

Grail Council Monthly Zoom Call ~ MINUTES

April 12, 2021



The US Grail Council

Present: April Goering, Lucy Jones, Laura Kaplan, Thanh Nguyen, Deborah Sullivan, Terrie Puckett (ex-officio). Judith Defour- Howard (Judith was present from 11:00-11:30am.)

Opening: Thanh suggested an opening reading of the Grail 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.

Call for GA Planners

In the coming period, a planning team for the GA must be identified with involvement from members. A summary of input from the Pre-GA process is expected to be available by May 15 and will help to ensure that GA content comes from members.

For the upcoming GA, planning and implementation skills in organization, communication, and facilitation will be needed. More skills important skills may be identified. Council may want to reach out to individuals with particular skills and also open the invitation to all members who may want to participate. The opportunity exists for some members with less experience to participate in planning and develop skills. The office staff will handle logistics so members can concentrate on content.

We will aim to have an open invitation to participate in the GA planning team ready by May 15. Laura and April will develop a draft invitation letter for Council review.

Grail Listening Forum

Council members would like to invite the Grail to a series of listening forum experiences (consistent with a Council goal for the year) that can lead to better communication, understanding, and healing. Council members have different levels of enthusiasm about this plan. Council may reach out to members to determine the level of interest.

Such events will need a facilitator and two options have been identified. Suzanne Ehly, who worked with the Young Women's Initiative, and Mary Jo Sullivan, with extensive

experience working with women's groups and conflict resolution. The NLT will set up interview Zoom calls with each of them in the next month so Council with Anti-Racism Committee can decide

Council Goals 2021: Action Items

The Council Goals for the year include items in the categories: Anti-Racism, Communication, Finance, International, Membership, and Spiritual Core. Members had suggested action steps related to each of these goals and initiated discussion to clarify and prioritize these steps. Due to time constraints, further exchange will take place email with the aim to complete this work by May.

ED Report

The Council accepted the report from ED Terrie Puckett. Items of interest included:

- The Grail's application for federal PPP Loan forgiveness has been submitted to the Small Business Association.
- A rise in break ins to the south side buildings is occurring and Terrie is working has modified security measures based on available information. Local police are patrolling.
- All Grail staff members will undergo basic background checks as part of the insurance process for summer volunteer programs
- An unexpected major maintenance expense of \$3800 was needed to repair a sewer line break in Tidings.

Terrie will need surgery this spring (not yet scheduled) and at least a two-week non-working recovery period. Deborah will cover for her and sign any checks or documents while she is out.

The Grail has received news of a recent bequest from the Mary Gindhart estate.

Decision: Council voted unanimously (five members present) that Terrie is authorized to handle all bequests on behalf of the Grail for the year 2021.

Bylaws Amendment Request from the Revisioning Group.

Based on the discussion with members of the Revisioning Group at the March meeting, Council members expected to receive a version of the requested bylaws amendment with some of the wording changed. Council has not received a reworded amendment. Council members had differing understandings about what change is wanted.

Council members agreed that April will supply all her notes from that discussion to other Council members and ask Beth Murphy for her notes.

Annual Bylaws Review: Update

In April, Judith and Laura agreed to initiate the annual review of Grail bylaws. They have not been able to reach Carol Siemering as a resource person for this process, but will continue to reach out to her and initiate the review.

Cornwall

A Council member raised questions about the future of Cornwall. Council members present postponed discussion of this item until the member who raised the issue can be present in May.

Other Business

Trina Paulus contacted Laura to request that the Grail co-sponsor a single screening (in New York) of environmental movie. Adding an organizational name is expected, but not financial donation. Based on the recently developed policies and plan for the Grail to take stands, this request should go to the Climate Justice Group. Laura will communicate with Trina.

Closing: April brought a reading from Rabindranath Tagore – *Gitanjali* #37.

I thought that our voyage had come to its end at the last limit of our power, that the path before us was closed, that provisions were exhausted and the time come to take shelter in a silent obscurity.

But I find that thy will knows no end in us. And when old words die out on the tongue, new melodies break forth from the heart; and where the old tracks are lost, new country is revealed with its wonders.

Schedule for Council Meetings / Zoom Conference Call

Date: Monday, May 24, 2021

Time: 10 am-12 noon EDT

Date: Monday, June 28, 2021

Time: 10 am-12 noon EDT

Schedule for Virtual Face to Face Meetings / Zoom Conference Call

Date: Wednesday, April 21

Time: 10 am-12 noon and 2-4 pm EDT

Date: Thursday, April 22

Time: 10 am-12 noon EDT

Date: Saturday, April 24

Time: 10 am-12 noon and 2-4 pm EDT