

Governing Board of Contemplative Outreach
Zoom Meeting Minutes April 5, 2022
Approved

Governing Board Members Present: Jenny Adamson, Phil Jackson, Pat Johnson, Jim McElroy, Diane Ryan, Julie Saad, and Carol Quest

Also Present: Mary Jane Yates, administrator, Maru Ladron de Guevara

1. Opening Reflection: Julie Saad read from THE FRUITS AND GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT
2. Twelfth Principle Fund discussion:
 - Maru explained the purpose of the Twelfth Principle fund and how funds accumulate. She also offered examples of how funds have been used. Some examples Maru mentioned included
 - a contribution to cover the retreat cost for a staff person at a homeless shelter,
 - a contribution to the prison ministry,
 - a contribution to ECI monthly retreats,
 - a contribution to a shelter for children and women in India, and
 - a contribution to Food for the Poor.
 - Maru emphasized the importance of being in solidarity and listening to those serving a specific group.
 - The Board discussed the needs of Ukrainian refugees and how the Holy Spirit is prompting us to respond.
 - Further discussion focused on how to involve people throughout the COL organism to prayerfully consider the Twelfth Principle and actions that might accompany a specific offering. Over time our hope is to manifest a diversity of expression of the principle.
 - Need may determine what we do. As we see a need, we will prayerfully consider how to respond. In desperate situations sometimes money is the appropriate response.
3. The Board considered the related topic of how to use current resources to invest in the divine economy.
 - Diane moved that as a first step we allocate up to \$20,000 for the current needs of members of the Translation Working Group. Phil seconded the motion. All agreed.
 - Phil moved that \$5000 be available for a need in Ukraine as that comes forward. All agreed.
 - Phil called for concrete proposals to be presented at the May 3 meeting for outreach to prison, and youth, and for emergency needs related to immigrants at US borders.
4. Approval of the March 15, 2022 minutes: Jenny moved that we accept the March 15, 2022 minutes, All approved..
5. Approval of the 2022 Intentions: Jenny moved that we approved the Governing Board 2022 Intentions. Jim seconded the motion. All approved.
6. Staff update: Diane reported on her conversation regarding Governing Board and Staff communication and interaction at the April 4 staff meeting.
 - The staff said attending Governing Board meetings was not necessary since Mary Jane was relaying the information as needed. If an issue would emerge that they wanted to discuss, they would let us know.
 - Since shared prayer is important, the staff reminded the Board about joining the Wednesday midday prayer.

- Most staff are available to attend the September retreat and the meeting with the Chicago area Centering Prayer Community. Donna Cole-Struck and Pamela Begeman will confirm their availability.
 - Marie Howard recommended that the staff and board begin the time together. If the two groups would want to meet separately, that could be scheduled.
 - The request was made for the board and the staff to plan the gathering together.
 - The staff was concerned that the meeting with the local Centering Prayer community be open to everyone practicing Centering Prayer. Jenny confirmed that this has always been the intent of these gatherings and that the invitation is open.
- The staff has recommendations for future meetings including where they be held, who participates and what the purpose would be. Some would like to go to Snowmass for a future gathering.
- The point was made that the Global conference is an important opportunity to meet with the whole COL community. Going forward this probably means a hybrid format for the Global conference.
- It is time to consider 2023 gatherings in order to recommend who will plan these gatherings and how locations will be chosen.
- The staff requested more clarification about the role of the GB and purpose of the Governing Board Intentions to ensure continuity and follow through. Note: Jim suggested that we review the intentions and keep them in the forefront of our awareness at our meetings.

The Board commented that our overall role is to serve and support. Our role includes making sure the staff has the resources they need to do their work. Board support includes sharing its experience with Centering Prayer and other contemplative practices.

7. Next scheduled Board Zoom Call – May 3, 2022 at noon Eastern time.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Quest, secretary