



# THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

*Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979*

## **Board of Directors**

### **MINUTES**

13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Online

#### Documents sent via email prior to meeting.

- Agenda
- Board Minutes 2023.08.11 – DRAFT.doc
- Annual Members Meeting Roles 2022.docx
- Audit Report 12 31 22.pdf
- Board Goals by Portfolio – 2023.docx
- TIFI ED Report to BoD 2023.10.pdf
- Eveline and Catherine final report Experiential Focusing Issues 2023.10.pdf

PRESENT: Nelle Moffett, Darryl Commings, Flor Sassoli, Eveline Moor Züllig, Veronica Urioste, Patrick Duffy, Catherine Torpey

ABSENT: Evelyn Fendler- Lee - excused

GUESTS:       New Coordinator: Serge Prengel  
                  Auditor: Valerie Jashi

TAKING MINUTES: Veronica Urioste.

ATTUNEMENT: Patrick Duffy

- I.    Approval of Minutes – Minutes from 2023.08.11 unanimously approved.
- II.   Report on 2022 Audit – Valerie Jashi & Darryl Commings – Very pleased with how the finances are going this year. There is good trajectory with increased revenues and cash accounts. At Darryl's request, Ms. Jashi's report next year will include comparatives between years. Darryl explained that TIFI's audit status is excellent. The staff were complimented by Ms. Jashi on the good organization of TIFI's accounts. She mentioned that moving to QuickBooks online and starting with a fresh Chart of Accounts a couple of years ago has been a big improvement.
- III.  Autumn meeting with Members – Two meetings have been scheduled on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November for this event, at 13:00 pm and 19:00 pm (NY time).

- IV. Summary report to Board on issues of automated translation, Experiential Focusing and Board/Coordinator Relations (Eveline Moor Züllig and Catherine Torpey) – A written report was emailed during the meeting to all Board members, and a conversation followed.

The Board agreed with the following conclusions (as given in the written report):

As for the practical question regarding translation and the term “Experiential Focusing”:

We should now give it back to Catherine / the TIFI office, in terms of using the terms Experiential Focusing and Focusing (and maybe sometimes “Gendlin’s Focusing.”) Catherine will watch and report back when she feels that there is something to report, probably not for a year or two. Eveline and Catherine will meet whenever it seems to them useful to discuss matters related to this issue, especially if there’s a development which should be communicated to the Board and the Coordinators.

As for the deeper question about the relationship of the Board and Coordinators:

Our job as a Board is really to attend to maintaining a friendly relationship with Coordinators and to make use of their wisdom in any matters of substance. When we aren’t sure, we should err on the side of asking for their input. We should have confidence going forward that we will make more mistakes, but that we are capable of responding with maturity and compassion to ourselves and the community, and that this is the more important thing.

- V. ILC & Board Interaction – Flor attending the ILC meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> and Veronica on December 12<sup>th</sup>
- VI. Items for Board Strategic conversations in 2023 by portfolio – no items brought forward for further discussion .
- VII. Executive Director (ED) Report – A written report was submitted and Catherine highlighted a few items. These are the topics in the written report
- Gendlin Symposium 2023 – Total participants 203. The planning committee created an engaging platform to explore “Embodied Phenomenology and Process Thinking”. The income received from this event exceeded the budgeted amount. Feedback received was warm and positive.
  - In Response to War in Middle East – Catherine reported on the Gazans in our community and their situation and efforts to reach out to them. She also asked if the Board supported the idea of a series of “Compassionate Conversations,” to help all members of the Focusing community to process feeling around the war. She also requested that the Board vote on delaying for one year the scheduled increase in membership/ certification rates for Israel.
  - Reading Freshly – this free Membership benefit has started with 50 attendees and 90 registered.
  - Q3 Brief Report – This will be reported more in depth at the November meeting.
  - Video Sales – It is anticipated that the new platform for renting out videos will start in November 2023.
- VIII. APPROVED: The Board voted unanimously to approve a one year delay of the scheduled increase in membership and certification rates for Israel.

MEETING CLOSED *The next Board Meeting will be 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 12:00 noon (U.S. Eastern time)*