

The Green Street Messenger
Green Street Monthly Meeting of Friends
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West Philadelphia Preparative Friends Meeting
4718 Windsor Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143



Meeting for Worship

10:30 AM Via Zoom/83195217639

June 2021

Sunday, 6th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 13th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Indoor Worship Resumes

Sunday, 20th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

12:30 PM

Monthly Meeting for Business (Via Zoom)

Sunday, 27th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Agenda for 5/16/2021

Green Street Friends Meeting, via Zoom, 12:30pm EST

The meeting started at 12:30 with a short period of silent worship.

Present: Rachel Ellis Adams, Jocelyn Banks, Anne Bayless, Susan Chast, Susan Christian, Sam Connell, Anthony DiGiovanni (recording clerk), Bob Dockhorn, Gabriel Ehri (clerk), Russ Endo, Lola Georg, Viv Hawkins, Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Afroza Hossain, Gabbreell James, Mike Kelley, David La Fontaine, Cheryl McFadden (assistant clerk), Chris Mohr, Robin Mohr, Sharon Mullally, Mary Noland, Frank Perch, JoAnn Seaver, Marille Thomas, Bill Van Stone, Margaret Wood, EppChez Yes

Opening Worship and Reading of Query: (Read by Anthony DiGiovanni) How

does this decision support Green Street Friends Meeting in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?

Prayer: A Litany for Those not Ready for Healing By Dr. Yolanda Pierce (Read by Sharon Mullally)

Let us not rush to the language of healing, before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound.

Let us not rush to offer a Band-Aid, when the gaping wound requires surgery and complete reconstruction.

Let us not offer false equivalencies, thereby diminishing the particular pain being felt in a particular circumstance in a particular historical moment.

Let us not speak of reconciliation without speaking of reparations and restoration, or how we can repair the breach and how we can restore the loss.

Let us not rush past the loss of this mother's child, this father's child...someone's beloved son.

Let us not value property over people; let us not protect material objects while human lives hang in the balance.

Let us not value a false peace over a righteous justice.

Let us not be afraid to sit with the ugliness, the messiness, and the pain that is life in community together.

Let us not offer clichés to the grieving, those whose hearts are being torn asunder.

Instead...

Let us mourn black and brown men and women, those killed extrajudicially every 28 hours.

Let us lament the loss of a teenager, dead at the hands of a police officer who described him as a demon.

Let us weep at a criminal justice system, which is neither blind nor just.

Let us call for the mourning men and the wailing women, those willing to rend their garments of privilege and ease, and sit in the ashes of this nation's original sin.

Let us be silent when we don't know what to say.

Let us be humble and listen to the pain, rage, and grief pouring from the lips of our neighbors and friends.

Let us decrease, so that our brothers and sisters who live on the underside of history may increase.

Let us pray with our eyes open and our feet firmly planted on the ground

Let us listen to the shattering glass and let us smell the purifying fires, for it is the language of the unheard.

God, in your mercy...

Show me my own complicity in injustice.

Convict me for my indifference.

Forgive me when I have remained silent.

Equip me with a zeal for righteousness.

Never let me grow accustomed or acclimated to unrighteousness.

Approval of Minutes from 4/18/2021 (Gabe Ehri)

Friends approved the minutes from April 18, 2021

Nominating Committee (Walter Hjelt Sullivan)

Last month, Friends received for first review the nomination of Cheryl McFadden for Quarterly Meeting liaison and Mike Kelley to join Budget Committee. Both are for 3 year terms. These names were revisited today and approved.

Care & Counsel Committee (Lola Georg)

Last month, there was a first reading for membership for Cori Croot in West Philly Preparative Meeting. Susan Chast, Natalie Marten, Amy Keitzman and Rosana Dent were on clearness committee. Friends approved the membership.

Susan Chast, Amy Keitzman, and Rosana Dent will be the welcoming committee and plan a party.

Minutes of Appreciation for David La Fontaine and Jerry Williams (Mary Noland)

Mary Noland read separate minutes of gratitude for David La Fontaine and Jerry Williams for their time serving as Treasurer of the Meeting.

Budget Committee's Minute of Gratitude for Treasurer David La Fontaine

A Meeting Treasurer's activities both visibly and invisibly, sometimes often daily, behind the scenes, goes unrecognized, and we take a Treasurer for granted, and often forget that a Meeting Treasurer is a volunteer! Looking back, the Budget committee is amazed at the long length of service that David has provided as Treasurer to Meeting while doing his daily work-work! The Budget committee wishes to give a deferred but no less—in fact, with time, more heartfelt—Thanks and Appreciation of David!

Budget Committee's Minute of Gratitude for Treasurer Jerry Williams

Before we knew him as Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer, we knew where Jerry sat in Meeting for Worship. Poised and dutiful, he was present, in the Light, seeking. Now we know how Jerry's competence as Treasurer has blessed our Meeting. Jerry has worked hard to fundraise for new expenses but has done this work quietly, not seeking the limelight even though he often brought it out for all of us. However, he could and would quickly send you the minute on the financial matter you brought to his attention. Jerry is great to work with because he is always seeking clarity, is organized and articulate in helping others to clarity.

The period since Jerry first became Assistant Treasurer has been a time of tremendous fiscal activity, specifically because of multiple renovation and repair projects involving numerous contractors and numerous committee members; and related special fundraising efforts as well. Jerry has been in the middle of everything—plus he stepped in to serve as Treasurer when the role

had been pretty much ignored for more than a year— and we had a new secretary as well. Jerry has been conscientious and available—it sounds like to a much greater extent than he or anyone else expected. We appreciate his efforts to clarify Secretarial work. We appreciate partnering with him on financial reports relating to the large projects. And we appreciate that most of what he did we never saw and never heard about.

Jerry has a knack for delving humbly, persistently, fearlessly into the difficult edge of knowledge, where continuing revelation resides, thus sharing his Light for which service we can never be wholly grateful except for when we then follow his modeling and example!

Jerry is not leaving Meeting, rather just this role as Treasurer, and he is already doing other things helping the meeting! We hope we may continue to be blessed by his thoughtful presence in many different roles in the future at Meeting!
With Great and Good Thanks!

The Meeting accepted the minutes with appreciation.

Report on joint meeting of Reparations & Budget Committees (Sharon Mullally, Anne Bayless, Marille Thomas, EppChez Yes)

Green Street Meeting unites with and approves the following proposal from the Reparations Committee:

The Reparations Committee recommends that \$50,000 annually be drawn over 10 years (2021-2030), from reserves held by trustees and paid as wealth redistribution to Black people in the United States, as a step toward reparations.

In keeping with the principles of reparations, we recommend these funds be paid to the people who have been harmed and used by them as they see fit. Therefore, we

recommend entrusting the capable Black members of the Reparations Committee to confer with other Black people active in GSMM to discern and distribute these funds.

During or before 2030, Reparations Committee recommends this practice be assessed to discern if further wealth redistribution is rightly-ordered.

Discussion of Resuming Indoor Worship (Gabe Ehri)

The meeting agreed to resume in-person meeting beginning June 13th. The clerk asked Hospitality, Religious Education and the Reopening Discernment Group to meet and make the appropriate plans for our return.

News & Announcements

Hello Green Street Friends,

The **EMIR Support Group** is raising funds this year to provide backpacks and school supplies for the children of families served by the EMIR Healing Center. We are expecting that school will resume in person in September, and the children will need supplies to return to school. Our 2021 goal is 125-150 backpacks with school-district required supplies.

In that regard, we created an **online fundraiser!**

<https://chuffed.org/project/2021-emir-back-packs-and-school-supplies>

Please consider donating if you are able, as soon as you can but before the end of July when this campaign ends. This year, due to Coronavirus, we are collecting cash donations and will be purchasing school supplies (rather than receiving donations of supplies).

Thank you so very much for your continued support of our member Victoria Greene and her ministry of EMIR (Every Murder Is Real) Healing Center.

Note for online donations: *In using the fundraising link above, you do NOT need a PayPal account, nor do you need to donate to Chuffed (the website that is hosting the fundraiser). In the blue box, you can choose to donate zero to Chuffed. The button at the bottom will say, 'Pay with*

PayPal' and you can click on it, and when redirected to PayPal, you can pay with a credit card by choosing that option below the PayPal sign-in, AND you can pay as a guest without a PayPal account.

On behalf of the EMIR Support Group

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.