

**Governing Board of Contemplative Outreach**  
**Conference Call/Zoom Minutes**  
**May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**1:00-2:30 pm EDT**  
**Final**

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

OTHER PARTICIPANTS: Mary Jane Yates, Administrator

1. Opening reflection by Nick; “The\_Cure” by Albert Huffstickler. “The way we get over life is to die...a life is as natural as a leaf...Wisdom is seeing the shape of your life without obliterating a single instant of it.”
2. Minutes: Nick made a motion, and Pat seconded, to approve the minutes of May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All agreed and minutes were approved.
3. Administrator Update: Mary Jane. **Staff meeting May 11.** It was decided that the staff would submit their updates ahead of time using an on-line “Staff Team Journal” and then use most of the meeting time for deeper discussion of various topics, such as reviewing Laloux video on Strategic Planning. **Volunteer Community.** Planning for a Global on-line CP Introductory Workshop coordinated by Carol A., Carol Q. and Lois S. is underway. They have engaged 4 presenters to do 1 conference each. Date of workshop to be confirmed. Marie is also excited to report that the Living Flame team will be working with a group in Iceland to offer Living Flame with Zoom. The distribution list for the Voice is now updated. Final review and edits of the June (hard copy) Newsletter is underway. **Development:** Mary Ann connected with Jennie Curtis regarding the reopening of Snowmass for retreats and what restrictions there may be. Decision still has not been made as whether retreats will be held in June but measures being considered will dramatically alter the retreat experience so Mary Anne is not sure what this will mean for the Circle of Friends gathering planned for July. Marie suggested having it on Zoom. **Financial:** So far \$28,000 has come in from the Spring DMA and renewals for the CoF are continuing to be received, with joy and gratitude. Mary Anne met with Pamela and Julie to decide on plan for completing the Spiritual Journey Project. **Outreach:** A

letter was prepared and signed by Ray Leonardini (PCF) and Mary Jane to accompany the new prison DVD series completed by Ray Mueller. Distribution to prison volunteers underway and DVD has also been listed in the CO book store for cost recovery fee of \$5.00. Mary Jane met with Chandra Hanson and Ray Leonardini on May 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss overall direction of prison work with both organisms (Prison Contemplative Fellowship (PCF) and Contemplative Outreach (CO)). This was a deep and challenging discussion but there seems to be consensus that CO may have role in supporting networking amongst volunteers which will be led by Chandra Hanson as our newly appointed 'Prison Outreach Liaison'. MJ then met with Chandra & Marie on May 15 and it was decided that an important first step is to conduct a survey to identify volunteers currently involved and the needs and interest they may have in forming such a network. MJ will support Chandra in developing this survey which will be distributed through Chapter coordinators and any relevant contacts (e.g. through prison contacts Chandra already has and relevant Global contacts) **International Support:** Allocation of proceeds from Global conference continues. So far we have about \$42K in donations, of which about \$10K is needed to cover CO expenses, including a portion of Pamela's salary. Amounts to be finalized this week with approximately \$32K to go back to South Africa as a "charitable donation". Videos from conference now posted and feedback survey now has~ 1100 responses! Conference 'debrief' meeting planned for May 22 to review results & finalize financial details. MJ met with Lesley O'Connor on May 14 for a 'completion conversation' regarding Lesley's time as Global team lead (Elizabeth NA from S Africa taking over lead). Conversation with Lesley also made me realize we have much to do to engage leaders in non-English speaking countries so my next step now will be to plan similar one-to-one conversations with other international leads over the next few weeks. **Inter-spiritual Dialogue:** MJ met with Martha Bolinger from Trust for the Meditation Process on May 5 to discuss the proposal for social media funding (\$20K). Conversation was helpful for hearing Martha's views on CO and other contemplative organizations. MJ also met with Margaret Benefiel on May 11 for general introductions and to learn more about history of young contemplatives work. **Communications:** Pamela reported that the new website platform is ready for beta testing. If any Governing Boards members are interested in being involved, let Pamela know.

4. Board Selection update: Jenny sent a document from the team regarding the candidates.
5. The next GB Zoom meeting will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Di Fede, Secretary