

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

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| 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 PM |
| Wednesday morning Meeting for Worship | 8:30–9:00 AM with GSFS— <i>Greene</i> |
| <i>Street Friends School's meeting for worship will resume in September.</i> | |
| First Sunday evening Meeting for Worship | 6:30–7:00 PM at Stapeley Hall |

July 2019

During July, we meet not in our building but with Germantown Meeting at 47 W. Coulter St., right around the block. Meeting for worship is at 10:30. All are welcome.

To get to Germantown Meeting, turn left out of the driveway, right at the light onto Germantown Ave., then right at the next light, which is Coulter St. The entrance to Germantown Meeting will be on your right.

There will be childcare but no First Day School during July.

August 2019

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| Sunday, 4th | 9:30 AM | Hospitality - Mary Noland |
| Sunday, 11th | 9:15 AM Rise of Meeting | Second Sunday Worship & Ministry Hospitality - Sue Wasserkrug |
| Sunday, 18th | Rise of Meeting 12:30 PM | Lunch - Viv & Lola Monthly Meeting for Business |
| Sunday, 25th | 9:15 AM Rise of Meeting | Friendly Bible Study Hospitality - Peggy Walters |

There will be childcare but no First Day School during August.

Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Minutes of the monthly meeting for business, held at 45 W. Schoolhouse Lane, Philadelphia, PA, 6/16/2019.

Present: Viv Hawkins, Lola Georg, Mary Noland, Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Gabe Ehri, Jerry Williams, Bill Van Stone, JoAnn Seaver, Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Chris Mohr, Russ Endo, Bob Dockhorn, Victoria Greene, Peggy Walters

2019.06.01. Friends gathered for a period of worship at 12:45 pm.

2019.06.02. Clerk JoAnn Seaver presented the agenda. Friends **approved**.

2019.06.03. Report from working group to review care of ministries, Lola Georg, convener.

The working group requested approval of three things: 1) updated guidelines on care of ministries, originally approved in 2014; 2) several recommendations: accept Viv Hawkins's transfer of membership, to take Life Calls ministry of Viv Hawkins under our care, to create an accountability group for Life Calls, to be willing to receive requests for financial support from Life Calls, and a minute of religious service for Viv; and 3) ask Worship and Ministry Committee to add a section 6 to the guidelines regarding discontinuance of ministries.

The clerk read the minute of transfer for Viv's membership from Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. Friends discussed these requests. It was clarified that the Life Calls accountability group will be under the care of Ministry and Worship. A spiritual accountability group or committee provides support in ways similar to a support committee, and also provides accountability for the Friend to be faithful to the calling, provides financial review for the ministry, and reports back to the meeting at least once a year.

Friends **approved** the following minutes in sequence.

2019.06.04. Green Street Meeting accepts the transfer of Viv Hawkins' membership from Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting to Green Street.

2019.06.05. Green Street Meeting agrees to take under its care, spiritually and fiscally, the Life Calls ministry of Viv Hawkins.

2019.06.06. Friends agreed to update and revise the care of ministry guidelines as proposed, by removing section 3 and replacing it with new language about spiritual accountability groups, and other minor changes.

2019.06.07. Friends asked Ministry and Worship Committee to form a spiritual accountability group to provide support to Life Calls ministry.

2019.06.08. The Meeting is prepared to receive requests for financial support from Life Calls ministry in the future; none is being made at this time.

2019.06.09. Green Street Meeting approves the following minute of religious service for Viv Hawkins:

Green Street Friends Meeting is blessed to accompany our member Viv Hawkins as she testifies that, with Divine assistance, we can manifest heaven on earth. Viv works and prays to inspire, encourage, and empower people, individually and corporately, to live into our greatest sacredness in harmony with creation. LifeCalls, a ministry to foster faithfulness, invites us all to:

- kindle covenant community,
- Faithfully follow our Guide, and
- Liberate for the common good the spiritual and material gifts we steward.

Green Street Friends Meeting finds Viv clear to engage this ministry, which we have supported, spiritually and materially, since 2019, and which was previously under the care of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting since 2005. We commend Viv to everyone she visits, sending our love for her and for you who receive her. We ask you to receive Viv with tenderness and to join with her in listening for and following the guidance of the Spirit.

Friends thanked the working group for its thorough work. A welcoming committee of Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Mary Noland, and Chris Mohr was formed for Viv Hawkins.

2019.06.10. Nominating Committee, Walter Hjelt Sullivan reporting.

Name for second reading: Peggy Walters, 3-year term on Hospitality Committee, to 6/30/2022. **Friends approved.**

The committee was asked to form a Meeting Rentals Advisory Committee to advise the Meeting Secretary on questions about building rentals, with representatives from relevant committees. Names for first reading: Michael Van Hoy (property committee); Frank Perch (budget committee); to be determined, hospitality committee; Ashanta Washington, Meeting Secretary, ex officio. **Friends approved the Meeting Rentals Advisory Committee for a one-year term ending 6/30/2020, and to do so on first reading.**

Walter agreed to convene the group and help clarify its job description. Walter and Mary Noland, clerk of hospitality committee, will consult regarding that committee's representative and report back to business meeting in September.

Also for first reading, Co-Archivists: Jerry Williams and Geniver Montalvo, for a one-year term ending 6/30/2020. **Friends approved,** agreeing to act on first reading.

Care and Counsel Committee, Gabe Ehri reporting.

2019.06.11. Second reading for membership: Michelle Schmidt, and as child members Virginia Schmidt and Grace Schmidt. **Friends approved.** A welcoming committee of Gabe Ehri, Traci Hjelt Sullivan, and David La Fontaine was formed.

2019.06.12. Bill Van Stone reported that a clearness committee met with Neal Fordham and Cornelia Kietzmann about their marriage. They have already been legally married three years. They are planning a Quaker wedding on June 22. **Friends approved taking the marriage of Neal Fordham and Cornelia Kietzmann under our care.** It was noted that Bill and JoAnn have been helping with wedding arrangements.

2019.06.13. Bob Dockhorn reported that our member Michael Dockhorn will be married to Tai Varley, also on June 22.

2019.06.14. Grant request to Friends General Conference.

Jerry Williams asked for approval to submit a request for the meetinghouse renovation. **Friends approved submitting a request for \$7,500 to the FGC Friends Meeting House Fund for the renewal of our meetinghouse, specifically to underwrite the expenses related to improving accessibility with ADA-compliant ramps.** Jerry noted that Susan Christian will write the grant request.

2019.06.15. Report from Trustees, Russ Endo, Traci Hjelt Sullivan.

Russ Endo said there has been a lot of activity recently, with the meetinghouse renovations, changes in custodial staffing, and transition in the Meeting Secretary position. The secretary has been asked to do additional work, resulting in her doing 10-15 hours per week over what was budgeted. The budget committee recently decided to cap hours at 30 per week. The committee is exploring adding health benefits for the position.

The meeting requested an additional contribution for the EMIR Healing Center 20th anniversary gala in the fall. The committee decided to wait until September to make a recommendation, because the financial picture should be clearer then.

Traci Hjelt Sullivan reviewed how reserve funds flow back and forth between Trustees and the Meeting, as depicted in a graphic. Trustee reserves include both restricted and unrestricted funds; some unrestricted funds have been designated for a specific purpose. Restricted funds include an endowment for Greene Street Friends School, necessitous cases, and education. Meeting reserves include a replacement reserve for capital and building needs, necessitous cases, and education. Some funds have accumulated interest income that has not all been spent.

A second graphic illustrated unrestricted expenses in the 2019 budget. Necessitous cases are not included in the budget; funds are made available for use as needed by

Care and Counsel. Green Street Meeting donates \$50,000 to Greene Street Friends School annually. In addition, Trustees hold \$75,000 in an endowment for “schools under the meeting’s care.” Approximately \$3,000 each year is sent directly from that endowment to the school.

This fall we expect to discuss how our money is invested, and how might changes to that affect our budget and what choices we make. To assist with this effort, Traci offered to email financial reports this week and again in the fall.

2019.06.16. Clerk’s suggestion for a strategic plan, JoAnn Seaver.

The clerk suggested we draft a Spirit-led strategic plan for our meeting. It would solicit input from our members on what they need from meeting and how they want to give to the meeting. It would be a way to further ministry in the meeting and to see ourselves as Spirit-led people. The process would give a context for our decision on how we use our resources, both spiritually and practically. A working group would formulate a questionnaire for members this summer, analyze and categorize responses, and bring findings to meeting for business in September and October.

There was discussion. Why now? The clerk reminded Friends of recent visioning efforts, including Robin Mohr’s session on “how good could it be at Green Street Meeting.” A Friend added the follow-up workshop by Cheryl McFadden and Chris Mohr, the spirituality of money series led by Lola Georg; and the review of the FGC institutional assessment on systemic racism within FGC and what lessons we could apply from it to our meeting.

A Friend expressed concern that we not spend down reserves.

Another Friend suggested that the Meeting had changed a lot in 50 years. Then, the meeting seemed more focused on buildings and the school, and less on the spiritual. Now there is a greater focus on the spiritual. It would be good to assess where we are.

The clerk said the plan would help us to know: What do we stand for? What are our deepest spiritual values. A query was asked: How would the plan help the meeting become more anti-racist?

The clerk asked Friends to consider if they were ready to approve a working group to:

- Pull together previous work on visioning
- Create a questionnaire for members
- Analyze findings and bring them to meeting for business in September.

Friends approved creating this working group. JoAnn Seaver, Victoria Greene, Viv Hawkins (liaison to the reparations subcommittee of Ministry and Worship), and Bill Van Stone agreed to serve. Others may be asked to present information, such as Traci Hjelt Sullivan offered to do regarding trustees and the budget.

2019.06.17. Minutes to this point were read and approved.

2019.06.18. Our Relationship to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM); and consideration of our covenant payment

The Clerk reviewed our payment history: No payment in 2017. Payment for 2017 in 2018. No payment for 2018 to date but could be made in 2019. No payment in 2019 to date. She then distributed a letter from the treasurer of PYM asking for plans about the 2019 or 2020 covenant payments.

There was discussion.

- A Friend asked about our payment history; how long has it been at \$30,000? It was last increased by the budget committee perhaps 10 years ago.
- It was suggested we give to cover our past commitments and then decide future directions.
- It was noted that we are in relation with PYM, but the question remains how much we contribute.
- One Friend said the initial decision to withhold funds felt powerful and clear. Now, it seems murkier and less clear why we are not making the payments.
- Has PYM sufficiently addressed the issues that we raised? This included the situation at Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting, the overall PYM staffing reorganization, and the Youth Programs staffing change. A year ago, we decided they had been engaging on the issues, even if they had not sufficiently addressed all of them.
- Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting and its member meetings have also engaged on the issues. Green Street is no longer an outlier. Green Street and the Quarter are in stronger positions now.
- The Quarterly Meeting is asking the Yearly Meeting to evaluate its structures. Several Friends expressed interest in increasing our contribution to the Quarter.
- PYM did lay down the Multicultural Audit Steering Committee in the spring, after it delivered its recommendation for a consultant. This was one of our more recent requests.
- A Friend shared her long experience with the Yearly Meeting, and her current sense of disconnect with it. It is important to call the organization to account.
- Query: How does any action we take help Green Street Monthly Meeting transform itself into an actively anti-racist organization?
- We could ask PYM for two specific things:
 - Acknowledgment of the hurt caused to Friends of Color by PYM in the last five or so years.
 - What positive steps will PYM take toward undoing racism, now that the Multicultural Audit Steering Committee has been laid down?
- A desire was expressed for the Yearly Meeting to better engage with people involved in work to undo racism.

Friends asked our Clerk to share these concerns with Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, with a request that they consider bringing this to Yearly Meeting. We will look at this again in September.

A Friend reminded us that that we have to humanize the situation, by thinking of the individuals involved who suffered.

2019.06.19. The remainder of these **minutes** was **approved**.

Meeting closed at approximately 4:10 pm.

Our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be 9th Month, 15, 2019

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk

Chris Mohr, Recording Clerk

The Green Street book discussion group is reading *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond. Our discussion will be after worship and hospitality on August 25, 2019. This is a nonfiction account of eight economically poor families in Milwaukee and their struggle to find and maintain decent affordable housing. It won the Pulitzer Prize in 2016 when it was written. Please come and bring your suggestion for our next book.