

Governing Board of Contemplative Outreach
Zoom Meeting Minutes July 1, 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

1. Opening Reflection: Phil led us in a Centering Prayer period.

2. Approval of Minutes: 6/7/2022. Approved by consensus.

3. 2023 Conference: General comments: The conference has evolved as the COL Organism has evolved. In the first 25 years, the conference was planned by those who were both board members and staff members. In 2015 staff members were no longer also members of the Governing Board. The 2017 and 2019 conferences, following instruction from Fr. Thomas, featured presenters from within the CO Community and offered an extensive opportunity to listen to members of the community. The purpose of conferences has been focused on relationship and connection.

Going forward, the board desires to obtain broader input regarding the purpose and format of future conferences. Zoom has made broader connection possible—including connecting with the global community. As a next step, the board agreed that Carol, Mary Jane, Phil, and Kathy DiFede meet to create a proposal for the Board to work with at its August 2 meeting.

4. Chicago Board/Staff Meeting –

The schedule for the September retreat and meeting with staff is being planned by Julie, Phil, Donna Cole-Struck and Matt Scrimgeour. For the afternoon of September 13 the board and staff will meet with members of the Chicago chapter. The schedule will include contemplative music and refectio provided by Julian Davis Reid and dinner. The board will pay the stipend of \$750 for Julian Davis Reid and the cost of a pizza dinner. In general, for Governing Board gatherings with local chapters, the chapter can determine a type of enrichment to offer.

Board members are asked to provide feedback to Julie and Phil regarding the tentative schedule and discussion topics.

5. Update from Audit company – During a conference call with Pat and Diane, the auditor recommended that the person having access to all financial accounts not be a check signer. The Board agreed that the responsibility for signing checks be assigned to someone other than the person having access to all financial accounts.

6. Emory Scholarship? – Julie explained that regarding the Keating Archives, there are opportunities for furthering Fr. Thomas’s work. Emory has a contemplative study department and requests funding for a qualified candidate to categorize the materials and create an on-line exhibit as a resource for people interested in this area. Further funding could support a qualified person to study the evolution of Thomas Keating’s work from a scholarly perspective.

6. Administrator’s Report The board gratefully accepts Jean Benfer’s PhD research proposal. Board members will respond by email to Mary Jane regarding other items in the report.

7. Next Board Zoom Call – July 19, 2022 (discussion of board role)

8. Volunteer for reflection for next call?

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Quest, secretary