

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

February 2022

Sunday, 6th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 13th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 20th

10:30 AM
12:30 PM

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

Sunday, 27th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Minutes of Green Street Monthly Meeting for Business Held First Month 16, 2022

Present: Valerie Anderson, Susan Christian, Mike Connell, Sam Connell, Lucy Duncan, Gabe Ehri (clerk), Viv Hawkins (recording), L Lanza, Cheryl McFadden, Mary Noland, Frank Perch, JoAnn Seaver, Ellen Sleeter, Tracey Smith, Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Walter Sullivan (recording during AFSC item)

2022-01.1 Restorative Practices update

Tracey Smith reported on Restorative Practices. A workshop was put together and would like to restore, enhance, and expand Green Street Friends Meeting's (GSFM) relationship with Green Street Friends School. Joann Seaver, Tracey Smith, Valerie Anderson, and Barbie (a facilitator working with Rev. Donna at the Metropolitan Christian Council) are coordinating these arrangements. This process will include organizing "circles" which will have no specific timeline. The group planning this will give GSFM members and attenders more information when the circles will happen. We are encouraged to come and participate. This will help us build our spiritual state. We will begin with "who are we" as a meeting and proceed from there.

2022-01.2 Nominating Committee report

Friends approved the following report.

For second reading in a new position.

Care and Counsel

- Susan Christian, as Co-Clerk
- Mychelle James, as Co-Clerk

Educational Assistance

- Gianna Smith, for a three-and-a-half-year term through 6/30/2025

Trustees

- Jean Harris, for a one-and-a-half-year term through 6/30/2023

For a first reading in a new position.

Treasurer

- Mike Kelley, for a three-and-a-half year term through 6/30/2025, ex-officio on Budget Committee, ex-officio on Education Assistance

2022-01.3 Spiritual State of the Meeting report request from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

The clerk read excerpts from the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PhYM) letter. The clerk asked for a few people to write a brief report, consulting with other members of the meeting, to bring a draft for the meeting to consider at the March meeting for business. When approved, the report will be sent to PhYM. Frank Perch, Gabe Ehri, and others yet to be enlisted will prepare a short report.

2022-01.4 American Friends Service Committee restructure

Viv Hawkins presented.

Viv gave a short overview of the strategic planning process currently being undertaken by the American Friends Service Committee. Recently, our member Lucy Duncan joined a group of other Quakers affiliated

with the AFSC in writing and publicizing a letter strongly critical of the planning process. In response, Lucy was fired earlier this month.

Viv did not suggest any particular next step for the Meeting or any specific wording for a minute but hoped that we might become well informed about this issue and consider how we might be led to respond, particularly in light of our minute about becoming an anti-racist community. She also hopes that Friends taking on this kind of public ministry would find the spiritual support of their Meeting.

Viv asked Lucy if she would be willing to give an update. Lucy referred the Meeting to the public letter and the various support documents that have been widely circulated. She assured the Meeting that there had been a long process of both personal and group discernment throughout.

The primary concerns of the letter writers were that the AFSC might lose its Quaker core and the historical practice of having program initiatives rise from the grass roots communities that are most directly impacted by racism and oppression. Their goal was to build public support for a transformed, more co-creative, strategic planning process, knowing that many front-line staff did not feel heard or free to express dissent within the organization.

As a member of the union, Lucy has appealed her termination. She is grateful for the support that she has received, including those with direct experience of her work who have written letters of support and appreciation.

Viv asked if people had questions or comments.

Many friends affirmed the concept that Quakers interested in working for justice should continuously listen deeply to those who are directly affected. They shared the concern that the AFSC, like many current Quaker organizations, might lose its Quaker character.

Friends also wondered whether a statement from the Meeting would be meaningful, who it should be sent to, and what it should actually say.

Lucy suggested that a key question for us all to ponder is what might a deeply anti-racist, anti-colonial Quaker organization look like?

In light of our previous conversation, a number of friends suggested that our process of restorative circles could stand as a model for how to respond to deep conflict. That insight resonated with many.

One Friend asked about the role of the AFSC Corporation in the conflict. Did Lucy feel in conflict with it too? Does it have decision making authority and could it play a role in transforming the conversation? Lucy reported that there are members of the Corporation who share these concerns and are exploring ways to respond. Lucy noted that our member, Marille Harris, is currently on the Corporation.

Friends discussed a number of possible next steps – mostly writing letters to different bodies, expressing a variety of concerns, suggesting that they participate in a restorative process, or stating that we were praying that they would listen deeply and be courageously faithful.

Our Clerk observed that we had discussed this topic carefully. He sensed that the Meeting feels deeply moved by, interested in, and empathetic towards these concerns. While we had explored a number of options, he felt we were not clear about how to move forward as a group, or even that we were clear to respond publicly as a Meeting at all. Individual friends, on the other hand, were always free to move forward as led.

Friends checked in one last time with Viv and Lucy. Both appreciated that the issues had been seriously considered, noting deep connections to other of our Quaker institutional relationship and areas of core concern.

Lucy asked that we continue to hold her in prayer. She greatly appreciated the various times that friends in the Meeting had provided specific spiritual support, acknowledging that more could be needed in the future. Those who were led could still write letters of support and send them to her over the coming week. She asked that we continue to care about these issues. In the meantime, she will pray about other ways that friends could support her personally. Currently, she feels faithful and at peace.

2022-01.5 Status of In-person Worship

We are still in a period of high transmission and will extend suspending in-person worship. Might we put a sign on the meetinghouse door to advise people we are on Zoom?

The meeting adjourned to meet again 20 February 2022.

News & Announcements

Education Committee:

Now is the time for parents and grandparents of kids going to a Friends school or college next year to start the application process for tuition assistance. **Deadline March 1, 2022.**

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/grandparent 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 an email (or snail mail letter) 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/grandparent 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 March 1, 2022, 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.

Please send the PYM forms for membership verification to, Margaret Wood and Jerry Williams, (Clerk and Assistant Clerk) of Green Street Meeting's Educational Assistance Committee, at eac@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org to arrive before **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**. If you are unable to send the forms via email, please snail mail them to Green Street Friends Meeting, Attn EAC, P.O. Box 4926 Philadelphia, PA 19119 and call Margaret so she knows to expect it.

If you have questions please call Margaret at 215 844 1430

Document and Book Discussion: On February 13, there will a Book Discussion via Zoom at 12:30pm. Please see ListServ for more information

Eric Corson has Published a New Book: Reaching Beyond Prison Walls: Stories of Volunteer Visitors and the Prisoners They See. You can purchase this book at: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/reachingbeyonnd-prison-walls-eric-corson/1140544447>

Obituary of
Richard Paul "Dick" Bansen

Dick Bansen died on January 7 at age 97. He had been blessed with great health all his life and

experienced a decline in physical health only recently but retained his mental acuity and sense of humor to the end. His life was one of dedication to community and generosity of both heart and hands.

Dick was born on July 2, 1924 to Donald Clifton Bansen and Anna Sherwood Bansen. He grew up in Glenolden, Pennsylvania and was the youngest of three – his older siblings were Marjorie Bansen Lockwood and Donald C. Bansen, Jr. Dick was the only one of the three to be born in a hospital. Dick attended the George School in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and then Drexel University. He served as a Sergeant in the Army Air Force from 1943 to 1946 on the crew of a B24; with characteristic good luck, the war ended before his plane was needed overseas.

Dick met Shirley Anne Mutch at a Young Friends (Quaker) function. Shirley's father was a physician and Dick's first dinner with his new girlfriend's parents featured a lively debate about socialized medicine between Dick and Dr. Mutch. Nevertheless, the romance blossomed and Dick and Shirley were married at Green Street Friends Meeting in 1952. They had four children: Peter, Cindy, Sarah and Elizabeth (Lisi).

Dick attended the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania while working for the City of Philadelphia and received the Master of Governmental Administration degree in 1958. His career with the City gave Dick the opportunity to work with some notable personalities in the history of Philadelphia including city planner Edmund Bacon, whose vision for the post-war development of urban Philadelphia influenced every project in Center City for decades to come and Police Commissioner Frank Rizzo. While the bombastic Rizzo's management style was the polar opposite of Dick's, the two were friendly and carpooled to work daily for years.

After retiring from the City, Dick's administrative and financial acumen were devoted to Quaker businesses – first at Foulkeways at Gwynedd, a Quaker retirement community in Montgomery County and then with the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Fiduciary Corporation. Dick resisted retiring from work until he was nearly 80.

Throughout Dick and Shirley's sixty-one-year marriage, they were active members of Green Street Monthly Meeting of Friends and were devoted not only to the Meeting, but to the school that is under its care, Greene Street Friends School. Shirley taught elementary grades at the school for many years and at any given time Dick and Shirley were each on two or three Meeting committees. Dick's deep commitment to causes of peace and justice led him to live his beliefs by visiting prisoners and supporting organizations opposing war, racism and intolerance.

Dick was a loving, supportive and fun father and grandfather, a skilled camper and hiker, a craftsman in wood and metal and a singer with a brilliant memory for Gilbert & Sullivan and the ability to offer a song for any occasion.

Although reluctant to leave his West Mt. Airy neighborhood after almost 50 years, when he and Shirley moved to Foulkeways in 2008, he delighted in the ample opportunities for conversation and discussion. He joined many committees and activities, including groups that read poetry to residents in memory care and did play reading. He acted, sang in the chorus, and for many years selected the weekly movie.

Called by some the “Mayor of Foulkeways,” Dick learned the life story of nearly every resident and could recall the most minute details later. Before heading home after a meal in the Foulkeways dining room, he would segue from one conversation or greeting to another, delaying departure by a half an hour or more. He sharpened knives and repaired clothing for fellow residents.

Dick had a strong personal environmental ethic long before it was fashionable. He partially heated with a woodstove and was always happy to help a neighbor remove a downed branch or haul off the wood from a dead tree. In the 1970’s before any formal home recycling began, he would bring home and wash styrofoam cups for reuse after fellowship hour at Green St. Meeting. He delighted in scavenging a Persian rug or piece of antique furniture that had been discarded. The ham bones saved for him by the Foulkeways chef became soup – nothing usable was wasted!

Dick did not let old age dampen his broad interest in the world or in the people around him. His support of diversity and evolving societal mores, such as gay marriage, were inconceivable in his youth. After vacations with family he’d return to Foulkeways with suggestions that the new foods he’d tried be added to the community’s menu (seitan, anyone?).

To his final days Dick cherished the company of his children and grandchildren, and his best friend and fellow Foulkeways resident Penny Purnell. He often punctuated the end of a meal by proclaiming with a puckish grin, “My cup runneth over,” one of the many Biblical references from childhood that salted his conversations.

Shirley died in 2013 and Lisi in 2005. Dick is survived by three children: Peter (Cindy) of Reno, Nevada; Cindy Travis (Tom Gerczynski) of Prescott, Arizona and Sarah (Dan Grossman) of Watertown, Massachusetts; six grandchildren, Paul & Helen Bansen, Dylan & Laura Travis, Noah & Rebecca Grossman; and his dear and devoted friend Penny Purnell.

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.

