



# THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

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

Board of Directors  
MINUTES  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Online

Documents sent via email:

- Agenda
- Board Minutes DRAFT March 2024.docx
- Racial Trauma – TIFI Action plan.docx
- ILC governing document APPROVED BY ILC 2024.03.12.pdf

PRESENT: Nelle Moffett, Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Darryl Commings, Eveline Moor-Züllig, Flor Sassoli, Veronica Urioste, Catherine Torpey

GUESTS: From the ILC – Claude Missiaen (Belgium)

TAKING MINUTES: Veronica Urioste

ATTUNEMENT: Eveline Moor-Züllig

- I. Board meeting minutes from March 2024 were unanimously approved by the Board.
- II. Review ILC Document –
  - a. The Board welcomed Claude and thanked him for all his contributions to the ILC during his 6 years of work for the ILC.
  - b. Claude shared that the ILC has a history of building relationships with Coordinators. The ILC invites Coordinators to 2 meetings each year that take place in May & October.
  - c. Nelle asked Claude to say more about the ILC's understanding of the relationship between the ILC and TIFI Board. What Claude said accurately reflected what is in the document, and met with agreement by the Board.
  - d. Claude presented the "ILC Governing Document," which was prepared by the ILC. It replaces the 2016 "Roles and Functions of the ILC" document. The Board read the new document aloud during the meeting, and unanimously voted to approve it, with heartfelt congratulations to all in the ILC for its thoughtful preparation.
- III. International Focusing Conference, Vienna 2026 – There is a team of three people organizing the Vienna conference: Catherine Torpey, Sabina Aydt and Ruth Sar Shalom. They are leaning

toward a June date for the Conference. Catherine acknowledged that this Conference will cost a great deal, because of the location and the importance of doing it well. She also reiterated TIFI's commitment to trying to make events financially accessible wherever possible. We discussed the importance of giving people lots of advance notice so that they can save and make arrangements for themselves. Historically Coordinators have organized the International Focusing conferences. It will be important that Coordinators be told why this one is being organized by TIFI, because it has to happen in Vienna and it has to happen in 2026, in order to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Gene Gendlin's birth in the city of his birth.

- IV. Possible revision of Board's Goals 1-4: this item is tabled to the May Board meeting.
- V. Nominating Committee Update - The Board thanked the Nominating Committee for forwarding the names of two TIFI members to be considered for election to the Board. Nelle has met with one, and has scheduled a meeting with the other, to clarify what being on the Board involves. She will invite both to attend the May Board meeting as guests.
- VI. ILC & Board Interaction – Evelyn Fendler-Lee volunteered to attend the ILC meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April at 11:00 am Eastern time
- VII. Executive Director Report  
No written report was sent. Catherine is back from Argentina, and Nelle commented on how important it is that we have an ED who enjoys traveling to different countries, connecting with members. In her report, Catherine brought up 3 items:
  - a. Catherine reminded the Board that as of March, she has been the ED of TIFI for 10 years. The Board congratulated her on this milestone.
  - b. Catherine reported on the “meteoric rise” in income from certifications over the last 10 years, noting that the largest increase came in 2023, upon implementation of lower certification fees for most countries.
  - c. Jeffrey Kinnamon has volunteered for several years to go to many events to encourage donations. He now has had to resign from this volunteer job. Catherine would like Board members to begin attending events in order to do so, by saying something like: “Thank you to the presenter, thank you to all our volunteers, thank you to those of you who are donors and thank you to those of you who are members.”
- VIII. Board Strategic Conversations  
Potential TIFI Actions re: Focusing & Racial Trauma – Nelle sent a document “Racial Trauma – TIFI Action plan,” which had some specific suggestions about actions TIFI could take to use Focusing as a tool to address racism. The suggestions emerged from an email conversation she had with Cristiana Martin, a Brazilian who recently gave a powerful Focusing Highlight class on Focusing as a tool for healing racial trauma. The Board discussed how racial identity and trauma are lived differently in different continents and countries. The Board discussed how can TIFI address issues of racism and justice more directly and overtly, to bring what we have as a resource. Cristiana stated in her Highlight that Focusing is a powerful tool for healing racial trauma; it needs to have its own space. This item will continue to be explored at future Board meetings.
- IX. Eveline Moor-Züllig announced that she will not be able to attend the Board Meeting in June.

MEETING CLOSED

The next Board Meeting will be 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 12:00 noon (U.S. Eastern time)