

Governing Board of Contemplative Outreach
Conference Call/Zoom Minutes
December 1st, 2020
12:00 – 1:30 pm EDT
Final

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Jane Yates, Administrator

1. Opening reflection by Jenny: A poem by St. John of the Cross from “Love Poems From God.”
2. Approval of Nov. 17th meeting minutes. Motion was made by Jenny to approve the minutes. Seconded by Pat. Everyone agreed.
3. Administrator update: 1. 2021 draft budget still in progress, it should be ready by the next GB meeting. 2. Hiring new staff: Considering 8 applicants for Program Coordinator. Review committee were sent the applications. Interviews tentatively planned for Dec. 16 – 17. Finally received an application for Technical Support position. Tom Smith, Pamela, Kathleen and MJ will review application and conduct first interview. 3. Email migration is completed for all staff except Marie. Her AOL platform is serving her well and allows her to access shared documents/other features of Outlook even without an account. 4. Circle of Friends fall renewals (15) were mailed. 5. MJ met with the Special Projects committee Nov. 16th. Role of new Program Coordinator was discussed along with the need to shift focus and expand representation (CO community/volunteers) on this committee. 6. United in Prayer Day is March 6th 2021. Pamela and MJ discussed the possibility of having David Frenette prepare a presentation. Pamela will follow up with David and ad hoc committee planning United in Prayer. 7. MJ brought up that there are some copyright issues even though CO has a broad, liberal use. Publishers can help with copyrights. The question of a need for funding was discussed. 8. Global updates; Attending LF session on the Human Condition with Iceland group gave MJ new insight on the role of language in understanding TK’s teaching. Translations of TK’s teachings into different languages may bring the English speaking world even deep insights into his teaching. MJ facilitated the 2nd meeting of “translation working group” on Nov 27th. 16 people attended representing 17 countries and languages. Several important questions came up: Where does this group fit within our structure? Relationship with the “Global team that supports practitioners outside the U.S.? Relationship with the Gift Committee and CO Service Teams?

4. Update on 2021 Conference. MJ had initial meeting with the planning team (Carol Quest, Therese Soulner, Kathleen Gilgannon). Marie clarified that it is the Board's responsibility to set the theme and overall direction. The GB discussed several possibilities: focus on the Vision of CO; continuing TK's vision; mini videos from CO communities around the world; hybrid conference i.e. in person and zoom; MJ said that Vincent Pizzuto is available as a speaker (maybe Cynthia B?). Suggested Themes: Making Connections; Contemplative Connecting; Belonging to the Community; Contemplation, Connecting, & Belonging. Pamela had suggested something that reflects this unique time we are experiencing.
5. February Board meeting 2/5-6/2021. This is a Friday and Saturday. The staff would be invited to join us on Friday. We would have morning and afternoon session both days.
6. Next Board Zoom call December 15th at 12 pm EST. Board terms for Nick and Adal are completed with this meeting. Let's celebrate them!!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Di Fede, Secretary