

**Rio Grande Center /for Spiritual Living
Board Meeting Agenda**

Date: January 25, 2022 **Time:** 5:30 – 7:00 PM
Meeting called to order at 5:38 PM

Board members present: Rev. Karen Linsley, Mark Ayers, Doug Bowe, Tamara Williams

Guests Present: Carmella Herrera, Maria Dion, Marilyn O'Leary, Thomas Himes,
Annette Martinez

Clarity, Consensus and Commitment

Call to Order – Mark Ayers

Invocation – Chaplain Carmella Herrera

Vision/Mission/Motivational Statements – All

- Vision: Transforming Our World with the Power of Love in Action.
- Mission: Loving All Creation Through Spiritual Growth and Service; Always Staying True to Our Highest Self
- To create a world class, leading edge, replicable, cultural model to spread Science of Mind on a foundation of love, freedom and truth that stands the span of time.

Acknowledgement of Guests – All

Approval of Minutes from November Meeting – All

Approval of People & Events Coordinator Report (Carmella Herrera) – All

Discussion Items

1. Minister Search Committee Update – Marilyn O'Leary and Maria Dion

Maria and Marilyn met with Rev. Julie yesterday, who reassured the team that they are moving quickly in a time-consuming project in perfect right timing. Maria and Marilyn have been putting in 25-30 hours a week. A fifth application was received today and that application has been processed.

Three have received a short interview, a long interview, committee meetings in between each interview, and contact references. Mark will send out a Doodle poll to schedule Board interviews in February. By that time, the applicants will have already received information about our finances and will have questions. A minimum of four Board members and two Search committee members need to attend the interviews. The RGCSL Zoom account will be used since it has extra security and the interviews will be recorded. A packet from the Board will be sent to Maria and Marilyn, who will forward it to the candidates. The Committee will select 2 or 3 of them to be candidates.

2. Board Officers for 2022 – Mark Ayers

a. Mark said he'd like to advance Thomas Himes' nomination and use Survey Monkey to ask congregants to vote on affirm it.

Thomas said he feels an amazing amount of energy with this Board and feels he'd fit in. He said he can contribute to the RGSSL Board; he has energy, authenticity, and takes action. His background is in marketing, business and PR, although that's not where his passion is. He's more interested in contributing overall to the Board, especially with education. He brings energy and authenticity.

Thomas is very interested in spiritual studies and is developing a course called, "The Call of Truth." He feels that our progressive, energetic, forward-looking community just may entertain this type of spiritual program. Rev. Karen said that there might be a spot for him on the Adult Education team.

Thomas needs to transfer his membership to RGCSL as soon as possible, and Carmella can assist with that.

Mark nominated Thomas to the Board; all approved with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment and now he is a voting member. The community will affirm the vote.

b. Karen nominated Mark as co-president, Mark nominated Hana as secretary, and nominated Tamara as her back-up. Our Treasurer position remains open. Doug was not present at this this meeting. All were approved with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

3. CSL Convention – Carmella Herrera

Carmella said attending the Conference in person was quite an experience. She started her morning with yoga, had Spirit-moving workshops, rather than educational ones, until each day's workshop finished at 9 pm. There was wonderful connectivity

4. CSL Convention – Rev. Karen Linsley

Rev. Karen attended all the CSL Convention general sessions as well as the business meeting virtually. She was impressed by how organized it was and how changes were accommodated and rescheduled, especially due to COVID.

She shared that the number of centers, practitioners and ministers are growing. There are now 251 Centers for Spiritual Living worldwide; 44 focused ministries, including her own; 36 teaching chapters; 40 study groups and 107 spiritual living social groups. CSL is no longer about church; it's about carrying the message of Science of Mind in so many different ways throughout the world.

The two main messages were Change and Optimism; it's not ever going to go back to the way it was. One question is – is tolerance enough? Should we go even deeper? Two sayings she was inspired by are, "The more insulated you are, the more vulnerable you are" and "Get a bigger tent and invite people in!"

5. Interim Minister's Report – Rev. Karen Linsley

Rev. Karen said that the Protocol Committee meets weekly and decides whether to meet in-person for Sunday services. They're considering creating a policy for in-person Sunday services, and related what the Conference does. At this point, it's not necessary to have a policy because of the size of the in-person attendance.

Rev. Karen also talked about the Bookstore, and that down the road, it should be run by professionals, not volunteers. Adult Ed has not been meeting; there's been very little interest by the congregation in taking classes. Leaders for the Reach Out team resigned and someone to head the committee needs to be recruited. Annette said she's very interested in Reach Out! Mark recommends having a co-chair, and Carmella said she had a recommendation for a co-chair.

Mark edited Rev. Karen's thank you letter to the congregation and it will be printed and mailed out tomorrow.

Candidates won't be speaking to the congregation until March, but by that time the Sunday services should be live.

Annette gave an update on Sunday tech team and musicians; things are going well.

6. Volunteer Appreciation – Carmella Herrera

Carmella said they will probably postpone this event because of COVID.

7. Financial Report – Mark Ayers

Mark said because Doug isn't here, he doesn't have a full financial report, but said that in November and December, we lost \$2000+ per month. Mark will meet with Doug to get a more accurate picture.

Mark said we have \$45,000 in our pledge campaign and he made two phone calls and got an additional \$10,000 today. Donations are going up slowly. He's calling major donors; Carmella's volunteers will call regular donors. We won't have the cost for a senior minister until May, so we can probably reduce our goal by \$10,000.

Mark moved that the Board extend Rev. Karen's contract to at least between April 30 and the week before our new minister is coming on board. All approved with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

Thomas moved that we extend Carmella's contract to at least April 30. All approved with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

8. RGCSL Communications & Marketing – Tamara Williams

Tamara is attending a workshop put on by CSL called "Building Your Marketing Plan" that is part of the Building Blocks of Practical Ministry curriculum. She is excited about using what she's learned to help RGCSL. A priority is to create SMART goals (strategic, specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and have a time frame) for 2022 to address our vision and mission, empower each one of us, help our community thrive, and expand our congregation. She has formed a Marketing Communication committee comprised of Rev. Karen, Carmella and Annette to discuss the goals, revise as necessary, and develop a solid plan to achieve them. Tamara will submit a report from the MarCom Committee prior to the Board meeting each month.

9. Next Board Meeting – Monday, February 21, 2021 (Carol will chair)

Benediction – Rev. Karen Linsley

Meeting Adjourned at 6:56 PM