

## **Triangle Insight Meditation Community**

**Minutes** of Open Board Meeting *on Zoom*  
January 15, 2022 **12:00-2:00pm**

### ***Present***

*Board Members:* Cynthia Hughey, Marian Place (note-taker), Leah Rutchick,  
Martin Steinmeyer & Ron Vereen

*Sangha Members:* Cornelia Kip Lee, Robert Seyler (both of Tech committee)

*Guest:* Perry Sweitzer

### ***Decisions***

#### ***General***

12.18.21 TIMC Board Meeting minutes approved.

Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> our Hybrid Test date, dependent on Ron checking (see below)

Decision to find more detailed pricing from Mary Ka re website.

Next Meeting: Sat. March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Noon – 2p. Ron to lead

Annual meeting to be held on Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***Action Items***

*Martin* will create a guide to how to upload to the drive (+ see below under “Leah”).

*Marian* will add some questions for the board to consider and resolve regarding Perry before the next meeting, and will send the questions out via email.

*Ron* will email Perry’s research proposal to the board and will double-check if we can use the EC for our hybrid test on Sunday, March 6.

*Ron* will pull financial info together for March’s Annual Meeting.

*Martin* will tighten up the hybrid test schedule, and will doublecheck it w/ the Owl manual.

*Leah* will clarify Mary Ka’s costs for a website redesign & her fee to make edits.

**Of Note:** *Perry Sweitzer introduced his project:* 3<sup>rd</sup> year Ph.D. student in Graduate program in Religion. Focuses on religious and ethical groups in the US, and how religion/ethics play out on a daily basis.

**Project w/TIMC:** Understanding the everyday in the lived experience of American Buddhist practitioners. How did they make their way to the practice? How do they describe their progress? How do abstract Buddhist concepts take shape in everyday life – e.g. family life, politics, etc. How have Buddhist practices been incorporated in to other domains: therapy, work, etc.

**Methods:** Participation by Perry in community's events + talking with willing community members through informal convos or more formal 1:1 interviews, as people are comfortable. Timeline: this summer, and may extend into fall. Funded for this summer (starting in May or June ideal). Confidentiality, privacy, what would his participation would look like (minimize disturbance in community)? How can this be a reciprocal relationship? How would he contribute to the life of the community? He does not have a background in Buddhism. Does research w/a spectrum of American religious communities. Exploratory, discovery-driven research can be helped by someone not being an expert. He would do a literature review in Buddhism before the summer.

**Focus** on participation w/as much of community life as possible. Community would decide what participation he'd be invited to. He would like to do as much as possible, w/focus on minimizing disturbance (for ex, maybe not taking notes). Might use emails to invite interviews. The normal practice is to use pseudonyms, unless people would like to use their real name. He would record interviews, if allowed. No one could hear the tape other than him/interviewee. When he goes to start writing up the research, he would ask for clarification as to how he was interpreting what the person said and he would ask for permission to use a quote. Everything is confidential.

Open meetings that seem likely for Perry's participation: Weds eve, morning meditations, open board meetings; possibly Insight Dialogue. We can ask KM and RAGs if Perry could come to meetings, but not impose pressure on them.

Board to discuss our presentation of the research to the sangha. Perry would like to know as soon as possible if it's not going to move forward, but doesn't want us to rush creating an effective introduction to the sangha.

Duke's IRB (Internal Review Board) has given approval for the first stage of his research project with TIMC. He anticipates they will continue to approve his work in the fall, should he continue.

## ***Discussion of Testing for Hybrid Equipment***

*Leah and others from the Core Tech Team* will take care of the set-up and welcome volunteers in the morning (2 hours), break, 2(?) hours to run the test. **Note:** Kip and Robert to either be part of this Core Tech committee or help in other ways.

It would be ideal to have a dedicated tech person (people) at the meetings in person to free up the teachers.

For Owls you need one laptop; teachers could bring their own, but for their use only, not linked to Owl. The #1 Owl plugs into USB. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Owl connects to #1 Owl. Computer screen projects through Owl onto people's computer screens.

We would like to put one of the Owls on a 360-degree view so that people at home can see the sangha prior to and during the teaching.

## ***Covid Guidelines***

*Ron:* After the holidays, in-person meetings were suspended at EC for a few weeks; they will come back w/masks and social distancing. Duke is requiring proof of vaccination or a negative covid test w/in 72 hours.

***Tech Committee Members*** volunteers so far are Ron Vereen, Martin Steinmeyer, Leah Rutchick, Kip Lee, Robert Seyler (and Jim Branley, as needed).

## ***Website Redesign***

*Leah:* Mary Ka is willing to continue if we go w/Wordpress.org. She would design a new website, using a new template. Fee-based. Alternative: content management system like Wild Apricot. Which way to go? Content mgt requires us to be responsible for maintenance; remote crew w/limited availability. With Mary Ka, we can make day-to-day changes or we can entrust her w maintaining major upgrades/uploads. We would create the material.

*Ron:* spoke to IMCC, Wild Apricot could replace Constant Contact. Appreciates Mary Ka and her expertise and her 10% discount. What is her fee by the hour?

***Community Connections:*** Once a season, this committee will recommend folks donate to a group other than TIMC. The Winter 2022 dana night will be on February 9th. The CCC recommends that donations go to Feed Durham NC. Announce with a Notice in the newsletter and on that Weds eve. When in person, dana baskets will still be left out on those evenings, so members have the option of where they want to donate.