Minutes of the VOTF Board of Trustees Meeting

October 11, 2024

Meeting was held virtually.

Trustees Present: Svea Fraser, John Salvati, Brad Pritts, David Castaldi

Staff: Leslie Scales

Opening Prayer: Svea led the group in the Synod Prayer

Minutes were not available for the September meeting.

Current Financial Report – John Salvati, Leslie Scales

a. Leslie reported that we have about 50K in our account(s) at Eastern Bank and Donna has agreed to write a check to transfer the large part of that amount to Bank of America. Leslie overnighted a check to Donna for that purpose.
b. John indicated that we are working with Lisa and will have financials before the middle of the month that we will use to prepare a budget for FY 25.
c. We have usually done four appeals during the year, and the Christmas Appeal has always been the largest one. Last year we only did two, so we *must* send out an appeal as soon as possible. Leslie has indicated that she has no content for an appeal. Several Board members have agreed to provide content, including Svea (on her pilgrimage), Brad (VOTF partnership approach). The appeal also would include an overall request for donations. Brad suggested that we should reach out to Pat Gomez and see if she has something to add.

2. ***Webinar on the Synod after the meeting ends at the end of October***. The Board discussed possible approaches and format for a webinar on the Synod. Preparation would involve getting speakers and would require some expertise on running webinars. Brad indicated that the Synod report might be available quickly after the end of the Synod, but planning for the webinar depends upon how the Synod ends. Brad suggested that he and Svea should take the lead on preparation for a webinar and that a panel discussion might be the best format. AUSCP might like to partner with us on this because they currently are not planning a session on this specific topic.

3. ***National Conference in Boston or Providence next year***
    a. We could continue the Synod theme at a national meeting next September
    b. Although these meetings are usually break-even, they may present challenges concerning cash flow
    c. Svea mentioned that getting people together face-to-face is something that has always energized us in the past
    d. Brad mentioned the possibility of guarantors who might agree to support the conference
    e. The church has officially been "synodal" since Vatican II, although this is the first synod that has involved lay Catholics. It is clear that Vatican II has never been fully accepted in the US, however. It is therefore essential to get people together to build engagement and a living sense that synodality is, in fact, the vocation of the church, even in the US.

NEXT SCHEDULED FULL BOARD MEETING:

Friday, November 15, 2024

The meeting was closed with a *Glory be*