

Governing Board of Contemplative Outreach
Zoom Meeting Minutes February 3 - 7, 2023
Approved

Governing Board Members Present: Tom Carr, Leslie Geer, Phil Jackson, Pat Johnson, Sharon Junn, Jim McElroy, Carol Quest, Diane Ryan.

1. Retreat at the Marianist Retreat Center in St. Louis, MO February 3 Evening through February 7 Morning. We opened with a Sabbath dinner Friday evening, Saturday was a day of prayer and silence, Sunday morning was discernment of Board officers and a Community Day with Contemplative Outreach of St. Louis, and Monday was a day for Governing Board business discussions.
2. The discernment of Board officers on February 5 opened with a prayerful Lectio Divina from a section of the Vision of Contemplative Outreach with Theological Principles and Guidelines for Service with Commentaries.
3. **Selection of Officers for 2023** Feb 5: The following officers were selected through prayerful discernment to serve for 2023
 1. Facilitator: Carol Quest
 2. Treasurer: Diane Ryan, Pat Johnson stays on the Financial Team
 3. Secretary: Jim McElroy
 4. Assistant Secretary: Leslie Geer
4. **Approval Minutes:** The January 3rd, 2023, Minutes were approved by consensus as written.
5. **Finance equity:** The staff has agreed to Divine Economy "Equities" statement recommendation that is in the December Newsletter. The Governing Board agrees with the equities statement as edited below:

Contemplative Outreach (CO) recognizes that certain barriers exist in our efforts to share Centering Prayer and its contemplative vision as widely as possible. (CO Guideline for Service 1). These barriers include things like: age, geographic location, language, culture and socioeconomic status. To address these barriers, CO takes an **equities** focused approach to the use of our financial resources. This means that wherever possible, we prioritize our spending on efforts to make available the gift of Centering Prayer to those who may be marginalized in any way and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in responding to those opportunities.

6. Governing Board Communication:

1. We agreed that the Organism needs to hear from the GB Facilitator in the Newsletter. There will be an Annual Report by Facilitator.
 2. The three new board members will consult with Pamela Begeman about introducing them in an upcoming Newsletter article.
7. **Budget Discussion:** The Governing Board reviewed the proposed 2023 Budget. The budget was approved with the following changes:

1. Limit the amount of investment funds going into the Divine Economy fund to \$50,000 for now. We will review this decision at the May staff/board meeting holding open the possibility of increasing the amount to \$100,000.
2. Staff cost of living raises to be 5%.
3. Eliminate 1 staff retreat and 1 Board retreat, so that the only remaining retreat for this year will be the combined staff/board retreat in May.
4. The Board strongly approves the podcast for the second season but recommends reducing production costs.
5. We recognize that our investment losses, which are commensurate with the overall economy, are significant. We ask that the staff find ways to cut overall expenses, aiming by 10%.

8. Discussion of Administrator's Job Description and Performance Evaluation

1. The Governing Board will meet with Mary Jane to discuss the 2023 focus for the Administrator.
2. Following that meeting the Governing Board will set the date for the administrator's annual performance review.

9. 2024 Conference and COL 40th Anniversary Celebration

1. Atlanta has been approved as the host city for our 2024 Conference and 40th Anniversary Celebration. Tentative dates set for Sept 26-29, 2024. Conference will be co-hosted with 12-Step Outreach. The Governing Board anticipates meeting together in Atlanta one or two days prior to the Conference.
2. The GB has approved to have a paid coordinator assist with the conference team, with the budgeting and planning for our upcoming 2024 Conference.
3. Jim McElroy maintains his role on the Planning Committee as Board liaison. modeled after the Governing Board representative in the past.

10. May Board/Staff Gathering in Snowmass May 31 to June 4, 2023

1. Staff and Board have 1.5 days of grand silence.
2. Representatives from the Governing Board and Staff will develop the agenda topics.

11. **Board Intentions:** 2022 Board Intentions are adopted for 2023 without changes.

12. The Governing Board prayerfully supports the work of the transition team of St. Benedict's Monastery.

13. The Governing Board welcomes Jean Benford's research on the COL organism and is open to scheduling a time to meet with her.

14. The next Governing Board meeting has been rescheduled for February 21 at 12:00 noon Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted by

James McElroy, Secretary