

Minutes
Lexington Meditation Circle of SRF
Sunday, 16 October 2011, 1-2 PM
Fall Business Meeting

Participants: Bill Congleton, Victoria Wells, Sam Quick

- Item # 1:** We decided to begin taking minutes at our business meetings. Sam will prepare the minutes and submit them via email to Bill. Bill will keep a file of the minutes.
- Item # 2:** Bill Congelton was elected Corresponding Secretary for 2012.
- Item # 3:** Annually, two automatic business meetings will be held—one on the third Sunday of October immediately following our meditation service, and a second business meeting six months later on the third Sunday of April right after the meditation service. The October meeting is our main business meeting of the year during which we elect the Corresponding Secretary for the upcoming year. By holding the meeting in October we avoid inclement weather that often occurs later in the year. The April meeting is our secondary business meeting; it can be cancelled if there are no agenda items.
- Item # 4:** We discussed efficient ways to shift a significant portion of our Lexington Meditation Circle correspondence to email, and will begin gradually doing so.
- Item # 5:** Sam will provide our 2011 Calendar of Services to Bill as a PDF so that it can be easily and quickly shared with appropriate interested parties as the need arises. In the future, Sam will also provide Bill with PDF versions of other pertinent documents such as all future Calendars of Services as well as fliers and related items for our annual daylong spring and fall retreats held in western Kentucky on Bob and Carol Robey's farm. All retreat items will also be distributed to Bob Robey as PDFs.
- Item # 6:** Over the next month or so, Bill and Sam will combine the postal mail addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers they each have for our Lexington Meditation Circle participants, thus forming a directory for our circle. Handling this information with appropriate discretion, the directory will enable us to set up group email contact lists and more efficiently notify circle members and friends concerning special events and cancelation of services. A number of individuals on our contact list do not use email; they can be most efficiently reached by phone or, as necessary, by postal mail.
- Item # 7:** To avoid using personal email addresses for our Lexington Meditation Circle business, we decided to explore establishing the following email address:

srf.lex.ky@gmail.com. By phone or email, Bill will discuss this matter with Br. Andy of the SRF Center Department and seek his guidance.

- Item # 8:** Finally, we initiated exploratory discussions on items related to future outreach possibilities. We thought we would just play around with these ideas and that perhaps Bill might talk them over with Br. Andy when the timing for doing so seems right. Items 9-11 were discussed today; item 12 was discussed in previous business meetings.
- Item # 9:** The establishment of a non-personal phone line dedicated to our Lexington Meditation Circle.
- Item # 10:** Creating a simple Lexington Meditation Circle website that would serve as a “landing site” for those interested in learning more about our meditation circle. The only circle contact information on this site would be a non-personal circle email address and a non-personal phone number dedicated exclusively to circle business. Thus no personal information whatsoever would be divulged regarding circle members or the two private homes at which we meet. Those requesting circle information through email or phone messages would be promptly responded to, sensitively screened, perhaps met with in person, and as appropriate, invited to a meditation service or other event. The website would highlight numerous links to particularly pertinent sections of the beautiful and information-rich Los Angeles-based main Self-Realization Fellowship website.
- Item # 11:** Occasionally participating in local events such as yoga festivals and spirituality fairs where we could host a table and share information about the Lexington Meditation Circle of SRF using the excellent SRF-prepared publicity fliers that were introduced at the 2011 Center Representatives Conference held just before Convocation. Once again, on the SRF-prepared fliers in the editable space provided, we would list no personal information, but only our dedicated circle phone number and email address, and our website if we have one.
- Item # 12:** Running a few small advertisements in the local magazine called “Natural Awakenings” where numerous Lexington meditation and yoga groups regularly place ads. Again, in these ads no personal contact information would be shared, only our dedicated circle email address, phone number, and perhaps our local website if we have one and/or the main Self-Realization Fellowship website. Though we never acted on it, a few years ago the SRF Center Department gave us written permission to do this. The current average attendance at our services could easily be doubled without causing any logistical problems whatsoever at either of the two homes where we hold services.

Submitted by Sam Quick, 16 October 2011