

Governing Board of Contemplative Outreach
Conference Call/Zoom Minutes
July 20th, 2021, 11:30 – 1:30 pm ET
Combined Board and English Speaking Global
Approved

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

GLOBAL TEAM PRESENT: Mary Jane Yates, Administrator; Marie Howard, Jill Bennet [UK]. Ronnie Ghent [Trinidad], Elizabeth Norton-Amor [South Africa], Georg Mayr [Austria]

ABSENT: Rose Anna Trestrail [Trinidad], Ragnheiður Jónsdóttir [Iceland]

Meeting with Global Team

1. Opening reflection given by Jenny Adamson: Mother Theresa “I belong to the world and entirely to the heart of Jesus.” “I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things.”
2. Introductions
3. Global team was asked to respond to these to prompts.

What is working:

The CO International Team is a great way to learn more about the global community and their needs.
Online material is now accessible to many
Online training of supporting practices is also now accessible to many
Online meditation chapels and country groups offer a virtual community
Mediation chapel creates global contacts
Reading slowly from Keating’s books to the group is a way to share limited resources
Training can be recorded and shared by Zoom
Being in together in one group has shifted something—builds community
There is an increasing experience of being part of a larger community
Every Saturday morning a European group with 80-100 participants gathers via Zoom
Experiences like United in Prayer help us realize the global community we belong to

How we might better integrate resources:

Poverty and money exchange limit us

It is helpful if a community can keep a local supply books and other materials

Scholarships to retreats for international members would be beneficial

Some communities have limited internet connectivity, online expense is huge

Integrate the teaching in both directions,

Engaging teachers in other time zones and other countries

The way we teach breaks down the identifications, walls, and inhibitions

Online calendar available for online groups, example: a calendar listing by language,

COL website page “getting started” available in other languages,

Also add even more preliminary information—like what is a “sacred word”
How do we connect with other countries who are not represented on our
global teams?

The cost of everything because of the exchange rate is prohibitive

A lending library allows more people access to resources

Time Zones present a challenge: Denver evening is midnight in South Africa

Online training and workshops times could be presented at different times for the global
community

4. Governing Board reflections on Global Team’s concerns

—Could the opening session of the conference be offered earlier?

—Explore how to integrate conversations from non-English speaking members

—Expand our network to capture what is happening throughout the world—the bigger
picture, making resources available to people in other countries.

—One GB intention is to provide financial support and resources

—Keating modeled innovative ways to meet financial needs; let’s consider how we
might follow his example.

—Look at what is already being modeled; for example offering to speak at a retreat
without being paid.

—Communicate more broadly to the International Community that scholarships are
available.

—Innovation will happen out of need. For example, because of the cost of
transportation or the need to work, some cannot attend five or ten day retreats or
trainings. Therefore, different ways to access these experiences will be found to meet
this challenge. For example, give people a stipend to take a day off from work in order
to attend a retreat, training, or meeting.

—Phil offered the possibility of a Chicago volunteer to design a Website Matrix

—Responding to the change from primarily wealthy people to include people with
limited means, ECI has made the monthly silent retreats free

—Make translations of Keating’s books available online

The Board agreed to ponder what we have heard in order to respond at the September
Board meeting.

5. Administrator’s report

First, the Center for Action and Contemplation has sent several requests:

— a Contemplative Outreach representative to attend their August 12 Zoom gathering
of their “listening and dialogue series.” Maru has agreed to attend

—An invitation for COL to present at their upcoming Conspire conference Sept. 24-26.
Conference one hour session

— “Who is COL and how do COL and CAC intersect?”

—Centering Prayer short introduction

—Online booth (Pamela)

Second, a brief summary of the responses to the Emerging Conversations solicitation: a total of 60 stories have been received. Fifteen from ECI, 29 from the United States, seven from Canada, Fifteen from ECI, 29 from the United States, seven from Canada, and a mix of other countries including Korea, South Africa, Italy and the Philippines.

6. Members of the Board were reminded to prepare for the August 3rd meeting with staff by entering their comments on the online document.

Next meeting with board and staff is August 3rd noon EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Quest, secretary