

# Grail Council Monthly Zoom Call ~ MINUTES

## MAY 24, 2021

The US Grail Council

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**Date:** 5.24.21

**Present:** Thanh Nguyen, Judith De Four Howard, Lucy Jones, Deborah Sullivan

**Excused:** April Marian Goering, Laura Kaplan

At the opening of the meeting, members were informed that Tina Kalala, the new International Representative had opted to be an ex-officio officer of the Council, as such she is invited, but not required to attend monthly meeting, but is required to attend annual face to face meetings.

This was followed by a reading of a passage For a New Beginning from a book entitled “To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings”. Armed with high motivation, the meeting proceeded along the proposed agenda of the day.

### 1. Pre-GA Report

Along with a brief report, the full report was received on the morning of the meeting and so it was felt that there was a greater need to take time to study the report. However, from a quick glance, the members were able to identify four major topics, namely Mission Fund, Revision, Anti-Racism, Spirituality/Community. It was observed that Sustainability was a secondary concern and members agree that while this is so, almost every topic can be looked at from a substantiable perspective. As was pointed out sustainability can be viewed within the scope of responsibility and accountability and agreed that the theme of the GA should be as such that the concept, principles and practices of sustainability regardless of type such as financial, community etc should be the matrix of the GA content.

Discussion underscored the view that the GA cannot cover every issue but identifying interconnections would be key. Secondly, Council recognized that the Planning Team needs guidance. The Council therefore needs to (i) understand how the GA will guide the Grail, moving into the future; (ii) papers on the topics that are to be discussed at the GA need to be developed and some amount of PR on the issues should take place before the actual event; and (iii) Anti-Racism will be seen as a thread running through the GA discourse as a new direction of the organization

**Decision:** Thanh will get back to the Women of Color about a possible joint presentation/workshop at the GA with the Anti-Racism Committee.

### 2. Invitation to members for GA Planners

Council agreed that the time is right to send our invitations for volunteers to opt in as members of the GA Planning Team, with the Pre-GA team having wrapped up their task and presented a report.

**Decision:** A draft invitation to members will be developed by Deborah. The final invitation will include the Pre-GA report and will be published in the Gumbo and News on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **3. Grail Listening Forum**

Zan Ehly recommended that she work with Council rather than full membership. The optional schedule dates for a preparation interview with Council members were Tuesday June 1<sup>st</sup> or Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Decision:** A survey email to determine the best option will be sent out to all Council members by Lucy.

### **4. Action Items for Goals**

#### (a) Finance:

The crucial issue here was the determination of a percentage benchmark for deficit reduction for the next three years. Flowing from a discussion, it was suggested that the deficit benchmark can lie between 3% -15%.

**Decision:** Thanh will take the issue to the Finance Team to get feedback on a feasible percent benchmark for deficit reduction.

### **5. IGA**

#### A. International request for proposals

The ILT submitted a letter to Council with regards to the upcoming IGA which will take place on four (4) Saturdays in November/December 2021. Submissions of international projects are welcomed by July 20, 2021.

**Decision:** There will a zoom call on June 12, at 2pm to discuss membership ideas for an international proposal and this invite will be in the NGN.

#### B. Presentation

In addition, the US Grail has also been invited to deliver a seven - minute presentation on the US Grail as part of the International Centenary Celebrations.

**Decision:** Lucy and Tina will be the presenters.

### **6. Drees Contract Items.**

The NLT president reported that details on the Drees Contract were submitted to the membership through the various communication media available to the Grail membership.

### **7. Update on Annual Bylaw review**

Council acknowledged and accepted an update report from Judith on behalf of the Review Committee ( Laura Kaplan, Carol Siemering and Judith De Four-Howard), noting that exercise could be wrapped up within the next two weeks.

### **8. Judith's questions**

The following concerns were discussed with the following responses.

- 1) What plans does Council have to support Cornwall in the future? R1: It was explained that Cornwall has been leased for three (2 years to go) years and this Council will not be present when the lease expires, but that membership will define the future support of Cornwall.
- 2) Does this Council see it necessary to leave a plan in place towards the future of Cornwall? If yes, What? If no, Why? R. No. The present Council is not in a position to do so.
- 3) How does Council view the idea of selling off Cornwall in the future? Unless there is a feasible plan of sustainability, Cornwall should be sold.
- 4) Could we look forward to restoring those building in Grailville and Cornwall? R. Buildings in the north of Grailville and Cornwall are in good condition.
- 5) **Closing**  
The meeting ended with a reading within the context of the recent Pentecost Celebration within the Christian Community.

In absenteeism and silence Laura has been in our prayers for the peaceful repose of her father.

*Written and Submitted by Judith DeFour-Howard; 5/27/21*