

# Contemplative Core Team

## **STATEMENT of PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the Mary Mother Contemplative Community Core Team (CCT) is to:

1. foster and support the individual practice of contemplative prayer, and
2. promote and deepen the awareness of Catholic contemplative tradition

within the parish community of Mary Mother of the Church (MMOC).

## **FUNCTION:**

- A. The CCT operates under the Christian Formation Commission of the Parish Council.
- B. The CCT functions as a collective whole by using the collaborative model and in accordance with the ideals of servant leadership.
- C. As individuals, and as a group, CCT members are expected to model a discipline of regular individual practice of contemplative prayer and living out the Contemplative Dimension of the Gospel.
- D. As a Team and in assigned roles, CCT members assume the responsibility of oversight and guidance for deepening and expanding the individual as well as communal contemplative experience within the parish community. As such the CCT is responsible to the pastor and ensures its policies and practices support the pastor's parish programs/goals.

## **IN THIS ROLE THEY:**

- A. Promote, conduct, and in general oversee contemplative program activities to include workshops, retreats/immersion experiences, the Contemplative Corner, Prayer Gatherings, Contemplative Dialogues, etc.
- B. Offer theological and spiritual support that reflects a healthy and integrated understanding of the Catholic contemplative dimension of the Gospel.
- C. Conduct regular assessment of program presentations and participant responses, in order to discern needs for fostering the Catholic contemplative dimension of the Gospel.
- D. Provide mentoring and coaching resources for the community.
- E. Foster overall spiritual formation.
- F. Utilize local, written and/or electronic resources as appropriate.

- G. Align with Contemplative Outreach of St. Louis in order to utilize their resources and support as appropriate/needed.
- H. Provide regular updates to the Christian Formation commission.
- I. Are open to being coached and mentored for personal and CCT growth.
- J. Meet regularly to accomplish the above functions.

## **POLICIES & PRACTICES**

It is the general policy and affirmed practice of the CCT, that all MMOC contemplative community meetings/activities include time for participation in the contemplative prayer practice of centering prayer. The duration and format of the prayer practice will be commensurate with the fundamental goal/purpose of the specific activity concerns but will not be less than five minutes.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Members of the CCT agree to fully support the Purpose, Functions, Policies and Practices of the MMOC CCT in one of two capacities/categories:

- A. *General*: General membership is seen as a rotating membership open to all community members who practice contemplative prayer and wish to be of a more specific service to the community by participating in the leadership/support function provided by the CCT.
  - 1. The CCT will nominate and the Pastor will confirm all General Members.
  - 2. General Members commit to serve a minimum of a *two-year* term which will be staggered for continuity.
  - 3. A minimum of five and a maximum of seven General Members will serve at any one time on the CCT.
  - 4. Upon term completion, the CCT will identify candidates, including current position holder, for membership.
- B. *Tradition-Steward*: A tradition-steward is a *disciple* of the Catholic Contemplative tradition who *stewards* the Catholic Contemplative Tradition. The Tradition-Steward ensures the presence of individuals with a rich and experienced background in contemplative prayer, general theological study and spiritual formation to foster a contemplative legacy at MMOC.
  - 1. The CCT will nominate and the Pastor will confirm all Tradition-Steward Members.

2. Tradition-Stewards will have maintained a disciplined individual contemplative prayer practice for at least 4 years before being nominated/confirmed.
3. Typically, a tradition-steward will have served as a general member for one term.
4. Tradition-Stewards will have pursued, in a formal or informal manner, theological and spiritual studies sufficient to satisfy the pastor of their ability to provide basic instruction and counseling regarding the contemplative spiritual journey.
5. Tradition-Stewards will serve a minimum of a *three-year* term which will be staggered for continuity.
6. Upon term completion, the CCT will identify candidates, including current position holder, for membership.

**OPTIMUM TEAM SIZE:** Five to seven general members and two to three tradition-stewards.

**QUORUM:** Fifty percent of General members and at least one Tradition-Steward will comprise a quorum to conduct CCT business.

**COACHING AND MENTORING:** New members will be offered coaching and mentoring for transitioning into their new role. Coaching and mentoring specifics will be correlated to individual needs as well as their role and task assignments.

## **POSITIONS/ROLES/DUTIES**

1. Additional roles and duties will be determined by the CCT with the specific duties and responsibilities defined and communicated as needed.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Assessment flows from and is guided by the CCT Statement of Purpose:

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2. promote and deepen the awareness of Catholic contemplative tradition

within the parish community of Mary Mother of the Church (MMOC)

### **1. CORE TEAM ASSESSMENT:**

- A. Combines
  1. Core team self-assessment
  2. Contemplative Community assessment of the Core Team.
  3. Pastor's assessment of Core Team.

- B. Completed every two years.
- 2. PROGRAM ASSESSMENT: Asses the overall CCT strategy and combined actives.
  - A. Activity (any specific one-time event) assessment: Activity assessments will cover:
    - 1. Whether activity is rooted in the Statement of Purpose, and
    - 2. How effectively each activity accomplished its particular goals.
    - 3. Given to participants at end of event.
  - B. Utilized every two years and includes two-year activity assessments.
- 3. PASTOR'S ASSESSMENT:
  - A. CCT assimilates and synthesizes assessments and presents to the Pastor synthesized assessments and proposed next steps for Pastor's feedback, guidance and recommendations.
  - B. Completed every two years
- 4. ASSESSMENT UTILIZATION:
  - A. Assessments are used to discern:
    - 1. How well CCT and team activities are rooted in the CCT Statement of Purpose.
    - 2. Participants' level of understanding.
    - 3. Next steps for the direction of growth.
  - B. Completed every two years