

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 PM
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

February 2020

Sunday, 2nd	9:30 AM	Breakfast – Anne Bayless & Dan McDevitt Hospitality – Margaret Wood & Ceci Silverstein
Sunday, 9th	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Second Sunday Worship & Ministry Hospitality – Lucy Duncan
Sunday, 16th	Rise of Meeting 12:30 PM	Lunch – Margie Felton Monthly Meeting for Business
Sunday, 26th	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Friendly Bible Study Hospitality – Eppchez

Monthly Meeting for Business Held First Month 19, 2020

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on First Month 19, 2020.

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

The agenda for the day was approved.

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

20-01-01 JoAnn Seaver, Clerk, asked for the forbearance and support of the Meeting as she spends more time over the coming weeks addressing family medical concerns.

Friends approved having Bob Dockhorn serve as clerk pro-term when that would be supportive to her.

Jerry Williams reported on ways that the Meeting is stepping forward to support the work of our Meeting Secretary, Ashanta Washington, while she is away caring for her family. Bills are being paid and the mail dealt with. Other structures may be in place soon. If Friends have specific questions they are encouraged to send them to Jerry.

20-01-02 Nominating Committee

Walter Sullivan, Clerk, reporting

Walter brought forward the names presented last month for a second reading:

Assistant Clerk: Gabe Ehri for a six month term through 6/30/2020

Care and Counsel Committee: Lola Georg for a three year term through 6/30/2023

Lola will become the incoming clerk of the committee after Gabe completes a short transitional term. Gabe's term on the committee is changed to end 6/30/2020.

Meeting Rentals Advisory Committee: Anthony DiGiovanni for a six-month term through 6/30/2020, replacing Michael Van Hoy who is stepping down.

Worship and Ministry: Kathy Angell for a three year term through 6/30/2023.

Walter Hjelt Sullivan for a one year term through 6/30/2021.

Lola Georg's term is changed to end 4/30/2020

Friends approved.

Walter then reported on the committee's work in standing up a support committee for Worship and Ministry to assist on a regular basis with greeting on First Day mornings and the work of providing care for the Meeting for Worship. Nominating has only started this process; it has identified three individuals so far who are willing to join this group. Nominating will be speaking to others and invites people who are willing to help in this way to speak to the Committee. Members of this support committee will attend an annual training session organized by Worship and Ministry.

Friends united in support of this effort and agreed that the Nominating Committee can move forward in this work without bringing the names of people joining this group for formal approval.

20-01-03 Care and Counsel

Gabe Ehri, Clerk, reporting

Gabe reported that a clearness committee has met with Evan Draper, member of West Philly Meeting, and Emily Matt about their request for marriage under the care of the Meeting. The couple is currently attending graduate school in Michigan and afterwards plans to move elsewhere. The marriage itself will happen at Red Cedar Friends Meeting in Lansing, Mich. Friends approved taking this marriage under our care.

Friends approved establishing a wedding support committee for the couple, clerked by Walter Hjelt Sullivan. Friends asked the Clerk to send a letter to the Clerk of Red Cedar Friends Meeting concerning this decision and asking their participation in the support of the wedding as they are able.

20-01-04 Property Committee

Anthony DiGiovanni, Clerk, reporting

Anthony reported about the recent discovery of peeling lead paint in the Meeting and at the School.

Property Committee and the School both responded promptly. They arranged for an evaluation contractor to assess the concerns and have subsequently contacted 3 remediation contractors to provide bids for completing the necessary repairs.

Lead dust and flakes have been discovered on the windows on the front porch. Addressing this problem will cost less than \$10,000. Dust has also been found in a dirt patch on the side of the Meetinghouse. We do not have a specific estimate for this project yet. The most serious problem has been found around the windows on the third floor. The estimate for this work is less than \$6,000.

One contractor has provided a full bid. Bids from two other contractors are expected in the next few days. The work itself will take a number of days to complete. Anthony hopes that he and the School will be able to sign a contract for the work by the end of the week and have the work start immediately after that.

Both the School and the Meeting are committed to full transparency throughout the process. Any member or attender of the Meeting who has questions should contact Anthony.

There are a number of ongoing practices that the Meeting can undertake to keep the building safe. We need to clean more thoroughly on a regular basis, particularly in the Worship Room where dust from the front porch could be tracked in. The Property Committee is buying a new heavy-duty vacuum cleaner with higher quality filters. In the downstairs we need to be aware of chipped paint. In a general review of the Meetinghouse the Property Committee found old paint on the exterior, and they plan to address that. This incident provided an opportunity for the Committee to think about other sources of danger in older buildings. Addressing radon contamination and upgrading the

electrical wiring are other issues the Committee will look into in the future.

Friends thanked the Property Committee for their quick, effective response to this urgent concern.

20-01-05 2020 Budget

Jerry Williams, Treasurer, reported.

Bob Dockhorn clerking for JoAnn Seaver.

Jerry gave an overview of the proposed budget that was first presented last month.

He reviewed actual income and expenses from 2019, which heavily informed the development of this year's budget.

The Committee is recommending a budget with gross income of \$212,300: \$36,400 from member contributions and the balance from investment income. Total proposed expenses are \$212,966. This budget only represents unrestricted funding. Other items like Necessitous Cases are off-budget and come from reserve funds. They are accounted for elsewhere and reported to the Meeting at another time.

Friends reviewed the line items and asked various questions.

Friends then took up the question of our annual covenant with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. This year, the Budget Committee is recommending a covenant line item at \$20,000, \$10,000 less than has been budgeted when we last paid our covenant. Budget Committee feels strongly that we should budget a specific number with the intent to pay it this year. The Committee asked if this is a number that the Meeting is comfortable with and whether the Meeting is ready to resume paying our covenant this year. The Committee asked that we set aside for now the question about what we plan to do about the unpaid covenants for the past two years.

Friends spoke at length to this proposal, unable fully to focus only upon the 2020 budget line.

Friends agreed to budget and pay \$15,000 in covenant to the Yearly Meeting this year, listening in part to some of the voices of active members of our Meeting who were not in the room with us today.

Friends agreed to raise the annual payment to EMIR by \$1,000 and to consider other specific uses of the additional \$4,000 reduction in the proposed covenant. Friends also agreed to raise the total budgeted contributions from members and attenders to \$39,600.

With these changes the budget was approved.

20-01-06 2020 Past Withheld Covenants

Jerry Williams, Treasurer, reported.

Bob Dockhorn clerking for JoAnn Seaver.

After two years of not coming to unity on this issue, the Meeting agreed that we will not pay our withheld covenants to the Yearly Meeting from past years. We do want to move forward finding the ways we are led to work with our accumulated wealth in the Meeting and in the local Germantown community.

20-01-07 Request from Greene Street Friends School Committee

With time ending and Clerk Chris Mohr away, the Meeting agreed to address this issue at another time.

20-01-07 These minutes were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm, agreeing to meet again at the appointed time on Second Month 16, 2020.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Recording Clerk

Attendees: Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Jocelyn A. Banks, Frank Perch, Geniver, Victoria Greene, Anthony D., Cheryl McFadden, Sam Connell, David LaFontaine, Margaret “Peggy” Walters, Bill Van Stone, Gabriel Ehri, Lola Georg, Sharon Mullally, Ellen Sleeter, Eppchez Yes, Bob Dockhorn, Traci Hjelt Sullivan.

News & Announcements

Volunteers Needed for Hospitality 2020

Please contact our clerk: Mary Noland, maryanoland@gmail.com for more information. Thank you!

You're Invited!

Pendle Hill lecture on “**Creating Beloved Community by Supporting Faithfulness**”. Marcelle Martin at Pendle Hill, **Monday, February 3, 2020** from **7:30 to 9:00pm**. Free and open to the public. For more information please visit www.pendlehill.org or call 610-566-4507 ext. 137.

You're Invited!

The Friend Free Library Community Writers Series Presents:
“Quakers and Slavery in Philadelphia and Barbados” A special evening with historian Katharine Gerbner, author of *Christian Slavery: Conversion and Race in the Protestant Atlantic World*. **Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 7pm**. Friends Free Library at Germantown Friends School, 5418 Germantown Avenue. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call Friends Free Library at 215-951-2355

Documentaries and Discussions series will resume next month, beginning **February 22**, but thereafter it will be on the third or fourth Saturday the following months. More information to follow.

Book Discussion Group will meet, **Sunday, March 1, 2020** after hospitality. Harriet Tubman is the topic. Learn about her in any way you can, Trace and Valerie have done research and information can be forwarded if requested. Please submit all request to Mary Noland.

Friends, Green Street Friends Meeting will like to celebrate your birthday and/or Anniversary. Each month if you wish to have an announcement posted in the newsletter, please submit all request by the 21st of the month to secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org.

A note from the secretary's desk:

A special thanks to everyone for your thoughts and kind words at the birth of my son. My family and I are thankful and appreciate the support!

Blessings to you all this New Year!!