

Foundation for Practical Philosophy Inc.
2016 Annual Report

Objective

The primary purpose of this Annual Report is to meet NYS Guidelines for Annual Reports for Not-for-Profit corporations as written in the bylaws of this organization. Otherwise, the secondary audience is the Board of Directors and Executives, who already participate in all the activities described here.

President's Report

General

Foundation for Practical Philosophy Inc. was started from the School of Applied Philosophy in February of 2015. It is New York State Not for Profit corporation and is approved for Federal Not-for-profit status to receive tax deductible donations.

It is managed by a five-member Board of Directors, Executives and numerous support positions filled with senior students in the organization. There is no compensation to anyone. Board Members will complete their first two-year terms this year. It is likely that Board members will remain unchanged for the next two years.

The Foundation serves an average of fifty-five students as an educational foundation toward the advancement of the knowledge and practice of Philosophy and Meditation.

Cedric and Evelyn Grigg, founders of the School of Applied Philosophy retired in 2016. They continue as consultants to the Board.

This year, the Foundation introduced extended practices in Chanting, introductions to Ayurvedic health practices and Hatha Yoga. These practices originate in Advaita Vedanta teachings and will round out the general knowledge and practice in Vedanta.

Marketing and Advertising

Currently, the Foundation is addressing a social networking campaign that has proven successful with other similar organizations. We continue with newspaper advertising with reasonable success and hope that the Social Networking campaign will enhance enrollments.

Website Development

The website was completely remodeled this year with a new appearance. The work offered to complete this was greatly appreciated.

The website was upgraded with the ability to receive online payments for tuition payments and donations. This was a big improvement toward modernizing the website.

Cloud Storage

Cloud storage utilizes GoogleDrive. Google offers a program for not-for-profits for free cloud storage. This significantly improved the operations and supports an improved succession plan by enabling all resources to be centrally available. Resource include all class material, operations of the school and other educational resources.

Weekend Retreats

We conducted three weekend residential retreats in the 2015-2016 school year in Syracuse, NY at the Christ the King Retreat Center. Additionally, students have participated in several weekend and weeklong residential retreats hosted by the New York School in Wallkill, NY.

Facilities

The Foundation held classes at The Perkins Mansion, formerly the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for twenty-three years. The costs increased significantly in recent years, so we benchmarked costs with other facilities and decided to move to The First Unitarian Church of Rochester starting September 2016. We reduced our annual cost by 20% making this a worthwhile decision for the long term.

Relationship with the System of Schools

Although the Foundation stands as a separate and distinct corporation in New York State and operates independently, it has ties to the similar organizations in London and NYC.

The School of Practical Philosophy in NYC offers Residential retreats on weekends and week longs several times annually. It also extends its services for Initiation into the practice of Meditation for students who are ready. The Foundation is fortunate to have an open invitation to participate.

The School of Economic Science in London provides all curriculum for classes. Currently, the Foundation has limited access to curriculum held at the London School Drop Box. Previously, under the leadership of Cedric and Evelyn Grigg, we had open access to all the resources in the Drop Box. This was useful for researching materials that would be helpful for Residential retreats, Summer programs and special needs. As a workaround, we continue to develop our own resources retained in our GoogleDrive.

Succession Planning

In the case of immediate or planned changes in Leadership, a documented Succession Plan is now drafted and will be reviewed in the March 25, 2017 Annual Board meeting focusing on the position of President, also considered to be the "School Leader" in the system of schools. Generally, changes in School Leadership requires some oversight by the London and New York schools as a prerequisite for the continuation of ongoing services and support.