

Governing Board of Contemplative Outreach
Conference Call/Zoom Minutes
May 5th, 2020
1:00-2:30 pm EDT
Final

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

ABSENT: Maru Ladron de Guevara

OTHER PARTICIPANTS: Mary Jane Yates, Administrator; Kathleen Gilgannon, Financial Administrator

1. Opening reflection by Pat. From the poem “Last night as I lay sleeping”. *I dreamt a spring was breaking out of my heart... Water of a new life... That it was God I had, here inside my heart.*
2. Dialogue with Kathleen regarding financials (with input from Pat and Tom). First quarter profit/loss in good shape. Investments: loss may get worse. The consensus of the investment team is to be more conservative, have more cash on hand. Mary Jane commented that donations were still coming in from the South Africa Conference. The amount so far is \$29,834 from 768 donations.
3. Minutes: Jenny made a motion, and Pat seconded, to approve the minutes of April 21st. All agreed and minutes were approved.
4. Administrator Staff report provided by Mary Jane. **Pamela, Communications:** Supported implementation of “The Secret Embrace” Global Zoom conference last week. Close to 4,000 registered with attendance each day at around 2,200. A few technical glitches the first day but Pamela’s husband Michael helped sort these out. Also had to upgrade the Zoom account a few times to accommodate numbers so cost ended up being \$1400 instead of \$900 for this piece. Also considering a request from a number of participants for a transcription of Cynthia’s talks, which Pamela estimates would cost about \$700. Registration is continuing this week since there is still interest in receiving the recording and making a donation.

Pamela's overall response to the conference is that she feels 'huge things have broken open and that this is a change she has been hoping would happen for years'—thinks it is definitely a turning point for CO as a whole.

Mary Anne: Programming & Fund-raising. Since finishing the Lenten series her focus is now on producing the Spiritual Journey series. Has a new idea for this that she hopes to discuss with Julie and Pamela this week before taking to the 'wider circle' for approval. Her plan is to have most of the work completed by fall.

Marie: Volunteer Support. Marie met with 3 of the service team leaders last week. The Presenter formation team is planning an enrichment day for all commissioned presenters by Zoom sometime before fall.

The Living Flame team is now moving forward with a plan to offer content by Zoom to a group in Iceland who requested this over a year ago. Marie feels the conference with Cynthia was a real boost to this team in helping them see that a real connection can be made this way as up until then they had been somewhat resistant.

The retreats service team has also been doing some thinking about what retreats will look like this coming year. One idea that came up is to restrict attendance to 10 or fewer so that participants can keep safe distance within the retreat house.

Kathleen: Finances. Very busy last week tracking donations for the South Africa Global Conference and preparing updated quarterly report for final review on May 5. Will have final calculations for the Conference once registration line closes. Also enjoyed the teaching from Cynthia 'immensely'—realized she has been missing this kind of in-depth teaching in the last few years.

Donna: Database and Admin. This is a busy time for processing donations from Spring DMA. Last week's donations totaled about \$6000. Also found the Conference deeply meaningful and 'accessible for people no matter where they are in spiritual journey'. Donna also said she had 'never had the opportunity to go on retreat' which made her appreciate this Conference even more.

Mary Jane: Administrator. The Global Conference was an incredible event, especially getting to know the rest of the team. It was an immense privilege to be involved—especially to see the depth of questions from the chat line and to work with Pamela to roll these up for Cynthia.

Worked with Janie P. from the South Africa team to design an on-line survey to go out to participants after the Conference. Questions were designed to collect demographic information on who participated as well as

potential impact of the Conference. Mary Jane will continue to work with 2 of the young contemplatives to plan an on-line ‘practice day’ for later in May. Also has a meeting scheduled this week with Ray Leonardini and Chandra Hanson to try to sort out some of the logistics of getting June newsletter to inmates as well as to ‘broker’ the larger conversation about the relationship between CO & PCF. Meeting on May 5 with Martha Bolinger from Trust for the Meditation Process to discuss the proposal for social media funding submitted by Mary Anne in February. Martha clarified the main purpose of this meeting is for her to hear my thoughts on “the key issues for the organization, your hopes and dreams for taking this position, where the board is focusing...” I have sent her my ‘dandelion visual’ as well as the draft team workplan as a basis for our discussion.

5. Planning for June Board Meeting: Since it looks like we will not be meeting face to face in June, there was discussion about having our meeting on Zoom over the weekend of June 12th, 13th, and 14th. There will be more discussion about time and agenda at the next meeting. Julie will start a tentative agenda for everyone to add anything they see as needed.
6. Board Selection update: Jenny reported that Jim McElroy said yes to joining the GB. He will start in October. We have four prospective candidates: Carol Quest, Phil Jackson, Mike Smoolca, and Ricky Cotton.
7. The next GB Zoom meeting will be May 19th at 1 pm EDT. Nick volunteered to do the reflection.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Di Fede, Secretary