



First Day Meeting for Worship	10:30 AM
First Day School	10:30–11:15 AM
First Day Meeting for Worship at West Phila. Mtg.	10:30 AM
Wednesday morning Meeting for Worship	8:30–9:00 AM with GSFS

December 2018

Sunday, 2th	9:30 AM Rise of Meeting	Breakfast with a Friend Coffee Hour
Sunday, 9th	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting 12:30 PM	Victoria Greene sharing on Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome Lunch Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Sunday, 16th	Rise of Meeting	“After Christmas, What?!” our annual Christmas play Coffee Hour
Sunday, 23th	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting Hospitality – Lucy & Neal	Friendly Bible Study Coffee hour

Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business Held Tenth Month, 18, 2018

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Eleventh Month 18, 2018:

Business meeting began at 12:45 pm with a period of silent worship.

The Clerk invited Friends to share a moment of reflection on thankfulness. Friends expressed gratitude for our faith community, the tangible presence of the Spirit, and good experiences in their lives.

Nominating Committee

Last month Nominating Committee brought forward Margaret Wood for first reading to serve on Care and Counsel Committee. Friends approved the nomination for a term extending for 3-1/2 years to May 2022.

It was requested that Friends contact Nominating Committee if they know of potential changes of their status on committee service.

Report from Greene Street Friends School

Head of School Ed Marshall began by telling Friends that this is his 24th year of presenting the school report to Business Meeting. For many of those years, Ed reported on a multitude of school facts and figures. So while enrollment is at an all-time high point, and the school has moved into the new multipurpose building, this year's report will focus on cutting-edge work happening at the school. Erica Snowden, Dean of Lower School and Clerk of the Diversity Committee, presented on racial identity work happening with students and faculty/staff at the school. Then GSFS parents Deidre Ashton and Isabelle Barker presented on PA CARES, the Parents Association Committee Advancing Racial Equity in our School, which works with the GSFS parent community.

Erica explained how student lessons on race start in pre-K with age-appropriate picture books, and continues through the lower school years with discussions about differences and how children see each other. This foundation sets the stage for the middle school years, where children explore race in racial affinity groups. Children meet weekly over a 10-week period in their self-selected affinity groups for 30 minutes, followed by 30 minutes meeting in mixed homeroom groups. Out of this work came Stay Woke Day, an event where other schools are invited to explore race and GSFS students lead the sessions. Additionally, there is significant work being done on race with the faculty. GSFS has presented this work at multiple forums and it has been well received. Erica pointed out there is also significant work being done on gender and sexuality.

Deidre and Isabelle presented on PA CARES. Both are parents at GSFS. They were drawn to the school by its commitment to diversity and social justice. They recognized that teachers, staff and students were doing great work on race, but there was a gap with work being done formally with GSFS parents. Thus, PA CARES, a deliberately racially balanced committee, was formed with the following mission: "The Parents Association Committee for Advancing Racial Equity in Our School supports GSFS families to promote the positive racial identity of our children and to develop skills to recognize and counter structural racism and micro aggressions, and to undo white supremacy. We support and hold GSFS accountable for continuing to cultivate a racially just learning community." Now in year 3, PA CARES hopes to weave racial equity into all aspects of the school and use it as a way to positively market the school to new families. Deidre and Isabelle concluded by asking the Meeting two questions about its work on racial justice, and the Meeting responded.

Ministry and Worship

Traci Hjelt Sullivan presented. In response to the Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, some Friends have expressed a desire to add language against anti-Semitism to our banner outside the Meetinghouse. Worship and Ministry would like to amend the language on the current banner from: "Our faith calls us to unlearn racism and oppose anti-Muslim bigotry in this community and in the world" to "Our faith calls us to unlearn and oppose racism, anti-Muslim bigotry and anti-Semitism here and everywhere." A

Friend asked, “Are we really living into these words?” Friends struggled with not naming LGBT and immigrant communities on the banner, and with the complexities of adding them to the banner. After much discussion, the new wording for the banner was approved as proposed. Worship and Ministry was asked to further explore a process—whether led by Worship and Ministry or another group—for how we present messages to the community and what those messages would be. We hope to have a way forward by the end of the school year.

Budget Committee

David La Fontaine presented multiple budget items for review. First was the budget versus actual expenses to date for the Meeting House Renewal Project. To date, almost \$550,000 has been received and fundraising efforts will add more. Spent to date is almost \$520,000, with total spending for the project to be about \$664,000 through end of December.

Second, the current Fund Balances for the Meeting were reviewed.

Last, the current 2018 and proposed 2019 operating budgets were reviewed. Next year is a proposed to be a break-even budget. Friends asked multiple questions for clarification. It was noted that the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) covenant is included in the 2019 budget, and there still needs to be further discussion on whether or not to actually send the budgeted 2018 and 2019 money to PYM. The Friends who remained at this point were generally supportive of the budget, but noticed how few they were. The budget committee will distribute copies to members, who will be encouraged to ask questions. The budget committee will return next month seeking approval of the 2019 proposed budget on second reading.

One Friend requested that, in the future, Trustees present on the same day as Budget Committee so Friends can have a complete view of the Meeting’s finances.

Traci reported that Hospitality would like to spend \$3,000 additional funds on equipment and supplies for the kitchen. This can come from unspent 2018 committee budget, and the total program spending for committees would still be under budget. This request was approved.

Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting (PQM)

Jerry Williams reported in his role as GSMM’s rep to PQM. Jerry gave an update on minutes of religious service for Victoria Greene, Viv Hawkins and Eileen Flanagan.

Jerry also presented a request from PQM to endorse a minute from CPMM re: actions on climate change in PA, and to sign a petition from the Clean Air Council. The wording of the petition was not available. Friends decided to not move forward with discussion or endorsement due to the late hour and few Friends left in attendance. When it is available, a link to the petition will be sent to the list-serve so individual Friends can decide for themselves whether or not to sign it.

The Meeting concluded at 3:45 pm after a period of silent worship.

In Attendance: Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Robin Mohr, Peggy Walters, Paul Jablonski, David La Fontaine, Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Frank Perch, Jerry Williams, Sharon Mullally, Susan Christian, Lori Sinitzky, Anne Bayless
Guests: Deidre Ashton, Isabelle Barker, Ed Marshall, Erica Snowden,
Serving as Clerk: Chris Mohr
Serving as Recording Clerk: Anthony DiGiovanni

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The Tenth Query on Witnessing in the World: Education

- 1 What does our meeting do to support and improve public education?
- 2 What help do we provide for the children and adults in our meeting to pursue their educational goals?
- 3 What is our meeting's role in support for Friends' education? If our meeting is connected to a Friends school or schools, does this relationship nurture spiritual life and the manifestation of Friends principles?
- 4 Do we enable children in our meeting to attend a Friends school? Does our meeting work with the family to consider all available means of support?
- 5 How do I show my concern for the improvement of public education in my community? Do I demonstrate my encouragement and support for Friends education through awareness and service?

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Parents of Kids in a Friends school or college? LISTEN UP. Deadline January 25, 2019

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) offers applications for Tuition Aid for Friends Children in Friends Schools. Families usually begin the application process in November. Please complete the PYM application form, ensure that our Meeting's Educational Assistance Committee receives it by our January 25, 2019 deadline, and ensure that the forms signed by our Committee clerk arrive at your school before the school's deadline. Application forms and instructions are online at www.FriendsEducationFund.org. Families with questions may contact Zachary Dutton, Associate Secretary for Program & Religious Life at 215-241-7008 or zdutton@pym.org. Please send the forms for signature to Bill Van Stone, the clerk of Green Street Meeting's Educational Assistance Committee, at wvsdc@aol.com or 625 Burnham Road, Philadelphia, PA 19119, to arrive before Friday, January 25th, 2019.

Green Street Monthly Meeting also offers assistance to all members who need additional financial aid from the Meeting in order to send their child to a Friends school, a college, or a school for special education. Families interested should send a letter or email addressed to the Educational Assistance Committee with their request, name of parent(s) and child, grade of the child in the 2019-2020 school year and the name of the school to Bill Van Stone, Clerk of our Educational Assistance Committee. The deadline is January 25, 2019.

College students are expected to submit their requests for tuition aid and contact information themselves. Colleges do not have to be Quaker affiliated. If you have questions call Bill Van Stone at 215 438 6106 or email him at wvsdc@aol.com.

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Our Meetinghouse Renewal Campaign

Hands-on fundraising to renew our meetinghouse began in the Spring of 2018 and the work continues today. Our historic meetinghouse was built in 1876, with additions in 1877, 1901, and 1917. Despite ongoing stewardship, it is time to renew the life of this home of ours.

This hundred-year renewal is making us all feel good and we hope you will share that good feeling for being part of it. The old kitchen has been transformed. We can picture ourselves communally preparing our coffee hours, lunches and dinners with readily available equipment with lots of space bordered by gleaming walls and shelves. There are working areas not only for adults but for our children. Overhead, a smooth ceiling and recessed lights cover necessary pipes and rewiring.

We picture ourselves in the dining room, at last made accessible to all, surrounded by cheerful colors made brighter with new light fixtures for energy efficient lights and ingenious window treatment. And, a dream come true, we are able to hear each other since acoustic panels are part of the scheme.

We marvel at the repurposing and transformation of neglected spaces to create venting for the stove, separate storage rooms for the meeting and for the school, a cleanable floor extending the new colors of the dining room into formerly dark places, the latest in storage units reclaiming under stairs space.

Green Street Friends Meeting has at its heart being warmly welcoming. Now, our presentation matches our practice – thanks to F(f)riends like you.

Our dreams of renewal have been given form by the work of our Property Committee and our architect, Larry McEwen. Let us walk you through all that is planned.

Our aim is to present our meetinghouse as an open place for worship, welcome, and service. While the meeting is able to use some of its reserves—the legacy of generations past—to contribute substantially to the \$825,000 total cost of the project, our meeting community today has committed to raising \$225,000 in a special campaign. The meeting asks you to consider what resources you might share and asks for your gift.

There are several ways that you can contribute directly to Green Street Monthly Meeting's fundraiser to bring us to our goal beyond what our Trustees have allocated. Donations in any amount will assist Green Street Meeting. What matters most is that our meeting's Friends consider personally significant contributions to this once-in-a-generation opportunity to reinvigorate our community's physical space.

Our website contains a link for making donations, and the fundraiser brochure and pledge card are available in the office. To receive a copy, please contact our meetinghouse secretary, Ashanta Washington secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org or call (267) 285-0553. The pledge card shows you several options for making a gift. For more information, or to make your recurring or one-time gift contact joann.seaver@verizon.net.

The good uses of Green Street's meetinghouse are many and cover generations—generations of members and attenders and their families, and generations of children in Greene Street Friends School who fill the dining room every school day and the meeting room on Wednesdays. The school uses the meetinghouse for occasions such as parent dinners, school trustee meetings and Martin Luther King Days of Service. The meetinghouse has held weddings—welcoming same sex marriages since the 90's, memorial services, workshops, committee meetings, coffee hours that last well into the afternoon, conferences, Monthly Meetings for Worship for Business, and a free series of Documentaries and Discussion for all-comers. It has been the spiritual home of our membership, creating a holy space for worship, searching, insight and support. It has helped us build a warm and vital community that is enlivened by our outreach into our Germantown community.

No gift is too small! Please join us in making the meetinghouse fundraiser a success.

