

Governing Board of Contemplative Outreach
Conference Call/Zoom Minutes
February 16, 2021
12:00-1:30 pm ET
Approved

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jenny Adamson, Kathy Di Fede, Maru Ladron de Guevara, Phil Jackson, Pat Johnson, Carol Quest, Julie Saad, Tom Smith
ALSO PRESENT: Mary Jane Yates, Administrator

1. Opening Reflection: Jenny offered a quote from G.K. Chesterton

2. Gift Committee request to hire an attorney (Julie)

—Contemplative Outreach has copies of many of the original publishing contracts for books by Thomas Keating, but not all.

- Julie has been organizing all publication contracts in preparation for republication: print, kindle, audible.
- Consider the possibility of renegotiating contracts so that publishers have less control over translation and production into other formats. Going forward consider agreements limited to 10 -15 years.

—Translation issues: The first step is to find a publisher in the target country or target language to work with the original publisher. A problem, however, arises when a publisher edits out intended nuances.

—Tom recommended that Julie, working with the Gift Committee, solicit a proposal from a lawyer for the legal service that is needed for the Board to approve. Julie will begin by contacting Mark Nowak, listing our needs and requesting a referral to contact for a proposal/estimate for legal services to carry out these needs.

3. Future Board Members— Bylaws state that the board consists of 7-11 members

- a. Kathy and Tom's terms end at the end of 2021.
- b. Julie and Jenny's terms end at the end of 2022.
- c. Pat and Maru's terms end at the end of 2023. (Pat said she may end her term at the end of 2022.) Carol and Phil will be at the end of their first term at the end of 2023)
- d. The current board affirms always having a representative from ECI.
- e. We hold the intention to include someone from the International Community when that becomes feasible.

- Mary Jane explained the international group is just getting connected and working together. Their frontline passion is getting the translated works out and serving their community with teaching Centering Prayer.
- Someone from England or Ireland, where the Centering Prayer communities have been organized for a good while, may be appropriate at this time.

f. Board selection process

- The selection process should be ongoing including getting the message out to the community as a regular process of encouraging people to apply and providing a clear information about how the Board will respond.
- The conference, direct invitation, and contacting chapters are ways to get the word out.
- Emphasize that we acknowledge that every one who applies is qualified, but we choose those who bring the balance the board needs at that time.
- Frame invitations to Board candidates as one way to volunteer service within the CO Community: there are different forms of service but...the same God who produces all of them in everyone. (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)
- *We aspire to exercise leadership as a way of serving, of taking the lowest place, and of living ordinary life with extraordinary love* (Theological Principle 13).

4. Administrator's Report :

- The February 5 meeting with Board and staff seemed to be a turning point in our relationships and openness to collaborate.
- Mary Jane has met with each staff member for annual reviews in last two weeks; each staff member had prepared a helpful reflection on their year.
- United in Prayer day schedule is filling out; look at the schedule to see all the international groups hosting sessions. Board members are invited to participate as much as they can.
- The Facilitator Team is preparing for a workshop on February 26-27 with over 100 already registered.
- Kathleen, Mark and Mary Jane met with Keith Kristich and David Frenette about a youth outreach funding proposal to submit to the Trust for the Meditation Process.
- Teresia Hasanova from Czechia invited Mary Jane to attend a Centering Prayer Introductory workshop which Teresia facilitated with Slovakian youth on February 13. Teresia is being mentored by Jill Benet.
- The Prison Outreach Survey will be active until the end of February.
- Marie Howard met with CO Philippines and CO Ontario to support their discernment of new leadership teams.

- The translation team is working at a fast pace. Volunteers are now translating introductory videos into Italian, German and Icelandic.
- Mary Jane met with Margaret Benefiel (Shalem) and Jay Sheerer (U.S. representative for WCCM) on February 4. Jay offered information on their work in prisons and schools in the US. Margaret reported Shalem is continuing Zoom programs with increased in participation by youth and people of color.

5. Annual Administrator Review Process – scheduled for 2/23/2020, 12:00 pm ET. Nick Cole and Adal Henriquez have confirmed they will be able to attend.

6. Next Board Zoom Call March 2, 2021 at 12:00 pm ET – We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month so we don't overlap with the Gift Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Quest, Secretary