in his home. We were not prepared for his loss. We were used to his presence at meeting, at coffee hour, at our meetings for business where his contributions always offered a fresh and thoughtful perspective. He worked to keep our website well designed and up to date. His presence, warmth and faithfulness are greatly missed. We have reached out to and hold in our hearts his daughter, Naomi Montalvo Wesley. We hope to help her when she decides to have a memorial service. Naomi tells me that it is a great comfort to her to know how much Geniver was a part of the Green Street Meeting family from the notes she finds to Geniver from meeting members and the notes to her that she has received. She keeps them on a table by the door so that she can refer to them for comfort and strength. She never realized before how significant such notes could be.