

Dear Ann, [sent to each member who said yes]

Thank you so much for agreeing to be on this short term Task Force, that we are called “Exploratory Mission Fund Task Force”. Below is a fuller explanation of your brief for this work that needs to be completed by October 1, 2019 and sent to the Council.

Context and Background. The question of what will we, as Grail, do with the funds from the sale of our properties and how will this affect the future of the Grail in the USA is significant? These are important questions that need to be teased out, for our entire membership. That implies ‘buy-in’ by membership. It also implies some preliminary work by this Task Force and reports to council, quarterly.

We recognize that the US Grail is scattered in 22 different states with about 4-6 clusters of members who can meet regularly. We also recognize that our membership is aging, and newer members engaged in professional work and/or volunteering their energy and time with other issues that inspire them from their Grail values. We also do not wish to fritter away the new funds from the sale of land in daily maintenance of the Grail where we are now, but that new money is set aside that can address our Mission into the future. With these and other factors, we suggest that there needs to be an initial framework for a “Mission Fund” and how that would work.

Assumptions behind this Fund

The Grail in the USA is at a different moment of time. The United States faces multitudes of economic, social, psychological, spiritual challenges not seen since the 1930’s. As a movement, we no longer can count on numerous nucleus members to implement programs. We also need to be very strategic about the use of our funds, many that have been generously donated by our foremothers. We also realize, that with our limited capacity as an aging organization, that to fulfill our mission, we need to collaborate with other non-profits with similar values who have staff and abilities to carry out the work. We realize that some amongst us can work together to bring new life and Work through their talents. We are aware that most funding agencies over the past 20 years, look for partnerships, and thus, we see that these collaborations can exponentially increase the impact on society in a particular field of work and grow the visibility of the Grail to other women. When asked, what is the Grail now, we will have a ‘here and now’ answer.

AIMS of this Exploratory ‘Mission’ Fund Task Force. By October 1, 2019, this Task Force will have explored options on how a ‘Mission’ Fund could work effectively for Grail teams or Grail teams working in collaboration with other non-profits, to access funding for programs or projects that can further the mission of the Grail in the USA.

Some of the areas we think need to be explored:

The following is not an exhaustive list, but some elements that the Council would need know by the October 1, 2019 deadline.

1. Research 3+ religious orders to find out how they have set up their mission funds, how it is done with their successes [best practices] and mistakes [pitfalls].

2. Research 2-3 progressive foundations to find out how they have set up their funding allocations, how it is done with their successes [best practices] and mistakes [pitfalls].
3. Work with the finance committee on the distribution of new funds in relation to the Asset Policy
4. With the finance committee, an endowment, with a ratio of spend down from surplus gained, that could be used for this Mission Fund
5. What are 2-3 options of a “name” for this fund? [there is an International Grail fund called the Solidarity Fund and some folks have said ‘mission’ sounds too much like ‘missionary’. Your thinking?
6. Ensure all legal regulations are in place for such a Fund [our lawyer says this is possible without forming a new legal entity]
7. Work with regional Grail groups for input on how such a fund can best serve local/regional needs, what potential partnership can be identified.
8. Develop goals for the ‘Mission’ Fund and criteria for acceptance of proposals from Grail groups [not individuals] and/or in partnerships with other groups.
9. What resources would this ‘Mission’ Fund need? [people, infrastructure, funds]
10. A draft operating budget for this work? [2020, 2021?]
11. Develop a generic planning tool for proposals to such a fund, and criteria for acceptance of proposals. Some proposals maybe international in scope.
12. Develop a ‘brief’ or job description for the potential New Vetting Committee for the Mission Fund
13. Identify Grail members with expertise to be on the initial selection committee and can promote with local/regional Grail groups. The Grail Council has final approval of all ‘grants’ recommended by this committee.
14. Other?

Do NOT feel bound by this list, though we assume you would touch on these in your own discussions! Council has these questions, thus we include them.

AGAIN, MANY thanks, and keep the Faith, Sally and Judy