

Teacher Education Report

Ruth Ker, Teacher Education Coordinator

This January and February we are beginning our monthly Teacher Training Institutes zoom calls with questions on gender issues, faculty evaluations and insights into what Steiner meant when referencing the “bodily religion” of the child. In this mutually supportive meeting environment, goodwill thrives amongst our Member Institutes.

The Teacher Education Committee has been meeting more regularly, taking up questions about institute membership processes and the revision of the Birth to Three Teacher Training Expectations. Consultation with WECAN’s Full Member institutes and edits to the expectations are in progress. Our current Institute Teacher Education Membership Handbook has gone through several updates. [Here is the link](#) to the current version.

We are grateful to WECAN’s Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Committee, and further work with its members is prominent on our horizon.

Of course, our institutes and schools are encountering another wave of covid restrictions, and independent decisions are being made about on-line formats, hybrid offerings and in-person trainings. In the interest of maintaining the integrity of Waldorf EC trainings, WECAN’s Early Childhood Teacher Education Expectations have remained the same. However, institutes are being given the opportunity to offer their students one week of practicum within their own classroom, providing they have an experienced mentor present. Member institutes are keeping records to indicate how their programs’ mentoring components and usual in-person formats are being honored during this necessary time of on-line activity.

Welcome to our new Associate Member Institute, YaxKin, in the Riviera de Maya, the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico.



One other institute’s application for Associate Membership is in process with their Self Study and another is awaiting a site visit. WECAN is also in process with AWSNA to work with some aligned processes and visits for renewing Member institutes. We are grateful for the patience of our colleagues as we all experience the travel restrictions and ever-changing complications of covid protocols.

We live in unprecedented times, and I am full of gratitude and admiration for the creativity and perseverance of our Member Institute early childhood teacher educators. They have risen to the challenge to overcome many obstacles over the past year to give their students the best possible training they can provide under difficult circumstances.