

Hello All,

Here are our minutes from the 7/18/2020 Group Conscience Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees: Mike P, Marc M, Mike G, Virginia, Nancy M, Bob B

Committee members unavailable: Robin, Judy, Pat A, Lorretta, Robin A, Greg R

Agenda:

1. **Treasurers Report – Joe C**
2. **Aa-agape.org status, Venmo status – Mike G**
3. **Next Steps from July 3 Notes**
 1. **Post copies of the Prologue, How it Works and Promises on the wall in each room. This came up discussing motion #9 – secretary bring readings. The Group felt that having them on the walls would facilitate that, and also allowing use of smart phones would enable having “germ-free” readings. (Virginia B)**
 2. **Make a wall poster telling people in each room that donations can be made on the aa-agape.org website using Venmo. This came up discussing motion #10 on making donations. (Joe C)**
 3. **Make a poster in each room listing the motions agreed by the Group Conscience (in the attached notes). These will help people in the face-to-face meetings keep order. These are written rules to which they can refer to (for example) end a meeting is someone refuses to wear a mask. (Virginia B)**
4. **Opening the Gibson Building – Q&A**
5. **Old Business**
 - **Did our Group Conscience vote on 5/16/2020 to “not require passwords” mean that passwords would be eliminated from those meetings that already had them?**
6. **New Business**

MEETING NOTES:

- The meeting started at 10:30 AM with Mike P presiding.
1. **TREASURER’S REPORT:** Joe reported, through Mike P, that Agape’s current bank balance is \$5,256.76. The newly established Venmo account has received \$150.
 2. **AA-AGAPE.ORG STATUS, VENMO STATUS:** Mike G reported that that the site is up and operating. The GoDaddy functions are ready and populated with Agape member emails to begin contact with all Agape members.

The Venmo application is working to support the 7th Tradition of passing the basket electronically. Mike has drafted a newsletter page for the site. He also posted new standard Agape meeting announcements for all Agape Zoom hosts to begin their meetings, including the announcement of passing the basket with Venmo. This also helps with Covid contact concerns during meetings
 3. **NEXT STEPS FROM JULY 3 NOTES**
 1. **Post copies of the Prologue, How it Works and Promises on the wall in each room.** Virginia completed this next step. The rooms are ready for starting the meetings without handling physical documents. They can be read from wall posters.
 2. **Make a wall poster telling people in each room that donations can be made on the aa-agape.org website using Venmo.** Instructions for making payments were posted to the web site. The posters for each room remain to be posted.
 3. **Make a poster in each room listing the motions agreed by the Group Conscience** Virginia put up the posters in each room.

3. OPENING THE GIBSON BUILDING – Q&A

Attendance in the Gibson Building: Attendance since opening has been sparse. Pete reported that he's been in the meeting with Tuckey, wiping down surfaces for her. Mike said that John L went to Gibson for a meeting and one other person showed up but they chose not to enter the building. Harold reported that he has seen that people will arrive in the parking lot and then use cell phones to go onto the Zoom meeting.

The Group observed that, as with everything going on, everyone is adjusting to change. As time goes on people will become familiar with the new arrangements.

Return of the Orange Chairs: Mike P, Virginia and Pete shared their work on meeting CDC and EPA requirements for sanitizing the porous surfaces of the orange chairs. The only treatment recognized by the CDC and EPA for Covid use is a hydrogen peroxide mist that must be applied with a vaporizer "used in conjunction with a VHP generator" (per EPA web site). The VHP generators cost \$1000 each.

We would need one generator in each room for treatment between meetings, applied by someone trained in the operation of the equipment. Treatment would leave the chairs damp for each subsequent meeting and potentially harm anything made of paper on the walls.

Mike P commented that if anyone can find a solution recognized as effective by credible sources (government/medical versus individual company advertising), please bring it forward.

Lest we forget:



As Mark W said, "Learn to sit in it!"

4. Old Business

Did our Group Conscience vote on 5/16/2020 to "not require passwords" mean that passwords would be eliminated from those meetings that already had them?

Additional discussion concerned Zoom's announcement that as of September 2020, all Zoom meetings without passwords will automatically be locked into using Waiting Rooms. Zoom recommends that Waiting Rooms be managed with a cohost.

See the following link that describes working with Waiting Rooms.
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115000332726-Waiting-Room>

A Zoom meeting survey was taken with the six attending participants in the Steering Committee meeting:

What is your vote on the motion to eliminate all passwords for all Agape meetings, including meetings that already have passwords, requiring waiting rooms with Zoom's new programming?

The result was 67% in favor of the motion: remove all Agape passwords (and use Waiting Rooms).

Mike announced that the Steering Committee, given the difficulty he was having paying proper attention to the Waiting Room to admit late arriving participants, will take no action on this until the next Group Conscience Steering Committee meeting on August 15. Most Agape Zoom hosts are leading meetings with passwords, several citing protection of anonymity. Only some meetings identify a cohost.

This will provide time for all Agape Zoom Hosts to review <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115000332726-Waiting-Room> prior to the next Steering Committee meeting - in preparation to attend that meeting – and participate in the same Zoom meeting survey.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

Funding Agape financial requirements:

Given the newness of Venmo availability, the Group discussed the challenge of collecting donations to Agape. At this point Sheppard Pratt suspended our lease payments. But we don't know how long that will continue since we have reopened the Gibson Building. We experience ongoing costs of Zoom subscriptions, and expenses to maintain the rooms during the limited availability of space for attendees during Covid

Some people have elected to make recurring donations to Agape. Donors are provided this option when donating on Venmo.

Making large donations to Agape was discussed (potentially to enjoy tax deduction for making large, single donations directly to Meeting Place Foundation – see Agape history on aa-agpe.org for explanation of Meeting Place Foundation). Venmo has a Notes section when making contributions. Donors should indicate that the donation go to Meeting Place Foundation.

Contribution could be made directly through Zelle on Bank of America if donors had account information to which to transfer funds. Virginia will investigate.

Standard Announcements:

It was discussed if the 10 points, developed during the July 3rd general Group Conscience regarding Covid meetings, should be read as part of the standard Agape Zoom meetings. The participants generally felt that, since the 10 points are only applicable to meetings in the Gibson Building, and are now posted in the rooms, there was not a need to read them at each Zoom meeting.

6. Next scheduled Group Conscience:

Saturday, August 15, 10:30 AM.

Meeting Code: 865 5977 2973

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86559772973> no password