

Governing Board of Contemplative Outreach
Conference Call/Zoom Minutes
March 16th, 2021
12:00 – 1:30 pm ET
final

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jenny Adamson, Kathy Di Fede, Maru Ladron de Guevara, Phil Jackson, Pat Johnson, and Julie Saad.

ABSENT: Carol Quest and Tom Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Jane Yates, Administrator

1. Opening reflection given by Maru. Reading from *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander* by Thomas Merton. “To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything, is to succumb to violence.”
2. Approval of minutes for March 2nd meeting. Jenny motioned to approve the minutes and Pat seconded. All approved.
3. Administrator update: 1. **New staff.** Matt Scrimgeour started with us this week (March 15th). His first priorities will be to help the staff get up to speed with Office 365 and to explore our data needs and an improved platform with better linkages to the website. Emily will now focus on Social Media outreach and managing information sharing needs for the Translation Working Group and for Prison Outreach. Mark has been having lots of conversations with team members and met with Julie about the SJ course. 2. **Circle of Friends.** Renewal packages are now ready for mail out. Mary Jane has been contacting members of the CoF to get to know them better. 3. **Direct Appeal.** The Spring DMA is also prepared and will be sent out once Donna gets help from Izoox in finalizing the list. 4. **CO Service teams.** Marie had a 2nd meeting with Centering Prayer practitioners in Ohio to form a chapter there. Marie has also developed an idea for how the Chapter Support Service team might function going forward. She will now lead this work as a staff person. A survey addressing chapter or community needs at a local level both in the U.S. and internationally is being worked on. Marie and Mary Jane be getting feedback from the Global English speaking team and members of the Translation Working team , including ECI. Pamela supported the Facilitator Support Service team with developing a survey of the workshop that was Feb. 25-26. Mark will be supporting the Presenter Formation Service team with their Enrichment day scheduled for April 24th. Pamela is supporting him on how she usually sends invites, provides Zoom support, etc. 5. **Prison Outreach.** The survey closed on March 12th with a total of 76 responses. MJ sent the data to Chandra Hanson who will work with a small team of volunteers to analyze responses

and consider next steps. 6. **United in Prayer Day**. A resounding success! Many facilitators around the globe were holding a deep space for prayer. Pamela commented that everyone was quite zoom savvy. The variety of cultural influences was amazing. Staff all agreed that it seemed like such a natural development for how our community has been ‘evolving’ over the past year—and how well we think the September Conference will also be received. One of the UiP facilitators gave a wonderful introduction to the link between Centering Prayer and indigenous practices in Australia. 7. **Trust for the Meditation Process**. MJ gave a presentation an update on Contemplative Outreach of the TMP. She was asked ‘how are we working with WCCM (World Community of Christian Meditation). MJ has since found out they are launching a youth initiative and also doing some work in prisons in the U.S.

4. Gift Committee. Julie brought our attention to a piece written by Ted Jones (one of TK’s nephews) about his experience with being with Fr. Thomas during his final days. Fr. Carl had encouraged Ted to write it down. The Gift Committee was asking how this might be published/should it be published? Some of the GB members had not read it so Julie is going to send it to us so we can evaluate the possibility of having it published in the CO Newsletter sometime this year (either June or December).
5. Board Selection Process. Kathy and Tom will be ending their time on the Board at the end of 2021. Jim McElroy will join the Board in January 2022. There will then be 7 members. (The Bylaws state there should be 7 – 11 members). Consensus is that we should “cast a wide net” to the CO Community for Board candidates.
6. Next GB Zoom call is April 6th, noon EDT. Phil will do the reflection.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Di Fede, Acting Secretary