

, The Green Street

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

April 2021

Sunday, 4th 10:30 AM Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 11th 10:30 AM Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 18th 10:30 AM Via Zoom/83195217639
 12:30 PM Monthly Meeting for Business

Sunday, 25th 10:30 AM Via Zoom/83195217639

Minutes of Green Street Monthly Meeting for Business Held Third Month 21, 2021

Green Street Friends Meeting for Business

Minutes of 21 March 2021

Present: Kathy (Angell?, no video or last name), Anne Bayless, Susan Chast, Robert Dockhorn, Lucy Duncan, Gabe Ehri (clerk), Lola Georg, Viv Hawkins (recording), Walter Hjelt-Sullivan, L Lanza, Cheryl McFadden, Chris Mohr, Sharon Mullally, Mary Noland, Frank Perch, JoAnn Seaver, Linda Singleton, Lori Sinitzky, Ellen Sleeter, Ashlynn Sylvain, Marille Thomas, Bill Van Stone, Ashanta Washington, Margaret Wood, EppChez Yes

202103-1. Opening Worship and Reading of Query:

How does this decision support Green Street Friends Meeting in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?

202103-2. Community Reparations Committee (EppChez Yes, Lucy Duncan)

EppChez offered us a prayer to ground us in humility, forgiveness, and love. "We love ourselves unconditionally, we forgive ourselves unconditionally, we feel ourselves loving ourselves unconditionally, we feel ourselves forgiving ourselves unconditionally."

They then shared information about what is reparations and how to budget for reparations.

The legal definition of reparations, which has historically benefited people with power, needs to be reimagined to recognize the immensity of what is owed to Black people in this country. developed by [United Nations Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law](#) ^[7] describes five formal categories of reparations: restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition.

1. [Restitution](#) – measures which serve to "restore the victim to the original situation before the gross violations occurred". This can include: restoration of liberty, enjoyment of human rights, identity, family life and citizenship, return of one's place of residence, restoration of employment, and return of property.
2. [Damages Compensation](#) – the provision of compensation "for any economically assessable damage, as appropriate and proportional to the gravity of the violation and the circumstances of each case". Such damage includes: physical or mental harm, lost opportunities, material damages and loss of earnings, moral damage, cost of legal, medical, psychological, and social services.
3. [Rehabilitation](#) – medical, psychological, social services, and legal assistance

4. **Guarantees of non-repetition** – reforms ensuring the prevention of future abuses, including: [civilian control of the military](#) and security forces, strengthening an independent judiciary, protection of [civil service](#) and human rights workers, the overall promotion of human rights standards, and the establishment of mechanisms to prevent and monitor social conflict and conflict resolution. It could also include law making policies, such as the end of “stop and frisk.”
5. **Satisfaction** – various measures which include the cessation of human rights violations and abuses, truth-seeking, searches for the disappeared, recovery and reburial of remains, judicial and administrative sanctions, public apologies, commemoration, and [memorialization](#).

Relational repair is foundational to reparations. Redistribution of wealth, which we'll talk about today, is one pathway toward relational repair. Wealth is often a demonstration of inhumane priorities: greed, which is really the cause of poverty. So how we think about wealth is key in order to move toward reparations, and toward right relationship. We live in and worship in a neighborhood of significant wealth inequality. The treasury of GSFM has a pool of funds amassed when people are struggling to put food on their tables and to remain in their homes.

Lucy introduced the relational repair issue. Amber Matriyo from New Orleans spoke to the people in the reparations course. The logic of our institutions, their subtle body is based on coloniality. To look at how we are animated and how our structures exist. We were invited to ground in our bodies, before viewing [Miss Kimberly Jones' video](#), from shortly after George Floyd's murder during the uprisings. “As long as we're focusing on the what, we're not focusing on the why.” “Economics was the reason for Black people to be brought to this country, the agricultural work in the south and the textile work in the North.” “For 400 rounds of Monopoly not only do you not get to play, you have to play on behalf of someone else... Every time you get ahead, they burn your wealth... like they did in Tulsa and Rosewood.” “The social construct is broken... You broke the contract. So f***k your Target... They are lucky that what Black people is looking for is equality and not revenge.”

Friends spoke about their experiences of the video. One friend spoke of increasing meaning with successive viewings of this video. A friend shared that the video put things succinctly, the last line speaks the fear white people have of the revenge. Another friend has had numerous conversations among people – the damage goes deeper than Tulsa and Rosewood, when education has been limited to women and Black women and men. Many people said they should have burned that Target down. The rioters spoke. What do you do when you've been robbed, not even blind? \$54,000 for an education in a private school when some teachers don't even make that.

Asbestos soaked schools. Why hold parent conferences in the afternoon, when the parents are working 2-3 jobs at minimum wage? I wish I could have a revolt against every damn thing; you all can't be quiet. One reason BLM was successful because white people came out. If you are not enraged, you need to be. Just see it. The cruelty that Black people have endured is unimaginable. You must be willing to say, “How

can I help? What can I do?" We have to say it's time as a community. Let's speak the real gospel. The whole system has its knee on the necks of Black folk. How do we get in the way of that not happening? Money is one piece of that.

EppChez said that one line in the video stands out for them, "The only way to create any semblance of equality is to share... wealth redistribution." When Community Reparations Committee has put out proposals, we keep encountering the chicken and the egg because GSFM has not specified a number. If this is to be a priority, we need to budget for it.

Eppchez shared a presentation on budgeting for reparations presentation from LaKontratia. The presentation included a proposal for who might consider reparations, how much, and where should reparations go. To move forward with the work of reparations which we've said is important, we need to budget for it, find a number.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CBv4vGlAFxa/?hl=en>

Lucy reviewed GSFM's annual budget based on this format. The below is from the analysis Lucy presented.

FY 2019 Actual

Contributions	\$37,935
Income from investments	\$176,281
Income	\$214,246

Expenses

Utilities	\$13,208
Office & Treasury	\$4,809
Property & Yard	\$24,835
Program incl. EMIR	\$9,328
Education grant to GSFS	\$4,200
Direct GSFS support	\$50,000
Covenant to quarter	\$1,750
Contributions to others	\$4,950
Expenses	\$146,978
Net surplus	\$67,268

According to reparations budgeting, this is amount we spent over annual operating expenses

$\$70,228 + \text{surplus } \$67,268 = \$137,496$ of which \$4,500 to EMIR, contributions to others \$4,950 (we would need to look at this to see whether it's going to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) orgs or to White orgs), for a total of \$9,450. Is supporting healing in the community, but not necessarily BIPOC led orgs (except EMIR)

Income that year was \$214,246

Using this LaKontraria calculation in relation to GSFM's budget, we would have 50% of \$137,496 going toward reparations or \$68,748 (based on income including

investment income, not considering principal). We gave \$9,450 to BIPOC- or White-led organizations. **Community Reparations Committee recommends \$50-75,000 be distributed annually to BIPOC people in need in Germantown.** The Spirituality of Money offered in GSFM by Lola Georg has led us, in part, here. EppChez and Lucy expressed hope that GSFM claim the power we have to make change.

GSFM were asked how this sits with them?

One Friend appreciated having a budget to “invest” in the local Germantown community, recommends we be involved with those groups in additional ways, and consider the discernment that will be needed to apportion those funds to specific groups. Another Friend spoke to the need for us to do this work personally in addition to as a faith community with our institutional budget. How do we challenge the capitalist system that perpetuates the conditions that lead to this inequality, including the psychological implications? A friend is excited to have “a framework to do something like this” and expressed sadness that the Community Reparations Committee did not speak with the Budget Committee, expressed concern about the relationship with the school, and expressed sadness about the relationship of the Community Reparations Committee to GSFM, including that the committee members were not nominated. That Friend also felt the way this came to the meeting did not sit well with him. Another friend supported continuing to explore this, to look at this number, to think of it as an experiment, to improve upon mistakes, and to use small groups might help us process this together, as well. A member of the Budget Committee spoke about framing what the alternatives are: 1) the choice presented by the presentation, according to the Friend speaking – identify expenses we will no longer fund; what are those? 2) increase current contributions from individuals, 3) take the inherited wealth and invest it in projects that will benefit it in our community; 4) give the inherited wealth away. A Friend expressed appreciation of the video and budget analysis with the listserv and said she had expected to hear more about the GREAT proposal from 2019. Another Friend said that Trustees needs to be included in this conversation. Another Friend who serves with trustees said that we want to consider what can be done this year and commit funds to future budgets. The clerk clarified that Trustees do the bidding of the meeting, as long as it is legal. A friend expressed. The Community Reparations Committee is open to additional membership. A Friend with the Community Reparations Committee said that the idea we are not in relationship with the meeting because we have not been nominated by the meeting is quite offensive. Asked whether approval of an action recommended by them means that the Community Reparations Committee is an official committee of the meeting, the clerk responded that the committee exists. Working with the Budget Committee can proceed with all deliberate speed.

The clerk expressed gratitude for the work the meeting has done over time to understand these issues. GSFM asked the Budget Committee to work with Community Reparations Committee and any other members to work on incorporating an allocation for Reparations in the current budget year and to include a Reparations line in subsequent budgets. A report will be brought back by Budget Committee to May 16 meeting for business.

202103-3. Nominating Committee (Walter Hjelt Sullivan)

Meeting was advised that the following are stepping down or terming out in a current position:

Treasurer and Ex-Officio on Budget and Educational Assistance

Jerry Williams

Educational Assistance

Bill Van Stone, and as Clerk

Property

Bill Van Stone

West Philadelphia Meeting Joint Care Committee

Margaret Wood

The meeting approved the following nominations, in the following 3 groups, brought forward for second reading.

For a second reading in a new position for a two-year term:

Assistant Clerk

Cheryl McFadden, for a two-year term through 6/30/2023

Staff Supervisory Team

Cheryl McFadden, for a two-year term through 6/30/2023

Traci Hjelt Sullivan, for a two-year term through 6/30/2023

For a second reading in a new position, for a three-year term:

Librarian

Rachel Ellis Adams, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Property Committee

Ellen Sleeter, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Rachel Ellis Adams, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Children & Youth Religious Education

Robin Mohr, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Michelle Schmitt, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

For a second reading in a continuing position for a one-year term.

Trustees

Russell Endo, President, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

David LaFontaine, Vice President, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Sharon Mullally, Secretary, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Treasurer, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Dan McDevitt, Assistant Secretary, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Gabbreell James, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

For first reading to be considered next month for approval, the following slate was presented.

In a new position for a three-year term

Care and Counsel

Victoria Greene, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Worship and Ministry

Ashlyn Sylvain, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

West Philadelphia Meeting Joint Care Committee

Traci Hjelt Sullivan, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Educational Assistance

Margaret Wood, as Clerk

Jerry Williams, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

In a continuing position for a three-year term

Budget Committee

Frank Perch, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Traci Hjelt Sullivan, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Care and Counsel

Bill Van Stone, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Susan Christian, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Worship and Ministry

Lori Sinitzky, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

QVS Support Committee

JoAnn Seaver, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

Bill Van Stone, for a three-year term through 6/30/2024

In a continuing position for a one-year term

Recording Team

Anthony DiGiovanni, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Viv Hawkins, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Archivist

Jerry Williams, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Meeting Rentals Advisory Committee

Anthony DiGiovanni, Property Committee, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Frank Perch, Budget Committee, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Gabbrell James, At-Large, for a one-year term through 6/30/2022

Greene Street Friend School Board

For a first reading as a continuing member, for a three-year term:

Betty Turner, for a third term

Jerome Maddox, for a third term

Jesse Smith Esq '87, for a second term

Kia Wimmer, Esq, for a second term

For a first reading as a new member, for a three-year term:

Christina Young, for a first term

Rotating off after three full terms on the Board

Jason Sears

Christina Young is the parent of Maryn, a 4th grader at GSFS. She also has three older children who are in various stages of college and independence.

Christina, her husband Larry, and Maryn moved to Philadelphia from Denver during 2019. They moved so that Christina could assume her position as Vice President of Reliability Engineering Excellence at Comcast Cable Corporation. In this role, she leads the National Network Reliability Business Transformation Office including business continuity/disaster response, asset management, process management & analytics, and program management.

Over her 20+ year career, Christina has held engineering and leadership positions in marketing, vendor management, engineering operations, and program management at a variety of different firms. She had been working at Comcast for 10 years before moving to Philadelphia.

Christina is passionate about equity in education for low-income and first-generation students. Before relocating to Philadelphia, she served as Co-Chair of the Trustee Board for the Park Hill United Methodist Church Children's Center in Denver. In this role, she led the Finance and Fundraising Committees. She is also a founding and current board member of the First-Generation and/or Low-Income Alumni Network at her alma mater, Stanford University (where she was herself a first-generation college student). Christina earned a BS in Industrial Engineering/Management Science & Engineering at Stanford in 1993.

2020-2021 School Year

16 Trustees

Quakers: 8, non-Quakers 8
Identify as female: 5, Identify as male: 11
Identify as BIPOC: 8, Identify as White: 8
Current parents: 4
Parents of alum: 4
Alum: 2

Projections for 2021-2022 School Year

16 Trustees
Quakers: 8, non-Quakers 8
Identify as female: 6, Identify as male: 10
Identify as BIPOC: 8, Identify as White: 8
Current parents: 4
Parents of alum: 4
Alum: 2

News & Announcements

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.