

Voice of the Faithful
Board of Trustees
February 21, 2022

A virtual meeting was held. Attending: Mary Pat Fox (presiding), Pat Gomez, Elia Marnik, Margaret Roylance, Michael P. Marnik, Joe Finn, Svea Fraser, John Salvati, Joe Feitelberg and Donna B. Doucette, Executive Director.

The meeting was called to order by Mary Pat Fox, President, at 7:04 p.m.

An opening prayer was led by Margaret Roylance.

Mary Pat Fox welcomed Joe Feitelberg to the Board and provided a brief orientation to the position of trustee.

The minutes of the meetings of November 16, 2021, and January 17, 2022, were circulated to the Trustees, and approvals will be sent by email, after this meeting.

Financial Report: Donna Doucette provided a report highlighting the monthly automated donations, which remain stable but at a lower level than in previous years. Mary Pat and Margaret offered suggestions for encouraging monthly donors again. Overall the operating reserves remain high.

Joe Finn suggested investing approximately \$200,000.00 in a CD, perhaps a 6-month term. Joe Finn suggested that any funds restricted for a particular purpose be clearly indicated on the financial reports.

Executive Director Report. Donna Doucette submitted a written report in advance of the meeting and solicited questions of the Trustees.

Synod. The launch of our synod sessions was highly successful. We were overwhelmed by the response for the first three sessions. Signups totaled 158; about 30 of those did not show up for a variety of reasons—snowstorms, power outages, funerals, illnesses, and some forgot which session for which they had registered. Bev Spencer coped valiantly with the registration snags, and our facilitators and scribes coped valiantly with the shifting participant lists and

with some unexpected needs related to the power outages that also affected some of the facilitator teams.

The after-session comments from all those who attended was highly positive. We also had some people asking if they could bring our sessions to their parishes, their faith-sharing groups, and their retirement communities. Our work is spreading not just among our members but to other groups as well.

For the next rounds we have adjusted some parameters for the registration, which we hope will prevent over-subscription to the Sets. More of our facilitators are available for this round, and we have trained some additional ones. We also adjusted the sizes of the groups, because 10 plus the facilitator and scribe did not leave sufficient time to cover the discernment periods for the questions we asked. We also will provide additional prayer and scripture options to the facilitators during these next rounds. The variability in the days and times offered for these Rounds should give us data to help assess popular days and times so we can add extra spaces there in the future.

October conference. There was a discussion concerning the thrust of the conference, and the sense of the Board was that the synod process is both a timely and appropriate theme. The Board concluded that we should pursue a “both/and” approach, with a face-to-face meeting as well as live-streaming of that meeting. The speakers we will approach are Rafael Luciani and Sr. Nathalie Becquart. We also will include elements of the suggestions from Nick about symposia that will highlight our accomplishments the past 20 years.

Discussion of review and assessment of the marketing communications work was deferred until a later meeting.

Svea Fraser provoked attention on the real, effective niche of VOTF, particularly with collaboration of other groups.

Financial Transparency Working Group. Margaret Roylance provided a thorough report. The reconciliation and scoring have been completed. Two more reviewers must be recruited.

Women's Voices. Svea Fraser reported on several collaboration efforts, principally in the context of the synod process. The women’s outreach network, Donna

Doucette noted, has resulted in a strengthening of the connection with other groups, and contributions.

Governance Working Group. Joe Finn reported that the *average* score (out of 100) is 33. The scoring is based on adherence to qualities set forth by canon law, not related to subjective factors. Several dioceses scored less than 10. Joe Finn will be preparing a written report, disclosing the shortfalls of the finance councils.

Protection of Children Working Group Update. Pat Gomez submitted a written report in advance of the meeting, made comments, and answered questions of the members of the Board. VOTF has the data generated by the working group, and use of the data will be attributed to VOTF and the working group.

Nominating Committee. Elia Marnik reported on the solicitation of prospective trustee candidates. Joe Feitelberg recommended one candidate, who will be interviewed by some of the trustees. This candidate has been recommended by the Nominating Committee.

At 9:05 p.m. the meeting was adjourned with a prayer, the Glory Be, followed by the allowance of a motion to adjourn, duly made and seconded.

Next scheduled meeting: March 21, 2022.