THE GRAIL – **Cornwall Assessment** (April 5, 2023)

NOTE: In her capacity as ED, Terrie Puckett is responsible for doing an assessment of the Cornwall property that is being leased to the organization, Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc. (RMM). Terrie had a medical issue and needed unexpected and quickly planned surgery and could not travel. Therefore, she asked the NLT to perform the assessment. Thanh could not do it as she had Covid. The NLT members who were able to perform the assessment were Sharon Wood and Judith Brown-Leigh.

Here is an account of that assessment:

- Staff were gracious, welcoming, and knowledgeable in the areas of their expertise. They offered information re: their specific jobs and the organization as a whole. Richard Witt, the Executive Director of RMM spent 4 hours giving us a tour and answering our questions.
- The buildings were very clean and well maintained and the property/landscape were pristine. It was evident that RMM is a good steward of the Grail property in Cornwall.
- The **Gray house** is used for offices and has converted the space that was once used as Simonetta's art studio and is now being used as a meeting space.
- The **Gaia apartments: One** is used for offices **and the other** apartment as living quarters for their chef. The front half of the basement (in Gaia) has been re-outfitted with insulation and dry walls, painted, and looks amazing. This area serves as a gathering space for their youth program, YAG: Youth Arts Group. There are games, table hockey, a flat screen TV, a cell phone collection box and more. There is also designated space for a 'dialogue circle' where participants can sit and discuss issues relevant to teens. RMM youth art is displayed on the walls of this room. There is still some construction work going on, on the other side, to make that into another usable space (vs. Storage).
- The **Cottage** has new floors in the entry way, and 3 bedrooms upstairs to house staff and an intern. The kitchen, stairwell, living room and gathering space are all well maintained. The porch is being used temporarily for storage.
- The **Memorial and Vegetable/Fruit Garden** looked amazing and are well taken care of by our Grail sisters.
- The **Phoenix** is pretty much set up the way Grail had it and is used for their programs and other gatherings. The kitchen renovations (required by 2022 fire inspection report) look fabulous and make equipment and food items more accessible. The over-the-stove vent covers the area intended and the fire alarm is fully visible. The side room off from the kitchen has been repurposed and now has shelved goods and refrigeration. The same is for the pantry (two steps up) on the side. The stone meditation room is a music gathering place for their participants. It is outfitted with all sorts of instruments. There are two to three interns living there, all rooms are well maintained.
- The **Hermitage** is used by a Theologian intern from Spring to the end of summer.

- The **Labyrinth** is well maintained and has so many cross cultural, spiritual symbolic items that lend to the Grails understanding of Interfaith; in fact, from all that we observed, this is an inter-faith community.

RMM educates migrants on preparation classes for college applications and all that that involves, doing resumes, ESL classes, Economic and Social Justice advocacy work and how to relate to authority and governmental officials. All their programs were developed following a needs assessment with the participants - similar to the San Jose group.

RMM is a not-for-profit organization created by a consortium of faith communities from across NY state (see list here) and receives funding from private donations, faith-based communities, local and state government entities. Their closeness to our mission and vision is highly visible in the programs they offer, posted signage around the property (from entrance to bathrooms), library content, artifacts and much more. They organize around and advocate for social justice, women and youth empowerment and economic development.

RMM mirrors the Grails mission and vision and movement to be an Anti-racist organization.

Even though all of the buildings are currently occupied the Grail is welcome to utilize space at the Phoenix for long weekends or a week. However, due to RMM's need to follow safety protocols with respect to hosting minors on the property, Grail members seeking to visit the property are required to have those dates/times/activities approved prior to arrival.

In closing, RMM would like to partner with the Grail and help to champion our programs e.g. advocate for program space in our urban settings where we live and in Cornwall and surrounding townships at no cost. This could include programs connected to RMM as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Wood and Judith Brown-Leigh