

# *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

## **April 2020**

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup>**            10:30 AM

Via Zoom:  
<https://zoom.us/j/7244737251>

**Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup>**            10:30 AM

<https://zoom.us/j/7244737251>

**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup>**            10:30 AM  
                                 12:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/7244737251>  
Monthly Meeting for Business

**Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup>**            10:30 AM

<https://zoom.us/j/7244737251>

Green Street Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business March 15, 2020  
Held by Zoom connection hosted by Walter Sullivan

Virtually Present: Jocelyn Banks, Bob Dockhorn, Gabe Ehri, Lola Georg, Viv Hawkins (recording), Chris Mohr, Robin Mohr, Mary Noland, Frank Perch, JoAnn Seaver (clerk), Lori Sinitzky, Ellen Skeeter, Walter Sullivan, Peggy Walters, Lanza

The meeting began at 12:30 with a period of silent worship.

The clerk read the agenda and it was approved.

### **1. Nominating Committee Report - Walter Sullivan**

The following slate was recommended and approved.

For a first reading in a new position:

#### Hospitality

Sandra Rodriguez for a three-year term through 6/30/2023

Liza Ewen for a three-year term through 6/30/2023

#### Worship and Ministry

Jocelyn Banks for a three-year term through 6/30/2023

Rotating off:

#### Educational Assistance

Peggy Walters

#### Worship and Ministry

Margie Felton

Peggy Walters

### **2. Care and Counsel Report - Lola Georg**

- a. Approved Karen Campbell's membership. A welcoming committee of JoAnn Seaver, Lori Sinitzky, Lola Georg was formed.
- b. Approved Jocelyn Banks' membership. A welcoming committee of Frank Perch, Walter Sullivan, JoAnn Seaver was formed.
- c. Received first reading of recommendation for membership of Lanza and associate membership for her son Michael Scannell. Clearness committee members were Susan Christian, Anthony DiGiovanni, and Traci Hjelt Sullivan. Lanza has stepped off Care and Counsel.

Lola will advise the listserv that people interested to participate in these welcoming celebrations are invited to contact Lola Georg at [LolaGeorg@gmail.com](mailto:LolaGeorg@gmail.com).

### **3. Draft Report of Priorities for FCNL - JoAnn Seaver**

Friends agreed that the FCNL priorities process discussion was useful and the proposed report is thorough. We approved the following report, asking Joann Seaver to send it to FCNL.

#### **DRAFT 3/9/20 FCNL Priorities Report from Green Street Monthly Meeting. Third Month, 2020**

About Green Street Meeting: We are a moderately sized meeting in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We are an urban meeting in the heart of a historic but economically stressed neighborhood. Average incomes of white neighbors is around \$80,000 to an average income of black neighbors of around \$28,000. Our community is gentrifying. Our meeting counts itself rich in diversity, warmth and the depth of our worship. We are committed to being relevant to the forces for social justice and service in our community and our meeting and members collaborate in various local initiatives, notably EMIR Healing Center for Families Affected by Homicide that was founded by one of our members.

Our process: Following meeting on Third Month 8, during coffee hour in our cafeteria, 17 Friends wrote on 5 x 8 cards the issues that were on their hearts. 9 Friends read, tallied and discussed what Friends had written. We coded four categories:

1. Peace building, named 10 times,
2. A Just Society with a focus on the health of families, especially families affected by racial injustice, named 32 times,
3. The Earth Restored, named 8 times.
4. Another category emerged: Promoting Good Government, named 2 times.

1. Peace Building:

- Reducing Military spending and using that money to support diplomacy.
- Ending gun violence in our own cities and towns, which we considered to be a peace issue and a Just Society issue. Specifically, we named banning assault weapons, deterring straw purchases, making gun manufacturers liable, broadening background checks, registering weapons.

2. A Just Society with a focus on the health of families, especially families affected by discrimination or injustice

- Create a societal safety net including universal health care.
- Abolish ICE, create a pathway to citizenship, decriminalize border crossings.
- Stop privatizing the prison system; give felons the right to vote; count felons in the census as residing at their last home address; legalize marijuana; end the militarization of police; reform standards for the use of deadly force;
- Provide financial and supportive resources to victim's families, especially poor families, devastated by homicide. This requires a shift from claiming that harsh punishment of perpetrators is what victim's families need.
- Equalize spending for education across all communities; recruit and retain black and minority teachers by forgiving college debt and raising salaries.
- Rebuild infrastructure such as bridges, roads and public schools.

3. The Earth Restored:

- Stop subsidizing fossil fuels, support renewable energy, and introduce a carbon tax.

4. Promoting Good Government:

- Regulate campaign finance contributions; restore the balance of power in the federal government; mandate disclosures for presidential candidates; create legally binding vetting requirements for all presidential candidates (among others, full disclosure of all potential conflicts of interest, and of all personal and business financials, together with absolute proof of complete divestment from businesses the candidate owns, operates or over which the candidate controls or otherwise financially benefits) .

*Submitted by JoAnn Seaver, Clerk, Green Street Friends Meeting, [joann.seaver@verizon.net](mailto:joann.seaver@verizon.net)*

#### **4. How we support our meeting members and attenders during the COVID-19 outbreak**

In response to COVID-19 pandemic, Walter Sullivan, Amy Verstappen, and Mary Noland, met to discuss and recommend changes related to in-person worship and hospitality for the meeting.

Later, Clerk JoAnn Seaver, Assistant Clerk Gabriel Ehri in consultation with Walter Sullivan made the decision to cancel an in-person meeting for worship of Green Street Friends Meeting and hold a Zoom meeting for worship followed by meeting for worship with attention to business.

After discussion, going forward, the meeting approved a committee clerked by Lori Sinitsky and comprising clerks of the meeting and committees to attend to COVID-19 issues, and the committee is authorized to decide on an ongoing basis for the meeting. The following points for consideration were raised:

- How to support people who may be impacted by COVID-19.
- A point person to receive information
- Developing a phone tree.
- The hospitality portion of the budget could be redirected for other needs, such as someone needing delivery of meals.
- The Necessitous Cases Fund is available, and this fact can be communicated to GSFM members.

The committee is advised to be transparent about when it meets and invite other members of the meeting to participate, if they choose. Notice was given to hold a virtual meeting in less than 24 hours. We want to avoid future decisions that exclude others.

Care and Counsel members will call their care people. They will explain that we will meet by Zoom, supplying the default link for all all-meeting gatherings to simplify access for people with the least technical expertise. They may inquire of needs of members: their present health and financial needs, access to internet, familiarity with Zoom, etc.

People who wish to organize small gatherings are free to do so, apart from the meeting.

The meeting closed with silent worship.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk, Green Street Friends Meeting

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Month DASHBOARD NEWS from Green Street Committees**

Dear staying-at-home Friends,

Most Friends are busy on Zoom or otherwise despite this being a lock down.

We'll run down the committees.

Jerry Williams our **Treasurer** reports that all accounts are reconciled, and bills paid. Ashanta Washington is working at home and in contact with Jerry to keep our affairs in order. Jerry is working on finding a way to pick mail.

**Trustees**, Russ Endo says they are continuing to explore community investment.

**Care and Counsel** clerked by Lola Georg has regular meetings by Zoom. Members are contacting their Circles of Care members by email, phone calls, and Zoom or Google hangouts to put circle members in touch with each other. Members are helping Ashanta build an accurate and up-to-date directory by checking on Friends contact information. We want to know the best way to contact you. We want to know your prayer requests. Friends are encouraged to check in with their Circle of Care host. Clearness Committees are proceeding by Zoom. In response to several Friends welcoming a midweek worship time, Wednesdays at 7 PM on the meeting Zoom site is now established for whoever would like to enter. See details.

**Hospitality**, says Clerk Mary Noland, is thinking about how to clean out the refrigerator.

**Property**, from Clerk Anthony DiGiovanni: The outside lead remediation is in its final stages, with completion expected by Monday. A bed of tough grasses has been planted along the driveway side of the Meeting House where formerly there was contamination in the dirt. Bids are coming in for outside painting and the property committee is pondering the best and most environmentally sound way to heat our building going forward.

**Worship and Ministry** is active in its subgroup the **Worship Discernment Committee**. It has been convened weekly by Clerk Lori Sinitzky. Meeting for Worship will continue by Zoom until further notice. We are all practicing our Zoom proficiency and gaining comfort the more we use it. Entering Meeting for Worship will always use the same link. We suggest you archive the email with the link. Regretfully we miss the children's plan for our fifth Sunday but feel easy with having a familiar and deep worship in our usual manner.

Please make use of the Spirit that is available to us always and which manifests itself in our love as we virtually meet and pray for each other. Your prayer requests or requests for help are gifts for us who receive them. They open us up to the Spirit.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk

Hello Green Street Friends!

Based upon feedback we have received over the last few weeks, we will be offering Worship Sharing (via Zoom) every Wednesday night in April.

For those of you who don't know, Worship Sharing is different from Meeting for Worship. In Worship Sharing we share our own experiences and listen more deeply to the spirit and each other than we would in normal conversation. We seek to create a sacred space where we can join with each other in cultivating our relationships with spirit, with the divine, and with each other.

I am very excited to share this opportunity with you, and I will be hosting our Wednesday evening sessions on April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th at 7 pm. We will be utilizing FGC's Worship Sharing Guidelines (which are attached), and if you were interested in some other resources, you could visit FGC's website here: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/worship-sharing-and-small-groups-information>

The zoom link is listed below, and it will be the same link for all of our sessions, so you could keep this email in a handy place. I will also be sending reminders around on the listserv. Everyone is welcome, and I hope to see you Wednesday nights. Please let me know if you have any questions, Lola

Lola Georg [ [LolaGeorg@gmail.com](mailto:LolaGeorg@gmail.com) or (484) 368-4637 voice or text ]

GSFM Wednesday Worship Sharing  
Time: Apr 1,8, 15,22, 29 2020  
07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
<https://zoom.us/j/7244737251>  
Meeting ID: 724 473 7251  
One tap mobile  
+16465588656,,7244737251# US (New York)  
Dial by your location  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)