



Thomas Merton Center
Board of Directors Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 7:00 P.M., ZOOM MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Gerard McGuire, Mary Seabury, Larry Lopez, Mike McMahon, Diane Marie Herte and Ann Akey

Absent: Judi Swope

Guest: Bob Foley joined the Zoom meeting @ 7:40pm

Meeting leader: Gerard McGuire

Meeting prayer leader: Diane Marie

Meeting secretary: Ann Akey

Next month Mike (April), Ann (May)

OPENING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Minutes:** Reviewed minutes of the February 2021 Board Meeting. **ACTION:** The Minutes were unanimously accepted as submitted.
- 2) **Board liaison with TMC committees update:** Nothing current to report. Committees are still meeting online with Zoom. Spiritual Ed. Committee requested \$6,500 for Sr. Joan Chittister's presentation on June 5th 2021.
- 3) **TMC Annual Meeting Planning:** Scheduled for 23rd of May 2021 on Zoom. Some Board Member's terms are expiring in 2021 (see item (5) below)
- 4) **Kay's boxes- scanning and storage:** Gerard went to the Thomas House and found binders with old archives of the physical weekly TMC bulletins. He found 20 binders covering the years [6/1/97 - 6/30/18] with one year missing [7/04 - 6/05]. Board members wondered how much scanning of Kay's papers was needed. Diane had checked in with OfficeMax regarding scanning costs. Twenty-five cents a page without sorting or organizing. It might make more sense to have TMC buy a scanner.
- 5) **Membership Terms:** Last year, due to the pandemic Judi and Gerard extended their terms for one year. Judi is ready to step down and a replacement is needed. Gerard will extend for one more year. Mike started 8 years ago and is willing to extend for another year. Mary and Ann's terms expire this year. Ann will stay another year and Mary will extend an entire term. Diane and Larry's terms expire in 2022. **ACTION:** Diane Marie will reach out to Bob Capriles to see if he is interested in joining the Board and Gerard will check with Anna for ideas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 1) **Finance Committee:** Mike reported on the 2021 proposed budget. He received checks dated December in January 2021 so the December contributions for last year have increased. TMC expects to receive probably \$40,000 in contributions during the 2021 fiscal year and another \$1,000 in membership fees. There was an error on his spreadsheet for SESS which should have show \$12,000 for the year not \$1,000. Spiritual Ed projected expenses for 2021 are \$9,000 which includes the

\$6,500 for Sister Joan. We also may need to bump up printing for a new directory in 2021. The net income therefore for 2021 will likely be negative (deficit ~\$12,000) but it should not be a problem as we had a cash balance in our bank account of approx.. \$74,000 at the end of 2020. Mike will make some corrections and adjustments and send out the revised 2021 Budget for approval this weekend.

- 2) **Spiritual Education:** Mike talked with Jim Davis about their program for 2021 which will include \$2,500 for retreats in addition to the money for Sr. Joan's Zoom presentation. The Board discussed the very steep cost for Sr. Joan and other possible options, but it was pointed out that the commitment by TMC has been finalized and that Sr Joan is the primary source of revenue for her community.
- 3) **Liturgy:** Helen Baumann was eager to get the STA site up and in use for masses again, but it seems we are not likely to use STA for a while – the Stanford Community has wires all over church for their regular Zoom Sunday Mass that would pose a tripping hazard. Sanitation is also an issue – it may make more sense to continue to use the SAG site. The age of our membership and our presiders' health is also a concern. Gerard suggested it might be best to leave planning to the TMC and STA Liturgy Committees. The Board agreed that it is premature to start discussing details of resuming masses at STA at this time.
- 4) **Hospitality:** TMC is no longer funding our Donut vendor since the start of the year.
- 5) **Seeking Action for Justice:** Bob Foley joined the meeting to report from the subcommittee focused on racial justice and white privilege. Their group's activity started last June with about 15-20 people and the goal was to explore what they could do as TMC and parish. The California Conference of Bishops declared that this year they would focus on racial injustice in the church. They encouraged groups within the Church to listen. The subcommittee has sent three letters to Bishop Cantu (Diocese of SJ) – the first was simply to inform the bishop of the existence of the group, The group has been influenced by actions in the Diocese of Oakland and especially St. Columba Parish and Bishop Barber There is an active group of about 6 members including Henry Organ, Anna Jaklitsch, Terry McCaffery, John Arnold, Ron Ariangno. & Bob Foley.
- 6) **Website:** No report
- 7) **Site Committee:** Vicki organized a clean-up at SAG last month.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Annual membership Letter:** Prior to the meeting Anna Jaklitsch shared by email a draft of the annual TMC Membership Renewal letter. . The Board discussed the letter and renewal form, and a number of items were noted. There was no mention of the increase in donations to the Ecumenical Hunger Project in EPA during the current pandemic. The directory year should be changed to 2021 and try to eliminate the a/c watermark at the top RHS of the form. Gerard will follow up with Anna on further edits and suggestions. It is hoped to try to send the letter out by Monday 15th March.

MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting ended at 8:44 PM. The next meeting will be held on 8th April at 7:00pm by Zoom.