

# Grail Council Monthly Zoom Call ~ MINUTES

## February 22, 2021



The US Grail Council

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**Present:** Judith DeFour-Howard, Lucy Jones, Laura Kaplan, Thanh Nguyen, Deborah Sullivan, April Goering, Terrie Puckett (CEO, ex officio)

### Opening

Check in – How is it with your soul?

Reading from Alicia Garza, *The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart*

### International Donations

Review of IRS regulations has called into question how Grail member donations to international Grail programs and activities are received and transferred. Interested Grail members met last week on Zoom and agreed that the Grail must follow federal regulations. They suggested that a committee be formed to review and revise systems for international donations.

Marian Schwab and Mindy Burger have agreed to serve on the team and Mary Farrell is available to consult regarding international finances. Terrie Puckett will participate as staff. Thanh and Judith agreed to join the committee from the Council, with Thanh as convener.

**Decision:** Council voted unanimously that the Grail must follow federal regulations and laws and that an ad hoc committee as named be set up to review and revise the international donation process.

### NLT Election

Council members discussed the National Leadership Team role and responsibilities. Some Council members view NLT as providing primarily administrative functions based on Council decisions while others view NLT as powerful and secretive. The accusation of secrecy was related to member disagreement about land/property issues although these decisions/actions were not made by NLT.

Current NLT members are Deborah, April, and Lucy, each of whom is willing to continue in this role. Council noted that Lucy will be stepping down from her IC (and Council) position at the end of June. At that time, another Council member may be identified to step into the NLT role to learn its responsibilities.

**Decision:** Five Council members voted in favor of Deborah, April and Lucy continuing in the NLT role. One member abstained.

### **Revisoning Group – Requested Amendment to Grail Bylaws**

The Revisoning Group submitted a request to Council to amend the Grail by-laws as follows:

#### **ARTICLE II COUNCIL, C. RESPONSIBILITIES,**

5. Arrange for a review of the Bylaws as needed, but at least annually, in their totality for correctness and completeness. 10% or more of voting MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO THE BYLAWS. ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS WILL BE VOTED UPON BY VOTING MEMBERSHIP after an Open Forum to discuss the changes, AND APPROVED IF A MAJORITY OF THE VOTING MEMBERS WHO SUBMIT A VOTE AGREE.

Council understood that the Group is making this request in order that the GA in November can consider and decide to change the Grail structure following suggestions of the Group. Currently, Council reviews the Bylaws annually and consults with members about any recommended changes, and based on feedback from members, Council makes the final decision about Bylaws changes.

Some Council members stated that the requested change would give power to the membership. Others questioned why this change is needed in order for members to suggest a different Grail structure and for discussion and decision at the GA, or by member vote following the GA.

Council members suggested postponing a decision on this Bylaws issue and request that someone from the Revisoning Group attend the next Council meeting to present their concerns. Council members agreed to read and review the bylaws before the next meeting. Judith agreed to write a response with this request to the Group.

**Decision:** Council agreed unanimously to request someone from Revisoning Group come to the next meeting to discuss their request and concerns.

### **Committee Goal Setting & Council Liaisons**

Council asks Grail committees to submit a report each year. One member suggested that we also ask committees to submit plans and goals, as these are important for budgeting. The staff begin working on budget projections in June of the year preceding the budget year with the aim to adopt the budget by December. One member suggested that it would help

committees and members to understand how this process works. Deborah agreed to draft a letter to committees to explain this process.

The role of Council liaisons is to act as communicator between the committees and Council. Thanh will serve as liaison to the Finance Committee.

## **Trust Building**

Building on discussion in the previous meeting, Council members discussed developing greater levels of trust. Each Council member spoke to these questions:

- What do you need to feel safe?
- Are you, as a Council member, going to do the best you can to serve the Grail?
- Will you keep the best interest of the Grail at heart?

## **2021 Council Goals**

Council members discussed Council Goals for the year as developed in January. Members agreed to review the goals again and add action steps for each goal for discussion next month.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Council members received the Executive Director's report and a financial report for 2020. Members noted that year-end financial report showed the Grail deficit for 2020 was not as large as anticipated, due in part to the rental of the Cornwall property.

**Decision:** Council accepted the ED report and voted unanimously to approve about \$44,000 for major maintenance projects at Grailville and Cornwall.

## **Schedule for Council Meetings / Zoom Conference Call**

Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Time: 10 am - 12 noon EST

## **Schedule for Virtual Face to Face Meetings / Zoom Conference Call**

Dates: Wednesday, April 21; Thursday, April 22; and Saturday, April 24

Time: tbd