

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 Stapeley Hall

November 2019

Sunday, 3rd	9:30 AM	Breakfast - Bob Dockhorn & Geniver Montalvo Hospitality - Sharon M. & Margaret Wood
Sunday, 10th	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Second Sunday Worship & Ministry Hospitality - Gabbreell & Selette James
Sunday, 17th	Rise of Meeting 12:30 PM	Lunch - Gabe & Bonnie Ehri Monthly Meeting for Business
Saturday, 23rd helps out	6:00 PM	Dinner before Thanksgiving - Potluck-Everyone
Sunday, 24th	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Friendly Bible Study Hospitality - Neal Fordham, Sam & Mike

Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business Held Tenth, 20, 2019

Attendance: Frank Perch, Jocelyn Banks, Gabriel Ehri, Lori Sinitzky, Anne Bayless, Jerry Williams, Ashanta Washington, Sharon Mullally, L. Lanza, Bob Dockhorn, Eppchez Yes, Kathy Angell, Walter Sullivan, Chris Mohr, Robin Mohr, Linda Singleton, Tracy Smith
Recording Clerk: Anthony DiGiovanni
Clerk: JoAnn Seaver

Friends gathered at 12:43 PM for a period of silent worship.

The clerk read the following queries:

How does this decision (or action) support our commitment to creating an anti-racist faith community?

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

The clerk read the proposed agenda and Friends approved.

Nominating Committee

Walter Sullivan presented the proposed nominations on behalf of the Nominating Committee.

For a second reading in a new position:

Property Committee: Anthony DiGiovanni for a three-year term through 6/30/2022 and as Clerk; Michael Van Hoy for a three-year term through 6/30/2022.

Children & Youth Religious Education: Andy Jickling, as Clerk

Friends approved these nominations.

For a first 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 first reading in a continuing position:

Worship and Ministry: Lucy Duncan for a three-year term through 6/30/2022.

Naming Committee for Nominating Committee

The Meeting needs to form a Naming Committee of three to find additional members for the Nominating Committee and to help current committee discern if they are led to renew their terms. Bob Dockhorn, Anne Bayless and Sharon Mullally (convener) volunteered. Friends approved.

Budget Committee, Contributions to Others

Jerry Williams presented for the Budget Committee and shared two documents with the Meeting. The first document outlined the process used to develop the second document, the recommendations for Contributions to Others. The process was the same as previously used, where GSMM community members are asked for suggestions of groups that meet the following criteria: 1) our members and attenders are actively involved in the non-profit 2) The non-profit provides high priority services to the Germantown community 3) Quaker organizations Friends wish to support.

The list was presented. One correction was raised (add Valerie Anderson and Traci Smith as involved with Men Who Care). Bill Van Stone would also like to become involved with Men Who Care.

The recommended Contributions to Others list was approved. Friends thanked Traci Hjelt Sullivan and Jerry Williams for doing this work.

The status of our income at the present time

The Meeting Clerk reported that she spoke with Clerk for the Trustees, who wanted the following message given to the meeting: Our contributions are lower than in the past, and we are in year two of paying back our reserves. The sooner we can pay back our reserves, then the better we will be.

Consideration of a Spiritual Nurture Program

Kathy Angell presented. Susan Chase and Kathy Angell are working on the Spiritual Nurture Program. The group desires sponsorship by the Meeting and they would like to hold their opening retreat in Green Street Meetinghouse. They would also like to have funds (estimated at \$200-\$250) provided so that books used in the program can be made accessible to everyone in the group. Friends approved to sponsor the group and to provide \$250 for books.

Secretary's Report

Ashanta Washington provided the Meeting with an update. The renovation of the Jones Room is now complete. A few groups from Germantown have used spaces in the Meetinghouse over the last couple months, and usage of the spaces are listed on the website. With re: to Hospitality, Friends are requested to provide original itemized receipts for monies spent when asking for reimbursement. It's time to update the Meeting Directory, and both paper and digital copies of the directory will be developed. The Meeting thanked Ashanta for the work she is doing for the Meeting.

Restorative Practice

Tracey Smith and Linda Singleton presented to the Meeting. Tracey led the Meeting in a traditional greeting developed by children for United Nations. There is current conflict between the School and Meeting. Tracey and Linda would like to use restorative process to help heal the community. Linda explained how everyone wants to give and get love. There are 5 languages of love [could we name them in the minutes? They are usually cited as Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service, Receiving Gifts, Quality Time, and Physical Touch], and individuals have different preferences for the ways they give and receive love. We are encouraged to find the languages of love that meet the needs of both the Meeting and the School. The process is a circle in that we both need to think about what we want, and also we need to give in a way that honors and respects the receiver. Linda and Tracey are here to offer their love, compassion and help. The clerk thanked Linda and Tracey for providing their gifts to the Meeting.

Examining the Guidelines for Use and Rental of the Green Street Meeting House

The guidelines were previously emailed to the Meeting Community, and copies were provided to those present today. After framing the issues, Friends were called upon to share messages as follows:

- There is sense that the Meeting wants to increase use of the Meetinghouse by groups from Germantown. We renovated the lunchroom for that main purpose.
- There is uncertainty about covering the details of the guidelines today, because there were significant concerns previously expressed about the process. There were strong concerns raised by a Friend not in the room, and it feels not right to go into the details of guidelines today.

- We should try to focus on a specific problem ... is there one? What specific problem do we need to solve?
- We have an opportunity to open up the new space to other community groups. There is a business side to it. If the school wants to use the kitchen, then the Meeting needs to pay the electric and gas bills. There is a logistic and business side to this.
- The threshing conversation we had last week was insightful. A vision was put forward to make our Meetinghouse more actively available to the community. But what was new to most in attendance was finding out that a goal was to have the School use the kitchen less than before so it could be readily available to the community. We were messy as a Meeting as we were dealing with the usage guidelines at Business Meeting. Maybe we should join the school in a new vision of how we can use the Meetinghouse with the community and allow both to work on it together. There are people in the meeting who want this, and it is likely the school would join.
- Friends have spoken with the school, and the school supports working with the Meeting on having the community able to use the meetinghouse more. If we as a Meeting embrace this vision, then it is believed the School will join.
- It is desired to see the financial report.
- The Meeting's relationship with School has changed from "one corporation and under the care" to "separate incorporation". We don't want to inadvertently push the School away from the Meeting. The School shares our values of sharing the space with community. The gym is being used by community groups. We are united in our shared values with the School and we should build on that.
- The question of kitchen use and policy is being used by some as a proxy to examine our long-term relationship with the School. It feels disingenuous to use this policy to question whether the School shares our values and to divide the Meeting and School. The School has done as much work toward becoming anti-racist as the Meeting has done. The money originally left to the Meeting years ago was provided in part to support the School. The idea that we need to get the money back by fees is a false economy. Yes, we need to know what that guidelines are. But Regarding the question of kitchen access ... it is not a clean discussion...because the way it was brought forward was with the intention to drive a wedge between the Meeting and School. The School is part of our ministry in the world.
- The expediency and pattern of how we decide to spend money is a concern. There is a memory of money coming out of a fund called necessitous cases to pay for the kitchen for ourselves. How do we handle our money and our stewardship?
- It is still unclear what is the short-term goal for today's discussion.
- A Friend was grateful we are having this discussion. This is typical of the experience of Meetings with Schools. It is necessary that this discussion happens here, otherwise we can be in a position where nothing happens for six months. From a parent standpoint, it has been devastating what has happened at the school where my child goes. It would be good to have more transparency from the School and an explanation of the care relationship.
- It was suggested to convene a School/Meeting session to discuss the both wanting to be more anti-racist and using our resources. Both School and Meeting saying their words will create

accountability. Also, we have more work to do on the guidelines and procedures. We should use the space with an anti-racist mindset.

- There are two issues: the underlying issues around the guidelines and the guidelines themselves and restoring our community. Healing worship and restorative practices is time well spent with the end goal of restoring our community.
- There are resources available. The School has a vision and mission. This Meeting has a vision and mission. Friends should all read the School's website and learn about what the School is doing. The School should be doing the same regarding the Meeting.
- Whether the School or Meeting is more anti-racist...it is not a competition. We should partner with the School and work on this. Separately, it sounds like there was a rushed decision-making process with the guidelines, and this led to problems.
- We should work on a shared vision with the School; the School would unite. We've done it in our history. It would be exciting to work with the School on this shared vision. Also, it would be helpful for Friends curious about the School to join in Morning with a Friend. Last, the School wants to be respectful with the guidelines, but there does not seem to be clarity around them.
- A Friend stated that they originally thought we should postpone implementing the guidelines, but now they seem to be working.
- We should invite the School to work together with us. Statements from white people regarding the School and Meeting being anti-racist is uncomfortable. Who is delivering the message?

The clerk searched for a sense of the Meeting on areas where we were united.

The Meeting feels a strong commitment to the community using the Meetinghouse and kitchen more, which may mean the School using it less. The Meeting should invite the School to join in this vision.

The Meeting approved having small groups gather to design next steps and the details to move forward. The group would include Chris Mohr, Tracey Smith, Linda Singleton and others.

The Meeting welcomes Ed Marshall to come next month to report to our Meeting for Business as per his regular annual schedule.

The Meeting commits to doing its own work to review and eventually approve the rental policies; to establish a working group supporting Ashanta as manager of Meetinghouse space use; and to examine our decision-making processes. Nominating Committee commits to setting in place the working group to support Ashanta.

Friends also agreed to re-examine our structure for communication between the School and the Meeting through an anti-racist lens.

More might be needed, but at the end of our energies, Friends closed the Meeting, grateful for the time we spent on this work.

The Meeting ended at 3:43pm after a period of silent worship.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk

News & Announcements

Please visit the listserv for a message from Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, which will hold a group discussion on October 27th at Frankford Monthly Meeting

REASON FOR HOPE! The Mishkan Shalom community in Manayunk invites everyone to "An Evening with Combatants for Peace" Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, 2017 / 2018. FREE.

In 2006, Israeli and Palestinian former combatants, people who had taken an active role in the conflict, laid down their weapons and established Combatants for Peace. The egalitarian, bi national, grassroots organization was founded on the belief that the cycle of violence can only be broken when Israelis and Palestinians join forces. Combatants for Peace is the only organization, worldwide, in which former fighters on both sides of an active conflict have laid down their weapons, choosing to work together for peace and justice.

DATE: **Saturday November 2, 2019 at 7 pm**

LOCATION: 4101 Freeland Avenue (corner Shurs Lane) in Manayunk

COST: Free

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. Soon everyone on the listserv will receive the 2020 Hospitality calendar through June. Please check your schedule and sign up when you are able."

"From the Book Discussion Group, after Hospitality on **Sunday, November 3, 2019**, We will be discussing *Unbroken Brain* by Maia Szalavitz. This book is both a memoir of the author's addiction and her research into methods of helping people dealing with addictions. Please come even if you haven't read the book. Help us decide on the next book, possibly one of fiction, which you have read and know is good."

Mary Noland

"From the Hospitality Committee- **November 23, 2019** , Saturday

We will have our Thanksgiving Meal the Saturday before Thanksgiving, at 6 PM. Please put on your calendar now.

The sign up sheets will be available soon so please start thinking about what you

Would like to bring. Our time of fellowship at this shared meal continues to be a blessing.

The Property Committee is going to hold a leaf raking and other outdoor clean up party after

Worship on **Sunday, November 24, 2019**. Everyone is invited to come, bring a rake, bring a friend, and bring gloves.

Radical Time Banking 101

Saturday, November 2, 2019 Time: 12noon-2pm. Held at Green Street Monthly Meeting

Interlocking systems of oppression targeting capitalism and neoliberalism Ecological justice and solidarity economy model.

Hosted by: The Time Bank of Germantown Residents for Economic Alternatives Together (GREAT). Open to all people of Germantown. Lunch provided, kids welcomed. Please register for childcare to ensure support is available. www.greatgtown.org

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.

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, 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.

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.
