

## HOTA – Program Committee Meeting Minutes – March 13 2018

**Attendees:** Kumar Dave, Chandra Reddy, Shama Reddy, Abhaya Asthana, Kaushik Joshi, Swami Parmeshanand, Prasad Yalamanchi, Madhu Sharma, Sri Mukthanand, Sanjay Tripathi, Ami Patel, Sohini Sircar, Fred Stella

### 9:30 PM – 10:40 PM EST

Started with Prayer by Sri Mukthanandji

#### Session 1

Agree to Session 1 - Mandir as a Nuclei for serving the needs of Hindu Community

We need to look at what other religions are doing and learn from them

Youth are not able to follow the rituals

Reinvent the mandir

Prescriptive vs descriptive?

Suggest to add Educational Institutions as a topic

- Bal Vihar

Temples – social, education, worship, seva

The suggested speaker for “Role of temples in creating positive impact on youth, family and society” is Uma Mysoreker and she is the founder of Ganesh Temple which has done some amazing and differentiating work through their temple

Temples with Exemplary programs – should be invited to share success stories and/or poster presentations

Suggestion for 4<sup>th</sup> topic – How do we communicate with our children, youth and community effectively can be added as a topic – communication, chaplaincy or counselling

Pravachan as a useful medium of educating

Being it forward, but not necessarily come up with all the solutions

Suggestion to split this session geographically

- Ex. India vs America
- Needs are different

## Topics

Needs of Hindus are different Diaspora vs India

How do we reach the people in the remote areas?

- Temples as an instrument for serving Hindu Society - *Seva role model*
  - o *Akshaya Patra foundation started with an ISKCON mandir*
  - o *Getting someone like Madhuji will be attractive to the wealthy that would attend WHC as they are looking for programs to invest in*
- Role of temples in creating positive impact on youth, family and society
  - o
- Communication, Chaplaincy or Counselling
  - o
- Freeing temples from Government clutches - *We can't do all of the above without this*
  - o We do not want to propagate government sponsorship and we want to stay independent
- Concept of small temples in remote areas as a way to reach out to people in remote areas of Bharat

Can we make this session focus on saving temples in India?

Gurukul based education

Bringing it all together and elevating the conversation to be more global, not only India or only North America diaspora centric

- Structural Model -
- Seva Model - Madhu Pandit Das – Akshaya Patra foundation
- Program Model – Uma Mysoreker
- Sustainable and Independent - Government clutches etc - Swami Parmatmanandji (Acharya Sabha)

Ended with Prayer by Swami Parmeshanandji