

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



Meeting for Worship

10:30 AM Via Zoom/83195217639

July 2021

Sunday, 4th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 11th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 18th

10:30 AM
12:30 PM

Via Zoom/83195217639
Monthly Meeting for Business (Via Zoom)

Sunday, 25th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Minutes of Green Street Monthly Meeting for Business Held Sixth Month 20, 2021

Via Zoom, Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Sixth Month 20, 2021.

These minutes have not been approved.

Business Meeting convened at 12:35 pm in prayerful silence.

Clerk Gabe Ehri welcomed friends and asked for the reading of our shared query:

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

21-06-01 Update on Greene Street Friends School

Chris Mohr, Clerk of the GSFC Board, reporting.

As the threat of the pandemic lessons and the city is opening up more, Chris thought it an appropriate time to report on developments over the last year or so. Topics included were: procedures taken to protect the health of community members throughout the pandemic, gratitude for the use of the social room and dining room as additional classrooms, restorative practice work at the School led by Tracey Smith and an outside facilitator, a Board retreat also led by an outside facilitator, the establishment of three working groups addressing various aspects of culture change, the active involvement of PCA Cares (a long standing committee of the parents group at the school examining issues related to race and racism).

Recommendations from the PCA Cares group are under active consideration by the Board as this time.

Chris also reported on the recent arrival of two new members of the staff at the School. Tricia Ebarvia, joined the School as the new position of Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Darien Headen replaced Ryan Kimmet as the Associate Head of School. Darien also serves as an instructional coach for educators of color, as an Impact Leader through the education nonprofit, Profound Gentlemen.

Greene Street has deepened its relationship with Wistar School, funding twice as many of their students in the Horizons Program. They continue to sponsor the Community Fridge program on Armat Street.

Chris gave a brief report on the COVID vaccination program that recently took place on campus. The program was sponsored by a local pharmacy who asked if the School would make the campus available. The event was publicized from the pharmacies own mailing list. Greene Street also reached out to all members of the School. 536 people were vaccinated over 2 days. About 1/5 of those were affiliated with the School.

Graduation was held in person on campus, outdoors, under a tent. Valerie Anderson and Gabe Ehri spoke at the event.

Valerie also took a moment to share her experience of becoming a member of the School Board, of GSFS Governance Committee, and of Green Street Meeting. While her experience getting to know people, structures, and practices was challenging at first, she discovered over time that the Board was open to having a Black woman serve and was seeking to address historic issues of discrimination and hurt. Valerie has had the opportunity to meet with all 14 members of the Board, various affinity groups, and many of the Black people associated with the School. She has found this work transformational and relational. She believes that School is doing some hard and prayerful work, making change, and still needing to do more and more deeply transformational work. She understands that it will take time but is willing to hang on, and she is grateful for the efforts that the School is making and the energy that they are giving to the work.

A conversation arose among a number of Black people in the meeting about the appropriateness of thanking an institution like Greene Street for doing the kind of work that should do simply because it is the right thing to do. No effort was made to resolve this range of opinions that were expressed.

Friends asked for more clarity about continued use of rooms in the meetinghouse for summer programs hosted by the School. The Kitchen and the Dining Room will be available to the Meeting this summer. Horizons will be using the multipurpose room in the new building. If those in the Meeting have any additional concerns about other spaces that the School might be using, friends are encouraged to speak with Chris or Gabe.

21-06-02 Nominating Committee

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Clerk, Reporting

Walter reported that all the current members (Gabbreell James, Peggy Worthington, and Mary Noland) were either coming to the end of their term or stepping down from the Hospitality Committee. Two new friends (Sam Connell and Afroza Hossain) were ready to step on to the committee. Traci Hjelt Sullivan was also willing to help the committee through the summer.

Walter also reported that Robin Mohr was willing to step up into the clerk position for the Children & Youth Religious Education Committee.

Traditionally these names would be held over for final approval until our next Meeting for Business, which in this case would be September. A friend asked if there was any reason that we could not approve Robin as clerk now so that she could move forward with confidence in her delegated authority and could be the person officially delegated to approve committee expenditures as specified in the new Budget

Committee protocols.

Walter noted that there is a lack of clarity about the official practice in the Meeting for appointing or approving clerks. Could they be selected by the committee itself in consultation with the Nominating Committee, or do they need to come as a formal recommendation and laid over for a month like all other committee appointments.

One friend expressed easiness with the final approval as clerk in this particular case but unease about an on-going practice of approval of clerks in general without a time for the Meeting to hear and reflect on the recommendation.

Friends approved the final approval of Robin Mohr as Clerk of Children & Youth Religious Education Committee. They also agreed to give final approval of Sam Connell and Afroza Hossain as members of the Hospitality Committee.

Friends asked the Nominating Committee to come back in September with a formal proposal for a procedure for approving the appointment of committee clerks.

21-06-03 Care & Counsel Committee

Lola Georg, reporting.

Lola reported that a working group including Mina Baisch, Bob Dockhorn, Cheryl McFadden and JoAnn Seaver have worked with the family to plan and schedule a Zoom-based memorial service for our member Geniver Montalvo, who died in May 2020.

The memorial will be held on Saturday, July 17, at 2pm.

Walter will work with the group to arrange for a Zoom link and host for the service. More information will be published on the Meeting listserve.

21-06-04 Children and Youth Religious Education Committee

Robin Mohr, brand-new Clerk, reporting.

Robin reported that with the opening of the Meetinghouse for face-to-face in-person worship, the C&YRE committee has worked quickly to develop and design a education program for children or the summer. It will be light on teaching and content. It will focus on children through middle school age. Children will be invited to come into worship and to sit with their care givers for the first 10 minutes or so. Consistent with best CDC COVID practice, the program will happen mostly outside, using tents provided by the School. Teachers and participants will wear masks even when outside.

The committee will plan for an expanded program in September, reviewing the COVID policy with the hope that more vaccinations will be available for people under 12. In addition, Michelle Schmidt will review the Meeting policy about security

background checks by then as well.

The committee would welcome more volunteers to help with the program, particularly people who are not parents.

21-06-05 Questions and Announcements

One friend asked whether, in light of the opening of the Meetinghouse for in-person worship, has the Worship and Ministry considered joint meetings with Germantown Meeting this summer. Walter, the only member of the W&M committee present, reported that the committee had already communicated with the Germantown's committee that we would plan to meet separately throughout the summer this year. The friend who raised the question expressed their disappointment in that answer.

Our clerk, Gabe Ehri announced that Green Street Meeting is the official host of Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, July 18th. The program and business meeting will be held on Zoom. Friends should look out for details in the listserv.

Closing

With gratitude for our work together, at 2:10pm, Meeting ended in worship with the intention of meeting again at the appointed time on Ninth Month 19, 2021

Gabe Ehri, Clerk

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Recording Clerk

Attending:

Valerie Anderson, Russ Endo, Lola Georg, Rebecca Grant, L Lanza, Cheryl McFadden, Chris Mohr, Robin Mohr, Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Marille Thomas, Bill Van Stone, Jerry Williams

News & Announcements

Hello Green Street Friends,

The **EMIR Support Group** is raising funds this year to provide backpacks and school supplies for the children of families served by the EMIR Healing Center. We are expecting that school will resume in person in September, and the children will need supplies to return to school. Our 2021 goal is 125-150 backpacks with school-district required supplies.

In that regard, we created an **online fundraiser!**

<https://chuffed.org/project/2021-emir-back-packs-and-school-supplies>

Please consider donating if you are able, as soon as you can but before the end of July when this campaign ends. This year, due to Coronavirus, we are collecting cash donations and will be purchasing school supplies (rather than receiving donations of supplies).

Thank you so very much for your continued support of our member Victoria Greene and her ministry of EMIR (Every Murder Is Real) Healing Center.

Note for online donations: In using the fundraising link above, you do NOT need a PayPal account, nor do you need to donate to Chuffed (the website that is hosting the fundraiser). In the blue box, you can choose to donate zero to Chuffed. The button at the bottom will say, 'Pay with PayPal' and you can click on it, and when redirected to PayPal, you can pay with a credit card by choosing that option below the PayPal sign-in, AND you can pay as a guest without a PayPal account.

On behalf of the EMIR Support Group

Please submit all news and announcements to the secretary by the 28th of each month.

Meeting for worship is at 10:30. All are welcome.

