

The Green Street Messenger
Green Street Monthly Meeting of Friends
45 West School House Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19144
267-285-0553
secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org

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



Meeting for Worship

10:30 AM Via Zoom/83195217639

March 2022

Sunday, 6th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 13th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 20th

10:30 AM
12:30 PM

Via Zoom/83195217639
Monthly Meeting for Business (Via Zoom)

Sunday, 27th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

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

Via Zoom, Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Second Month 20, 2022.

Business Meeting convened at 2:00 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?

22-02-01 Nominations Committee

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Clerk, reporting.

Friends gave final approval to the appointment of Mike Kelley to be Treasurer of the Meeting for three years through June, 2025.

Traci Hjelt Sullivan and Mike will serve as co-treasurers for a couple of months.

Friends are asked to email them both if they have questions and requests until further notice.

Friends expressed gratitude to Mike for taking on this work. Friends also expressed great appreciation to Traci for all the work that she has done to cover the treasurer duties over the past months, to prepare for this day, and to support the transition.

22-02-02 Spiritual State of the Meeting Report

Clerk Gabe Ehri, reporting

As Clerk of the Meeting, Gabe gathered together a small group to generate a first draft which was shared as part of the advanced documentation for this meeting. Members of the ad-hoc group included Afroza Hossain, Valerie Anderson, Frank Perch, and JoAnn Seaver.

Gabe reported that West Philadelphia Meeting, which is under the care of Green Street, is also preparing their own draft document which we expect to receive in March.

Friends were very pleased with the framework for the document organized around the felt experience of the Meeting over the past year. Friends offered thoughts on items that could be added, knowing that the list could never be exhaustive and that sometimes less is more. Gabe invited Friends who wanted to help incorporate the suggestions into the draft to contact him.

The Meeting will revisit the document again next month with the intent of adopting a final version at that time.

21-02-03 Reparations Committee

Viv Hawkins, Clerk, reporting.

In 2021, the Meeting approved a minute dedicating at least \$50,000 a year over 10 years from Meeting reserves for the work of reparations in support of Black residents in Germantown. On behalf of the Committee, Viv noted that the public work on reparations did not begin until 2022 and this will be the first year that any of the funds will be expended. The Committee asked that the Meeting clearly minute that 2022 will be the first of the 10 years. Friends united in approving this minute.

Treasurer Traci Hjelt Sullivan noted that she had misunderstood the request from Reparations Committee, that the reports she prepared for today's meeting do not reflect their intention, but that they will be modified to do so. She also noted that each year, the \$50,000 for reparations will be transferred into a special fund so that any unspent monies will be carried over and available to the Committee for their continued work.

Viv gave a brief update on the program of legal clinics to help Black residents of Germantown to clear up wills and deeds related to their family properties. Friends expressed great appreciation and support for the work of the Committee.

22-02-04 Restorative Practices Committee

Tracey Smith, reporting.

Tracey gave a brief update about the series of restorative justice circles that Meeting will hold on Sunday afternoons from 12:30 to 3pm over the next few months:

February 27

March 13

March 27

and possibly April 24

The programs are designed to help us build our relationships as a meeting, with our community, and with Green St. Friends School. They will be facilitated by Barbie Fisher, Circle Facilitator, of the Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia.

Everyone is invited to as many of the sessions as they are able to attend. If you have any questions feel free to contact Tracey or any of the other members of the committee: Valerie Anderson, JoAnn Seaver, and Linda Singleton.

22-02-05 Treasurer's Report

Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Treasurer, reporting.

Traci gave an update on the work that the Budget committee did last year to simplify

the role of the Treasurer, primary among them reworking the chart of accounts, making it possible to generate regular reports directly from QuickBooks, and hiring a part time bookkeeper to do some of the basic accounting.

Traci shared and reviewed a number of the standard reports that Friends will see on a more regular basis going forward:

- A Year-End Statement of Activities

- A Statement of Financial Position, often called a Balance Sheet

- A Special Funds Report showing income, expenses, and current balances for:

 - Necessitous Cases Fund

 - Replacement Fund

 - Education Assistance Fund

 - EMIR School Supplies Fund

 - Viv Hawkins LifeCalls Fund

 - Reparations Fund

As noted before, Traci reported that the balance in the Reparations Fund is not in compliance with the committee's request, but that will be corrected.

The 2021 budget posted a net operating deficit of almost \$120,000. Traci explained that Friends did not need to worry because almost all of that amount comes from the special projects and not from the routine Meeting expenses.

The committee is budgeting 10% more in gifts from members next year than we received this year. Friends are encouraged to note this goal when making contributions.

In the future, Budget Committee intends to bring reports to business meeting in February, May, September, and when they present the next year's budget. They understand that the Meeting would like to see an integrated report of the Meeting budget and Trustees budget at the same time. Budget Committee plans to work with Trustees to accomplish this in the future. It just is not ready yet.

Friends asked some questions about the various reports. They expressed deep gratitude for the work of the Committee and Traci in particular.

22-02-06 Time of Meeting for Business

A few Friends noted that the time for Meeting for Business has not been regular over the past few months. After some conversation, Friends agreed to hold our business sessions at 1pm each month, late enough for people to get home after attending Meeting for Worship in person, but not so late as to take up the whole afternoon.

22-02-07 The Minutes

Recording Clerk Walter Hjelt Sullivan summarized the action portions of the Minutes and they were approved.

Closing

With gratitude for our work together, at 3:30pm, Meeting ended in worship with the intention of meeting again at the appointed time on Third Month 20, 2022, at 1pm.

Gabe Ehri, Clerk

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Recording Clerk

Attending:

Susan Christian, Lola Georg, Jean Harris, Viv Hawkins, Afroza Hossain, Mike Kelley, L Lanza, Chris Mohr, Robin Mohr, Sharon Mullally, JoAnn Seaver, Tracey Smith, Traci Hjelt Sullivan.

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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>

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.

