

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

May 2021

Sunday, 2nd

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 9th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, 16th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

12:30 PM

Monthly Meeting for Business

Sunday, 23rd

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 30th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Minutes of Green Street Monthly Meeting for Business Held Fourth Month 18, 2021

Via Zoom, Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Fourth Month 18, 2021.

These written minutes have not been approved.

Business Meeting convened at 12:35 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?

21-04-01 Emir Healing Center Request

Victoria Greene, Founder and Director of EMIR and member of the Meeting reporting.

Victoria brought a request that the Meeting approve a gift of \$50,000 to EMIR to enable the organization to hire a new staff person. This request comes in light of the continued impact of the COVID pandemic upon the community, the health of the EMIR staff, and the rapidly rising number of homicides in the city this year.

Friends expressed strong appreciation for the work that Victoria and EMIR does in the community. One member, a former treasurer of the Meeting, spoke of the strong ties between Green Street and EMIR, the importance of the work, and assured Friends that the money was available to make this gift. Friends asked for a brief report on the impact of the \$50,000 gift that was approved last year.

A member of Budget Committee agreed that the money was available, was supportive of EMIR's work, and informed the Meeting that such a gift would likely result in long-term decrease in future annual income of about \$2,000. They also noted that there is a request before the Meeting for a significant allocation for justice giving from the Reparations Committee.

A number of Friends challenged these comments as scarcity thinking. Members of the Reparations Committee reported that they had been informed of EMIR's request, had talked about it, and hope that the Meeting would not see this gift as being in competition with any commitment to fund the Meeting's reparations work.

Clerk, Gabe Ehri, intervened to apologize to the Meeting. He had sensed unity on the

support for this gift earlier and had not named it in the moment. He asked if Friends were ready to approve a gift of \$50,000 to EMIR to support hiring a needed staff person. Friends agreed.

Friends approved a \$50,000 unrestricted gift to EMIR Healing Center.

21-04-02 New Meeting Sign

JoAnn Seaver, ad-hoc signage group convener, reporting.

JoAnn brought forward proposed wording for the new permanent sign, approved last month, to be installed near Schoolhouse Lane with basic information about the Meeting.

All Are Welcome

Quaker Worship

10:30 am

Sundays

www.gsfriends.org

Green Street Friends Meeting

Friends were informed that the Meeting was not changing the web domain for the Meeting website; instead we have registered an additional shorter domain which links to our current website so that those who are passing by can see one that is easier to read and remember.

A member of Worship and Ministry said that the committee had recommended capitalizing the first three letters of the new URL making it: www.GSFriends.org.

One Friend asked if this will be a permanent painted sign or a replaceable piece of paper attached to a wooden sign. If the later, they wondered if we should provide information about outdoor worship and virtual worship. JoAnn clarified that this will be a permanent painted sign and those other messages should be posted elsewhere.

Friends approved moving forward with installing the new permanent sign with gratitude to the working group for their efforts.

21-04-03 Budget Committee

Traci Hjelt Sullivan, reporting

Traci reported on steps that have been made by the Budget Committee in light of the fact that Jerry Williams has stepped down as Treasurer and, so far, Nominating Committee has not been able to bring forward a new nominee to fill this crucial

position.

Budget Committee expressed its deep gratitude to Jerry for his work of the past years, acknowledging that, because of some long-ignored issues in the set up of the budget, he has had to do much more work than was reasonable to accomplish. For example, it is challenging to generate financial reports in their current format.

The Committee is sharing the most urgent responsibilities of the Treasurer until a new Treasurer is approved. Bills will be paid and Ashanta, our one staff person, will get her paycheck regularly and on time.

In a few days, the Committee will circulate to the Meeting via the listserv a new Check Approval policy that it asks everyone to follow when requesting a check from the meeting.

The Committee has also developed a plan to simplify and clarify the responsibilities of the next Treasurer, and to support the Ashanta in her bookkeeping responsibilities.

The Committee would like to hire an outside accountant to build a new chart of accounts and create some basic reports in our accounting software which will make routine reporting easier for everyone. The Committee would like to hire a bookkeeper to come in once a quarter to complete reconciliations, review the books, and to input particularly complex journal entries. The Committee will share the Scopes of Work for these two roles to anyone who is interested in seeing them.

Because of the timing and a sense of urgency, Budget Committee was unable to research the cost of hiring an accountant. They asked if the Meeting was willing to empower them to go forward without that particular piece of information.

Friends approved hiring a short-term accountant as outlined by the Budget Committee.

One Friend, not objecting to the approval, noted that this kind of “blank check” approval is extended to some people in the Meeting, often white people and officers of the Meeting, and not to others, often People of Color or Friends working on justice issues. They wondered if we could extend this kind of spiritual generosity more widely in the Meeting. The clerk noted the truth of what had just happened and expressed appreciation for their personal learning, hoping to do better in the future.

Former Treasurer Jerry Williams took this moment as an opportunity to formally report on the closing of the Renewal Campaign, a fundraising effort to restore some of the reserves used to pay for the kitchen renovation and wheelchair ramp installation. Final proceeds from the campaign were \$106,000. Friends expressed gratitude to Jerry

for his leadership in the campaign and his years of service as treasurer.

21-04-04 Care and Counsel

Lola Georg, Clerk, reported.

Care and Counsel brought forward two new membership issues.

The Committee brought forward the Membership of Cori Croot, for a 1st reading as a member of West Philadelphia Preparative Meeting and therefore Green Street Friends Meeting. Clearness committee members were: Susan Chast, Natalie Martin, Amy Kietzman, and Rosanna Dent. This membership will be brought forward again in May. If anyone in the Meeting has any questions or concerns, they can contact a member of Care and Counsel.

The Committee also brought forward for approval on a first reading Child Membership for the children of our member Julian Dockhorn:

Kestrel Sage Dockhorn McKeever, he/him, born Nov 22nd, 2018

Peregrine (Pip) Yarrow Dockhorn McKeever, he/him, born May 1st, 2015

One Friend expressed general opposition to the idea of giving membership to the children who are not active in our community, and whose member parent is also not active in our community.

Other Friends expressed a strong interest to extend generosity to children associated with the Meeting even when at a distance, especially since their grandfather, Bob Dockhorn, is known and loved by so many of us.

Lola asked if the Meeting would be willing to improve this set of recommendations now and have Care and Counsel look one more time at the Meeting's relationship to membership of children at a distance.

Friends approved.

21-04-05 Reparations Committee

Gabe Ehri, Meeting Clerk, reported.

Gabe noted that in the March Business Meeting the question arose about the nature of the relationship between the Reparations Committee and the Meeting. Some had noted that it had originally been created as a working group under the care of the Worship and Ministry Committee, but it was not operating that way currently.

Gabe reported that between then and now the Worship and Ministry Committee met and reflected on this issue. They approved a minute that was forwarded to him as Clerk and the members of the Reparations Committee.

Gabe read the minute from W&M:

Reparations Committee

After a searching discussion, we felt there is no need for the Reparations Committee to be under the care of Worship and Ministry or any other committee. It needs to be engaged in its own two-way relationship with the meeting. Sharon will report this discussion to Gabe Ehri, clerk of the meeting, and then to the Reparations Committee, unless Gabe sees any red flags in this arrangement.

There was a strong sense that we'd like to be in a spiritual exploration of the issue of reparations as we continue to move forward on the work of sharing our inherited wealth.

This could be a rich topic for adult religious education. Members of Worship & Ministry would be happy to work with the Reparations Committee to move this forward.

A member of the Reparations Committee reported that they had received this minute and had talked about it at their last meeting. The group would be willing to become a committee of the Meeting, but only if they could have open membership and not be populated by the Nominating Committee.

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Clerk of Nominating Committee, said that Nominating was easy with Reparation Committee being an open committee. There are many other ad-hoc self-initiated committees pursuing a special leading, some include Documentaries and Discussions, the EMIR Support Group, and at one time the Green Team. The key issue for W&M is that Reparations have its own direct iterative relationship with the Meeting with frequent communication in both directions, not mediated or encumbered through another committee.

Friends agreed that Reparations Committee become a free-standing self-nominating committee.

Gabe asked the Committee to identify a single person who will serve as a contact for the Clerk. Members of Reparations agreed to identify and provide that contact person.

21-04-06 Nominating Committee.

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Clerk, reported.

Walter reviewed the information on the written report for 04/17/21 which had been belatedly shared with the meeting over the listserv.

Friends approved the nominees who had been presented in March and were brought forward for a second reading for new and continuing positions on various committees. The report is attached.

Friends received for first review the nomination of Cheryl McFadden for Quarterly Meeting liaison and Mike Kelley to join Budget Committee. These names will be revisited in May. Anyone who has questions should contact Walter.

Friends also gave final approval to the full slate of returning members and one brand new member of the Greene Street School Board.

One Friend noted that none of the names on the list were familiar or known to the Meeting. They asked how the names of these nominees come to the Meeting. Walter explained the process by which names are threshed by the GSFS Governance Committee and shared with the Nominating Committee for our review. Then Nominating brings the recommendations, including renominations, to the Meetings for final approval. Biographies of all new Board members are shared with the Meeting. In addition, we currently have six members of the Meeting who serve on the Board and work closely with all the other members. This Friend wondered if there might be an opportunity for the Board members to be better known to the Meeting.

Gabe Ehri reported that he, Chris Mohr (GSFS Board Clerk), and Ed Marshall (Head of School) are planning to host an open meeting with members of the Meeting to explore any issues or concerns in our relationship once the pandemic has lessened and we are able to meet face-to-face.

Closing

With gratitude for our work together, at 2:40pm, Meeting ended in worship with the intention of meeting again at the appointed time on Fifth Month 16, 2021.

Gabe Ehri, Clerk

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Recording Clerk

Attending:

Jocelyn Banks, Sam Connell, Rachel Ellis, Lola Georg, Victoria Greene, Viv Hawkins, Mike Kelley, L Lanza, Cheryl McFadden, Chris Mohr, Robin Mohr, Mary Noland, Frank Perch, JoAnn Seaver, Ellen Sleeter, Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Marille Thomas, Bill Van Stone, Jerry Williams, Margaret Wood

Green Street Meeting Nominating Report
04/19/2021

Stepping down or terming out in a current position:

QVS Support Committee

Chihiro Williams

FOR FINAL APPROVAL

For a second reading in a new position for a three-year term

Care and Counsel

Victoria Greene, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Worship and Ministry

Ashlynn Sylvain, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

West Philadelphia Meeting Joint Care Committee

Traci Hjelt Sullivan, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Educational Assistance

Margaret Wood, as Clerk

Jerry Williams, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

For a second reading in a continuing position for a three-year term

Budget Committee

Frank Perch, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Traci Hjelt Sullivan, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Care and Counsel

Bill Van Stone, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Susan Christian, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Worship and Ministry

Lori Sinitzky, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

QVS Support Committee

JoAnn Seaver, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Bill Van Stone, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Property

Dan McDevitt, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

For a second reading in a continuing position for a one-year term

Recording Team

Anthony DiGiovanni, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Viv Hawkins, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Archivist

Jerry Williams, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Meeting Rentals Advisory Committee

Anthony DiGiovanni, Property Committee, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Frank Perch, Budget Committee, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Gabbreell James, At-Large, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

FIRST READING

For a first reading in a new position for a three-year term

Rep to Quarterly Meeting

Cheryl McFadden, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Budget Committee

Mike Kelley, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Greene Street Friend School Board

For a second reading as a continuing member, for a three-year term:

Betty Turner, for a third term

Jerome Maddox, for a third term

Jesse Smith '87, for a second term

Kia Wimmer, for a second term

For a second reading as a new member, for a three-year term:

Christina Young, for a first term

Notes Re Greene Street School Board

Christina Young is the parent of Maryn, a 4th grader at GSFS. She also has three older children who are in various stages of college and independence.

Christina, her husband Larry, and Maryn moved to Philadelphia from Denver during 2019. They moved so that Christina could assume her position as Vice President of Reliability Engineering Excellence at Comcast Cable Corporation. In this role, she leads the National Network Reliability Business Transformation Office including business continuity/disaster response, asset management, process management & analytics, and program management.

Over her 20+ year career, Christina has held engineering and leadership positions in marketing, vendor management, engineering operations, and program management at a variety of different firms. She had been working at Comcast for 10 years before moving to Philadelphia.

Christina is passionate about equity in education for low-income and first-generation students. Before relocating to Philadelphia, she served as Co-Chair of the Trustee Board for the Park Hill United Methodist Church

Children's Center in Denver. In this role, she led the Finance and Fundraising Committees. She is also a founding and current board member of the First-Generation and/or Low-Income Alumni Network at her alma mater, Stanford University (where she was herself a first-generation college student). Christina earned a BS in Industrial Engineering/Management Science & Engineering at Stanford in 1993.

2020-2021 School Year

16 Trustees

Quakers: 8, non-Quakers 8

Identify as female: 5, Identify as male: 11

Identify as BIPOC: 8, Identify as White: 8

Current parents: 4

Parents of alum: 4

Alum: 2

Projections for 2021-2022 School Year

16 Trustees

Quakers: 8, non-Quakers 8

Identify as female: 6, Identify as male: 10

Identify as BIPOC: 8, Identify as White: 8

Current parents: 4

Parents of alum: 4

Alum: 2

News & Announcements

Dear Friends,

The EMIR Support Group has been asked to provide book bags and school supplies for the children/young people of the families EMIR serves.

The homicide rate in Philadelphia has risen exponentially during the pandemic and was tragically high even before the pandemic began. EMIR provides grief counseling, victims' assistance, and other services to the families of the victims of homicide. EMIR seeks to provide support services to the entire family.

Having a new book bag and school supplies for the 2021-2022 school year will, we hope, show some of the care these students deserve and need. Please help as you are able.

Some suggestions on how to help-share the accompanying flyer on social media, print and post where you work or any other appropriate place. This year we are seeking cash donations only.

Thanks so much for your support of this endeavor.

Anne Bayless, Lola George, Viv Hawkins, Chris Mohr, Mary Noland, Peggy Worthington
The EMIR Support Group

EMIR HEALING CENTER

**Fill-A-Backpack School
Supply Drive**

*Help EMIR ease the burden
on the families of murder victims
by helping children prepare
for school success*

Green Street Meeting Supports
EMIR Healing Center and is
sponsoring the 2021 Fill-A-Backpack
drive for 120 children affected by
homicide.



EMIR helps the families of homicide victims navigate the emotional, legal and financial hurdles they face. Murder is devastating to families. Help EMIR ease the burden on families of murder victims.

The Fill-A-Backpack School Supply Drive will provide 120 K-12 students with all the school supplies they need for the 2021-2022 school year.

Write a Check
(please mail by 6/30/2021):

Payable to: Green Street Monthly Meeting

Memo Line: EMIR – School Supplies

Mail to: GSMM, P.O. Box 4926, Philadelphia, PA, 19119

Thank You for Your Support!

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.

