

## WCCM-BC Guiding Board Meeting Minutes - May 9, 2020

**PRESENT via ZOOM:** Colleen Donald, Cora Alcuitas, Ted Alcuitas, Maeve Slein, Noreen Ward, Mary Moravec, Lucette Brind, JoAnn and Leo Cullen

REGRETS: Luis Zunino

JoAnn did the opening reading before a 20-minute meditation.

### 1. Finance

Leo reported that as of April 1, 2020 we have \$2519.15 in the account. A cheque of \$370.65 for our restock/ Sunshine Coast retreat book order was cashed in March.

### 2. 2020 planning

We discussed 3 options:

1. Sunshine Coast retreat in September: Lucette mentioned that Kathy Coyne is willing to do the postponed Lenten retreat on compassion in September if people are allowed to gather given the “new normal” pandemic restrictions.

2. Online Community Half-Day Retreat: Colleen suggested we review filmed and recorded retreat resources at wccm.org and repackage them. We could select a topic, advertise with set date and send to parishes and BC database. People would register to attend and we could have 2 talks and meditate together. Cora suggests we also look at recorded Bonnevaux retreats.

Maeve will check with Luis to see if a webinar might work better than ZOOM for a bigger crowd and she will also check with WCCM Canada about whether we can run Webinars on Zoom with the existing WCCM plan.

Maeve proposed we also use Meetup to advertise and provide a name/phone number so we could chat with people new to meditation before they register.

3. Introduction to Christian meditation retreat: We also discussed doing an online introductory retreat using WCCM international resources. In the past, Edwin Padilla of Saint Patrick's Ukulele group expressed interest in an introduction to Christian meditation for his group members although Ted mentioned that Edwin's parish priest was resistant.

Noreen and Mary spoke highly of Fr. Justin Huang of Saint Anthony of Padua parish. He is a contemplative priest who is drawing large numbers to his online Mass and given his open and inclusive nature, they think he may be a good parish priest to approach regarding offering an online Introduction to Christian meditation retreat.

Mary has met Fr. Justin and will approach him with an email but would like our comments on her proposed email before she reaches out. She will then follow up with a phone call and direct him to the WCCM website. Maeve will provide Mary with a pdf of our new *Introduction to Christian Meditation* brochure. If he is interested, his parish may be able to run a webinar since they have expertise with their online Mass.

As with option 2 we will advertise the introductory retreat to parishes, our database and Meetup and require registration.

Colleen feels we should brainstorm so put down your ideas and email Maeve with your links to suggested resources for either the *Introduction to Christian Meditation* or half day community retreat by May 23, 2020.

### 3. Six week Introduction to Christian Meditation

We will postpone this for now and pursue one of the above 3 options in 2020.

### 4. BC Groups

Maeve mentioned that group leaders in BC are not warming to the technology of online meetings. Colleen's group has joined Luis' Saint Edmond's online group and the Oblate group has joined Saint Mary's online group. Maeve will send an invitation to BC group leaders to have their members join either of these groups. Cora commented that many seniors are reluctant to deal with technology but Ted feels that given the pandemic people need to adjust.

Maeve also discussed using Meetup to invite newcomers to these 2 online BC groups. She would provide a group leader phone number so that people can talk to a leader before they join.

### 5. Other items

Anchor Event- Maeve proposed having an annual event that we could all look forward to. Colleen suggested an evening of John Main on his anniversary date of December 28. This was done in past years at Saint Augustine's parish and the program could include a reading by John Main or video of Laurence Freeman, 20 minutes of meditation, music (possibly Taize) and time to socialize. A suggested venue is Saint Mark's parish at UBC since it is centrally located but any church hall would work well.

Noreen's recommendations- Noreen recommended YouTube interviews of Oprah Winfrey with Richard Rohr (on his book *The Universal Christ*) and Sister Joan Chittister.