

Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living

Board Meeting Agenda

Date: April 18, 2022 Time: 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Clarity, Consensus and Commitment

Call to Order – Mark Ayers/ Carol Helms at 5:36PM

Board members present:

Rev. Karen Linsley, Hana Dawson, Thomas Hines, Mark Ayers, Doug Bowe

Invocation – Greg Gardner, Practitioner

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 March Board Meeting – All (approving in May meeting)

Discussion Items

1. Minister Search Committee Update – Maria Dion, Marilyn O’Leary and Doug Bowe

Marilyn O’Leary stated at this point they are waiting for the vote to commence. She sent an email to Rev. Gil to let him know we will be holding a vote May 1st, and Rev. Gil responded saying he felt he had a very positive experience here at the center.

Marilyn talked about the responses she got from people in person and the responses in the survey that talked about being disappointed in Rev. Gil’s talk. Marilyn states our Ministers that currently do quote Ernest Holmes often in their talks. When Rev. Gil talked, he chose to give his own topic instead of going with the topic of the month. Marilyn personally feels like he was using his talk to give us an opportunity to share with us about himself and feels like that may be why he didn’t directly quote Ernest Holmes.

Marilyn shared that she’s seen and heard comments saying that he is not spiritual enough, however she feels that he is very spiritual from her interactions with him personally. She feels his method and way of presenting is consistent with what she feels that we need. Marilyn felt like his choice of attire was appropriate considering we are very casual here at this center.

Thomas expressed that he feels like many people are potentially comparing Rev. Gil to Rev. Martha.

Rev. Karen shared that she was happy to see the responses from the survey and to see that there were so many positive survey responses. There were 17 responses, 10 of which were positive, 3 neutral and 4 negative. Rev. Karen shared that she feels any comparison between Rev. Martha and Rev. Gil is very inappropriate. The whole point of the search process, having Rev. Karen here was to move on from Rev. Martha, and if this hasn't happened then she hasn't done her job properly. Rev. Karen shared she's very frustrated with the comments judging regarding Rev. Gil's attire.

Rev. Karen is going to meet with Maria and Marilyn to coordinate how the vote is going to happen, as well as be present virtually for May 1st vote to assist with that. If the community votes Rev. Gil in, then the board will be the one to move forward with the offer and letter of call.

Mark shared that the vote is a board responsibility as specified by our by-laws, and the board with the search committee will oversee facilitating the meeting and vote on May 1st. Mark feels that it would be helpful to allow the congregants who may feel opposed to Rev. Gil to share and allow their voice to be heard.

Mark feels that it was a very nice weekend to meet with Rev. Gil, he felt our informal meeting with him Friday went very well, along with really enjoying the workshop on Sunday and everything else on Sunday.

Thomas shared that he'd like Maria to make the call to Rev. Gil if he is accepted. Mark agreed that it would be appropriate to have Maria make that call if the congregation accepts Rev. Gil.

Mark shared that he would like to have the Search Committee there to help and facilitate the May 1st meeting, and Maria shared that she really feels like the board should be running the meeting on May 1st as the congregation will more supportive and willing to listen to the Board.

Mark asked if Rev. Karen will be willing to do an opening invocation for the May 1st meeting, Rev. Karen agreed that she can do this.

During the meeting before the vote congregants will have the opportunity to speak for 2 minutes to share their thoughts on Rev. Gil.

Mark asked how we can know who community members are and who are not, Rev. Karen stated that Hana as the secretary will be in charge of the membership list. Rev. Karen is concerned about the list not having newer members listed. Once Hana has the list, then we will make sure that we have a copy available to ensure the only members are casting their vote.

Mark shared that we need to figure out how the members who may not be available in person to be able to cast their votes. Annette stated we can send out an email that invites people to vote online through a form on May 1st once we start the voting at a specific time. We can ensure that we have zoom meeting running for our meeting before the vote. Hana Dawson, Thomas Hines and Doug Bowe will tally the votes as Mark feels like we are good non-controversial people to count the votes.

Mark would like to meet with Annette, Rev. Karen and himself sometime next week to ensure they are proceeding with the vote according to the by-laws.

The board officers need to do the negotiations with the new Rev. Minister if he is chosen, the search committee has no part in doing the negotiations with the Minister. Rev. Karen has a template she can give to the board which would assist with the negotiations to be prepared for the new senior Minister. Mark is going to have a small sub-committee of board members (himself and Doug, and another board member who may want to do this) to proceed with the negotiations with Rev. Gil if the letter of call is offered.

Maria mentioned in ACSL that when they were going through a voting process that they had a table set up and they would be checked off as they took a ballot to ensure that the members are members taking ballots. This sounds like a good way proceed with the balloting.

2. People & Events Coordinator Report (Carmella Herrera) – Approval

Approved Carmella's report with a motion from Mark and a second from Thomas. Board gave clarity, commitment and consensus.

4. Open Ministries Updates – Mark Ayers & Rev. Karen Linsley

a. Bookstore - Bookstore is running very well with volunteers, the inventory was completed last week in 3 hours.

b. Adult Ed – waiting for new minister.

c. Reach Out Team – Hug a Buddy, next projects

Huge success. 68 animals donated. Thomas is going to be dropping off the stuffed animals off with Wings for Life, an organization that does a lot of work with prison families and kids. About 20 or so will be delivered to a fire station or police station to be given out to children. Mark would like the congregation to continue collecting stuffed animals as an ongoing project for the center and highlight it a few times a year. The stuffed animals really brighten up the center with all the love they receive.

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

The week before Rev. Gil arrived, Rev. Karen was very busy working with the congregation to get everything set up for his visit. She shared while it was very stressful, she's very happy with the way the weekend went, and she understands it was a very smooth weekend for Rev. Gil. She's been spending a lot of time working with the Practitioners, she had a meeting with Rev. Gil 1x1 to talk to him about ministerial duties. She's been receiving more calls from members of the congregation which she's very

happy to receive. She is looking to start putting together a calendar for adult education for the next year. She was very happy with the turnout of the workshop on Sunday with Rev. Gil, she was concerned there may be a low turnout due to the turnout of past workshops we've tried to hold during Rev. Karen's time with us.

6. Financial Report – Mark

Mark shared that we received a nice anonymous donation last week which has boosted our total assets to over \$47,900. We are in a much better position financially than we were last month. Our overall donations are nowhere near where our goal is budget wise. We need to bring in \$17k a month, but only brought in \$10k this month. We did receive more income than anticipated from workshops and meetings in the center. The bookstore is doing well and we have received good income from it last month. The rent is lower than we anticipated, which has been great. Our expenses were still more than our income received, but we're doing better than we have in the past months, our losses were \$1000 less than the previous month. Mark shared that we have a little less than \$50k in our reserves, so while we can sustain paying a senior minister for some time, we really need to increase our monthly income. And Mark feels that having our senior minister in place will really ramp up the donations and move us in to a place of financial success to support the center.

a. Review March report – Mark Ayers

b. Tithe to CSL – 8% * = \$801.53 and \$100 goes to the La Placita Institute Community Fund

Hana motioned to approve the tithe, and Thomas seconded. The board gave clarity, commitment and consensus.

7. RGCSL Communications & Marketing Report – Tamara Williams, Carmella Herrera

Rev. Karen shared that Tamara is doing a really great job of sending Rev. Karen graphics to share on Facebook to highlight speakers, monthly calendar events, etc.

8. Next Board Meeting – May 16, 2022

Benediction – Greg Gardner, Practitioner