

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

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
First Sunday evening Meeting for Worship	6:30–7:00 PM at Stapey Hall

December 2019

Sunday, 1st	9:30 AM	Breakfast - Marille Thomas Hospitality - Frank Perch & Jocelyn Banks
Sunday, 8th	Rise of Meeting 12:30 PM	Lunch - Valerie & Tracey Monthly Meeting for Business
Sunday, 15th	Rise of Meeting 12:30 PM	Christmas Play: The Hopes and Fears of All the Years Hospitality - Lucy Duncan & Sue Wasserkrug
Sunday, 22nd	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Friendly Bible Study Hospitality - Jim Hood
Sunday, 29th	10:30 AM Rise of Meeting	5th Sunday Hospitality - Peggy Walters & Mary Noland

Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business Held Eleventh Month 17, 2019

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Eleventh Month 17, 2019:

Business Meeting convened at 12:45 pm in prayerful silence.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk, began the meeting with a few announcements regarding the revision of the Green Street Meeting Directory and the planning for Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, which will meet on January 27, 2020, at Green Street. She asked for Friends to help our representative, Jerry Williams, think about a topic with which we would like the Quarterly Meeting to engage.

JoAnn also informed the Meeting that the date of our business meeting in December will be changed to December 8th, the second Sunday of the month.

JoAnn then read the query: How does our time together today support Green Street Meeting in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?

The agenda for the day was approved.

19-11-01 Hospitality

Mary Noland, clerk, reported that new guidelines for breakfast, social hour, and lunch and the new process for reimbursement have been finalized and will be posted in the kitchen. In addition, Friends will receive the guidelines by email with the reminder of your volunteer date. She highlighted that if Friends need reimbursement above \$50 for breakfast or social hour and \$75 for lunch, they need to get the clerk's signature on their original receipt. Mary strongly encouraged Friends to keep volunteering and if they imagine needing more than the limited amount, just talk to the clerk of Hospitality and they will work with you.

19-11-02 Report from Ed Marshall, head of Greene Street Friends School (GSFS)

Ed made his 25th annual report to Green Street Meeting.

He started by reading the text of the Greene Street Friends School's new mission statement

<https://greenestreetfriends.org/about/mission-values>

Ed reported on a number of the School's key demographic markers.

He shared the School Board's Strategic Framework. Quaker Identity and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are seen as overarching themes that need to be infused throughout all of their work. Ten out of their 19 Board members are members of the Religious Society of Friends, 7 members of Green Street. These members and the relationship with the Meeting provide valuable support and backing to Ed so that he can take policy positions that might be highly controversial at many of their peer institutions. Ed appreciates the strong statement about the Meeting and the School embodied in the banner hanging on the front of the Meetinghouse. It is greatly appreciated by the wider School community.

The student body is 50% people of color. The Board is 50% people of color. The staff is 33% people of color. Ed's goal is to get to 50% in all three areas. He reported about a recent workshop the School community held on micro-aggressions.

The School's financial philosophy focuses on four main areas: financial accessibility, manageable class size, adequate staff compensation, and great instructional spaces.

The school dedicates significant time and energy on community building, both internally and externally.

The School has an outcome-based curriculum with the goal of nurturing students who care about the world and social justice. They are currently doing a deep dive in understanding best practices for embedding the teaching of literacy and language arts across the curriculum. Strengthening writing skills is a particularly important area.

Friends asked a variety of questions and expressed appreciation for Ed's dedication and his presence among us.

19-11-03 Morning with a Friend

Anne Bayless reported briefly on the Morning with a Friend program that occurred on Wednesday, November 13. Twelve Friends visited GSFS classrooms, sharing with the students about their lives and ministries as Friends and participating in activities prepared by the teachers. Eleven of the visitors were from Green Street Meeting. A number present at business meeting shared briefly about their experience with great joy and gusto. Friends thank Anne and Ryan Kimmel for organizing the event.

19-11-04 Nominating

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, clerk, reported.

The Committee brings forward the following nominations for a second reading in a new position:

Care and Counsel Committee

L. Lanza for a three year term through 6/30/2022

Children & Youth Religious Education

L. Lanza for a three-year term through 6/30/2022

For a second reading in a continuing position:

Worship and Ministry

Lucy Duncan for a three year term through 6/30/2022

These nominations were approved.

For a first reading in a new position:

Recording Team

Viv Hawkins for an 18 month term through 6/30/2021

This nomination will be held over until December.

Walter also shared one change for the Meeting's general information:

The representative from West Philly Friends Meeting (WPFM) for the West Philly Joint Care Committee is now Rosanna Dent, replacing Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt. This appointment is made and approved by WPFM

19-11-05 Care and Counsel

Gabe Ehri, Clerk, read a request from Evan Draper, member of Green Street Meeting through West Philadelphia Meeting, for care of his marriage to Emily Matt. The couple currently lives in Michigan, though they expect to be moving as soon as Evan finishes graduate school. The Committee has gathered a number of Friends to serve on a clearness committee for Evan and Emily. They would like another member to join this group and encourage interested Friends to speak with them.

19-11-06 Budget Committee

Treasurer Jerry Williams brought forward a proposal that the Meeting cover the premium contribution portion of the health benefits that our meeting secretary gets for her and her family through her second job with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The current cost is expected to be \$120 per month.

Friends approved.

Friends noted that we do not have a Personnel Committee to establish various policies concerning our employee. These tasks fall mostly upon the Budget Committee and the Treasurer.

The 2020 budget will come to the Meeting in December (on the second Sunday – December 8th). Friends should know that contributions are at about one third the level that we had at the end of last year. We will also need to make decisions about the status of the covenant payments to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

19-11-07 Reparations Subcommittee of Worship and Ministry

Viv Hawkins, Gabbrell James, and Eppchez Yes reported for the group about their efforts to find an appropriate project for our financial support that might address issues of anti-gentrification, housing stability, and jobs in the Germantown community.

Germantown Residents for Economic Alternatives Together (GREAT) is a local organization working on similar issues. Some members of the Meeting are already involved with GREAT as are Men Who Care, another organization that the Meeting is also involved with. Among a number of projects, GREAT is seeking to create a Land Trust in Germantown. The group is currently exploring one particular project: the purchase of Waring House, located at 48-62 E. Penn St, between Lena and Germantown Ave., which might become a single-family house shared by 10-15 people and provide a meeting space and other resources for the community.

Members of the subcommittee asked if this project sounds like something that Green Street Friends would like to invest in? Friends offered expertise and encouragement to the subcommittee as it continues its explorations.

19-11-08 Trustees

Traci Hjelt Sullivan reported that Trustees is also looking into some of the issues around Meeting investments in the Germantown community. To that end, they established a small working group to help answer the question “What values might guide us in this work, helping us to discern which project we would most want to invest in?” The working group made up of Susan Christian, Kenyatta James, and Walter Hjelt Sullivan, met once and developed a draft document of possible core values for community investment by the Meeting.

Susan reported on the recommendations of the working group, noting that it is not an official decision, but preliminary work on these issues that the Meeting might reflect on.

The core values included:

- Increasing community ownership of assets
- Helping people stay in Germantown despite gentrification
- Not reinventing the wheel or try to work outside our expertise
- Work with people/organizations that have a good reputation and demonstrated skills
- Build the capacity of helpful/impactful organizations
- Use community benefits agreements to maintain and expand on positive benefits for Germantown

Friends expressed significant excitement about the GREAT proposal brought forward by the Reparations Subcommittee. They noted that there are a number of meeting members who have technical skills that may be helpful to the group and to the Meeting in evaluating various projects. Some Friends expressed concern about taking on the administrative requirements of becoming a primary direct lender. Members of the working group challenged the Meeting to consider how we understand investment in the Germantown community relative to our contributions to Quaker organizations. The particular proposed project seems to be in alignment with the draft core values for community investment recommended by the Trustees working group. The Meeting expressed an eagerness to learn more.

19-11-09 These minutes was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm, agreeing to meet again at the appointed time on Twelfth Month 8, 2019.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Recording Clerk

Attendees: JoAnn Seaver, Ellen Sleeter, Frank Perch, Jocelyn A. Banks, Susan Christian, Mike Kelley, Sam Connell, Anne Bayless, Mary Mehala, Chris Mohr, Margaret Wood, Margaret Walters, David La Fontaine, Jerry Williams, Mary Joy Benson, Gabbreell James, Eppchez Yes, Viv Hawkins, Lola Georg, Bill Van Stone, Tracey Smith, Linda A. Singleton, L. Lanza, Mary Noland, Gabe Ehri, Sister Mary Joy Benson.

Greene Street Friends School

MISSION and philosophy STATEMENT

Greene Street Friends is a Quaker school that inspires our student body, who represent the diversity of Philadelphia at large, to be world changers and seekers of knowledge, equity, and social justice. We value the richness of our diversity, encourage empathy and responsibility, and expand how students perceive the complexities of their experiences.

The character of our community, located in the heart of historic Germantown, is rooted deeply in respect for everyone, stemming from the Quaker belief in “that of God” in all, and strengthened by our caring, spiritual relationship with Green Street Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Cultivated by the School community, students foster partnerships with our Germantown and surrounding neighbors, affirming themselves and others as they come to honor differences in ability, language, skin color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, family structure, or family income. Emphasis on simplicity, stewardship, integrity, and the reliance on peaceful conflict resolution underlie our inclusive community.

We provide a holistic, robust curriculum, working to ensure each student’s fullest academic, social-emotional, physical, and spiritual development. We encourage self-advocacy, resilience, leadership, and creativity with innovative teaching methods and our Life Skills curriculum. Our students develop the skills and character to thrive in their academic environments beyond Greene Street Friends School, and to make the world a better place.

revised April 2018

News & Announcements

This month Meeting for Business will be held the second Sunday of the month, **December 8th** 2019. Please be sure to update your calendar.

This year our Christmas play: "The Hopes and Fears of All the Years" will be held **Sunday, December 15, 2019**. Please come out and join us!

Christmas donations for EMIR: in connection with the Christmas Play we will also collect wrapped gifts for younger children and \$20 gift cards for older children that would be brought to the play. People should put a Post-It note on wrapped gifts with what is inside and the age level of the child it was meant for.

Sunday, **December 29th** at 10:30 am

5th Sunday: All Ages Worship

"Come on in from the cold. Come on in from the outside."

Meeting for worship with attention to chanting led by Gabbreell James and Lola Georg

Bring a chant or short phrase of a favorite song or hymn, and we'll worship and chant together!

Questions? Contact Lola LolaGeorg@gmail.com or 484 368 4637.

Hospitality

Dear Friends,

Everyone has been so generous about volunteering for hospitality in 2019 and now our calendar is complete through December 2019. Many thanks from the Hospitality Committee. **We are now in need of volunteers for 2020!** Sign up on using the calendar in the kitchen or listerv.

Guidelines for Hospitality: When you are responsible for hospitality, you are also responsible for both doors being locked before you leave. If you do not know the code which arms our security and/or how to lock the upstairs, get someone to teach you earlier that Sunday or stay with you and do it. If you are responsible for breakfast and don't have a key or know how to disarm the code when you come in, ask someone who does (well before Sunday) and borrow her/his key.

The guidelines for reimbursement are not limits. They are just guidelines.

Book Discussion Group will discuss Ta-Nehisi Coates', *The Water Dancer* on **Jan. 12**, 2020 after Hospitality. Note change of date for this discussion.

Mary Noland

Tuition Assistance. Now is the time for parents of kids going to a Friends school or college next year to start the application process for tuition assistance. Deadline January 24, 2020

Your GSMM Educational Assistance Committee's job is to provide financial assistance to members with pre-K to 8th grade children so that the family can afford to send their children to Greene Street Friends School (GSFS), with assistance from GSFS and the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Tuition

Aid program. In addition we can provide limited assistance for our members' children to attend other Friends Schools, a college, or a school for special education.

Step 1: Except for college students, we require a completed Application Form from the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's (PYM's) Friends Education Fund. PYM offers Tuition Aid for Friends Children in Friends Schools. Families usually begin the application process in November. Please complete the PYM application form. Application forms and instructions are online at www.FriendsEducationFund.org. (After their first paragraph there is a "[*Click here to download the application & guidelines packet.*](#)") Families with questions may contact Zachary Dutton, Associate Secretary for Program & Religious Life at 215-241-7008 or zdutton@pym.org. To qualify for tuition aid from the Yearly Meeting, at least one parent needs to have become a GSF Meeting member by the September before the school year starts, a full year ahead.

Step 2: After completing the PYM application, families should send a letter or email addressed to our Educational Assistance Committee stating your request from the Meeting, including the name and email address of parent(s), the name and grade of each child applying in the 2019-2020 school year, and the name of the school they wish to attend. Please attach the PYM application form. To qualify for tuition aid from our Meeting, at least one parent needs to have become a Meeting member by the January prior to the September school year for which they are applying.

Step 3: Ensure that our Meeting's Educational Assistance Committee receives both the PYM form and your request by our January 24, 2020, deadline, and ensure that the forms to be signed by our Committee clerk arrive at your school before the school's deadline, often in early February. College students are expected to submit their requests for tuition aid and contact information themselves but do not need a PYM form. Colleges do not have to be Quaker affiliated. The deadline for our receiving all applications is January 24, 2020, at which time our Committee will decide how we will distribute available funds among applicants. Please send the PYM forms for membership verification 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 24th, 2020. If you have questions call Bill at 215 438 6106 or email him at wvsdc@aol.com.

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 Meeting secretary, Ashanta Washington, at secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org or call (267) 285-0553. The pledge card shows you several options for making a gift. For more information, 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 ‘90s, 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.

Events at GSMM

Are you interested in hosting an event at Green Street Monthly Meeting? Are you part of a group who would like to rent space at the meetinghouse?

Please contact our Secretary at 267-285-0553 or by email at secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org to book your next event. We recently updated our calendar and rental guidelines. All requests should be submitted as far in advance as possible. All requests must be approved before any event is placed on the calendar.

News & Announcements

Please remember to email all of your newsletter announcements to the Secretary by the 25th of each month.

From the Secretary's Desk:

SPECIAL DELIVER!



It is with great joy that I share with F(f)riends that I am expecting my very own Turkey!
My family will be growing by two feet this Winter Season.
Thanks to everyone for the love and support during this time. Happy Holidays!

Ashanta