

**ILC Meeting  
March 27, 2018**

Present: Claude Missiaen (Prime Mover), Akira Ikemi, Sergio Laros, Roberto Laros, Donata Schoeller, Ruth Hirsch, Catherine Torpey

**I. ETHICS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

Ruth: In terms of conflict resolution, it seems crucial that someone be designated so that people know to whom and where they may bring their complaint.

Donata: Does it have to be someone from the ILC or the Board?

CT: I had created a document with a process, just wanted to remind everyone that that is a possible reference.

Akira: We are talking now about conflict resolution, rather than ethics. It's OK to talk about conflict resolution, but I just want us to be clear.

Claude: The board responded to the issue of conflict resolution but not the problem of ethics.

Sergio: In the first year, we discussed this topic. The ILC didn't want to make itself part of conflict resolution in the community. We said that we could listen to the people in the community. The procedure would be to listen and guide to a conflict resolution group. That is what I remember us saying. We don't want the ILC to be a conflict resolution group, but to guide when there is a conflict. I agree that conflict resolution and ethics are two distinct things.

Roberto: Catherine's document is a good baseline. Ethics is another question -- what kind of ethics standards might we look at? We might have to start to think about it.

Sergio: I remember the board said they don't agree with the idea of a code. Gene always said he agreed with the way Quakers work -- people who are looking at the moment; how is the spirit flowing. Maybe we have to think about something like that. The idea is to trust in the community and what is moving.

Ruth: Maybe someone can contact someone who is a Quaker and getting a statement about how the Quakers work.

Donata: Shall we write to Robert Lee or Nina Joy Lawrence to find out more about the Quaker model?

**DECISION:** It was agreed that Donata will be in touch with Robert Lee, and Ruth will be in touch with Nina Joy to get more information on what the Quakers do when conflict arises.

Akira: Gendlin has an article "Process Ethics and the Political Question."

**FURTHER ACTION:** Someone recommended that we all be familiar with this article which is available on GOL: [https://www.focusing.org/gendlin/docs/gol\\_2108.html](https://www.focusing.org/gendlin/docs/gol_2108.html)

Donata: Maybe we do state something, based on a process that is in keeping with Focusing

**II. WHAT DOES A COORDINATOR DO**

Discussion of role of Coordinators ("What does a Coordinator do?") within the larger question of the mission of the Institute and the ILC (as defined and as we want it to be defined). We'll begin with a brief reminder of overall Strategic Plan (so that we are *building on* work that has already been done during this *implementation phase* of the Strategic Plan).

Claude: We should give comments on Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan. We are now in the Implementation Phase of the Strategic Plan.

Ruth: I notice in the Strategic Plan that Strategy 2B is designated as a "Target 2017/2018" strategy, whereas Strategy 2A is designated a "Target 2020" strategy. Might Catherine clarify?

Catherine: Some items seemed more urgent, or like they had to happen before other things could happen, or that there was more energy currently to get them done. So the things designated "Target 2017/2018" either seemed more pressing or more

doable before other things.

Roberto: What does it mean, "the financial relationship"?

Catherine: That we don't want the Institute to feel like it's in competition with our Trainers and Coordinators, nor vice versa. So one model is the German model (DAF), where each Trainer gives a percentage of the money they make to DAF; that is how Robert Lee has explained DAF's model to me.

Donata: If the Coordinators "develop", it helps the Institute -- maybe there's concrete mutual profitability. It should be clearer what Coordinators have from the Institute. It's not clear enough in the strategies.

Claude: That's my main point too.

Ruth: Is anyone working on the strategies listed in 2B?

Catherine: The Membership Committee is offering "Trainer Talks," but other than that and the various online courses we're offering, the strategies in 2B are not being actively implemented by any group. The Membership Committee has looked at these kinds of things and might want to take them on.

Ruth: I think of the Coordinators as part of the Institute. And I think it's important for the Membership Committee to look at what the benefits are for Coordinators. Teaching issues are not the same as membership issues. Training is not an administrative function. Teaching Focusing is our product; it's really important. I think we need to treat it as important as it is. To me, it isn't a membership committee function.

Sergio: I want to mention something I have seen in Spain. They give FOT certification without added requirements. They say it's nothing different from being a Trainer. I have done some courses in psychotherapy. I think we don't have clear this point in the community. I know it's a hot potato. This is -- the community of psychologists don't accept the FOT certification. I have seen it in Spain, Germany and Portugal. It's not a fight, but we have to have clear what the certification is.

Ruth: There's not necessarily a correlation between the training that's received, the trainees' skill set, and what is written on their certifications.

Claude: In Belgium, the person has to be trained by a psychotherapist in order to receive the FOT certification.

Akira: I found out that in China they thought that a "Trainer" was higher than an FOT. I'm not sure if I should tell them, or if Catherine should.

Ruth: My sense is that they are not clear as to what a "Trainer" is.

Sergio: We need to clarify. FOT and Trainer are different. A psychologist in Chile has legal responsibility, and an FOT...

CT: We do have a document that outlines all of the certifications offered (note: it can be found at [focusing.org/trainer](http://focusing.org/trainer). Look for "How to Become a Trainer" and then "Certificates awarded by The International Focusing Institute June 29, 2016")

Ruth: it needs to be made known

Akira: What we teach doesn't necessarily correlate to the certificate they get. If someone is ... but then it would be limited if someone can only teach this and not this

Sergio: Only psychologists can be FOTs. We can talk about clinical abilities. We need to make it clear to the community. We prepare people that want to teach Focusing. In Spain, they don't require anything extra to get FOT certification. If you do massage, you're a therapist.

Ruth: I think it should be clear that someone who gets an FOT certification is not getting certification as a Trainer. They are two different skills. A lot of Coordinators do not understand that there is a difference.

Akira: Ruth is talking about the difference between an FOT and a Trainer. Sergio is talking about the difference between a Focusing Oriented Therapist and a Focusing Oriented Psychotherapist.

Claude: So what do we do?

Sergio: The word "clarify" is useful.

Roberto: There are psychotherapists who are not psychologists. I have training in psychotherapy but I am not a psychologist.

Claude: So what is a next step?

Ruth: I would like to bring Trainers more into the loop. They need more support.

Donata: That is a good point.

Ruth: I would prefer that the Trainers be on the email list with Coordinators. I would like to see us talking more about teaching on that list.

CT: Maybe the conversations you are planning with Coordinators about "What does a Coordinator Do?" can be broadened to questions and conversation about certification. Instead of just a document on the website it becomes a conversation.

Donata: I like that.

Akira: The Strategic Plan says various things are supposed to happen, but who is supposed to do it? Maybe we create structures that facilitate these things happening.

**FOR FOLLOW UP** Claude: I think we should come back to what are the benefits to CC's; what does certification mean ; community-building and self-organizing; are trainers allowed on the Coordinators list or not; these seem like the issues we can come back to;

Donata: We can use digital techniques to be more in touch. There could be 4 conversations facilitated the administration of the institute to build more of a community feeling. Such community building is also one answer to the question how CC's profit from having an institute. Other answers need to be cultivated: the Institute organizing initiatives that help to establish Focusing in the world. Building more of a community helps to convey the feeling: We are all part of the Institute.

III. Farewell and thank you to Akira as this, sadly (for us), was his last ILC meeting, after 3 ½ years of dedicated service. WE WILL ALL MISS AKIRA VERY MUCH IN OUR FUTURE SESSIONS!!!

TO DO:

Ruth will contact Nina Joy

Donata will contact Robert Lee

Everyone will read Process Ethics and the Political Question

CT will send the ILC the document that outlines all the kinds of certifications. This document is also available at [focusing.org/trainer](http://focusing.org/trainer)