

Contemplative Outreach Governing Board  
Zoom Meeting April 4, 2023 Minutes  
**Final**

**Governing Board Members Present:** Tom Carr, Leslie Geer, Phil Jackson, Pat Johnson, Sharon Junn, Jim McElroy, Carol Quest, Diane Ryan

**Staff Members Present:** Mary Jane Yates, Pamela Begeman

**1. Opening Reading** read by Diane from Henri Nouwen.

**2. Review guidelines for communicating at our meetings:** Leslie created a living document about being in GB meetings and how they will be conducted. She read three guidelines for our meeting today and felt that the meeting adhered to these guidelines.

**3. Communication regarding the monastery:** We discussed input from the following sources when considering the communication regarding St. Benedict's Monastery: Governing Board members, Mary Jane and Pamela, Julie Saad and Jenny Adamson, and the letter ECI wrote to the Monastery team. There was a consensus that an initial communication would be sent out by Pamela Begeman to the entire mailing list, roughly 30,000 people, based on the draft that Pamela wrote and approved by the Board and Staff. Pamela, Pat, and Mary Jane will draft a plan for future communications regarding the closing of St. Benedict's. They will consult with Contemplative Outreach of Colorado and ECI and then bring their plan back to the Governing Board and Staff for approval. The initial communication regarding the closing of the retreat center and the status of St. Benedict's Monastery is to be sent out within the week of April 3-7, 2023.

**4. Next Board Zoom Call** – The GB will meet April 18 at noon Eastern to cover the items we did not address April 4, 2023. The 3rd Tuesday is held open each month for a call if needed.

**5. Volunteer for Reflection for next call.**

Respectfully submitted,  
James McElroy, Secretary