

## **GRAIL ELDER CARE WORK GROUP**

### **NATURE:**

The Elder Care Working Group is a Committee of Council that facilitates a national Grail system for anticipating and responding to the emerging needs of Grail elders. The Working Group will be comprised of Grail members with skills/knowledge in counseling, spiritual direction, medicine, finance, law, insurance and elder care. The Working Group includes a member of the Grail Council as well as Council's appointed Grail managers of the Health and Welfare Fund. Members of this group represent the desire and intention of the Grail to compassionately and effectively support Grail members growing older in the Grail.

### **PURPOSE:**

The Elder Care Working Group exists to provide support and assistance (emotional, psychological, financial, spiritual, housing) to individuals with increasing needs for care during the latter phases of life. The group works to assist individual Grail members and those who are supporting Grail members with needs in these areas. The work group is focused primarily on the needs of those elders for whom the Grail provides financial assistance as limited to those currently eligible for retirement support supplement indicated by the Grail Health and Welfare policy (found on the member area of website under "Policies"). Therefore, the Elder Care Working Group is limited in duration and scope.

### **FUNCTION:**

The Elder Care Working Group serves to:

- Identify, and consult with, local "support teams" who have been chosen by, or who have volunteered to assist, individual Grail members in discerning plans and assistance needs as they age.
- Conduct annual check-ins with members over 70 regarding health, concerns, future plans, new developments and updating of legal documents on file.
- Consult with care-givers and provide direct assistance in local situations as requested.
- Connect with family members of the person in need or other caregivers as necessary.
- Assist members as they move into new and more appropriate housing situations to accommodate needs.
- Facilitate planning and assistance regarding legal documents and Medicaid eligibility.
- Research facilities where our members can be cared for and negotiate reasonable cost.
- Stimulate creative thinking among the membership re: education for aging; ways of sharing our lives and housing ourselves as we age; make known various retirement options/opportunities as they emerge; investigate ways to collaborate and share resources (housing, spiritual sustenance, education, etc) with other groups of women with whom we share deep values as we age, etc.

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- Facilitate active planning regarding end of life issues and care among the general membership by providing resources and technical assistance on such matters as Living Wills, Writing a Will, Power of Attorney, Long Term Care, Financial Planning etc.
- Call on other Grail members as needed for help in particular situations or for additional expertise
- Represent this aspect of the Grail community as needed in International Grail or other public forums.

### **HOW THE WORK GROUP WILL FUNCTION**

- Working Group members will be volunteers unless otherwise determined by Council.
- Working Group member names will be made known to Grail members.
- Two members of the group serve as Council appointed administrators for the Grail Health and Welfare Fund and maintain payment of retirement supplements to Grail members who meet the criteria for support as determined in the Grail Health and Welfare Policy in coordination with the National Office.
- A member of the Grail Council will be designated to serve as liaison and facilitate communication between the Council and the Working Group.
- A Chair will be confirmed by Council who will: keep records of conversations, group meetings, activities and decisions; convene group members via conference call and face to face consultation; communicate about the work of the Working Group to the general membership; prepare reports to Council.
- A Contact Person will be identified to the general membership who will receive inquiries and refer requests for assistance to those best able to respond. However, Grail members may also contact anyone on the team for consultation or to request assistance.
- The Elder Care Working Group maintains confidentiality regarding its work on behalf of any member.