

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

Date: September 20, 2021 **Time:** 5:30 – 7:00 PM
Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM

Board members present: Rev. Karen Linsley, Doug Bowe, Hana Dawson,
Tamara Williams, Maria Dion, Lou Cimalore.

Guests Present: Carmella Herrera, Annette Martinez, Miguel Zulueta

Clarity, Consensus and Commitment

Call to Order – Mark Ayers, Karen Linsley

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 – Miguel said he's from San Diego and is still checking out RGCSL. Rev. Karen encouraged Miguel to contact her.

Approval of Minutes from August 16, 2021: All
Clarity, Consensus and Commitment given from all members.

Discussion Items

1. Role of the Interim Minister – Rev. Julie Lobato

Rev. Julie said that the beautiful part of having an interim minister is that the community and the IM collaborate in achieving your purpose and goals. It's important to have an open conversation, touch base and check in to see if the work with the IM is complete or not. The community doesn't have to keep an IM until the contract is signed with the incoming minister; some choose not to. She asked if we felt the time is complete or are there things that still need to be worked on. She then fielded questions and helped facilitate the conversation.

Mark said that Carol and he as well as the practitioners have talked about this. Mark says we've contracted with Rev. Karen until the end of October.

Rev. Karen said that she feels as if this community has come a long way towards cohesiveness and working together. She thinks that most of them are ok with her ending her time on Oct. 31st. She's ok either way. She feels a sense of completion overall with some loose ends to wrap up. She said that there are some people who are eager to become new members.

Maria said that the Minister Search Committee is concerned about the work that Rev. Karen does and who would take over.

Lou asked if Rev. Karen was available to stay longer; Rev. Karen said she is available. She might do a couple of workshops to follow up on the Co-Creation Process and one for new members.

Rev. Karen said that someone would need to take over scheduling Sunday speakers.

Anette wondered who would be the one people would go to regarding ecclesiastical decisions.

Julie said it's important if we have new members to extend Rev. Karen's contract so new members could vote for the minister.

Carmella brought up that there are seven members of the Board and asked if that would be an issue. Julie texted that the number of board members is stated in the by-laws.

Lou said that the process to select the interview selection timeline could clearly go into the new year. Rev. Julie said the posting is a minimum of 60 days; we could decide to extend it.

Maria said her concern is that this is a working board, and if we let Rev. Karen go at the end of October, we don't have clarity around the ecclesiastical infrastructure.

Annette felt that Rev. Karen should put something in place before she leaves. Perhaps Rev. Karen could delegate some things and scale back the work she does.

Rev. Karen said that she talks with CJ, Mark and Carmella regularly and that they are doing the day-to-day stuff; she's pretty part time. She understands our concerns about the ecclesiastical team. She said that there's been a shift within the practitioner core; they are cohesive, together, they're on board; it was a wonderful meeting.

Rev. Julie agreed – maybe Rev. Karen should stay until the end of the year. Then we can re-visit this conversation.

Tamara had laryngitis so can't speak but texted that she feels Rev. Karen should stay longer, possibly until the end of the year or even longer! And not only for us, but also for the entire congregation. She thinks we need an IM to help guide us, direct us and show leadership for the congregation.

Maria agreed. She doesn't want Ref. Karen to leave too soon or we will need to process the absence of the processor!

Rev. Julie said the Minister Selection Committee is amazing, they're working super hard.

Rev. Julie left the meeting.

Mark summarized that the Board would like to see Karen's contract extended. Mark moved that we extend Rev. Karen's contract until December 31, 2021. All agreed with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

Annette said that she'd like more people coming to Sunday service when we have presenters come in person. Annette also clarified that Kamatara did not accept an minister position at ABQ CSL and that Tammi isn't applying for the Minister position.

2. Minister Search Committee Update – Maria Dion, Lou Cimalore, & Doug Bowe

The Committee met 3 times last time and twice this month. Last Friday we received information from our first applicant. The team is revising the standard documents sent to applicants. Maria went through the process that applicants and the Committee go through. Maria said she asked Rev. Karen to leave a couple of slots open for applicants to come and speak to the congregation at Sunday service in November.

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

- a. Education Committee – There will be a New Member class on October 13; announcements are going in the newsletter and at Sunday service. Rev. Karen is also creating a 3-hour workshop to follow up the Co-Creation process.
- b. Practitioners – they've come together in a lovely way; they are coordinating Sunday duties amongst each other. They are really cohesive. Bonds were created at the last meeting that weren't there before.
- c. 3rd/ 4th Quarter Speakers - she is planning slots for applicants in November and December. She is frustrated that congregants don't come for online speakers.

Lou pointed out that he can't come to the Center in person and it's a god-send to have virtual services.

Rev. Karen is almost ready to submit the RGCSL annual report. We have 3 practitioners up for renewal (must be done every 2 years), which requires a lot of work.

4. Financial Report – Mark Ayers and Doug Bowe

a. Doug Bowe put together a financial summary and reported that income for July is \$12,126. The expense column total comes to \$15,529. There's a net loss of \$3,403. He also did a financial summary for August. There are some rounding errors in these as compared to the Profit and Loss statements, however. The total expenses are \$12,298; the net loss is \$2,516. We are moving back to bringing in more money than we are spending!

Lou asked about individual items under Operation Expenses. Doug said he needs to add more line items from P&L to the summary.

Mark commended Doug for putting in the time to work on these reports and thanked Tamara for creating the summary format.

b. Tithe – 9% to CSL and \$100 to local agency

c. Update on AC repair – the A/C repair will be about \$600/month for one year.

d. Special Board Meeting for Budget/Pledge Campaign – Monday, October 4, 2022 (5:30 pm)

Mark, Brett, and Doug are going to work together to set up a budget for the year of 2022. They are going to ensure this is set up before the pledge campaign.

5. New Treasurer – Carol Helms – deferred because Carol is not here.

Pledge Campaign 2021-22 – deferred to the meeting on October 4.

Mark said that we will need to figure out who is willing to head the campaign for 2022. Carmella is going to investigate options and find people who are willing to chair the Pledge Campaign.

- 6. Approve Sending Individuals to CSL Classes.** Mark would like to go to the Strategic Planning meeting and Tamara would like to go to Marketing Plan. Carmella and Mark would like to defer the class on Pledge Campaign until later. Mark recommends these classes. The motion for Tamara and Mark to attend the classes was approved with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.
- 7.** Annette said that she can submit a quote for computer needs. Mark said we need to replace a computer for about \$1000; her guess for a wireless microphone is \$400. Mark asked if the mic could wait. Annette said that people are complaining about the sound online. Doug said he's comfortable going ahead with these expenses. Doug moved to allocate approximately \$1400 to replace tech

equipment, and the motion was approved with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

8. Approve 12 Step Meetings @ RGCSL – Carmella Herrera

Carmella will forward the email and we'll discuss via text or at the next meeting.

9. Congregation Survey – Tamara Williams

Carmella is looking to find out what skill sets members of the congregation hold, so that we can find more volunteers to help out with the various needs of the center. We do need more volunteers to help with StreamYard.

10. Upcoming Board Elections/Officers for 2021

Mark is planning on continuing on the Board next year; he'll reach out to everyone to see what each person stands.

11. Next Board Meeting – October 18, 2021 (Carol will chair)

Benediction – Rev. Karen Linsley

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35PM