

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

Date: March 21, 2023 **Time:** 5:39 - 7:32 pm
Clarity, Consensus and Commitment

Board members present: Rev. Gil, Mark Ayers, Doug Bowe, John Kirk, Sherry Noon, Michael McPherson, Hana Dawson, Tamara Williams

Call to Order – Mark Ayers

Invocation – Reverend Gil

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 – Marylyn Kirk

Approval of Minutes from February Board Meeting (with amendments to include two motions approved via email after the meeting) – All

Discussion Items

1. Spiritual Director Report – Rev. Gil Olmstead

a. Rev. Gil said there are more than 30 partners now. There are a number of people who are committed to being Partners who aren't tech savvy.

b. He's grateful for Director of Musical Inspiration Susan Clark for developing a choir for Easter and the other things she's done to improve our Sunday music. There was a mistake and Susan hadn't been paid since December, but that has been corrected. He said a team has been working on the sound for Sunday celebration for both online and in-house and improvements are being made.

c. Rickie Byars will hold a concert on April 29 from 4-6 and she and Quinn Fontaine will have a Workshop on Sunday, April 30 from 1-3 at RGCSL. The events will be open to all, and both are viewed as money-makers. There was a meeting yesterday to nail down some logistics. Rev. Gil hopes the concert is the kick-off for collaborating with other New Thought ministers. He will collaborate with Rev. Kamatara before he reaches out to the ministers.

d. Mark has recruited some people for clean up after Social Hall on Sundays, and at least three Sundays have teams. Announcements encouraging people to bring food are working; there's plenty of food now and the process is going much smoother.

e. Rev. Gil invited practitioners to pray with him every Tuesday morning, holding the Center and each other in love, and he said it's wonderful.

f. Mike said that it's a perk for us to have a venue that attracts top-notch musicians and to have a dedicated team to help musicians perform in multiple locations. He said he recently attended a concert at a Presbyterian church with a world-renowned pianist. It was standing room only and the audience gave three standing ovations. He said it takes a dedicated team to do that. He also said he will be taking a 3-week vacation from April 23 – May 16.

Sherry suggested taking out a joint ad in the paper advertising the Rickie Byars events.

Rev. Gil said he wants to use QR Codes to take people to Breeze to order tickets, and that Tamara created a flyer with them. Marylyn created a registration page on Breeze, and Rev. Gil complimented her for doing that and for all the work she'd done with Breeze.

2. Financial Report – John Kirk

a. John did a screen share that showed the Income statement from 1/1/23 til today. He said the P&L shows Sunday collection was \$47,018.99. There's \$28,014.58 in unrestricted donations but some of that money belongs in matching or partners. There's \$1769 in checks for the week ending 3/5/23.

He said that from January 1 – March 23, there are mistakes and that we need to tighten up bookkeeping and accounting. The accounts to be used include unrestricted donations, ACIM, book store sales, pledges, the Practitioner Fund, and hospitality. Davin needs to allocate the money properly. Rev. Gil said he's trying to figure out the tithes that weren't processed and Marylyn will check on this in Breeze.

John said that the SBA loan should be a grant and doesn't have to be paid back. The PPP loan of \$19,700 is non-forgivable. Retained earnings are \$33,319.07. He added that we're in a dangerous situation financially.

The Board approved the financial report as submitted unanimously with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

b. A discussion took place regarding the 10% tithe to CSL in February of \$1,793.48 and the contribution to La Placita Institute Community Fund. John said we're not financially strong enough to do this and recommended created a designated fund to support CSL and any other organizations. Mike agreed with John and suggested committing to a smaller amount every month and asking the congregation to pitch in. John said that pledges need to be at least as much as rent and payroll, which comes to \$120,000. We're bringing in \$69,000.

Rev. Gil said we made a commitment that we would re-start tithing to CSL in February. We stopped giving a year ago. We almost crashed financially. We asked people to give more. If we asked them to do that. He has an issue with us not doing the same thing

John said we need to stress that we need more supportive donors. It might be a technical issue where they can't get on Breeze, but it needs to be resolved. Sherry recommended discussing tithing and giving and the law of circulation during Sunday celebration and Mike mentioned having

a Miracle Minute every Sunday. Marylyn said that giving to La Placita falls into Outreach, similar to Reach Out. Other suggestions were given, and the motion was made to continue this discussion next month in our Board meeting, which was agreed unanimously with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

3. Breeze – Marylyn Kirk

Marylyn gave a demo on Breeze, showing the Dashboard, Profile and more. She said you can download the free app to your phone and look up teams, phone numbers, and much more. She We can email or text and include attachments from Breeze. It can be set up for mass texts to the congregation, too. In events, it shows room use, time, name, description of the event, and more. Breeze can also send out reminders. Forms are available for class evaluations, etc. She said it has great potential and has capabilities we haven't used in the past. It can be much more streamlined. She will develop a team of Breeze Evangelists; the more we know about Breeze, the more we can help others.

4. RGCSL Communications & Marketing Report – Tamara Williams

a. Tamara said that the website team consists of Rev. Gil, Marylyn, Hana, Nancy Bowers, Mike and herself. They've had one meeting so far and reviewed the website plan, the site map, and the proposed home page and will meet weekly. She described the work she and Rev. Gil had done in the months prior to the meeting with the new website team. There were lots of great input, ideas and energy. Marylyn thanked Tamara for her leadership and the work she's put into the website plan already.

b. CSL home office produced a branding guide with guidelines for logos, letterhead, color palettes and more. She and Rev. Gil (and many others) want to keep the general look and feel of our logo. They are looking into modifying our current logo to include the rays in the CSL format.

c. She is working on a marketing plan for the Rickie Byars events.

5. New Business – Rev. Gil and Mark

Annette is stepping down; Hana will be the Interim Tech Director and Nancy will be the interim Webmaster. Mark wants to thank Annette and have a celebration; Rev. Gil suggested a \$450 gift certificate so she can fly to visit the whales, since they are her passion. It was suggested that board members give \$50 each towards this gift certificate.

Rev. Gil is taking a vacation and going to Costa Rica from May 6 – 17.

Sherry will be out of town from March 24 – April 2. She wants to create a survey to send to the congregation for input on classes, events and workshops on April 9 and hopefully get it back on the 16th.

10. The next Board meeting will be on March 21, 2023.

Benediction – Rev. Gil closed the meeting with a Benediction.