

MINUTES OF CCA VIRTUAL BUSINESS MEETINGS JUNE 8-12, 2020

submitted by Sr. Rosalind Forrest

Monday June 8

Sr. Bernadette Therese (Boston) began our first session and her welcoming address will be sent to our archives and members only on our website.

Prayer prepared by Sr. Mary Fleig (Baltimore)

Newer Members Power Point Presentation made by Srs Agnes (Boston) and Celia Ashton (Baltimore) This was followed by brief pre-recorded message from sisters from International and other US Association who had attended Newer Member meetings; then, in person sharing of the experiences of 3 CCA newer members (Srs. JonFe of Eldridge; Sa Ra of Reno; Maria of Boston) who had participated.

Newer Members Proposal presented by Srs. Agnes and Celia

1. Change name to Dream Weavers
2. CCA Dream Weavers work collaboratively with Association Formators
3. CCA Dream Weavers plan a virtual gathering focused on Carmelite Spirituality between now and the next General Assembly
4. LT along with Association Formators delegate 2 Dream Weavers to serve as liaisons that would
 - Plan the Dream Weavers Gathering (in collaboration with the Association Formators)
 - Serve as the liaisons between Association Formators and Dream Weavers
 - Prepare presentation to be made at the Assembly
 - Work to include newer members more fully into CCA

Questions/comments

Sr. Marie Elizabeth (Latrobe) Question: number currently in group? Answered by Celia: 14; Comments from Latrobe community: perhaps a more biblical or religious name rather than secular name; past history of separate group has had divisive effect;

Sr. Marian (Barrington) I see a potential for division also; this group are already CCA and also already leaders;

Sr. Connie (Baltimore) as someone involved in newer member meetings and who experienced variety of participants, she expressed that she never had experienced such an energy for Carmel as in these gatherings. I found it enlivening for the future of CCA. We need to think of what will really contribute to future of CCA.

Sr. Claudette (Concord) an infusion of new life to all of CCA; this is a gift that I would like us to foster

Sr. Lupe (Baltimore) personally very positive experience—this is one way we are deepening our charism and spirituality and there is inclusivity

Sr. Robin (Baltimore) we need to continue this as a support for our future

Sr. Hilary (Concord) have witnessed much growth within CCA and an energy and love for CCA, religious life, Carmel; National meetings have a lot of business and fewer members of communities can come (often others have a role to play and “newer members” often cannot attend). There is an ongoing need for this group

Sr. Barbara Losh (Cleveland) I support continuing this group as they have shown they are an important part of CCA

Sr. Judy Murray (Baltimore) All dreamers are invited, regardless of years of profession. I agree that we continue, virtually as needed.

Sr. Barbara Jean (Baltimore) I support continuing this group, which is not divisive—any name ok

Sr. Margie (Beacon)—the experienced energy of this group and the bonding of all participants is calling all of us beyond collaboration into communion—moving us beyond ourselves as CCA into communion with other International and US Carmelites, laying the work for the future.

Voting of 17 delegates with Oldenburg abstaining

1. Change name to Dream Weavers: 12 yes, 5 no **passed**
2. Dream Weavers work collaboratively with Assoc Formators: 16 yes, 1 no **passed**
3. Virtual Dream Weavers Gathering in the next term: 17 yes, 1 no **passed**
4. LT in conjunction with Association Formators delegate 2 Dream Weavers to serve as liaisons: 14 yes, 3 no **passed**

Because of time limits delegates remained an additional ½ hour for PowerPoint presentation of Women at the Well Dialogues

Power Point presentation by Srs. Celia, Claire, and Elizabeth McCabe

Proposal to continue Women at the Well Dialogues: Claire

Questions and answers:

Sr. Mary Teresa (Boston)—any plan to cooperate with other associations and federations? Response in positive by Sr. Claire (Reno) and Elizabeth McCabe with the caveat of safeguarding the trust that the 1st five sessions have developed among CCA members. Claire mentioned sharing information with Sr. Clare Joseph of MQC (Association Formator), and that there are many creative ways to involve others of different associations/federations. Our pilot project included Kirkintiloch in sessions 4 & 5. In the Questionnaire after sessions 4 & 5, many responses were favorable to including others in the future.

Sr. Connie (Baltimore)—is there overlap between Dreamers and Women at the Well Dialogue with programming and the work of each? Sr. Claire acknowledged an overlapping already ; Sr Celia: with new Association Formators there is a need to look at the whole picture of ongoing formation and hopefully this will diminish overlap.

Voting on Proposal to continue Women at the Well Dialogues: 18 delegates voted Yes 18; No 0; Proposal passed unanimously

Tuesday June 9

Welcoming and prayer: Monika Bies

Presentation (Power Point): Kate Asselin

Questions and Answers and comments

1. Pool Funding Investment
2. Bookkeeping, Financial services: are there presently communities who use BMT and what are their observations—Beacon and Boston have been using; positive comments
3. Administration: who? This would be better if paid position and not one of Carmelites; cost anticipated to be borne by all CCA member and would be part time job; affordability is key for communities; purpose for future is to reduce administrative burdens within communities and for leadership and thereby enhance contemplative living; Joan of Eldridge raised questions regarding Wisconsin Religious Collaborative and model for CCA.
4. Any contact with other associations—at this time this was not discussed by LT with other associations—it may become necessary for financial feasibility to involve other Carmelite associations as a final plan is determined
5. What are responsibilities of community reps: Kate suggested 1x month zoom meeting; ask advice on any number of things;
6. What is the nature of the commitment to the collaborative and for how long? This still needs to be determined, but it has been suggested that the initial period be for three years with annual contracts with the service providers.
7. What would be actual cost of Administrative fees for each community—right now there is no cost listed because we are in initial part of plan; in the next stage of the plan there would be a need to keep costs in line with what communities can afford; need to look at number of sisters in community and resources in each community; Kate is consulting with Executive Director of Wisconsin Collaborative; Division of costs
 - Administrative ongoing costs (administrating and consultants): shared by all
 - Services costs: shared by only those who select these services

Proposal to Complete the Shared Services Plan by December 31, 2020: presented by Sr. Bernadette Therese

Questions—please clarify vote for today

- Voting today only refers to completing the plan; there is no commitment to the final plan; once the final plan is completed, there will be another Proposal on which the communities would be asked to vote

Voting of 18 delegates: Proposal passed unanimously

Wednesday June 10

Welcome, Opening Prayer by Cie

LT Accountability Power Point Report: Srs. Bernadette Therese, Cecelia, Monika, Roz

- several sisters offered their appreciation for how much had been accomplished and the wonderful presentation

Rationale for LT Proposal: Given the current limitations caused by the pandemic and the resulting delay in having a robust discussions of future directions out of which the CCA goals are refreshed, revised and/or re-envisioned, it is proposed

That the 2020 Delegate Assembly, during our June Zoom Business Meeting, affirm the 2018-2020 goals, as discussed and adjusted, for the next tenure 2020-2022 to provide the CCA and the LT with continuing consistent direction to inform its programming.

The Goals of the CCA as adopted/revised for 2018-2020

· We have fostered a broader acceptance of unity in diversity and the mutuality of the Carmelite family, especially by continued collaboration, friendship and communion among associations/federations at home and abroad.

· We have continued to work at achieving a representative voice in matters affecting our lives, the Teresian charism, and the Order.

· We have developed and empowered our members to be future leaders of and/or contributors to CCA.

· We have continued to provide active, mutual support to the identified needs of our communities, in particular, sisterly visits of each member community by the Leadership Team or delegates in the next term

Discussion on goal 4

Comments included:

- importance of continuing some form of sisterly visits as well as finding new ways of mutually supporting our communities and enriching relationships among members;
- sisterly visits have been an important endeavor the last two terms and a way of building trust; communities have been able to choose whom they want to visit them...hopefully this will continue
- new ways need to include consultation with both affiliated communities and Dream Weavers

Proposal passed unanimously with the amended goal #4 below

Goals of the CCA as adopted/revised for 2020-2022

1. We have fostered a broader acceptance of unity in diversity and the mutuality of the Carmelite family, especially by continuing collaboration, friendship and communion among associations/federations at home and abroad.
2. We have continued to work at achieving a representative voice in matters affecting our lives, the Teresian charism, and the Order.

3. We have developed and empowered our members to be future leaders of and/or contributors to CCA.
4. We have continued to provide active, mutual support to the identified needs of our communities. We are committed to continuing some form of sisterly visits and finding new ways of mutually supporting our communities and enriching relationships among our members.

Proposal for Interim Business by Zoom: Srs. Celia and Mary Fleig

Discussion:

- rather than state quarterly business zooms, suggest that LT have option to adjust meeting times as they see fit;
- virtual meetings could simplify communication; it might take the place of mailings back and forth, not just be an add on of one more thing;
- just take out quarterly, just “as needed”—still shows importance of LT communicating through virtual meetings
- need to clarify if these are only consultative meetings, brainstorming sessions, or if delegates from communities will need to vote
- important for clear agenda at least 3-4 weeks prior so communities have opportunity to discuss among themselves
- do we need to say anything about quorum of delegates?
- minutes of these meetings are important both to send to archives and to put on members only section of our website for future reference
- Leaning taken for clarification of direction:
 - LT set zooms as needed—*YES this was majority opinion*
 - Quarterly meetings
- It will be important to make clear prior to each meeting whether the meeting will be consultative in nature or whether a decision will be made and/or delegate vote taken.
- **Decision made:** Celia and Mary will rewrite their proposal and send it to LT who will send it to liaison communities to discuss among themselves before delegates vote on Friday.

Thursday June 11

Welcome, Opening Prayer by Roz

Dialogue on Statutes with Nancy Reynolds present

Connie: Question on religious assistant: Have we succeeded in leaving out the Religious Assistant?

- Answer by LT: we are not submitting this in our updated statutes even though we know that it may be returned to us by CICALSAL. UK statutes were returned to them by Archbishop Carballo, who told them they had to have a Religious Assistant.
- Comment by Nancy: We have to figure a rationale not to have one, such as there is already a fraternal relationship without having a Religious Assistant.

Claire: Baltimore brought up possibility of putting virtual or mail voting in our statutes (include under “general Assembly” in Part III Organization of Assembly. Although it has been Rome’s position that virtual elections are not allowed, with current situation it is important that Rome understands that there is a need for virtual or mail in ballot and that we put this in our Statutes.

- Nancy willing to write something that we could put in Statutes (Statutes #13 III A) and give it first to LT so that this can be incorporated in our next updating of Statutes before we accept and send to Rome.
- Nancy also commented about the present situation of pandemic and the toll that the current LT and their communities have taken because of demands of Cororans, need to update Statutes and the position of Rome that elections are still required “in person.”

Margie: re same question and Canon 167: Beacon supports mail-in/virtual voting. If in Statutes (nisi) becomes law, doesn’t it?

- Nancy: Voting by letter or proxy is excluded... **unless** (always a way out) in the statutes. Canon 167. Statutes are the proper law. It would work if the statutes have the possibility of doing virtually/or by mail. Put it in the statutes.

Bernadette Therese: Re: question on friars voting by mail for provincials. I spoke with Fr. Jude, and they did vote by mail; however, Michael Barry does not become the actual Provincial until they have an in person assembly. He is provincial elect. So, Fr. Jude remains the Provincial until then.

Mary Clare of Boston: re Baltimore # 3--If each member of LT is elected individually, then there would be clarity about who is President, 1st councilor, etc.

Susan of Reno: suggest electing President and 1st Councilor individually; then electing the next two councilors together

- Nancy commented that how we actually do our elections does not have to be put in the statutes; just make sure that there is written clarity prior to elections.

Ann: I would love us to find a way before the end of this meeting for we as a communion of sisters who care deeply, find a way within a month for the present LT to end and new LT to take over in some way.

- Nancy: you can have LT resign and Rome has to accept resignation;
- BT yet we still could not elect unless in person. At least CICALSAL acknowledged the receipt of my June letter. If we all resign now, it might cause more difficulties for our Association--perhaps think about this and talk more tomorrow

From Baltimore’s suggestions: “The General Assembly” #16 “President die in office or become incapacitated...” We suggest that an **election** for a new president be held as soon as possible rather than having the first councilor become president.

Discussion:

- Nancy gave an opinion: timing is very important especially with your two year term; so if an elected President dies within the first six months, then I see the

wisdom of electing a new president. However, if the president dies 12-18 months into the term, if you elect someone, she would be ineffective because of not having been part of the LT up to that point. So, I recommend that the first Councilor become President. If you need an additional councilor, the President, with consent of Council, may appoint one. You do not need a full election to replace a Councilor.

- Bernadette Therese: asked Nancy to write the language to put into revised Statutes

Carolyn: Beacon supports not having religious Assistant. Also, we agree with Nancy's comments on electing or not electing a new leader if President dies in office

Cie: raised question re elections: is there a need to elect each member of Leadership separately

Nancy: other religious communities have a 1st assistant (councilor) who is the one who acts on behalf of the Leader

Michaelene: we only have one person willing to serve as president. Is this a problem?

Nancy: No, you are still choosing the one who is willing to serve. Each one is able to vote your own mind; if you have someone willing and is judged capable; you can vote for all three at one time; if you vote for them separately the first one you elect is 1st councilor

You either have two elections: President and 3 councilors

OR 4 elections: President and 3 councilors

Connie: Things are changing because of Cor orans and affiliated communities. I think it really important that we elect the councilors one by one so we can elect 1st Councilor who would take over, if necessary for President.

Nancy: that is best way; actually Cor Orans asks for 4 councilors and you will be requesting 3 councilors in your statutes.

Jean Alice: we got into our present way of voting because of the situation of limited number of sisters able and willing to be nominated to serve in leadership

Leaning taken:

Yes: Vote separately for President and each of the Councilors

No: Vote separately for the President, then for the three Councilors as a whole

the leaning is: 37 yes; 7 no.

Roz: Need to look at 3 a General Assembly to see if we need to clarify this in updating Statutes

Joan of Eldridge: Affiliation question and role of President: how does that work when the President becomes the prioress of the community which affiliates with CCA?

Nancy response: The elected President of Association becomes the prioress of affiliated community. She will not be interfering in the daily life of the community, although she has a responsibility to be involved in major decisions for the monastery. She appoints a local community administrator (local superior), normally after consulting both with members of the community and with her council; she has delegating powers, for example: As President, BT delegated Barbara Losh as local superior, to receive the vows of a member who had been accepted for final profession.

Sue Lumb: Are members of Dream Weavers eligible for slate for nominees for LT?

BT: every solemnly professed sister is able to be nominated;

Sue: I am also interested in Nancy's input on Affiliation

Nancy: I am willing to do a Zoom with communities that may have questions

Mary Wild: question regarding election of Federal Administrator—we have not previously elected a Treasurer. However, are we putting this in revision of Statutes because of requirement of Cor orans?

Nancy: Yes.

Cie: affirming that BT and future Presidents truly care for each affiliating community with wisdom and compassion; are willing to work with each community providing options and choices based on specific needs and situations;

Claire: Association Secretary: the importance of record keeping, especially b and d

Nancy: I have never heard of an association that doesn't have a secretary to take notes of Leadership Team and also for all Association Meetings. She could be a councilor she could be someone else. This is very important, as the archives have to be carefully kept. In my experience, the secretary is at every council meeting and only takes minutes—is not part of the discussion. I have always thought that the secretary would be part of the Assembly and take those minutes.

My understanding of your present process is that Roz takes minutes for Leadership Meetings and Stephanie for Assembly—**clarification from Stephanie and Roz:**

Stephanie is taking notes as facilitator, which she will share with Roz. Roz is taking official minutes of this Business meeting which will be approved by LT.

Possibility of appointing a specific person to take minutes for Assembly

Possibility of one of LT to be secretary for Lt Meetings

both will need to file reports with Archivist

Colette: In the past we did elect four people besides the coordinator. Normally that fourth person was the secretary. It is a huge job, especially now with affiliations. I suggest appointing a secretary who would take minutes and have them approved by LT.

Connie: We have had a progression regarding the secretary. We went from four on the council to three. We have had to tailor it to the personnel that we have. It is possible to have a secretary and manage it as best we can. In the past we always had the minutes

and the factual report. We have appointed someone to do the factual report. We don't have a central place where the LT lives.

Judy Murray: There are many variations of how secretary has functioned in our Association.

Colette: The CCA is incorporated in the state of Delaware, headquartered at Baltimore Carmel.

Other ideas: whoever takes the minutes for Leadership Meetings and/or Assembly Meetings, it is very important for these documents to be approved by LT and sent to Archives

Roz brought up revising our Statutes and Baltimore's response #4 because she sees need of both c and d and requested Nancy's canonical recommendations: her recommendation is #c is mandated (canonical visit); and #d is essential (sisterly visit), so both are needed.

Also regarding Statutes suggested revision under "Nature" add to #4 "When a community is withdrawing from the Association, the President will inform the member monasteries as well as the others mentioned in this number."

Tomorrow we finish discussion on Statutes before voting on Interim Business Meeting Proposal, revised.

Friday June 12

Welcome and Prayer: Roz
Stephanie: gave flow of today
Concluding discussion on Statutes
Amended Business Meeting Proposal
Treasurer's Report
Discussion on Election of LT
Discussion of when/how 50th
Closing with BT

Statutes

Nancy: On the option of resignation: my recommendation is that you wait until you receive Rome's response to BT's request for virtual or voting by mail.

Shirley requested clarification that we are not voting today on statutes;

This is correct. The current LT will incorporate Nancy's recommendations into a final draft that will be sent to the communities for their consideration by their chapters. We will not take a final vote to send it to Rome until after the new LT has been elected.

Proposal for Interim Virtual Business Meeting (CCA members and facilitator only)

Mary read the revised proposal:

The LT will host facilitated meetings virtually as needed to conduct CCA business.

- An agenda, including pertinent information, will be given to the member communities in advance of each meeting
- Sisters who want to participate would register in advance
- It will be made clear prior to each meeting whether the meeting will be consultative in nature or whether decisions will be made and/or a delegate vote be taken.

No questions or comments.

A yes or no vote on the above proposal was taken: unanimous yes.

Treasurer Report—no questions or discussion; very clear Power Point presentation
(CCA members and facilitator only)

Discussion on election process (Nancy was present for this discussion)

Shirley's suggestion was displayed for all to see

BT we are trying to find a way to confirm the 4 people who need to be elected; this is not to exclude anyone if we need to vote in person;

Marian: is it necessary for all sisters to attend assembly?

Carolyn: according to #12 of our present statutes specifically states "at least two-thirds of the member Monasteries"

Ann Weber: I know the heart of our community. We would support what is good for CCA even if we can't travel to participate in the vote.

Connie: are we really content to jump through all the hoops of going through central location to validate something that all of us want to do! I think this is really absurd. I also applaud Shirley for coming up with a plan to vote in person.

Nancy agrees that this seems an absurd process. However, she suggests wait first for response from CICALSAL before making decisions. she indicated that she did write something about virtual election for our revised Statutes.

Marie Elizabeth: concern for 4 who are already in office; also to have LT validated by Rome so that what we do is recognized by them—how and what we do is not really my concern

Leah: Maryland is presently restricted to no unnecessary travel outside of state; This is a very specific situation.

Nancy: responded to Leah's realistic comment. Covid-19 situation in USA is getting worse; doesn't look as if it is going to get any better. perhaps BT could write another letter with even more information on US Covid-19 situation and also details of security of virtual voting.

Celia – We have been doing our votes over ZOOM. It is all anonymous. There is documentation of the ZOOM voting. This could be part of the documentation to let Rome know that the process can be secret. It's worth a chance to detail all this information to CICALSAL

Margie: 1st concern for present LT, their communities and good of our Association. We have an Association that has been flexible. For the next weeks or months we will be in transition and while waiting for Rome, functioning with both old and new Leadership Team.

Nancy: new team could shadow the old Team and learning, becoming involved by working together until "legally" elected; meanwhile, only signature would be of BT; new team could indeed share work together

BT: from LT discussion; first letter sent May 21 and was acknowledged by CICALSAL; we were thinking that Rome is looking at this in light of setting a precedent for the whole world; so we were thinking how about July 21 to send another letter in which we include all the information and request answer

Stephanie: clarifying question in 2nd letter will you ask just for CCA?

BT: asking only for CCA—detail all reasons

Nancy: one of important things in 2nd letter: leaning from CCA Discussion on when they feel safe to vote in person;

Don't send Statutes until we get yes or no from Rome.

Judy Murray: following up on ideas of Margie—is it possible for each current LT member to delegate to someone else their responsibilities (except legal matters)

BT can delegate. She can delegate visitation. Council members do not have specific functions/powers that come with their office. The Functioning can be delegated.

Carolyn: going back to what going on before we have formal election; new LT work closely with Old one; BT can delegate;

Maria V: BT could appoint 4 transition members; if Rome says no, could you write a letter to Rome and verify our whole work;

Nancy does not think her letter would help;

Claire: Suggest both/and: BT writing a letter in late July... include suggestions about proof of election. Meanwhile start the transition. Don't tell Rome that.

BT: I don't have a problem with a transition. My concern is that I cannot sign off on what I am not involved in. So anything we include new LT in, would be new subject matter.

Nancy: That sounds very good.

BT: The LT deals with confidentially...concern that I cannot sign off on what I and the current LT;

Nancy: Membership would need to agree to allow new LT be part of confidential discussions present and future.

Connie: fruitless to wait until end of July because Rome closes in August

We agreed to take a leaning yes or no:

1. ***“BT will write a letter within the next two weeks to CICALSAL and OCD Generalate again pleading our case for virtual elections [with as much support documentation as possible] 46 YES; 0 NO***
2. ***Transition phase begins July 17 whereby the new LT shadows the Current LT; Confidential matters will be handled by current LT; The delegations of BT and LT can include the programs that have been decided upon during these Virtual Business Meetings 45 YES; 0 No***

Monika: Expressed concern about how long the transition could be if there is a delay in hearing from Rome.

Nancy: unfortunately we have no control over Rome's timing

BT: When formal elections are held, and the new LT is elected, their 2-year term begins

Leaning taken to extend meeting to 4pm and Yes passed

Susan: regarding voting for LT could we reconsider doing separate elections for each councilor but instead vote for President; then vote 1st councilor; then for 2 & 3 together—how would we put this in our revised statutes?

BT: we will get Nancy to help us word this in Statutes

Carolyn: we need to affirm new team to be able to shadow current LT

Yes/no leaning was taken on affirming the current nominee slate of Margie for President; councilors: Mary, Roz, Shirley; YES passed

Discussion on 50th Celebration: when and how

Marie-Elizabeth: will there be a 2021 as part of general assembly; or a shorter meeting in 2021; or wait until 2022; I suggest hold off until we know term of office of new LT

Mary Fleig: perhaps better to wait until 2022 Assembly meeting

Robin: we need to wait to decide based on current pandemic uncertainty

Colette: wait for election to be affirmed, hopefully we can hold in 2022

Roz: Bon Secours returned our deposit. Schedule as we are able with them.

Jean Alice: wait and see

Maria V, Carolyn, Eldridge: Wait until 2022

Margie: keep up the momentum of what we have in place and bonds of communion with each other through suggestions made during our

Ann: I would like to incorporate our virtual business model in next two years

There was a consensus on waiting until 2022 for celebrating 50th

Closing by BT with thanks and recognition of this as an historic virtual meeting with so many being able to participate. BT's closing remarks will be in members only section of our website, and also sent to our archives.