

**Governing Board of Contemplative Outreach**  
**Conference Call/Zoom Minutes**  
**July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Combined Board and Staff**  
**12:00 – 1:30 pm ET**  
**APPROVED**

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

ABSENT: Carol Quest.

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Jane Yates, Administrator; Pamela Begeman, Matt Scrimgeour, Donna Cole-Struck, Marie Howard, Mark Dennenfelser, Kathleen Gilgannon.

1. Opening reflection given by Pat. Reading from John O'Donahue's book To Bless the Space Between Us; *For a New Beginning*. "Find ease in risk... Your soul senses the world that awaits you".
2. Approval of minutes from June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting. Jenny motioned to approve the minutes and Julie seconded. All approved.
3. Continued joint discussion between board and staff from the previous meeting and the comments listed in the 2021 Planning Exercise-Board & Staff "sensing spreadsheet" prepared by Pamela. Mary Jane commented that there is a tension between how we stay grounded in what is/how do we move ahead. Some are ready, some are not. Julie suggested we read, and respond to, the entries in the Planning Exercise. Comments are from all present.

**Responding to entries in column 3**

How do we transition to hybrid technology (Zoom and in person)?

How do we work with both?

What is role of CO regarding technology in the chapters?

How is Centering Prayer being transmitted/who is the transmitter?

What is our focus?

Other forms of technology: email, hybrid prayer groups, e-newsletters, advertising, registering for events.

**Responding to entries in column 4**

Keeping it simple: share the prayer, support for new and longtime practitioners.

What are the intentions: three intentions-then how that looks-then discernment.

Youth. Intercultural relationships.

Laloux's non traditional way.

An invitation to be who we are. Be moved more by attraction.

Simplicity.  
Welcoming change/complexity.  
Learn more from 12 Step and Prison Outreach.  
Learn from other Contemplative groups.

**Re-expressing:**

Share the prayer, support the community, share the prayer.  
Keep it simple.  
Repeat the Vision, Theological Principles and Guidelines for service.  
Share the prayer  
Look at the table sharing after the conference in September..  
Accessibility to the practice.  
Mindful of historically marginalized groups.  
Help people connect, share the prayer.  
Simplicity.

4. What next? Process what we heard today. Distill into 2 or 3 intentions. What do I hear in common collectively? Continue process and discernment. Pamela will add two more columns to the Planning Exercise for everyone to add their “sensing”. Bring together in October the results from the Planning Exercise, the community survey, and the table sharing from the conference for determining the intentions.
5. Next meeting with board and staff is August 3<sup>rd</sup> noon EDT.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Di Fede, acting secretary