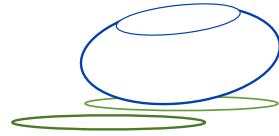


## THE US GRAIL COUNCIL



**Vision:** Called by our spiritual values, The Grail envisions a world of peace, justice and renewal of the earth, brought about by women working together as catalysts for change.

**Mission Goals:** The Grail in the U.S. empowers women to work for world transformation by: building bridges among diverse faith traditions and spiritual paths, advancing peace, justice and a world free from military dominance, fostering international exchange and solidarity, challenging economic systems that put at risk the most vulnerable, especially women and children, creating communities for a sustainable future, celebrating the arts as a means for personal and societal transformation

**Resolutions:** To become antiracist internally and externally viewing all our activities through an antiracist lens. Rebuilding the Grail's spiritual core in community.

**Date:** 1-17.2019-10.21.2019 **Present:** Judy Alves (except Sunday), Pamela Cobey, April Goering, Lucy Jones, Deborah Sullivan, Sally Timmel received phone call reports

**Facilitator:** Barbara Stanbridge IHM

1. *Topic: Check In:*

**Decisions/Votes:** *Check In:* NA

2. *Topic: Elections:*

**Decisions/Votes:** *Elections.* Judith DeFour Howard and Deborah Sullivan will be affirmed for membership to the Council in January 2020.

3. **Topic: CW:**

**Decisions/Votes:** **CW: Terrie Puckett will explore lease with Rural Migrant Ministries.** Current context calls for bylaws change to simple majority voting (5 of 6 present in favor).

4. *Topic: Mission Fund:*

**Decisions/Votes:** *Mission Fund:* Finance Committee will review proposal with Council-recommended changes and make their recommendations for the fund by mid December in relation to assuring for the ongoing needs of the organization: health and welfare fund and property maintenance until they are no longer needed.

5. *Topic: Profiles of Younger Women in Grail:*

**Decisions/Votes:** Short Article for Gumbo: *The Shape of Now:* Profiles of Younger Women in the Grail on Joy, Spirituality, Work, Priorities, Concerns, Commitment and Community.

6. Topic: *Report from Young Women's Initiative:*

**Decisions/Votes:** Lucy will continue to be YWI liaison. Pam will be available for consultation. Approval for funding YWI meeting in September 2020 in Mexico at time of international Grail young women gathering. Meeting with Council via Zoom in January face-to-face Council Meeting.

7. Topic: *Antiracism:*

**Decisions/Votes:** Make Antiracism Working Group a Committee of Council according to the bylaws for committees. Revise mission and vision statements and all bylaws and policies to reflect an antiracist lens. Put into budget meetings with WOC. Put into budget for Antiracism workshop facilitators. Grail support for WOC taking on leadership opportunities. Put into budget for **x** number of white women to attend *Doing Our Own Work* with Allies for Change. Encourage on-line trainings on antiracism with small groups locally.

8. Topic: *Communication:*

**Decisions/Votes:** Identify compelling vision and viable identity in the context of Grail myth, mystery, pilgrimage and antiracism resolution.

9. Topic: *Org Chart:*

**Decisions/Votes:** Organization Chart approved as amended.

10. Topic: *International:*

**Decisions/Votes:** One person from US will attend the International finance think tank in Portugal in February 2020. One person is needed to go to a meeting of *Growing in the Grail* April 19-May 1 in Portugal. The National Office will research options to make available the newly published international: *Grail Stories*. The National Office will provide needed information for the International Annual Report. Council approves giving \$20,000 from the Hoffman bequest toward the cost of the Mexico meeting of international young women in the Grail in September 2020. One to two International Grail Capital Fund Trustees will need to be replaced: Council must approve a list of names of US members for consideration as a Capital Fund Trustee. Note that Grail Centennial preparation begins November 1, 2020. Big meeting for all members July 18-22, 2021 in Brazil.

11. Topic: *MDET:*

**Decisions/Votes:** Job descriptions of all committees of Council will be reviewed and revised to match current team functions. Invite at least two women of color to join team.

12. Topic: *Structural Circles*

**Decisions/Votes:** Approval for creation discreet structural groups/circles, one of which would be "home" for every Grail member.

13. Topic: *Budget:*

**Decisions/Votes:** Increase involvement of Finance Committee in oversight of Grail expenses and provision for the ongoing needs of the organization. Shift funding to identified Grail priorities and the priority of a greatly reduced deficit. Implement 2 face-to-face Finance Committee meetings / year and quarterly Zoom meetings in between. Finance Committee meeting face-to-face prior to Council meeting with

goal of overlap.

14. Topic: *Strictly Ballroom*

**Decisions/Votes:** Viewing can elicit conversation on how we deal with change.

15. Topic: Agreements:

**Decisions/Votes:** Council agrees to follow-through with next steps and agreements.

Minutes approved :

From Renee: Gospel of Thomas: Saying number 70: "If you bring forth what is within you, what you bring forth will save you. If you do not bring forth what is within you, what you do not bring forth will destroy you."

From Lucy: Psalm 27 — *Translation by Rabbi Yael Levy*

***TO THE BELOVED,***

**THE INFINITE PRESENCE** is my light and expanse, whom should I fear? The Infinite Presence is the strength of my life, what shall I dread?

When forces come close

Seeming to devour me

When narrowness threatens And opposition attacks

All that is menacing stumbles and falls

**EVEN AS AN ARMY** of mistrust besieges me

My heart does not fear

Even as thoughts and desires rise up against me

I still have trust

**ONE THING I ASK** of the Infinite, One thing I seek

To dwell in the Presence all the days of my life

To awaken to the beauty of each moment as I pass through this world

**THE INFINITE** shelters me as I encounter difficulty and pain The Infinite holds me close in deep and hidden places

And lifts me high upon a rock. Now I can see through to what is true And I will offer my gifts of thanks

And I will sing and make music to the Eternal Please, Infinite One, Listen to my voice, hear my call

### **BE GRACIOUS WITH ME**

Answer me

You call to my heart, “Seek my presence” Your presence I seek

Please don’t hide from me

Please don’t let me turn away in anger

I long to serve

You are my help

Do not let me feel abandoned

Do not let me turn away

In You I am safe

For my Mother and father have left me

And it is you who gathers me in

Teach me Your ways. Guide me on the path of integrity

**THERE IS SO MUCH** to lead me astray

Don’t let me give in to all that torments me:

the lies, the illusions, the menacing threats

**I MUST HAVE FAITH** that I can see through all of this

I can see the good, the blessings, the ways of life

**CULTIVATE HOPE** in the Infinite Presence

Let your heart be strong and filled with courage

### **CULTIVATE HOPE**

— *Translation by Rabbi Yael Levy*

**NEXT Face to Face MEETINGS:** January 23-26, 2020, Tidings Start: 6pm. End: 4PM April 23-26, 2020 Albuquerque, NM Start: 6pm. End: 4PM place Tidings Start: 6pm. End: 4PM