

Lola Georg: Ministry Report

This report dated August 2017 is offered to the Mutual Accountability Group (MAG). Members of MAG include .O, Lynda, Viv, and Lola.

There are three sections of this report:

- 1) Guiding Principles
- 2) Ministry
- 3) Minister

1) Guiding Principles

There are some guiding principles that have been operative in my life, which are based in Christianity, Quakerism, Buddhism, and A Course in Miracles (ACIM). These guiding principles are simple to state, yet difficult to put into practice. They are three sources 1) mission statements created in the late 1990's, 2) Legacy Question from the mid 2000's and 3) wedding vows from 2013. These are followed by the Japanese concept of Ikigai.

Mission Statements:

To be willing to emulate Jesus in each moment

To recognize and affirm the Light in myself and others

God -> Right Order

To assume my role as a Teacher of God

To acknowledge I am among the Ministers of God (this part is new)

Siblings -> Right Relationship

To convert all of my relationships to Holy Relationships

To forgive as easily as I breathe

Healing -> Right Purpose

To recognize that the healing of God's children is all the world is for, it's purpose

To be a bearer of miracles

Spirit -> Right Mind

To live in the Holy Instant, the present moment

To hold the hand of Jesus and the Holy Spirit

To keep my mind in a state of revelation readiness

Legacy Question: – How do I want to be remembered?

I want to be the mirror that encourages people to embrace that of God within themselves, their Divine nature.

I want people to remember how they felt when they were with me, that they liked themselves, they were hopeful, inspired, and at peace.

I want to be remembered as compassionate, humble, kind, generous, accepting, honest, loving, faithful, inspiring, caring, joyful, and wise – so I must live this way to be remembered this way.

Wedding Vows:

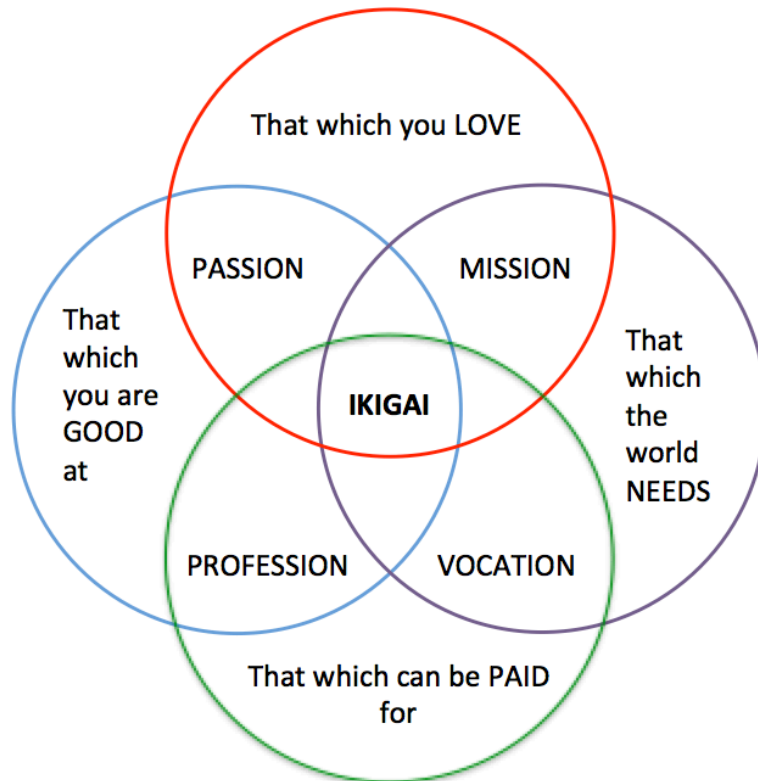


With Divine assistance, we joyously covenant to:

- cultivate the sacred within, among, and beyond us,
- to love, support, challenge, and grow with each other for as long as we both shall live,
- to make manifest, as best we can, the kingdom of heaven on earth.

We commit to engage all our heart, all our mind, all our soul, and all our strength, knowing that we do so, together, amid beloved community, and with the Holy One as our helpmate.

I also think often of the Japanese concept of Ikigai, which is described in the following graphic, and which the logo for Georg Associates is based upon:



*IKIGAI means “your purpose”.
It is used to describe “why I wake up in the morning”.*

2) Ministry

There are four components of my ministry in it's current form: 1) Healing Minds and Relationships, 2) Supporting Leadership in Women of Color, 3) Extended Worship, and 4) Teaching and Writing. There is also an emerging ministry, perhaps? They are ordered below based upon my current time commitment.

Healing Minds and Relationships

In 2001, God called me to pastoral counseling. Through Georg Associates, I provide mental health counseling and therapy services to individuals, couples, and families with a focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, polyamorous, trans, queer, gender queer, and gender non-conforming people. My goal is to conduct 15 to 20 client sessions per week, 48 weeks per year. I offer discounted therapy fees through the Open Path Collective, and I am a member of Friends Counseling Service. I also offer conflict resolution and consulting services.

Recent activities:

Average of 15 client sessions per week January through June, 2017

Welcomed client #100 on 7/26/2017, stats 12/31/2015 = 3 clients, 12/31/2016 = 50 clients (+47)

Testified in federal court at a sentencing hearing as part of the victim's statement for a client

Held conflict resolution workshop at Frankford Friends Meeting

Delivered *Trauma-Informed Care for Transgender Clients* at American Counseling Association meeting

Updated/revised the website and blog (www.GeorgAssociates.com)

Plans for the coming year:

Finish Distance Counseling Credentialing to offer on-line counseling/therapy

Establish a professional mutual accountability group

Supporting Leadership in Women of Color

Understanding that our current (and historical) culture is full of patriarchy, white supremacy, violence, and institutional racism, I feel led to support entrepreneurs, artists, activists, and leaders who are building an alternate society and culture. Currently, this leading is focused on supporting leadership in women of color, and in particular, EMIR Healing Center with Victoria and Chantay. Other people on my care and prayer list are: .O, Lynda, Gabbreell, Marille, Vanessa, Niyonu, Marcelle, and Avis

Recent activities:

Serve as Treasurer and Board member of EMIR Healing Center

Re-establishment of EMIR Healing Center's 501(c)(3) non-profit designation

Mutual Accountability Group (MAG) with .O, Lynda, and Viv

Attended Vanessa's workshops at CPMM and Friends General Conference (FGC)

Member of Marille's support committee

Plans for coming year:

Closing EMIR's books for FY2017 and conducting an audit and IRS filing

Write and obtain grants for EMIR from various sources

Help to create and launch a Quaker Social Change Ministry group (QSCM) focused on supporting EMIR

Extended Worship

About four years ago, I noticed that Extended Worship was an experience that I missed and longed for, so I set about to restart it within PYM. Currently, there are eight extended worship sessions (double the original number of 4) scheduled in 2017, and I am looking for dates in 2018. Extended Worship is held at a variety of different meetinghouses and has an attendance of 10 to 15 people on average. Also, I am wondering whether or not to keep Extended Worship under the umbrella of PYM. Initially this was done so that PYM could promote it, yet over the years, their promotion of Extended Worship has significantly diminished and I have been promoting it myself. I could have more flexibility in locations if it was not a sponsored PYM activity (PYM wants it to move around the yearly meeting). Alternatively, I could see if it could be sponsored by Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, and perhaps have help in coordination.

Recent activities:

Conducted five Extended Worship sessions in 2017
Extended Worship was held in place of an April 1 workshop

Plans for the coming year:

Conduct three more Extended Worship sessions in 2017
Develop schedules and locations for 8 sessions in 2018
Upcoming sessions are Sept 9 at Southampton, October 7 at Birmingham, December 2 at Green Street, March 3 at Swarthmore

Teaching and Writing

Over the years I have conducted various workshops and done some writing. Some of the more memorable workshops were with Viv on *Experiments in Spiritual Accountability* and the *Spirituality of Money*. In addition, I have written a pamphlet on *Visual Messages and their Spiritual Metaphors*, based on messages I have received during worship, and an article on my *Dwelling Place Within* in Friends Journal (<https://www.friendsjournal.org/dwelling-place-within/>). I have been toying with the idea of conducting the *Spirituality of Money* workshops again, or writing about it, and with publishing my pamphlet.

Recent activities:

Led a session on *Internalized Racial Superiority* for a white affinity group at FGC Gathering

Plans for the coming year:

Publishing my pamphlet, perhaps?
Spirituality of Money workshops and/or book/articles?
During the latest Extended Worship, I was nudged with the idea of stress management/meditation courses to provide free to the public, perhaps at Friends Center? Or in Mt. Airy/Germantown? Or elsewhere?

Emerging Ministry?

Along the lines of supporting leadership in women of color, I believe that our current capitalistic economy is not sustainable, nor is it in right relationship with the Divine. Much of my spirituality of money workshop and writings are about the underlying spiritual principles in money, and how to put them into use in the world. Recently, I have been contacted by various entrepreneurs seeking my

counsel with business start-ups in areas of psychotherapy, nutrition, music, investments, and retail sales. I am wondering if this is an emerging ministry? That is -> supporting budding entrepreneurs in creating and sustaining new business enterprises that shift the balance of economic power from large corporations to small, locally-owned businesses.

3) Minister

“There is a light within me, the Inner Light, which is bolder, brighter, braver, and stronger than my fear of the spotlight.” – Lola (new revelation 2017)

I am adjusting to the idea of thinking of myself as a minister, and this report is one of the first steps. I am moving through my fear of the power of God working in me.

Recent events at PYM of institutional racism have upset, angered, and bewildered me. I was asked to serve on the Administrative Council and declined. In August, I resigned from PYM after Annual Sessions due to significant differences I see between me and PYM; namely in PYM’s purpose, it’s strategic plan, it’s leadership, it’s non-accountability, it’s lack of transparency, it’s ongoing institutional racism, and it’s non-adherence to my understanding of Quaker testimonies (that is it’s hypocrisy). Since resigning, I have felt called to spend the time I would have spent on PYM matters, and focus more energy into EMIR Healing Center.

I’m unsure of my current spiritual home. While I am a member of Media Friends Meeting, I have not worshiped there in nearly two years. I attend at CPMM and Green Street. Extended Worship is very important to me, as is the new Quaker X group. I see Quaker X as a restart or reboot of the Quaker Way by stripping away the bureaucracy and focusing on the essentials of Quaker faith centered in racial justice.

I am also a member of a MAG with Viv and Nancy, one of Viv’s classmates from their spiritual direction program. I am working on developing a professional MAG for therapists.

I continue with my daily prayers and ACIM lessons. This year so far I have re-read the first six chapters of ACIM, and the following books: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, *Animal Farm, 1984*, *Peace Pilgrim*, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton*, *The Quaker Way*, *The Journey East*, *Love Without Conditions*, *The Power of Now*, *Liberia Dreams*, and *Jesus and the Disinherited*. I am currently reading *Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order*, a book of essays by Mary Oliver, and re-reading parts of the Tao Te Ching. I am also learning the Zen Tarot cards.

I am so eternally grateful to Viv, my partner, and work daily to cultivate our relationship, supporting each other’s mutual growth and development. I am also grateful for MAG members .O, Lynda, and Nancy. Plus my family: son Tyler, mom Lil, dad Jim, sister Renée, sister Kristi, brother in-laws Stephen and Bo, niece Erika, and her husband Billy and daughter Ellen.