St Paul of the Cross Board Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2023

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| **ATTENDING:** | **ABSENT:** |
| James Bologna (on zoom)  Fr. Pat Brennan  Jim Gendron  Matt Greenough  Cindy LaFond  Mary Martin  Steve Mitchell  Mark Moening  Neil Sobeck  Faith Offman  Brian Owens  Apryl Voner  Keir Ward | David Austin  Rob Galbraith  Katie Montes  Greg Soule  Fr. Alex Steinmiller |

1. **Call to Order** – Matt Greenough called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.
2. **Consent Agenda and Minutes –** There were no changes to the agenda. The minutes from the June 25 meeting were previously approved via email and that approval was confirmed unanimously.
3. **Charism Sharing - Faith** spoke of a global celebration, Season of Creation, which is being observed September 1 –October 4. This ecumenical event is a time to pray for and respond to the Cry of the Earth. The theme, “Let justice and peace flow” is symbolized by a mighty river. All watched a video focusing on the theme, and shared music and prayer. Faith mentioned how the Passionist charism calls us not to turn away but to keep our gaze focused., to linger at the cross and to respond to the Gospel of Creation in love. Since creative actions are most important during this Season of Creation, board members were asked to reflect and to share on two questions: What can we do personally and collectively to keep our gaze focused.?

What is one thing St. Paul of the Cross can do to engage in this Season of Creation?

1. **Monitoring Reports Review-**

**Ends 1-** The staff at St. Paul’s Retreat Center focuses on our guiding values/ principles on a daily basis. This is experienced by all who enter St. Paul’s. This is in compliance with Ends policy 1.

**EL 8 -** Jim reported that St. Paul’s has a strong positive cash flow, the strongest in at least 4 years with sufficient funds to maintain operations. There are 2 endowment funds (1 currently available and 1 needing to appreciate before it can be used). A recent sale of a donated home brought in an additional $150,000. Matt clarified that the endowment fund can be used for a Mission Advancement officer, capital expenditures or a lay retreat director. St. Paul’s is in compliance with EL 8.

**EL 11 –** Jim reported that the DMM regularly provides monitoring reports.to keep the board informed. Additionally, the retreat staff will host a one-day retreat for board members, providing guidance and speakers on charism and policy governance. St. Paul’s staff is in compliance with EL 11.

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1. **SPOTC Board Officers and Committee Assignments for 23/24**

Matt provided a slate of new board officers for the coming year: Brian Owens, board chair; Mary Martin, vice chair; Greg Soule, treasurer for another year; Katie Montes, secretary. The board unanimously voted to accept the new board chair, vice chair and treasurer. Since Katie was not present tonight, her acceptance will

take place at the next meeting.

Matt also made new committee assignments for board members not currently assigned: Mark, Katie, Mary and Keir will join the Ends Policy Committee. A new chair will need to be appointed. Jim G. will join the Finance Committee; Apryl will join Matt on the Policy Governance Committee.

1. **Province Committees Review - Faith** will provide an update at the next meeting.
2. **September Retreat Overview –** The board retreat will be held on Saturday, September 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Passionist community residence basement. Board members can park in front of the residence and enter the front door. A light breakfast and a lunch will be provided. Brian, Matt, Faith, and Cindy will assist in planning the day.
3. **Open Forum –** Brian asked if we could have a board member join the charism committee to set up some continuity on this committee. Jim G. agreed that we needed a succession plan in case Fr. Pat and Faith were not here. Such a plan would be important to keep the charism always alive at St. Paul’s. Fr. Pat agreed that we need a succession plan, but he questioned “How can we be sure people really get our charism?” He and Faith spoke of having a theological background and years of education with the Passionists to understand the meaning of the charism. Board members discussed possibilities and it was suggested that some regular retreatants might have the qualifications to be on this committee. It was also suggested that a board member could be groomed; could learn from the current committee members about the Passionist charism. Faith said that Passionist formation is on-going through retreats, events at the retreat center, and zoom meetings and presentations offered by the Passionist community on a regular basis. Not all current members of the board receive all emails from the Passionists at this time. Jim B. was asked to contact Loretta in the Passionist office to make sure she had the email addresses of all current board members so they would receive invitations to on-line formation opportunities.

Matt and Faith mentioned upcoming events at St. Paul’s, including the Feast Day of St. Paul of the Cross on Friday, October 20. On that day 11:15 Mass will be followed by lunch and all are invited to attend. An Ecological Spirituality Retreat will be held at St. Suzanne’s parish on Saturday, September 16, focusing on listening to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Special thanks were given to Matt for his leadership as board chair.

1. **Closing Prayer -** Fr**.** Pat asked for prayers for 2 retreatants who were facing immediate death. He offered a closing prayer and blessing for all.. .
2. **Adjournment -** The St. Paul Board of Directors meeting was adjourned by Matt at 8:10 p.m.

**The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16,2023**

**The board retreat day is Saturday, September 30, from 9:00 AM -3:00 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy LaFond

Board Secretary