

**ReEntry Retreat Zoom Team Meeting
21 July 2020 7.30 pm**

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and short devotion: Dawn:** Pioneers International 40 days prayer & fasting -Soli Deo, first week Passion for God, Ps 84 read. Pilgrim, journeyed from afar who sees the temple for the first time, especially vs 1-4. Nesting of the birds, safety of God, rest and reconciliation with God. Expresses the joy of being in the house of the Lord.

Prayer - **Dawn**

2. **Present:** Dawn Taylor, Jane Window, Michael Collie, Mark Glover, Rachel Sinclair, John Barclay
3. **Apologies:** Daniel Templeman Wells, Kath Williams
4. **Confirm previous minutes: Michael**, seconded by **Jane**
5. **Business arising:**

As this is not a 'normal' year, I suggest that most of the business arising from the last minutes be held over until our last meeting of the year, so that we can concentrate on preparing for this online retreat for now:

Google calendar
Team members
Generic email address for applications
Modification of position descriptions

ACTION: all agreed

We will just speak briefly about:

- Terms of Reference document:
 - Nataliya took it to the Board for approval – no evidence of how members are nominated and no prevention for the groups to become closed ones. The Policy Committee is to look into this further.

Outcome: Provisional acceptance of our draft

- Third signatory on the account – **Jane Window** is now 3rd signatory

6. TCK Re-Connect Camp – Report/Update: John - TCK team to meet Friday 24th July

- Will discuss what we could and should offer and how to implement – logistics
- Team enthusiastic to offer program online:
 1. More flexible regarding time and program – have it independently of adult program could invite parents to join in
 2. Much wider audience – offer to other states especially NSW who were not able to have their retreat in April
 3. There are a number of families who have had to return to Aust. in uncertain situation about returning or whether they will return. People's plans are disrupted – great need with people going through these forced return
 4. What to offer interactively on line:
- Send out packs of resources – scrap book and other items – tangible thing to work on during meeting time.

Michael asked question: different programs for those who returned due to COVID (forced return and uncertain about future) and others who have returned as usual.

John – areas of overlap especially scrap books – introductions, first activity – where am I from – world map usually drawn by seniors and next morning everyone adds where they are from. Could use Google maps. TCK session – grief and loss, farewells – have identified many sessions that could be offered. Team to discuss further

John added – **the how** – not lengthy periods of Zoom online – short intro session, give time for TCK's to go off and then come back to share online. Many TCK's are at a loose end and parents may be at a loose end, too.

Rachel felt that the needs of these two groups are too different to address at the same time. Combining the adults who have been home a year and people who are in crisis - should not be in same group. Very different experience.

7. 2020 ReEntry Retreat:

In preparing for an online retreat some of the things that we need to consider are:

- Goals
- How can this work for the whole family?

- When?
- What are we going to charge?

These topics were covered in a wide-ranging discussion:

What are we hoping to achieve? Think, reflect, pray, share, be understood and be heard – same goals – we are keen to try and do something.

Discussion:

- **Mark:** 'Terms of Reference' helped in defining goals – question – how central to the retreat is people going away from their current situation and interacting for 3-4 solid days. We can do a lot with Zoom for kids. The need for adults is to get away and engage deeply. How important is it to engage with each other, could they get away to a motel? Would it still be valuable enough if can't interact with each other? Gut reaction – it seems too hard but encouraged by **John's** sharing.
- **Dawn** asked **Michael** about his thoughts as he has had a change of heart re going online– there are things that we can do online that we can't do at El Kanah, but can simulate - give a task and then reconvene in an hour or 3 – “go away and do the reading” - we've got a bit of flexibility here, while people can't leave their homes, encourage to switch things off and take reflective time. While one adult is sharing, the other can be looking after the children or run the house. Stagger the small groups. There are opportunities to help people set aside time and space, shut in room or walk around the block then reconvene. Work out what are the advantages of doing this online. Participants could be all around the world. We need to think laterally, be creative.
- **Rachel** – the biggest issue is having space – with 3 kids/teens, will need to have the men's group one day and women's group another day.
- **Michael** – retreat could be composed solely of small groups. Not 24 adults simultaneously. Break up and deliver to 6 people at a time. Not have a team of 8 leaders at a time. What are we trying to do?
- **Jenny** – time commitment - possibility of people meeting together in groups in different states
- **Michael** – conserve time – not create extra work for team. Likes John's suggestion of sending out a pack of resources, suggest take a photo of meaningful object. Sharing

time – need visual cue for next chapter of story. Make normal what was always difficult.

- **Mark** – likes some ideas – one advantage, we reconvene at another time – as a facilitator you could work as well as pray. **Mark** has participated with his wife on bigger training things – every Wednesday night for 4 weeks. Is that too interruptive – focussing on call, then next week on next reflection and so on – lose focus – positives about having over a few days
- **Michael** – weekly engagement a bit diffused for what we are trying to do – open to reconsider timing – if people are restricted to their home, might be sharing one computer, kids, adults. No way you can have the 2 adults in small groups simultaneously. See this as an opportunity to be flexible rather than crippling. Span a couple of days.
- **Mark** – needing to understand what is needed from participants – is it important to be able to sit in the same room and have close conversations with 2 or 3 others or large group discussions – asked **Rachel** what was the best
- **Rachel** – most important thing was time alone. Have big Zoom session to meet each other and have seminars recorded. Biggest thing was walking in the bush. Sharing computers difficult – TCK program on different weekend to adult.
- **Dawn** – greatest number of children registered are in primary school and could need parental help
- **John** – it was in their thinking – do it on the following weekend? Engage with the parents and invite them to enter into the program.
- **Michael** – to what extent does the existing program depend on kids talking with the leaders away from the parents – loved the way the children lead the parents across the river.
- **John** doesn't see it as a problem if parents were spectators as their children participate – an eye opener and a valuable exercise to share in what their children are doing – issue – teenagers may need time with facilitators without parents.
- **Michael** – interested – with the kids' reflections without wondering what their parents would want them to say
- **John** – more relevant for teens than the younger kids and they also wouldn't need supervision – vary content according to the age of the children

FEES:

Dawn -- need to decide now -- register and pay something -- Nataliya believes we should charge. After some discussion, it was decided that we should charge \$100 for adults and \$50 for children. This would help to cover the costs of sending out resources.

BROCHURE:

Dawn -- We will need to redesign brochure.

DATE: **Dawn** -- good to keep to original dates and work with that -- after some discussion it was decided to do this for the adult and young adults' programs with John looking at the possibility with his team of running the children's program the following week-end.

Jane -- I don't think we can call it a retreat -- plenty of time for input or discussion -- the benefit of getting away from the normal pressures of everyday life. It is not going to happen this time. Keep word reflective.

Michael -- need new name

John -- Re-entry program

Dawn -- for those who have already registered -- do we give them the choice of doing the retreat online or waiting until next year? -- **Michael** says no

Michael -- Sell this and help people come with right expectations. None have attended one before, we can make this retreat like we want -- we recommend that you don't open your email in this 60-hour period / turn off phone. Share between parents -- tag team. Redefine retreat -- this is something new, not familiar with.

Mark -- contract to participate -- need to focus -- means a number of things -- need to think more about how couples can participate -- can you leave the household for half a day and swap. Need to articulate what it will look like

Michael -- could we call it an online retreat

Rachel -- it is a few months away -- will people be able to go away by then?

Mark -- are we stuck to using school holidays?

Rachel -- if restrictions are lifted people might just want to get away

Mark -- if we wait until restrictions ease -- people might be able to get people to babysit

Michael -- plan for the worst -- if restrictions don't lift until end of year. Intermediate -- people gathering in homes

John – things are too volatile – difficult to plan – agree with Michael – plan on worst case scenario – do something sooner rather than later – whole purpose is to benefit those who are signing up for it.

Michael – good to go away with thinking caps on.

ACTION:

Mark – ask someone to come up with a draft idea of the adult program – one or more models – then team could look at it and decide

Dawn asked **Michael** could he draw up a program – **Michael** asked **Rachel** could she assist him as a recent participant and a parent of children – (who is in front of the screen and when?)

Rachel asking for an outline of usual retreat program

ACTION:

Dawn to send program to **Rachel** – **Michael** and **Rachel** to confer

FORWARD PLANNING:

Just as **John** and his team will be meeting together to plan their program for the children and **Kath** has mentioned that Jenny will help her to prepare for the young adults, so the adult team will need to do likewise – when?

Dawn – Set date - Monday 27/07/2020 7:30 pm adult team

Thursday 30/07/202 8 pm all team with **John and Kath**

CURRENT REGISTRATIONS/POTENTIAL

Dawn – Participants 2 single ladies plus Cat Turnbull; 5 families plus Rogers family - 16 children. Another family confirmed today – 2 adults + 1 child

Adults: 17

Children: 17 – 2 young adults; 4 high schoolers and 11 in primary school

CLOSE REGISTRATIONS 31st August – all agreed – considering time needed for posting resources.

8. **El Kanah: Dawn** – has been in touch with Matt to cancel our booking this year, confirmed we have booking for 2021 16-19th Sept. Will be in touch later in the year to discuss costs.
9. **Finance report:** (circulated by email prior to meeting) **Jane** – nothing to add
10. **Other business:**
 - Has anyone had experience with online events – online delivery of an event?

John reported he attended an International 3-day conference with 300 participants around the world, went well – Breakout rooms – it is an exercise but it can be done

- MI Working with Children requirements – all members will have to comply with the MI working with children requirements – **we are all up to date**.
NB - There are issues with connecting with children on line – no one on one connecting with children
 - **Michael** says might want to check how this can go on.
 - Parents may need to be sighted on zoom giving consent to the interaction.
- Planning Centre – **Dawn** – MIV has a state ministry team and there are a number of task forces – the ReEntry Retreat is one of them. Everything is to be centralised in the MI office – all the bank accounts for all task forces to be closed by the end of the year and all monies go into one bank account though kept separate on paper.

ACTION: When allowed to do so **Dawn** and **Jane** to go into MI office to learn how this is to happen.

Set dates for meetings for the rest of the year:

Tuesday 25th August change to Tuesday 1st Sept. 7:30 to finalise

Tuesday Oct 6th Evaluation meeting

11. Next meeting:

Monday 27/07/2020 7:30 pm adult program team

Thursday 30/07/202 8 pm all team with **John and Kath**

12. Close in prayer: John closed in prayer.

ACTION

ALL

1. Put our thinking caps on 😊 re name, ideas

Dawn

1. Send existing ReEntry Retreat program to **Rachel**
2. Attend MI with **Jane** to learn about *Planning Centre*
3. Continue liaising with El Kanah re booking and fees for 2021

Michael

1. Meet with **Rachel** to work on a draft idea of the online adult program – one or more models – then team could look at it and decide

Rachel

1. Meet with **Michael** to work on a draft idea of the adult program – especially input re parents and children & screen use

John

1. Meet with TCK team Friday 24/07/2020