Date: August 30, 2024

Proposal Makers: Clifton Ross & Cheryl Stevens

Name/status: Chair of the PIR Book Subcommittee (PIRBSC)

What you propose:
In an effort to be transparent, we propose to inform the General Service Committee and fellowship on the progress of the PIR Book Subcommittee's business plan. We are preparing to receive income in the form of royalties from sales of our first book, Psychedelic Recovery: Medicines, Sacraments & Catalysts. Income will be used to make the subcommittee's work sustainable and viable in the future.

In keeping with Tradition 8 the PIRBSC see ourselves as "special workers" as we believe our history demonstrates. We are collectively engaged in the special project of producing PIR's first book. We offer this proposal as our well-considered plan for how resources related to our project will be allocated as they come in.

First, any income be used at the outset to pay for expenses related to publishing products of the PIR Book Subcommittee. This includes subscriptions, books for contributors and special workers, and other expenses.

All special workers in the PIRBSC will be able to buy copies of the book they worked on at cost. Special workers include editors, copy editor, project manager, graphic designer, and artist.

All income, after expenses will be allocated as follows:

10% to go into PIR's general fund to pay for whatever expenses might be incurred (such as bookkeeping, etc.) and to help PIR with its general operating costs

90% would remain in the PIRBSC account to pay for operating costs and the future production of publications

Discussion: The PIRBSC will continue to operate as adjunct to the PIR fellowship as an autonomous working group of special workers accountable to the PIR fellowship, but with complete editorial authority necessary to continue to produce literature the editors deem to be of value to PIR members. We will offer a disclaimer in our publications, other than those officially approved, that states that the opinions expressed in "The Little Living Books of Psychedelics in Recovery" (LLBPIR) are those of the writers and editors, and not of the PIR fellowship as a whole."

Which PIR tradition(s)/ support this proposal?

Tradition 8. PIR service work is voluntary, but we may employ special workers.

Time of discussion: 20 minutes

Background of the PIR Book Subcommittee

The first book is a production of the Psychedelics in Recovery Book Subcommittee. It will be published Fall 2024. We are a working subcommittee of the Literature Committee, which is to say that we operate as an autonomous subcommittee of volunteers who wish to produce materials in book and electronic formats. We always welcome the participation of writers and editors, including proofreaders and copy-editors.

The PIR Book Subcommittee was formed in December 2022 by Clif Ross to gather materials, write, edit and produce PIR's first book, Psychedelic Recovery: Medicines, Sacraments and Catalysts. It was given official status as a subcommittee by Intergroup when Intergroup was a decision-making body. Clif put out a call for volunteers and we had over 20 people show up for our first meeting.

Throughout 2023 Clif organized a series of Forums to gather material and testimony for the book. Clif began research and writing for the book. The first group of volunteers helped revise transcripts and our early project manager, Marcus P. set up processes and documents to keep the subcommittee organized. Kelly J., Ryan and others organized and carried out a survey of our members to find out who, exactly, we were as a fellowship.

The original subcommittee of volunteers continued to meet until summer 2023 when meetings that had once seen more than 20 attendees dwindled to fewer than five. At that point Clif decided to call off meetings and just work on the book by himself until he had something well underway before calling together volunteers. The book subcommittee became a working committee of "special workers" dedicated to specific tasks required to produce publications. The subcommittee seeks volunteers as needed to participate in forums and other specific tasks.

Sometime in midsummer Clif put a call out to PIR for editors, and Cheryl came on board. Very quickly she proved to be an equal partner in the work and from that point on the two have met weekly for talks to make decisions on pending writing, editing and administrative tasks and to divide up the work.

Originally we'd had a project manager for the book but that ended in a transition so Kolya came aboard in early 2024. We have been meeting with him regularly, usually every week or every other week. Soon after, Elisabeth came onboard to design the cover of this book. Margaret D.began working with us as a copy editor, and most recently Troy W. became part of the team as our graphic designer.

As a result of our conversations, Cheryl and I have decided that we have too much material for one book. In a particular meeting of the Literature Committee we'd gotten very excited about

thinking of our literature as evolving, as actually a “living” adjunct to our fellowship that would change over time. Clif hit on the idea of gearing the PIRBSC up to be an autonomous working committee dedicated to publishing a series of books rather than one book and calling the series “The Little Living Books of Psychedelics in Recovery” (LLBPIR). The books would be aligned with PIR’s values and objectives, even though the editors would be free to write and publish at their discretion. Our first book is Psychedelic Recovery: Medicines, Sacraments and Catalysts (Book 1 of Little Living Books LLBPIR). Future books in progress include a focus on different topics encountered in recovery, such as healing from trauma and discovering other recovery traditions.

All work on our book has thus far has been voluntary, but the workload has been enormous. Clif estimates that he’s been working nearly full time since January 2023, and Cheryl has been an equal partner in the work since summer of that same year. From the beginning Clif has financed everything out of his own pocket, which included paying for memberships at Zoom and Otter so we could record and transcribe the Forums and interviews. We’ve been fortunate thus far that everyone has had time and inclination to volunteer extraordinary time and effort, but we feel that we, and future workers, should receive at least some token compensation for that work, and that expenses not be a burden on members so that they be paid out of a special publication fund comprised of royalties from sales, rather than the general fund. As we approach publication of our first book, we make this proposal in hopes of making the Little Living Books series of PIR sustainable.