

Governing Board of Contemplative Outreach
Conference Call/Zoom Minutes
April 6, 2021
12:00 – 1:30 pm ET
Final

Governing Board Members Present: Jenny Adamson, Kathy DiFede, Maru Ladron de Guevara, Phil Jackson, Julie Saad, Tom Smith, and Carol Quest

Also Present: Mary Jane Yates, Administrator

1. **Opening reflection** Phil Jackson offered the poem “I Am There” by James Dillard Freeman
2. Approval of minutes for March 16, 2021. Jenny motioned to approve the minutes and Carol seconded. All approved.
3. **Administrator’s Report**
 - Marie Howard and Mary Jane Yates met with the Chicago Chapter team to discuss their experience with using a survey to understand chapter needs and also their recent focus on engaging with other chapters in their area. A new concern is how to balance action—especially Zoom offerings—with protecting the spaciousness of contemplative silence and stillness.
 - The English speaking global team used 12th Principle funds to purchase a laptop for Sister Lucy in Kenya for Centering Prayer Introductory Programs, etc.
 - The translation working group is translating the subtitles for Keating videos into nearly a dozen languages. Mark has joined the group to support them with resources needed to continue this work.
 - A Survey of the needs of chapters and international regions is being drafted, the wording will be carefully examined to ensure clarity for international participants. Results will help the Board and staff assess the strengths and needs of the organism.
 - Thinking through plans for backup among staff: right now there is the need to cover for Kathleen but we will also plan for future needs.
 - “Witness to Grace” by Ted Jones will be published in the June newsletter
 - The Board discussed how Principles 11 and 12 can guide interaction with social and justice issues in light of Guideline 9, and emphasized that our priority is to teach and practice Centering Prayer. While acknowledging that fruits of the practice such as unconditional love and utmost charity may prompt action, clear boundaries must be maintained.
4. **September 2021 Conference** – The planning team is focusing on program content in general (for both hotel and zoom participants), with staff being responsible for promoting the event and coordinating the zoom logistics. Mark Dannenfelser is now the official “staff” liaison—covering for Kathleen while she is off.

5. June 4 and 5 dates are being considered for a Governing Board extended meeting , inviting the staff to join the board on June 4.

6. Next Board Zoom call is April 20, 2021 at 12:00 pm EDT.

7. Please volunteer for the reflection for next call.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Quest, Secretary