



**The Association of
Christian Spiritual Directors Inc.**

October – 2015

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Greetings to you all. The Executive had its final meeting for the year on the 17th October in Wellington. Glenda Prosser, our recently appointed Chair, invited us all to share our matrilineal whakapapa, along with our river and mountain – which proved to be a perfect way to get to know our two new members: Bev Philips from the Kapiti Coast and John Franklin from Dunedin. There are always numerous business tasks to be completed in the day so it was wonderful to begin these next two years in this way.

FEEDBACK FROM THE TRAINING EVENT

Thank you everyone for your feedback at the end of the Training Event. There was much appreciation to the Wellington Planning group for the value of it. There was also some helpful feedback for the 2017 one. Specifically it was appreciated that Patrick, the Keynote speaker, was a Spiritual Director and then the great input by the local presenters – and no it's not possible to be in two workshops at once!

The 2017 Training Event will be in Dunedin and we have begun to think about who might be a good Keynote speaker. It is preferable in terms of keeping costs down that they reside within Australasia or the West Coast of the States so if you've got any suggestions please email them to Mary Hepburn saying why they'd be good. Please note that Mary now has a new ACSD specific email address and it is included at the end of this *Newsletter*.

RENEWAL OF COVENANT FORM

So far, about a third of us have renewed our membership of the Association. We have until the 30th November to do this and have our names and emails included on the list at the normal \$65 rate. The incentive to get it done within the timeframe is that the fee goes to \$75 from the 1st December and the 2015/16 membership list will have been emailed and also loaded onto the website so your name mightn't be on it.

We discussed if we could move the renewal process onto a bi-annual timeframe as it is quite a task for Mary, including mailing out our membership card. In the end we agreed in the meantime we'd keep it as it is and Mary will briefly review the process early in 2016 to see if there are any ways we can make it easy and quicker for everyone. If you have any ideas we'd welcome them so just send Mary an email.

The most frequent request to Mary or the Executive is for the Members Only Page password. So here it is and please cut this out and put somewhere handy – it's easy for any of us to forget it:

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POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Currently the three categories for membership to our Association are: Full, Associate and Emeritus. Particularly in the Training Event year we're asked by students if they can join which is a good question. It may also be helpful for other compatible Associations/Groups or individuals to have some limited membership too. So the Executive has begun to look at the possibilities of what such membership may entail, how we can attract new members, and how we can add value to being a member. We will advise you via the *Newsletter* how that work is progressing.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR ASSOCIATE AND FULL MEMBERSHIP

Enabling new members to join the Association is one of the main tasks of the Executive and we want to work together to continue to make the whole process as understandable, smooth and easy to administer as possible, for both the prospective member and the Executive.

Glenda is going to draft up a flow chart of the process and when we've got it fool proof we'll upload it to the website so it is available for everyone to see.

CONSTITUTION UPDATE

Ricky, bless him, continues to work with the Companies Office and Charities Commission to see that we are meeting our obligations in regards to changes to the Constitution, contact details, financial requirements and the BGM. This has been painstaking for him on our behalf and we hope that it is completed in time for our next meeting.

REGIONAL GROUPS

It was heartening at the Training Event to see how healthy many of the Regional Groups are *and* we realise that some Spiritual Directors work in quite isolated areas. If there is any way you'd like the Executive to support your local initiatives, please get in touch with Pip Nicholls who is the Regional contact person on the Executive. Pip can be contacted at pip.nicholls@xtra.co.nz.

ARTICLES/BOOK AND MOVIE REVIEWS

We'd love to receive any articles or reviews from you for posting on the website and guidelines for them are on the Members Page of it. The website is receiving on average 30 unique visitors a day which is excellent.

NOMINATING EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

It was mentioned to several of us that there seemed little time to think about nominating people to the Executive. We are sorry about that but we thought the request had gone out in the March 2015 *Newsletter* but it seems to have been missed. Though we'll take this opportunity to say we know we'll be looking for nominations from both Auckland and Christchurch at the 2017 BGM so it's never too early to begin the discernment process...

MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome to full membership:

Kathryn Fernando of the Kapiti Coast

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the ACSD Executive will be held at St Aidan's Miramar, on Saturday March 5th 2016, then 18th June and 15th October.

Mary Hepburn rsm

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