



# The Green Street Messenger

monthly calendar & newsletter of...

## Green Street

Monthly Meeting of Friends  
*located at...*

45 West School House Lane  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

*Join us for...*

267-285-0553 / [secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org) Office hours: 9:30–12:30 Mon.–Fri.  
[/website greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org](http://website.greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org)

First Day Meeting for Worship	10:30 AM
First Day School	10:30–11:15 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

### February 2016

- Sunday, 7th      9:30 AM      Breakfast with a Friend—Bob Dockhorn  
 Rise of Meeting      Coffee Hour—  
 12:30      Care & Counsel Committee Meeting  
*First Sunday potluck at Stapeley is no longer happening.*
- Sunday, 14th      9:00 AM      Second Sunday Forum: *What does solidarity look like for our Meeting? Please see the About F/friends section.*  
 Rise of Meeting      Coffee Hour—Lucy Duncan/Graham Garner
- Sunday, 21st      9:00 AM      Meeting for business  
 Rise of Meeting      Monthly Meeting Lunch—  
 12:45      Continuation of Meeting for business
- Sunday, 28th      9:15 AM      Friendly Bible Study  
 Rise of Meeting      Coffee hour—  
 12:30 - 2:30 PM      *Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting here.*



## ***Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business Held First Month 17, 2016***

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on First Month 17, 2016:

The morning session of Business Meeting convened at 9:10 AM in prayerful silence.

16-01-01 The Clerk welcomed Friends and asked each to introduce themselves and share, if they wished, why it is that they came this morning to Green Street Meeting. Friends were blessed by the sharing.

16-01-02 Friends reviewed and approved the morning agenda.

### **16-01-03 West Philadelphia Friends Meeting Finances**

Evan Draper reported on the desire of West Philadelphia Friends Meeting to open a bank account so that they can start receiving and managing funds, particularly so they can receive tax deductible contributions and begin to pay a modest rent for the use of their meeting space.

At the recommendation of the financial managers of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, WPFM has been encouraged to use an account formally opened by GSFM and using our EIN to facilitate making contributions tax deductible under the existing umbrella of GSMM and PYM.

A few Friends wondered whether this process was necessary, but with the support of the Meeting treasurer, and upon the clear request of WPFM Business Meeting, the Meeting readily united in the following minute:

"Green Street Monthly Meeting supports West Philadelphia Friends Meeting in establishing a bank account under our auspices. Signatories on the account will be determined by West Philadelphia Friends Meeting. The treasurer of Green Street Monthly Meeting will receive copies of monthly statements. GSMM anticipates that there may be a formal resolution from the bank requiring our approval when the account is opened. We agree now to approve it then with no need for further conversation."

### **16-01-04 Report on Nature and Practice of Membership**

Amy Verstappen reported for Care and Counsel on the practice of membership at GSMM for people under the age of 21. Amy started by reading the appropriate sections from PYM Faith and Practice.

F&P is very clear and suggests three options for youth membership. They include, full-membership, associate membership, and non-membership. In each, the responsibility of making decisions about the membership status of children goes to the parents. While F&P describes a very specific process for associate membership in particular, in practice the Meeting has not fully understood or carefully followed it in recent years..

Care and Counsel was grateful to find this specific process laid out so clearly and reported their intention to put in place practices that conform with what is laid out in Faith and Practice. This would require going back into the records and working with the Recorder to clarify the status of those under 21 years of age currently in the Meeting.

One Friend expressed strong concerns about the practice of giving full membership to a very young child in a way that never requires that Friend to reflect on and affirm their own mature intention to be a Quaker. We did not have time to hear from other Friends. Care and Counsel agreed to take this concern back, to explore the issues further, and to return to the Meeting with their discernments in the future.

Friends closed the morning session at 10:30 and after a tender time for Meeting for Worship joined by many visitors, including participants in a pop-up gathering of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns, we reconvened at 1:00 PM.

16-01-05 The Clerk gathered us again in the afternoon inviting us to share our first experience of one of the “isms” which are present in our culture. Friends shared at great depth and with sensitivity.

16-01-06 Friends reviewed and approved the agenda for the afternoon session.

#### 16-01-07 **Report on Creating a Public Statement**

Clerk Anthony DiGiovanni re-read the minutes from 12<sup>th</sup> month 2015 about making a public statement through a temporary banner now and possibly a permanent sign with changing messages in the future. Traci Hjelt Sullivan reported on the steps that Worship and Ministry has taken about the banner since then.

The W&M Committee is clear that there is no perfect message. They have received significant feedback, not all consistent with each other. The committee has consulted with Friends of Color in the Meeting and with the School.

The proposed language that Worship and Ministry is currently considering has changed to:

“We stand against racism and Islamophobia which damage our community.”  
-Green Street Quaker Meeting

The School is very supportive and they are consulting with Black and Muslim members of their community.

Last month, members of the Meeting had expressed an interest in having the banner on the corner of Greene Street and School House Lane. Upon reflection, the Head of School, the Clerk of School Committee, and the Clerk of the Meeting are clear that the banner needs to hang on the Meetinghouse or at least on Meeting property, which seems to preclude it being on the corner of Greene and School House. W&M will confirm this with the School.

Friends shared their feedback and gratitude with the Committee, which will continue their work. If way opens, they remain empowered to purchase and install a banner in consultation with Property Committee and after final review by the School.

#### 16-01-08 **Nominating Committee Report**

Robert Dockhorn brought back for final approval the two names, which were presented in the last month.

JoAnn Seaver as Clerk for one year, starting February 1.

Anthony DiGiovanni would serve as Assistant Clerk.

Friends trust that the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk can develop an appropriate division of their job responsibilities.

Eric Davenport as Recorder for three years starting February 1.

Friends approved.

16-01-09 These minutes were approved.

Friends ended in worship with words of deep appreciation and gratitude for the faithful and humble service of our Clerk who has led us these past years with wisdom and courage, who has listened regularly, and who has encouraged the membership to step forward faithfully into the work that is before us.

Meeting adjourned, agreeing to meet again at the appointed time on Second Month 21 2016, with JoAnne Seaver serving us as Clerk.

Anthony DiGiovanni, Clerk  
Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Recording Clerk

Members present: Anne Bayless, Doris Clinkscale, Anthony DiGiovanni, Robert Dockhorn, Evan Draper (WPFM), Gabriel Ehri, Paul Jablonski, David La Fontaine, Dan McDevitt, Chris Mohr, Frank Perch, JoAnn Seaver, Traci Sullivan, Walter Sullivan, William Van Stone, Amy Verstappen, Margaret Walters

Attendees present: Mary Joy Benson, Geniver Montalvo

Staff: Gail Woodbury, Secretary

### ***About our F/friends***

(News and announcements of concern to the Meeting)

***The First Sunday Potlucks at Stapeley (Wesley Enhanced Living) are no longer happening.***

The potlucks at Stapeley have been laid down effective as of January 2016. Stapeley residents will still happily welcome anyone who wants to join them in their meeting for worship at 6:30.

***Sunday January 10, Second Sunday Forum - Solidarity***

In January, we opened discussion about solidarity, and what that looks like for our Meeting. We'll continue to explore what it means for GSMM to be in solidarity with our neighborhood, and what it means to live fully into our commitments. This is an evolving discussion. Please join us to broaden the Meeting's participation. A light breakfast will be available, and we'll meet 9 AM in the Social Room. — Co-clerks Kenyatta James & Shani Taylor

***Sunday, February 28, Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting Program Meeting***

The meeting will be held here at **Green Street Monthly Meeting** after coffee hour. Information will be posted on the Quarterly Meeting website a week or two before the meeting.  
[philadelphiaquarter.org](http://philadelphiaquarter.org)

***Saturday, March 5 Extended Worship at Swarthmore Friends Meeting, 12 Whittier Place, Swarthmore, Pa. 19081***

Would you like to deepen your experience of Worship? Have you wished that Worship didn't end when the clock struck the hour? You are invited to experience Extended Worship. Attend just a portion of the day or the full day. And remember to bring your lunch. All are welcome. If you will **need childcare, email us by Monday, February 16 to let us know.**

Schedule:

9:15 to 9:30 Gathering and Welcome

9:30 to 12:30 Extended Meeting for Worship

12:30 to 1:30 Brown Bag Lunch

1:30 to 3:00 Worship Sharing

3:00 to 3:15 Cleanup and departure.

Future Opportunities: June 4, at Medford Meeting

For more information, please contact Lola Georg at lolageorg@gmail.com or call 484/368-4637

### ***Spring Continuing Sessions of PYM***

Gather with other Friends of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) to continue the business and fellowship stemming from Annual Sessions last summer. On **Saturday, March 19**, at Arch Street Meetinghouse, Friends are invited to discover the vast array of ministry that connects us. The day will begin and end in worship, focusing on the mission and priorities of Yearly Meeting, and the companionship of spiritual deepening. Programs for adults, and high school, middle-school, and elementary-school youth. Further information about scheduling, programs, and cost will be forthcoming soon.



### ***The Second Query on Meeting for Business***

Is our meeting for business held in the spirit of a meeting for worship in which we seek divine guidance?

Are we careful to keep in the spirit of worship each of the concerns that emerge, whether of nurture, of Spirit, of social concerns, of property, or of finance?

Are Meeting decisions directed by prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and are difficult problems considered carefully with patient search for truth, unhurried by the pressures of time?

How do we respond if we notice the meeting has lost an understanding of the presence of God?

Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?

*Do I regularly attend meeting for business and in a spirit of love and unity? If unable to attend, how do I attend to my responsibility?*

*Do I consider prayerfully the many concerns that are lifted up on any issue, acknowledging that the search for truth in unity involves what God requires, being open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?*



### ***News and Announcements***

#### ***Workshops and/or Short Courses at Pendle Hill***

*For more information about any of these weekends, call Pendle Hill at (610) 566-4507 or (800) 742-3150, ext. 3, or visit [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org). Matching scholarships are available; please call.*

*(Please go to their website, [pendlehill.org](http://pendlehill.org), or call them for more information.)*

**Mar. - Aug.** Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness

*An Intensive Online/On-Campus Certificate Program in Prophetic Activism and Civic Engagement (includes four on-campus residencies.)*

**Feb. 6** Release & Reconnect with Mixed-Media Fiber Art 9:30 - 4, lunch included.

**Feb. 19-21** Living the Compassionate Life: The Essence of Nonviolent Communication

**Feb. 20** The Clay Connection 9:30 - 4, lunch included

**Mar. - Aug.** Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness

*Please do check their website. Many of these have earlier registration deadlines.*

***Middle School Friends Winter Gathering, Friday, February 5, 7:00 PM to February 7, 12:00 noon***

The gathering will be held at Haverford Friends, Haverford, Pa. It is sure to be a blast. As always, we'll be ice skating Saturday night. Our annual winter gathering always includes a trip to an ice skating rink! In addition we will spend time enjoying the winter weather, worship sharing, and

creating a safe space for sharing. Details: [www.pym.org/calendar/events/middle-school-friends-winter-gathering-2016](http://www.pym.org/calendar/events/middle-school-friends-winter-gathering-2016) Matt Sanderson, [msanderson@pym.org](mailto:msanderson@pym.org)

***Young Friends Winter Gathering, February 12, 7:00 PM to February 14, 12:00 noon***

Come create fun and vibrant community with other high-school-aged Quakers and Quaker-friendly folks. This weekend we'll use our workshop and worship sharing time to dive into the subject of Quaker Tolerance together. It'll be a weekend of excellent Young Friendly fun. It will be held at Wilmington Friends Meeting, 401 N. West St., Wilmington, DE \$60 – Full and partial aid available. For more information, please go to [www.pym.org/calendar/events/young-friends-winter-gathering-2015](http://www.pym.org/calendar/events/young-friends-winter-gathering-2015) or Hannah Mayer, [Mayer@pym.org](mailto:Mayer@pym.org), 215-241-7222

***Looking ahead:***

***T. Wistar Brown Teachers' Fund***

The Fund provides financial grants supporting members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting who are over the age of 21 and who request assistance for professional development in preparing themselves to teach at the primary or secondary school level. Deadlines are: **March 10 for summer**. June 10 for fall/winter. November 1 for spring. Visit: [www.twbfund.org](http://www.twbfund.org) for information.

***Young Friends Spring Gathering, March 18-20, Germantown Monthly Meeting***

Come join Young Friends for our Spring gathering weekend of fun and community. We'll have workshops and worship sharing exploring our theme of arts & creative expression and see the whole yearly meeting for Continuing Sessions at Arch Street Meeting.

Details: [www.pym.org/calendar/events/young-friends-spring-2016](http://www.pym.org/calendar/events/young-friends-spring-2016)

Hannah Mayer, 215-241-7222 or [HMayer@pym.org](mailto:HMayer@pym.org)

***2016 William Penn Lecture, Saturday, March 19, 7:00 - 9:00, Arch Street Meeting House.***

The William Penn Lecture is an annual event for all Friends. It is under the care of Young Adult Friends and comes out of a history that began with the first lecture in 1916. The name of our speaker will be revealed soon. This year, the William Penn Lecture will take place after Spring Continuing Sessions. Details: [www.pym.org/calendar/events/2016-william-penn-lecture](http://www.pym.org/calendar/events/2016-william-penn-lecture)  
Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt, [YoungAdultFriends@pym.org](mailto:YoungAdultFriends@pym.org) or 215-241-7075

***Employment opportunities: There are 3 employment opportunities at PYM posted on the bulletin board at the head of the stairs. Or go to [pym.org](http://pym.org) and click on employment.***

***News from another Meeting:***

***Birmingham Friends Meeting: Saving Lives via Land Mine Detectors***

Over the past seven years the Peace Center of Birmingham and subsequently the Peace and Social Concerns Committee at Birmingham Friends Meeting have raised over \$12,400 to purchase 12 land mine detectors.

The mine detectors are sent to the United Nations Mine Action Service, which is the operational arm of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and the U.S. Department of State, which determines areas of past conflict most in need of clearing unexploded ordinance. For example, some of our landmine detectors have gone to Nepal, Gaza, and Libya.

We plan to continue to raise money to support the procurement and shipment of land mine detectors; we hope that other Quaker Meetings and other groups and individuals will join this endeavor. Information on contacts to obtain the mine detectors can be obtained from Birmingham Friends Meeting Peace & Social Concerns Committee member Ted Brinton: 610-388-6006

***Humor Corner:*** Bumper Sticker: God favors no group - only religions do that.

**Quote Corner:** Silence is a tool that helps; not the silence of a negative space or an inert state, but rather a vital experience of being fully present, focused, attentive to the divine promptings. I stand in the Light, willing to be open and vulnerable, ready to be challenged and directed. Why? Because my yearning to be more fully my true self, to realize the potential of what I am and what I can be in relation to the Divine and to all others requires it. I have found the analogy of coming to an ever-present stream a helpful reminder of how the Source is always present and active; it requires only my attention to it to be surrounded and moved by it.

*From Twelve Quakers and Worship, by Quaker Quest*

The **submission deadline** for the March newsletter is **9:30 AM on Friday, February 19.**

*Friends, since I will have to fold the newsletter myself, I will start printing as soon as the minutes from business meeting are ready. If you wait until after the deadline, your item may well not make it into the newsletter.*